

January 25, 2022

In Today's Issue

- Weathering Market Volatility by Finding "Quality" ETFs. Our goal today is to identify sectors with the lowest P/E ratios in the market that continue to offer a strong case for capital appreciation in a rising rate environment.
- Quality Idea 1: Financials. First Trust Financials
 AlphaDex Fund (FXO). We think this financials ETF is
 a better alternative than XLF, as it selects stocks
 from the Russell 1000 Index based on criteria identifying with growth and value characteristics including 12-month price appreciation, sales growth, price to value, and cash flow to price.
- Quality Idea 2: Qualitative Value. ValueShares U.S.
 Quantitative Value ETF (QVAL). QVAL is an index-based ETF with 50 holdings that are equal weighted.
 It provides a targeted value allocation vs. broad,
 passive value ETFs which shows via a P/E of 8.44X.
- Quality Idea 3: Shareholder Yield. Cambria Shareholder Yield ETF (SYLD). This ETF scores stocks on three key factors: dividend payout ratio, net reduction in debt, and aggregate share buybacks. The 100 stocks with the best combined scores are then added to the ETF basket.
- Quality Idea 4: Core Value. Invesco S&P 500 Pure Value ETF (RPV). This index-oriented fund owns approximately 100 value stocks culled from the broader S&P 500 Index and it weights holdings according to the highest value scores rather than market-cap or equal-capital allocations, offering more targeted exposure to true value plays.

On A Quest for Value-Based Alpha

Virtually every market strategist is looking at the market in 2022 with a premonition that prevailing trends are going to experience some degree of turbulence. The primary contributor to this disruption is the Federal Reserve's commitment to raising interest rates to combat inflationary pressures.

The Fed has already begun to wind down its assets purchase facility by gradually tapering its monthly bond-buying stimulus. Soon after, it's expected that the board of governors will vote to raise the federal funds rate for the first time since 2018. The latest "dot plot" from the December FOMC minutes indicates the majority of participants expect three rate hikes in 2022 (see Page 2).

Whether we get three, four, or fewer rate hikes is still up for debate, but what investors are already starting to factor in is how these incremental moves will impact their stock portfolios. The commonly held logic is that rate hikes act as a discounting mechanism for future profits. They generally make financing more difficult to secure, increase lending costs, and dampen the creditworthiness of more speculative companies.

Growth stocks are generally the hardest hit during any rate hike cycle because they thrive on cheap money. Leaner interest rates mean that investors are generally more apt to take risks with capital by investing further out on the quality scale to achieve an acceptable rate of return. A low- or zero-interest rate environment is the embodiment of the TINA (There Is No Alternative) principle. As the market adjusts to higher interest rates, investors start to rein in their expectations and look for opportunities offering more intrinsic value.

We are already seeing that corrective price action taking hold in some of the more growth-oriented indexes such as the Nasdaq Composite. According to Ned Davis Research, more than one-third of the stocks in the Nasdaq has fallen 50% or more from their 52-week highs as of this writing. The index is in a 10% correction phase and dropped below its

long-term trend line for the first time in nearly two years.

Suddenly, the sexy companies aren't the ones burning cash in the pursuit of grand future aspirations. The good-looking companies are the ones that are cash rich, sport high profit margins, carry minimal debt, and are returning capital to shareholders in the form of buybacks or dividends. Generally, this

means companies with lower relative price-to-earnings (P/E) and price-to-book (P/B) ratios as hallmarks of healthy fundamentals. These stocks are going to be the most insulated from the effects of interest rate hikes and find themselves as high-quality landing spots for investment capital.

The goal with this issue is to identify sectors and opportunities that are demonstrating traits of fundamental value so that you are pre-

pared to shift more capital towards this factor this year. Our research has identified stocks with the lowest P/E ratios in the market that continue to offer a strong case for capital appreciation in a rising rate environment. Read on to find out how to implement these funds in your portfolios and how to get clients to buy into this secular shift.

Investment Idea 1: Smart-Beta Financials

The first page of the rising rate playbook has always included a healthy dose of financial stocks as a natural insulating force. Banks, brokerage, and insurance companies are typically able to increase their profits as rates rise because it gives them more flexibility to expand lending margins. That is why you

often find these stocks naturally trade with an inverse correlation to Treasury bonds with all other factors being equal. Financials also are heavily regulated in their leverage ratios, and ever since the 2008 financial crisis have morphed into some of the healthier stocks in the market when comparing pure fundamentals.

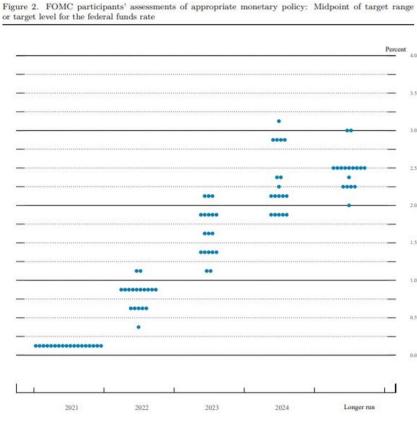
The sector behemoth from which all performance

will be judged is the Financial Select Sector SPDR (XLF). This fund has long been a landing spot for investors that want to access large-cap banks and brokerage companies in an extremely liquid and low-cost basket. However, the fund does have some intrinsic flaws.

Its market-cap weighting means that the top 10 stocks account for more than half of the capital within the fund. Additionally, these stocks tend

to be concentrated in just two main industry groups and trade at valuations that are on the upper range of reasonable boundaries. This means that you aren't necessarily getting the purest fundamental quality or value traits among the entire sector.

Fortunately, we have discovered a unique smartbeta fund that is constructed through a quantitative screening process to maximize these factors. The **First Trust Financials AlphaDex Fund (FXO)** selects stocks from the Russell 1000 Index based on criteria identifying with growth and value characteristics. These include metrics such as 12-month price appreciation, sales growth, price to value, and cash flow to price. The financial companies with the highest overall scores are then selected to be part



of the FXO basket and weighted with a more equal distribution of capital.

The result is a diversified portfolio of more than 100 financial stocks with no single holding accounting for more than 2% of the total pool. Top holdings at present include companies such as MGIC Investment Corp, One Main Holdings, Berkshire Hathaway, Invesco, and Fidelity National Financial. The fund also sports

a combined P/E ratio

FXO 1 Year Total Return

• First Trust Financials AlphaDEX® ETF Total Return

36.00%

25.86%

12.00%

Oct '21

Jul '21

FXO currently has more than \$1.49 billion in assets under management and charges an expense ratio of 0.61%. The unique makeup of this fund allows for a sensible way to

a sensible way to access a sector that is historically correlated with rising rates and captures stocks trading at extremely attractive fundamentals. We view this opportunity as a better asset allocation choice than XLF based on these traits and the quantitative stock selection process of the index.

of 8.54 and a P/B ratio of 1.34. Both ratios are some of the lowest value scores you will find in any ETF currently trading today.

The industry dispersion within FXO is starkly unique when compared against XLF. Insurance companies and investment banking/brokerage both make up approximately 30% of the allocation within the

fund. That is followed by banks at 23% and financial services at 8.5%. The overall method of diversifying among a broader subset of stocks and including a healthy dose of mid-cap companies is one of the reasons this fund has been so successful over its tenure.

FXO is currently trading near 52-week highs despite the rollover in the S&P 500 Index since the start of 2022. The fund has gained 25.9% over the last year as it rides the momentum of cyclical stocks. FXO also is trading with a three- and five-year perfor-

mance gap above its sector rival XLF.

This fund would be best utilized as a tactical sector allocation for 5%-10% of the portfolio depending on your client's equity objectives. It also sports a 30-day SEC yield of 1.80% with income paid quarterly to shareholders.

Investment Idea 2: Quantitative Value

Jan '22

Jan 23 2022, 11:50PM EST. Powered by YCHARTS

First Trust Financials AlphaDex Fund (FXO) Inception Date: 5/8/2007 Assets: \$1.49B Avg Daily Volume: 51.K 0.61% Expense Ratio: # of Holdings: 105 YTD Return: -2.83% 3-Yr Return: 64.83% Mstar Rating: 4 Star

Most generic value indexes are beholden to selecting stocks from a predetermined field of available candidates and weighting the holdings based on old-school methods. What you are then left with is a broadly diversified fund with a *slight* value tilt rather than a truly bespoke portfolio of valuecentric stocks. This is exactly the type of trap that Alpha Architect was dead set on avoiding with its flagship strategy, the ValueShares **U.S. Quantitative Value ETF** (QVAL).

This truly unique approach was created by Wesley Gray, Ph.D., and Jack Vogel, Ph.D., who have forged their careers in the asset management world through the likes of quantitatively driven portfolios. Their research has always leaned towards identify-

ing stocks with attractive fundamental criteria, which is exactly the type of strategy that lends itself well to our current needs.

QVAL is an indexbased ETF with just 50 holdings that are equal weighted in the portfolio structure. This allows for each stock to have a similar contribution to the total return of Alpha Architect US Quantitative Val ETF Total Return

30.00%

20.00%

Apr '21

Jul '21

Oct '21

Jan '22

Jan 23 2022, 11:51PM EST. Powered by **CHARTS*

the fund rather than giving larger companies the lion's share of the assets. To be included in the QVAL portfolio, stocks must meet forensic accounting, valuation, and quality screens to ensure only the cheapest, high-quality value stocks make the cut.

The goal of the QVAL portfolio, as stated by the fund managers themselves, is to deviate from a traditional passive benchmark by creating a high active share.

They have specifically constructed its make up to be more concentrated and to carry differentiated stock picks compared to what you would get in a plain-vanilla index. Top holdings at present include Magnolia Oil & Gas Corp, Mosaic Co, Nexstar Media Group, Westlake Chemical Corp, and Alcoa Corp.

The combined P/E ratio of QVAL is an extremely low 8.44, which tells you just how much this portfolio emphasizes cheap valuations. Furthermore, it is characterized by a high degree of mid-cap stock exposure as compared to many benchmarks funds

that are typically mega-cap heavy.

All these factors mean that the price pattern of QVAL is going to look far different from that of a conventional benchmark. The fund is really built for the type of environment where investors prioritize quality fundamentals and undervalued assets versus

high growth technology names. QVAL has gained 12.7% over the last 52-weeks as it has just slightly underperformed the gains of the broad market.

QVAL currently has \$218 million in total assets and charges a net expense ratio of 0.49% annually. The

fund's unique makeup means that it's not likely to have much overlap with existing core holdings in your client's portfolios. It's best utilized as an opportunistic way to own a diversified basket of cheap stocks with rock-solid fundamentals that are likely to outperform in a rising rate environment.

ValueShares U.S. Quantitative Value ETF (QVAL)

value E11	value ETF (QVAL)				
Inception Date: 10/22/2014					
Assets:	\$218M				
Avg Daily Volume:	26.7K				
Expense Ratio:	0.49%				
# of Holdings:	51				
YTD Return:	-9.52%				
3-Yr Return:	32.09%				
Mstar Rating:	2 Star				

Investment Idea 3: Shareholder Yield

Boutique asset management firms are a dime a dozen, and many are simply asset allocation planners that bor-

row from existing strategies. However, the brain

trust behind Cambria Funds is one of the true industry trend setters that have created a clever investment platform backed by proven research.

Their flagship strategy, the **Cambria Shareholder** Yield ETF (SYLD) launched in 2013 as an actively

managed fund designed to quantitatively identify stocks with attractive value qualities. The screening criteria starts with a universe of U.S.-listed companies with market capitalizations greater than \$200 million. It then scores stocks based on three key factors: dividend payout ratio, net reduction in debt, and aggregate share buybacks. The

SYLD 1 Year Total Return Cambria Shareholder Yield ETF Total Return 0.00% Apr '21 Jul '21 Jan '22 Jan 23 2022, 11:51PM EST. Powered by **YCHARTS** free cash flow that

100 stocks with the best combined scores in these fields are then added to the ETF basket.

The three-pillar shareholder yield philosophy is one that has been extensively vetted by Cambria as a

driver of long-term alpha. It avoids the traps that many investors make by only prioritizing one factor such as high dividends in their investment selection criteria. Companies that are prioritizing all three of these elements are actively returning profits to shareholders in a healthy and sustainable way.

While the fund doesn't expressly market itself as a value -centric solution, the factors that screen for top-quality stocks are creatively achieving this goal. SYLD currently sports a P/E ratio of 9.09 and

a P/B ratio of 1.65. Furthermore, it carries a 30-day

SEC yield of 1.38% with income paid quarterly to shareholders.

Like QVAL, the holdings in this fund tend to skew towards the mid-cap and lower end of the large-cap spectrum in their makeup. Top holdings in the SYLD

> portfolio include Dillard's Inc, Apple Inc, Toll Brothers, Louisiana-Pacific Corp, and Nucor Corp. Its top sector weightings include financials, consumer discretionary, materials, and industrials.

The fund's secret sauce is being able to identify profitable companies with high are making smart

choices with their balance sheets. That's exactly the type of stocks you want to own in a rising rate environment where investors prioritize sound fundamentals over leverage.

Cambria Shareholder Yield ETF

<u>(SY</u>	(SYLD)					
Inception Date:	5/13/2013					
Assets:	\$372M					
Avg Daily Volume:	72.1K					
Expense Ratio:	0.59%					
# of Holdings:	102					
YTD Return:	-5.48%					
3-Yr Return:	89.50%					
Mstar Rating:	5 Star					

SYLD has already started to see its share price diverge from the broader market in the early stages of the new year as value stocks gain momentum. The fund also notched an impressive 23.9% return over the last 52 weeks as it hit new all-time highs.

SYLD is the type of fund that has many use cases in the context of a diversified portfolio. Its holdings are broad enough that it can be utilized as a core equity foundation for clients that want to own high-quality value stocks with an emphasis on

return of capital. Furthermore, it can be added as

part of a tactical opportunity for those that want to reduce their growth aspirations in favor of a more conservative methodology during this current market cycle.

Investment Idea 4: Other Value Opportuni-

ties

client accounts.

MSCI, or Russell

benchmarks. These

Another attractive feature of the RPV portfolio is

acteristics embodying strong balance sheets and

low-priced valuations.

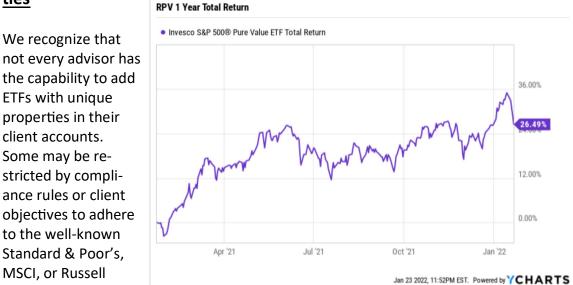
that it weighs holdings according to the highest value scores rather than market-cap or equal-capital

36.00%

12.00%

0.00%

allocations. This creates a stronger influence on fundamentally attractive companies such as Berkshire Hathaway, Prudential Financial, Cigna Corp, Viacom CBS, and Lincoln National Corp. The financial sector currently makes up one -third of the RPV portfolio with healthcare and consumer discretionary



guidelines can often limit the list of available choices, but we also want to offer suggestions for how to bridge that gap and still own alpha-generating positions in your accounts.

One of our long-time suggestions for owning cheap

assets in some of the stock market's biggest names is a fund that continues to demonstrate impressive qualities. The Invesco S&P 500 Pure Value ETF (RPV) is an index-oriented fund that owns approximately 100 value stocks culled from the broader S&P 500 Index.

What makes this fund unique is that it puts a more stringent valuation screen against the parent benchmark to rule out blended or ambiguous style stocks. The result is a more concentrated portfolio of "pure" companies with charrounding out the top weightings.

Jan '22

At current levels, the RPV portfolio sports a blended P/E ratio of just 11.44 and a P/B ratio of 1.31. Both metrics are significantly lower and ultimately more attractive for long-term investors than what you

> would find in blended or growth-oriented indexes. RPV has been in existence for nearly a decade and a half and has accumulated nearly \$3.1 billion in assets. The fund charges a very reasonable expense ratio of 0.35%.

RPV is going to offer the comfort of a major benchmark in its index construction profile and its underlying holdings are going to skew more towards large- and mega-cap stocks. This may be attractive for clients who prefer to stick with larger enterprise values and its

price patterns are more likely to track conventional

	Invesco S&P 500 Pure Value ETF (RPV)							
	Inception Date:	3/1/2006						
5	Assets:	\$3.1B						
r	Avg Daily Volume:	698K						
	Expense Ratio:	0.35%						
	# of Holdings:	125						
	YTD Return:	0.19%						
	3-Yr Return:	42.13%						
	Mstar Rating:	2 Star						

market indices. The fund is broad and low-cost enough to be a potential core portfolio holding. Yet RPV has enough factor-based screening criteria to offer tactical advantages over most value-focused benchmarks.

Using WisdomTree to Locate Value

Lastly, we have identified a solution for those that like to do their own research in identifying some of the market's cheapest stocks. The innovators at WisdomTree have created a dynamic basket of 100 U.S. companies that are specifically screened for low P/E ratios. To be eligible for inclusion in the group, stocks must have generated positive cumulative earnings over the last four quarters.

The WisdomTree Low P/E Index is published and updated on the fund company website to allow for full transparency and independent research. While you can't specifically purchase this basket as an ETF, you can use its data as a resource to identify attractively priced large-cap stocks.

The index sports an aggregate dividend yield of 2% and a P/E ratio of 10.96. Top holdings include well-known names such as Ford Motor Co, The Mosaic Co, M&T Bank Corp, and Diamondback Energy.

The WisdomTree Index is a great jumping off point if you want to construct your own portfolio of individual stocks or are looking for ideas in a particular sector. It also can be used as a potential benchmark for some of the other ETF strategies listed in this report to evaluate the efficacy of each approach.

Conclusion

As an advisor, you are tasked with continually evaluating your portfolio tools to determine if they are best suited to the current environment. The beginning of the year and the start of a new phase in U.S. economic policy are perfect oppor-

tunities to shake up your stock holdings with more value-focused characteristics.

The funds we have outlined in this report offer strategic advantages that should be closely evaluated to determine how they can boost your fundamental scores and provide long-term alpha over this next market cycle.

Best,

Tom

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Fund/Stock	<u>Strategy</u>	<u>Date</u>	Total Re- turn	Benchmark Perfor- mance Since Issue Date
Index Rebal KWEB (KraneShares CSI China Internet ETF)	KWEB is an index rebalance play based on major Chinese internet and ecommerce companies (China N-shares) being added to FTSE Emerging Market Indices between Sep 2017 and June 2018. KWEB is our conduit to front-run huge index funds that will be forced to buy its underlying holdings. What to do now: We closed KWEB on June 15th (last leg of rebal). It's still viable as a long-term holding.	Issue 1: 8/17/17 8/24/17	KWEB: 21.46% (closed)	ACWX: 6.93% (through KWEB close date)
Smart Beta Pioneer RSP (Invesco S&P 500 Equal Weight ETF)	From an index standpoint, S&P 500 Equal Weight has massively outperformed S&P 500 (cap weight) over the long term (392% vs. 158% over the last 18 years). RSP has lagged recently due to tech sector outperformance. That presents a short-term dislocation and opportunity to buy RSP at a discount to SPY. What to do now: Buy.	Issue 2: 9/7/17	RSP: 76.57%	SPY: 89.59%
Self-Driving Car Bas- ket SNSR (Global X Inter- net of Things ETF) ROBO (ROBO Global Robotics & Automa- tion Index ETF) AMBA (Ambarella) QCOM (Qualcomm)	Massive changes to the auto industry, including self-driving technology, are closer to the mainstream than most investors think. The foundational changes to the auto industry could be the next "Megatrend" in investing to provide outperformance for years to come. There is no pure play "self-driving" ETF yet, but SNSR and ROBO offer exposure to many tech companies that are best-positioned in the space. AMBA and QCOM are two of the better stocks with unique exposure to the growing self-driving car industry. What to do now: Buy the ETFs. We closed QCOM a month and a half after the Broadcom takeover announcement for a quick, sizable gain.	Issue 3: 9/21/17	SNSR: 85.19% ROBO: 59.14% AMBA: 191.50% QCOM: 23.20% (closed)	SPY: 84.93% SPY: 19.93% (through QCOM close date)
Electric Car Battery Plays LIT (Global X Lithium & Battery Tech ETF) ALB (Albemarle)	The trend towards the widespread adoption of electric cars is accelerating, with U.S. auto companies planning massive roll outs and several countries putting end dates on the internal combustion engine. From an investment angle, the key here is better technology, specifically lithium. LIT is a lithium ETF. ALB is one of the leading lithium plays in the market. What to do now: Long-term investors can buy now. But, as we said in the issue, LIT and ALB ran up big following China's electric car decision. Both have sold off since. The growth opportunity is years, if not decades, ahead.	Issue 3: 9/21/17	LIT: 120.80% ALB: 60.76%	SPY: 84.93%
Dividend Growth DIVY (Reality Shares DIVS ETF) REGL (ProShares S&P MidCap 400 Dividend Aristocrats ETF) SMDV (ProShares Russell 2000 Dividend Growers ETF)	Historically, dividends are responsible for half of the market's total return. They are an essential component of long-term outperformance. While most investors choose high-yielding dividend stocks, our research shows dividend growth stocks can generate better long-term returns. DIVY is the only ETF that isolates pure dividend growth. This ETF is a fixed income alternative that should provide steady single-digit returns with low volatility and true diversification. REGL and SMDV are ETFs that provide exposure to the "Dividend Aristocrats" of tomorrow. What to do now: Buy.	Issue 4: 10/4/17	REGL: 45.41% SMDV: 22.18%	AGG: 13.28% MDY: 49.83% IWM: 37.70%
Merger Arbitrage GABCX (Gabelli ABC Fund) MNA (IQ Merger Arbitrage ETF)	Merger arbitrage is a time-tested hedge fund strategy. It seeks to profit from the timely completion of mergers, takeovers and corporate re-orgs. The strategy has produced solid absolute returns with low correlations to stocks and bonds. GABCX and MNA are the two best-performing—and cheapest—options to invest in this space. What to do now: Buy.	Issue 5: 10/17/17	GABCX: 12.50% MNA: 4.87%	AGG: 13.02%

Fund/Stock	<u>Strategy</u>	<u>Date</u>	Total Re- turn	Benchmark Perfor- mance Since Issue Date
Special Dividends List of 24 stocks	Screened 17,070 stocks to arrive at 24 stocks that have consistently paid large special dividends. Investors can't see the true yields on these stocks because they're missing from financial websites. Our elite list has yields ranging from 50% to 600% higher than the S&P 500's yield. What to do now: Buy (multiple ways to implement in issue).	Issue 6: 10/31/17	Basket of stocks (avg.): 7.37%	50% SPY/50% AGG: 3.77%
Global Value GVAL (Cambria Glob- al Value ETF)	A fundamentally-focused deep value strategy that uses a cyclically-adjusted valuation composite to evaluate 45 global countries for investment. GVAL captures the cheapest countries and the cheapest stocks in those specific countries, too. What to do now: Buy.	Issue 9: 12/12/17	GVAL: 1.51%	ACWX: 20.21%
"Backdoor" Hedge Fund Investing List of 10 stocks	It's almost impossible for investors to access the world's best hedge fund managers. Either their funds are closed, the minimums are too steep (in the millions), or the fees are outrageously high ('2 & 20'). We found 10 little-known ways to access ace managers who have produced Buffett-like returns. What to do now: Buy (multiple ways to implement in issue).	Issue 10: 12/27/17	Basket of stocks (avg.): -5.09%	50% SPY/50% AGG: 1.30%
EM & FM Bonds EMB (iShares JPM USD Emerging Markets Bond ETF) EMLC (VanEck JPM EM Local Currency Bond ETF) EBND (SPDR Bloomberg Barclays Emerging Markets Local Bond ETF) AGEYX (American Beacon Global Evolution Frontier Markets Income Fund)	Most investors have no allocation to fixed income outside the U.S., but we think it's worth serious consideration. Emerging and frontier debt funds have yields 2X, 3X, and 4X the yields of traditional fixed income investments low correlations to major asset classes and healthier fundamentals (lower debt-to-GDP ratios, faster-growing economies, and better demographics) from a country perspective. EMB (emerging market debt hard currency), EMLC/EBND (emerging market debt local currency), and AGEYX (actively-managed frontier market debt) are all attractive options. What to do now: Buy.	Issue 11: 1/9/18	EMB: 8.02% EMLC: -6.09% EBND: -4.17% AGEYX: 18.32%	AGG: 13.56%
"Blockchain" Investing BLOK (Amplify Transformational Data Sharing ETF) BLCN (Reality Shares Nasdaq NexGen Economy ETF)	Blockchain, the technology behind cryptos, has the potential to change many industries. Having the right exposure to companies using or pioneering the use of blockchain, offers substantial long-term growth opportunities. Not only did we break the story on the first two blockchain ETFs (BLOK and BLCN) ahead of every financial media outlet, we also provided a sneak peek at their top holdings and a blockchain primer. What to do now: Buy (multiple ways to implement in issue).	Issue 12: 1/16/18	BLOK: 82.03% BLCN: 58.04%	SPY: 65.23%
"Active" Bond ETFs BOND (PIMCO Active Bond ETF) TOTL (SPDR Dou- bleLine Total Return Tactical ETF) FTSL (First Trust Sen- ior Loan Fund)	Studies show actively-managed fixed income funds have been much more successful at beating benchmarks than actively-managed equity funds. In addition, the "Agg" has changed for the worse over time: higher duration, lower yield, and less diversification. These three active bond ETFs—with better statistics and all-star portfolio management teams—stand a good chance at beating the Agg going forward. What to do now: Buy.	Issue 14: 2/20/18	BOND: 16.79% TOTL: 11.03% FTSL: 15.59%	AGG: 15.47%

Fund/Stock	<u>Strategy</u>	<u>Date</u>	Total Re- turn	Benchmark Perfor- mance Since Issue Date
Cash Alpha FPNIX (FPA New Income)	FPNIX has generated positive returns for 33 straight years. No other non-government bond fund can boast of an equivalent track record. We also featured "MaxMyInterest," which produces 140 to 150 basis points of alpha versus traditional cash vehicles (MMAs, MMFs, and CDs). Max also increases FDIC insurance and can give advisors visibility to held-away cash. What to do now: Buy (Max is also an excellent cash management solution).	Issue 15: 3/6/18	FPNIX: 9.32%	BIL: 3.87%
Index Rebal KBA (KraneShares Bosera MSCI China A Share ETF)	KBA is an index rebalance play based on the inclusion of Mainland Chinese equities (A-shares) into MSCI Global Standard Indexes. The first two steps will take place on June 1st and September 1st. KBA is our gateway to front-run massive index funds that will be forced to buy its underlying holdings. What to do now: Buy.	Issue 16: 3/20/18	KBA: 33.86%	ACWX: 17.65%
Anti-Trade War QABA (First Trust Nasdaq ABA Commu- nity Bank Index Fund)	QABA is a play to protect against trade war ramifications (97% of its sales are U.Ssourced). Additionally, it should also be a beneficiary of U.S. tax reform, in that, smaller U.S. companies should capture most of the 35% to 21% corporate tax cut. We also featured three more ETFs (AMCA, AIRR, KRE) and two exclusive stock screens—run through Cap IQ—for advisors to share with clients who have trade war concerns. What to do now: Buy.	Issue 18: 4/17/18	QABA: 20.80%	SPY: 68.48%
Foreign Small Caps VSS (Vanguard FTSE All-World ex-US Small -Cap ETF) DLS (WisdomTree International Small- Cap Dividend Fund)	Most advisors don't allocate to international small caps. But, we think they should reconsider. This hidden asset class holds several advantages over its U.S. equivalents: cheaper valuations, less volatility, lower correlations, higher dividend yields, and past outperformance. We highlight multiple individual ETFs, ETF combinations, and actively-managed mutual funds that do the trick. What to do now: Buy.	Issue 19: 5/1/18	VSS: 15.14% DLS: 3.26%	EFA: 18.86%
Disruptive Innovation ARKK (ARK Innovation ETF)	Investing in the "cornerstone themes of disruptive innovation" has resulted in huge profits over time (think Amazon, Apple, and Netflix). ARK sees current investment opportunities in innovation platforms, such as automation, energy storage, DNA sequencing, next generation internet, blockchain technology, etc. ARK's top innovation-based themes are all represented in ARKK. In 2017, ARKK was the #1 performing ETF (excluding leveraged and inverse ETFs) with a return of 87%! What to do now: Buy.	Issue 20: 5/15/18	ARKK: 74.44%	SPY: 68.13%
Buybacks PKW (Invesco Buy-Back Achievers ETF)	Companies with meaningful share count reduction have outperformed over the long term with lower volatility. Currently, U.S. companies are flush with cash due to tax cuts and repatriation. In turn, share repurchases broke a new record in Q1 2018 and they're on pace to set a new record for 2018. PKW is the premier ETF to profit from buybacks (largest asset base and longest history). We also featured four alternative ETFs (SPYB, TTFS, DIVB, SYLD) and some individual stock lists. What to do now: Buy.	Issue 21: 5/29/18	PKW: 65.72%	SPY: 69.43%
"FANG and Friends" of Emerging Markets EMQQ (Emerging Markets Internet & Ecommerce ETF)	"By 2025, annual consumption in emerging markets will reach \$30 trillion—the biggest growth opportunity in the history of capitalism."—McKinsey & Company. The combination of four major forces in emerging markets make this a great investment setup: favorable demographics, increasing smartphone availability, surging wireless broadband and Wifi access, and the globalization of the capital formation process. EMQQ is the best ETF to invest in this great confluence. We also featured three alternative ETFs (ECON, KWEB, KEMQ). What to do now: Buy.	Issue 23: 6/26/18	EMQQ: 6.87%	EEM: 19.53%

<u>Fund/Stock</u>	<u>Strategy</u>	<u>Date</u>	Total Return	Benchmark Perfor- mance Since Issue Date
Micro Caps IWC (I-Shares Micro-Cap ETF)	Small caps outperformed until this most recent pullback, but while allocations to that sector of the market are rising, micro-caps, a sub-set of small caps, remain generally overlooked. Micro caps remain an overlooked, under-researched, and under-allocated part of the small cap universe that can offer diversification and outperformance (micro caps are perennial takeover candidates).	7/10/18	IWC: 16.42%	IWM: 22.10%
The Future of Consumer Spending IBUY (Amplify Online Retail ETF) FINX (Global X FinTech ETF) IPAY (ETFMG Prime Mobile Payments ETF)	The way U.S. consumers purchase goods is changing— rapidly. And, getting "pure play" exposure to the rise to on- line retailers and to the growth of mobile payments could be similar to investing in credit cards back in the mid-80's. There are few other established corners of the market that offer this type of growth potential.	7/24/18	IBUY: 37.83% FINX: 22.86% IPAY: 23.69%	SPY: 61.85%
Floating Rate Funds FLOT (I-Shares Floating Rate Bond ETF USFR (Wisdom Tree Floating Rate Treas- ury Fund) SRLN (SPDR Black- stone / GSO Senior Loan ETF EFR (Eaton Vance Floating Rate Trust)	Despite stubbornly high bonds/low yields, bonds are still now in a longer term bear market, and there exist few non-inverse bond alternatives that can produce absolute gains in a falling bond environment. Floating rate ETFs rise as bond yields fall and offer absolute return potential in bond portfolios, and are an important tool in constructing client bond portfolios in a rising rate environment.	8/6/18	FLOT: 5.30% USFR: 3.43% SRLN: 15.23% EFR: 20.98%	AGG: 14.56%
Content Is King PBS (Invesco Dynamic Media ETF) IEME (Ishares Evolved U.S. Media & Entertainment ETF) XLC (Communications services SPDR) DIS (Disney)	How generational changes in the cable TV industry are presenting massive long-term growth potential (think NFLX's 4000% return since 2012). Industry Primer: How the cable industry is changing from a service-based business, to a content-based business.	8/20/18	PBS: 40.29% IEME: 23.36% XLC: 49.87% DIS: 21.07%	SPY: 59.25%
Momentum & Value PSCH (PowerShares S&P SmallCap Health Care Portfolio) SBIO (ALPS Medical Breakthroughs ETF) FXG (First Trust Consumer Staples AlphaDex ETF)	In our first of a recurring series, each quarter we'll profile some of the best ETFs from a momentum and value standpoint. Most investors and prospects can be grouped into those two investing styles, and we want to provide consistent, value-add idea generation for each type of investor, so you're always armed with compelling ideas and stories for clients and prospects, regardless of their investment style.	9/4/18	PSCH: 3.03% SBIO: -12.55% FXG: 35.45%	SPY: 57.89%

<u>Fund/Stock</u>	<u>Strategy</u>	<u>Date</u>	Total Return	Benchmark Perfor- mance Since Issue Date
Commodities PDBC (Invesco Optimum Yield Diversified Commodity Strategy No K-1) GNR (SPDR S&P Global Natural Resources ETF) RLY (SPDR SSGA Multi-Asset Real Return ETF)	Commodities have typically outperformed during late expansion and early recession phases of the economic cycle. Many economic indicators imply we are entering (or are already in) the late expansion phase of the economic cycle. As such, commodities have outperformed so far this year, and we expect that to continue.	9/18/18	PDBC: 28.46% GNR: 24.07% RLY: 24.28%	DBC: 29.74%
Short Duration Bond ETFs MEAR (IShares Short Maturity Municipal Bond ETF) LDUR (PIMCO Enhanced Low Duration Active ETF) MINT (PIMCO Enhanced Short Maturity Active ETF)	The downtrend in bonds accelerated in September and October of 2018, and it was a reminder that advisors face challenges in the fixed income markets over the coming years. One of the best ways to protect investors in a bond bear market is by shortening duration of bond holdings, so we presented three short duration bond ETFs that have yields that are close to the 10 year Treasury, but that have much shorter average maturities.	10/16/18	MEAR: 3.42% LDUR: 8.34% MINT: 4.98%	BIL: 2.79%
Bear Market Strate- gies USMV (I-Shares Edge MSCI Minimum Vol- atility USA ETF) PTLC (Pacer Trendpi- lot US Large Cap ETF)	The October 2018 equity market decline sparked fears of an end to the multi-year bull market. So, we wanted to provide some suggestions on practical "bear market" strategies for advisors that wouldn't involve market timing or deviating from keeping clients in the markets over the longer term.	10/30/18	USMV: 43.69% PTLC: 33.61%	SH: -47.95%
Special Dividends List of 19 stocks	Screened 17,070 stocks to arrive at 19 stocks that have consistently paid large special dividends. Investors can't see the true yields on these stocks because they're missing from financial websites. Our elite list has yields ranging from 50% to 600% higher than the S&P 500's yield. What to do now: Buy (multiple ways to implement in issue).	11/6/18		
Momentum & Value 4th Quarter Edition WTMF (Wisdom Tree Managed Futures ETF) MLPA (Global X MLP ETF) DCP (DCP Midstream LP) SHLX (Shell Mid-	In our Q4 installment of our Momentum and Value series we focused on strategies for the volatile and difficult market. Our momentum strategies were focused on noncorrelated ETFs to provide diversification. Our value strategy focused on the MLP space, which had compelling yields in an environment where the oil price should stabilize.	12/4/18	WTMF: 3.10% MLPA: -4.07% DCP: 7.12% SHLX: -9.68%	SPY: 68.56% AMLP: -4.76%

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Fund/Stock	Strategy	<u>Date</u>	Total Return	Benchmark Perfor- mance Since Issue Date
Growth into Value Rotation RPV (Invesco S&P 500 Pure Value ETF) DVP (Deep Value ETF)	Recognizing the switch in outperformance from value to growth in 2014 was one of the easiest ways to help clients outperform. Now, there are signs markets might be switching back, to an era where value outperforms growth. The ETFs included in this report serve as a "one stop shop" to add quality value exposure to client portfolios.	12/18/18	RPV: 48.98%	VTV: 55.88%
Contrarian Ideas to Start 2019 IEMG/EEMV (Emerging Market ETFs) ITB/VNQ (Homebuilders/Real Estate ETFs) DFE (WisdomTree Europe SmallCap Dividend Fund)	The start of a new year means new money needs to be put to work, so we wanted to provide some unique and interesting contrarian ideas that can outperform in 2019.	1/2/19	IEMG/EEMV: 33.70%/19.22% ITB/VNQ: 134.0%/56.89% DFE: 41.42%	SPY: 80.02%
Identifying High Quality Stocks COWZ (Pacer U.S. Cash Cows 100 ETF)	Free Cash Flow Yield (FCFY) and Return On Equity (ROE) are two factors that produce long term outperformance. We complied a list of nearly two dozen large cap stocks that have a FCFY over 8%, along with another list of the top 10% companies with highest Return on Equity. We think the stocks on these lists present opportunities to buy quality names on market dips. We also identified an ETF that screens based on FCFY, and it provides outperformance with lower drawdowns.	1/15/19	COWZ: 75.44%	SPY: 72.73%
Preferred Stock ETFs PGF (Invesco Financial Preferred ETF) VRP (Invesco Variable Rate Preferred ETF) PFXF (VanEck Vectors Preferred Securities ex Financials ETF)	Preferred stocks have massively outperformed the S&P 500 during the October—December correction and barely lagged bonds. With yields of 5% and higher we think preferred stock ETFs present a unique long term opportunity to generate income and reduce volatility in portfolios, while keeping upside exposure.	1/29/19	PGF: 20.37% VRP: 23.90% PFXF: 32.00%	PFF: 25.38%
Utilities For Income VPU (Vanguard Utilities ETF) NRG (NRG Energy) CNP (CenterPoint Energy)	We continued our focus on safety and income as we show why "boring" utilities can offer substantial outperformance in a volatile market. Utilities outperformed during the Oct-Dec correction, and owning utilities hasn't meant giving up long term performance as XLU has the same five year total return as the S&P 500. If you think the markets will stay volatile, utilities are a good place for capital to weather the storm and keep upside exposure.	2/12/19	VPU: 29.90% NRG: -0.88% CNP: -3.58%	XLU: 33.13%

<u>Fund/Stock</u>	<u>Strategy</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Total Return</u>	Benchmark Perfor- mance Since Issue Date
Cybersecurity: Threats & Opportunities HACK (ETFMG Primce Cyber Security ETF) CIBR (First Trust NASDAQ Cybersecurity ETF) FTNT (Fortinet) CYBR (CyberArk)	Cyber security and privacy on-line are two clearly defined growth areas of tech, as tech adoption progresses towards consumer demanding security and convenience.	2/26/2019	HACK: 38.01% CIBR: 67.77% FTNT: 216.80% CYBR: 25.17%	QQQ: 100.80%
Cannabis Industry Investment. MJ (ETFMG Alternative Harvest ETF) ACB (Aurora Cannabis) CGC (Canopy Growth Corporation) APHA (Aphria)	Through March of 2019, the cannabis sector was the best performing sector in the market, as that performance reflected the growing adoption of medical cannabis, as well as the unrivaled growth potential. Investors and clients are asking about this industry, so we wanted to present a "Cannabis Primer" along with three different investment strategies to get responsible exposure to this market segment.	3/12/19	MJ: -71.21% ACB: -95.66% CGC: -84.90%	SPY: 60.69%
Socially Responsible Investing ESGV (Vanguard ESG US Stock ETF)	Studies and AUM trends have shown that while clients still care about the bottom line (returns) there is growing popularity among investors to not only generate a solid return, but also for their investments to reflect their core beliefs and values. So, we've updated our research to focus on a few core ESG areas that have seen AUM explode over the past two years. These stylistic ETFs can not only outperform, but also help strengthen the client/advisor bond, via directing some investments to issues important to your client.	3/26/19	ESGV: 66.55%	SPY: 60.86%
Hedged Equity ETFs DMRL (DeltaShares S&P 500 Managed Risk ETF) CCOR (Cambria Core Equity ETF) JHEQX (JP Morgan Hedged Equity Fund Class)	Stocks have started 2019 with a bang, rising sharply in Q1. But, major macro risks remain present and there is undeniable proof the economy is late cycle. Hedged equity ETFs can help advisors and investors maintain long exposure while also providing protection from another 2018 style correction.	4/9/19	DMRL: 32.47% CCOR: 19.55% JHEQX: 34.26%	SPY: 56.42%

<u>Fund/Stock</u>	<u>Strategy</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Total Return</u>	Benchmark Perfor- mance Since Issue Date
ARK Invest Family of ETFs ARKW (ARK Next Generation Internet ETF) ARKG (ARK Genomic Revolution ETF) XITK (SPDR Fact Set Innovative Tech ETF)	We are re-introducing the ARK Family of ETFs. Alpha recommendation ARKK is up 26% YTD and it's outperformed the S&P 500 since our recommendation. ARK ETFs offer "one-stop shopping" exposure to the disruptive technologies of tomorrow—technologies that can not only produce outsized long-term returns, but that also are compelling stories for clients and prospects.	4/23/19	ARKW: 68.02% ARKG: 41.98% XITK: 41.93%	QQQ: 82.37%
The Alpha Opportunity in Healthcare IHI (iShares Medical Device ETF) XBI/SBIO/ARKG (The Quality Bio-tech ETFs) IHF (iShares U.S. Healthcare Providers ETF)	The healthcare sector has badly lagged the S&P 500 thanks to political concerns (Medicare for all). But, future political risks aside, fundamentals for the healthcare industry are compelling. We covered this broadly in the Sevens Report two weeks ago, but in today's Alpha issue we wanted to do a "deep dive" into the space and provide a broader healthcare sector primer, as opportunities to invest in healthcare at the relative value to the market don't come along very often.	5/7/19	IHI: 56.10% XBI: 4.06% IHF: 59.98%	XLV: 49.61%
Minimum Volatility ETFS USMV (iShares Total Return MSCI USA Minimum Volatility ETF) SPLV (S&P 500 Low Volatility Index ETF) EEMV (iShares MSCI Minimum Volatility Emerging Markets ETF) EFAV (iShares Edge MSCI Minimum Volatility EAFE ETF)	Minimum volatility ETFs have proven effective alternatives for core market holdings over both the short and long term, and will help ensure investors don't give back YTD gains in the event of a correction while still maintaining upside exposure.	5/21/19	USMV: 29.99% SPLV: 25.33% EEMV: 17.54% EFAV: 9.38%	SPY: 57.31%
Ageing of America Primer WELL (Welltower Inc) OHI (Omega Healthcare Investors) SCI (Service Corp International)	There is a coming massive demographic shift in the U.S. as within the next 20 years one in every five Americans will reach retirement age, and that aging of Americans will have profound impacts on different market sectors.	6/4/19	WELL: 16.03% OHI: 0.27% SCI: 46.62%	SPY: 59.29%

<u>Fund/Stock</u>	<u>Strategy</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Total Return</u>	Benchmark Perfor- mance Since Issue Date
Rate Cut Playbook We wanted to provide both an asset class and stock market sector "playbook" so advisors will know what outperformed, and what underperformed during the last two rate cut cycles. The important part of our research is that we let the numbers, not our assumptions, do the talking and the results were surprising!	 Inside the issue you'll find: Return tables that show the performance of the major S&P 500 sectors over the last two rate cut cycles. (Returns 12 months following the first cut, and Returns from the first cut to the last cut). Return tables for the major bond market segments over the last two rate cut cycles. We identify the sectors and bond segments that lagged in both cutting cycles (again, the results were surprising) and the sectors that outright outperformed and that relatively outperformed. Finally, we also identified the sectors and segments that were the biggest "losers" during the last two rate cut cycles. 	6/18/19		
How to Responsibly Allocate to Gold GLD (SPDR Gold Trust) SGOL (Aberdeen Standard Physical Gold ETF) GDX (VanEck Vectors Gold Miners ETF) KL (Kirkland Lake) FNV (Franco Nevada Corp)	Gold was one of the top performers in our "Rate Cut Playbook" and it recently just hit a six year high. So, in this issue, we wanted to focus on how advisors can responsibly allocate to gold, because again If this trend continues, gold will continue to outperform the S&P 500, and undoubtedly you will field questions from clients about owning gold. Beyond servicing clients, from an alpha standpoint, gold trends incredibly well, and if we are at the start of a multi-year uptrend, the returns can be substantial (gold returned more than 800% from 2001-2011 and outperformed stocks during the last two rate cutting cycles).	7/2/19	GLD: 28.93% SGOL: 29.72% GDX: 21.53% KL: -8.65% FN: 50.03%	
Momentum Factor Investing MTUM (IShares Edge MSCI USA Momen- tum Factor ETF) SPMO (Invesco S&P 500 Momentum ETF) FDMO (Fidelity Mo- mentum Factor ETF)	Factor investing has proven to be an effective strategy for medium and long term investors. One of the strategic factors that consistently rises to the upper half of the performance matrix is "momentum" as a driver of outsized returns. Momentum factor ETFs have provided positive excess returns in seven of the last 11 years.	7/16/19	MTUM 28.39% SPMO: 37.43% FDMO: 30.49%	SPY: 43.67%

Fund/Stock	<u>Strategy</u>	<u>Date</u>	Total Return	Benchmark Perfor- mance Since Issue Date
Profit from the Shar- ing Economy MILN (The Global X Funds/Millennials Thematic ETF) GIGE (The SoFi Gig Economy ETF)	Inspiration for the issue came from this comment, which I believe is a profound statement on the next evolution of the economy. "Uber, the world's largest taxi company, owns no vehicles. Facebook, the world's most popular media owner, creates no content. Alibaba, the most valuable retailer, has no inventory. And Airbnb, the world's largest accommodation provider, owns no real estate. Something interesting is happening." Tim Goodwin The Batter Is For The Consumer Interface. Each of those companies are part of the new "sharing economy." In addition to profiling two ETFs, we also created our own "Watch List" of sharing economy companies that describes 1) What they do and 2) How they make money, so you have a clear view of the entire "Sharing Economy" universe.	7/30/19	MILN: 39.25% GIGE: 16.51%	SPY: 43.53%
The Case for REITS VNQ (Vanguard Real Estate ETF) VNQI (Vanguard Global ex-U.S. Real Estate ETF) REZ (iShares Residential Real Estate ETF) REM (Ishares Mortgage Real Estate ETF)	Over the past month, only one sector SPDR had a positive return, and it was Real Estate (XLRE) as it rose 1.75%. And, that underscores what has been a great year for the sector, as XLRE has gained more than 22% YTD and only trails tech (XLK) on a YTD performance basis. This strong performance shouldn't come as a surprise. The current environment is very positive for REITs, given we're likely looking at 1) More Fed rate cuts and 2) A potentially slowing economy. More directly, with greater than 3% yields, positive correlation to rising inflation, and a very solid historical track record through growth slowdowns (with one glaring exception), REITs remain an attractive destination for capital in the current environment.	8/16/19	VNQ: 14.08% VNQI: -9.15% REZ: 14.72% REM: -22.43%	SPY: 49.63%
Seizing Opportunity in the Defense Industry ITA (IShares U.S. Aerospace & Defense ETF) PPA (Invesco Aerospace & Defense ETF) UFO (The Procure Space ETF)	The defense sector has been one of the best performing market sectors for over a decade. Consider Over the past 10 years the defense stock sector has posted an 18.57% annualized return and a 446% cumulative return That compares to a 12.96% annualized return for the S&P 500 and a cumulative return of 238%. That's significant outperformance that should impress any client. But, right now, we think there's even more opportunity in this sector due to the presence of a potentially major growth catalyst—the space industry.	8/27/19	ITA: -7.32% PPA: 6.16% UFO: -1.42%	SPY: 50.34%

Fund/Stock	Strategy	<u>Date</u>	Total Return	Benchmark Perfor- mance Since Issue Date
Japanization Play- book PTCIX (PIMCO Long Term Credit Bond Fund) VYM (Vanguard High Dividend Yield ETF) PDI (PIMCO Dynamic Income Fund)	Given the slowing of the global economy, we are now at a fork in the road, where global economic stimulus will either work, like it did in 2016 and spur a big rally, or it will not, like what happened in Japan in the 1990s. We spent an entire <i>Alpha</i> issue detailing a what will outperform and underperform in that scenario, so that if it happens, we know what to do.	9/10/19	PTCIX: 11.02% VYM: 31.84% PDI: -3.72%	SPY: 50.40%
Reflation Playbook Reflation Strategy 1: A better tech ETF. Reflation Strategy 2: Momentum Factor. Reflation Strategy 3: The Consumer. Reflation Strategy 4: Emerging Markets. Reflation Strategy 5: Floating Rate Funds.	This issue is the final piece of our four-part series on the longer-term outcome for this market: Japanization or Reflation? Reflation issue goes deeper into the sectors and assets that will outperform if we get another successfully engineered economic reflation – driven in part by a weaker dollar – like we did in 2016-2018.	9/24/19	Various ETFs listed in the Issue	
Investing in Green Energy TAN (Invesco Solar ETF) FAN (First Trust Global Wind Energy ETF) ICLN (IShares Global Clean Energy ETF) PBW (Invesco Wilderhill Clean Energy ETF)	Advisors today need to know funds and ETFs that can help clients invest for a greener future, as doing so will align client investments with their interests and build more trust between the advisor and client. In this Alpha issue, we cover some of the best ETFs for direct alternative energy exposure, and the results may surprise you as some of the best alternative energy ETFs share a lot of characteristics with tech ETFs and multinational industrial ETFs.	10/8/19	TAN: 112.6% FAN: 46.60% ICLN: 68.09% PBW: 92.04%	SPY: 54.20%
Investing in the Water Industry PHO (Invesco Water Resources ETF) FIW (First Trust Water ETF) TBLU (Tortoise Global Water ESG Fund)	We are continuing the theme from the last issue of 1) Making money (generating alpha) and 2) Doing good (appealing to clients focused on the environment), and we're doing it by taking a deep dive into the water industry. The water industry remains a quasi-niche, but it shouldn't, as water industry investment can: Generate alpha as major water industry ETFs have outperformed the S&P 500 over the past several years and It can strengthen client relationships as water investment is closely tied to ESG investing, and water demand is a concept that clients can easily relate to.	10/22/19	PHO: 44.23% FIW: 44.51%	SPY: 50.00%

<u>Fund/Stock</u>	<u>Strategy</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Total Return</u>	Benchmark Perfor- mance Since Issue Date
Outperforming in A Declining Dollar Environment VGT (Vanguard Information Technology ETF) IHI (IShares U.S. Medical Devices ETF) EMLC (VanEck Vectors J.P. Morgan EM Local Currency Bond ETF) PDBC (Invesco Optimum Yield Diversified Commodity Strategy No K-1 ETF)	If there's going to be a global reflation, then it will likely come with a weaker U.S. Dollar. From early 2017 through early 2018 the dollar declined from over 100 to below 90 (so more than 10%) and that had a significant impact on stocks: The 2017 decline in the dollar resulted in a 31% gain for the S&P 500 from December 2016 through January 2018. But, the dollar decline also created opportunities for specific sectors and assets classes to handily outperform the S&P 500, and we want to identify those opportunities in three strategies: Targeted sector exposure via a focus on U.S. Exporters International ETF Exposure Commodities Allocations.	11/5/19	Various ETFs Listed in the Issue	
Closed End Funds ETG (EV Tax Adv. Global Dividend Inc) HTD (JH Tax-Advantaged Dividend Inc) PDI (PIMCO Dynamic Income) NZF (Nuveen Municipal Credit Income) FFC (Flaherty & Crumrine Preferred & Income Sec.) RQI (Cohen & Steers Quality Income)	Closed End Funds (CEFs) are under-utilized compared to ETFs (we explain why in the issue) but CEFs have advantages over ETFs both on a yield and tactical basis – and we think that CEFs can be an effective tool, when integrated into a broader portfolio strategy, that can boost yield and create opportunities to generate alpha.	12/3/19	ETG: 31.86% HTD: 0.94% PDI: -8.92% NZF: 5.33% FFC: 9.13% RQI: 18.34%	SPY: 43.03%
Cash Management FPNIX (FPA New Income Fund) MINT (PIMCO Enhanced Maturity Active ETF) BBBIX (BBH Limited Duration I)	In this issue, we identify three funds that provide market-beating returns on cash with very low duration and good liquidity, and we rank them depending on preference: More aggressive (and higher yield), Conservative, and "In Between."	12/17/19	BBBIX: 4.27%	BIL: 0.36%

Fund/Stock	<u>Strategy</u>	<u>Date</u>	Total Return	Benchmark Perfor- mance Since Issue <u>Date</u>
Contrarian Ideas 2020 MJ (ETFMG Alternative Harvest ETF) XOP (SPDR S&P Oil & Gas Exploration and Production ETF) LQDH (iShares Interest Rate Hedged Corporate Bond ETF)	Contrarian Idea: Cannabis Sector. Cannabis stocks got crushed in 2019, but underlying demand for medical cannabis, along with public acceptance of the idea, continued to grow. Contrarian Idea: Energy. The energy sector lagged in 2019, but if there is a rebound in growth, combined with a protracted dollar decline, energy could handily outperform in 2020. Contrarian Idea: Rising Rates. Bonds surged in 2019 and the broad consensus is for perma-low rates. But the Fed is now targeting higher inflation, and if growth rebounds, rates could easily move higher.	12/31/19	MJ: -40.68% XOP: 8.03% LQDH: 2.18%	SPY: 37.16%
International Exposure IQLT - iShares Edge MSCI International Quality Factor ETF. VIGI - Vanguard International Dividend Appreciation ETF GSIE - Goldman Sachs ActiveBeta International Equity ETF	We all know that proper diversification is essential to both risk management and long-term outperformance, and while the outlook for the U.S. markets remains strong, proper diversification must be maintained for investors with long-term time horizons. So, we've done a deep dive into the very overpopulated world of international ETFs and selected the few ETFs that we believe offer a superior combination of 1) Exposure to quality international companies, 2) Focus on developed economies (so this isn't about emerging markets) and 3) Are trading at an attractive valuation.	1/14/2020	IQLT: 17.51% VIGI: 17.19% GSIE: 13.63%	ACWX: 12.08%
Opportunities in Small Caps IJR: iShares Core S&P Small-Cap ETF VBK: Vanguard Small-Cap Growth ETF XSLV: Invesco S&P SmallCap Low Volatility ETF	The stock market has become extremely "top-heavy" with a few mega-cap tech stocks like AAPL, AMZN, MSFT, GOOGL largely driving market performance and being the difference maker in annual performance. While that's been a good thing for the last several years for many investors, the reality is that now they are also not as diversified as they should be on a market-cap basis. Proper diversification across multiple criteria (including market cap) is essential to long term outperformance and portfolio optimization, so it's always something we need to be focused on. But, to get a bit more tactical, after years of underperformance, there's a credible macro set up where small-caps can outperform in 2020.	1/28/2020	IJR: 31.01% VBK: 19.31% XSLV: -0.33%	IWM: 23.04%
Finding Actionable Opportunities in the Biotech Sector IBB (iShares Biotech- nology ETF) SBIO (ALPS Medical Breakthroughs ETF) XBI (SPDR S&P Biotech ETF)	What outperforms during a global health emergency like the Wuhan virus? Historically, the biotech sector does, which rose 40% compared to 25% for the SPY following SARS in the early 2000s. But, investing in biotech is tough for an advisor. So, our goal for this Alpha issue was clear: Find the best biotech ETFs that today's advisors can actually allocate to.	2/11/2020	IBB: 1.83% SBIO: -23.53% XBI: -9.84%	SPY: 27.16%

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<u>Fund/Stock</u>	<u>Strategy</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Total Return</u>	Benchmark Perfor- mance Since Issue <u>Date</u>
Hedged Equity ETFs DMRL: Del- taShares S&P 500 Managed Risk ETF. CCOR: Cambria Core Equity ETF. JHEQX: JPMorgan Hedged Equity Fund Class I.	We want to highlight hedged ETF strategies that can help advisors protect gains if we are at the start of a 2018 style correction, or worse, our first bear market in over a decade, while at the same time maintaining long exposure if/when the correction ends. Hedged ETFs outperformed the S&P 500 in 2018, and if this current correction turns into a lengthy pullback, hedged ETFs will help preserve client gains.	3/10/2020	DMRL: 24.93% CCOR: 10.18% JHEQX: 28.14%	SPY: 49.00%
Sector Opportunities from the Coronavirus Decline Tech Sector (Three ETFs) Financials (Three ETFs) Energy (Three ETFs)	This will be the first part of a two-part series that addresses potential longer-term opportunities from this crisis. For today's issue, we selected three sectors: Tech, Financials and Energy, and we provided three ETF options in each sector depending on whether you are looking for broad-based exposure (and diversification) or want a more targeted strategy (higher risk/higher return).	3/24/2020	Multiple ETFs selected for each sector depending on risk toler- ance.	
Longer Term Industry Opportunities from the Coronavirus Health & Wellness (Three ETFs) Mobility As A Service (IBUY: Amplify Online Retail ETF) Cord Cutting (JHCS: John Hancock Multifactor Media and Communications ETF). Stay At Home (XITK: SPDR FactSet Innovative Technology ETF)	In this issue, we build on the theme of a return to optimism by identifying specific stocks, ETFs, and industries likely to experience long-term tailwinds from this historic coronavirus pandemic black swan. This trend will shift the spending and habits of millions of Americans over the course of the next decade.	4/7/2020	PTH: 45.94% IBUY: 66.39% JHCS: 43.51% XITK: 57.31%	SPY: 62.18%
Three Industries That Will Benefit from Changes in Corporate Behavior Cloud Computing (SKYY: First Trust Cloud Computing ETF) E-Commerce (SHOP: Shopify & GDDY (GoDaddy) Online Payment Processing (IPAY: ETFMG Prime Mobile Payments ETF)	Each part of our "What To Buy" series have become more granular, and that trend is continuing today with the final installment of the series. Part One focused on broad sectors. Part Two identified larger industries that should benefit over the longer term from changes in consumer behavior from the coronavirus experience. Now, Part Three will go even deeper and rely on our own anecdotal experiences to identify subindices that should benefit over the longer term from changes in business behavior in a post-coronavirus world.	4/21/2020	SKYY: 50.32% SHOP: 48.08% GDDY: 10.01% IPAY: 29.84%	SPY: 56.56%

Fund/Stock	<u>Strategy</u>	<u>Date</u>	Total Return	Benchmark Perfor- mance Since Issue <u>Date</u>
Three Strategies for a "U" Shaped Recovery Preferreds: PGF (Invesco Financial Preferred ETF) Dollar Stores/Fast Food: DG: (Dollar General), DLTR: (Dollar Tree), MCD: McDonalds Consumer Staples: RHS (Invesco S&P 500 Equal Weight Consumer Staples ETF).	Markets are pricing in a pretty high chance of a "V-shaped" economic recovery, but we think it's prudent to have a playbook for a less optimistic, "U-shaped" economic recovery that has the U.S. economy mired in slow growth for some time. So, in this issue, we wanted to identify proven sectors and stocks that are likely to thrive if the economic recovery is more restrained, i.e. U-shaped. The following research achieves that goal by identifying areas that have proven resilient under previous recessions and periods of slow growth, and are likely to continue to thrive in that envi-	5/5/2020	PGF: 1.67% DG: 22.25% DLTR: 71.51% MCD: 40.28% RHS: 26.89%	SPY: 50.90%
Finding the Sweet Spot of Yield, Duration and Quality in Today's Bond Market JPST (J.P. Morgan Ultra-Short Income ETF) FTSD (Franklin Liberty Short Duration U.S. Government ETF) IGSB (iShares ShortTerm Corporate Bond ETF)	Global bond yields have collapsed since the coronavirus crisis began in earnest in mid-February, and that leaves advisors with a difficult situation of where to find adequate yield without taking on too much duration risk. Case in point, the 10-year yield is yielding about 0.70%. A .70% annual coupon for locking up money for 10 years! Absolute yield levels are obviously historically low, but we've still got to do the best we can in this environment, and that means finding the best yield possible while limiting duration risk and credit quality risk.	5/19/2020	JPST: 0.07% FTSD: -1.97% IGSB: -0.75%	SHY: -1.67%
Finding Sustainable Dividends In An Uncertain Environment NOBL (ProShares S&P 500 Dividend Aristocrats ETF), DGRO (iShares Core Dividend Growth ETF). TDIV (First Trust NASDAQ Technology Dividend ETF).	This issue is all about finding sustainable dividends that income investors can count on in all market conditions, because the simple reality is that most bond yields just aren't high enough to generate the required income for clients. That means identifying companies that have sound balance sheets, track records of methodical dividend growth, and business models that are likely to survive even the	6/2/2020	NOBL: 36.23% DGRO: 36.86% TDIV: 42.45%	SPY: 40.18%

Fund/Stock	<u>Strategy</u>	<u>Date</u>	Total Return	Benchmark Perfor- mance Since Issue <u>Date</u>
Three Strategies to Gain Exposure to 5G Strategy 1: The Chipmakers. QCOM (Qualcomm), MRVL (Marvel Technologies). Strategy 2: Radio Frequency Providers. QRVO (Qorvo). Strategy 3: The 5G ETF. FIVG (Defiance Next Gen Connectivity ETF).	The focus of today's issue came from a subscriber request: 5G . 5G is one of the biggest secular growth trends in the market, and by that, I mean trends that will continue in a positive direction regardless of what happens in the economy in the near term. Additionally, 5G is one of the most popular investing topics among regular investors, so we thought now would be a good time to do a "deep dive" in 5G and detail:	6/30/2020	QCOM: 84.96% MRVL: 99.22% QRVO: 19.65% FIVG: 36.98%	SPY: 41.67%
Finding Value in European Equities VGK (Vanguard Europe ETF). FEZ (SPDR Euro STOXX 50 ETF)	Coronavirus has finally <u>caused the Europeans to aggressively stimulate the economies</u> , and as long as that continues, that should provide a needed spark to help European equities outperform. Because of that positive change, we think European ETFs offer more attractive risk/reward than U.S. sectors that are considered "values," specifically financials, energy, and industrials. That's especially true given U.S. value styles have underperformed growth by as much as 66% over the past five years! We think a better choice is to look to Europe to fulfill the	7/14/2020	VGK: 27.77% FEZ: 23.53%	VTV: 42.79%
Actionable Strate- gies to Own COVID 19 Vaccine Produc- ers PPH: The VanEck Pharmaceutical ETF. GERM: The ETFMG Treatments Testing and Advancements ETF.	In today's Alpha issue, we are going to go in-depth on actionable investment strategies to gain exposure to the companies that are leading the COVID-19 vaccine race. Specifically, in today's issue we take the broad research we covered in Thursday's webinar, enhance it, and get much more tactical (looking at investment strategies to get exposure to vaccine players). Specifically, we cover two actionable strategies that we think are appropriate for advisors and their clients: Strategy 1: Owning the Pharma Companies Leading the Vaccine Race. Strategy 2: Diversified Exposure via ETFs.	7/28/2020	PPH: 17.20% GERM: -18.15%	SPY: 35.88%

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<u>Fund/Stock</u>	<u>Strategy</u>	<u>Date</u>	Total Return	Benchmark Perfor- mance Since Issue Date
Election Preview Trump Wins Biden Wins No Clear Winner (Multiple ETFs Listed)	We had long planned to release our Alpha Election Preview issue this week, as we knew that with the first debate a week away, investors focus would turn to- wards politics and we wanted to ensure you had a post-election roadmap, along with specific ETF ideas, for any election-related discussions with clients. But, that interest in the election will now be turbo- charged with the surprise passing of Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsberg. So, with six weeks to go until the election, we wanted to explore the three possible scenarios (Trump wins/ Biden wins/No one wins right away) and provide a tactical roadmap and identify ETFs that should outper- form in each scenario.	9/22/2020	N/A	N/A
Finding Sustainable Growth in the Wellness Sector PTON (Peloton) LULU (Lululemon) BRBR (BellRing Brands) BFIT (Global X Health & Wellness Thematic ETF) MILN (Global X Millenials Thematic ETF)	Today's issue explores one of the sectors that we think will benefit from long-term changes in behavior from the pandemic: The wellness sector. Hopefully (and the data and history back this up) we are now closer to the end of the COVID-19 pandemic than we are the beginning, and once the pandemic ends, we believe life will return mostly to a precoronavirus normal. And we think that return to normal will disappoint very optimistic projections on some of the sectors that have outperformed due to COVID, like telemedicine, videoconferencing, widespread delivery, etc. But one sector we think can continue to see growth long after the world return to normal is the wellness sector, because this sector was experiencing substantial growth before the pandemic hit. And, the pandemic has just turbocharged that growth.	10/6/2020	PTON: -73.59% LULU: -4.34% BRBR: 26.72% BFIT: 16.06% MILN: 14.75%	SPY: 31.38%
SPACS PSTH (Pershing Square Tontine Holdings) CCIV (Churchill Capital IV) SPAQ (Spartain Energy Acquisition Corp) SPAK (Defiance NextGen SPAC ETF)	This issue was partially driven by client demand, as we've started to field an increasing number of questions about SPACs from friends and colleagues (who are all clients of advisors), and given that, we believe that soon you may be asked by your clients about how to invest in a SPACs.	11/3/2020	N/A	N/A

Sevens Report Alpha Fund & Stock Ideas Benchmark Perfor-Strategy Fund/Stock Date **Total Return** mance Since Issue Date We scoured the universe of value ETFs and mutual funds Cyclical Rotation to Valto identify those that we think are "best of breed" and RSP: represent a cost-effective, alpha generating solution for 33.96% any advisors who wants to rotate to value after the elec-RSP (Invesco S&P 500 VTV: SPY: **Equal Weight ETF)** 11/3/2020 tion. And, we were surprised by our findings – namely 32.03% 27.49% that higher fee, actively managed ETFs and mutual funds (Vanguard Value RPV: ETF) lagged the more traditional, passive value ETFs – and that 51.22% RPV (Invesco S&P 500 keeping it simple in the value space yielded the best re-Pure Value ETF) turns over the past several years. What Specific Sectors and ETFs Can Outperform in a Biden Presidency/Divided U.S. Government? That question was the inspiration for today's Alpha issue, Four Post Election Tactibecause while election results have not been certified yet cal Strategies (that will start to happen in states later this week) the Idea #1: Electric Vehicles & Clean Energy (LIT/ likelihood is that we will have a Biden Presidency and di-ICLN/ESGV) vided government in 2021 (with Republicans holding a Eight Differ-Idea #2: Industrials & small majority in the Senate). 11/17/2020 ent ETFs Infrastructure Spending Listed. (VIS/PAVE) Reflecting that fact, I've been asked multiple times over Idea #3: Healthcare & the past week what would outperform in this political Marijuana (VHT/MJ) environment, so I imagine this topic has been coming up Idea #4: Emerging Mar kets & China (XSOE) in client conversations - and I want to make sure that you have the strategies and talking points you need to turn those conversations into opportunities to strengthen relationships. This Alpha issue is focused on a suddenly popular top-Our goal with this issue isn't to sway you one way or the other to invest in Bitcoin. Instead, we want to help you guide responsible conversa-Bitcoin tions about: 1. What it is and 2. Who it's for, and 3. How GBTC: you can potentially own it within a conventional portfo-GBTC (Greyscale Bitcoin 2.95% Trust) lio. BLOK: SPY: BLOK (Amplify Transfor-12/1/2020 0.23% 16.47% mational Data Sharing Put more frankly, many of us "know" about bitcoin – but ETF) ARKW: are we prepared to really discuss the inner workings of ARKW (ARK Next Gener--35.31% ation ETF) the cryptocurrency and thoroughly list and explain the responsible ways clients can gain exposure to it? The point of this Alpha issue is to make sure we are all ready to do just that, so you can turn any bitcoin conversation into an opportunity to strengthen client relationships and grow your business.

<u>Fund/Stock</u>	<u>Strategy</u>	<u>Date</u>	Total Return	Benchmark Perfor- mance Since Issue
Four Strategies That Outperformed in 2020 and Can Do It Again in 2021 Long Term Pandemic Tech Opportunities (IBUY/XITK) New Wave of Online Payments/E-Commerce (IPAY) 5G Revolution (FIVG) EV Batteries (LIT)	2020 has created fantastic growth in certain sectors and industries, and stocks and ETFs linked to them have produced huge YTD returns. But, while looking back on what worked is helpful, especially at yearend, we wanted to identify those sectors that not only have outperformed, but that can continue to outperform in 2021. So, in this Alpha issue, we highlight four Alpha strategies that have massively outperformed, but that we believe have long-term staying power and can continue to outperform in 2021 and beyond.	12/15/2020	IBUY: -36.63% XITK: -26.00% IPAY: -21.79% FIVG: 10.57% LIT: 36.69%	SPY: 15.84%
Two Playbooks for 2021	As our focus now turns from 2020 and towards 2021, I believe we <u>always</u> must be prepared for two outcomes – the expected, and the unexpected. So, in this Alpha issue, we wanted to provide two ETF playbooks: The expected "Return to Normal" trade, and the Contrarian Scenario. Playbook 1. What's Expected: The "Return To Normal" Trade. The perfect storm being high economic confidence, vaccines rolling out to vulnerable groups, low-interest rates, and further government stimulus in the first quarter. That paints the perfect picture for capitalizing on beaten-down areas of the economy that are ripe for further expansion. Playbook 2: The Unexpected: A Contrarian Scenario. A scenario where things just don't work as planned. Perhaps inflation exceeds all norms, Treasury yields shoot up unexpectedly, geopolitical disruption intercedes, or the economic recovery just simply falls short	12/29/2020	Multiple ETFs across both strategies	
Energy Transmission (The Picks and Shovels of the EV Gold Rush) First Trust NASDAQ Clean Edge Smart Grind Infrastructure Index Fund (GRID) NextEra Energy (NEE) EV Charging Basket: Tesla (TSLA), ABB Ltd (ABB), Eaton Corp (ETN), Blink Charging (BLNK)	Energy (and the transmission of energy) are the proverbial "picks and shovels" of this modern-day EV gold rush. Electricity demand is likely going to skyrocket for households that will be transitioning to electric and hybrid vehicles in the next decade. More advanced battery systems constantly needing to be plugged in and recharged are going to tax the current electric utility network capacity while growth in EV sales will also propel a nationwide surge in charging stations, similar to the rollout of gas stations in the early 20th century.	1/12/2021	GRID: 7.86% NEE: 5.61%	SPY: 17.19%

<u>Fund/Stock</u>	<u>Strategy</u>	<u>Date</u>	Total Return	Benchmark Perfor- mance Since Issue Date
How the "Old Economy" Can Help Us Outperform Invescro Dow Jones Industrial Average Dividend ETF (DJD) First Trust Morningstar Dividend Leaders Index Fund (FDL) Invesco S&P 500 Pure Value ETF (RPV)	Looking for value in "Old Economy" stocks is a strategy that prioritizes stocks that are still well off their alltime highs, have proven and sustainable business models, and many of which pay hefty dividends. Additionally, these industries are as familiar and comfortable as a warm blanket to your mature, high net worth client base and these investment ideas are perfect for the tech skeptics that prioritize value characteristics, low leverage, and high dividends.	1/26/2021	DJD: 17.65% FDL: 23.41% RPV: 26.57%	SPY: 15.66%
Market Myth Busting	 Investment Myth 1: Investing and Politics Go Hand in Hand. Investment Myth 2: Modern Monetary Theory Is A Reason to Get Out Now. Investment Myth 3: Getting Out Because the Market is in a Bubble. Investment Myth 4: Rising Rates Are Going to Wreck My Portfolio. Investment Myth 5: The Falling U.S. Dollar Is Eroding My Purchasing Power. 	2/9/2021		
Inflation Playbook Core Inflation Plays (SGOL/PDBC/GNR/RLY) U.S. Sector Opportunities (RTM/RGI) Income Opportunities (BKLN/JAAA/STIP)	Today's issue is focused on inflation because suddenly accelerating inflation could be a game-changer for many investors and advisors, and we want to arm you with the best-in-class tools to combat inflationary effects in your portfolios. Point being, higher inflation is almost certainly coming in the future, and I wanted to take this Alpha issue to provide a clear, decisive "Inflation Playbook" that we can keep and reference for when statistical inflation starts to accelerate.	2/23/2021	PDBC: 1.53% GNR: 1.41% RTM: 2.54% JAAA: 0.03%	SPY: -0.50%
ARK Invest ETFs ARKK (ARK Innovation ETF) ARKG (ARK Genomic Revolution ETF) ARKW (ARK Next Generation Internet) ARKF (ARK Fintech Innovation ETF) ARKQ (ARK Autonomous Technology & Robotics ETF).	I wanted this Alpha issue to provide an updated "deep dive' into the ARK Invest ETF offerings, because even considering their huge returns over the past few years, I still believe now what I believed when we first recommended them: That these ETFs are "one-stop shopping" for investors get targeted exposure to the leading edge of the technology growth curve, and that investors should have exposure to the technologies in which ARK ETFs invest because the long term return potential is extreme.	3/9/2021	ARKK: 2.47% ARKG: 5.01% ARKW: 2.13% ARKF: 2.91% ARKQ: 2.98%	QQQ: 2.44%

Sevens Report Alpha Fund & Stock Ideas Benchmark Perfor-Fund/Stock Date **Total Return** mance Since Issue **Strategy** Date What Should I Buy on If a client comes to you and asks, "What Should I Buy This Tech Decline? on this Tech Decline?" we want to make sure you RYT: Invesco S&P 500 Equal have a set of ETFs that provide exposure to solid, 5.55% Weight Technology ETF SPY: (RYT). proven tech companies that aren't trading at sky-SMH: 3/23/2021 8.79% 2.84% VanEck Vectors Semihigh valuations because for the last several decades conductor ETF (SMH). TDIV: buying core, large cap tech stocks on any sustained Trust NASDAQ 4.16% underperformance has been a very profitable long-**Technology** Dividend Index Fund (TDIV). term strategy. Throughout most of the first quarter, markets em-Sector Winners and Losbraced Democrat control of the government because <u>ers from the Democratio</u> it meant massive stimulus, and that expectation has **Policy Agenda** MILN: been met. However, now the focus is turning to less Global X Millennials The-1.08% matic ETF (MILN) growth-friendly policies, including potentially higher VTEB: Vanguard Tax-Exempt taxes and increased regulation. While these policies **Bond ETF (VTEB)** SPY: 0.77% will impact the markets broadly, they'll also impact 4/6/2021 PAVE: 2.08% Global X U.S. Infrastrucspecific sectors even more than the broad markets. ture Development ETF 0.67% (PAVE) So, we want to arm you with the tools for identifying QCLN: **NASDAQ** First Trust and deploying to areas of the market that should ex-Clean Edge Green Energy -6.88% Index Fund (QCLN) perience positive effects during this political environment, and know which sectors stand to get hurt given potential policies from Washington. Much of the "economic reopening trade" has been focused on large travel and leisure companies, and many of those names have seen huge gains over the past year. But they are now saddled with massive debts and ballooning capital structures that could be Four Small Cap ETFs for the Economic Recovery headwinds on investor returns going forward. PSCD: Invesco S&P Small Cap Many smaller stocks, however, were able to utilize 6.43% **Consumer Discretionary** ETF (PSCD) government programs (PPP and others) to recapital-FXG: IWM: First Trust Consumer ize healthily over the past year and those that have -0.23% 4/20/2021 Staples AlphaDex Fund 3.44% RWJ: survived to this point are now in an extremely favor-(FXG) 6.18% able position to capture future opportunities as the Invesco S&P SmallCap 600 Revenue ETF (RWJ) ISCV: economy reopens. iShares Morningstar 5.29% Small-Cap So, we want to make sure you know which ETFs can Value (ISCV) give you exposure to quality small-cap companies that are 1) Financially sound, 2) Exited the pandemic with

their business intact, 3) Stand to benefit from an acceleration in the economy, and 4) Could see earnings

surge as the economic reopening continues.

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<u>Sev</u>	ens Report Alpha Fund &	Stock	Ideas	
Fund/Stock	<u>Strategy</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Total Return</u>	Benchmark Perfor- mance Since Issue Date
The Crypto Craze Updated Grayscale Bitcoin Trust (GBTC) Grayscale Ethereum Trust (ETHE) Coinbase Global (COIN) Voyager Digital (VYGVF)	If you are like me, you have seen interest in the entire crypto space increase over the past several months. So, we wanted to take this Alpha issue to provide an updated primer on the crypto industry and ensure you have got the advisor-focused research you need to turn any cryptorelated client or prospect conversations into opportunities to grow your business.	5/18/2021	GBTC: -27.86% ETHE: -41.83% COIN: -23.94% VYGVF: -60.43%	SPY: 4.72%
Fixed Income Playbook in Today's Environment Strategy 1: Inflation Protection. Quadratic Interest Rate Volatility and Inflation Hedge ETF. (IVOL). Strategy 2: Variable Rate Preferreds (VRP). Strategy 3: Floating Rate Notes (Two ETFs). Strategy 4: Shorten Duration (Four ETFs).	We want to tackle this problem and provide ETF solutions that can help clients achieve the dual goals of 1) Safety and	6/2/2021	IVOL: -7.73% VRP: -2.52%	SPY: 1.72%
Equity Playbook in Today's Environment Strategy 1: "One-Stop Shop" Inflation Hedge. Horizon Kinetics Inflation Beneficiaries ETF (INFL). Strategy 2: Focus on Dividend Growth. Proshares S&P 500 Dividend Aristocrats ETF (NOBL). iShares Core Dividend Growth ETF (DGRO). Strategy 3: Commodities and Natural Resources. Global X MLP ETF (MLPA). SPDR SSGA Multi-Asset Real Return ETF (RLY).	Today's Alpha issue is part two of our two-part series on how elderly clients can achieve safety and modest real returns in an environment where yields and inflation are rising and most real bond returns over the coming years will be negative. Today's issue provides ETF solutions for the equity portion of elderly clients' portfolios – ideas that are designed to provide income and ensure positive correlation to rising inflation	6/15/2021	INFL: -3.84% NOBL: -0.30% DGRO: 2.53% MLPA: -11.78% RLY: -8.35%	SPY: 0.80%
Cybersecurity ETFMG Prime Cyber Security ETF and the CIBR: First Trust NASDAQ Cybersecurity ETF (HACK) Global X Cybersecurity ETF (BUG)	This issue is focused on Cybersecurity. First, we want to give you an updated primer on the cybersecurity sector, and make sure you know the best ETFs to gain exposure to the likely explosive growth cyber security companies will experience over the coming quarters. Second, we wanted to identify strategies that you, the advisor, can use to minimize the chances your business is	6/29/2021	HACK: -13.05% CIBR: -3.61% BUG: -6.98%	SPY: -0.03%

know what to do, and what not to do.

First Trust Cloud Computing ETF (SKYY)

sor, can use to minimize the chances your business is

attacked and provide solutions if an attack does occur, so you

SKYY:

-18.17%

<u>Fund/Stock</u>	Strategy	<u>Date</u>	Total Return	Benchmark Perfor- mance Since Issue Date
Capitalizing on mRNA and Other Medical Tech ARK Genomic Revolution ETF (ARKG) Global X Telemedicine & Digital Health ETF (EDOC) ROBO Global Healthcare Technology & Innovation ETF (HTEC) Genomic Revolution Global X Genomics & Biotech ETF (GNOM)	Because of the success of mRNA in producing an effective COVID-19 vaccine at a record pace, along with the demonstrated effectiveness of anti-viral treatments like Remdesivir, we're likely to see a major acceleration in funding, research, and adoption of other cutting edge medical technologies and that means potentially substantial returns for companies with the right exposure.	7/13/2021	ARKG: -5.33% EDOC: -5.08% HTEC: -2.29% GNOM: -6.17%	SPY: 0.82%
iShares MSCI ACWI ETF (ACWI). iShares MSCI Global Min Vol Factor ETF (ACWV).	So how do you bridge the gap between an seven- figure trust and that clients nephew's tiny Roth IRA? Both are important to the overall relationship. You start by syncing up some of the foundational core holdings that make up the bulk of your asset alloca- tion. Specifically, we identify foundational "own every- thing" ETFs you can use across account sizes to simpli- fy smaller account administration and reduce variety among core ETF holdings, thereby making you more efficient:	7/27/2021	VT: 2.14% ACWI: 1.32% ACWV: 0.52% CRBN: 1.18%	SPY: 0.72%
Stagflation Playbook First Trust Dow Jones Internet Index Fund (FDN). Invesco S&P 500 Equal Weight Consumer Sta- ples ETF (RHS). VanECk Vectors Invest- ment Grade Floating Rate ETF (FLTR). Aberdeen Standard Bloomberg All Commodi- ties Strategy K-1 Free ETF (BCI).	This Alpha issue is focused on something we sincerely hope never happens: Stagflation. That's because a stagflationary environment is a very difficult one to successfully invest in as, broadly speaking, it's negative for most stocks, most bonds, and idle cash (purchasing power is eroded through inflation). Positively, stagflation is not the most likely macroeconomic scenario going forward (a stock positive reflation scenario is the most likely future macro setup). But, stagflation risks are still at multi-decade highs, so the risks can't be totally ignored, either.	8/24/2021	FDN: -22.95% RHS: 5.50% FLTR: -0.13% BCI: 10.99%	SPY: -2.96%
Learning to Live with COVID Vaccine Markers (Multiple Stocks & ETFs) Global X Telemedicine & Digital Health ETF (EDOC). Amplify Online Retail ETF (IBUY). VanEck Vectors Morning Star Durable Dividend ETF (DURA).	In this Alpha issue, we examine the strategies and sectors that will benefit from society learning to "live" with COVID over the medium and longer-term, and the inspiration for this issue came from real life. We believe that reality will cause more permanent adoption of some "temporary" pandemic era behaviors, and we believe that should lead to some attractive investment opportunities.	9/8/2021	MRNA: -62.15% BBH: -25.67% EDOC: -23.54% IBUY: -37.39% DURA: 0.83%	SPY: -2.21%

<u>Fund/Stock</u>	<u>Strategy</u>	<u>Date</u>	Total Return	Benchmark Perfor- mance Since Issue <u>Date</u>
Hydrogen—The Next Stage of the Green Ener- gy Revolution Plug Power (PLUG) Cummings (CMI) Defiance Next Gen Hy- drogen ETF (HDRO)	Hydrogen has long been touted as a source of cleaner fuel for transportation and commercial uses. But it has always seemed like the decades-long play that just needs a little more technology or a breakthrough process to truly realize its untapped potential. But, over the past several months I've been digging into this space, and it started to make more sense from an investment perspective. I quickly realized just how much opportunity is at stake and why this moment in time is pivotal to the hydrogen development cycle.	9/21/2021	PLUG: -24.31% CMI: 0.84% HDRO: -27.38%	SPY: -0.54%
Buying Opportunities in "New Tech" Idea 1: Winning Streaming Wars (ROKU/SPOT) Idea 2: Next Evolution in Genetics (NVTA/CRSP) Idea 3: Future of Money (Z/COIN) Idea 4: Work from Anywhere (ZM)	of these stocks down more than 55% from the highs, they are now trading at far more attractive valuations than they have in years (and this is even more true following the weakness in the tech sector over the past week!)	10/05/2021	ROKU: -49.81% SPOT: -16.54% NVTA: -61.42% CRSP: -42.40% Z: -40.79% COIN: -22.04% ZM: -41.76%	SPY: -0.25%
Tapping the Wisdom of Financial Celebrity DoubleLine Total Return Fund (DBLTX) DoubleLine Shiller Enhanced CAPE (DSEEX) Guggenheim Total Return Bond Fund Institutional Class (GIBIX). Guggenheim Strategic Opportunities Fund (GOF) WisdomTree U.S. Quality Dividend Growth Fund (DGRW), WisdomTree Emerging Markets es State-Owned Enterprises Fund (XSOE). O'Shares U.S. Quality Dividend ETF (OUSA) O'Shares Global Internet Giants ETF (OGIG)	The dual goal of Sevens Report Alpha is to 1) Furnish you with interesting investment ideas and strategies you can share with clients and prospects and 2) Identify funds and ETFs that can outperform, so with that dual goal in mind we analyzed the fund offerings of some of the most well-known "Market Mavens" that appear in the financial media so that you can turn any mention of these celebrities into an opportunity to impress clients with your knowledge, and possibly find an actionable investment idea. After a thorough search, we found four of these "Mavens" that had funds or ETFs that: 1, Could be attractive to clients and 2. Consistently beat the market. The four "Mavens" we profiled were: Jeffrey Gundlach (Doubleline Capital), Scott Minerd (Guggenheim Investments), Jeremy Siegel (WisdomTree), and Kevin O'Leary (O'Shares). In today's issue, profile two funds from each "Maven."	10/19/2021	DBLTX: -0.86% DSEEX: -3.26% GIBIX: -1.01% GOF: -10.43% DGRW: 0.62% XSOE: -9.36% OUSA: -0.54% OGIG: -30.83%	SPY: -4.24%

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Capitalizing on A New Era of Energy Investment SPDR S&P Oil & Gas Exploration and Production ETF (XOP) Invesco S&P Small Cap Energy ETF (PSCE) First Trust Natural Gas ETF (FCG) Global X MLP ETF (MLPA)	Today's Alpha issue is essentially a "follow up" to our recent Alpha webinar, where we focused on the energy industry and explained, in part because of environmental concerns, that energy prices could be sustainably higher for the foreseeable future. So, in this issue, we profile several energy ETFs that we believe have the most targeted exposure and stand to outperform in this new era of energy, one where a lack of increased production should keep prices high, and where Natural Gas sees sustained increases in demand due to the desire to burn the most "clean" fossil fuel while the world moves further towards renewables.	11/2/2021	XOP: -0.25% PSCE: 0.24% MLPA: -1.41%	SPY: 1.20%
Metaverse Primer Meta Platforms Inc (FB) Roblox Corp (RBLX) NVIDIA Corp (NVDA) Amazon (AMZN) Microsoft (MSFT) Roundhill Ball Metaverse ETF (META)	Many analysts believe the "Metaverse" is the next evolution of the internet, and if that's true the long-term return potential is significant. So, we want to make sure you have the information you need to 1) Discuss the metaverse with any clients or prospects and 2) Identify the stocks and ETFs that stand to benefit from the continued growth of the Metaverse	11/16/2021	FB: -12.23% RBLX: -42.64% NVDA: -26.42% AMZN: -20.31% MSFT: -14.38% META: -25.73%	SPY: -7.95%
REITS As An Inflation Hedge Vanguard REIT ETF (VNQ) Pacer Benchmark Data and Infrastructure Real Estate SCTR ETF (SRVR) Pacer Benchmark Industrial Real Estate SCTR ETF (INDS) iShares Residential and Multisector Real Estate ETF (REZ)	According to a study we cited in today's issue, from 1972-2020, during periods considered moderate to high inflation, REITs actually outperformed the S&P 500! And, we're seeing that proved out so far this year, as VNQ, the largest and most diverse REIT ETF, is outperforming the S&P 500 (VNQ is up 26.6% YTD, while the S&P 500 is up 23% YTD). More specialized REITs have performed even better so far in 2021, and that's why, in addition to VNQ, in today's issue we focused on what we consider "REITs for the 21st Century." Here's what I mean: Because of uncertainty regarding future mall traffic and office demand (due to the ongoing pandemic) we are focused today's Alpha issue on REITs that have exposure to infrastructure and technology including data centers, communication hubs, industrial warehouse distribution centers, and medical-related industries:	11/30/2021	VNQ: 4.74% SRVR: 2.72% INDS: 5.08% REZ: 5.12%	SPY: 2.42%

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Best Performing COVID Strategies Strategy One: Mega-Cap Tech. XLK/VGT/FDN. Strategy Two: Online Spending. SHOP/IBUY. Strategy Three: Block-chain. BLOK (Amplify Transformational Data Sharing ETF). Strategy Four: Smart-Beta Industrials. PAVE (Global X U.S. Infrastructure Development ETF).	Today's issue focuses on strategies that have outperformed since the pandemic started in March of 2020 and should continue to outperform as the market realizes it's got to "live" with COVID. More specifically, the Omicron variant has again reminded people and markets that COVID is not going away and that we will have flare-ups from variants for the foreseeable future.	12/14/2021	XLK: -10.24% VGT: -10.93% FDN: -15.26% SHOP: -29.81% IBUY: -17.38% BLOK: -23.34% PAVE: -6.77%	SPY: -6.51%
Annual Contrarian Issue Contrarian Investment Idea 1: The China Growth Story Re- Emerges. KraneShares CSI China Internet ETF (KWEB) and Wis- domTree China ex-State- Owned Enterprises Fund (CXSE). Contrarian Investment Idea 2: Gold & Silver Miners Dig Up Profits. VanEck Vectors Gold Miners ETF (GDX) and Global X Silver Miners ETF (SIL). Contrarian Investment Idea 3: Investors Flock To Low Volatility Sectors. Utilities Select Sector SPDR (XLU) and Pow- erShares S&P 500 Low Volatility ETF (SPLV).	Today's Alpha is our annual Contrarian Issue, where we identified some of the worst-performing sectors and factors for 2021 and analyzed them to identify three sectors that we think could be poised for a big turnaround in 2022. We have produced this annual Contrarian Issue for the last several years to serve two primary functions. First, I'm a contrarian investor at heart, and I always enjoy scouring what "didn't" work during an investment year to determine whether these relatively cheap sectors or factors present an attractive opportunity, as contrarian investing can lead to outperformance. Second, we like to provide these contrarian ideas so that if a client asks you "What's cheap right now?" or "Are there any opportunities from last year?" you have interesting, well-founded ideas that can impress clients and prospects.	12/28/2021	KWEB: -7.02% CXSE: -2.53% GDX: 0.03% SIL: -6.66% XLU: -4.78% SPLV: -6.21%	SPY: -10.21%
Practical Crypto Strategies for Clients Greyscale Bitcoin Trust (GBTC) Amplify Transformational Data Sharing ETF (BLOK) ProShares Bitcoin Strategy ETF (BITO)	The push of cryptos into the cultural mainstream in 2022, along with substantial investment gains over the past several years, has resulted in a surge in interest in crypto exposure from investors. And, while there remains a lot of risks associated with crypto trading, the bottom line is that an advisor can only dissuade a client from cryptos for so long before it hurts the relationship. Given that, our goal in today's Alpha issue is to highlight some of the best and most responsible strategies to provide clients with crypto exposure without taking an overabundance of risk.	1/11/2022	GBTC: -16.87% BLOK: -15.70% BITO: -13.07%	SPY: -6.37%