

A boutique financial services & corporate law firm

# Let's Be Clear: To Raise Capital, You Need Transparency

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## Introduction

- It is generally agreed that the first hedge fund was established in 1949 by A.W. Jones. Mr. Jones employed a hedge concept in which he used short selling as a way to protect his portfolio from misjudgments on the general trend of the market. He also leveraged his long positions in order to neutralize general market risks and to tie performance more clearly to his stock selecting ability. The last decade has seen a dramatic change in the investor/manager dynamic.
- In our presentation Today, we will review:
  - Why such clarity is necessary to attract investors
  - What types of information must be disclosed in order to attract and keep those investors

## **Historical Perspective**

The 2008 financial crisis

- caused massive decline in wealth
- resulted in a loss of confidence in the equity and debt/credit markets
- Devastated the hedge fund industry.

The Treasury Department

- called for greater accountability for hedge funds
- pressed fund managers to detail their investment activities

Regulatory authorities followed suit requiring the disclosure of certain information.

## **Historical Perspective**

The push for hedge fund transparency was bolstered by the growing number of institutional or sophisticated investors, which has already resulted in a significant change to how managers report to their investors.

Investors have acknowledged they would reject a fund if it did not meet their compliance (i.e., transparency) demands.

### Due Diligence

Investors have always requested information to conduct initial due diligence-Now they are demanding delivery of information to conduct ongoing due diligence even after they have invested.

Information usually available to investors:

- offering documents pertaining to investment strategy and liquidity
- performance data
- model specifics
- valuation fees
- expense allocation
- annual -reports

Investors are pushing for more detailed information with respect to these areas as well as with respect to operational controls and compliance management

Investment Strategy

Strategy shifts or style drift, can occur for many reasons and to varying degrees of materiality.

- to limit losses and protect against a market that is going in a different direction.
- to take advantage of a market opportunity in order to meet the expected returns.

Certain strategies may lend themselves to a greater likelihood of style drift, for example, a strategy focused on small-cap investments will drift as market capitalization changes.

## Liquidity

As a result of managers being unable to sell illiquid investments during the meltdown, investors are requiring fund strategies contain some liquidity.

Investors want terms of liquidity to be consistent with the liquidity of the fund's underlying assets.

Less liquid assets should allow for less frequent withdrawals:

- distressed debt
- real estate
- private equity/venture capital

More liquid assets should allow for more frequent withdrawal:

- Stocks
- Futures
- Options

Investors want frequent reporting.

### Performance Data

- Primary criterion for selecting a manager according to most investors
- Managers have a legal obligation to provide accurate performance data and to disclose any information that would have a material impact on the data

Relevant information:

- whether the data has been ported from a prior firm (which requires the prior firm's permission)
- if the manager responsible for the track record will have a continuing role in managing the product offered
- if product being offered is similar to the product in the track record
- use of proxy performance, and any other material differences in the products

Validation by third party auditor is best practices.

### Model Specifics; Research

- Investors are scrutinizing the methods by which a manager develops and executes ideas
- Currently there is pressure to abandon the "black-box" model
- Managers should be able to pull specific research or a forensic link as to why every position is in a portfolio and when it was acquired.

### Model Specifics; Research

- Quantitative, fundamental strategies are more naturally transparent
- Algorithm-reliant high-frequency trading strategies are more complicated and proprietary

Investors will be more willing to withstand the ups and downs of volatile returns provided the manager's performance is explainable and consistent with the range of reasonable return expectations.

#### Valuation

NAV calculations described in a fund's offering material been in such offering material are too generic.

Even where offering materials contain specific valuation methods and pricing models, there is inconsistency in their application among managers.

By their very nature, proprietary models will differ from one fund to another

There are currently three basic pricing methodologies:

- mark-to-market
- mark-to-broker
- mark-to-model

#### Valuation

Inconsistencies exist within each methodology; however, the model-based pricing is most problematic.

Model-based pricing is most typically used to value illiquid or OTC instruments that are not exchange-traded and therefore do not have a reported market price.

The risks of inaccurately or inconsistently pricing securities may impact a manager's ability to measure a fund's exposure as well as its historical performance

Documenting formal pricing and performance reporting policies and strictly adhering to such policies is critical.

### Fees and Expense Allocation

The average management fee for new funds launched in 2015 has dropped to between 1.5% and 1.8%.

 Concept of sliding scale management fees (reduction of fees once the AUM of the fund reaches a certain size) gaining popularity

Although 20% performance fee still is industry norm, managers are making more accommodations with respect to certain investors that ultimately result in the reduction of fees.

### Fees and Expense Allocation

Large or seed investors offered performance fee breaks and other more favorable terms in "side letters". Alternatively, more favorable terms may spelled out in the RFP process with institutional investors.

Less liquid fund managers also use:

- multi-year performance periods
- claw backs
- fees paid on realized appreciation

Managers trying to recoup fee decrease by passing expenses to the fund

### Reporting

Investors now expect more frequent and more granular reporting

Prime brokers should consolidate reporting if there are multiple brokers executing trades.

Investors want to see independent service providers and specialist firms with good market reputations.

Managers should be transparent regarding the identity of such service providers.

## **Operational Controls**

Non-investment risk: investors want to know that a manager has an operational infrastructure sufficient to protect shareholder assets.

Areas of interest to investors include

- level of experience of the personnel
- existence of internal controls
- methods for selecting and supervising service providers
- cash controls
- quality and security of the information technology used

A substantial amount of hedge fund failures is caused by operational issues alone. Fraud has been a prevalent factor in such failures.

## **Operational Controls**

Investors want information regarding managers' internal operations, including:

- Conflicts of interest
- Data security systems
- Anti-money laundering policies
- Reporting
- Auditing/surveillance efforts

### Complying with Regulations

Registration with the SEC (for managers with greater than \$150mm in AUM) benefits managers by raising their credibility.

The SEC has been coming down hard on big hedge funds primarily for insider trading.

- In March 2013, SAC Capital run by star manager Stephen A. Cohen agreed to pay a \$616 million civil penalty for not enforcing rules that would prevent insider trading at the firm. Cohen was charged by the SEC in July with failing to supervise SAC employees accused of insider trading.
- The SEC conducted a parallel civil case in coordination with federal prosecutors against Raj Rajaratnam, reaching a \$92 million settlement with the former head of Galleon Group. Rajaratnam was convicted in the criminal case and sentenced to 11 years in prison.

## Complying with Regulations

Other areas of interest to SEC examiners include

- false advertising
- performance claims
- custody
- calculation of fees
- financial controls
- overvaluing assets to charge excessive fees
- favoring some investors over others and using private funds for the benefit of fund employees
- cybersecurity

## Complying with Regulations

Investors want to see:

- Formal, updated and comprehensive Compliance Manual
- Dedicated and qualified Chief Compliance Officer (and/or a reputable third-party compliance consultant
- Strong and adequate policies and procedures that address key compliance topics
- Compliance testing frequency and results
- Current regulatory registrations for the firm and the fund
- Information regarding past examinations/communications by a regulator.

## Challenges of Transparency

Managers need to find balance where investors and regulators get the information they need while managers are able to retain the control of their systems and methods.

Managers need an infrastructure to develop and report more data and analytics as well as to maintain implemented compliance measures and internal operational controls.

Burden will be on smaller funds, as they have had to engage experts, third party service providers, additional employees and technology tools order to meet these needs.

Additional expenses could mean an increase in fees. Are clients willing to pay an estimated 1-3% basis point increase in management fees in exchange for more transparency? 21

## Conclusion

Despite these concerns around increased cost and complexity due to investor demand and regulations, hedge fund manager transparency has become a prerequisite for building trust.

A high level of transparency is also becoming of almost equal importance as positive returns when assessing whether to invest in a particular hedge fund.



## Interactive Brokers, LLC

in conjunction with Marino Partners LLP

present:

## Let's Be Clear: To Raise Capital You Need Transparency

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Marino Partners, LLP



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#### Hedge Funds are highly speculative and investors may lose their entire investment.



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## Interactive Brokers Group Strength & Security

- Over \$6 billion in net equity capital.
- No sub-prime risk.
- No TARP funds.
- Over 1 million trades per day.
- Over 465,000 clients worldwide.
- Market access to 100+ market centers.
- Real time Margin system continuously enforces trading limits



#### Interactive Brokers LLC Account Types

### Single Pooled Hedge Fund:

Single Fund Account Structure A single fund managed by an investment manager.



# Hedge Funds are highly speculative and investors may lose their entire investment.

Single Fund Account with Trading Strategy Sub Accounts Structure

A single account with one or more users. Configuring authorized trader sub accounts adds the ability to maintain multiple sub accounts for different strategies.

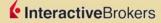




#### Interactive Brokers LLC Account Types

#### Multi-Fund Hedge Fund:

Multiple Fund Account Structure Multiple funds managed by an investment manager with a master fund admin account. Investment Investment Investment Manager User Manager User Manager User Master Account Fund Fund Allocation Client Proprietary Trading Multiple Advisor Account Account Account Account Group Separate Hedge Fund Trading Limit (STL) Client User Client User Advisor User Supervisory User Investment Manager CI Sub Sub Client Sub Fund Ad Acco count Ad Account Account Account





#### **Hedge Fund Reporting**

#### Snapshot

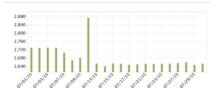
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Base Currency:	USD
Account Type:	Advisor Master
Analysis Period:	07/01/15 to 07/30/15 (Daily)
Performance Measure:	TWR

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Distribution of Returns





#### Ending Long Asset Allocation



Ending Short Asset Allocation





Options 📕 Cash





### Interactive Brokers LLC Stock Loan Capabilities

From trade date, to settlement date, our securities financing team is available to you. In addition, our TWS provides a robust automated trading solutions to our clients.

Interactive Brokers offers transparent rates, global reach, and dedicated service representatives. Automated lending and borrowing tools give you the advantages you expect from Interactive Brokers.

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### Interactive Brokers LLC Stock Loan Capabilities

#### **Availability**

On trade date, it's all about availability. Our depth of availability not only helps to locate hard-to-borrow securities; but, also gives you protection against buy-ins and recalls.

IB gives offers clients two ways to view available shares for shorting in real time:

- 1. Clients can view the number of shares that are available to short, as well as the current interest rate charged on borrowed shares and the current Fed Funds rate in Trader Workstation
- 2. Clients can search for real-time availability online with the Short Stock Availability Tool. You may also opt to be notified when a borrow becomes available.

#### **Transparent Rates**

Interactive Brokers LLC brings transparency, reliability and efficiency to the stock loan market using automated price discovery and improved credit-worthiness. Our stock loan and borrow rates are very competitive. The SLB desk uses a combination of sources to develop indicative rates, which are displayed along with borrow availability in our automated securities financing tools.

Unique to IB, we display 3 years of borrow fee history directly on Trader Workstation.



### Interactive Brokers LLC Stock Loan Capabilities

#### **Global Reach**

Our Global reach starts with our breadth of product offering and extends to our securities financing services. Connectivity to multiple counterparties around the globe enables, our clients to execute short sale strategies. In the United States alone we have access to more than 60 counterparties, including agent lenders and broker dealers. Our global reach doesn't stop there. We maintain dedicated, professionally-staffed Securities Lending desks in the United States, Europe and Asia which are ready to help you with all of your securities financing needs and to answer any questions.

#### **Automated Tools**

IB has always provided sophisticated, automated technology to our clients, and our securities lending services are no exception. We offer a variety of stock loan and borrow tools.

#### Stock Yield Enhancement Program

Earn extra income on the fully-paid shares of stock held in your account by joining IB's Stock Yield Enhancement Program. This plan allows IB to borrow shares from you in exchange for cash collateral, and then lend the shares to traders who want to sell them short and are willing to pay a fee to borrow them. Each day that your stock is on loan, you will be paid a loan fee based on market rates.

You share a percentage of this program with IB, (currently 50%), for the firm's management of the program.

#### InteractiveBrokers

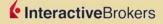


### Interactive Brokers LLC Hedge Fund Capital Introduction Program

#### Hedge Fund Marketplace

The Hedge Fund Marketplace gives you access to our online version of a traditional Capital Introduction program and is designed to help Hedge Funds who use us as their principal Prime Broker market their Funds to our customers who are Accredited Investors and Qualified Purchasers, as well as other Hedge Funds who have opened their funds to investing by qualified IB clients.

The Hedge Fund Marketplace is provided free of charge to all Hedge Funds who use us as their principal Prime Broker and have at least \$3 million in assets under management. In addition, eligible Hedge Fund accounts must be have a demonstrated track record of trading for at least one year.



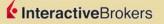


#### **Trader Workstation Classic View**

#### Classic TWS

Classic TWS offers quick click order entry from bid and ask prices, with the order row displayed directly beneath the Market Data row. Classic TWS is always available to traders who need more advanced tools and algos.

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#### **Trader Workstation Mosaic View**

#### **TWS Mosaic**

Mosaic provides intuitive out-of-the-box usability with quick and easy access to comprehensive trading, order management, chart, watchlist and portfolio tools all in a single, customizable workspace.





### **Interactive Brokers Useful Links:**

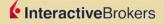
Hedge and Mutual funds: <u>https://www.interactivebrokers.com/hmf/en/main.php</u> Reports: <u>https://www.interactivebrokers.com/features/#reports</u> Prime Brokerage: <u>https://www.interactivebrokers.com/en/index.php?f=3182</u> Execution Service: <u>https://www.interactivebrokers.com/en/index.php?f=930</u> Trade Desk: <u>https://www.interactivebrokers.com/en/index.php?f=commission&p=tdesk</u>



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There is a substantial risk of loss in foreign exchange trading. The settlement date of foreign exchange trades can vary due to time zone differences and bank holidays. When trading across foreign exchange markets, this may necessitate borrowing funds to settle foreign exchange trades. The interest rate on borrowed funds must be considered when computing the cost of trades across multiple markets.

The Order types available through Interactive Brokers LLC's Trader Workstation are designed to help you limit your loss and/or lock in a profit. Market conditions and other factors may affect execution. In general, orders guarantee a fill or guarantee a price, but not both. In extreme market conditions, an order may either be executed at a different price than anticipated or may not be filled in the marketplace.

There is a substantial risk of loss in trading futures and options. Past performance is not indicative of future results.

Any stock, options or futures symbols displayed are for illustrative purposes only and are not intended to portray recommendations.

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Interactive Brokers LLC is registered with HKSFC and is a participant of the Sydney Futures Exchange (SFE)

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