

# Payden & Rygel

## QUARTERLY PORTFOLIO REVIEW

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### ' fX' Quarter 201+ Short Term Bond Fund



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October 2017

As we enter the fourth quarter, we look back at our remarks at the start of the year. What was our outlook then? In January our assessment of the U.S. and the global economy was positive, and we looked for a modest acceleration of growth. Our projection against this forecast was for a slight increase in the federal funds rate.

Here we are at the beginning of the fourth quarter, and the picture is not much different. Some things have been clarified. For example, the recent remarks of Federal Reserve Chair Janet Yellen indicated that, along with the two interest rate increases in the first and second quarter, there might be a third rate hike before Christmas. Meanwhile, growth in the euro area, Japan, and Canada has rebounded putting the global economy on a course to outperform.

How does this outlook impact the management of your funds? We have positioned most accounts to withstand a modest rise in government bond yields. On the other hand, we think that as long as economic growth persists, worldwide demand for credit will remain a powerful force, and this is reflected in an overweight position to corporate credit versus government bonds in our portfolios where these types of securities are permitted.

In the equity market, one thing on people's minds is the strength of stock prices. Are they too high? In our opinion, corporate balance sheets appear healthy, and the continued demand for goods and services globally is better than we have seen in the last four or five years. Yes, one could argue that stocks are expensive on a historical basis, but our research analysts focus on bottom-up analysis rather than wholesale cutbacks in the equity portion of portfolios. Again, the time to get much more cautious is when the end of the cycle is near and growth slows. We are not there yet.

We would like to close by providing updates on the company. A few weeks ago the firm celebrated its 34th birthday. For more than three decades we have maintained the same independent ownership and governance structure, which is rather unusual in the investment management industry. Our sole source of revenue continues to be from our management of portfolios, which eliminates many conflicts of interest.

We very much appreciate your continued confidence in us. Our very best wishes for the coming months to you and your family.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joan A. Payden". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and "A".

Joan A. Payden

President & CEO

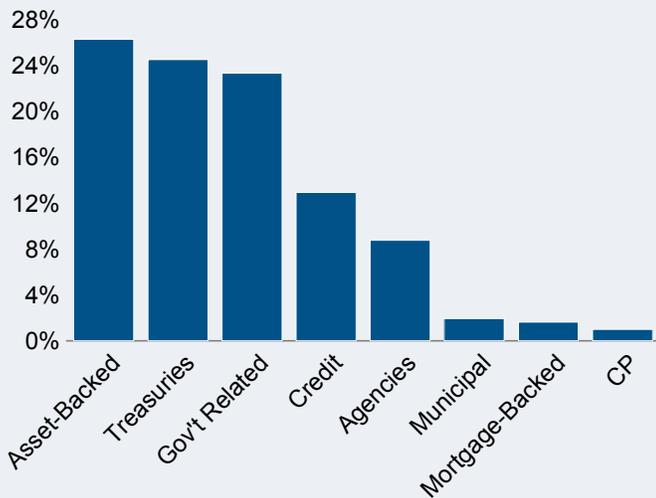
# FLORIDA TRUST SHORT-TERM BOND FUND

## Portfolio Review and Market Update - 3rd Quarter 2017

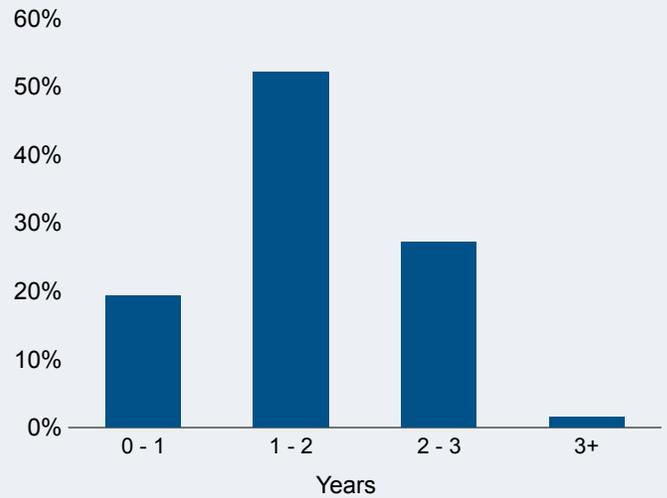
### PORTFOLIO CHARACTERISTICS (As of 9/30/2017)

Portfolio Market Value	\$1,003.9 million
Fund Ratings (S&P)	AAAf/S1
Weighted Average Duration	1.74 years
SEC 30-Day Yield (net)	1.33%

### SECTOR ALLOCATION



### DURATION DISTRIBUTION



### PORTFOLIO RETURNS - Periods Ending 9/30/2017

	3rd Quarter	2017 YTD	Trailing 1 Yr	Trailing 5 Yr	Trailing 10 Yr	Since Inception (1/1/92)
<b>SHORT-TERM BOND FUND (gross)</b>	<b>0.36%</b>	<b>1.19%</b>	<b>1.02%</b>	<b>0.99%</b>	<b>1.86%</b>	<b>3.91%</b>
SHORT-TERM BOND FUND (NAV)	0.31%	1.00%	0.79%	0.74%	1.59%	3.57%
BAML 1-3 Year US Treasury Index*	0.24%	0.67%	0.24%	0.63%	1.70%	3.46%

\* Taxable money market funds average prior to 02/2000.



## MARKET THEMES

The third quarter was a tug-of-war between resilient economic data and rising geopolitical risk across the globe. Tailwinds in both employment and growth helped balance the volatility caused by North Korean tension and hurricanes in the U.S. Specifically, the unemployment rate in the U.K. declined to 4.4% during the quarter, the lowest level since 1975. The annual Central Bank Jackson Hole Summit came and went with Janet Yellen's speech sticking to conventional topics, with no formal mention of rate hikes or inflation concerns. Conversely, the European Central Bank indicated its intention to curtail asset purchases based on better economic prospects, which boosted the euro against most global currencies, notably against a weaker U.S. dollar. All in all, it was a constructive period for risk assets, as global yields moved sideways, commodity prices recovered, and global equity prices increased.

## STRATEGY

- The portfolio holds a diversified mix of credit sectors for income generation.
- Corporate bond yield premiums remain attractive. While we modestly reduced the allocation to comply with new S&P rules, we expect to maintain exposure through the purchase of bonds in the new issue and secondary markets.
- We have continued to participate selectively in high-quality asset-backed and mortgage-backed security (ABS/MBS) deals with short duration profiles.

## INTEREST RATES

- U.S. Treasury yields across the curve moved higher, with the two-year up 0.10% while the five-year was higher by 0.05%. The slope between two- and five-year maturities reached the lowest point of the year before bouncing back to end the quarter at 0.45%.
- The portfolio's underweight duration position added to relative performance given higher front-end rates.
- Three-month LIBOR rose slightly to end the quarter at 1.33%. LIBOR outperformed front-end Treasury yields, which made the allocation to floating rate notes beneficial.

## SECTORS

- The overweight allocation to corporate securities contributed to outperformance. The bias to investment-grade credit in the financial sector was beneficial.
- High-quality ABS continued to contribute to performance while providing flexible reinvestment opportunities.
- The MBS allocation was additive to performance, as front cash flow tranches withstood the impact of hurricanes in the U.S. during the quarter.



## MARKET PERSPECTIVE

### Guess Who's Back?

The euro area had no trouble finding the "exits." Whether it was "Grexit" or "Brexit," prognosticators and investors have feared the worst for the common currency countries. At the start of this year, worry regarding euro area growth stemmed from the uncertainty of elections and potential Brexit fallout. We advised investors to ignore politics and focus on the underlying fundamentals. This quarter, we saw euro area unemployment fall to 9.1%, its lowest level since the start of 2009. GDP data released in September for Q2 2017 showed the euro area growing at 2.3% year-over-year, its fastest annual growth pace since Q1 2011. Measures of manufacturing, business sentiment and consumer confidence all point to a continued pick-up in growth in 2017 and beyond.

Forecasters have finally taken note of the positive data. As the chart below shows, after slashing 2017 forecasts post-Brexit, forecasters realized that the political negotiation and noise was, in the words of the great English playwright Shakespeare, "much ado about nothing." Notably, 2017 is the first year where forecasters have continually upgraded their growth predictions as the year progresses. This is in sharp contrast to prior years when the euro area seemed to always find a way to disappoint. 2017's progress means Europe is back.

### Evolution of Bloomberg Consensus Year-End Forecasts for Euro Area Real GDP Growth By Year



Source: Bloomberg



**OVER 30 YEARS OF INSPIRING  
CONFIDENCE WITH AN  
UNWAVERING COMMITMENT  
TO OUR CLIENTS' NEEDS.**

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## U.S. DOMICILED MUTUAL FUNDS

### CASH BALANCE

Payden/Kravitz Cash Balance Plan Fund

### EQUITY

Equity Income Fund

### GLOBAL FIXED INCOME

Emerging Markets Bond Fund

Emerging Markets Corporate Bond Fund

Emerging Markets Local Bond Fund

Global Fixed Income Fund

Global Low Duration Fund

### TAX-EXEMPT FIXED INCOME

California Municipal Income Fund

### U.S. FIXED INCOME

Absolute Return Bond Fund

Cash Reserves Money Market Fund

Core Bond Fund

Corporate Bond Fund

Floating Rate Fund

GNMA Fund

High Income Fund

Limited Maturity Fund

Low Duration Fund

Strategic Income Fund

U.S. Government Fund

## DUBLIN DOMICILED UCITS FUNDS

### EQUITY

Global Equity Income

### FIXED INCOME

Absolute Return Bond Fund

Global Emerging Markets Bond Fund

Global Emerging Markets Corporate Bond Fund

Global Government Bond Index Fund

Global High Yield Bond Fund

Global Inflation-Linked Bond Fund

Global Bond Fund

Global Short Bond Fund

Sterling Corporate Bond Fund – Investment Grade

U.S. Core Bond Fund

USD Low Duration Credit Fund

### LIQUIDITY FUNDS

Euro Liquidity Fund

Sterling Reserve Fund

U.S. Dollar Liquidity Fund

For more information about Payden & Rygel, contact us at a location listed below.

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