

# Driehaus Small/Mid Cap Growth Strategy

## Key Features

- Benchmark aware, not benchmark constrained
- Opportunistic investment approach
- High active share

## Inception Date

February 1, 2012

## Composite Assets Under Management<sup>1</sup>

\$122 million

Total Strategy Assets: \$122 million

## Firm Assets Under Management

\$8.8 billion

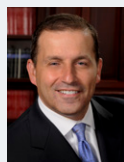
## Investment Style

Growth equity

## Available Investment Vehicle:

Separately managed account

## Portfolio Managers



**Jeff James**

Portfolio Manager

28 years of investment experience



**Michael Buck**

Assistant Portfolio Manager

17 years of industry experience

*<sup>1</sup>Composite assets include those accounts that meet the composite objectives and eligibility requirements. Please see notes at the end of this document for descriptions of composite objectives and eligibility requirements.*



## MARKET OVERVIEW

The fourth quarter was a positive conclusion to a bullish year for US equities. The major indices reached new highs during the quarter with large caps outperforming small caps. The S&P 500 rallied in a linear up-and-to-the-right fashion each month of the quarter and completed its first year without a single monthly decline. The Russell 2000 Index, in contrast, pulled back almost 4% during the first half of the quarter largely on reduced optimism that the US tax reform legislation would pass. But while the Washington DC sausage-making process can be messy and unappetizing, the outlook for the tax bill passing improved, helping small caps stocks to bottom in mid-November before rallying into the year end.

The current macroeconomic environment has improved markedly over the past year with the US and most parts of the globe benefitting from synchronized global economic growth. This positive backdrop is conducive to rising earnings and provides fundamental support for the recent market gains. Many economic indicators have seen a sharp acceleration. The majority of recent US macro data (initial jobless claims, personal income, Purchasing Manager's Index (PMI), business and consumer confidence, durable goods, housing starts, etc.) support the prospect for sustained growth into 2018.

We view the US tax legislation as a significant upside catalyst for equities as it is positive for earnings revisions, earnings growth and economic growth. The recent reduction of the US corporate tax rate from 35% to 21% will be a big driver for positive earnings revisions for most companies in 2018, especially for the more US-centric small cap companies.

Most of our portfolio companies pay above 30%. So on average, the new rate will be a big boost to earnings and likewise reduce the average valuation of many of our portfolio companies.

One of the most significant and positive changes over the past year has been the reining in and rolling back of countless federal regulations. This is a major reason for the acceleration in economic growth in the past year. The pace of deregulation can be measured by the massive reduction in the pages of the Federal Register and it is frequently cited as a primary driver (along with taxes) for the multi-year highs in small business and CEO optimism.

The current robust economic data, such as the PMIs and Leading Economic Indicators (LEI) hitting new cycle highs are historically consistent with sustained economic expansion. This gives further support for the Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC) to continue rate normalization. We acknowledge that the current yield curve flattening is a cautionary tale when looking for an end to the cycle (the current 10-2 year yield spread is down to under 60 basis points from 120 basis points at the start of 2017), yet it is actually typical of the early phase of Fed tightening and very consistent with sustained growth and equity advances when looking at previous economic cycles.

This equity rally has been about earnings as earnings drive stock prices. Aggregate earnings are at new highs, which along with some multiple expansion helps explain the strength in equity prices. As we look ahead to 2018, we see a continuation of these key drivers as well as a continuation in many

of the sector, industry and thematic trends in which we are invested. We also see a nice combination of secular and cyclical investments in addition to new opportunities which are emerging as the environment has strengthened. Overall, beyond this macro discussion, on a daily basis we continue to focus on bottom up earnings and individual company fundamentals which remain encouraging and sustainable for our portfolio holdings.

## PERFORMANCE REVIEW

For the fourth quarter, the Driehaus Small/Mid Cap Growth strategy outperformed its benchmark. The strategy returned 9.23%, net of fees, while the Russell 2500 Growth Index rose 6.35%.<sup>1</sup> By sector, the industrials and information technology sectors contributed the most to performance while financials detracted from performance. The strategy was overweight consumer discretionary and industrials and underweight materials and financials relative to the benchmark.

## OUTLOOK & POSITIONING

As a new year begins, looking at a wide number of economic indicators, the current strong macro environment appears

sustainable. Credit conditions are benign. Most key economic statistics and indicators are trending positively, with many at new cycle highs. The economic expansion is boosting most industries and most parts of the economy. The synchronized global growth backdrop is healthy and provides a bullish environment for equities. Tax cuts are incrementally boosting earnings (and helping valuations) and deregulation is helping business optimism. The Federal Reserve Chair will transition to Jerome (Jay) Powell but the Fed's accommodative monetary policy is expected to remain status quo.

Naturally, there are risks that could disrupt these positive conditions. The pace of growth could tip inflation higher causing the Fed to get more aggressive with rates, ruining the current positive interplay between growth, inflation and rates. With the Fed raising rates, if the long end of the treasury yield curve does not rise greater than the short end, the shape of the yield curve could flatten further. Trump's trade and immigration rhetoric could move from potential risks to actual policies with uncertain outcomes. Terrorism and the war of words with North Korea could also result in dangerous

scenarios. Finally, a deceleration in economic growth or earnings, even if short-term, could cause a correction in equities and an increase in volatility. We have a sanguine outlook regarding all these risks, but market scares and resulting corrections are natural market events and volatility is likely to pick up after record low levels in 2017.

In terms of positioning, the strategy is overweight the following sectors: consumer discretionary, energy, technology, telecom and financials. Technology, consumer discretionary, health care and industrials and are the four largest absolute weightings. The strategy is underweight health care, real estate, industrials and consumer staples.

We look forward to the upcoming earnings season to assess the fundamental progress and outlooks of our portfolio companies. We continue to hold and discover an exciting mix of inefficiently priced and less discovered companies that are early in their growth expansions. We are confident that these differentiated companies will gain market share, exceed expectations and will become larger companies over time.

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<sup>1</sup>The performance data represents the strategy's composite of small/mid cap growth accounts managed by Driehaus Capital Management LLC (DCM) (the composite). These returns are estimated for the period as all underlying accounts have not yet been reconciled. All rates of return include reinvested dividends and other earnings. Net of fee returns reflect the payment of advisory fees and in some instances, other fees and expenses such as administrative and transfer fees while the gross of fee returns do not. Both are net of brokerage commissions charged to the accounts. The performance data shown above represents past performance and does not guarantee future results. Current performance may be lower or higher than the performance data quoted. The performance results for the composite are shown in comparison to an index. The index is not actively managed and does not reflect the deduction of any advisory or other fees and expenses. While the securities comprising the index are not identical to those in the composite, DCM believes this comparison may be useful in evaluating performance. **Please see the notes section for other important information.**

This update is not intended to provide investment advice. Nothing herein should be construed as a solicitation, recommendation or an offer to buy, sell or hold any securities, other investments or to adopt any investment strategy or strategies. You should assess your own investment needs based on your individual financial circumstances and investment objectives.

This material is not intended to be relied upon as a forecast or research. The opinions expressed are those of Driehaus Capital Management LLC ("Driehaus") as of January 22, 2018 and are subject to change at any time due to changes in market or economic conditions. The material has not been updated since January 22, 2018 and may not reflect recent market activity.

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**PERFORMANCE** as of 12/31/17

	Annualized Total Return					
	QTR	YTD	1 Year	3 Year	5 Year	Inception 2/1/12
<b>Driehaus Small/Mid Cap Growth Composite (Gross)</b>	<b>9.39%</b>	<b>31.13%</b>	<b>31.13%</b>	<b>13.35%</b>	<b>16.43%</b>	<b>15.14%</b>
<b>Driehaus Small/Mid Cap Growth Composite (Net)</b>	<b>9.23%</b>	<b>30.30%</b>	<b>30.30%</b>	<b>12.58%</b>	<b>15.63%</b>	<b>14.37%</b>
Russell 2500® Growth Index (Benchmark) <sup>1</sup>	6.35%	24.46%	24.46%	10.88%	15.47%	14.37%

**SECTOR PERFORMANCE ATTRIBUTION** 4th Quarter — 9/30/17 to 12/31/17

	Driehaus Small/Mid Cap Growth Composite (Port) (%)		Russell 2500 Growth Index <sup>1</sup> (Bench) (%)		Attribution Analysis (%)		
	Port Avg. Weight	Port Contrib To Return	Bench Avg. Weight	Bench Contrib To Return	Allocation Effect	Selection + Interaction	Total Effect
GICS Sector							
Consumer Discretionary	17.35	1.94	14.77	1.24	0.13	0.41	0.54
Consumer Staples	1.05	0.13	2.26	0.18	-0.03	0.04	0.02
Energy	0.91	0.11	1.58	0.11	0.05	0.00	0.05
Financials	7.16	0.31	8.48	0.68	-0.01	-0.24	-0.25
Health Care	17.53	1.19	17.66	0.62	-0.04	0.62	0.58
Industrials	20.87	2.80	19.35	1.55	0.03	1.14	1.17
Information Technology	27.35	2.31	24.49	1.41	0.09	0.46	0.59
Materials	4.07	0.22	6.53	0.31	0.04	0.01	0.05
Real Estate	2.02	0.03	3.60	0.12	0.01	-0.01	0.00
Telecomm. Services	0.93	0.39	0.88	0.04	0.00	0.35	0.35
Utilities	0.00	0.00	0.42	0.03	0.00	0.00	0.00
Cash	0.75	0.04	0.00	0.00	0.09	0.00	0.09
Unassigned*	0.00	-0.16	0.00	0.00	-0.16	0.00	-0.16
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>9.30</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>6.28</b>	<b>0.19</b>	<b>2.78</b>	<b>3.02</b>

Data as of 12/31/17. Preliminary performance data.

Sources: Driehaus Capital Management LLC, Factset Research Systems, Inc., eVestment Alliance

\*Unassigned refers to securities not recognized by Factset.

The performance data represents the strategy's composite of small/mid cap growth accounts managed by Driehaus Capital Management LLC (DCM) (the composite). These returns are estimated for the period as all underlying accounts have not yet been reconciled. All rates of return include reinvested dividends and other earnings. Net of fee returns reflect the payment of advisory fees and in some instances, other fees and expenses such as administrative and transfer fees while the gross of fee returns do not. Both are net of brokerage commissions charged to the accounts. The performance data shown above represents past performance and does not guarantee future results. Current performance may be lower or higher than the performance data quoted. The performance results for the composite are shown in comparison to an index. The index is not actively managed and does not reflect the deduction of any advisory or other fees and expenses. While the securities comprising the index are not identical to those in the composite, DCM believes this comparison may be useful in evaluating performance. **Please see the notes section for other important information.**

<sup>1</sup>The Russell 2500® Growth Index measures the performance of those Russell 2500® Index companies with higher price-to-book ratios and higher forecasted growth values. The performance data includes reinvested dividends.

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Per FactSet Research Systems Inc., the attribution report provides an in-depth analysis of relative performance. With this report one can research whether or not a portfolio outperformed a benchmark, and how each group contributed to performance. The performance data shown above is estimated and represents past performance and does not guarantee future results. Current performance may be lower or higher than the performance data quoted. The information presented is intended for informational purposes only.

**ATTRIBUTION ANALYSIS CATEGORIES ARE DEFINED AS:**

**Allocation Effect** - Measures the impact of the decision to allocate assets differently than those in the benchmark. **Security Selection Effect** - Measures the effect of choosing securities, which may or may not outperform those of the benchmark. **Interaction Effect** - Jointly measures the effect of allocation and selection decisions. **Currency Effect** - The currency effect is the portion of the total effect the portfolio manager can potentially influence by using currency hedging. **Total Effect** - The Total Effect for each MSCI/GICS Sector is equal to the sum of the individual Attribution Effects for that MSCI/GICS Sector.

## SECTOR PERFORMANCE ATTRIBUTION 1-Year — 12/31/16 to 12/31/17

GICS Sector	Driehaus Small/Mid Cap Growth Composite (Port) (%)		Russell 2500 Growth Index <sup>1</sup> (Bench) (%)		Attribution Analysis (%)		
	Port Avg. Weight	Port Contrib To Return	Bench Avg. Weight	Bench Contrib To Return	Allocation Effect	Selection + Interaction	Total Effect
Consumer Discretionary	16.64	4.28	15.63	3.01	0.14	0.80	0.90
Consumer Staples	0.98	0.56	3.08	-0.10	0.75	0.52	1.27
Energy	1.45	-0.98	1.36	-0.30	-0.86	0.17	-0.69
Financials	8.04	0.92	7.95	2.06	-0.13	-0.92	-1.05
Health Care	16.61	8.11	18.70	6.32	-0.51	2.68	2.17
Industrials	23.79	6.67	18.79	4.26	-0.40	1.66	1.27
Information Technology	25.10	9.86	22.38	6.35	0.32	1.95	2.32
Materials	4.03	1.01	6.62	1.56	0.07	-0.10	-0.03
Real Estate	1.18	0.45	4.30	0.64	0.27	0.31	0.58
Telecomm. Services	1.02	0.31	0.80	0.22	-0.01	0.08	0.07
Utilities	0.00	0.00	0.40	0.09	0.03	0.00	0.03
Cash	1.17	0.05	0.00	0.00	0.27	0.00	0.27
Unassigned*	0.00	-0.77	0.00	0.00	-0.75	0.00	-0.75
<b>Total</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>30.47</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>24.11</b>	<b>-0.81</b>	<b>7.14</b>	<b>6.36</b>

Data as of 12/31/17. Preliminary performance data.

Sources: Driehaus Capital Management LLC, Factset Research Systems, Inc., eVestment Alliance

\*Unassigned refers to securities not recognized by Factset.

<sup>1</sup>The Russell 2500<sup>®</sup> Growth Index measures the performance of those Russell 2500<sup>®</sup> Index companies with higher price-to-book ratios and higher forecasted growth values. The performance data includes reinvested dividends.

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**Selection Effect** - Measures the effect of choosing securities, which may or may not outperform those of the benchmark.

**Interaction Effect** - Jointly measures the effect of allocation and selection decisions.

**Currency Effect** - The currency effect is the portion of the total effect the portfolio manager can potentially influence by using currency hedging.

**Total Effect** - The Total Effect for each MSCI/GICS Sector is equal to the sum of the individual Attribution Effects for that MSCI/GICS Sector.

PORTFOLIO CHARACTERISTICS<sup>1</sup>

	Strategy	Benchmark	<i>Market Cap Breakout (%)</i>	Strategy	Benchmark
Number of Holdings	111	1,435	< \$2.5 billion	10.2	25.2
Weighted Avg. Market Cap (M)	\$7,952	\$5,608	\$2.5 - \$15 billion	81.3	74.3
Median Market Cap (M)	\$6,864	\$1,390	> \$15 billion	8.5	0.5
Active Share (3-year avg.) <sup>2</sup>	84.58	n/a			

TOP 5 HOLDINGS<sup>1</sup> (as of 11/30/17)

Company	Sector	Description	% of Strategy
XPO Logistics, Inc.	Information Technology	A global provider of supply chain solutions	2.2
Live Nation Entertainment, Inc.	Information Technology	An American global entertainment company, formed from the merger of Live Nation and Ticketmaster	1.9
Insulet Corporation	Industrials	An innovative medical device company based in Billerica, Massachusetts	1.9
Old Dominion Freight Line, Inc.	Consumer Discretionary	A less-than-truckload company	1.8
Exact Sciences Corporation	Information Technology	A molecular diagnostics company with an initial focus on the early detection and prevention of colorectal cancer	1.7

## SECTOR WEIGHTS

## Month-End Absolute Weights (%)

	Consumer Discretionary	Consumer Staples	Energy	Financials	Health Care	Industrials	Information Technology	Materials	Real Estate	Telecomm. Services	Utilities	Cash
Strategy	20.2	1.1	2.3	6.6	16.2	23.4	23.1	3.7	2.3	1.1	0.0	0.1
Benchmark	15.0	2.3	1.6	8.5	17.7	19.9	23.8	6.4	3.5	0.9	0.4	0.0
<b>Active Weights</b>	<b>5.2</b>	<b>-1.2</b>	<b>0.7</b>	<b>-1.8</b>	<b>-1.5</b>	<b>3.5</b>	<b>-0.7</b>	<b>-2.8</b>	<b>-1.3</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>-0.4</b>	<b>0.1</b>

Sources: Driehaus Capital Management LLC, Factset Research Systems, Inc., eVestment Alliance  
Data as of 12/31/17. Benchmark: Russell 2500® Growth Index

<sup>1</sup>Portfolio characteristics represent the strategy's composite.

<sup>2</sup>Data is calculated monthly.

<sup>3</sup>Holdings subject to change.

Driehaus Capital Management LLC (DCM) is a registered investment adviser with the United States Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC). DCM provides investment advisory services using growth equity strategies to individuals, organizations, and institutions. The firm consists of all accounts managed by DCM (the Company). Prior to October 1, 2006, the firm included all accounts for which Driehaus Capital Management (USVI) LLC (DCM USVI) acted as investment adviser. On September 29, 2006, DCM USVI ceased conducting its investment advisory business and withdrew its registration as a registered investment adviser with the SEC. Effective September 30, 2006, DCM USVI retained DCM as investment adviser to these portfolios.

DCM claims compliance with the Global Investment Performance Standards (GIPS®).

#### **COMPOSITE OBJECTIVES AND ACCOUNTS ELIGIBLE FOR THE SMALL/MID CAP GROWTH COMPOSITE**

The Small/Mid Cap Growth Composite includes all unleveraged "small/mid cap growth" accounts over which DCM exercises discretionary investment authority of both cash and equities using the same investment objective and philosophy.

An account is considered to be a small/mid cap growth account if it primarily invests in U.S. equity securities of high growth companies with market capitalization range at the time of purchase as those included in the Russell 2500® Growth Index.

Once an account has met the above criteria and is fully invested, it is included in the Composite in the next full monthly reporting period. Accounts that change investment strategies are transferred between composites at the beginning of the full monthly reporting period in which the account is managed under the new style. Terminated accounts are excluded from the Composite in the first month in which they are not fully invested as of the end of the month.

#### **PERFORMANCE RESULTS**

Asset-weighted, net of fee and gross of fee composite returns are presented. Monthly composite returns are calculated as the sum of the monthly returns of each account weighted by the account's beginning monthly value as compared to the Composite total. For periods prior to November 1, 2004, time-weighted account rates of return were calculated on a monthly basis and allowed for the effect of cash additions and withdrawals using the Modified-Dietz method. If a cash contribution or withdrawal exceeded 10% of an account's value, the account was revalued and the return was calculated for the interim period. Effective November 1, 2004, account rates of return are calculated on a monthly basis by geometrically linking daily returns. Monthly composite returns are geometrically linked to determine annual composite returns.

Net of fee returns reflect the payment of advisory fees and in some instances, other fees and expenses such as administrative and transfer fees while the gross of fee returns do not. Both are net of brokerage commissions charged to the accounts.

The annualized rate of return is presented as the level annual rate which, if earned for each year in a multiple-year period, would produce the actual cumulative rate of return over that period.

For small/mid accounts, valuations and returns are computed and stated in U.S. dollars. After January 1, 1990, securities transactions, which include brokerage commissions, are recorded on a trade date basis, and where information is available, income and expense items are recorded on an accrual basis. Returns are presented on a pretax basis. Leverage is not a part of the Company's investment strategy for this Composite.

Past performance is not indicative of future results. All investments have risks and you could lose money. Other methods may produce different results and the results for individual accounts and for different periods may vary depending on market conditions and the composition of the account. Care should be used when comparing these results to those published by other investment advisers, other investment vehicles and unmanaged indices due to possible differences in calculation methods.

Additional information regarding policies for valuing portfolios, calculating and preparing compliant composite presentations are available upon request. A complete listing and description of all composites is also available upon request. Please contact our sales, marketing and relationship management department at 312-932-8621.

#### **TAX EFFECT**

The rates of return presented are determined without regard to U.S. tax consequences. Income tax may be withheld on income depending on the tax laws of each country and its treaty, if any, with the U.S. Such withholding taxes are reflected in the performance of accounts.

#### **INDICES**

The performance results for the Composite are shown in comparison to indices. While the securities comprising the indices are not identical to those in any account in the Composite, the Company believes this may be useful in evaluating performance. The indices are not actively managed and do not reflect the deduction of any advisory or other fees and expenses.

The Russell 2500® Growth Index measures the performance of those Russell 2500® Index companies with higher price-to-book ratios and higher forecasted growth values. The performance data includes reinvested dividends.

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#### **TERMS**

**Active share** represents the share of portfolio holdings that differ from the benchmark index holdings.

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**For more information about Driehaus Capital Management LLC, please contact us at 312.932.8621.**