# The Long-Term Potential of Dividend Growth

**KFAFunds** 





# Introduction to KFA Funds

#### **About KFA Funds**

KFA Funds is the premier platform for developing and delivering differentiated, high-conviction investment strategies to global investors. We are passionate about identifying and delivering groundbreaking capital market opportunities. We believe that investors should have cost-effective and transparent tools for attaining exposure to a wide variety of asset classes. Our goal is to become a leading source of non-traditional diversification. KFA Funds are managed by Krane Funds Advisors.







KFA Small Cap Quality Dividend Index ETF

#### **Investment Strategy**

KSCD is benchmarked to the Russell 2000 Dividend Select Equal Weight Index, which takes a smart beta<sup>1</sup> approach to investing in US Small Cap companies. The strategy seeks to measure the performance of US companies that have successfully increased their dividend payments over a period of at least ten years. The Index is designed to provide a benchmark for investors looking to capture a concentrated portfolio of constituents demonstrating increased dividends and positive momentum.

#### **KSCD Features**

- Exposure to firms with historically reliable dividend growth which have a strong record of stable cash flows, healthy balance sheets and durable business models<sup>1</sup>
- Dividend growth strategies can potentially improve performance in down market environments<sup>1</sup>
- Smart beta strategy which seeks to deliver cost effective alpha by selecting stocks with positive momentum.

<sup>1. &</sup>quot;Harnessing the Long-Term Potential of Dividend Growth." FTSE Russell, Nov. 2018. Retrieved 9/30/2020. See page 13 for term definitions.



## What is dividend growth?

- Dividend growth refers to the consistent increase in dividend payments over consecutive years, focusing on repeated increases not necessarily a high dividend.
- Breaking down a company's sustainable growth rate\* uncovers drivers of dividend growth. The sustainable growth rate of a company is the rate at which earnings, and thus potential dividends, can theoretically grow indefinitely if the firm's debt-equity ratio is unchanged and no new equity is issued.
- By understanding that dividend growth companies have increased dividends at a sustainable rate (which may allow them to do so over multiple years), an investor can assume that the return on equity has historically been high for these companies.
- A high return on equity implies that these companies have exhibited a preferable combination of profit margins, asset turnover and financial leverage<sup>1</sup>.



See page 13 for term definitions.

1. "Harnessing the Long-Term Potential of Dividend Growth," FTSE Russell, Nov., 2018. Retrieved 9/30/2020.



# **Advantages of Dividend Growth Strategies**

|                             | Historical outperformance with lower volatility   | Compounded growth on dividend reinvestment  | Dampened drawdown in declining markets   |
|-----------------------------|---|---|--|
| Dividend Growth<br>Analyses | When observing US stocks that raised their dividend payouts over a ten-year period or more, FTSE found that stocks averaged 13.9% returns from 1987 – 2014, 380 bps higher than dividend payers not increasing dividends <sup>1</sup> . | From 1990-2018, dividend payments accounted for approximately 50% of the returns in the S&P 500.2                               | When observing S&P 500 dividend growers during the market declines in 2007 – 2009 and 2018, we found the max drawdown to be 21.5% and 6.1%, comparing favorably to the S&P 500 Total Return Index max drawdown of 35.0% and 10.2% <sup>2</sup> . |
| Analysis Summary            | Companies that grew or initiated dividends have historically exhibited superior performance and lower volatility <sup>1</sup> .   | The contribution of dividend income to the total return of the S&P 500 has been significant and cannot be ignored. <sup>2</sup> | Lower drawdown may help prevent investors from making rash decisions regarding their portfolio and achieve investment goals <sup>1</sup> .   |

<sup>1. &</sup>quot;Harnessing the Long-Term Potential of Dividend Growth." FTSE Russell, Nov. 2018.

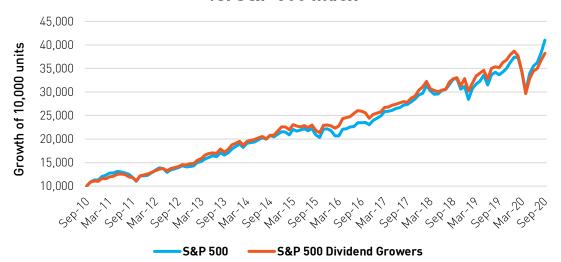
<sup>2.</sup> Data from Bloomberg as of 9/30/2020. See page 14 for index definitions.



# Less volatility and higher dividend yields

- Despite recent market volatility due to the coronavirus outbreak, over the past 10 years S&P 500 dividend growers performed relatively in-line with the S&P 500 Index but with lower volatility.
- The S&P 500 dividend growers has historically had a higher aggregate dividend yield than its broad benchmark, the S&P 500, and higher dividend growth across its constituents.
- We believe its strong performance is a testament to the fact that dividend growing companies are firms with enduring investment value, particularly for investors with long-term horizons.

# 10 Year Performance of S&P 500 Dividend Growers vs. S&P 500 Index<sup>1</sup>



#### 10 Year Annualized Return and Volatility 1

|                             | Annualized Returns |        |         | Annualized Volatility |        |         |
|-----------------------------|--------------------|--------|---------|-----------------------|--------|---------|
|                             | 1-Year             | 5-Year | 10-Year | 1-Year                | 5-Year | 10-Year |
| S&P 500 Dividend<br>Growers | 3.63%              | 12.02% | 13.21%  | 22.66%                | 14.04% | 12.20%  |
| S&P 500 Index               | 15.14%             | 14.14% | 13.73%  | 22.96%                | 14.88% | 13.25%  |

Index returns are for illustrative purposes only and do not represent actual Fund performance. Index returns do not reflect any management fees, transaction costs or expenses. Indexes are unmanaged and one cannot invest directly in an index. Past performance does not guarantee future results. For actual fund performance visit our website www.kfafunds.com.

1. Data from Bloomberg as of 9/30/2020. See page 14 for index definitions.

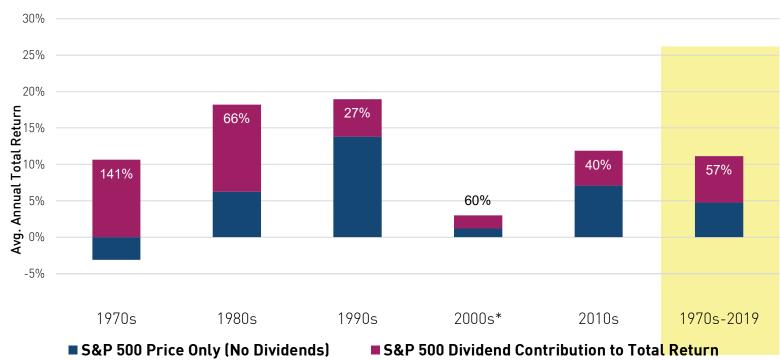


# Compounded growth on dividend reinvestment

- Data from Bloomberg and NYU Stern shows that from 1970 to 2018, an average of 57% of the total return of the S&P 500 can be attributed to compounding growth on reinvested dividends<sup>1</sup>.
- In fact, a \$10,000 investment in the S&P 500 in December of 1960 would have yielded a \$3.232MM investment value in December of 2019, accounting for price return, dividends and reinvested dividends; while the same \$10,000 investment resulted in an ending investment value of \$546,000 if the S&P 500 had price return only<sup>1</sup>.

#### Dividends' Contribution to Total Return of S&P 500 By Decade1





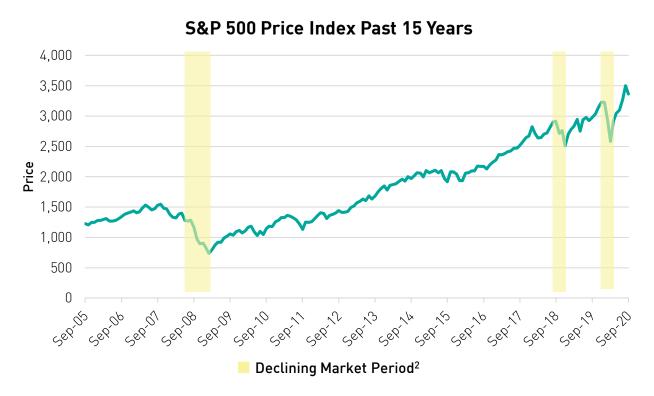
Index returns are for illustrative purposes only and do not represent actual Fund performance. Index returns do not reflect any management fees, transaction costs or expenses. Indexes are unmanaged and one cannot invest directly in an index. Past performance does not guarantee future results. For actual fund performance visit our website www.kfafunds.com.

<sup>1.</sup> Data from Bloomberg and NYU Stern as of 12/31/2019. Retrieved 9/30/2020.



# Dampened drawdown in declining markets

- Lower drawdown may help prevent an investor from making emotional decisions regarding their portfolio during market turmoil. Greater discipline results in dedication to the investment plan and an increased likelihood of achieving investment goals.
- Dividend growers have shown evidence of lower drawdown. From December 2007 to June 2009, dividend growers outperformed the broader market by over 10%.
- In the past 15 years, dividend growers in the S&P 500 gave outperformed the broader market by, on average, about 4% over three periods of declining markets.



| 1. | Data fro  | om Bloor   | mberg as | of 9/30/2020. |
|----|-----------|------------|----------|---------------|
|    | Data II . | 0111 00001 | 11201940 | 01 //00/2020. |

2. Declining Market Period is defined as a period where securities prices fall 10% or more. See page 14 for index definitions.

| Total Return in Declining Markets in the Past 15 Years <sup>1</sup> |   |                               |  |  |  |
|---|---|-------------------------------|--|--|--|
| Declining Market Period <sup>2</sup>                                | S&P 500 Dividend<br>Growers<br>Total Return | S&P 500 Index<br>Total Return |  |  |  |
| Dec. 2007 – Jun. 2009   | -21.5%                                      | -35.0%                        |  |  |  |
| Sept. 2018 – Dec. 2018  | -6.1%                                       | -10.2%                        |  |  |  |
| Jan. 2020 – Mar. 2020   | -23.29%                                     | -19.60%                       |  |  |  |
| Average   | -16.96%                                     | -21.60%                       |  |  |  |

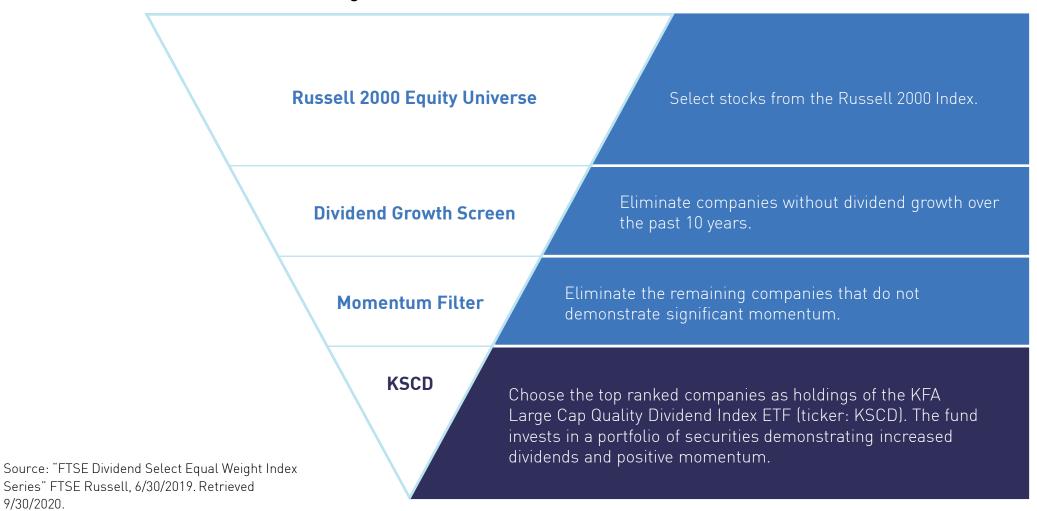
Index returns are for illustrative purposes only and do not represent actual Fund performance. Index returns do not reflect any management fees, transaction costs or expenses. Indexes are unmanaged and one cannot invest directly in an index. Past performance does not guarantee future results.



9/30/2020.

The KFA Small Cap Quality Dividend Index ETF (ticker: KSCD) uses smart-beta approach that not only holds securities demonstrating increased dividends but also those with positive momentum.

#### Smart-Beta Filtering Process for Constituent Selection





# Momentum is key to unlocking potentially high returns from dividend growing companies.

- Many of the companies that have consistently increased their dividends tended to be large, old, and slow-growing.
- A momentum strategy looks at acceleration in stock prices and seeks investment in companies that exhibit high growth rates even if their stock prices are already high.
- The KFA Small Cap Quality Dividend Index ETF combines a smart-beta momentum strategy with a dividend growth strategy to help ensure that the companies included in the fund grow more than just their dividends.
- The chart below shows that dividend yield and return on equity in the Russell 2000 Dividend Select Equal Weight Index is currently an improvement over the general Russell 2000 Index.

| Russell 2000 Dividend Select Equal Weight Index vs Russell 2000 Index Characteristics (as of 6/30/2020) <sup>1</sup> |  |                    |  |  |
|--|--|--------------------|--|--|
|  | Russell 2000 Dividend Select Equal<br>Weight Index | Russell 2000 Index |  |  |
| Market Cap (\$ Wgt. Avg in \$M)  | 1.9  | 2.5                |  |  |
| Number of Holdings   | 46   | 2,019              |  |  |
| Dividend Yield   | 2.6  | 1.53               |  |  |
| Price/Earnings   | 19.2   | 17.7               |  |  |
| Price/Sales  | 1.2  | 1.1                |  |  |
| Price/Cash Flow  | 9.1  | 11.5               |  |  |
| Return on Equity (%)   | 7.5  | -7.1               |  |  |

<sup>1.</sup> Data from Bloomberg and FTSE Russell as of 9/30/2020. See page 13 for term definitions.



#### Conclusion

- We believe dividend growth is an attractive investment theme that should be considered when constructing a portfolio.
- Companies exhibiting dividend growth have historically shown the ability to pay and commitment to paying these dividends and increasing them each year, thereby allowing an investor to potentially reap the benefits of compounded dividends and returns.
- Through these dividend growth companies, the investor gains exposure to two factors that may help dampen risk in a portfolio: quality and historically low volatility.
- Investors who seek opportunities to gain or replace equity exposure by focusing on highquality companies dedicated to returning money to their shareholders should consider incorporating dividend growth strategies into their portfolios.

# Advantages of Dividend Growth Strategies

| Historical outperformance with lower volatility   | Compounded growth on dividend reinvestment   | Dampened<br>drawdown in<br>declining markets   |  |
|---|--|--|--|
| Companies that grew or initiated dividends have historically exhibited superior performance and lower volatility <sup>1</sup> . | Dividend income's contribution to the total return of the S&P 500 has been significant, and cannot be ignored. | Lower drawdown may help prevent investors from making rash decisions regarding their portfolio and achieve investment goals <sup>1</sup> . |  |

<sup>1. &</sup>quot;Harnessing the Long-Term Potential of Dividend Growth." FTSE Russell, Nov. 2018, Retrieved 9/30/2020.



#### KFA Small Cap Quality Dividend Index ETF

#### **Investment Strategy:**

KSCD is benchmarked to the Russell 2000 Dividend Select Equal Weight Index, which takes a smart beta approach to investing in US Large Cap companies. The strategy seeks to measure the performance of US companies that have successfully increased their dividend payments over a period of ten years. The Index is designed to provide a benchmark for investors looking to capture a concentrated portfolio of constituents demonstrating increased dividends and positive momentum.

| Fund Details                        | Data as of 9/30/2020                                     |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| Primary Exchange                    | NYSE   |
| CUSIP                               | 500767710  |
| ISIN                                | US5007677108   |
| Total Annual Fund Operating Expense | 0.52%  |
| Inception Date                      | 6/12/2019  |
| Distribution Frequency              | Annual   |
| Index Name                          | Russell 2000<br>Dividend Select<br>Equal Weight<br>Index |
| Number of Holdings                  | 47   |

| <b>Top 10 Holdings</b> as of 9/30/2020 Holdings are subject to change. | Ticker | %    |
|--|--------|------|
| ANDERSONS INC/THE  | ANDE   | 2.45 |
| HEALTHCARE SERVICES GROUP  | HCSG   | 2.38 |
| BADGER METER INC   | ВМІ    | 2.38 |
| CHESAPEAKE UTILITIES CORP  | CPK    | 2.37 |
| AARON'S INC  | AAN    | 2.34 |
| PETMED EXPRESS INC   | PETS   | 2.33 |
| BAR HARBOR BANKSHARES  | ВНВ    | 2.31 |
| ENSIGN GROUP INC/THE   | ENSG   | 2.29 |
| ARTESIAN RES-A   | ARTNA  | 2.28 |
| LANCASTER COLONY CORP  | LANC   | 2.27 |

#### KSCD Performance History as of 09/30/2020:

|               | Cumulative % |       | Average Annualized % |         |      |      |                 |
|---------------|--------------|-------|----------------------|---------|------|------|-----------------|
|               | 3 Mo         | 6 Mo  | Since Inception      | 1 Yr    | 3 Yr | 5 Yr | Since Inception |
| Fund NAV      | -1.79%       | 2.98% | -13.59%              | -15.72% | -    | -    | -10.61%         |
| Closing Price | -1.74%       | 3.92% | -13.55%              | -15.68% | -    | -    | -10.58%         |
| Index         | -1.71%       | 3.24% | -12.96%              | -15.27% | _    | -    | -10.08%         |

The performance data quoted represents past performance. Past performance does not guarantee future results. The investment return and principal value of an investment will fluctuate so that an investors shares, when sold or redeemed, may be worth more or less than their original cost and current performance may be lower or higher than the performance quoted. For performance data current to the most recent month end, please visit www.kfafunds.com.

Index returns are for illustrative purposes only. Index performance returns do not reflect any management fees, transaction costs or expenses. Indexes are unmanaged and one cannot invest directly in an index.



### **Terminology Definitions**

<u>Dividend Growth Rate:</u> A company's dividend growth rate is the rate at which that company is expected to increase its dividend payments. The dividend growth rate is the annualized percentage rate of growth that a particular stock's dividend undergoes for a period of time.

<u>Sustainable Growth Rate:</u> The sustainable growth rate is the rate at which a company is expected to grow without significant additional capital investment. The sustainable growth rate is represented by the formula: Return on Equity x (1 – Dividend Payout Ratio)

Free Cash Flow: Free cash flow is the amount of cash left over after a company has paid all its expenses and capital expenditures.

<u>Smart Beta:</u> Smart beta is a rules-based system for selecting investments to be included in a fund portfolio. Smart beta is generally used to ensure that investments exhibiting a certain, measurable characteristic are automatically included in a fund.

<u>Dividend Yield:</u> The ratio of a company's annual dividend compared to its share price. Dividend yield is expressed by the formula: annual dividend/share price. <u>Price/Earnings (P/E):</u> The ratio of a company's share price compared to its earnings per share over a period of time. P/E is expressed by the formula: market value per share/earnings per share

<u>Price/Cash Flow:</u> The ratio of a company's share price to its operating cash flow per share. Price/Cash flow is expressed by the formula: Share price/operating cash flow per share.

<u>ROE:</u> A measure of how effectively management is using a company's assets to create profits. ROE is expressed by the formula: net income/shareholders' equity. <u>Price/Sales:</u> The ratio of a companies share price to its sales (revenue) per share for the most recent reporting period.

Return On Equity (ROE): A measure of how effectively management is using a company's assets to create profits. ROE is expressed by the formula: net income/shareholders' equity.

Market Cap \$ Wgt. Avg. in \$ Billions: The average market capitalization among the companies in an index where the average is taken by multiplying each company's market capitalization by their respective weights in the index, summing their products, and then dividing that sum by the number of constituents of the index. A company's market capitalization is the total value of the company's shares outstanding.

<u>Alpha:</u> the active return on an investment, gauges the performance of an investment against a market index or benchmark which is considered to represent the market's movement as a whole.



#### **Index Definitions**

<u>S&P 500 Index</u>: The S&P 500 Index is widely regarded as the best single gauge of large-cap U.S. equities. There is over USD 9.9 trillion indexed or benchmarked to the index, with indexed assets comprising approximately USD 3.4 trillion of this total. The index includes 500 leading companies and covers approximately 80% of available market capitalization. The index was launched on March 4, 1957.

<u>S&P 500 Dividend Aristocrats Index ("S&P 500 Dividend Growers")</u>: This index is designed to measure the performance of S&P 500 index constituents that have followed a policy of consistently increasing dividends every year for at least 25 years.

Russell 2000 Index: This index is comprised of the smallest 2000 companies in the Russell 3000 Index, representing approximately 8% of the Russell total market capitalization. The real-time value is calculated with a base value of 135 as of December 31, 1986. The end-of-day value is calculated with a base value of 100 as of December 29, 1978.

Russell 2000 Dividend Select Equal Weight Index: This index is designed to measure the performance of US companies that have successfully increased their dividend payments over a period of ten years. On a quarterly basis the highest-ranking companies based on momentum are selected and equally weighted to form the final index, capturing the large cap domestic market. The index is designed to provide a benchmark for investors looking to capture a concentrated portfolio of constituents demonstrating increased dividends and positive momentum.

<u>Volatility:</u> the degree of variation of a trading price series over time as measured by the standard deviation of returns. Standard deviation is a quantity calculated to indicate the extent of deviation for a group as a whole. A low standard deviation indicates that the data points tend to be close to the mean (also called the expected value) of the set, while a high standard deviation indicates that the data points are spread out over a wider range of values.



#### **Important Notes**

Carefully consider the Funds' investment objectives, risk factors, charges and expenses before investing. This and additional information can be found in the Funds' full and summary prospectus, which may be obtained by visiting www.kfafunds.com. Read the prospectus carefully before investing.

#### Risk Disclosures

Investing involves risk, including possible loss of principal. There can be no assurance that a Fund will achieve its stated objectives.

There is no guarantee that issuers of the stocks held by the Fund will declare dividends in the future or that, if declared, such dividends will remain at current values or increase over time. The Fund is non-diversified. The Funds may invest in derivatives, which are often more volatile than other investments and may magnify the Fund's gains or losses.

ETF shares are not redeemable with the issuing fund other than in large Creation Unit aggregations. Instead, investors must buy or sell ETF Shares in the secondary market with the assistance of a stockbroker. In doing so, the investor may incur brokerage commissions and may pay more than net asset value when buying and receive less than net asset value when selling. The NAV of the Fund's shares is calculated each day the national securities exchanges are open for trading as of the close of regular trading on the New York Stock Exchange ("NYSE"), normally 4:00 p.m. Eastern time (the "NAV Calculation Time"). Shares are bought and sold at market price (closing price) not NAV. Market price returns are based on the midpoint of the bid/ask spread at 4:00 pm Eastern Time (when NAV is normally determined).

Diversification does not ensure a profit or quarantee against a loss.

KSCD invests in small-capitalization companies. In addition to the nominal risks associated with investing, investments in small companies typically exhibit higher volatility. KSCD is subject to liquidity risk, meaning that certain investments may become difficult to purchase or sell at a reasonable time and price. If a transaction for these securities is large, it may not be possible to initiate which may cause the Fund to suffer losses. There is no guarantee that issuers of the stocks held by the Fund will declare dividends in the future or that, if declared, such dividends will remain at current levels or increase over time. The Fund is non-diversified. The Funds may invest in derivatives, which are often more volatile than other investments and may magnify the Funds' gains or losses.

The KFA ETFs are distributed by SEI Investments Distribution Company (SIDCO), 1 Freedom Valley Drive, Oaks, PA 19456, which is not affiliated with Krane Funds Advisors, LLC, the Investment Adviser for the Fund. [R\_US\_KS\_SEI]