

Q4 2023

A VICTORY CAPITAL® INVESTMENT FRANCHISE

### Strategy Objective

The Global Equity strategy seeks to provide long-term capital appreciation, while global diversification and active allocations help mitigate volatility. The strategy combines high-conviction active management with the diversification of low-cost, passive ETFs.

**Inception Date:** January 2005 Top-down approach since 1996

Focus: Global equity

**Investments:** Long-only, U.S. sector and international region-based equity ETFs from leading U.S. providers; no leverage, derivatives, or options

**Risk Mitigation:** Manage downside capture through regional allocation and U.S. sector avoidance

**Tax efficiency:** Low average annual turnover/long-term holding periods

#### **INVESTMENT PERFORMANCE\***



Returns for periods greater than one year are annualized.

Source: Archer IMS, IDC, WestEnd Advisors

WestEnd Advisors claims compliance with the Global Investment Performance Standards (GIPS®)

#### **RISK AND RETURN SUMMARY\***

	Trailing 5 Years			Tra	iling 10 Yea	ars	
	Global Equity		MSCI	Global Equity		MSCI	
	Gross	Net	ACWI	Gross	Net	ACWI	
Return	13.26%	9.94%	11.72%	10.06%	6.83%	7.93%	
Standard Deviation	18.03%	17.94%	19.46%	14.45%	14.38%	15.50%	
Alpha	2.34%	-0.94%	n/a	2.67%	-0.53%	n/a	
Beta	0.92	0.91	1.00	0.92	0.91	1.00	
Sharpe Ratio	0.63	0.45	0.50	0.61	0.38	0.43	
R-Squared	98.3%	98.3%	n/a	97.0%	97.0%	n/a	
Tracking Error	2.85%	2.89%	n/a	2.80%	2.82%	n/a	
Upside Capture	99.8%	90.1%	100.0%	104.2%	89.5%	100.0%	
Downside Capture	89.6%	97.6%	100.0%	86.0%	94.8%	100.0%	

Source: Archer IMS, IDC, WestEnd Advisors

#### PORTFOLIO COMPOSITION

Number of Holdings	5 to 10 on average
U.S. Equity Exposure	40% to 85%
U.S. Large-Cap	40% to 70%
U.S. Small/Mid-Cap	0% to 15%
International Equity	15% to 60%
Target Cash Position	2% to 5%
Annual Turnover Range	11% to 51%**

#### **MODEL PORTFOLIO WEIGHTS**

#### U.S. Equities

Olor Equition		
Large-Cap	65.0%	
Health Care	19.5%	
Information Technology	16.3%	
Consumer Staples	9.8%	
Communication Services	9.8%	
Consumer Discretionary	6.5%	
Utilities	3.3%	

#### International Equities

Europe	10.1%
Developed Asia	16.9%
Emerging Asia	5.8%
Other International	2.3%

Source: Bloomberg, WestEnd Advisors

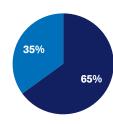
### SHORT-TERM VARIABILITY, LONG-TERM CONSISTENCY\*

SHORT TERM VARIABLETT, ES	ITG IL	1111 OO1101	012101	
		1-Year	3-year	5-year
Global Equity vs. MSCI ACWI (Net)		Rolling	Rolling	Rolling
Number of rolling periods		73	65	57
David de la factoria de la companya	Gross	46	60	57
Periods of outperformance	Net	27	40	20
Develope of povings of the order mond	Gross	63%	92%	100%
Percent of periods outperformed	Net	37%	62%	35%
Avg. period relative performance	Gross	2.14 ppts	2.99 ppts	3.20 ppts
(annualized) Source: Archer IMS, IDC, WestEnd Advisors	Net	-1.11 ppts	-0.24 ppts	-0.04 ppts

### CURRENT MODEL ALLOCATION

■ U.S. Large-Cap Equity

■ International Equity



Source: Bloomberg, WestEnd Advisors

<sup>\*</sup> Based on Global Equity Composite as of 12/31/2023. Net performance reflects the deduction of an assumed 3.00% annual fee rate. See Footnotes and Disclosures on page 4 for additional information.

<sup>\*\*</sup>Based on 5 years ended 12/31/2023



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#### PORTFOLIO POSITIONING as of 12/31/2023

- In our view, this evolving economic environment warrants a balance of exposures to defensive areas of the market as well as areas that should benefit if economic growth persists.
- We are avoiding early-phase cyclical U.S. sectors and, instead, are emphasizing both mid- and late-phase U.S. sectors that we expect will see less deceleration in earnings as economic growth slows, including overweights of Communication Services, Health Care, Consumer Staples, and Utilities.
- We remain underweight to international equities, as a whole, including underweights of Europe
  and emerging markets, but we maintain an overweight of developed Asia, where we see the
  greatest potential for economic resilience abroad.

#### **Q4 2023 ATTRIBUTION**

#### **Positive Contributors**

Underweight	U.S. Energy Emerging Asia	
Negative Contributors		
Overweight	U.S. Health Care U.S. Consumer Staples	
Underweight	U.S. Financials	

Source: Bloomberg, WestEnd Advisors

#### **HISTORICAL RETURNS\***

	Global Equi		
	Gross	Net	MSCI ACWI
2023	20.06%	16.56%	22.20%
2022	-19.00%	-21.44%	-18.36%
2021	20.97%	17.44%	18.54%
2020	24.21%	20.59%	16.26%
2019	27.53%	23.83%	26.60%
2018	-4.75%	-7.58%	-9.42%
2017	25.69%	22.04%	23.97%
2016	3.57%	0.52%	7.86%
2015	2.39%	-0.64%	-2.36%
2014	10.23%	7.00%	4.16%
2013	26.67%	22.99%	22.80%
2012	18.97%	15.49%	16.13%
2011	-2.97%	-5.85%	-7.35%
2010	17.99%	14.54%	12.67%
2009	38.24%	34.26%	34.63%
2008	-33.92%	-35.95%	-42.19%
2007	6.18%	3.06%	11.66%
2006	16.18%	12.78%	20.95%
2005	9.76%	6.54%	10.84%

Source: Archer IMS, IDC, WestEnd Advisors



For illustrative purposes only.

#### **CURRENT HOLDINGS**

#### **U.S.** Equities

Consumer Discretionary Select Sector SPDR Fund	XLY
Consumer Staples Select Sector SPDF Fund	R XLP
Health Care Select Sector SPDR Fund	XLV
Technology Select Sector SPDR Fund	XLK
Utilities Select Sector SPDR Fund	XLU
International Equities	
iShares Core MSCI Europe ETF	IEUR

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Vanguard FTSE All-World ex-US Index Fund ETF Shares	VEU
Vanguard FTSE Pacific Index Fund ETF Shares	VPL

#### **INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT TEAM**

Fritz Porter, CFA	CIO, Portfolio Manager 24 years of experience 15 years at WestEnd Advisors
Ned Durden	CIS, Portfolio Manager 26 years of experience 17 years at WestEnd Advisors
Ty Peebles, CFA, CPA	Portfolio Manager 13 years of experience 10 years at WestEnd Advisors
Jacob Buchanan, CFA	Portfolio Manager <sup>†</sup> 7 years of experience 6 years at WestEnd Advisors

### GLOBAL EQUITY INVESTMENT PROCESS

We begin the investment process by aggregating more than 200 domestic and international economic measures into a proprietary database. We then evaluate the data to identify areas of economic strength and weakness in the U.S. and international equity markets, and invest in typically 5 to 10 equity ETFs from leading providers.

<sup>\*</sup> Based on Global Equity Composite as of 12/31/2023. Net performance reflects the deduction of an assumed 3.00% annual fee rate. See Footnotes and Disclosures on page 4 for additional information.

<sup>†</sup> Effective 1/1/2024.

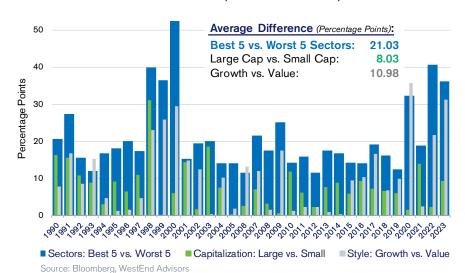


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#### THE IMPORTANCE OF SECTOR ALLOCATION

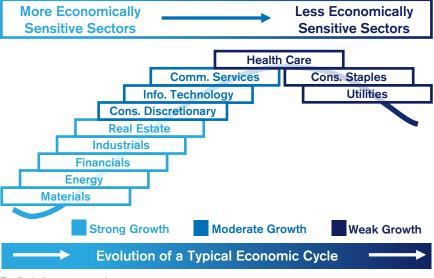
The path of economic growth is a key driver of U.S. equity sector performance. The investment team analyzes recurring cyclical trends and identifies the characteristics particular to the current economic cycle. Portfolios are typically invested in four to six large-cap U.S. sectors at any one time based on our macroeconomic outlook, but may be invested in more or fewer sectors as conditions warrant.

#### RANGE OF RETURNS BY SECTOR, CAPITALIZATION, AND STYLE\*



Owning the right sectors at the right time and avoiding those not in their ideal economic environment offers significantly more opportunity for outperformance, in our view, than allocating to the right equity style or market capitalization range.

WestEnd actively positions client portfolios in more economically-sensitive sectors when it expects strong growth, and transitions to less economically-sensitive sectors as growth expectations wane.



For illustrative purposes only.

<sup>\*</sup> Sector performance is represented by sectors of the S&P 500® Index. "Large Cap" is represented by the S&P 500® Index. "Small Cap" is represented by the Russell 2000® Index. "Growth" is represented by the Russell 1000® Growth Index. "Value" is represented by the Russell 1000® Value Index. Data for 2016 excludes Real Estate as a stand-alone sector, which was included in Financials until September 16, 2016. Data for 2018 replaces the Telecommunication Services Sector with the new Communication Services Sector after September 21, 2018, using geometrically-linked total returns to produce a single full-year return, and treats the linked returns as a single sector, due to changes in GICS sector classifications and index rebalancing that occurred as of market close on September 21, 2018.



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#### **FOOTNOTES AND DISCLOSURES**

WestEnd Advisors, LLC ("WestEnd"), an SEC-registered investment adviser, operates as an autonomous Victory Capital® Investment Franchise. WestEnd's active principals are responsible for managing the firm and its day-to-day operations. Registration of an investment adviser does not imply any level of skill or training. WestEnd manages equity securities for individual, institutional and wrap clients.

WestEnd Advisors' Global Equity Composite includes all discretionary accounts invested in the Global Equity model except for portfolios managed by WestEnd Advisors in a wrap-fee program. The Global Equity Composite creation and inception date is December 31, 2004. WestEnd Advisors' Global Equity Composite is invested in U.S. large-, mid-, and small-cap equities, international equities, and other assets, all through the use of exchange-traded funds, and/or high-grade money market instruments. Returns are achieved without the use of options, derivatives, or leverage of any kind. Results are calculated daily using the aggregate method, use trade date valuations, and include cash as well as the reinvestment of dividends, interest income, and other earnings, if applicable. Portfolio returns are weighted using beginning of period values plus weighted cash flows. Portfolios and composites are valued daily and are denominated in U.S. dollars only.

The performance shown is based on WestEnd Advisors' Global Equity Composite which includes all fully discretionary accounts invested in the Global Equity model except for Wrap-Fee (Wrap) and Unified Managed Account (UMA) accounts. While the accounts in the Global Equity Composite are invested according to the same model as Wrap and UMA accounts, performance may differ between the Global Equity Composite and Wrap and UMA accounts due to a variety of factors, including but not limited to: fees assessed by Wrap and UMA sponsors (e.g. wrap fees), Wrap and UMA sponsor- and client-imposed investment restrictions, and WestEnd Advisors' lack of trading discretion over UMA accounts.

Gross returns reflect the deduction of direct trading costs and the underlying expenses of investment vehicles held in the portfolio. Net performance reflects the deduction of an assumed 3.00% annual fee rate which is intended to equal or exceed the combined maximum advisory program fees and maximum investment management fees charged to advisory platform clients. This combined fee will normally include all charges for trading costs, portfolio management fees, custody and other administrative fees. Composite net returns are calculated by subtracting 1/12th of the highest applicable annual fee rate (3.00%) from the monthly gross return. Due to compounding of returns, full year net returns will typically not equal the gross return less 3%. Actual fees may vary depending on the individual sponsor's fee. Investment management fees are negotiated directly with advisory program sponsors. Fees are negotiable where circumstances warrant. Additional information on fees is provided in WestEnd Advisors' SEC Form ADV Part 2.

Past performance is not indicative of future results. It should not be assumed that recommendations made in the future will be profitable. The information contained herein is not intended to be an offer to provide investment advisory services. Such an offer may only be made if accompanied by WestEnd Advisors' SEC Form ADV Part 2.

Effective January 1, 2017, retroactive to December 31, 2004, the Global Equity Strategy's benchmark was changed from the MSCI World (Gross) Index to the MSCI ACWI (Net) Index. WestEnd Advisors believes that the MSCI ACWI (Net) more accurately reflects the emerging markets component of the Global Equity investment strategy and better represents the tax withholding on foreign dividends paid on the underlying holdings within the strategy's ETFs. Portfolio

management processes, including underlying security selection, are unchanged as the strategy has always had exposure to emerging market securities through ETFs. Further information about the change is available upon request.

The MSCI ACWI (Net) Index is used for comparative purposes only. The MSCI ACWI (Net) Index is a free float-adjusted market capitalization-weighted index that is designed to measure the equity market performance of developed and emerging markets. The MSCI ACWI (Net) consists of 47 country indexes comprising 23 developed and 24 emerging market country indexes. The total return of the MSCI ACWI (Net) Index is calculated using net dividends. Net total return reflects the reinvestment of dividends after the deduction of withholding taxes, using (for international indices) a tax rate applicable to non-resident institutional investors who do not benefit from double taxation treaties. Benchmark returns are not covered by the report of independent verifiers.

A complete list and description of all WestEnd Advisors' composites, as well as a GIPS® Report, is available upon request by phone (888-500-9025) or email (info@westendadvisors.com). Additional information regarding policies for valuing portfolios, calculating performance, and preparing compliant presentations is available upon request. GIPS® is a registered trademark of CFA Institute. CFA Institute does not endorse or promote this organization, nor does it warrant the accuracy or quality of the content contained herein.

Strategy Advisory-Only assets include assets in Unified Managed Account (UMA) programs for which WestEnd provides Model Portfolios but has no discretion to effect trades, and no supervisory responsibility over the assets in the program.

Attribution Analysis is relative to the MSCI ACWI (Net) benchmark and was current as of the quarter specified in this presentation. A complete attribution report is available upon request.

Any portfolio characteristics, including position sizes and sector allocations among others, are generally averages and are for illustrative purposes only and do not reflect the investments of an actual portfolio unless otherwise noted. The investment guidelines of an actual portfolio may permit or restrict investments that are materially different in size, nature, and risk from those shown. The investment processes, research processes, or risk processes shown herein are for informational purposes to demonstrate an overview of the process. Such processes may differ by product, client mandate, or market conditions. Portfolios that are concentrated in a specific sector or industry may be subject to a higher degree of market risk than a portfolio whose investments are more diversified.

Holdings, Sector Weightings, and Portfolio Characteristics were current as of the date specified in this presentation. The listing of particular securities should not be considered a recommendation to purchase or sell these securities. While these securities were among WestEnd Advisors' Global Equity holdings at the time this material was assembled, holdings will change over time. There can be no assurance that the securities remain in the portfolio or that other securities have not been purchased. It should not be assumed that recommendations made in the future will be profitable or will equal the performance of the securities presently in the portfolio. Individual clients' portfolios may vary. Upon request, WestEnd Advisors will provide a list of all recommendations for the prior year.

As of December 31, 2023, WestEnd Advisors had \$13.9 million of assets in the Global Equity Composite. This information is included as supplemental information only.

January 2024