

# Market Moves

## **Charting Our Strategies**

## **Economic Gauges**





**Monetary Policy** 



Valuations



**Investor Sentiment** 



**Interest Rates** 

### Clark Capital's Bottom-Up, Fundamental Strategies

There was a major shift in leadership that occurred early in September as value, cyclical, and small-cap related stocks surged at the expense of momentum and growth names that had been dominating market leadership for some time.

These trends emerged as economic data in the U.S. improved and pushed recession fears to the background. Many of our equity portfolios benefited as the value factors we incorporate in our stock selection process were rewarded.

On a sector basis, consumer discretionary, energy, and materials are economically sensitive and added value. On the other hand, healthcare remained a relative underperformer, not from an earnings standpoint, but rather from Washington's ongoing drug pricing and the universal healthcare debate. Technology and consumer staples also detracted.

On the fixed income side, we remain focused on managing liquidity, duration and credit risk. Our fixed income portfolios are slightly longer in duration and have a bit more credit risk exposure compared to their benchmarks. Both of these factors have added value as rates decline and continued economic growth supports credit.

Below are strategy updates from September:

#### All Cap Core U.S. Equity

- Navigator® All Cap Core favors large-cap with approximately 62% allocated to large-cap stocks with the remainder of the portfolio allocated to mid/small-cap stocks and cash
- Technology remains the largest sector weighting in the portfolio at 16.9%
- Technology is also largest sector underweight relative to the benchmark as the Russell 3000 holds about 21.4% in technology.

#### **High Dividend Equity**

- In September, the Navigator® High Dividend Equity (HDE) portfolio experienced relative strength in Consumer Discretionary, Energy, Materials and Utility sectors versus weaker performance in Healthcare, Technology, Consumer Staples and Industrials
- The Healthcare sector remains a relative underperformer not from an earnings standpoint, but rather from Washington's ongoing drug pricing and the universal healthcare debate
- The Financial sector, which represents over 20% of the HDE portfolio allocation, rallied as value stocks dominated during the month

Past performance is not indicative of future results.

This is not a recommendation to buy or sell a particular security. Please see attached disclosures.



# Market Moves

## **Charting Our Strategies**

#### International Equity ADR

- Navigator® International Equity ADR has larger than typical weight of 18.7% in emerging and frontier market companies as lower interest rates and firm energy prices tend to favor less developed economies
- While safer, higher quality countries like Canada, Ireland and Japan represent our largest country allocations, we are searching intently for antifragile companies in developed countries in recession as those companies may present opportunities
- Financials represent the largest sector weight in the portfolio at 14.9%

#### Small Cap Core U.S. Equity

- Navigator® Small Cap Core portfolio has 71% allocated to small-cap stocks with the balance allocated to mid-cap stocks and cash
- 19.2% of the portfolio is positioned in Industrials and 17.1% is allocated to Consumer Discretionary
- We reduced our Healthcare underweight by adding a drug research company to the portfolio during the month

#### SMID Cap Core U.S. Equity

- Navigator® SMID Cap Core's portfolio is 54% allocated to small-cap stocks with the balance in mid-cap stocks and cash
- Industrials represent our largest sector weighting in the portfolio at 20.4%
- We slightly raised our weighting in Technology to 16.1% by adding a semiconductor company to the portfolio

#### Taxable Fixed Income

- High yield represents 19% of the Taxable Fixed Income portfolio's total holdings
- The portfolio is currently overweight BBB bonds (62% of the portfolio versus the benchmark at 37%)
- 26% of the portfolio is allocated to duration buckets less than 2 years (compared to the benchmark at 17%)
- 30% of the portfolio's holdings are in 6 to 10-year duration buckets versus the benchmark at 25%
- The strategy's added credit risk has helped performance and the portfolio continues to utilize a barbell approach

#### Tax-Free Fixed Income

- A third of our top 15 holdings are in California municipal bonds
- We're currently overweight the 5 to 5.99-year duration bucket versus the benchmark and underweight the 4 to 4.99-year duration bucket versus the benchmark
- The portfolio's total duration sits at 4.41 versus the benchmark duration of 3.89

Past performance is not indicative of future results.

This is not a recommendation to buy or sell a particular security. Please see attached disclosures.

Navigate Your Future. Enjoy the Journey.



# Market Moves

## **Charting Our Strategies**

## **Economic Gauges**





**Monetary Policy** 



Valuations



**Investor Sentiment** 



**Interest Rates** 

### Clark Capital's Top-Down, Quantitative Strategies

Our relative strength driven equity portfolios had been allocated to the market leaders which were large-cap growth, momentum, technology, and interest rate sensitive stocks.

Those trends were upended in September with the massive rotation into value, smallcaps and cyclically oriented stocks, potentially marking a sea change in the market's leadership.

The difference between momentum stocks and small-cap and value stocks experienced a 4 to 5 standard deviation event favoring value. Historical studies show that when this has occurred in the past, prior momentum leaders continue to underperform. This shift led to a dramatic rotation in our top-down equity portfolios into value and away from momentum. The shift wasn't only in equities as our top-down driven fixed income models began favoring credit in mid-September and we allocated back into high yield.

Below are strategy updates from September:

#### **Alternatives**

- In the core portion of the Alternative strategy, we hold core liquid alternatives (49%), fixed income (10%), commodities (9%), tactical global equity (31%) and 4% cash
- In the tactical portion of the Alternative strategy, we continue to focus on tactical equity including emerging markets, energy infrastructure, natural resources, oil equipment and services, timber and forestry, and farmland
- The portfolio sold out of floating rate notes and reduced emerging market exposure while increasing its position in gold alongside clean energy

#### Fixed Income Total Return

- The FITR models turned positive on high yield and on September 13th, the strategy shifted back into high yield and out of U.S. Treasuries
- The FITR portfolio has an estimated SEC Yield of 4.86% and an estimated duration of 3.18

#### Style Opportunity

- The Style portfolio favored large-cap growth and momentum, but the portfolio has since sold both positions during the month
- The portfolio allocated 38% in the S&P 500 itself and has added a 25% position in large-cap value and now a 12% position in small-cap value
- We continue to own low volatility which still has a solid long-term relative strength chart

Past performance is not indicative of future results.

This is not a recommendation to buy or sell a particular security. Please see attached disclosures.



### **Author**



K. Sean Clark, CFA® Executive Vice President Chief Investment Officer

Navigate Your Future. Enjoy the Journey.

The views expressed are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of Clark Capital Management Group. The opinions referenced are as of the date of publication and are subject to change due to changes in the market or economic conditions and may not necessarily come to pass. There is no guarantee of the future performance of any Clark Capital investments portfolio. Material presented has been derived from sources considered to be reliable, but the accuracy and completeness cannot be guaranteed. Nothing herein should be construed as a solicitation, recommendation or an offer to buy, sell or hold any securities other investments or to adopt any investment strategy or strategies. For educational use only. This information is not intended to serve as investment advice. This material is not intended to be relied upon as a forecast or research. The investment or strategy discussed may not be suitable for all investors. Investors must make their own decisions based on their specific investment objectives and financial circumstances. Past performance does not guarantee future results.

This document may contain certain information that constitutes forward-looking statements which can be identified by the use of forward-looking terminology such as "may," "expect," "will," "hope," "forecast," "intend," "target," "believe," and/or comparable terminology (or the negative thereof). Forward looking statements cannot be guaranteed. No assurance, representation, or warranty is made by any person that any of Clark Capital's assumptions, expectations, objectives, and/or goals will be achieved. Nothing contained in this document may be relied upon as a guarantee, promise, assurance, or representation as to the future.

Past performance is not indicative of future results. This material is not financial advice or an offer to sell any product. Not every client's account will have these exact characteristics. The actual characteristics with respect to any particular client account will vary based on a number of factors including but not limited to: (i) the size of the account; (ii) investment restrictions applicable to the account, if any; and (iii) market exigencies at the time of investment.

Clark Capital Management Group, Inc. reserves the right to modify its current investment strategies and techniques based on changing market dynamics or client needs. The information provided in this report should not be considered a recommendation to purchase or sell any particular security, sector or industry. There is no assurance that any securities, sectors or industries discussed herein will be included in an account's portfolio. Asset allocation will vary and the samples shown may not represent an account's entire portfolio and in the aggregate may represent only a small percentage of an account's portfolio holdings. It should not be assumed that any of the securities transactions, holdings or sectors discussed were or will prove to be profitable, or that the investment recommendations or decisions we make in the future will be profitable or will equal the investment performance of the securities discussed herein.

Clark Capital Management Group, Inc. is an investment adviser registered with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission. Registration does not imply a certain level of skill or training. More information about Clark Capital's advisory services and fees can be found in its Form ADV which is available upon request. CCM-1188