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Sterling Capital Funds Introduces the SMID Opportunities Fund

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – Sterling Capital Funds is pleased to announce the Sterling Capital SMID Opportunities Fund. On Oct. 3, the new fund became part of a lineup of 26 mutual funds offering investors access to virtually every asset class and sector.

“We are very pleased to welcome SMID Opportunities into the Sterling Capital mutual fund family,” said John W. McAuley, CIMA, head of Sales and Client Service. “We can now provide a core small/mid blend in a single investment solution to help our clients meet their investment objectives.”

The SMID Opportunities Fund represents a unique addition to the Sterling Capital lineup and the investment marketplace. The new mutual fund focuses on opportunities within small and medium-sized companies, with the flexibility to invest in value or growth styles. The SMID Opportunities Fund differentiates itself by running a concentrated portfolio of 25 to 35 holdings compared to more than 90 holdings in the average fund.

“We believe only owning our best ideas, as opposed to diluting returns with a hundred or more securities, increases shareholders’ odds of outperforming the market,” said Lead Fund Portfolio Manager Joshua L. Haggerty, CFA.

In the small and mid-cap space, relatively sparse sell-side coverage may result in greater inefficiencies. We believe faster earnings growth could lead to higher returns for small cap stocks. Sterling employs bottom-up fundamental analysis with a goal of owning companies for the long-term. The investment strategy attempts to blend relatively young growth stocks, characterized by above-average revenue and earnings growth, with more-established value stocks that are out of favor for reasons believed to be only temporary.

“We construct the portfolio to contain a group of companies with cheap valuations, fast earnings growth potential, high returns on capital and low leverage, which we believe creates a diversified portfolio and improves our odds of delivering superior risk-adjusted returns,” Haggerty said.

Haggerty and Associate Portfolio Manager Adam B. Bergman, CFA, have worked together at Sterling for nearly a decade and have more than 30 years of combined investment experience. Haggerty has managed a similar strategy for more than five years on a separately managed account platform.

The fund will offer Class A, C and Institutional shares. Accounts can be opened with as little as \$1,000 or automatic investment plans can be started with as little as \$25.

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Haggerty began his investment career in 1998. He is a graduate of James Madison University where he received his bachelor's degree in finance. He is a CFA charterholder.

Bergman, whose investment career began in 1996, earned his bachelor's degree in commerce from the University of Virginia's McIntire School of Commerce. He is a CFA charterholder.

Risk Considerations

The newly formed fund has no operating history to evaluate and the risk that it may not attract sufficient assets to achieve or maximize investment and operational efficiencies. The Fund uses a multi-style approach and invests in both growth and value-oriented companies. A growth investment style may be particularly sensitive to market conditions. Value investing involves the risk that an investment made in undervalued securities may not appreciate in value as anticipated or remain undervalued for long periods of time.

The Fund invests in small and middle capitalization companies which may be riskier, more volatile and vulnerable to economic, market and industry changes than investments in larger more established companies. As a result, share price changes may be more erratic or trade less frequently in lesser quantities.

Sterling Capital Management LLC

[Sterling Capital Management LLC](#) is a registered investment advisor founded in 1970, with \$53 billion in assets under management as of June 30, 2016. Sterling is an independently operated subsidiary of BB&T Corporation, one of the nation's largest financial services holding companies. Headquartered in Charlotte, N.C., Sterling is comprised of more than 125 professionals in San Francisco, Calif; Washington, D.C.; Atlanta, Ga.; Raleigh, N.C.; Philadelphia, Pa.; Richmond and Virginia Beach, Va. Sterling provides investment management services to a diverse group of clients, including corporate, public, health care, private clients, endowment, foundation, insurance, sub-advisory and managed investment pools.

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Investors should consider the investment objectives, risks, charges and expenses carefully before investing. For a prospectus or summary prospectus with this and other information about the fund, please call 888-228-1872 or visit our website at [SterlingCapitalFunds.com](#). Read the prospectus carefully before investing.

Mutual fund investing involves risk including a possible loss of principal.

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