# Quarterly Fund Update / 3Q 2023

#### **30** Highlights

- U.S. Treasury rates rose during the third quarter as the U.S. economy appeared to be on strong footing, with investors capitulating to the view that the Federal Reserve will keep rates "higher for longer."
- Strong selection results paced the Fund's performance during the quarter, while the Fund's defensive duration profile contributed further to results.
- Despite waning opportunities in the credit markets, we identified numerous new opportunities for the Fund during the quarter in the assetbacked security, corporate bond, and commercial mortgage-backed security sectors.

	Performance as of September 30, 2023							
	Total Returns			Average Annual Total Returns				
Fund/Benchmark	3 Mo	YTD	1 Yr.	3 Yr.	5 Yr.	10 Yr.	Since Inception <sup>3</sup>	
BBH Limited Duration Fund Class I	1.74%	4.77%	6.18%	2.12%	2.53%	2.17%	3.65%	
BBH Limited Duration Fund Class N	1.62%	4.61%	5.99%	2.00%	2.45%	2.04%	3.50%	
Bloomberg US 1-3 Year Treasury Bond Index	0.71%	1.69%	2.44%	-0.92%	1.03%	0.79%	2.32%	
Reference Benchmark	0.93%	3.10%	4.07%	0.75%	1.83%	1.57%	2.29%	

# Performance as of September 30, 2023

Class I Inception: 12/03/2002 Class N Inception: 12/22/2000

Class I: Net/Gross Expense Ratio (%) 0.27 / 0.27 Class N: Net/Gross Expense Ratio (%) 0.35 / 0.49

Returns of less than one year are not annualized

The Investment Adviser has contractually agreed to limit the Total Annual Fund Operating Expenses to 0.35% for Class N shares through March 1, 2024. The Expense Limitation Agreement may only be terminated during its term with approval of the Fund's Board of Trustees (the "Board").

The Reference Benchmark is an unmanaged weighted index comprised as follows: 40% Bloomberg Short-Term Corporate Index; 40% Bloomberg US Aggregate ABS Index; and 20% Bloomberg US Treasury Bills Index. The inception date of the reference benchmark is 12/31/04. The indexes are not available for direct investment.

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 redeemed, may be worth more or less than the original cost. For performance current to the most recent month-end please call 1-800-625-5759.

#### **Market Environment**

U.S. Treasury rates rose during the third quarter. The U.S. economy appears to be on strong footing, and investors are capitulating to the view that the Federal Reserve (Fed) will need rates to be "higher for longer." The Fed hiked the target range of the federal funds rate by 0.25% to 5.25%-5.50% at its July meeting. The Fed's next announcement is scheduled for November 1<sup>st</sup>. In addition, the Fed continued its campaign of shrinking its portfolio of assets acquired through open market operations by a maximum of \$95 billion per month.

On a duration-adjusted basis, nearly every credit index earned positive excess returns during the quarter, though agency mortgage-backed securities (MBS) were a noteworthy underperformer (see Exhibit I). Indexes tied to floating rate investments and with shorter durations experienced positive total returns despite the rise in rates. Long maturity corporate bonds (those with 10+ years until maturity) also had strong excess returns during the quarter.

Year-to-date, all credit indexes had positive excess returns except for agency MBS. Non-agency commercial mortgage-backed securities (CMBS) slightly outperformed comparable duration Treasuries despite negative headlines regarding commercial real estate (CRE). Indexes of investment-grade cor-

	Duration	Total Ret	urn (%)	Excess Return (%)		
Index	(Years)	QTD	YTD	QTD	YTD	
Morningstar LSTA Leveraged Loan Index <sup>1</sup>	0.3	3.46	10.19	2.13	6.47	
Palmer Square CLO Debt Index <sup>1</sup>	0.3	5.30	12.83	3.97	9.11	
Bloomberg 2 Year U.S. Treasury Bellwether In	dex 1.8	0.57	1.14	-	-	
Bloomberg ABS ex Stranded Cost Utilities Inc	dex 1.9	0.84	2.35	0.19	0.60	
Bloomberg U.S. Corporate High Yield Index	3.5	0.46	5.86	1.02	5.16	
Bloomberg Non-Agency CMBS Index	3.8	-0.23	0.23	0.66	0.07	
ICE BofA AA-BBB US Misc. ABS Index <sup>2</sup>	3.9	0.88	4.81	2.09	5.36	
Bloomberg Intermediate Corporate Index	4.0	-0.96	1.35	0.12	1.36	
Bloomberg U.S. TIPS Index	5.0	-2.60	-0.78	-	-	
Bloomberg U.S. Treasury Index	5.9	-3.06	-1.52	-	_	
Bloomberg EM USD Aggregate Index	5.9	-2.31	0.91	0.80	2.59	
Bloomberg Aggregate Index	6.1	-3.23	-1.21	0.00	0.50	
Bloomberg MBS Index	6.4	-4.05	-2.26	-0.85	-0.58	
Bloomberg U.S. Corporate Index	6.8	-3.09	0.02	0.84	2.37	
Bloomberg 10 Year U.S. Treasury Bellwether Ind	dex 8.0	-5.12	-3.43	-	-	
Bloomberg Taxable Municipal Index	9.3	-4.90	-0.12	1.45	4.27	
Bloomberg Long Corporate Index	12.5	-7.23	-2.71	2.18	4.22	

**Exhibit I: Fixed Income Indexes Returns** 

#### Past performance is no guarantee of future results

Unless otherwise noted Excess Returns is the returns in excess of duration matched Treasuries

<sup>1</sup> Excess return computed by BBH as total return less the return of the Bloomberg 3 Month T-Bill Bellwether Index, a proxy for the duration profile of floating-rate leveraged loans and the CLO Index

 $^2$  Excess return computed by BBH as total return less the return of the Bloomberg 5 Year Treasury Bellwether Index, a proxy for the duration profile of the JPM Other ABS Index

Data reported as of September 30, 2023 Sources: Morningstar, JPM, Bloomberg, and BBH Analysis

This material is not authorized for distribution unless accompanied or preceded by a current Fund prospectus. BBH Fund Information Service: (800) 625-5759 porate bonds, senior bank loans, high yield corporate bonds, nontraditional asset-backed securities (ABS), and collateralized loan obligation (CLO) debt posted strong excess returns.

# Valuations

The strong recent performance of credit instruments has caused valuations to weaken. According to our valuation framework,<sup>1</sup> the number of investment-grade corporate bonds that screened as a "buy" decreased to 32% and the number of high yield corporate bonds screened as a "buy" decreased to 33% while over 90% of bank loans screened as a "buy." Within the investment-grade corporate bond market, we find most opportunities in short and intermediate duration segments of single-A rated and triple-B rated bonds, as well as nontraditional issuances that do not meet index inclusion criteria but offer compelling valuation while meeting our credit criteria. In the high yield corporate bond market, there are many opportunities among smaller issuers in the double-BB and single-B rated markets. However, our valuation framework identifies plenty of "hold" and "sell" candidates in those ratings categories, so there are numerous value traps and valuation-sensitive selection remains imperative.

In the structured credit markets, we are finding an abundance of attractively valued opportunities as we observe a continuing disconnect between wider credit spread levels and solid credit performance (see Exhibit II). Issuances of select non-traditional ABS, Single-Asset, Single-Borrower (SASB) CMBS, and CLO debt have come with attractive compensation and strong durability and structural protections. Opportunities are emerging in parts of the agency MBS market as valuations improve, and we are prepared to add positions.

Sector	Outlook	Positioning
Reserves		
U.S. Treasuries/Futures/Reserves	Hold when attractive credits unavailable	Held to balance yield curve and duration exposures
Government-Related	Unattractive valuations; better opportunities elsewhere	No positions in portfolios
Municipal	Valuations of select municipals are attractive for inclusion in taxable portfolios	Holdings include transportation revenue bonds
Structured Credit		
U.S. MBS	Valuations improving in parts of the market	No positions in portfolios; prepared to add opportunistically
RMBS	Continued credit and valuation concerns	No positions in portfolios
CMBS	Traditional conduits unattractive, select SASB issuances attractive	Hold positions in fixed- and floating-rate SASB CMBS deals with strong property-level transparency
ABS	Traditional segments unattractive, select nontraditional segments attractive	Hold positions in 20 nontraditional segments that offer attractive yields and demonstrable durability
Corporate Credit		
IG Corporate Bonds	Find value in short and intermediate index-eligible bonds and select nontraditional bonds	Holdings include intermediate maturity credits issued by banks, business development companies, property and casualty insurers, and life insurers
Senior Bank Loans	Rich opportunity set of attractively valued opportunities	Holdings are diversified and include credits issued by healthcare, airlines, and pharmaceutical companies
HY Corporate Bonds	Roughly one-third of universe screens as "buy" with most being bonds of smaller issuers	Holdings are diversified and include credits issued by midstream energy, electric utilities, and specialized REITs
Other Credit		
Emerging Markets	Concerns remain about creditor rights in most emerging market countries	No positions in portfolios

# **Exhibit II: Outlook by Sector**

As of September 30, 2023

Portfolio holdings and characteristics are subject to change.

MBS = Mortgage-Backed Securities; RMBS = Residential Mortgage-Backed Securities; CMBS = Commerical Mortgage-Backed Securities; ABS = Asset-Backed Securities; IG = Investment Grade; HY = High Yield; SASB = Sing Asset, Single Borrower; REIT = Real Estate Investment Trust Source: BBH Analysis

<sup>1</sup> Our valuation framework is a purely quantitative screen for bonds that may offer excess return potential, primarily from mean reversion in spreads. When the potential excess return is above a specific hurdle rate, we label them "Buys" (others are "Holds" or "Sells"). These ratings are category names, not recommendations, as the valuation framework includes no credit research, a vital second step.

This material is not authorized for distribution unless accompanied or preceded by a current Fund prospectus. BBH Fund Information Service: (800) 625-5759 Non-agency residential mortgage-backed securities (RMBS) continue to suffer from lower durability, thin credit enhancement, and prepayment risk. We continue to avoid emerging markets credits due to concerns regarding creditor rights in most countries.

#### Performance

Strong selection results paced the Fund's performance during the quarter (see Exhibit III). Contributions were diversified among positions in investment-grade corporate bonds, high yield corporate bonds, senior bank loans, and ABS. Subsectors that contributed to selection results included investment-grade corporate bonds issued by life insurers and banks, high yield corporate bonds issued by property and casualty (P&C) insurers and technology companies, senior bank loans to healthcare companies and airlines, CLO debt, and recurring revenue ABS.

The Fund's duration contributed to total returns and relative results as shorter duration bonds outperformed 1-3 year Treasuries.

Sector allocation contributed modestly to the performance, as emphases on stronger-performing segments of the ABS and investment-grade corporate bond market proved additive.

Exhibit III: Fund Attribution								
	Average Weight (%)	Contribution (Basis Points - Gross)						
	Portfolio	Rates	Sector	Selection				
Total Portfolio	99.9%	99	12	70				
Cash and Reserves	7.5%		0	0				
U.S. Treasury	0.1%		0	0				
Government-Related	0.5%		0	0				
Municipal	1.9%		-2	-1				
CMBS	6.3%		-1	-1				
ABS	23.7%		10	13				
IG Corporate Bonds	43.3%		6	28				
Senior Bank Loans	13.3%		-1	14				
HY Corporate Bonds	3.3%		0	17				

Past performance is no guarantee future results

Contribution figures are presented gross of fees Data reported quarterly from June 30, 2023 to September 30, 2023

Basis point or "bp" is 1/100th of a percent (0.01% or 0.0001)

CMBS = Commercial Mortgage-Backed Securities; ABS = Asset-Backed Securities; IG = Investment Grade; HY = High Yield Source: BBH Analysis

#### **Transaction Summary**

We purchased bonds from a variety of sectors and industries during the quarter. Purchases included bonds from ABS secured by data center leases and revenues, small ticket equipment loans, personal consumer loans, and small business loans, corporate bonds issued by banks, a life insurer, and a construction machinery company, a loan to a healthcare company, and bonds from an SASB CMBS deal. Descriptions of a few notable portfolio additions are included below.

We bought bonds from several ABS issuances amid heavy volume. **VDCR 2023-1A A2A** is a data center ABS brought by **Vantage Data Centers**, a leading owner, developer, and operator of large hyperscale data centers in North America. The collateral consists of eight data centers in Northern Virginia, Montreal, and Quebec City. We purchased the A- rated bonds at a spread of 285 basis points<sup>2</sup> over Treasuries. **ONDK 2023-1A A** is a small business loan ABS deal brought by **OnDeck.** The company has a 15+ year history of underwriting small business loans, and the deal is backed by a highly diversified portfolio of loans and lines of credit (LOCs) made to small businesses. We bought the AAA rated notes at a spread of 265 basis points over Treasuries. **Aligned Data Centers** issued its third deal secured by data center revenues, **ADC 2023-1A.** The securitization portfolio consists of six wholesale data centers and the associated leases, with contractual cashflows generated from leases to 32 hyperscale, large, enterprise, carrier companies. We bought the A- rated notes at a spread of 250 basis points over Treasuries.

In the CMBS market, **CRSO 2023-BRND A** is an SASB deal secured by The Americana at Brand, a lifestyle luxury retail center located in Glendale, California that is 99.4% leased by 75 tenants. The property demonstrates low loan-to-value (LTV) ratios and strong operating performance. The triple-A rated notes carry a 5 year weighted average life, and we purchased the bonds at a yield of 7% and a spread of 270 basis points over Treasuries.

In the corporate credit market, **Corebridge Financial Inc** is a life insurance company that was spun off from AIG, and the company benefits from significant scale and diversification. Their credit strength is derived from an excellent balance sheet, brand recognition, diverse product mix, excellent liquidity, and strong underwriting. We bought the new issue, 5 year, A+ rated notes at a spread of 149 basis points over Treasuries.

### **Characteristics**

At the end of the month, the Fund's duration was 0.9 years (see Exhibit IV). High yield and nonrated investments represented 11.6%, were comprised primarily of credits rated double-B, and consisted of a blend of corporate bonds and loans. Yield to maturity was 7.3% and remained elevated versus short-term bond market alternatives. The Fund's option-adjusted spread (OAS) was 196 basis points over Treasuries; for reference, the longer-duration Bloomberg U.S. Corporate Index's OAS spread was 121 basis points at month-end.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Basis point (bps) is a unit that is equal to 1/100th of 1% and is used to denote the change in a financial instrument.

This material is not authorized for distribution unless accompanied or preceded by a current Fund prospectus. BBH Fund Information Service: (800) 625-5759

Portfolio Characteristics			Credit Rating (%)		Sector Allocation (%)					
	Portfolio	Benchmark	Active		Portfolio	Benchmark		Portfolio	Benchmark	Active
Effective Duration (Years)	0.89	1.75	-86%	AAA/TSY/Cash	31.3	100.0	U.S. Treasury	0.0	100.0	-100.0
Spread Duration (Years)	1.89	0.00	189%	AA	12.5	0.0	Reserves	7.4	0.0	7.4
Yield to Maturity (%)	7.28	5.14	2.14	А	22.6	0.0	Government-Related	0.5	0.0	0.5
Option-Adjusted Spread (bps)	196	0	196	BBB	22.0	0.0	Municipal	1.7	0.0	1.7
				BB	9.0	0.0	MBS (Agency)	0.1	0.0	0.1
				В	1.9	0.0	RMBS (Non-Agency)	0.0	0.0	0.0
				CCC & Below/NR	0.7	0.0	CMBS	6.1	0.0	6.1
							ABS	23.5	0.0	23.5
							IG Corporate Bonds	44.4	0.0	44.4
							Senior Bank Loans	12.9	0.0	12.9
							HY Corproate Bonds	3.4	0.0	3.4

# **Exhibit IV: Fund Characteristics**

#### Portfolio holdings and characteristics are subject to change.

Benchmark is the Bloomberg US Aggregate Bond Index

Data reported as of September 30, 2023

TSY = Treausury; MBS = Mortgage-Backed Securities; RMBS = Residential Mortgage-Backed Securities; CMBS = Commerical Mortgage-Backed Securities; ABS = Asset-Backed Securities; CLO = Collateralized Loan Obligation

Source: BBH Analysis

#### Conclusion

Higher interest rates will offer the potential to bring higher returns for credit investors. We caution that a strong economy should not be the basis for investor credit decisions. Higher-for-longer interest rates will eventually weigh on many borrowers. Instead, we focus on durable credits<sup>3</sup> which is a hallmark of our process. Thank you for your continued trust, and we look forward to our conversations over the coming weeks.

Sincerely,



Andrew P. Hofer Fund Co-Manager

Nil Yohman

Neil Hohmann, PhD Fund Co-Manager



Paul Kunz, CFA Fund Co-Manager

Thomas Brennan, CFA Fixed Income Product Specialist

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. Nothing contained herein is intended as a recommendation to buy or sell any security, or to invest in any particular country, sector or asset class.

Traditional ABS include prime auto backed loans, credit cards and student loans (FFELP). Non-traditional ABS include ABS backed by other collateral types.

Effective duration is a measure of the portfolio's return sensitivity to changes in interest rates.

Weighted Average Life of securities excludes US Treasury futures positions.

Yield to Maturity is the rate of return the portfolio would achieve if all purchased bonds and derivatives were held to maturity, assuming all coupon and principal payments are received as scheduled and reinvested at the same yield to maturity. This figure is subject to change and is not meant to represent the yield earned by any particular security. Yield to Maturity is before fees and expenses.

<sup>3</sup> Obligations such as bonds, notes, loans, leases, and other forms of indebtedness, except for cash and cash equivalents, issued by obligors other than the U.S. Government and its agencies, totaled at the level of the ultimate obligor or guarantor of the Obligation. Durable means the ability to withstand a wide variety of economic conditions.

This material is not authorized for distribution unless accompanied or preceded by a current Fund prospectus. BBH Fund Information Service: (800) 625-5759 The selection effect measures the investment manager's ability to select securities within a given segment relative to a benchmark.

The sector effect measures an investment manager's ability to effectively allocate their portfolio's assets to specific sectors relative to a benchmark.

The Class I shares commenced operations on December 3, 2002. Prior to December 3, 2002, performance reflects performance of the Class N shares adjusted to assume that all charges, expenses and fees were deducted. Performance prior to December 22, 2000 is that of the BBH Broad Market Fixed Income Portfolio adjusted to assume that all charges, expenses and fees of the Fund and the Portfolio which are presently in effect were deducted during such periods, as permitted by applicable SEC staff interpretations. The inception date of the BBH Broad Market Fixed Income Portfolio was July 20, 2000.

The Class N shares commenced operations on December 22, 2000. Performance prior to December 22, 2000 is that of the BBH Broad Market Fixed Income Portfolio adjusted to assume that all charges, expenses and fees of the Fund and the Portfolio which are presently in effect were deducted during such periods, as permitted by applicable SEC staff interpretations. The inception date of the BBH Broad Market Fixed Income Portfolio was July 20, 2000.

#### Definitions

The Bloomberg U.S. 1-3 Year Treasury Bond Index is an unmanaged index of fixed rate obligations of the U.S. Treasury with maturities ranging from 1-3 years.

Bloomberg Short-Term Corporate Index is an unmanaged index comprised of U.S. dollar denominated, investment grade, fixed rate, corporate securities with a remaining maturity from 1 day up to (but not including) 12 months and have at least \$250 million par amount outstanding.

Bloomberg US Aggregate ABS Index represents the ABS components of the Bloomberg U.S. Aggregate Index.

The Bloomberg US Aggregate Bond Index is a market-weighted index that tracks the daily price, coupon, pay-downs, and total return performance of fixed-rate, publicly placed, dollardenominated, and non-convertible investment grade debt issues with at least \$300 million par amount outstanding and with at least one year to final maturity.

Bloomberg US Treasury Bills Index is an unmanaged index comprised publicly-issued U.S. Treasury bills with a remaining maturity from 1 day up to (but not including) 12 months. It excludes zero coupon stripsAn index is not available for direct investment.

The composition of the index is materially different than the Fund's holdings. The Fund is actively managed and does not measure its performance success nor alter its construction in relation to any particular benchmark or index. An index is not available for direct investment.

"Bloomberg®" and the Bloomberg indexes are service marks of Bloomberg Finance L.P. and its affiliates, including Bloomberg Index Services Limited ("BISL"), the administrator of the indexes (collectively, "Bloomberg") and have been licensed for use for certain purposes by Brown Brothers Harriman & Co (BBH). Bloomberg is not affiliated with BBH, and Bloomberg does not approve, endorse, review, or recommend the BBH Limited Duration Fund. Bloomberg does not guarantee the timeliness, accurateness, or completeness of any data or information relating to the fund.

#### This material is not authorized for distribution unless accompanied or preceded by a current Fund prospectus.

#### **Risks**

Bond prices are sensitive to changes in interest rates and a rise in interest rates can cause a decline in their prices.

Asset-Backed Securities ("ABS") are subject to risks due to defaults by the borrowers; failure of the issuer or servicer to perform; the variability in cash flows due to amortization or acceleration features; changes in interest rates which may influence the prepayments of the underlying securities; misrepresentation of asset quality, value or inadequate controls over disbursements and receipts; and the security being structured in ways that give certain investors less credit risk protection than others.

SASB lacks the diversification of a transaction backed by multiple loans since performance is concentrated in one commercial property. SASBs may be less liquid in the secondary market than loans backed by multiple commercial properties.

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

The Fund also invests in derivative instruments, investments whose values depend on the performance of the underlying security, assets, interest rate, index or currency and entail potentially higher volatility and risk of loss compared to traditional stock or bond investments.

#### For more complete information, visit www.bbhfunds.com for a current Fund 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. Other products are offered by Brown Brothers Harriman. 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.

Brown Brothers Harriman & Co. ("BBH") may be used to reference the company as a whole and/or its various subsidiaries generally. This material and any products or services may be issued or provided in multiple jurisdictions by duly authorized and regulated subsidiaries. This material is for general information and reference purposes only and does not constitute legal, tax or investment advice and is not intended as an offer to sell, or a solicitation to buy securities, services or investment products. Any reference to tax matters is not intended to be used, and may not be used, for purposes of avoiding penalties under the U.S. Internal Revenue Code, or other applicable tax regimes, or for promotion, marketing or recommendation to third parties. All information has been obtained from sources believed to be reliable, but accuracy is not guaranteed, and reliance should not be placed on the information presented. This material may not be reproduced, copied or transmitted, or any of the content disclosed to third parties, without the permission of BBH. All trademarks and service marks included are the property of BBH or their respective owners. © Brown Brothers Harriman & Co. 2023. All rights reserved.

Not FDIC Insured	No Bank Guarantee	May Lose Money		
		IM-13595-2023-10-19	BBH003822	Exp. Date 01/31/2024
This material is not authorized for distribution unless accompani BBH Fund Information Service: (800) 625-5759	ied or preceded by a curr	ent Fund prospectus.		