

December 31, 2017

# TOP 5 REASONS to invest in the Global Blue Chip Dividend Strategy



### **#1 GO GLOBAL TO INCREASE INTERNATIONAL EXPOSURE**

- Merit's GBCD strategy invests from an extensive global investment universe
- Investing in global market leaders across regions increases diversification
- Global view expands the universe of companies trading at attactive valuations



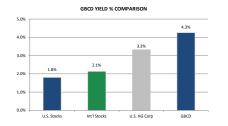
# # 2 INVEST IN HIGH QUALITY COMPANIES TO LOWER RISK 1

- Merit's GBCD strategy invests in global market leading companies
- Broad sector diversification significantly improves risk metrics
- Lower drawdowns in market downturns lead to better long term performance

| YTD    |   | Since Inception   |  |
|--------|---|---|--|
| GBCD   | ACWI  | GBCD  | ACWI   |
| 0.87   | 1.00  | 0.78  | 1.00   |
| 3.47   | 3.77  | 1.73  | 1.51   |
| 4.18   | 4.76  | 1.60  | 1.47   |
| 13.00  | 18.47   | 2.56  | 2.07   |
| 4.68   | 4.92  | 6.48  | 8.64   |
| 3.00   | 3.12  | 4.56  | 6.24   |
| (2.35) | (1.94)  | (7.96)  | (11.29)  |
|        | GBCD<br>0.87<br>3.47<br>4.18<br>13.00<br>4.68<br>3.00 | GBCD ACWI 0.87 1.00 3.47 3.77 4.18 4.76 13.00 18.47 4.68 4.92 3.00 3.12 | GBCD         ACWI         GBCD           0.87         1.00         0.78           3.47         3.77         1.73           4.18         4.76         1.60           13.00         18.47         2.56           4.68         4.92         6.48           3.00         3.12         4.56 |

# #3 GENERATE DIVIDEND INCOME TO INCREASE TOTAL RETURN 2

- Merit's GBCD strategy has a higher yield than stock and corporate bond indexes
- Higher yields available in international markets increases dividend income
- Higher dividend income improves total return; notably in low growth periods



### # 4 SEEK THE HIGHEST RISK-ADJUSTED RETURNS IN EQUITY MARKETS 3

- High quality portfolio and dividend yield reduces losses in turbulent markets
- Lower drawdowns enable a quicker portfolio rebound to breakeven
- Positive returns compund to deliver higher returns over a full market cycle



# **#5 EMPLOY A CONTINUOUS CYCLE OF INVESTMENT**

- Merit's GBCD strategy provides a continual schedule of dividend income
- Dividend income is allocated to attractive existing or new portfolio positions
- Continuous cycle of reinvestment & efficient capital allocation drives returns

### DECEMBER 2017

| SUN    | MON                          | TUE                        | WED               | THU                  | FRI | SAT |
|--------|------------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------|----------------------|-----|-----|
| TICKER | . ,                          | 1 <sub>PFE</sub> 3.8%      | 2                 | 3 <sub>BA</sub> 2.3% | 4   | 5   |
| 6      | <b>7</b> <sub>BUD</sub> 3.6% | 8 <sub>LNVGY</sub><br>6.1% | 9 TM<br>3.1%      | 10 <sub>TGT</sub>    |     | 12  |
| 13     | 14                           |                            | 16 <sub>MCD</sub> |                      | 18  | 19  |
| 20     | 21 <sub>RDS</sub><br>5.4%    |                            | 23                | 24                   | 25  | 26  |
| 27     | <b>28</b> CCI 3.8%           | <b>29</b> BIP 3.9%         | 30                | 31                   |     |     |

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Risk metrics are compared to the MSCI ACWI and are stated from Merit BCD's inception date through December 31, 2017.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Index Yields: U.S. Stocks = S&P 500 index (SPX). Int'l stocks = MSCI All-Country World Index ex US (ACWX). U.S. HG Corp = iShares IBoxx \$ Investment Grade Corp Bond ETF (LQD).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Illustrative historical Merit GBCD performance of an equally weighted portfolio of actual Merit GBCD positions as of December 31, 2017.