# BBH Select Series - Large Cap Fund

Quarterly Fund Update / 1Q 2023

## 10 Highlights

- The Fund posted solid gains for the period led by strong absolute contributions from Information Technology, Industrial, and Consumer Discretionary sectors, as well as strong relative performance from Health Care.
- Following an extraordinary course of events, Signature Bank ("SBNY" or "Signature") was seized by the New York Department of Financial Services and the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) on March 12<sup>th</sup>.
- The current environment illustrates the challenge central banks face between maintaining financial stability and containing inflation.

#### **Market Overview**

Despite the emergence of a regional bank crisis in early March, the S&P 500 added a second consecutive strong quarter following the October 2022 lows. Moderating inflation, a resilient consumer, declining interest rates, a stable Dollar, and the reversal of China's Zero-COVID policy provided a constructive backdrop, albeit with some volatility, and a leadership rotation which resulted in a wide dispersion of returns across sectors and asset classes. It is clear financial markets are anticipating the end of the Federal Reserve's tightening cycle, which has historically been positive for equity investors.

#### **Portfolio Commentary**

The BBH Select Series — Large Cap Fund ("the Fund") gained 5.70% for the first quarter, compared to 7.50% for the benchmark S&P 500. Underperformance for the period was largely attributed to our investment in Signature Bank, which was seized by regulators in early March. Despite the SBNY loss, the Fund posted solid gains for the period led by strong absolute

Performance As of March 31, 2023 **Total Returns Average Annual Total Returns** Since 3 Mo. YTD 1 Yr. 3 Yr. 5 Yr. 10 Yr. Inception Class I 5.70% 5.70% -8.91% 14.44% N/A N/A 6.45% Benchmark 7.50% 7.50% -7.73% 18.60% N/A N/A 11.31% **Retail Class** 5.57% 5.57% -9.19% 14.07% N/A N/A 6.01% Benchmark 7.50% 7.50% -7.73% 18.60% N/A N/A 11.31%

Class I Inception: 09/09/2019 Retail Class Inception: 09/09/2019

Class I: Net/Gross Expense Ratio (%) 0.71 / 0.71 Retail Class: Net/Gross Expense Ratio (%) 1.05 / 3.39

Returns of less than one year are not annualized.

The Investment Adviser has contractually agreed to limit the Total Annual Fund Operating Expenses for Retail Class shares to 0.80% until March 1, 2024. After exclusions, total net operating expenses for Retail Class shares will be 1.05%. The Expense Limitation Agreement may only be terminated during its term with approval of the Fund's Board of Trustees (the "Board"). Funds redeemed within 30 days of purchase are subject to a redemption fee of 2%.

Performance data quoted represents past performance. Past performance does not guarantee future results, and current performance may be lower or higher than the past performance data quoted. The investment return and principal value will fluctuate, and shares, when sold, may be worth more or less than the original cost. For performance current to the most recent monthend please call 1-800-625-5759.

The S&P 500 is an unmanaged weighted index of 500 stocks providing a broad indicator of stock price movements. The composition of the index is materially different than the Fund's holdings. The index is not available for direct investment.

Sources: BBH & Co. and S&P

contributions from the Fund's Information Technology, Industrial, and Consumer Discretionary sectors, as well as strong relative performance from its Health Care holdings. Top contributors for the period included Alphabet (GOOG), Booking Holdings (BKNG), and Microsoft (MSFT). Primary detractors were Signature, Dollar General (DG) and Abbott Laboratories (ABT). At quarter end, the Fund held 28 positions, 48% in the top 10, 2% in cash, and traded at 82% of our estimate of intrinsic value.<sup>1</sup>

Following an extraordinary course of events, Signature Bank was seized by the New York Department of Financial Services and the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) on March 12<sup>th</sup>. The proximate cause of this action was the failure of Silicon Valley Bank on March 10<sup>th</sup> and the initial decision of regulators not to stand behind SVB's uninsured depositors, which caused a run on several banks, including Signature. Signature funded its balance sheet primarily from corporate deposits, so nearly all its deposits were above the FDIC insured limit, as they had been since the bank's founding. In prior periods of acute stress, including the Global Financial Crisis (GFC) and COVID-19 pandemic, Signature had continued to attract net deposit inflows, but that was not the case in this instance. With stable deposits up to Thursday March 9<sup>th</sup>, withdrawal requests were substantial on March 10th. While we believe the company had sufficient liquidity and borrowing capacity to meet these demands, the regulators elected to seize the bank on Sunday, March 12<sup>th</sup>.

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> BBH's estimate of the present value of the cash that a business can generate over its remaining life.

Our decision to invest in Signature was motivated by the bank's exceptional performance over its 20-year history and the substantial value we believed its shares represented. Signature consistently and responsibly grew the key components of value – deposits, earning assets, tangible book value, and earnings - well above industry averages. Credit quality at the bank was consistently superior, even under the most severe conditions. For example, Signature was profitable during every quarter of the GFC and its net chargeoffs were a fraction of its peers. Seeing the company perform during challenging periods and how the company was positioned for the current environment, we believed the bank had the capital base, asset quality, liquidity, and borrowing capacity to not only endure, but to thrive. Our long history of following the bank and having regular communications with management reinforced this belief. The company's deposit-only services for participants in the crypto-currency ecosystem was never well understood by the market and caused shares to come under significant pressure beginning in January 2022; our initial investment in SBNY was in March 2022. Given the company had no credit exposure to crypto and did not hold, trade, custody, or lend against crypto, we believed the market's misperception created an opportunity to own what was, by all measures, a leading bank franchise at an exceptionally compelling valuation.

There is an innate vulnerability among banks to a sudden loss of depositor confidence. We were aware of this risk but given that bank runs are almost always precipitated by a credit crisis, which doesn't exist today, and the strength of the company's balance sheet, we judged that risk to be low. However, the nature of banking has changed markedly in the last 10 years and the widespread adoption of digital banking has made deposits dramatically easier to move, especially when combined with social media's ability to induce fear and panic — necessary conditions for a bank run — more easily and rapidly transmissible. Both forces worked against Signature in rapid succession and caused an otherwise strong institution with an excellent record and reputation to fail. It was clearly a very disappointing outcome for our investors and our team who hold capital preservation as a primary objective.

At the other end of the spectrum, Booking Holdings was the Fund's top performer for the period. Strong fundamental results from this collection of leading online travel agencies were driven by resilient demand and improving market sentiment regarding travel. During its fourth quarter call hosted in late February, management shared a compelling outlook with key operating metrics returning to, and in some cases, exceeding pre-pandemic levels. Comments on the call pointed to a stronger than anticipated revenue

Holdings As of March 31, 2023	
Berkshire Hathaway Inc (Class A)	6.3%
Mastercard Inc	5.6%
Alphabet Inc (Class C)	5.5%
Linde PLC	5.3%
Microsoft Corp	4.9%
Arthur J Gallagher & Co	4.4%
Alcon Inc	4.1%
Waste Management Inc	4.0%
Progressive Corp	3.9%
Zoetis Inc	3.8%
Thermo Fisher Scientific Inc	3.6%
Booking Holdings Inc	3.6%
Costco Wholesale Corp	3.5%
Oracle Corp	3.5%
Nike Inc (Class B)	3.2%
KLA Corp	3.1%
Copart Inc	3.0%
Texas Instruments Inc	2.9%
Graco Inc	2.8%
A. O. Smith Corp	2.6%
Celanese Corp	2.6%
S&P Global Inc	2.5%
Dollar General Corp	2.4%
Adobe Inc	2.4%
Abbott Laboratories	2.3%
Amazon.com Inc	2.3%
Diageo PLC ADR	2.2%
Nestle SA ADR	1.8%
Cash & Cash Equivalents	2.1%

Holdings are subject to change.

outlook for 2023, better visibility, and a mix shift toward higher margin business segments which will further support expected earnings growth and profitability. Beyond recent results, we continue to view Booking not only as a beneficiary of the consumer's growing preference for experiences, but as a long-term beneficiary of the shift from offline to online booking modalities and a share gainer in the industry.

### **Outlook**

The current environment illustrates the challenge central banks face between maintaining financial stability and containing inflation. As economic activity slows and earnings expectations moderate, investors have thus far elected to look through the prospect of an earnings recession, the probability of which has increased with the recent banking sector turmoil and the inevitable tightening of credit. While we are encouraged to see equities recover, we recognize it has been a challenging environment characterized by heightened uncertainty and periods of volatility. As ever, our focus remains on businesses characterized by durable cash flows and earnings growth, healthy balance sheets, and attractive valuations. From this perspective, we continue to own and find value in businesses we believe will continue to compound at attractive rates over time.

Respectfully,





Fund Manager

		Share Class Overview As of March 31, 2023		
	Ticker	Inception Date	Total Net Assets (mil)	NAV
Class I	BBLIX	09/09/2019	\$388.9	\$11.87
Retail Class	BBLRX	09/09/2019	\$0.9	\$11.75

Equity Weighting As of March 31, 2023	
Common Stock	97.9%
Cash and Cash Equivalents	2.1%
Total	100.0%

Fund Facts As of March 31, 2023	
Number of Securities Held	28
Average P/E	25.0
Average Market Cap (bil)	\$288.2
Turnover (Rolling 12-Months)	16.05%
Excludes cash equivalents	

Sector Weighting As of March 31, 2023	
Communication Services	5.6%
Consumer Discretionary	9.2%
Consumer Staples	10.1%
Energy	0.0%
Financials	23.2%
Health Care	14.1%
Industrials	12.7%
Information Technology	17.0%
Materials	8.0%
Real Estate	0.0%
Utilities	0.0%
Total	100.0%
Reported as a percentage of portfolio secur excluding Cash and Cash Equivalents.	ities,

Top 10 Companies As of March 31, 2023	
Berkshire Hathaway Inc	6.3%
Mastercard Inc	5.6%
Alphabet Inc	5.5%
Linde PLC	5.3%
Microsoft Corp	4.9%
Arthur J Gallagher & Co	4.4%
Alcon Inc	4.1%
Waste Management Inc	4.0%
Progressive Corp	3.9%
Zoetis Inc	3.8%
Total	47.7%
Reported as a percentage of total portfolio.	

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Holdings are subject to change. Totals may not sum due to rounding.

Price/Earnings (P/E) ratio is a company's current share price divided by earnings per-share.

Turnover ratio is the rate of trading in a portfolio; higher values imply more frequent trading.

Opinions, forecasts, and discussions about investment strategies represent the author's views as of the date of this commentary and are subject to change without notice. References to specific securities, asset classes, and financial markets are for illustrative purposes only and are not intended to be, and should not be interpreted as recommendations.

Purchase and sale information provided should not be considered as a recommendation to purchase or sell a particular security and that there is no assurance, as of the date of publication, that the securities purchased remain in a fund's portfolio or that securities sold have not been repurchased.

#### **RISKS**

Investors in the Fund should be able to withstand short-term fluctuations in the equity markets and fixed income markets in return for potentially higher returns over the long term. The value of portfolios changes every day and can be affected by changes in interest rates, general market conditions and other political, social and economic developments.

The Fund is 'non-diversified' and may assume large positions in a small number of issuers which can increase the potential for greater price fluctuation.

International investing involves special risks including currency risk, increased volatility, political risks, and differences in auditing and other financial standards.

For more complete information, visit www.bbhfunds.com for a prospectus. You should consider the fund's investment objectives, risks, charges and expenses carefully before you invest. Information about these and other important subjects is in the fund's prospectus, which you should read carefully before investing.

Shares of the Fund are distributed by ALPS Distributors, Inc. and is located at 1290 Broadway, Suite 1000, Denver, CO 80203.

Brown Brothers Harriman & Co. ("BBH"), a New York limited partnership, was founded in 1818 and provides investment advice to registered mutual funds through a separately identifiable department (the "SID"). The SID is registered with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission under the Investment Advisers Act of 1940.

Not FDIC Insured No Bank Guarantee May Lose Money

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