# ZCM High Dividend Equity: Performance & Commentary

### PERFORMANCE SUMMARY

The strategy returned 7.41% before fees (7.25% net of fees) in the first quarter, underperforming the Russell 1000 Value Index's 8.99% return.

Asset allocation to the R1V hurt performance by 121 bps on the quarter, with an underweight to Financials (-31 bps) and overweight to utilities (-16 bps) detracting, offset slightly by an underweight to Information Tech (+4 bps), while our cash position detracted by 33 bps

Stock selection was also a headwind this quarter, even though a number of sectors outperformed. The Information Technology sector (+72bps) was the best performer, followed by Health Care (+24 bps). This overshadowed by weakness in Consumer Staples (-112 bps), and Industrials (-39 bps).

#### **MARKET OUTLOOK**

Equity markets stock continued their advance into the new year, as inflation readings cooled and investors embraced a soft-landing scenario with lower rates and a slowing, but still growing economy. The rally in large-cap growth stocks continued, but it broadened out into other areas of the market. Investors rewarded companies displaying higher profitability and paying dividends in the first quarter, after penalizing these factors over much of the past year.

Financial markets have embraced expectations of a mid-year cut in the fed funds rates after the Fed's March meeting but could be disappointed if Fed retains "higher for longer" approach. Equity risk premiums are well below the averages of recent years and represent a source of significant risk if investors become more risk-averse and require lower multiples on equities. Rebounding inflation, higher interest rates, and election year uncertainties remain major risks, exacerbated by escalating military and geopolitical tensions. Many areas of the equity market are priced for perfection and investors are not pricing in risk as equities climb to new highs. However, some sectors of the equity market, like dividend stocks, have not risen as much and are more attractive on a risk-adjusted basis.

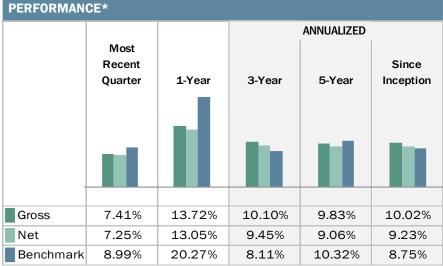
The High Dividend strategy is exposed to the dividend yield factor, something that has served as a headwind over the last twelve months. This factor, as well as the focus on low volatility and safety of increasing cash flows works well during periods of lower equity market returns and higher volatility, like we saw in 2022. The investment environment is expected to remain unstable until the Fed culminates its tightening and pivots towards an easier stance.

### STRATEGY OVERVIEW

Benchmark:	Russell 1000 Value
Inception Date:	December 31, 2015

#### STRATEGY SUMMARY

The ZCM High Dividend Equity strategy seeks to provide current income and long-term capital appreciation with an acute focus on downside protection in dividend-growing stocks. The foundation of the investment philosophy is that a portfolio of high-quality, income-producing stocks may generate attractive total returns as well as offer lower levels of long-term volatility when compared with investing in the broad equity markets.



Source - Bloomberg and ZCM

\*Estimated, Past performance is no guarantee of future results.

The benchmark is the Russell 1000 Value. Prior to 07/01/20 the benchmark was the S&P 500.

As of December 31, 2023. All benchmark returns presented are provided to represent the investment environment existing during the time periods shown. Actual investment performance will vary due to fees and expenses. Investment performance reflects the reinvestment of dividends and other income. Gross-of-fees performance is shown net of fees performance is shown net of a model investment management fee that is equal to the highest fee charged to the intended audience. For comparison purposes, the benchmarks include the reinvestment of income. Indices are unmanaged, do not reflect fees and expenses, and are not available for direct investment.

# ZCM High Dividend Equity: Most Recent Quarter Attribution Report

SECTOR ATTRIBUTION										
	AVERAG	E WEIGHT	*ATTRIBUTION ANALYSIS							
SECTOR	PORTFOLIO	BENCHMARK	ALLOCATION EFFECT	SELECTION EFFECT	TOTAL EFFECT					
Communication Services	9.00%	4.71%	-0.03%	0.25%	0.22%					
Consumer Discretionary	5.82%	5.03%	-0.01%	0.14%	0.13%					
Consumer Staples	13.78%	7.84%	-0.10%	-1.12%	-1.22%					
Energy	5.77%	7.76%	-0.08%	-0.08%	-0.16%					
Financials	14.60%	22.23%	-0.31%	-0.29%	-0.60%					
Health Care	15.16%	14.73%	-0.01%	0.24%	0.23%					
Industrials	8.70%	13.99%	-0.16%	-0.39%	-0.55%					
Information Technology	6.27%	9.50%	0.04%	0.72%	0.76%					
Materials	3.19%	4.73%	0.03%	0.07%	0.10%					
Real Estate	5.69%	4.81%	-0.09%	0.16%	0.07%					
Utilities	8.57%	4.67%	-0.16%	-0.07%	-0.23%					
Cash	3.45%	0.00%	-0.33%	0.00%	-0.33%					
Total Portfolio	100.00%	100.00%	-1.21%	-0.37%	-1.58%					

The benchmark is the Russell 1000 Value. Prior to 07/01/20 the benchmark was the S&P 500.

\*The attribution analysis is based off a model portfolio, and does not include fees or expenses.

As of March 31, 2024. Individual client results may vary. Total Effect includes sector allocation effect + stock selection effect. Past performance does not guarantee future results. The benchmarks are unmanaged and unavailable for direct investment. Percentages may not add up to 100% due to rounding.

## ZCM High Dividend Equity: Characteristics

STRATEGY OVERVIEW	
Benchmark:	Russell 1000 Value
Holdings:	30-55 securities
Diversification:	Security basis, won't over/underweight more than 5%
	Sector basis, won't over/underweight more than $20\%$
Turnover Range:	40-60%
Average Cash Weighting:	3-5%

TOP TEN HOLDINGS BY WEIGHT		
	TICKER	PERCENT WEIGHT
Merck & Co., Inc.	MRK	3.35
JPMorgan Chase & Co.	JPM	3.25
Oracle Corp.	ORCL	3.23
AbbVie Inc.	ABBV	3.22
International Business Machines Corp.	IBM	3.19
Emerson Electric Co.	EMR	3.18
Garmin Ltd.	GRMN	3.16
Exxon Mobil Corp.	XOM	3.11
Prudential Financial, Inc.	PRU	3.09
Eastman Chemical Company	EMN	3.07

CHARACTERISTICS		
GENERAL MEASURES	ZCM	BENCHMARK
Number Of Stocks In Portfolio	33	845
Weighted Average Cap (\$ Mil)	153,717	158,536
Yield (%)	3.6	2.1
ROE (%)	21.6	15.1
Debt/Equity Ratio (%)	177.4	85.1
Beta	0.82	_
VALUE MEASURES	ZCM	BENCHMARK
Price/Earnings Ratio* (12-Month Trailing)	19.8	19.0
Price/Earnings Ratio* (Forecast FY)	14.8	16.9
Price/Book Value Ratio	2.8	2.5
Price/Cash Flow Ratio	10.0	11.6
Price/Sales Ratio	2.1	1.8
GROWTH MEASURES	ZCM	BENCHMARK
EPS 1-Year Growth Rate (%) (Forecast FY)	11.6	11.2
EPS 5-Year Growth Rate (%) (Trailing)	4.6	11.8
EPS Growth - Long-Term Forecast	7.8	10.0

As of March 31, 2024. \*Price /Earnings ratios exclude stocks with zero or negative earnings. Data Source: FactSet | Past performance does not guarantee future results. The benchmarks are unmanaged and unavailable for direct investment. As of 1/1/2024, the Total Strategy ROE includes negative values, and also caps all ROE security values that are greater that 100 or less than -100. Holdings are subject to change and are as of the date indicated. These holdings should not be considered a recommendation to purchase, hold, or sell any particular security. There is no assurance that any of the securities noted will remain in the portfolio at the time you receive this presentation. It should not be assumed that any of the holdings discussed were, or will prove to be profitable, or that the investment recommendations or decisions we make in the future will be profitable. A complete list of all recommendations made by the firm is available upon request.

SECTOR	HDE	Russell 1000 Value	Difference	
Communication Services	9.29%	4.60%	4.69%	
Consumer Discretionary	6.13%	5.01%	1.12%	
Consumer Staples	11.67%	7.68%	3.98%	
Energy	6.13%	8.05%	-1.93%	
Financials	15.51%	22.65%	-7.15%	
Health Care	15.21%	14.25%	0.96%	
Industrials	9.00%	14.29%	-5.29%	
Information Technology	6.63%	9.40%	-2.77%	
Materials	6.07%	4.79%	1.28%	
Real Estate	5.64%	4.61%	1.03%	
Utilities	8.74%	4.67%	4.07%	

As of March 31, 2024. Based off a model portfolio, and does not include fees or expenses. Individual client results may vary. Past performance does not guarantee future results. Indices are unmanaged, do not reflect fees and expenses, and are not available for direct investment. Portfolio characteristics and attribution are shown for a model portfolio of the referenced investment strategy and do not reflect an actual active, managed account. Portfolio characteristics and attribution may vary among actual accounts invested in the same investment strategy. ZCM believes the model portfolio closely resembles its intended strategy. Portfolio holdings and allocations are subject to change at any time without notice. Securities listed should not be considered a recommendation to buy or sell any security.

### ZCM High Dividend Equity Performance Disclosures

As of 3/31/2024 Ziegler Capital Management, LLC (aka ZCM) has been reorganized as part to F/m Investments, LLC. F/m Investments, LLC ("F/m"), is an investment adviser registered under the Investment Advisers Act of 1940.

						Russell 1000	Dow Jones Dividend							
	Gross-of-Fees			Dow Jones	Composite	Value	Select			Portfolios	Composite	Strategy	Firm	Firm
	Return	Net-of-Fees	Russell 1000	US Dividend	3 Yr. Ex Post	3 Yr. Ex Post	3 Yr. Ex Post	Number of	Internal	With Bundled	Assets	Assets	AUM	AUA
Year-End	(Gross/Pure Gross)	Return	Value	Select Index	Std. Dev.	Std. Dev.	Std. Dev.	Portfolios	Dispersion (%)	Fees (%)	(USD millions)	(USD millions	s)(USD millions	s)(USD millions)
2017 (1 month)	1.5%	1.5%	1.5%	0.8%	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	103	N.A.	100%	\$69	\$77	\$9,888	\$1,561
2018	1.1%	0.2%	-8.3%	-5.9%	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	78	0.0%	100%	\$56	\$58	\$10,084	\$1,775
2019	26.5%	25.2%	26.5%	23.1%	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	81	0.1%	100%	\$39	\$45	\$10,693	\$2,112
2020	-2.7%	-3.5%	2.8%	-4.56%	15.8%	19.9%	19.6%	<6	N.A.	0%	\$2	\$32	\$8,238	\$2,118
2021	20.8%	20.1%	25.2%	32.25%	15.8%	19.3%	20.4%	<6	N.A.	0%	\$3	\$26	\$8,035	\$2,293
2022	7.2%	6.6%	-7.5%	2.3%	18.8%	21.6%	22.3%	<6	N.A.	0%	\$3	\$28	\$6,383	\$1,734

Ziegler Capital Management, LLC, doing business as ZCM, claims compliance with the Global Investment Performance Standards (GIPS®) and has prepared and presented this report in compliance with the GIPS standards. ZCM has been independently verified for the periods 01/01/01- 12/31/22. The verification reports are available upon request. A firm that claims compliance with the GIPS standards. Verification nust establish policies and procedures for complying with all the applicable requirements of the GIPS standards. Verification provides assurance on whether the firm's policies and procedures related to composite and pooled fund maintenance, as well as the calculation, presentation, and distribution of performance, have been designed in compliance with the GIPS standards and have been implemented on a firm-wide basis. Verification of assurance on the accuracy of any specific performance report GIPS® is a registered trademark of CFA Institute. CFA Institute does not endorse or promote this organization, nor does it warrant the accuracy or quality of the content contained herein.

ZCM is a registered investment advisor that became a majority owned indirect subsidiary of 1251 Capital Group, Inc, that they acquired from Stifel Financial on March 27, 2020. ZCM was formed in 1991 and has grown significantly through strategic business combinations. Through these combinations, we have expanded our investment strategy offerings and broadened our portfolio management teams to best serve our expanding client base. ZCM's CEO changed in May 2021, and in February of 2023. Please refer to the firm's ADV Part 2 for additional disclosures regarding the firm and its practices. ZCM's definition of the firm used to determine the total firm assets and firm-wide compliance includes all fee-paying and non-fee-paying discretionary and non-discretionary assets under management, including accrued income, in all strategies. Assets under Advisement ("AUA"), in the form of model portfolios provided to other financial institutions, are excluded from our definition of the firm and are provided as supplemental information. Returns are calculated in U.S. dollars and reflect the reinvestment of dividends and other earnings. Past performance is no guarantee of future results. A list of broad distribution pooled funds is available upon request. To obtain a GIPS report or a list of our composite descriptions and/or policies for valuing investments, calculating performance, and preparing GIPS reports, please call (312) 368-1442 or send an e-mail to letters@zieglercap.com.

Composite and Benchmark Description: The ZCM High Dividend Equity strategy aims to provide current income and long-term capital appreciation by investing in dividend-producing stocks. The strategy is a diversified portfolio of primarily U.S. Stocks with opportunistic use of international companies available in the form of American Depositary Receipts (ADRs). The benchmark is the Russell 1000 Value. The Russell 1000 Value Index measures the performance of those Russell 1000 index companies with lower price-to-book ratios and lower forecasted growth values. The Dow Jones U.S. Dividend Select Index is also show because it closely resembles the investment strategy. The Dow Jones U.S. Dividend Select measures the performance of leading US dividend-paying stocks, based on dividend yield. Prior to 07/01/20 the benchmark was the S&P 500. This retroactive benchmark change was made because the Russell 1000 Value more closely resembles the exposures and risk/reward profile that is inherent to the strategy.

#### Minimum Account Size: No minimum

Composite Creation and Inception Date: The ZCM High Dividend Equity composite creation and inception date is December 1, 2017.

Significant Cash Flow Policy: Prior to 08/01/20 portfolios with significant cash flows are excluded from the composite. Cash flows of 15% or more are considered significant

Internal Dispersion: The internal dispersion is measured by the asset-weighted standard deviation across portfolio returns represented within the composite for the full period. If there are less than 6 portfolios in the composite for the entire year, the internal dispersion is not statistically meaningful and is presented as N.A. The composite and benchmark 3yr annualized ex post standard deviation are not presented because there is not yet 36 months of data. All risk measures are calculated using gross-of-fees returns.

Fees: Gross-of-fees returns are presented after trading expenses and before management fees. Prior to 07/01/20 gross-of-fees returns are presented as supplemental information and may not be reduced by any fees, expenses, or transaction costs (i.e. Pure Gross). Net-of-fees returns are presented after radual trading expenses and management fees. If the actual trading expenses cannot be identified and segregated from a bundled fee, net-of-fee returns are reduced by the entire bundled fee for bundled fee for bundled accounts. Bundled fee schedules are available from individual wrap sponsors and range up to 1.75% depending on the asset size. Wrap program fees include brokerage commissions, investment management, portfolio monitoring, consulting services, and in some cases, custodial services. Fees are calculated separately for each portfolio, and therefore, performance may differ from one portfolio to another. The effect of fees and expenses on performance will vary with the relative size of the fee and account performance. For example, if \$10 million were invested and experienced a 10% compounded annual return for ten years, its ending dollar value, without giving effect to the deduction of the advisory fee, would be \$25,937,425. If an advisory fee of 1.75% of average net assets per year for the ten-year period were deducted, the annual total return would be 8.16% and the ending dollar value would be \$19,397,477. The fee schedule is: 0.60% on the first \$25 million; 0.45% on the next\$25 million; and 0.30% on all additional assets. For example, if \$10 million were invested and expenses, if sending dollar value would be \$1.9,397,477. The fee schedule is: 0.60% on the first \$25 million; 0.45% on the next\$25,937,425. If an advisory fee of 0.60% of average net assets per year for the ten-year period were invested and experienced a 10% compounded annual return for ten years, is ending dollar value, without giving effect to the deduction of the advisory fee, would be \$25,937,425. If an advisory fee, would be \$25,937,425. I

**Other:** Strategy assets include all portfolios in the High Dividend strategy, even those portfolios that are excluded from the composites because of significant cash flows or for other reasons, and include non-wrap, wrap and UMA assets. This is presented as supplemental information.

### Disclosures

This review is for institutional advisory clients of F/m. The strategy review often expresses opinions about the direction of market, investment sector and other trends. The opinions should not be considered predictions of future results. The information contained in this report is based on sources believed to be reliable, but is not guaranteed and not necessarily complete.

Information contained herein is for informational purposes only and is not a recommendation to buy or sell any security. Contribution to portfolio return is calculated by multiplying the total return for the security by its average weight in the portfolio. There is no assurance that any securities discussed herein will remain in an account's portfolio at the time you receive this report or that securities sold have not been repurchased. The securities discussed do not represent an account's entire portfolio and in the aggregate may represent only a small percentage of an account's portfolio holdings. A complete list of all holdings is available upon request. It should not be assumed that recommendations made in the future will be profitable or will equal the performance of the securities represented herein. Other factors may impact overall performance for different accounts including the execution and timing of trades and any wrap sponsor's policies.

All investments involve risk, including loss of principal, and there is no guarantee that investment objectives will be met. Equity securities are subject generally to market, market sector, market liquidity, issuer, and investment style risks, among other factors to varying degrees. Equity securities may rise and decline in value due to both real and perceived market and economic factors as well as general industry conditions. Small capitalization stocks are likely to be more volatile in price and carry a higher risk of failure than large capitalization stocks. Indices are unmanaged, do not reflect fees and expenses and are not available as direct investments.

The Russell 1000 Value Index measures the performance of those Russell 1000 index companies with lower price-to-book ratios and lower forecasted growth values.

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