



January 15, 2015

2014 YEAR END REVIEW

CLIENT PORTFOLIO PERFORMANCE

During the recent episode of historically low interest rates, Greenwich Investment Management clients have enjoyed ample tax exempt income and taxable income. Many portfolios experienced growing income, the product of portfolio management and the reinvestment of income. In 2014 Greenwich Investment Management clients received approximately \$14,924,000 in tax exempt income and \$13,515,000 in taxable income.

In January 2014 we commented that 2013 was a dismal year for the performance of tax exempt bonds. In 2014 many categories of tax exempt bonds were stellar performers.

FIXED INCOME PERFORMANCE High Yield Tax Exempt Bonds (HYTEBs)

The Merit of Bonds Selected By Greenwich Investment Management

Last year we wrote about the credit problems of states, municipalities and state agencies. Their highly rated bonds have never attracted our interest. Greenwich Investment Management clients began to acquire charter school bonds some 14 years ago. As 2014 ended the financial press reported the growing acceptance of Charter School bonds. Bond proceeds funded plant property and equipment. Several Greenwich Investment Management schools attained national recognition for achievement in various disciplines. Greenwich Investment Management clients did well by doing good. Charter schools are public schools that provide academic opportunity for students from all strata of society.

The investment merit of charter school bonds leads to Greenwich Investment Management issues being refinanced at rates of interest well below what clients have earned. At the end of the first quarter of 2015 we expect early redemption of five Arizona charter school bonds. The premium received demonstrates that Greenwich Investment Management single handed ownership enhances marketability of such bonds. In 2015 the Greenwich Investment Management Fixed Income Unit will develop and analyze replacements for charter school bonds that are called or refinanced.

Useable Wealth

During this period of historically low interest rates Greenwich Investment Management has worked diligently to maintain client liquidity. We define liquidity as the consistent flow of income from financial assets. At the beginning of 2014 what were most investors expecting to receive from their bond portfolios? The current or income yield on the 30-year AAA tax exempt was 3.05%. \$1,000,000 would generate \$30,500 of liquidity. Greenwich Investment Management's tax exempt bond portfolio yielded 7.4% at the beginning of the year. The anticipated liquidity was \$74,000 on the hypothetical portfolio. The Greenwich Investment Management selected bonds produced more than twice the income of the typical high grade portfolio. Please see the end of the letter for important disclosures.

EQUITY PERFORMANCE

For the second consecutive year Greenwich Investment Management equities underperformed the blended Index of the S&P 500 and the Russell 2000. We have in place a vigorous remediation program that we will describe. (The Index turned negative early in 2015 while the GIM composite **earned slightly positive returns.**) Let us first look back to the beginning of 2014 to define the investment merit that we saw in the major positions in the clients' equity portfolio. What characteristics must a common stock have to qualify as having merit?

- 1. Valuation. There is no substitute for cheap. We prefer equities that have a price earnings ratio that is less than the market's price earnings ratio.**
- 2. Financial quality. GIM equities should have a strong balance sheet. If the company has leverage, the company must demonstrate the ability to control and service debt.**
- 3. The company must demonstrate the ability to generate positive "free" cash flow.**
- 4. The equity usually will pay a dividend; frequently will have a dividend yield substantially higher than the dividend yield of the Index.**
- 5. The equity will usually have a low Beta, i.e., is less volatile than the Index.**

We began 2014 with an indicated dividend yield on our equity portfolio of approximately 7.5%. The market offered approximately a 1.75% dividend yield.

The market offered a 1.75% dividend yield and produced a return of 9.3%. Greenwich Investment Management offered a 7.5% dividend yield and produced a negative return of 2.9%. Clearly the market value of the Greenwich Investment Management portfolio declined. Almost all of the decline occurred in the fourth quarter. It declined because of large commitments to three equities. Here is a brief description of the three and what we see as the reason for the decline in price.

Oaktree Capital (OAK). We have written before about OAK that we viewed and do view as an excellent investment management firm with an international, prestigious clientele. OAK's earnings in 2014 were less than in 2013, but OAK maintained excellent profitability with high quality of earnings and above market dividend yield. OAK performed well until late winter of 2014 when OAK management sold 500,000 "private" units to the public market at \$59. OAK began to decline immediately and declined steadily until reaching a low of \$46 before rebounding to \$50 at year end. Since the end of 2014 the 'technical' market posture of OAK has strengthened. Greenwich Investment Management may reduce our heavy weighting of OAK in client portfolios.

Ellington Financial (EFC). The story here is similar to OAK. EFC is a fixed income (bond) manager that has compiled a sterling performance record. The market began to recognize the record as EFC climbed gradually from \$22 to almost \$26 in 2014 even as EFC sported a dividend yield of 12 percent. EFC was poised to contribute to solid Greenwich Investment Management performance in 2014, but for EFC prosperity proved intolerable. In October EFC succumbed to the ministrations of Merrill Lynch and offered an astonishing amount of equity to the market. The new shares increased the “float” by 20 percent. EFC is not well known. EFC is not a “hot stock.” The marketplace could not absorb so large an offering. EFC’s price collapsed. At its current price EFC yields 15+%. Reflect on this situation. The long run return on common stocks is no greater than 10 percent and some academics see it as closer to 7.5 percent. EFC’s dividend yield is 15%. Greenwich Investment Management continues to view EFC as a core holding. EFC’s “technical” posture has stabilized but has not improved as much as OAK. EFC with its 15% dividend yield has the potential to be a huge contributor to client portfolios in 2015.

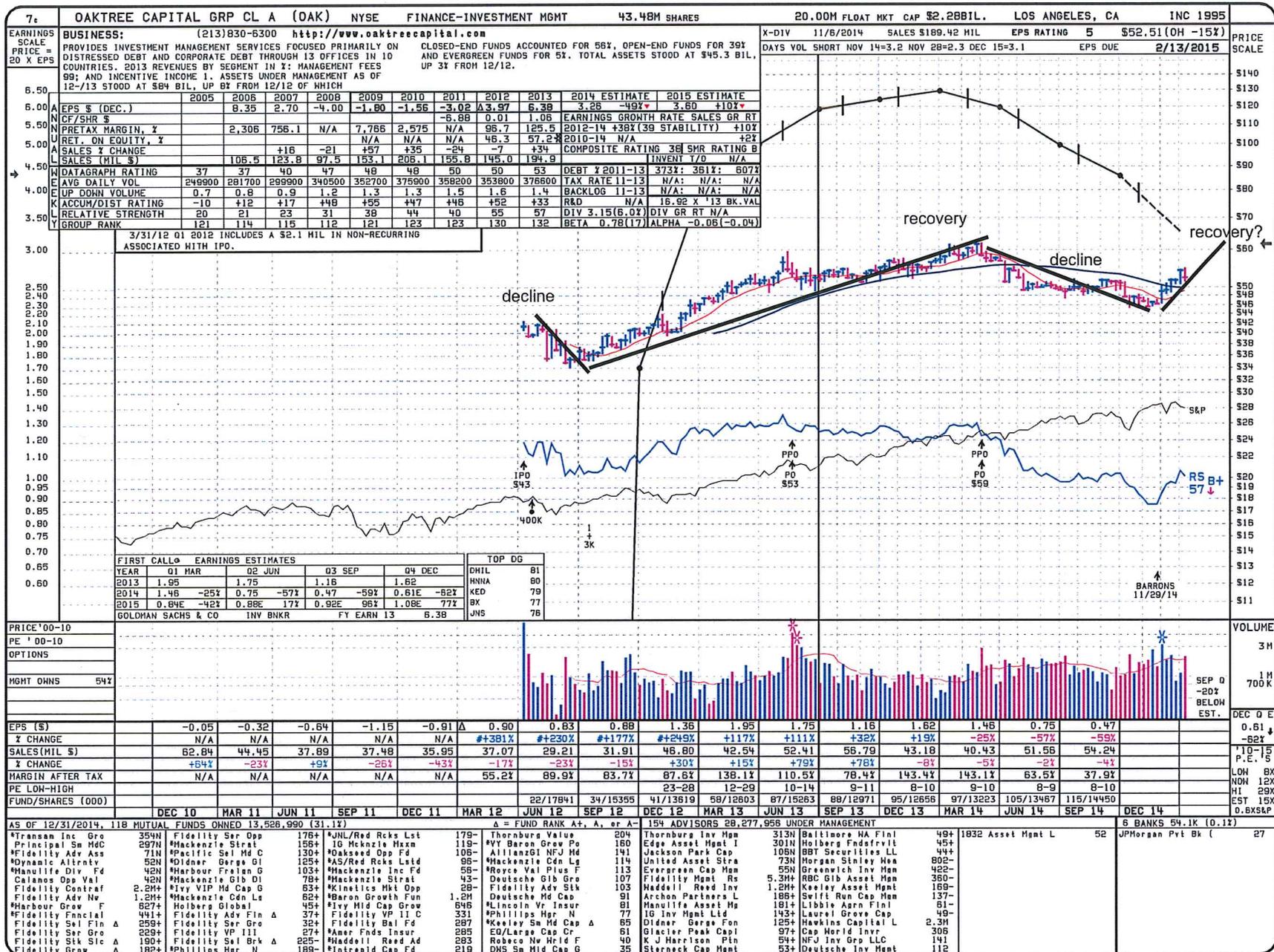
Triangle Capital (TCAP). TCAP has been a core position for Greenwich Investment Management clients for 3 or 4 years. The asset has been a solid performer. The problem that TCAP presents has similarities to OAK and EFC. TCAP is a Business Development Company (BDC). It has issued new shares at least 4 times over the past 5 years. When TCAP raises new equity, TCAP then borrows against their equity to leverage their portfolio of loans. The risk is that TCAP grows beyond its ability to maintain the quality of their portfolio. Simply TCAP took write downs. They announced the write downs after offering new shares at \$26. TCAP trades at \$21.50. There is no prospect for TCAP to trade back to \$26. The mistakes made by TCAP have relegated TCAP to a position of a “cheap” equity that Greenwich Investment Management can trade. TCAP will have to repair its tattered reputation before we can view TCAP as a core asset.

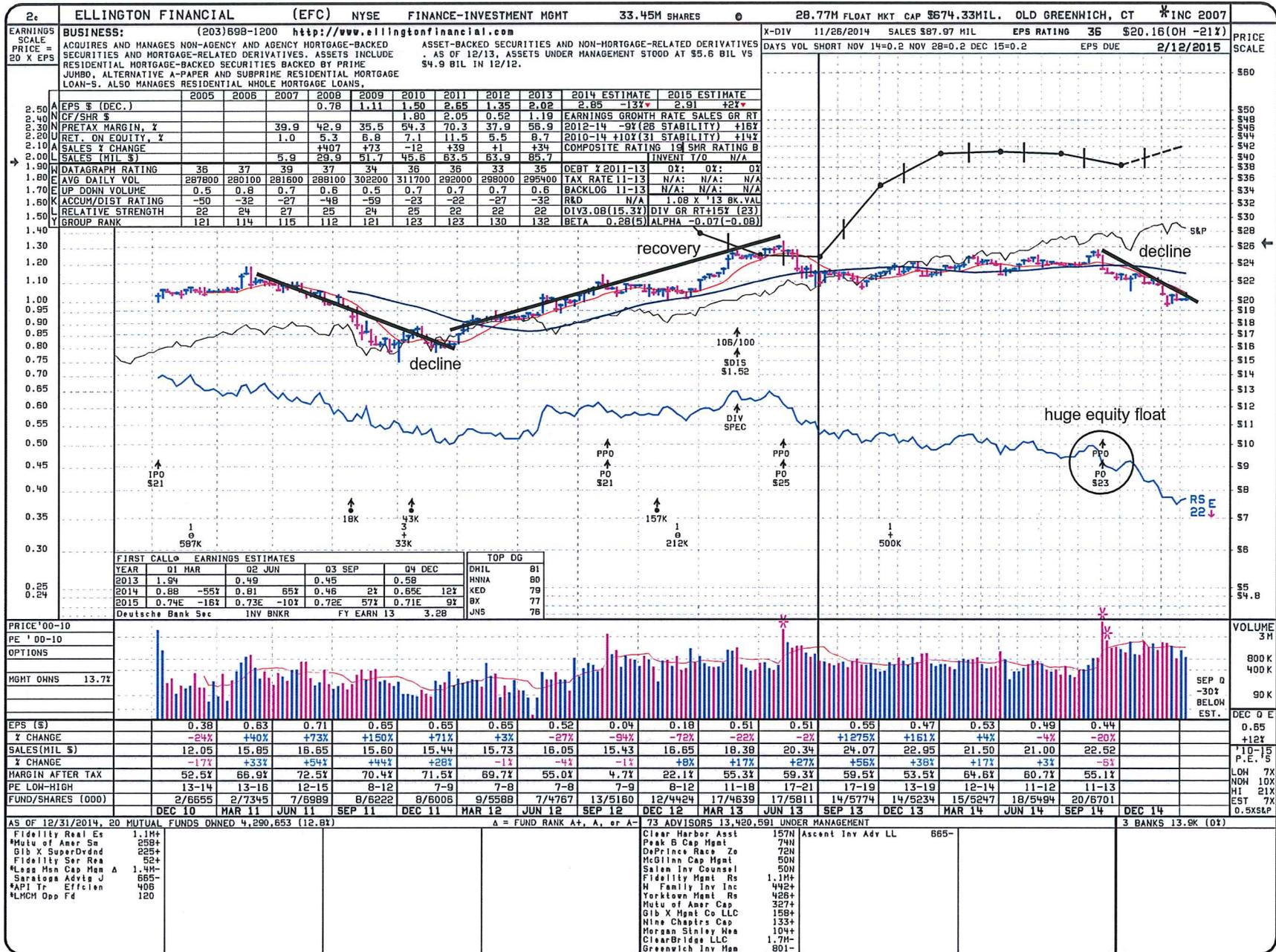
The Prospects for Improved Equity Performance

While 2014 was a disappointment, the Equity Unit made a number of productive moves. We purchased Blackrock (BLK) and sold the position to achieve an approximately 14%* return. We made a significant investment in REIT’s including Omega Health (OHI) and Dupont Fibros (DFT). Both OHI and DFT are making new all time highs early in 2015. Clients of many years standing will recall the 1997-1999 period when our portfolios trailed the returns of the indices dominated by “dot com” and ‘high tech.” Next the historic decline of 2000-2002. Our clients prospered. We are diligently working to maintain your prosperity by continually enhancing your useable wealth.

*Some clients may have not owned BLK and the total rate of return may have been slightly more or slightly less than 14%

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NOTICES

- **Greenwich Investment Management implemented new management fee reports which consolidate management fees for all portfolios in the household to one invoice.**
- **Portfolio History Report has been updated to include Average Capital Base (ACB). ACB is the dollars that management has had to work with over the management horizon.**
- Please let us know if you want to receive your Quarterly Reports in electronic format via our secure website.
- If you have had a change in circumstances that would alter your Statement of Investment Objectives, please contact our service team at Greenwich Investment Management.
- Thank you for continued support of Greenwich Investment Management. We appreciate your loyalty. Many GIM clients have been clients (of GIM or predecessor firms) for 5, 10, 20 or even 30 years. They have enjoyed the continuous flow of income throughout those years.
- A referral is the best compliment you can give. If you think someone you know could benefit from our work then please ask them to contact our office. We are available for conversation or meetings to determine if we are a match for their investment goals.

Disclosures:

Performance presented here represents past performance, which cannot guarantee future results. Investment return and principle value will fluctuate so that an investor's account value, at some future date, may be greater than or less than its value at inception. There is a risk of loss of principal.

The performance numbers in this letter reflect actual returns of all equities and tax-exempt bonds held by all GIM portfolios during the period indicated. Not all clients hold the same securities and performance will be different for each client based on securities held, the length of time held, and expenses incurred. The performance results reflect the deduction of actual advisory fees at rates up to 1% per annum and include the reinvestment of dividends and income. Clients may also incur other transaction costs such as custodial fees and other expenses. Please refer to the Investment Advisor Agreement for a full disclosure of the applicable fee schedule. The volatility of the indices may be materially different from that of the performance of the Composite. In addition, the Composite's holdings may differ significantly from the securities that comprise the indices. The indices have not been selected to represent appropriate benchmarks to compare the Composite's performance, but rather are disclosed to allow for comparison of the Composite's performance to that of well-known and widely recognized indices.

This material is for informational purposes only and should not be used or construed as recommendation regarding any security or be used as the sole basis for any investment decision. Not all GIM clients hold the same securities; therefore, a client's percentage held and income earned may be different from the information presented in the first paragraph of this letter.