

# Small Cap Value ESG Strategy

Investing in companies we believe to be responsible and attractively valued, under scrutinized, and irrationally mispriced.



#### **Q2 2023 UPDATE**

Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI) was a continuing theme in Q2, as interest in stocks exposed to AI has skyrocketed since ChatGPT launched in November of last year. Many investment strategists are enamored by the productivity enhancing promise of AI and don't feel the hype surrounding it has gotten out of hand (yet). Indices with greater AI exposure trounced those with lesser representation, making Q2 a large cap growth stock paradise, with everything else rising at a lesser pace.

After a lengthy string of rate hikes, the Fed held steady in June but warned of potential hikes later this year should inflation continue to linger. The prospect of *eventual* interest rate declines gave further ammunition to growth stock enthusiasts, even though the reality was that interest rates rose throughout the quarter, which should benefit value stocks.

After struggling mightily due to recession fears, the increasing sentiment that a downturn might be avoided was enough to rally micro cap value stocks from extremely cheap valuation levels.

The banking crisis of Q1 appears to have been driven by more unique circumstance and not a broader contagion, but the potential for tighter lending standards and new regulations continues to give investors pause.

Small cap ESG companies (as measured by the MSCI USA Small Cap ESG Leaders Index) trailed their comparable non-ESG focused counterparts in Q2 but were essentially equal over the trailing 1-year period.

#### MARKET INDICES TOTAL RETURN

	QTR	YTD	1 Year	Comments
S&P 500 Index	8.7%	16.9%	19.6%	A strong quarter due to mega cap, Al- focused tech.
Russell 1000 Growth Index	12.8%	29.0%	27.1%	Growth crushed value in both large &
Russell 1000 Value Index	4.1%	5.1%	11.5%	small cap.
Russell 2000 Growth Index	7.1%	13.6%	18.5%	Tech rally drove small growth win.
Russell 2000 Value Index	3.2%	2.5%	6.0%	Bank & biotech fears hurt small value.
Russell Micro Cap Value Index	4.5%	-0.9%	2.9%	Dissipating recession fears helped formerly lagging micro cap value.
MSCI USA Small Cap Index	5.1%	9.1%	14.8%	ESG leaders lost for
MSCI USA Small Cap ESG Leaders Index	3.6%	7.5%	14.8%	the quarter.

Data through June 30, 2023. Source: Morningstar. The total return performance of these market indices does not represent the past or future performance of any Bailard strategy, account or product. **Past performance is no indication of future results.** All investments have the risk of loss. Please see the Market Index section at the back of this presentation for additional information.

#### Q2 2023 PERFORMANCE<sup>1</sup>

The Strategy beat the benchmark, the Russell 2000 Value Index, in Q2. Our historically successful alpha characteristics were generally in favor, but low-quality stocks had periodic success. The Strategy's relatively higher exposure to micro cap value stocks helped to boost performance for the quarter, but remained a drag year to date and over the trailing year as well.

#### TOTAL RETURN NET OF FEE<sup>1, 2</sup>

	Quarter	YTD	1 Year	3 Years	5 Years	10 Years
Bailard Composite	3.89%	1.36%	7.29%	18.66%	5.49%	7.95%
Russell 2000 Value Index	3.18%	2.50%	6.00%	15.40%	3.51%	7.28%
Russell Micro Cap Value Index	4.54%	-0.86%	2.86%	14.66%	2.70%	7.97%

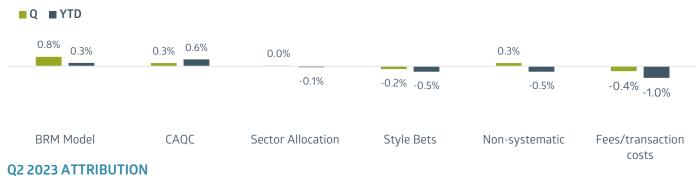
#### **ACTIVE RETURN NET OF FEE1,2**

	Quarter	YTD	1 Year	3 Years	5 Years	10 Years
Vs. Russell 2000 Value Index	0.71%	-1.15%	1.29%	3.26%	1.98%	0.67%
Vs. Russell Micro Cap Value Index	-0.65%	2.22%	4.43%	3.99%	2.80%	-0.03%

<sup>2</sup> Active return is the difference between the return of the strategy and the return of the index. Performance statistics are annualized for periods greater than one year.

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> The "Bailard Composite" is the Bailard, Inc. Small Cap Value Composite. The Bailard Small Cap Value Composite includes a Bailard Asset Management portfolio invested solely in small and micro capitalization U.S. equities that exhibit value characteristics. The benchmark is the Russell 2000 Value Index. The indices presented do not have fees. **Past performance is no indication of future results.** Please see additional performance on page 12. See pages 20-22 for market definitions and important disclosures. Sources: Morningstar, Bloomberg.



#### **ATTRIBUTION - NET ACTIVE RETURN VS INDEX\***

Our primary stock selection tool, our multi-factor Bailard Ranking Model (BRM), boosted our performance for the quarter. Our Earnings Quality factor was slightly positive in small cap and slightly negative in micro cap as declining recession fears bolstered heavily discounted low-quality micro cap stocks. Valuation measures were broadly effective within our universe despite growth's overall dominance. Our Hype (excessive investor attention) factor underperformed as scrutiny was again favored, perhaps driven by AI hype. Our proprietary Analyst Herding Bias factor delivered mildly positive results. Anchoring Bias was slightly positive for the period as well.

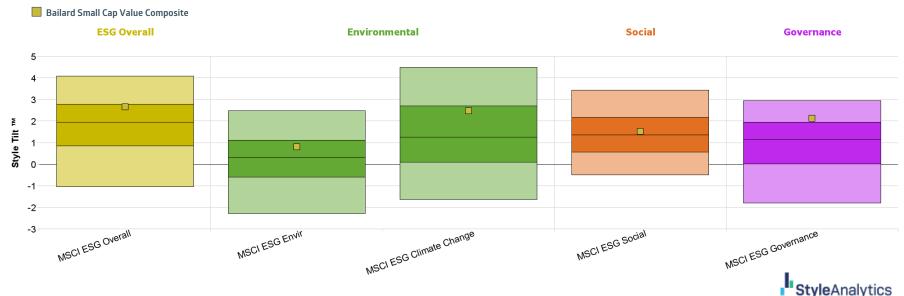
Within our subsector-specific stock selection models, the pharma & biotech model, as well as the REIT model, both produced strongly positive results; the bank and utilities models both detracted slightly; and the insurance model underperformed. Our banking model emphasizes credit quality and capital adequacy, which are historically strong return drivers, but investors' recent focus has been more on liquidity, net interest margin compression, and real estate loan exposure. We feel we are well positioned to weather these concerns.

Sector allocation was marginally positive for the quarter. Style bets detracted slightly. CAQC (Curated Assessment of Qualitative Conviction, our proprietary measure of sophisticated investor interest in stocks that lack quantifiable appeal) outperformed slightly due to relatively higher growth exposures. Our non-systematic tilts (e.g., more solutions companies, among others) and individual stock selection in the growthier and larger ends of the small cap value stock spectrum outperformed in Q2.

<sup>\*</sup> The benchmark is the Russell 2000 Value Index. Please see pages 20-22 for important disclosures. Our Behavioral Ranking Model (BRM) is a proprietary, multi-factor, quantitative tool for determining relative stock attractiveness within each of the 24 economic sub sectors. CAQC (Curated Assessment of Qualitative Conviction is our proprietary measure of sophisticated investor interest in stocks that lack quantifiable appeal). **Past performance is no indication of future results.** Sources: Russell, Bailard.

# **Third-Party Validation of ESG Focus**

# Company size bias highlights the importance of making ESG comparisons within the appropriate universe.



Source: Style Analytics (holdings-based factor exposure / tilt analysis tool). The Peer Style Skyline<sup>™</sup> displays the distribution of the benchmark relative MSCI ESG factor exposures calculated for all constituents within the identified peer group, eVestment's U.S. Small Cap Value Equity universe. The benchmark is the Russell 2000 Value Index. Inner and outer quartiles of the distribution are designated for each factor using darker and lighter shaded sections. To learn more about the MSCI ESG factors, please visit https://www.msci.com/documents/1296102/21901542/ESG-Ratings-Methodology-Exec-Summary.pdf

Holdings data is as of March 31, 2023 given lagged new quarter data. There were 201 constituents included from eVestment's U.S. Small Cap Value Equity universe. The top and bottom 5% (outliers) are excluded. The eVestment U.S. Small Cap Value Equity universe consists of US equity products that primarily invest in small capitalization stocks that may be trading at prices lower than their fundamental or intrinsic value. The members of this universe may or may not be similar to the Bailard Small Cap Value Composite. Please see https://www.evestment.com for more information.

Neither StyleAnalytics nor eVestment require members of the universe to subscribe in order to be included in peer comparisons; however, Bailard pays a subscription fee to StyleAnalytics and eVestment for access to their respective database and analytical tools.

The Russell 2000 Value Index is a commonly used index that measures the performance of the small-cap value segment of the U.S. equity universe. It includes those Russell 2000 Index companies with lower price-to-book ratios and lower forecasted growth values.

Factor tilt interpretation guidelines: +/-0.5 Benchmark like. +/-1.0 Compelling deviation from benchmark. +/-2.0 Very significant deviation from benchmark.

#### Small Cap Value ESG Strategy

#### SMALL CAP VALUE RETURN DRIVERS

	Positive	Neutral	Negative	Comments
Absolute Valuations	٠			Historically undervalued.
Relative Valuations	$\leftarrow \bullet$			Relatively cheap versus style alternatives.
Economic Cycle				Can the Fed thread the needle? Sentiment has been shifting in the direction that a recession can be avoided.
Interest Rates	$\leftarrow \bullet$			Rates rose significantly throughout the quarter.
Volatility/Sentiment			← ●	VIX and Put/Call Ratio both dropped through the quarter and reached low levels. A mixed result but favoring growth.
Earnings Revisions			• →	While revisions were negative for both large cap and small cap companies in the quarter, small cap revisions were much worse.
Dollar				Though volatile, the dollar was basically flat for the quarter.
ESG		$\rightarrow$		Politics has been playing a larger role in ESG recently, but long-term favorable drivers remain in place.

Source: Bailard. All investments involve the risk of loss. As of July 14, 2023.

Small Cap Value ESG Strategy

#### **OVERVIEW**

What a different three months made! Historically significant return drivers for small cap value stocks are now, on balance, neutral-to-somewhat positively aligned for small cap value outperformance. Absolute and relative valuations are historically cheap and similar past discounts of this magnitude were followed by incredibly strong 1-year and 3-year returns.

#### CURRENT P/E TO 20-YEAR AVERAGE\*

As of 6/30/23	Value	Growth
Small	55.1%	79.4%
Large	86.1%	139.9%

#### Value vs. Growth

While small cap value stocks have historically outperformed in most parts of the economic cycle, they typically do best in the early stages of economic recovery, and when economic growth is strong. Where the economy goes from here remains a question as the Fed's rate hike pause may end as early as July, hinging upon often unpredictable and regularly volatile reported economic data. If a recession is avoided or historically mild, small value stocks should benefit as they have been discounting a contraction for several quarters.

Value stocks of all sizes benefit from investors shortening their investment time horizons, as value stock typically deliver higher current earnings and dividend yields versus the more distant potential payoffs from growth stocks. Higher interest rates increase the discount rate applied to future earnings, making them less valuable today and thus, rising rates as experienced in Q2 favor value stocks.

(continued on next page)

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\*We begin by creating an investable universe at the end of June of every year. Prior to June 2015, investable universe includes largest 3000 stocks trading in New York, American and Nasdaq Stocks Exchanges. We only select ordinary common shares of US companies (excluding ADRS, SBIs and Units). After June 2015, investable universe is the same as the Russell 3000 Index. We then split the universe as the top 3rd with respect to ranked Market Cap being large cap and the rest being small cap. Within each size bucket, we split the stocks into two groups using median P/B ratio of that respective category. Each stock is then kept in that same category until the June of next year. After June 2015, P/B value used for classification uses the most recently reported book value. Prior to June 2015, we don't have access to report dates, hence P/B value used for classification uses the book value from Q1 of each year.

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Bailard Asset Management | page 7

Falling uncertainty increases confidence that distant prospective returns will materialize, increasing the appeal of growth stocks and decreasing the attractiveness of value stocks. Investor uncertainty can be approximated and quantified using expected measures of future market volatility. Derived from the price inputs of S&P 500 Index options, the CBOE VIX Index represents the market's expectation of 30-day forward-looking volatility.

The put/call ratio measures the relative volume of put options versus call options currently traded in the market. A low ratio has historically tended to favor value stocks performance over growth stocks, while a high ratio has corresponded with growth stocks marginally outperforming or performing as well as value stocks.

VIX fell throughout Q2 and remains at depressed levels as of this writing, favoring growth stocks. The put/call ratio ended the quarter down and well below its five-year average, favoring value stocks. On balance, these sentiment indicators currently slightly favor growth stocks.

#### Small Cap vs. Large Cap

Large cap companies derive more of their revenues and profits internationally than do small cap companies. A strong dollar

makes U.S. goods and services relatively more expensive to foreign purchasers and also lowers the profits of U.S.-based companies' overseas operations when those profits are repatriated into U.S. dollars. The dollar was essentially flat in Q2, favoring neither small nor large companies.

#### **ESG Investing**

ESG awareness and interest continues to expand, but at a slower pace. Unfortunately, ESG investing has recently become somewhat of a political issue. We believe that political concerns will fade with time, but they are currently acting as a headwind.

Longer term, there is intuitive appeal to many aspects of ESG investing. Companies should expect to benefit from treating their employees and customers well. Effective resource stewardship ought to result in long-run cost savings. Good corporate governance should help to avoid negative externalities. As empirical evidence mounts to support these beliefs, ESG's attractiveness should continue to broaden.

Past performance is no indication of future results. All investments involve the risk of loss. Please see important disclosures and market definitions on pages 20-22.

# **Small Companies Making a Big Difference**

Beyond generally enlightened business practices, the companies profiled here each quarter are providing actual solutions to some of the major concerns of ESG investors.

#### ESG SOLUTIONS COMPANY FOCUS EXAMPLE: ORMAT TECHNOLOGIES

Ormat Technologies (ORA) is one of the largest geothermal power provider in the United States, and the second largest globally.

Ormat has over fifty years of geothermal power experience and operates in over 30 countries. The company employs a closed-loop Organic Rankine Cycle which uses an organic fluid (instead of water) with a much lower boiling point to drive their turbines. This allows them to tap not just geothermal heat sources, but also lower temperature sources such as waste heat from industrial processes. These Organic Rankine Cycles are air cooled, do not consume any water, and the 100% reinjection rate helps to sustain the life and productivity of the thermal source.

Geothermal power is clean (near-zero emissions) and uninterrupted, occupies a much smaller land footprint, and comes with fewer negative externalities compared to solar or wind generation.

Geothermal energy has historically had limited application due to requiring a viable heat source near the earth's surface. Leveraging off recent drilling and other innovations in the oil and gas industry has unlocked the possibilities of working unconventional geothermal sites. This creates the prospect of a "geothermal anywhere" future.

As fossil fuels become a smaller part of electricity generation, grid stabilization becomes an increasing concern. Wind and solar power provide intermittent electrical generation, and without sufficient storage, system reliability is compromised. Geothermal generation, like hydro and nuclear, provides stable output 24/7, allowing it to replace natural gas or coal fired plants in electric load management.

The reference to a specific security is intended only to *illustrate the type* of company/stock that Bailard's portfolio Small Cap Value ESG Strategy might hold. The company equity mentioned here was a holding within Bailard's Small Cap Value ESG Strategy portfolio as of June 30, 2023. It does not represent any past, present, or future *recommendation* of Bailard.

Geothermal power is clean (near-zero emissions) and uninterrupted, occupies a much smaller land footprint, and comes with fewer negative externalities compared to solar or wind generation.

"At Ormat, our mission is clear: we want to become a leading global provider of renewable energy, while building a geographically balanced portfolio of geothermal, recovered energy and storage assets."

## Why We Do What We Do: A Look at Risk Control and Benchmark Selection

One of our underlying investment philosophies is that we should only compete in areas where we believe we have an advantage and neutralize all other exposures. That is why we focus on individual stock selection and maintain overweight exposure to micro cap stocks, and do not market time or make significant economic sector bets.

Most equity managers control risk against what they believe is an appropriate style benchmark index for the simple reason that it helps their clients know what to expect from a risk and return standpoint, and aids in showing whether or not a manager is doing a good job.

There are lots of indices to choose from, but for small cap value managers, the standard is the Russell 2000 Value Index. Interestingly, though the vast majority of small value managers use this index, most do not adhere to it very closely.

There are multiple academic studies showing the sector returns cannot be explained fully by well-known asset pricing models: see Chou et al. (2012). Portfolio managers are on a perpetual hunt for market anomalies, hoping that they can be exploited, so the potential for adding value through sector bets receives a lot of attention in practice. While permanent over and under weightings are one option, most mutual fund managers try to exploit these sector differences by trying to time them. There is significant evidence that fund managers are allocating funds based on decisions about sector and sub-sectors (Schwob, 2000 and Targett, 2000).

Sometimes competitors' sector bets against the Index are in aggregate correct. The recent +18 months has been one of those Over the past 30 years, competitors' performance has on average trailed the Index, suggesting that their substantial economic sector deviations have not been particularly helpful.

periods, but over a longer history, competitors' sector bets have tended to be counterproductive.

Over the past 30 years, competitors' performance has on average trailed the Index, suggesting that their substantial economic sector deviations have not been particularly helpful.

#### Morningstar Category Median vs. Russell 2000 Value Index (Cumulative)



#### Source: Morningstar, Bailard Research

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### Why We Do What We Do: A Look at Risk Control and Benchmark Selection (continued)

Independent academic researchers reach similar conclusions: Lu (2007), studied sector timing in detail and concluded, "consistent with the results of traditional market-timing performance studies on mutual funds, the sample funds as a whole exhibit negative sector timing."

If economic sector deviation historically tends not to aid performance, why do so many of our competitors engage in it? Our best guess is that it comes down to two motivations. First, just like with overall market timing, the potential for improved performance exists if practitioners could successfully time sector and subsector investments, so the temptation is ever-present. Second, traditional fundamental or quantitative techniques that work in most economic subsectors are not particularly helpful when investing in REITs, banks, and utilities, so for expediency's sake, many managers perpetually underweight them, and therefore must overweight other subsectors to compensate.

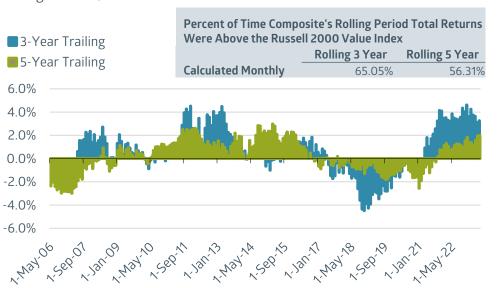
Full credit to our mutual fund competitors for their recently successful economic subsector bets, but we have chosen to play the historical odds and will continue using the Russell 2000 Value Index's economic sector and subsector weights for risk control purposes.

Our goal is to give our clients what they expect, representative small cap value exposure, and hopefully add alpha above and beyond that through individual stock selection.

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### **Performance: Portfolio Risk and Returns**

#### Annualized Active Returns (Net) Against Russell 2000 Value Index<sup>1,2,3</sup>







#### Performance Summary as of 6/30/23

	<b>TOTAL RETURN</b> annualized for periods > 1 year			ANNUALIZED STD. DEV.			SHARPE RATIO						
	1 Year	3 Years	5 Years	10 Years	15 Years	3 Years	5 Years	10 Years	15 Years	3 Years	5 Years	10 Years	15 Years
Composite (Gross of Fee)	7.71%	19.09%	5.89%	8.35%	8.65%	22.18%	24.54%	19.70%	20.46%	0.80	0.18	0.37	0.39
Composite (Net of Fee)	7.29%	18.66%	5.49%	7.95%	8.25%	22.17%	24.53%	19.69%	20.46%	0.78	0.16	0.35	0.37
Russell 2000 Value Index	6.00%	15.40%	3.51%	7.28%	7.72%	22.34%	24.66%	20.03%	21.48%	0.63	0.08	0.31	0.33

<sup>1</sup> Please see additional performance on page 3, and pages 20-22 for important disclosures. **Past performance is no indication of future results.** Sources: Morningstar, Bloomberg. <sup>2</sup> Bar graph calculated monthly. <sup>3</sup> Performance statistics are annualized for periods greater than one year.

# Portfolio Characteristic Comparison<sup>1</sup>

### As of 6/30/2023

	Bailard, Inc. Small Cap Value Composite²	Russell 2000 Value Index
BRM Score	81.5	53.7
ESG Capture®	67.3	55.6
Price/Book Value	2.8x	2.1x
Price/Earnings (trailing 12 mo.)	19.6x	28.1x
Price/Cash Flow	12.5x	13.7x
Return on Equity	13.1%	7.3%
Debt to Capital	40.2%	39.6%
Number of Holdings	351	1458
Avg. Market Cap \$MM	\$2,944	\$2,390
% Micro Cap Stocks	30.2%	19.1%

Sources: Bloomberg, Bailard. <sup>1</sup>The information presented on this page, while representative of the Bailard Asset Management Small Cap Value ESG Strategy, should not be solely relied on as it can differ from client to client and could vary over time. <sup>2</sup> Data regarding the portfolio characteristics of the Composite reflect ownership information as of the date shown and are not intended to represent any past, present or future specific investment recommendations. Portfolio characteristics are subject to change without notice. The Small Cap Value Composite ("the Composite") consists of a Bailard Asset Management portfolio that is invested solely in small and micro capitalization U.S. equities which exhibit value characteristics. The Small Cap Value ESG Strategy is implemented within the Bailard Small Cap Value Composite. Please see the end of this document for important disclosures regarding this Composite.

Small Cap Value ESG Strategy

# Small Cap Value ESG Strategy Team



#### THOMAS J. MUDGE III. CFA Portfolio Manager | SVP | Director, Equity Research

Investment experience: 36 years; 36 years with firm



Tom leads Bailard's equity research and serves as portfolio manager of the Small Cap Value ESG Strategy. As a Behavioral Finance enthusiast, he leveraged his extensive knowledge of the small and micro-cap value universe to create the original small cap value strategy in 2001. Tom earned his BA at Northern Michigan University in 1985 and the Chartered Financial Analyst® designation in 1994, and is a member of the CFA Institute and the CFA Society of San Francisco. He completed the certificate program in Investment Decisions and Behavioral Finance at Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government.



#### **BLAINE TOWNSEND, CIMC®, CIMA®**

#### Portfolio Manager | EVP | Director, Sustainable, Responsible and Impact Investing

Investment experience: 29 years; 7 years with firm

Blaine leads Bailard's Sustainable, Responsible and Impact Investing (SRII) team, and is a portfolio manager of Bailard's Small Cap Value ESG Strategy. As a pioneer and thought leader in the field of sustainable investing, Blaine was the original architect of the proprietary ESG Capture® framework first applied to the strategy in 2019. Blaine began his career in SRI/ESG in 1991 at the Muir Investment Trust, the nation's first environmentally screened bond fund. From 1996 through 2009, he led the California office for Trillium Asset Management, where he managed socially responsible and sustainably focused portfolios, served on the firm's investment committee and worked on corporate engagement efforts. After Trillium, Blaine spent 8 years at Wells Fargo's ESG firm Nelson Capital Management as a partner and senior portfolio manager, and on the firm's leadership team and investment committee. Blaine currently serves as an Advisory Board member for The Journal of Impact and ESG Investing. He holds a BA from the University of California, Berkeley and CIMC<sup>®</sup> and CIMA<sup>®</sup> credentials.



#### **OSMAN AKGUN, PH.D., CFA**

#### Portfolio Manager | VP, Domestic Equities

Investment experience: 12 years; 11 years with firm

Osman serves as Vice President of Domestic Equities and as a portfolio manager for Bailard's Small Cap Value ESG Strategy. He uses his passion for finding creative and sensible solutions to complex investment problems and focuses on quantitative research, model building, and portfolio optimization. Osman joined Bailard in 2012 after receiving his Ph.D. in Industrial Engineering and Operations Research at the University of California, Berkeley. Prior to his Ph.D. program, Osman received Masters' Degrees in Statistics as well as in Industrial Engineering and Operations Research, both from the University of California, Berkeley. During this time, Osman worked as a Research Assistant focusing on stochastic modeling and optimization, with applications to finance, service operations and computer communications. Prior to his graduate work, he received a B.S. in Industrial Engineering from Bogazici University, Turkey. Osman received his Chartered Financial Analyst® designation in 2017 and is a member of the CFA Institute and the CFA Society of San Francisco.

# Small Cap Value ESG Strategy Team



#### **MCKENZIE FULKERSON-JONES**

Senior ESG Analyst Investment experience: 1 year; 1 year with firm

McKenzie joined Bailard in 2022. As a Senior ESG Analyst, they are a member of Bailard's Sustainable, Responsible, and Impact Investing (SRII) team. In this role, McKenzie supports Bailard's ESG research and proprietary ESG Capture® scoring process, the SRII group's corporate engagement and stakeholder relationships, firmwide ESG projects across multiple asset classes, and thought leadership and media work. McKenzie also serves on the Board of Directors of the Bailard Foundation and is a member of Bailard's Diversity Committee. Prior to Bailard, McKenzie spent ten years at The Nature Conservancy where they served in communications and freshwater ecosystems conservation project manager roles. McKenzie holds a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Redlands and a Master of Business Administration from George Washington University.



#### **ANNALISE DURANTE**

**Senior ESG Analyst** Investment experience: 8 years; 5 years with firm

Annalise rejoined Bailard in 2023 and serves as both a Senior ESG Analyst and Investment Counselor for the Sustainable, Responsible and Impact Investing (SRII) group. As an ESG Analyst, Annalise contributes to ESG/SRI research, thought leadership, and corporate engagement. As an Investment Counselor, Annalise is responsible for managing client relationships and implementing investment strategies. Prior to originally joining Bailard in 2017, Annalise spent two years at Citi Private Bank working with ultra-high-net-worth clients. She also spent time volunteering for a microfinance organization in Cambodia. Annalise earned a Bachelor's degree in Finance from the University of Miami.



#### GLENN A. DAVIS, CFA

Senior Vice President | Head Trader Investment experience: 32 years; 32 years with firm

Glenn joined the firm in 1991. As head trader, Glenn's responsibilities include execution of all purchases and sales of domestic securities. With more than 25 years of trading experience, he excels in trading small and micro-cap stocks while working diligently to minimize market impact. Glenn received his BS from Santa Clara University in 1988 and his Chartered Financial Analyst® designation in 1995, and is a member of the CFA Institute and the CFA Society of San Francisco.

• Behavioral anomalies may provide an enduring source of alpha.

- Market participant irrationality is recurring, predictable, and therefore exploitable.
- Less scrutiny means greater potential opportunity in our Bailard Ranking Model and ESG.
  - Bargains or advantages are rare where everyone else is looking.
  - Small and micro cap stocks are fertile ground for behavioral biases and unidentified ESG potential opportunities. These can be effectively exploited through a disciplined and systematic approach.
- Avoid unnecessary risk.
  - Control for economic sector exposure, bankruptcy risk, idiosyncratic risk, ESG risk, alpha instability, beta deviation and false precision in stock selection.

### **Product & Industry Screens**

No companies deriving more that 25% of revenues\* from the following sources:

- × Firearms
- × Controversial weapons (landmines, cluster munitions)
- × Alcohol
- × Tobacco
- × Gambling
- × Adult Entertainment
- × Predatory Lending (payday loans, rent-to-own)
- × Private Prisons

\* This revenue threshold removes clear offenders while not excluding grocery stores, hotels, airlines, restaurants, cable television, cell phone service providers, etc.

### **ESG Integration**

- Exclude the bottom scoring 20% of Bailard's ESG Capture<sup>®</sup> rankings.
- Portfolio's average ESG score will always exceed the benchmark's score.
- Additionally, we use qualitative measures to screen out companies that have egregious patterns of behavior on ESG issues that may not be fully reflected in ESG Capture<sup>®</sup> rankings.

## About Bailard, Inc.

1969

### Founded in 1969

- Independent, established and stable
- Roots in education and financial literacy



### **Owned by Current and Former Employees**

- Current and former employees own 55% and 18%, respectively
- Broad equity ownership: 70% of current employees own stock
- No institutional ownership



### Women and Minority Owned



### 73 Employees

- Average investment professional tenure of 16 years
- 41% of employees are women
- Led by a female CEO



**Assets Under Management** 

Data as of June 30, 2023.

# Why the Bailard Small Cap Value ESG Strategy?

SMALL CAP INVESTING CHALLENGES	UR SOLUTIONS	
Thousands of Stocks With No Top-heavy Concentration	Systematic methods allow for broader analysis of thousands potential winners easily missed by more narrowly focused co small value investable universe requires a larger portfolio to exposures.	mpetitors. The nature of the
Higher Volatility	We hold 250-300 stocks, limiting individual stock risk. We an 11 economic sectors and all 24 economic subsectors, reducing ESG Capture <sup>®</sup> methodology also helps to limit volatility by av significant potential negative externalities and lagging ESG p	g economic cycle risk. Our oiding companies with
Limited Information	In addition to sometimes-limited financial statement data an universal behavioral finance anomalies to broaden our alpha advanced valuation techniques.	<i>v</i> , <i>v</i>
Higher Bankruptcy Risk	Our earnings quality focus, accounting and auditor red flag s measurement, and factor beta "value trap" identification all l with going concern issues.	
Liquidity Constraints	We employ proprietary and often contrarian stock selection We emphasize characteristics more than individual stocks, a trading. We broadly diversify, limiting maximum position si experience and expertise.	llowing for patient, flexible
Limited ESG Data and Poor ESG Vendor Score Coverage	We have proprietary E, S, and G factors with comprehensive We also combine ESG scores from multiple vendors to create score with much greater universe coverage.	

### **Disclosures and Key Risks**

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Any references to specific securities are included solely as general market commentary and were selected on criteria unrelated to Bailard's portfolio recommendations or the past performance of any security held in any Bailard account or fund. There is no guarantee Bailard or this strategy will achieve their performance or investment objectives. **Unless otherwise indicated, the performance data in this presentation does not reflect the performance of any Bailard product, strategy or account.** 

Past performance is no indication of future results. All investments have the risk of loss.

#### **Key Risks**

The Bailard Small Cap Value ESG Strategy is not by itself a complete investment program and is best suited for investors who can accept the above average risk generally associated with small cap and micro cap stocks. These companies may face greater economic cycle risk, credit risk, geographic risk, product, and customer concentration risk than that faced by larger companies. Small cap and—to a greater extent—micro cap stocks are more volatile and less liquid than larger cap stocks and may be more difficult to trade. There are times when the small cap value equity style underperforms other equity investment styles.

The application of various environmental, social and governance screens as part of a socially responsible investment strategy may result in the exclusion of securities that might otherwise merit investment, potentially resulting in higher or lower returns than a similar investment strategy without such screens or other strategies that use a different methodology to exclude issuers or evaluate ESG criteria. Investors can differ in their views of what constitutes positive or negative ESG characteristics. As a result, the strategy may invest in issuers that do not reflect the ESG beliefs and values of any particular investor.

In evaluating a security or issuer based on ESG criteria, we are dependent upon certain information and data from third party providers of ESG research, which may be incomplete, inaccurate or unavailable. As a result, there is a risk that we may incorrectly assess a security or issuer. There is also a risk that we may not apply the relevant ESG criteria correctly or that the strategy could have indirect exposure to issuers that do not meet the relevant ESG criteria used by the strategy. We do not make any representation or warranty, express or implied, with respect to the fairness, correctness, accuracy, reasonableness or completeness of such ESG assessment. There may be limitations with respect to availability of ESG data in certain sectors, as well as limited availability of investments with positive ESG assessments in certain sectors. Our evaluation of ESG criteria is subjective and may change over time.

The market value of an investment will fluctuate as the securities markets fluctuate. There can be no assurance that this or any investment strategy will achieve its investment objectives. All investments have the risk of loss

#### **Other Disclosures**

The information in this presentation is for informational purposes only and is not an offer to provide investment advice, an offer to sell securities or the solicitation of any offer to buy securities. Before making any investment decision, you should review Bailard, Inc.'s Form ADV Part 1A and Bailard's Form ADV Part 2A (available on the SEC's website at https://adviserinfo.sec.gov/firm/summary/110550), as well as Part 2B of Bailard's Form ADV (available from Bailard) and all other information that Bailard provides to you. You should also discuss all matters concerning any prospective investment that you desire with Bailard. The information provided herein is meant to demonstrate Bailard's general investment process. The outline of processes and steps taken is general in nature, and Bailard from time to time will deviate from the specific investment steps, limitations, screens, controls and overall process described. The description of the Bailard Ranking Model provided in this presentation is for conceptual illustration purposes only and is not meant to represent a complete example of the use of the model with respect to the Bailard Institutional Small Cap Value ESG Strategy.

#### **Small Cap Value Composite Performance Disclosures**

The Bailard Small Cap Value Composite (the "Composite") includes a Bailard Asset Management portfolio invested solely in small and micro capitalization U.S. equities that exhibit value characteristics. As of June 30, 2023, the Composite consisted of a single mutual fund which Bailard has been managing in an advisory or sub-advisory capacity since 2001 with a market value of \$89.8 million, which represented 3.5% of the total assets under Bailard Asset Management's management. The ESG Capture component was explicitly introduced to the portfolio in December 2019. Prior to 2006, the Composite had less consistent and lower overall exposure to micro cap stocks. The Composite's returns are total returns presented as labeled, either net of, or both gross and net of management fees ("net of fees") payable to Bailard, and assume reinvestment of dividends and other earnings. The returns do not reflect a fiduciary fulfilment fee payable to Bailard (where applicable), or custody and other account expenses not payable to Bailard. The return of this Composite is not the NAV return of the mutual fund.

Both gross of fee and net of fee returns are taken directly from Bailard's portfolio accounting system, and net of fee performance was calculated by netting down the gross return by actual management fee paid by the mutual fund client to Bailard as of the date paid. Composite returns do not reflect a fiduciary fulfilment fee payable to Bailard (where applicable), or custody and other expenses not payable to Bailard which the composite account incurred.

The Firm's annual fee schedule for new accounts is: 0.90% of the first \$25 million, 0.70% of the next \$25 million, 0.60% on the next \$50 million, and 0.50% on assets over \$100 million. The Composite's complete return history and a list of Bailard's composites are available upon request.

#### Continued on next page

# Performance Disclosures (Continued)

#### **Market Indices Definitions**

The S&P 500 Index, the Russell 1000 Growth Index, the Russell 1000 Value Index, the Russell 2000 Growth Index, the Russell 2000 Index, the MSCI USA Small Cap ESG Leaders Index, the Russell 2000 Value Index, and the Russell Micro Cap Value Index shown in this presentation are different from a managed account in that they are unmanaged, uninvestable and do not reflect any transaction costs.

The Russell 2000 Value Index is a commonly used index that measures the performance of the small-cap value segment of the U.S. equity universe. It includes those Russell 2000 Index companies with lower price-to-book ratios and lower forecasted growth values. The Russell Microcap Value Index measures the performance of the microcap value segment of the U.S. equity market. It includes Russell Microcap companies that are considered more value oriented relative to the overall market as defined by Russell's leading style methodology. Unlike the Russell 2000 Value Index and the Russell Microcap Value Index, the Composite account can acquire stocks in initial public offerings and can hold cash equivalents and exchange-traded funds. The Composite account's stock holdings may differ materially from those of the Russell 2000 Value Index and the Russell Microcap Value Index, as the Composite: 1) can invest in stocks that are not in the indices; and 2) may omit securities that may otherwise merit investment due to the application of various environmental, social and governance screens. The Composite can hold microcap stocks and will tend to hold a higher percentage of microcap stocks (defined as stocks in the bottom 1% of major U.S. exchange-traded securities when measured by market capitalization) than the Russell 2000 Value Index. The Composite can hold small cap value stocks (defined as stocks with lower price-to-book ratios and lower expected growth values and between 1% and 11% of major U.S. exchange-traded securities when measured by market capitalization) than the Russell Micro Cap Value Index. The Small Cap Value ESG Strategy's model portfolio holdings will differ materially from the index due to the model portfolios' selection of only a portion each of these indices' securities. The Small Cap Value ESG Strategy's hypothetical returns differ materially from that of the indices. As a result, the indices are not indicative of the past or future performance of the model portfolios.

S&P 500: The S&P 500 Index is a commonly used U.S. stock index of 500 large capitalization stocks.

Russell 1000 Growth: The Russell 1000 Growth Index measures the performance of the large cap growth segment of the US equity universe. It includes those Russell 1000 companies with higher price-to-book ratios and higher forecasted growth values.

Russell 1000 Value: The Russell 1000<sup>®</sup> Value Index measures the performance of the large cap value segment of the US equity universe. It includes those Russell 1000 companies with lower price-to-book ratios and lower expected growth values

Russell 2000 Growth: The Russell 2000 Growth Index measures the performance of the small cap growth segment of the US equity universe. It includes those Russell 2000 companies with higher price-to-value ratios and higher forecasted growth values.

Russell 2000 Index: The Russell 2000 Index measures the performance of the small-cap segment of the US equity universe. The Russell 2000 Index is a subset of the Russell 3000 Index representing approximately 10% of the total market capitalization of that index. It includes approximately 2,000 of the smallest securities based on a combination of their market cap and current index membership.

MSCI USA Small Cap ESG Leaders Index: The MSCI USA Small Cap ESG Leaders Index is a capitalization weighted index that provides exposure to companies with high Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) performance relative to their sector peers. MSCI USA Small Cap ESG Leaders Index consists of small cap companies in the US market. The Index is designed for investors seeking a broad, diversified sustainability benchmark with relatively low tracking error to the underlying equity market. The index is a member of the MSCI ESG Leaders Index series. Constituent selection is based on data from MSCI ESG Research.

#### **Other Performance Definitions**

Standard deviation is the annualized standard deviation of monthly returns. "Information ratio" is the ratio of added value to tracking error. "Tracking error" is the annualized standard deviation of monthly added value, where added value is [Composite return – benchmark return].

Past performance is no indication of future results. All investments have the risk of loss.

### For More Information:

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