



KENTUCKY RETIREMENT SYSTEMS

David L. Eager, Executive Director

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MEMORANDUM

TO: State News Media

FROM: Kentucky Retirement Systems

DATE: March 23, 2021

SUBJECT: Notice of Meeting

The Kentucky Retirement Systems Board of Trustees Investment Committee will hold a special called meeting on Thursday, March 25, 2021 at 9:00 a.m. (Eastern) via live video teleconference due to SB 150, signed into law by the Governor on March 30, 2020, and Executive Order 2020-215 declaring a State of Emergency effective March 6, 2020 due to COVID-19. The agenda is attached for your review.

If you would like to submit a public comment to be read during the meeting, please email your comment, full name and affiliation to Alane Foley at alane.foley@kyret.ky.gov no later than 8:00 a.m. on Thursday, March 25, 2021. Comments received cannot exceed 3 (three) minutes.

KRS will livestream the meeting on our Facebook page. Watch the meeting by going to the KRS Facebook page on the date and time of the meeting.

cc: Board of Trustees
Media List

**KENTUCKY RETIREMENT SYSTEMS
SPECIAL CALLED
INVESTMENT COMMITTEE MEETING
Thursday, March 25, 2021
9:00 a.m.
AGENDA**

- 9:00 A.M. Call to Order
- 9:01 A.M. Roll Call – Alane Foley
- 9:03 A.M. Public Comment – Prewitt Lane
- 9:06 A.M. Approval of Minutes*- February 2, 2021 – Prewitt Lane
- 9:09 A.M. Manager Re-up Recommendations*- MiddleGround Partners II, New State Capital Partners Fund III, and Strategic Value Special Situations Fund V – Anthony Chiu
- 9:30 A.M. Adjourn

** Committee Action Required*

**MINUTES OF MEETING
KENTUCKY RETIREMENT SYSTEMS
SPECIAL CALLED INVESTMENT COMMITTEE
FEBRUARY 2, 2021, 9:00 A.M., E.T.
VIA LIVE VIDEO TELECONFERENCE DUE TO SB 150,
SIGNED INTO LAW BY THE GOVERNOR ON MARCH 30, 2020,
AND EXECUTIVE ORDER 2020-215 DECLARING A STATE OF
EMERGENCY EFFECTIVE MARCH 6, 2020 DUE TO COVID-19**

At the February 2, 2021 Special Called Investment Committee Meeting, the following Committee members were present: Prewitt Lane (Chair), Joseph Grossman, Kelly Downard, Keith Percy, David Harris, John Cheshire, III, Matthew Monterio, and Betty Pendergrass. Trustees Secretary Gerina Whethers, Jerry Powell, W. Joe Brothers and J.T. Fulkerson were also present. Staff members present were David Eager, Steven Herbert, Kathy Rupinen, Victoria Hale, Rebecca Adkins, Erin Surratt, Jared Crawford, Steve Willer, Anthony Chiu, Joseph Gilbert, Alane Foley and Carol Johnson. Also in attendance were Chris Tessman, Craig Morton, Chris Shelby and David Lindberg from Wilshire.

Mr. Prewitt Lane called the meeting to order and Ms. Alane Foley called roll.

Mr. Prewitt Lane introduced agenda item *Public Comment*. Ms. Alane Foley stated that no public comments were submitted.

Mr. Prewitt Lane introduced agenda item *Approval of Minutes November 4, 2020 and December 2, 2020*. Mr. Joseph Grossman moved and was seconded by Mr. David Harris to approve both sets of minutes as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Prewitt Lane introduced agenda item *Investment Compliance Report*. Mr. Jared Crawford reviewed the Investment Compliance Report that was presented to the Committee members. It was pointed out by Mr. Crawford that we are currently under weight in the real return allocation and that the primary reason for that is managers being terminated. Mr. Crawford also explained to the Committee members why the S&P 500 Portfolio was not in compliance. Mr. Crawford stated that there is a warrant that is not marketable and we cannot sell that is causing the non-compliance. Mr. Joseph Gilbert discussed the options with the Committee members to correct the non-compliance issue. Mr. David Eager and Mr. Joseph Grossman both asked that an asterisk be added to include an explanation as to why the S&P 500 Portfolio showed non-compliance. Mr. Jared Crawford stated that some type of language will be added to the report to explain the non-compliance. Mr. David Harris stated that the investment team needs to adjust and rebalance the portfolio when targets are out of range. Mr. Joseph Grossman suggested that we include an explanation as to the reason why a target is out of range. Mr. Joseph Gilbert stated that the allocations were changed effective January 1, 2021 and that is why the targets are showing out of range. Ms. Betty Pendergrass suggested moving the quarterly Investment Committee meeting to the second week of the month to allow staff more time to complete the financial reports that need to be reviewed prior to the meeting. Mr. Prewitt Lane stated that the meeting dates will be reviewed to see if a change is needed or even possible. This was provided for informational purposes only.

Mr. Prewitt Lane introduced agenda item *Performance Review*. Mr. Steven Herbert reviewed the Monthly Performance Update with the Committee members. This was provided for informational purposes only.

Mr. Prewitt Lane introduced agenda item *Standard Reports*. Mr. Steven Herbert stated that the standard reports were included for the Committee members review. This was provided for informational purposes only.

Mr. Prewitt Lane introduced agenda item *Real Return Allocation*. Mr. Steven Herbert stated that the investment team is looking to rebuild the real return allocation and to make sure that the allocations that were set are met.

Mr. Prewitt Lane introduced agenda item *Personnel Update*. Mr. David Eager gave an update regarding staffing in the investment division since the resignations of Mr. Rich Robben and Mr. Andy Kiehl in September 2020. In the Board Bylaws Mr. Eager is responsible for staffing decisions. Mr. David Eager and several Investment Committee members narrowed down candidates for the vacant CIO position without hiring a recruiting firm. After conducting multiple interviews Mr. Steven Herbert was determined to be the best candidate and was hired for the position. Mr. Herbert began working for Kentucky Retirement Systems in mid-January 2021. Mr. David Eager also reported that Steve Willer was promoted to the position of Deputy Executive Director of the Office of Investments. Mr. David Eager stated that he is currently looking to fill one other vacant position at this time. Mr. David Harris suggested that Kentucky

Retirement Systems initiate a year round internship program to give students hands on experience in the investment field and help with future recruitment. Mr. Eager stated that we have had an intern in the Investment Office in the past and are open to having interns at the Kentucky Retirement Systems.

There being no further business, Ms. Betty Pendergrass moved and was seconded by Mr. Joseph Grossman to adjourn the meeting at 10:00 a.m. The next meeting of the Investment Committee is scheduled for 9:00 a.m. on May 4, 2021. Copies of all documents presented are incorporated as part of the minutes of the Special Called Investment Committee meeting held February 2, 2021.

CERTIFICATION

I do certify that I was present at this meeting and I have recorded above the action of the Committee on the various items considered by it at this meeting. Further, I certify that all requirements of KRS 61.805-61.850 were met in connection with this meeting.

Recording Secretary

I, as Chair of the Investment Committee of the Board of Trustees of the Kentucky Retirement Systems, do certify that the Minutes of the meetings held on November 4, 2020 and December 2, 2020 were approved by the Investment Committee on February 2, 2021.

Committee Chair

I have reviewed the Minutes of the Special Called Investment Committee Meeting on February 2, 2021 for form, content, and legality.

Office of Legal Services



KENTUCKY RETIREMENT SYSTEMS INVESTMENTS



To: Investment Committee – Kentucky Retirement Systems

From: Anthony Chiu, Director

Date: March 18, 2021

Subject: Investment Recommendation – MiddleGround Partners II

KRS staff and Wilshire are proposing a commitment to MiddleGround Partners II, a leveraged buyout fund that invests in US industrial and specialty distribution companies. MiddleGround's team has differentiated operational improvement experience from their work together at Toyota and Monomoy Capital that they have applied to their Fund I portfolio companies.

KRS is a current investor in MiddleGround's \$460 million Fund I. A commitment of \$75 million was approved by the Investment Committee in May 2019.

Fund I has deployed capital more quickly than expected in part due to a couple of attractive 2020 deals that were relatively large and in bankruptcy - Shiloh and Dura. While MiddleGround is not a distressed fund, these two deals were both in their areas of expertise (industrial and automotive) and attractively priced.

As an existing investor, KRS has been offered no fee, no carry co-investment rights with Fund II for up to 50% of its commitment. Fund I has generated close to \$300 million of co-investment opportunity to date. Fund II is expected to reach its hard cap of \$650 million during the first half of 2021.

Business / People:

Middle Ground Capital was formed in 2018 by John Stewart, Lauren Mulholland, and Scot Duncan in Lexington, KY and New York City. The three co-founders previously worked together for six years at Monomoy Capital, while John and Scot worked at Toyota together for 12 years prior to that.

Since KRS's last commitment in 2019, Middle Ground has continued to grow. The team now has 41 people, including 10 who have worked previously with John Stewart at Toyota and/or Monomoy. Both the investment and operations teams have more than doubled to 13 and 15 people, respectively. Monica McClinton has also been promoted to Partner and has management company ownership as well.

Middle Ground's size is partially a result of its operationally intensive approach. Nine team members have experience at Toyota, which is known for its operational efficiency and improvement processes. Another operator brings over 20 years of experience from Coors and worked with John for seven years to stabilize and enhance the operations of several portfolio companies at Monomoy.

As they said they would, Middle Ground is growing assets gradually, with Fund II's hard cap at \$650 million. Management company ownership is shared among anchor investor Archean and the four partners, with John Stewart having the largest share. Carried interest is available to team members at the Senior Associate level and above. The operating team members are employees of Middle Ground, with their time billed to portfolio companies. Operators also participate in the equity pool set aside for management at the portfolio companies they work with.

Investment Process and Portfolio:

Fund I is close to 70% deployed today across seven platform deals. MiddleGround anticipates doing two more platform investments and two more add-on acquisitions in Fund I before starting Fund II later this year. Expected pacing and portfolio construction remains the same at one to two platform investments per year and 10-12 portfolio companies in Fund II.

The firm has put significant resources toward deal sourcing, which targets buyout investments in profitable US companies with enterprise values of \$75 to \$300 million. Lauren built a sourcing network and deal pipeline similar to the one she managed at Monomoy. Subsequently, MiddleGround hired Christen Paras from a family office in 2019 and Dyana Baurley from Milestone Partners in 2020 as dedicated business development professionals and believes this effort has significantly enhanced the firm's actionable deal flow.

Although Middle Ground is not a "value buyer," they are attracted to companies with operations and margins that they believe can be improved. An operating professional is included in every due diligence process and helps the team construct a Value Creation Plan (VCP) prior to close. Working capital management, pricing, labor processes, and other cost savings are typically among the key components of the VCP.

Middle Ground then embeds an operator onsite at each portfolio company for the first 9 to 12 months of ownership to implement the VCP. Once the VCP is in place and improvements are in process, the company moves to a monitoring phase and the operator moves to another acquisition opportunity or VCP onsite. However, the operator remains responsible for each portfolio company until it is sold and is incentivized by their allocation of the management equity pool.

Performance:

| Fund | Vintage | Size (\$MM) | Gross IRR | Gross Multiple | Net IRR | Net Multiple |
|----------------|---------|-------------|-----------|----------------|---------|--------------|
| MiddleGround I | 2018 | \$460 | 57% | 1.5x | 40% | 1.3x |

Source: MiddleGround as of 12/31/20

Conclusion: Staff is recommending an investment of up to \$75 million in MiddleGround Partners II, as well as a \$37.5 million co-investment commitment to be shared among all plans.

Investment and Terms Summary

Type of Investment: Private Equity – Buyout

Structure: GP / LP

Management Fee: Years 1-6: 2% on committed capital
Thereafter: 2% on invested capital, net of write-offs and distributions

Performance Fee: 20% over an 8% preferred return, with a European waterfall

Purpose: Capture the value created by Middle Ground's operational improvements and portfolio company profitability growth.

Risks: Equity, Leverage, Liquidity, Concentration, Key Person

Exp. Net Return: 15% - 20%



Wilshire Private Markets

MIDDLEGROUND PARTNERS II

(\$650 million)

REQUEST DECISION

| | |
|---|------------------------------------|
| Target Size / Hardcap | \$550 million / \$650 million |
| First Close (M) | TBD |
| First Close Date | March 2021 |
| Expected Close Date | June 2021 |
| Geographic Focus | North America |
| Sector | Mid Buyout |
| Investment Focus | Industrials |
| Investment Size (M) | Up to \$75 |
| Number of Investments | 8 – 10 |
| Investment Period | 6 Years |
| Fund Term | 10 Years |
| GP Commitment | 2% |
| Target Return (Gross) | 2.5x – 3.0x ROI; 25% - 30%+ IRR |
| Management Fee – Investment Period | 2% on committed |
| Management Fee – Post-Investment Period | 2% on net invested |
| Carry / Waterfall | 20% / European |
| Catch Up(%) / Hurdle | 100% / 8% |

FIRM OVERVIEW

MiddleGround Capital (“MiddleGround”, “MGC”, or the “Firm”) was founded in 2018 by John Stewart, Lauren Mulholland, and Scot Duncan (collectively the “Founding Partners”) following its spin-out from Monomoy Capital Partners (“Monomoy”) to pursue investments into middle-market industrial and specialty distribution companies in North America. MiddleGround targets control investments in operationally underperforming companies with a heavy emphasis on value creation through the operational engagement of its Founding Partners and dedicated operations team. Importantly, two of the Firm’s founders along with the Firm’s operating partners have extensive careers working within automotive OEMs and other related companies. In addition to the Partners, MiddleGround has a nine-member investment team based in New York, NY and a 13-member operations team based in Lexington, KY.

INVESTMENT STRATEGY

MiddleGround Partners II (the “Fund”) seeks to make control-oriented buyout investments in profitable, lower middle-market companies operating predominantly in the North American business to business industrial and specialty distribution sectors (recent focus on mobility & auto infrastructure is noteworthy). The Firm will pursue family and founder-owned businesses, management buyouts, corporate divestitures, spin-outs, and sponsor-backed companies that while relatively healthy, are operationally underperforming and will benefit from MiddleGround’s operationally intensive investment approach. Typical companies will have sustainable business models, be well positioned for strong revenue growth, and have a cost structure that can be further optimized. The Firm expects the majority of each investment’s growth to be generated by bolstering the cash flow of the business and enhancing organic growth capabilities. Furthermore, MiddleGround must believe its portfolio companies have a path to healthy free cash flow margins.

TRACK RECORD

MiddleGround Fund I closed on \$459.5 million in total commitments in 2019. As of September 2020, the Fund has six portfolio companies representing approximately \$243 million in invested capital and has completed one additional acquisition in Q4 2020.

| Fund | Vintage | Size (\$M) | Net ROI | Net IRR |
|-----------|-----------|------------|---------|---------|
| Fund I | 2018 | 460 | 1.1x | 11% |
| Pre-Fund* | 2008-2017 | 500** | 1.9x*** | 56%*+ |

Source: Source: MiddleGround. As of September 30, 2020.
*Pre-Fund track record as of December 31, 2017. ** Total invested capital. ***Gross ROI. *+Weighted average gross IRR.

WPM RESEARCH REPORT RADAR



Key: 5 = Top Decile; 4 = Top Quartile; 3 = Average; 2 = Bottom Half; 1 = Bottom Decile; 0 = No Information

Past performance is not indicative of future results.

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| Investment Merits | Investment Concerns |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Single strategy firm led by a strong, highly aligned and motivated team at an attractive stage of its lifecycle Depth and pedigree of dedicated operations team Differentiated industry focus and operationally oriented value creation Enhanced engagement with portfolio companies throughout the investment process | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organizational dynamics with Archeon anchor investment Key person risk with John Stewart Faster than expected investment pacing for Fund I |



KENTUCKY RETIREMENT SYSTEMS

INVESTMENTS



To: Investment Committee – Kentucky Retirement Systems

From: Anthony Chiu, Director

Date: March 18, 2021

Subject: Investment Recommendation – New State Capital Partners Fund III

KRS staff and Wilshire are proposing a commitment to New State Capital Partners Fund III, a \$425 million leveraged buyout fund that invests in small US companies primarily in the business services and industrial sectors. New State has a disciplined and differentiated sourcing process that has historically resulted in purchase multiples of 5-7x EBITDA.

KRS currently has exposure to New State’s first fund through Bay Hills, which committed \$16 million in 2015. A commitment of up to \$25 million in New State’s \$255 million Fund II was approved by the Investment Committee in February 2018, but KRS’s allocation was cut back to \$20 million as a result of investor demand that exceeded the fund’s hard cap. Subsequently, KRS was unable to close on its \$20 million allocation due to legal documentation issues.

Business / People:

New State was formed in 2013 by David Blechman in New York City and targets deep value buyout investments in US companies with EBITDA of \$8 to \$25 million. The team has grown to 18 people, including 10 investment team members and 6 operating resources. The investment team is led by four principals that have been successful and worked together at larger value-oriented private equity firms such as HIG and Sun Capital.

Carry and economic ownership are shared among 11 team members. New State also utilizes a group of 10 senior industry partners for sourcing, due diligence, and advising portfolio companies. The firm also has 3 full-time employees in India dedicated mainly to CRM management as well as other tasks typically performed by analysts.

Investment Process and Portfolio:

Despite frothy public and private equity markets in recent years, New State has demonstrated a differentiated sourcing process which primarily targets broken sale processes. This has yielded companies with attractive growth prospects that New State has been able to acquire at below-market multiples. New State’s first two funds feature companies that provide IT services, payment processing, construction services, and executive search – all of which were acquired at valuations between 5x and 7x EBITDA.

Since 2013, New State has closed three platform investments before an institutional fund was raised (“Pre-Fund”), six platform investments in Fund I, and four in Fund II. The firm plans to make one more platform

investment before starting to deploy Fund III. In addition to these 13 platform transactions, the firm has also closed 13 add-on acquisitions at attractive multiples.

For Fund III, New State expects to continue its deliberate sourcing and diligence process that typically yields 2 to 3 platform investments per year, ultimately resulting in a portfolio of 10-12 companies. However, there are two notable process changes for Fund III. First is a transition away from healthcare deals, which have produced one write-off and mixed results overall. New State is not a specialist and given the idiosyncrasies and risks of the space (e.g. reimbursement), they have determined their skills are better utilized in industrial and business services deals.

Additionally, New State hired Dan Han from Strategic Value Partners in 2020 as Head of Special Strategies. While acquiring companies through debt has not historically been a sourcing strategy for New State, they believe this could be a small, additive piece to Fund III's portfolio. The ability to acquire discounted but well-covered debt provides two potential paths to attractive return - either being refinanced or eventually owning equity through a restructuring at typical New State valuations (mid-single digit EBITDA multiples).

To date, New State has made one such investment, buying senior debt in an IT training company at less than 60 cents on the dollar in July/August 2020. Subsequently, in October a SPAC announced it would purchase the company and merge it with a competitor. If this deal closes, Fund II will receive par plus accrued interest in the form of cash and new debt and realize a sizable gain in under a year.

Performance:

| Fund | Vintage | Size (\$MM) | Gross IRR | Gross Multiple | Net IRR | Net Multiple |
|----------------------|---------|-------------|-----------|----------------|---------|--------------|
| Pre-Fund Investments | 2014 | \$100 | 28% | 2.3x | 21% | 1.8x |
| New State I | 2015 | \$131 | 64% | 4.2x | 52% | 3.2x |
| New State II | 2018 | \$255 | 24% | 1.2x | 5% | 1.0x |

Source: Wilshire, New State as of 12/31/20

Conclusion: Staff is recommending an investment of \$35 million (depending on allocation) in New State's Fund III to be shared among all plans. Like Fund II, this fund is expected to have a single close.

Investment and Terms Summary

Type of Investment: Private Equity – Small Buyout

Structure: GP / LP

Management Fee: Years 1-5: 2% on committed capital
Years 5+: 2% on invested capital net of write-offs, plus unfunded capital commitments reserved for follow-on investments

Performance Fee: 20% over an 8% preferred return, with a European waterfall

Purpose: Capture the value created by New State's differentiated sourcing, acquisition price discipline, and operational improvements.

Risks: Equity, Leverage, Liquidity, Concentration, Key Person

Exp. Net Return: 15% - 20%



Wilshire Private Markets

NEW STATE CAPITAL FUND III

(\$425 million)

REQUEST DECISION

| Key Highlights | |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Target Size / Hardcap | USD 425 / 425 |
| First Close (M) | NA |
| First Close Date | April 2021 |
| Expected Close Date | April 2021 |
| Geographic Focus | North America |
| Sector | Buyout |
| Investment Focus | Generalist |
| Investment Size (M) | \$10 - \$45 |
| Number of Investments | Est. 8 - 12 |
| Investment Period | 5 Years |
| Fund Term | 10 Years |
| GP Commitment | Min. 2% of commitments |
| Target Return | 5.0x ROI |
| Management Fee – Investment Period | 2% of committed capital |
| Management Fee Structure | 2% of reduced cost basis |
| Carry / Waterfall | 20% / European |
| Catch Up(%) / Hurdle | 100% / 8% |

FIRM OVERVIEW

New State Capital Partners (“New State” or the “Firm”) is a New York-based private equity firm focused on small-cap, deep value investing primarily within the industrial, business services, and consumer sectors. New State was founded by David Blechman in 2013 following his tenure as a Managing Director at H.I.G. Capital and is now joined by several other Senior Principals and former colleagues. New State employs 18 individuals today, including ten investment professionals and six operating resources.

INVESTMENT STRATEGY

New State Capital Partners Fund III (“Fund III” or the “Fund”) will continue to execute upon the investment strategy employed across the Firm’s prior two commingled funds and Pre-Fund track record, making control investments in companies primarily operating in the industrial, business services, and consumer sectors with significant growth potential. New State focuses on small-cap companies and emphasizes a deep value approach, targeting businesses with EBITDA ranging from \$8 million to \$25 million at below-market valuations (4x to 5x EV/EBITDA). Notably, the Fund may also seek to invest in companies by purchasing secondary debt at a discount to par and either receiving a repayment of principal or restructuring to an equity position.

Post-investment, New State has numerous value creation levers to drive growth in its portfolio companies including strategic pivots, talent upgrades, financial and operating improvements, and add-on acquisitions. Overall, New State strives to turn “good” companies into “great” companies. New State has developed a differentiated sourcing process that is critical to the strategy’s success. The result is a robust pipeline and an extremely selective deal funnel that has generated an average entry point of 5.5x EV/EBITDA across 13 platform investments.

TRACK RECORD

In total, New State has invested approximately \$375 million (including co-investment) across 13 platform investments and 13 add-ons. The Firm has demonstrated the ability to generate outperformance at the deal-level, evidenced by one Pre-Fund exit at a 10.3x gross ROI and a partially realized Fund I investment marked at 14.7x gross ROI. New State’s portfolio is attractive from both an absolute and relative basis and has generated a 2.6x gross ROI in aggregate as of December 31, 2020.

| Fund | Year | Size (\$M) | Net ROI | Net IRR |
|-----------|------|------------|---------|---------|
| Fund II | 2018 | 255 | 1.0x | 5% |
| Fund I | 2015 | 131 | 3.2x | 52% |
| Pre-Fund* | 2014 | 100 | 1.8x | 21% |

*Source: New State Capital as of December 31, 2020. *Pre-Fund net performance estimated by WPM assuming a 2% management fee on committed capital and 20% carried interest; fund size for Pre-Fund reflects total invested capital.*

WPM RESEARCH REPORT RADAR



Key: 5 = Top Decile; 4 = Top Quartile; 3 = Average; 2 = Bottom Half; 1 = Bottom Decile; 0 = No Information

| Investment Merits | Investment Concerns |
|-------------------|---------------------|
|-------------------|---------------------|

- | | |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Optimal point in manager lifecycle with minimal succession risk and track record of multiple funds Deep value, small-cap buyout strategy, which is particularly attractive in the current environment Disciplined, differentiated sourcing approach focused on less competitive deals at below-market valuations Compelling absolute and relative performance | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Generalist approach targeting various sectors where domain expertise may be critical to success Increase in fund size Small number of fully realized investments to-date |
|--|--|

Past performance is not indicative of future results.

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KENTUCKY RETIREMENT SYSTEMS

INVESTMENTS



To: Investment Committee – Kentucky Retirement Systems

From: Anthony Chiu, Director

Date: March 16, 2021

Subject: Investment Recommendation – Strategic Value Special Situations Fund V

KRS staff and Wilshire are proposing a commitment to Strategic Value Situations Fund V, a \$5 billion distressed debt fund that will invest in North America and Europe. The Strategic Value Partners (SVP) team has produced attractive, consistent returns over its first four drawdown funds which date back to 2008. SVP has an operationally intensive investment process that focuses on 30-40 companies that they can influence over a multi-year holding period. Discounted fees and an opportunity set that has widened as a result of the pandemic are also favorable.

KRS is a current investor in Fund IV. A commitment of up to \$75 million was approved by the Investment Committee in February 2018, but KRS's allocation was cut back to \$65 million as a result of investor demand that exceeded the fund's \$2.85 billion hard cap.

Business / People:

SVP was formed in 2001 by Victor Khosla in Greenwich, CT and makes distressed and restructuring investments through a hedge fund vehicle (~\$2 billion of assets) and drawdown funds (~\$9 billion of assets). The firm has 128 employees, 49 of which are investment professionals. This is notable growth from 103 employees and 39 investment professionals three years ago when KRS was underwriting Fund IV. Khosla still owns 100% of the firm, but has increasingly allocated more carried interest in each fund to key members of the Deal Underwriting, Deal Operating, and Global Sourcing teams.

Investment Process and Portfolio:

SVP typically invests in the corporate senior debt of 30-40 companies, often buying from European banks who are stressed sellers. For Funds II, III, and IV, 65-70% of investments were initially senior debt, but the proportion of equity in each portfolio has grown as reorganizations occur and SVP gains a significant equity stake in (and sometimes control of) the companies it chooses. As of 3Q 2020, equity comprised 60% of Fund II's portfolio, 56% of Fund III, and 42% of Fund IV.

The firm focuses on certain key industries, many of which are industrial or old economy businesses like packaging or building products. They have also developed some expertise on power and infrastructure, with toll roads, waste management, and power plant investments having produced several of the firm's most profitable deals to date.

Two of SVP's largest deals in 2020 seem to fit the above profile. Using their sourcing and restructuring experience, SVP was able to secure control of building products company OmniMax and an influential ownership position at aviation services company Swissport. Both companies and their equity sponsors were distressed, and SVP was able to obtain its stake in the company cheaply through debt that eventually became equity through restructuring.

However, along with many distressed peers, SVP has taken some sizable losses from investments in the energy and shipping sectors over the past 5-10 years. Fortunately, to date these have been far outweighed by some of the winners mentioned above.

In 2020, SVP started to make investments in real estate as the sector became dislocated during the pandemic. The firm also hired Sujan Patel from Colony / NorthStar as head of real estate in late 2020 to lead efforts in that sector, which has so far produced a couple positions of note in stressed hotel and retail assets.

Performance:

| Fund | Vintage | Size (\$MM) | Gross | | Net | |
|----------|---------|-------------|-----------|----------|---------|----------|
| | | | Gross IRR | Multiple | Net IRR | Multiple |
| SVSS I | 2008 | \$346 | 18% | 2.4x | 16% | 2.0x |
| SVSS II | 2010 | \$918 | 16% | 2.0x | 14% | 1.9x |
| SVSS III | 2013 | \$1,560 | 17% | 2.2x | 14% | 1.9x |
| SVSS IV | 2017 | \$2,850 | 32% | 1.4x | 24% | 1.3x |

Source: SVP as of 12/31/20

Conclusion: Staff is recommending an investment of \$100 million (depending on allocation) in Strategic Value Special Situations Fund V to be shared among all plans. First close is being targeted to secure discounted fees and investment capacity.

Investment and Terms Summary

Type of Investment: Private Equity - Distressed Debt

Structure: GP / LP

Management Fee: Years 1-4: 0.725% on committed capital until 50% of capital is drawn, then 1.45% on committed capital. This is discounted from 0.875% and 1.75% as a result of commitment size and participation in the fund's first close.

Years 5+: 1.45% on the lesser of committed capital or cost basis of remaining investments

Performance Fee: 20% over an 8% preferred return, with a European waterfall

Purpose: Position KRS to take advantage of opportunities arising from the pandemic and any further downturns in the medium term. Capture the value created by SVP's restructuring activities as well as an illiquidity premium.

Risks: Key Person, Credit, Equity, Leverage, International, Liquidity

Exp. Net Return: 12% - 15%



Wilshire Private Markets

SVSS FUND V

(\$5 billion)

REQUEST DECISION

| | |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| Target Size / Hardcap | \$4.0 billion / \$5.0* billion |
| First Close | \$3.2** billion |
| First Close Date | April 2021 |
| Expected Close Date | TBD |
| Geographic Focus | Global |
| Sector | Special Situations |
| Investment Focus | Generalist |
| Investment Size (M) | Various |
| Number of Investments | 20 – 40 core positions |
| Investment Period | 4 years |
| Fund Term | 7 years |
| GP Commitment | \$80 million |
| Target Return | 20% gross IRR |
| Management Fee – Investment Period | 0.725%-0.875% on committed until 50% of capital is called; 1.45%-1.75% thereafter*** |
| Management Fee-Post-Investment Period | 1.45%-1.75% on invested*** |
| Carry / Waterfall | 20% / European |
| Catch Up(%) / Hurdle | 100% / 8% |

FIRM OVERVIEW

Founded in 2001 by Victor Khosla, Strategic Value Partners (“SVP” or the “Firm”) is a global alternative investment manager focused on distressed credit through restructurings, event-driven deals, special situations, and trading-oriented opportunities. Today, SVP manages \$10.7 billion in assets across its hedge fund, Special Situations Funds structured as drawdown vehicles and SMAs. With offices in Greenwich (CT), New York, London, and Tokyo, SVP employs 127 professionals including a 49-person global investment and operating team.

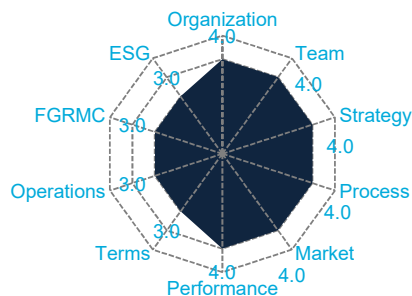
INVESTMENT STRATEGY

Strategic Value Special Situations Fund V (“SVSS V”, “Fund V” or the “Fund”) will continue to execute on the same successful investment strategy as its predecessor funds, focusing on distressed, stressed and deep-value debt investments in middle-market companies with enterprise values of less than \$1.5 billion. The Fund will seek to invest in companies with strong fundamentals but that are facing financial stress or distress as a result of their capital structures.

The Fund will typically invest initially through distressed debt and senior parts of the capital structure. SVP will target investments, where it can acquire or build over time a meaningful position with an intent to lead or influence financial restructurings through active involvement on creditor’s committees and board of directors. Post-close, the Fund will leverage its in-house team of operating partners and actively engage with portfolio companies, where it holds an influence or control position, to drive operational performance. SVP will focus on asset-heavy, old-economy companies with predictable cashflows and low technology risk. The Fund will primarily target investments in North America and Europe but may opportunistically invest globally.

*Excluding GP commitments. **Stated by SVP. ***Discounts for first closers and based on a commitment size are available.

WPM RESEARCH REPORT RADAR



Key: 5 = Top Decile; 4 = Top Quartile; 3 = Average; 2 = Bottom Half; 1 = Bottom Decile; 0 = No Information

Past performance is not indicative of future results.

TRACK RECORD

Since the strategy’s inception in 2008, SVP has raised approximately \$5.1 billion in total commitments across four Strategic Value Special Situations Funds (“SVSS”). Funds I-III have generated strong returns, and Fund IV, while still early, is tracking well.

| Fund | Vintage | Size (\$M) | Net ROI | Net IRR |
|----------|---------|------------|---------|---------|
| SVSS IV | 2017 | 2,500 | 1.2x | 19% |
| SVSS III | 2013 | 1,310 | 1.7x | 13% |
| SVSS II | 2010 | 918 | 1.8x | 13% |
| SVSS I | 2008 | 346 | 2.0x | 15% |

Source: SVP as of September 30, 2020.

Investment Merits

- Global platform with a deep bench of investment and operating professionals
- Large team of in-house operating partners
- Dual-geographic focus and superior sourcing capabilities through regional coverage
- Market opportunity
- Strong absolute and relative performance

Investment Concerns Items

- Key person and succession risk with Mr. Khosla
- Recent senior leadership turnover
- Lack of formal IC approval process