

FIRST TRUST/GALLATIN SPECIALTY FINANCE & FINANCIAL OPPORTUNITIES FUND  
Form DEF 14A  
December 06, 2007

As filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on December 6, 2007.

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U.S. SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20549

SCHEDULE 14A

PROXY STATEMENT PURSUANT TO SECTION 14(a) OF THE SECURITIES
EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934 (AMENDMENT NO. )

Filed by the registrant [X]
Filed by a party other than the registrant [ ]

Check the appropriate box:

- [ ] Preliminary proxy statement.
[ ] Confidential, for use of the Commission only (as permitted by Rule 14a-6(e)(2)).
[X] Definitive proxy statement.
[ ] Definitive additional materials.
[ ] Soliciting material pursuant to Section 240.14a-12

FIRST TRUST/GALLATIN SPECIALTY FINANCE AND FINANCIAL OPPORTUNITIES FUND

(Name of Registrant as Specified in Its Charter)

(Name of Person(s) Filing Proxy Statement if Other Than the Registrant)

Payment of filing fee (check the appropriate box):

- [X] No fee required.
[ ] Fee computed on table below per Exchange Act Rules 14a-6(i)(1) and 0-11.

(1) Title of each class of securities to which transaction applies:

(2) Aggregate number of securities to which transaction applies:

(3) Per unit price or other underlying value of transaction computed pursuant to Exchange Act Rule 0-11 (set forth the amount on which the filing fee is calculated and state how it was determined):

(4) Proposed maximum aggregate value of transaction:

(5) Total fee paid:

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[ ] Fee paid previously with preliminary materials.

[ ] Check box if any part of the fee is offset as provided by Exchange Act Rule 0-11(a)(2) and identify the filing for which the offsetting fee was paid previously. Identify the previous filing by registration statement number, or the form or schedule and the date of its filing.

(1) Amount Previously Paid:

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(2) Form, Schedule or Registration Statement No.:

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(3) Filing Party:

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(4) Date Filed:

FIRST TRUST/GALLATIN SPECIALTY FINANCE AND  
FINANCIAL OPPORTUNITIES FUND

1001 WARRENVILLE ROAD  
SUITE 300  
LISLE, ILLINOIS 60532

December 7, 2007

Dear Shareholder:

The accompanying materials relate to the Special Meeting of Shareholders (referred to as the "Meeting") of First Trust/Gallatin Specialty Finance and Financial Opportunities Fund (the "Fund"). The Meeting will be held at the offices of First Trust Advisors L.P., 1001 Warrenville Road, Suite 300, Lisle, Illinois 60532, on Wednesday, January 23, 2008, at 4:00 p.m. Central Time.

At the Meeting, you will be asked to vote on a proposal to approve a new investment sub-advisory agreement among the Fund, First Trust Advisors L.P. and Gallatin Asset Management, Inc. and to transact such other business as may properly come before the Meeting and any adjournments thereof. The proposal is described in the accompanying Notice of Special Meeting of Shareholders and Proxy Statement.

YOUR PARTICIPATION AT THE MEETING IS VERY IMPORTANT. If you cannot attend the Meeting, you may participate by proxy. As a Shareholder, you cast one vote for each share of the Fund that you own and a proportionate fractional vote

for any fraction of a share that you own. Please take a few moments to read the enclosed materials and then cast your vote on the enclosed proxy card.

VOTING TAKES ONLY A FEW MINUTES. EACH SHAREHOLDER'S VOTE IS IMPORTANT. YOUR PROMPT RESPONSE WILL BE MUCH APPRECIATED. After you have voted on the proposal, please be sure to sign your proxy card and return it in the enclosed postage-paid

envelope.

We appreciate your participation in this important Meeting. Thank you.

Sincerely,

/s/ James A. Bowen

James A. Bowen  
Chairman of the Board

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IF YOU NEED ANY ASSISTANCE, OR HAVE ANY QUESTIONS REGARDING THE PROPOSAL OR HOW TO VOTE YOUR SHARES, CALL YOUR FUND'S PROXY SOLICITOR, THE ALTMAN GROUP, AT (866) 406-2283 WEEKDAYS FROM 9:00 A.M. TO 10:00 P.M. EASTERN TIME.  
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#### INSTRUCTIONS FOR SIGNING PROXY CARDS

The following general rules for signing proxy cards may be of assistance to you and avoid the time and expense involved in validating your vote if you fail to sign your proxy card properly.

1. Individual Accounts: Sign your name exactly as it appears in the registration on the proxy card.

2. Joint Accounts: Either party may sign, but the name of the party signing should conform exactly to the name shown in the registration.

3. All Other Accounts: The capacity of the individual signing the proxy should be indicated unless it is reflected in the form of registration. For example:

#### REGISTRATION

#### VALID SIGNATURE

#### CORPORATE ACCOUNTS

(1) ABC Corp.	ABC Corp.
(2) ABC Corp.	John Doe, Treasurer
(3) ABC Corp.	John Doe
c/o John Doe, Treasurer	John Doe, Trustee
(4) ABC Corp. Profit Sharing Plan	

#### TRUST ACCOUNTS

(1) ABC Trust	Jane B. Doe, Trustee
(2) Jane B. Doe, Trustee	Jane B. Doe
u/t/d 12/28/78	

CUSTODIAL OR ESTATE ACCOUNTS

- |     |  |                              |
|-----|--|------------------------------|
| (1) | John B. Smith, Cust.<br>f/b/o John B. Smith, Jr., UGMA | John B. Smith                |
| (2) | John B. Smith  | John B. Smith, Jr., Executor |

FIRST TRUST/GALLATIN SPECIALTY FINANCE AND FINANCIAL OPPORTUNITIES FUND

1001 WARRENVILLE ROAD  
SUITE 300  
LISLE, ILLINOIS 60532

NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS

TO BE HELD ON JANUARY 23, 2008

December 7, 2007

To the Shareholders of the above Fund:

Notice is hereby given that the Special Meeting of Shareholders (referred to as the "Meeting") of First Trust/Gallatin Specialty Finance and Financial Opportunities Fund (the "Fund"), a Massachusetts business trust, will be held at the offices of First Trust Advisors L.P., 1001 Warrenville Road, Suite 300, Lisle, Illinois 60532, on Wednesday, January 23, 2008, at 4:00 p.m. Central Time, for the following purposes:

1. To approve a new investment sub-advisory agreement among the Fund, First Trust Advisors L.P., as investment adviser, and Gallatin Asset Management, Inc., as investment sub-adviser.
2. To transact such other business as may properly come before the Meeting and any adjournments thereof. The Board of Trustees has fixed the close of business on November 23, 2007 as the record date for the determination of

Shareholders entitled to notice of and to vote at the Meeting and any adjournments or postponements thereof.

By order of the Board of Trustees,

/s/ W. Scott Jardine

W. Scott Jardine  
Secretary

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SHAREHOLDERS WHO DO NOT EXPECT TO ATTEND THE MEETING ARE REQUESTED TO PROMPTLY COMPLETE, SIGN, DATE AND RETURN THE PROXY CARD IN THE ENCLOSED ENVELOPE WHICH DOES NOT REQUIRE POSTAGE IF MAILED IN THE CONTINENTAL UNITED STATES. INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE PROPER EXECUTION OF PROXIES ARE SET FORTH ON THE INSIDE COVER. IF YOU NEED ANY ASSISTANCE, OR HAVE ANY QUESTIONS REGARDING THE PROPOSAL OR HOW TO VOTE YOUR SHARES, CALL YOUR FUND'S PROXY SOLICITOR, THE ALTMAN GROUP, AT (866) 406-2283 WEEKDAYS FROM 9:00 A.M. TO 10:00 P.M. EASTERN TIME.  
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FIRST TRUST/GALLATIN SPECIALTY FINANCE AND FINANCIAL OPPORTUNITIES FUND

SPECIAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS

JANUARY 23, 2008

1001 WARRENVILLE ROAD

SUITE 300

LISLE, ILLINOIS 60532

PROXY STATEMENT

December 7, 2007

This Proxy Statement is furnished in connection with the solicitation of proxies by the Board of Trustees (the "Board") of First Trust/Gallatin Specialty Finance and Financial Opportunities Fund (the "Fund"), a Massachusetts business trust, for use at the Special Meeting of Shareholders of the Fund to be held on Wednesday, January 23, 2008, at 4:00 p.m. Central Time, at the offices of First Trust Advisors L.P., 1001 Warrenville Road, Suite 300, Lisle, Illinois 60532, and at any adjournments or postponements thereof (referred to collectively as the "Meeting"). A Notice of Special Meeting of Shareholders and a proxy card accompany this Proxy Statement.

Proxy solicitations will be made, beginning on or about December 7, 2007, primarily by mail. However, proxy solicitations may also be made by telephone or personal interviews conducted by (i) officers of the Fund; (ii) The Altman Group ("Altman"), a proxy solicitor; (iii) First Trust Advisors L.P. ("First Trust Advisors" or the "Adviser"), the investment adviser of the Fund; (iv) PFPC Inc. ("PFPC"), the administrator, accounting agent and transfer agent of the Fund and a subsidiary of The PNC Financial Services Group Inc.; or (v) any affiliates of those entities.

THE FUND'S SEMI-ANNUAL REPORT IS, AND ITS FIRST ANNUAL REPORT WILL BE, AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST, WITHOUT CHARGE, BY WRITING TO THE ADVISER AT 1001 WARRENVILLE ROAD, SUITE 300, LISLE, ILLINOIS 60532, BY CALLING (800) 988-5891 OR BY VISITING THE FUND'S WEBSITE AT [HTTP://WWW.FTPORTFOLIOS.COM](http://www.ftportfolios.com). THIS PROXY STATEMENT AND THE ENCLOSED PROXY CARD WILL FIRST BE MAILED TO SHAREHOLDERS ON OR ABOUT DECEMBER 7, 2007.

The costs of preparing, printing and mailing this Proxy Statement and its enclosures and all other costs in connection with the solicitation of proxies (including amounts charged by Altman for its proxy solicitation

services, which amounts are expected to be approximately \$30,000), will be paid by Gallatin Asset Management, Inc. ("Gallatin" or the "Sub-Adviser"). Gallatin will also reimburse brokerage firms and others for their expenses in forwarding solicitation materials to the beneficial owners of Fund shares.

If the enclosed proxy card is properly executed and returned in time to be voted at the Meeting, the Fund shares represented thereby will be voted in accordance with the instructions marked thereon. If no instructions are marked on the enclosed proxy card, Fund shares represented thereby will be voted in the discretion of the persons named on the proxy card. Accordingly, unless instructions to the contrary are marked thereon, a proxy will be voted FOR the proposal to approve the new investment sub-advisory agreement and at the discretion of the named proxies on any other matters that may properly come before the Meeting and any adjournments thereof as deemed appropriate. Any shareholder who has given a proxy has the right to revoke it at any time prior to its exercise either by attending the Meeting and voting his or her shares in person, or by timely submitting a letter of revocation or a later-dated proxy to the Fund at the above address. A list of shareholders entitled to notice of and

to be present and to vote at the Meeting will be available at the offices of the Fund, 1001 Warrenville Road, Suite 300, Lisle, Illinois 60532, for inspection by any shareholder during regular business hours beginning 10 days prior to the date of the Meeting. Shareholders will need to show valid identification and proof of share ownership to be admitted to the Meeting or to inspect the list of shareholders.

Under the By-Laws of the Fund, a quorum is constituted by the presence in person or by proxy of the holders of thirty-three and one-third percent (33-1/3%) of the voting power of the outstanding shares entitled to vote on a matter. For the purposes of establishing whether a quorum is present, all shares present and entitled to vote, including abstentions and broker non-votes (i.e., shares held by brokers or nominees as to which (i) instructions have not been received from the beneficial owners or the persons entitled to vote and (ii) the broker or nominee does not have discretionary voting power on a particular matter), shall be counted. Any meeting of shareholders may be postponed prior to the meeting with notice to the shareholders entitled to vote at that meeting. Any meeting of shareholders may, by action of the chairman of the meeting, be adjourned to permit further solicitation of proxies without further notice with respect to one or more matters to be considered at such meeting to a designated time and place, whether or not a quorum is present with respect to such matter. In addition, upon motion of the chairman of the meeting, the question of adjournment may be submitted to a vote of the shareholders, and in that case, any adjournment with respect to one or more matters must be approved by the vote of holders of a majority of the shares present and entitled to vote with respect to the matter or matters adjourned, and without further notice. Unless a proxy is otherwise limited in this regard, any shares present and entitled to vote at a meeting, including broker non-votes, may, at the discretion of the proxies named therein, be voted in favor of such an adjournment or adjournments.

The close of business on November 23, 2007 has been fixed as the record date (the "Record Date") for the determination of shareholders entitled to notice of and to vote at the Meeting and any adjournments or postponements thereof.

The Fund has one class of shares of beneficial interest, par value \$0.01 per share, known as common shares ("Shares"). On the Record Date, the Fund had 14,064,166 Shares outstanding. Shares of the Fund are listed on the New York Stock Exchange under the ticker symbol "FGB."

The vote of a majority of the outstanding voting securities will be required for the approval of the new investment sub-advisory agreement for the Fund. The "vote of a majority of the outstanding voting securities" is defined in the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended (together with the rules and regulations thereunder, the "1940 Act"), as the vote of the lesser of (i) 67% or more of the shares of the Fund present at the Meeting if the holders of more than 50% of the outstanding shares of the Fund are present in person or represented by proxy; or (ii) more than 50% of the outstanding shares of the Fund. Abstentions and broker non-votes will have the effect of a vote against the proposal. Shareholders of record on the Record Date are entitled to one vote for each Share the shareholder owns and a proportionate fractional vote for any fraction of a Share the shareholder owns.

In order that your Shares may be represented at the Meeting, you are requested to:

- o indicate your instructions on the proxy card;
- o date and sign the proxy card;
- o mail the proxy card promptly in the enclosed envelope which requires no postage if mailed in the continental United States; and
- o allow sufficient time for the proxy card to be received BY 5:00 P.M. EASTERN TIME, on Tuesday, January 22, 2008. (However, proxies received after this date may still be voted in the event the Meeting is adjourned or postponed to a later date.)

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#### PROPOSAL 1: APPROVAL OF A NEW INVESTMENT SUB-ADVISORY AGREEMENT FOR THE FUND

AS DESCRIBED BELOW, THE FUND'S ORIGINAL INVESTMENT SUB-ADVISORY AGREEMENT AMONG THE FUND, THE ADVISER AND GALLATIN (THE "ORIGINAL SUB-ADVISORY AGREEMENT") AUTOMATICALLY TERMINATED ON OCTOBER 1, 2007. IN ANTICIPATION OF THE TERMINATION OF THE ORIGINAL SUB-ADVISORY AGREEMENT, ON SEPTEMBER 21, 2007, THE BOARD APPROVED, SUBJECT TO SHAREHOLDER APPROVAL, A NEW INVESTMENT SUB-ADVISORY AGREEMENT AMONG THE FUND, THE ADVISER AND GALLATIN (THE "NEW SUB-ADVISORY AGREEMENT"). IN ADDITION, AS PERMITTED BY THE 1940 ACT, ON SEPTEMBER 21, 2007, TO AVOID A DISRUPTION IN THE PROVISION OF SUB-ADVISORY SERVICES TO THE FUND, THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE FUND, INCLUDING A MAJORITY OF THE TRUSTEES WHO ARE NOT "INTERESTED PERSONS" OF THE FUND AS THAT TERM IS DEFINED IN THE 1940 ACT (SUCH TRUSTEES, THE "INDEPENDENT TRUSTEES"), APPROVED AN INTERIM INVESTMENT SUB-ADVISORY AGREEMENT AMONG THE FUND, THE ADVISER AND GALLATIN (THE "INTERIM SUB-ADVISORY AGREEMENT"), WHICH IS CURRENTLY IN EFFECT AND WILL CONTINUE TO BE IN EFFECT FOR 150 DAYS AFTER THE CLOSING OF THE TRANSACTION DESCRIBED BELOW OR UNTIL SHAREHOLDERS APPROVE THE NEW SUB-ADVISORY AGREEMENT, WHICHEVER OCCURS FIRST (UNLESS TERMINATED SOONER IN ACCORDANCE WITH ITS TERMS). THE BOARD RECOMMENDS THAT SHAREHOLDERS APPROVE THE NEW SUB-ADVISORY AGREEMENT.

#### BACKGROUND AND REASON FOR VOTE

On May 24, 2007, the Fund entered into the Original Sub-Advisory Agreement with the Adviser and Gallatin, which was then a wholly-owned subsidiary of A.G. Edwards, Inc. ("A.G. Edwards"). On May 31, 2007, A.G. Edwards and Wachovia Corporation ("Wachovia Corp.") announced that they had agreed that Wachovia Corp. would acquire A.G. Edwards, and that A.G. Edwards & Sons, Inc.

(another wholly-owned subsidiary of A.G. Edwards) would be combined with Wachovia Securities, LLC ("Wachovia Securities"), a subsidiary of Wachovia Corp. (the "Transaction"). As described in the proxy statement-prospectus dated August 28, 2007 which was mailed to shareholders of A.G. Edwards in late August, 2007 (the "Transaction Proxy Statement-Prospectus"), the Transaction was to be effected pursuant to an Agreement and Plan of Merger among Wachovia Corp., White Bird Holdings, Inc. ("White Bird"), a wholly-owned subsidiary of Wachovia Corp. that was formed for purposes of effecting the Transaction, and A.G. Edwards (the "Transaction Agreement"). More specifically, as described in the Transaction Proxy Statement-Prospectus, under the Transaction Agreement, Wachovia Corp. was to acquire A.G. Edwards by merging A.G. Edwards with and into White Bird. Following the Transaction, White Bird would continue to be a subsidiary of Wachovia Corp., and Wachovia Corp. would combine the retail securities brokerage businesses of A.G. Edwards & Sons, Inc. with Wachovia Corp.'s retail securities brokerage businesses under the name "Wachovia Securities."

On September 28, 2007, A.G. Edwards announced that its shareholders had approved the Transaction Agreement. On October 1, 2007, Wachovia Corp. announced that it had completed its acquisition of A.G. Edwards and indicated that the merger integration process was scheduled to be completed in early 2009. Although as of the date of this Proxy Statement the strategic plan for Gallatin in connection with the Transaction is in development, it is anticipated that Gallatin will become an operating unit of Evergreen Investments, the investment management division of Wachovia Corp. In addition, it is anticipated that the key personnel at Gallatin supporting the Fund will remain with the firm. Evergreen Investments, a family of affiliated investment advisers, is a leading asset management firm with over 70 years of experience serving institutional and individual investors through a broad range of investment products. As of October 31, 2007, Evergreen Investments managed approximately \$288.3 billion in assets.

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The consummation of the Transaction resulted in a change of control of the Sub-Adviser, which constituted an "assignment" of the Original Sub-Advisory Agreement, as that term is used in the 1940 Act. Pursuant to the terms of the Original Sub-Advisory Agreement and the requirements of the 1940 Act, the Original Sub-Advisory Agreement automatically terminated upon its assignment on October 1, 2007. At a meeting of the Board held on September 21, 2007, the Board, after careful consideration (see "BOARD CONSIDERATIONS" below), determined that following the Transaction, it was in the best interests of the Fund for Gallatin to continue to act as sub-adviser to the Fund. Accordingly, as permitted under the 1940 Act, the Board approved the Interim Sub-Advisory Agreement to ensure the continuation of investment sub-advisory services to the Fund upon the termination of the Original Sub-Advisory Agreement. The Interim Sub-Advisory Agreement has been in effect since October 1, 2007 and, pursuant to Rule 15a-4 under the 1940 Act, will be in effect no longer than through February 28, 2008 (i.e., 150 days after the termination of the Original Sub-Advisory Agreement) (see "THE INTERIM SUB-ADVISORY AGREEMENT" below). In addition, at its meeting on September 21, 2007, the Board approved, subject to shareholder approval, the New Sub-Advisory Agreement among the Fund, the Adviser and Gallatin. To permit Gallatin to continue to serve as the Fund's sub-adviser after the expiration of the Interim Sub-Advisory Agreement, shareholders of the Fund are being asked to approve the New Sub-Advisory Agreement. The terms of the New Sub-Advisory Agreement are substantially identical to the terms of the Original Sub-Advisory Agreement except for the effective date and the initial term (as described below under "COMPARISON OF THE NEW SUB-ADVISORY AGREEMENT AND ORIGINAL SUB-ADVISORY AGREEMENT --Continuance").



## GENERAL AND ORGANIZATIONAL INFORMATION

Gallatin, a Delaware corporation and registered investment adviser, was organized in 2005 and is currently located at One North Jefferson Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri 63103. Gallatin provides asset management services to high net worth individuals and institutional investors. As of October 31, 2007, Gallatin had approximately \$10.6 billion of assets under management. Of these, approximately \$3.1 billion were managed in equity and investment grade fixed income portfolios. Gallatin also manages approximately \$7.5 billion in portfolios of selected exchange-traded funds that are guided by proprietary asset allocation models. These models are driven by the firm's analysis of cyclical changes within the economy and financial markets combined with quantitative modeling.

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The names, addresses and principal occupations of the persons who are currently directors and/or principal executive officers of Gallatin are set forth below:

NAME	ADDRESS	POSITION(S) WITH GALLATIN AND PRINCIPAL OCCUPATION
Richard S. Gershen	401 S. Tryon Street, 20th Floor Charlotte, NC 28202-1934	Director and Chairman (Gallatin); Executive Business Management and Strategy (Evergreen)
Mark A. Keller	One North Jefferson Avenue St. Louis, MO 63103	Director, President and Chief Investment Officer
Michael H. Koonce	200 Berkeley Street Boston, MA 02116-5022	Secretary (Gallatin); Senior Vice President (Evergreen Investments)
Barbara A. Lapple	401 S. Tryon Street, 5th Floor Charlotte, NC 28202-1934	Chief Compliance Officer (Gallatin); Senior Compliance Officer (Evergreen Investments)
Matthew C. Moss	401 S. Tryon Street, 5th Floor Charlotte, NC 28202-1934	Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer (Gallatin) and Chief Financial Officer (Evergreen Investments)
W. Douglas Munn	200 Berkeley Street Boston, MA 02116-5022	Director and Senior Vice President (Gallatin) and Chief Operations Officer (Evergreen Investments)

As described above, prior to the consummation of the Transaction, Gallatin was a wholly-owned subsidiary of A.G. Edwards. As a result of the Transaction, the separate corporate existence of A.G. Edwards terminated by merger into a wholly-owned subsidiary of Wachovia Corp. (White Bird) which was renamed A.G. Edwards, Inc. ("New A.G. Edwards"). Gallatin is now a wholly-owned subsidiary of New A.G. Edwards. The address of New A.G. Edwards and Wachovia Corp. is 301 South College Street, One Wachovia Center, Charlotte, North Carolina 28288. Wachovia Corp. is one of the nation's largest diversified financial services companies, with assets of \$754.2 billion and market capitalization of \$95.3 billion at September 30, 2007.

#### Certain Brokerage Commissions

A.G. Edwards & Sons, Inc. and Gallatin are currently both wholly-owned subsidiaries of New A.G. Edwards, which, as described above, is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Wachovia Corp. Prior to the consummation of the Transaction, A.G. Edwards & Sons, Inc. and Gallatin were both wholly-owned subsidiaries of A.G. Edwards. During the Fund's most recently completed fiscal year, the Fund paid to A.G. Edwards & Sons, Inc. an aggregate amount of brokerage commissions equal to \$8,894.04. This represented 1.75% of the Fund's aggregate brokerage commissions paid during that time period.

#### Portfolio Manager Information

Since the Fund's inception in May 2007, the portfolio managers identified below have been responsible for the day-to-day management of the Fund's portfolio. It is expected that they will continue to act as the Fund's portfolio managers if shareholders approve the New Sub-Advisory Agreement.

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Mark A. Keller. Mark Keller serves as President and Chief Investment Officer of Gallatin. Beginning in 1994, Mr. Keller led the Asset Management program for A.G. Edwards and its affiliates and continues in this capacity now as part of Gallatin. Prior to 1994, he served for 15 years in A.G. Edwards' Securities Research Department ("Securities Research") as an analyst covering a variety of industries. During his last five years in Securities Research, Mr. Keller served as equity strategist and manager of the firm's Focus List.

David B. Miyazaki. David Miyazaki, a Vice President of Gallatin, serves as a portfolio manager for Gallatin where he manages equity portfolios with a value discipline. Prior to joining A.G. Edwards in 1999, Mr. Miyazaki managed a short-term interest rate arbitrage portfolio while at Koch Industries from 1996 to 1999. He worked as an analyst for Prudential Capital's private placement group from 1994 to 1996 and traded mortgage-backed securities for a boutique firm in Dallas, Texas, from 1991 to 1993.

Daniel T. Winter. Daniel Winter, a Vice President of Gallatin, serves as a portfolio manager for Gallatin where he manages equity portfolios with a value discipline. He previously served A.G. Edwards and its affiliates in an equity portfolio manager capacity beginning in 1992, first for A.G. Edwards Trust Co., then with the A.G. Edwards Asset Management Department (the "Asset Management Department"), and continues in this capacity now as part of Gallatin. During his tenure with A.G. Edwards Trust Co., Mr. Winter specialized in the management of a variety of portfolios, including charitable remainder trusts, foundations, endowments, employee benefits, and rabbi and personal trusts; in 1996 he formally joined the Asset Management Department. He also directs the daily trading for the equity portfolios.

#### THE ORIGINAL SUB-ADVISORY AGREEMENT

The Original Sub-Advisory Agreement dated May 24, 2007, was originally approved by the Board of Trustees, including a majority of the Independent Trustees, on April 16, 2007 and by the initial shareholder of the Fund on May 17, 2007. The Original Sub-Advisory Agreement provided for its automatic termination in the event of an "assignment," as defined in the 1940 Act. A change in ownership and control of the Sub-Adviser therefore terminated the Original Sub-Advisory Agreement on October 1, 2007.

THE INTERIM SUB-ADVISORY AGREEMENT

The terms of the Interim Sub-Advisory Agreement are substantially similar to those of the Original Sub-Advisory Agreement and the New Sub-Advisory Agreement except with respect to effective date, termination and compensation.

The Interim Sub-Advisory Agreement is currently in effect and will continue to be in effect through February 28, 2008 (i.e., 150 days after the closing of the Transaction) or until shareholders of the Fund approve the New Sub-Advisory Agreement, whichever occurs first (unless terminated sooner in accordance with its terms). If shareholders of the Fund do not approve the New Sub-Advisory Agreement by February 28, 2008, the Interim Sub-Advisory Agreement will remain in effect until that date, and the Board will take such action as it deems to be in the best interests of the Fund, which might include seeking approval of a new sub-advisory agreement or taking any other steps deemed appropriate by the Board. In addition, the Interim Sub-Advisory Agreement may be terminated by the Fund by action of the Board or by a vote of a majority of the outstanding voting securities of the Fund upon 10 calendar days' written notice.

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The rate of compensation paid to Gallatin is the same under the Original Sub-Advisory Agreement, the Interim Sub-Advisory Agreement and the New Sub-Advisory Agreement. However, the compensation accrued under the Interim Sub-Advisory Agreement is to be held in an interest-bearing escrow account with the Fund's custodian or another bank mutually agreeable to the Adviser, the Fund and Gallatin. If the New Sub-Advisory Agreement is approved by shareholders by February 28, 2008, the amount in the escrow account (including the interest earned) will be paid to Gallatin. However, if shareholders do not approve the New Sub-Advisory Agreement by such date, Gallatin will be paid, out of the escrow account, the lesser of (i) any costs incurred by Gallatin in performing services under the Interim Sub-Advisory Agreement (plus interest earned on that amount while in escrow); or (ii) the total amount in the escrow account (plus interest earned). As of November 30, 2007, the compensation accrued under the Interim Sub-Advisory Agreement was \$206,324.

COMPARISON OF THE NEW SUB-ADVISORY AGREEMENT AND ORIGINAL SUB-ADVISORY AGREEMENT

The terms of the Fund's New Sub-Advisory Agreement, including fees payable to the Sub-Adviser by the Adviser thereunder, are substantially identical to those of the Fund's Original Sub-Advisory Agreement, except for the effective date and the differences noted below under "Continuance."

Below is a brief comparison of certain terms of the Original Sub-Advisory Agreement to the corresponding terms of the New Sub-Advisory Agreement. For a more complete understanding of the New Sub-Advisory Agreement, please refer to the form of the New Sub-Advisory Agreement provided in Appendix A hereto.

Advisory Services. The advisory services to be provided by the Sub-Adviser to the Fund under the New Sub-Advisory Agreement will be identical to those advisory services provided by the Sub-Adviser to the Fund under the Original Sub-Advisory Agreement. Both the Original Sub-Advisory Agreement and the New Sub-Advisory Agreement provide that the Sub-Adviser will furnish an investment program in respect of, make investment decisions for, and place all orders for the purchase and sale of securities for the Fund's investment portfolio, all on behalf of the Fund and subject to the supervision of the

Fund's Board and the Adviser. As was the case under the Original Sub-Advisory Agreement, under the New Sub-Advisory Agreement, the Sub-Adviser is required to monitor the Fund's investments and to comply with the provisions of the Fund's Declaration of Trust and By-Laws and the stated investment objectives, policies and restrictions of the Fund. It is not anticipated that the Transaction will have any adverse effect on the performance of the Sub-Adviser's obligations under the New Sub-Advisory Agreement, but the Fund will be subject to substantial restrictions with respect to its ability to engage in agency and principal transactions with Wachovia Corp. and its affiliates.

Brokerage. As was the case under the Original Sub-Advisory Agreement, the New Sub-Advisory Agreement authorizes the Sub-Adviser to select the brokers or dealers that will execute the purchases and sales of portfolio investments for the Fund, and directs the Sub-Adviser to use its commercially reasonable efforts to obtain best execution, which includes most favorable net results and execution of the Fund's orders, taking into account all appropriate factors, including price, dealer spread or commission, size and difficulty of the transaction and research or other services provided.

Fees. As was the case under the Original Sub-Advisory Agreement, under the New Sub-Advisory Agreement, the Adviser pays the Sub-Adviser a portfolio management fee on a monthly basis. Both the Original Sub-Advisory Agreement and the New Sub-Advisory Agreement provide that for services provided and expenses assumed, the Adviser will pay the Sub-Adviser a fee equal to the annual rate of

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0.50% of the Fund's "Managed Assets." The term "Managed Assets" means the average daily gross asset value of the Fund (including assets attributable to the Fund's preferred shares, if any, and the principal amount of borrowings, if any), minus the sum of the Fund's accrued and unpaid dividends on any outstanding preferred shares and accrued liabilities (other than the principal amount of any borrowings incurred, commercial paper or notes issued by the Fund). For purposes of determining Managed Assets, the liquidation preference of any outstanding preferred shares of the Fund is not treated as a liability. In addition, under both the Original Sub-Advisory Agreement and the New Sub-Advisory Agreement, the Sub-Adviser agrees to pay one-half of certain organizational costs and offering costs.

The first fiscal year of the Fund ended on November 30, 2007. As of September 30, 2007, the aggregate fees paid to Gallatin under the Original Sub-Advisory Agreement were \$424,765.

Payment of Expenses. As was the case under the Original Sub-Advisory Agreement, under the New Sub-Advisory Agreement, the Sub-Adviser agrees to pay all expenses it incurs in connection with its activities under such Agreement other than the cost of securities and other assets (including brokerage commissions, if any) purchased for the Fund.

Limitation on Liability. As was the case under the Original Sub-Advisory Agreement, the New Sub-Advisory Agreement provides that the Sub-Adviser will not be liable for, and the Fund and the Adviser will not take any action against the Sub-Adviser to hold the Sub-Adviser liable for, any error of judgment or mistake of law or for any loss suffered by the Fund or the Adviser in connection with the performance of the Sub-Adviser's duties under the Agreement, except for a loss resulting from willful misfeasance, bad faith or gross negligence on the part of the Sub-Adviser in the performance of its duties under such Agreement, or by reason of its reckless disregard of its obligations

and duties under such Agreement.

Continuance. The Original Sub-Advisory Agreement was originally in effect for an initial term of two years and could be continued thereafter for successive one-year periods if such continuance was specifically approved at least annually in the manner required by the 1940 Act. If the shareholders of the Fund approve the New Sub-Advisory Agreement, the New Sub-Advisory Agreement will expire on June 30, 2009, unless continued. Thereafter, the New Sub-Advisory Agreement may be continued for successive one-year periods if such continuance is specifically approved at least annually in the manner required by the 1940 Act.

Termination. As was the case under the Original Sub-Advisory Agreement, the New Sub-Advisory Agreement provides for termination at any time without the payment of any penalty by the Adviser or the Sub-Adviser upon 60 days' written notice to the other parties, and also provides for termination by the Fund by action of the Board or by a vote of a majority of the outstanding voting securities of the Fund upon 60 days' written notice to the Sub-Adviser without the payment of any penalty.

In addition, the Original Sub-Advisory Agreement was, and the New Sub-Advisory Agreement is, terminable at any time without the payment of any penalty by the Adviser, by the Board or by vote of a majority of the outstanding voting securities of the Fund in the event that it is established by a court of competent jurisdiction that the Sub-Adviser or any officer or director of the Sub-Adviser has taken any action that results in a breach of the material covenants of the Sub-Adviser set forth in the Agreement.

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#### BOARD CONSIDERATIONS

The Board, including a majority of the Independent Trustees, approved the Interim Sub-Advisory Agreement and the New Sub-Advisory Agreement (collectively, the "Agreements") at a meeting held on September 21, 2007. The Board determined that the terms of the Agreements are fair and reasonable and in the best interests of the Fund. Based on information provided by First Trust Advisors and Gallatin, the Board concluded that it believes that the scope and quality of services to be provided to the Fund under the Agreements will be at least equivalent to the scope and quality of services provided under the Original Sub-Advisory Agreement.

In late May 2007, shortly after the launch of the Fund, the Board was informed that A.G. Edwards, Inc., the parent company of Gallatin, had entered into the Transaction Agreement with Wachovia Corp. and that, if the Transaction was consummated, the Original Sub-Advisory Agreement would terminate pursuant to its terms and the requirements of the 1940 Act. On June 13, 2007, counsel to the Independent Trustees forwarded to Gallatin a request for information regarding the Transaction. In late August 2007, the Board was informed that the Transaction was expected to close on October 1, 2007. In light of the expected consummation of the Transaction, the Board held a special meeting on September 21, 2007, to consider the information provided by Gallatin in response to the Independent Trustees' request for information and to consider the approval of the Agreements. As part of its considerations, the Board reviewed information regarding: the structure of the Transaction, the organizational structure of Wachovia Corp., the strategic plan for Gallatin following the Transaction, benefits to Wachovia Corp. from the Transaction, conflicts of interests arising in connection with the Transaction and regulatory issues relating to Wachovia

Corp. and its affiliates. The Board also met on several occasions, prior to September 21, 2007, with representatives of First Trust Advisors to discuss the Transaction. Throughout the entire process, the Independent Trustees were advised by their independent legal counsel.

To reach its determination, the Board considered its duties under the 1940 Act, as well as under the general principles of state law in reviewing and approving advisory contracts; the requirements of the 1940 Act in such matters; the fiduciary duty of investment advisers with respect to advisory agreements and compensation; the standards used by courts in determining whether investment company boards have fulfilled their duties; and the factors to be considered by the Board in voting on such agreements. In connection with its deliberations regarding the Agreements, the Board noted First Trust Advisors' representation that apart from their effective and termination dates and any provisions of the Interim Sub-Advisory Agreement required by Rule 15a-4 under the 1940 Act, the Agreements were the same in all material respects as the Original Sub-Advisory Agreement. The Board considered that it had recently considered Gallatin's capabilities and the terms of the Original Sub-Advisory Agreement at a meeting held on April 16, 2007. Because the Board determined that any differences between the Original Sub-Advisory Agreement and the Agreements were immaterial, the Board determined that much of its previous analysis in approving the Original Sub-Advisory Agreement applied to its review and consideration of the Agreements. Accordingly, the Board took note of such prior analysis and supplemented it with the additional considerations noted below.

In reviewing the Agreements, the Board considered the nature, quality and extent of services to be provided by Gallatin under the Agreements. The Board noted the background and experience of Gallatin's portfolio managers and Gallatin's investment style. The Board considered that the Fund's portfolio managers were expected to remain the same following the Transaction and that no changes to the services provided by Gallatin to the Fund were expected as a result of the Transaction. Due to the limited operating history of the Fund and

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the volatility of the markets since the Fund's launch, the Board did not give extensive consideration to the investment performance of the Fund. In light of the information presented and the considerations made, the Board concluded that the nature, quality and extent of services to be provided to the Fund by Gallatin under the Agreements are expected to be satisfactory.

The Board considered the sub-advisory fees to be paid under the Agreements, noting that they would be the same as the fees paid under the Original Sub-Advisory Agreement. The Board also considered how the sub-advisory fee relates to the overall management fee structure of the Fund, noting that the sub-advisory fee is paid by the Adviser from its advisory fee. The Board reviewed its prior consideration of the fees that Gallatin charges to other clients for a similar investment strategy, noting that such fees are higher than the Fund's sub-advisory fee. The Board concluded that the sub-advisory fees were reasonable and appropriate in light of the nature, quality and extent of services expected to be provided by Gallatin under the Agreements.

The Board considered that Gallatin was unable to estimate the profitability of the Agreements to Gallatin, but the Board noted that the sub-advisory fee rate was negotiated at arm's length between the Adviser and Gallatin, and that Gallatin would be paid by the Adviser. The Board noted its previous determination that the overall management fee structure reflects an appropriate level of sharing of any economies of scale. The Board also

considered the fall-out benefits expected to be realized by Gallatin and Wachovia Corp. from Gallatin's relationship with the Fund. The Board considered that Wachovia Corp. would benefit to the extent that the Fund executes portfolio securities transactions with affiliates of Wachovia Corp., but that the Fund will be subject to substantial restrictions with respect to its ability to engage in investment transactions with Wachovia Corp. or its affiliates. The Board noted that Gallatin does not utilize soft dollars in connection with its management of the Fund's portfolio. The Board considered that the Fund would not bear any costs associated with soliciting shareholder approval of the New Sub-Advisory Agreement and that such costs would be borne by Wachovia Corp. or its affiliates.

Based on all of the information considered and the conclusions reached, the Board, including a majority of the Independent Trustees, determined that the terms of the Agreements are fair and reasonable and that the approval of the Agreements is in the best interests of the Fund. No single factor was determinative in the Board's analysis.

#### SHAREHOLDER APPROVAL AND REQUIRED VOTE

To become effective, the New Sub-Advisory Agreement must be approved by a vote of a majority of the outstanding voting securities of the Fund. The "vote of a majority of the outstanding voting securities" is defined in the 1940 Act as the vote of the lesser of (i) 67% or more of the Shares of the Fund present at the Meeting if the holders of more than 50% of the outstanding Shares of the Fund are present in person or represented by proxy; or (ii) more than 50% of the outstanding Shares of the Fund. For purposes of determining the approval of the New Sub-Advisory Agreement, abstentions and broker non-votes will have the effect of a vote against the proposal.

THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE FUND RECOMMENDS THAT SHAREHOLDERS VOTE FOR PROPOSAL 1. IF YOU NEED ANY ASSISTANCE, OR HAVE ANY QUESTIONS REGARDING PROPOSAL 1 OR HOW TO VOTE YOUR SHARES, CALL YOUR FUND'S PROXY SOLICITOR, THE ALTMAN GROUP, AT (866) 406-2283 WEEKDAYS FROM 9:00 A.M. TO 10:00 P.M. EASTERN TIME.

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#### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

##### INFORMATION ABOUT THE ADVISER

First Trust Advisors L.P., 1001 Warrenville Road, Suite 300, Lisle, Illinois 60532, serves as the Fund's investment adviser.

##### INFORMATION ABOUT THE ADMINISTRATOR

PFPC acts as the Fund's administrator and accounting agent and is located at 4400 Computer Drive, Westborough, Massachusetts 01581. PFPC is a leading provider of full service mutual fund shareholder and record keeping services. In addition to its mutual fund transfer agent and record keeping service, PFPC provides other services through its own subsidiary business units.

##### BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP

As of December 1, 2007, the Trustees of the Fund beneficially owned the following number of Shares of the Fund:

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TRUSTEE	SHARES OWNED
-----	
INTERESTED TRUSTEE	
-----	
James A. Bowen	0
-----	
INDEPENDENT TRUSTEES	
-----	
Richard E. Erickson	0
-----	
Thomas R. Kadlec	0
-----	
Robert F. Keith	0
-----	
Niel B. Nielson	0
-----	

As of December 1, 2007, the Trustees and officers as a group beneficially owned none of the Shares of the Fund.

To the knowledge of the Fund, as of December 1, 2007, no single shareholder or "group" (as that term is used in Section 13(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (the "1934 Act")) beneficially owned more than 5% of the Fund's outstanding Shares. Information as to beneficial ownership is based solely on reports filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission by holders.

#### SHAREHOLDER PROPOSALS

To be considered for presentation at the Annual Meeting of Shareholders of the Fund to be held in 2008, a shareholder proposal submitted pursuant to Rule 14a-8 of the 1934 Act must be received at the offices of the Fund at 1001 Warrenville Road, Suite 300, Lisle, Illinois 60532, within a reasonable time before the Fund begins to print and send its proxy materials.

Under the Fund's By-Laws, any proposals by shareholders may only be brought before an annual meeting of the Fund if timely written notice (the "Shareholder Notice") is provided to the Secretary of the Fund. In accordance with the advance notice provisions included in the Fund's By-Laws, unless a greater or lesser period is required under applicable law, to be timely, the Shareholder Notice must be delivered to or mailed and received at the Fund's address, 1001 Warrenville Road, Suite 300, Lisle, Illinois 60532, Attn: W. Scott

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Jardine, not less than forty-five (45) days nor more than sixty (60) days prior to the first anniversary date of the date of the proxy statement released to shareholders for the preceding year's annual meeting. However, if and only if the annual meeting is not scheduled to be held within a period that commences thirty (30) days before the first anniversary date of the annual meeting for the preceding year and ends thirty (30) days after such anniversary date (an annual meeting date outside such period being referred to herein as an "Other Annual Meeting Date"), such Shareholder Notice must be given as described above by the later of the close of business on (i) the date forty-five (45) days prior to such Other Annual Meeting Date or (ii) the tenth (10th) business day following the date such Other Annual Meeting Date is first publicly announced or disclosed.

The Fund has not yet held its first annual meeting of shareholders.



Timely submission of a proposal does not mean that such proposal will be included in a proxy statement.

SHAREHOLDER COMMUNICATIONS

Shareholders of the Fund who want to communicate with the Board of Trustees or any individual Trustee should write the Fund to the attention of the Fund Secretary, W. Scott Jardine. The letter should indicate that you are a Fund shareholder. If the communication is intended for a specific Trustee and so indicates, it will be sent only to that Trustee. If a communication does not indicate a specific Trustee it will be sent to the chair of the Nominating and Governance Committee of the Board and the outside counsel to the Independent Trustees for further distribution as deemed appropriate by such persons.

FISCAL YEAR

The fiscal year end for the Fund is November 30.

ANNUAL REPORT DELIVERY

Annual reports will be sent to shareholders of record of the Fund. The Fund will furnish, without charge, a copy of its annual report and/or semi-annual report as available upon request. Such written or oral requests should be directed to the Fund at 1001 Warrenville Road, Suite 300, Lisle, Illinois 60532 or by calling (800) 988-5891.

Please note that only one annual or semi-annual report or proxy statement may be delivered to two or more shareholders of the Fund who share an address, unless the Fund has received instructions to the contrary. To request a separate copy of an annual or semi-annual report or proxy statement, or for instructions as to how to request a separate copy of such documents or as to how to request a single copy if multiple copies of such documents are received, shareholders should contact the Fund at the address and phone number set forth above. Pursuant to a request, a separate copy will be delivered promptly.

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OTHER MATTERS TO COME BEFORE THE MEETING

No business other than the matters described above is expected to come before the Meeting, but should any other matter requiring a vote of shareholders arise, including any question as to an adjournment or postponement of the Meeting, the persons named on the enclosed proxy card will vote thereon according to their best judgment in the interests of the Fund.

December 7, 2007

IT IS IMPORTANT THAT PROXIES BE RETURNED PROMPTLY. SHAREHOLDERS WHO DO NOT EXPECT TO ATTEND THE MEETING ARE THEREFORE URGED TO COMPLETE, SIGN, DATE AND RETURN THE PROXY CARD AS SOON AS POSSIBLE IN THE ENCLOSED POSTAGE-PAID ENVELOPE.

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IF YOU NEED ANY ASSISTANCE, OR HAVE ANY QUESTIONS REGARDING THE PROPOSAL FOR THE FUND OR HOW TO VOTE YOUR SHARES, CALL YOUR FUND'S PROXY SOLICITOR, THE ALTMAN GROUP, AT (866) 406-2283 WEEKDAYS FROM 9:00 A.M. TO 10:00 P.M. EASTERN TIME.  
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APPENDIX A

FORM OF NEW INVESTMENT SUB-ADVISORY AGREEMENT

AGREEMENT made as of this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2008 by and among First Trust/Gallatin Specialty Finance and Financial Opportunities Fund, a Massachusetts business trust (the "Fund"), First Trust Advisors L.P., an Illinois limited partnership (the "Manager") and a registered investment adviser with the Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC"), and Gallatin Asset Management, Inc., a Delaware Corporation and a registered investment adviser with the SEC (the "Sub-Adviser").

WHEREAS, the Fund is a closed-end management investment company registered under the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended (the "1940 Act");

WHEREAS, the Fund has retained the Manager to serve as the investment manager for the Fund pursuant to an Investment Management Agreement between the Manager and the Fund (as such agreement may be modified from time to time, the "Management Agreement");

WHEREAS, the Management Agreement provides that the Manager may, subject to the initial and periodic approvals required under Section 15 of the 1940 Act, appoint a sub-adviser at its own cost and expense for the purpose of furnishing certain services required under the Management Agreement;

WHEREAS, the Fund and the Manager desire to retain the Sub-Adviser to furnish investment advisory services for the Fund's investment portfolio, upon the terms and conditions hereafter set forth;

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the mutual covenants herein contained, the parties hereto agree as follows:

1. Appointment. The Fund and the Manager hereby appoint the Sub-Adviser to provide certain sub-investment advisory services to the Fund for the period and on the terms set forth in this Agreement. The Sub-Adviser accepts such appointment and agrees to furnish the services herein set forth for the compensation herein provided. The Sub-Adviser shall, for all purposes herein provided, be deemed an independent contractor and, unless otherwise expressly provided or authorized, shall have no authority to act for nor represent the Fund or the Manager in any way, nor otherwise be deemed an agent of the Fund or the Manager.

2. Services to Be Performed. Subject always to the supervision of the Fund's Board of Trustees and the Manager, the Sub-Adviser will act as sub-adviser for, and manage on a discretionary basis the investment and reinvestment of the assets of the Fund, furnish an investment program in respect of, make investment decisions for, and place all orders for the purchase and sale of securities for the Fund's investment portfolio, all on behalf of the Fund and as described in the Fund's initial registration statement on Form N-2 (File No. 333-141457) as declared effective by the SEC, and as the same may thereafter be amended from time to time. In the performance of its duties, the Sub-Adviser will in all material respects (a) satisfy any applicable fiduciary duties it may have to the Fund, (b) monitor the Fund's investments, and (c) comply with the provisions of the Fund's Declaration of Trust and By-laws, as amended from time to time and communicated by the Fund or the Manager to the Sub-Adviser in writing, and the stated investment objectives, policies and restrictions of the Fund as such objectives, policies and restrictions may subsequently be changed by the Fund's Board of Trustees and communicated by the Fund or the Manager to the Sub-Adviser in writing. The Fund or the Manager has

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provided the Sub-Adviser with current copies of the Fund's Declaration of Trust, By-laws, prospectus, statement of additional information and any amendments thereto, and any objectives, policies or limitations not appearing therein as they may be relevant to the Sub-Adviser's performance under this Agreement.

The Sub-Adviser is authorized to select the brokers or dealers that will execute the purchases and sales of portfolio investments for the Fund, and is directed to use its commercially reasonable efforts to obtain best execution, which includes most favorable net results and execution of the Fund's orders, taking into account all appropriate factors, including price, dealer spread or commission, size and difficulty of the transaction and research or other services provided. Subject to approval by the Fund's Board of Trustees and compliance with the policies and pr