Strategy Review | *Data as of 06/30/2017*

QUARTERLY HIGHLIGHTS

- ***The Global Macro Strategy model rose considerably during the quarter, as most equity, fixed income and alternative strategies were positive***
- ***The strategy model outperformed its benchmark, the HFRX Global Hedge Fund Index, primarily due to its technology, European equity, and quality factor allocations***
- ***Exposure to managed futures and long/short equities detracted from performance***

MARKET CONTEXT | OUTLOOK

Market results for Q2-2017 were once again strong, with non-U.S. equities and emerging markets outpacing U.S. equities, while bonds moved higher led by credit and high yield. Growth outpaced value handily in the U.S. during the quarter, and overseas equities were led by Europe and Asia ex-Japan. Commodities continued to struggle and declined for the quarter; the U.S. dollar weakened further and has given up all of its post-election appreciation. Hedging and lower correlation strategies continued to post modest returns, as a lack of trends and low levels of volatility persisted through much of the quarter, although technology-related stocks ended the quarter with some volatility pickup.

The Trump administration continues to struggle to find its sea legs, whether looking at the pace of executive branch appointments, the advance of significant legislation, or the ability to stay on message. Meanwhile, the Republican controlled Congress drifts rather aimlessly. Valuations are stretched, but not to extreme levels, and earnings have recovered from a multi-quarter negative run. We believe opportunities exist overseas in both developed and emerging markets that have attractive valuations and perhaps better near-term growth prospects. We believe the unnatural calm many markets have experienced recently will be succeeded by more customary levels of volatility. Investors should be prepared by structuring diversified portfolios with an eye toward significant risks that may manifest suddenly.

STRATEGY KEY CONTRIBUTORS | DETRACTORS

- Allocations to technology stocks, European markets, quality factor, and emerging market equities were the strongest contributors to the strategy's performance during the quarter.
- Allocations to managed futures and long/short equities detracted from performance.
- The strategy is actively managed with a long-term perspective, so it is reasonable to expect there will be periods when the strategy's results differ from the benchmark in pursuit of objectives over time. Despite being relatively new, since inception, the strategy model has outperformed its benchmark (after fees).

PORTFOLIO CHANGES

- Equity valuations by most measures are rich, especially in the U.S., although they have not approached the extreme levels of 2000. Interest rates and inflation remain at low levels despite central banks' efforts to raise them.
- Earnings have rebounded, led largely by energy companies. In the eighth year of a mediocre economic expansion, and after years of corporate expense management, share buybacks and other manipulations, the question becomes: how sustainable is the earnings picture?
- A number of market observers and participants are puzzled by the Fed's apparent intent to continue to hike interest rates, despite lackluster economic growth and quiescent inflation.
- During the quarter, we added allocations to both unconstrained credit and Asia ex-Japan equities, reduced the strategy's exposure to managed futures, eliminated exposure to materials equities, and replaced a long/short equity fund.

Strategy Summary

The Global Macro Strategy, on a long-term basis, seeks:

- To generate return by attempting to capitalize on broad macroeconomic factors such as interest rates, currency, fund flows, or geopolitical events
- Moderate correlation with stocks (< 0.8)
- Superior risk-adjusted return: (Sharpe ratio > 1.0)
- To diversify your total portfolio's long-only equity and other sources of risk
- Exposure to different sources of return than traditional stocks and bonds

The Global Macro Strategy is:

- Actively managed by an experienced team of investment professionals, with daily liquidity
- Implemented at lower cost than most alternative mutual funds and illiquid hedge funds
- Invested in ETFs and mutual funds focused on alternative asset classes and strategies
- Typically appropriate as part of a total portfolio, for an investor with a long investment time horizon, and a high tolerance for risk.

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ABOUT OUR FIRM

Palladiem LLC is an independent, employee owned asset management firm that manages global, multi-asset class investment strategies, with an emphasis on alternative investments and active risk management. Palladiem's investment team has 30+ years experience working with high profile institutional clients in the public and corporate pension fund markets, as well as high-net-worth individuals.

The cornerstone of Palladiem's investment process was developed nearly 30 years ago. Refined and revised over time, this process has been implemented at both a major wire-house and managed account provider.

PORTFOLIO MANAGEMENT TEAM

Donald Robinson
CEO & Co-CIO
33 years industry experience

David Feldman
President & Co-CIO
32 years industry experience

Joseph J. Scavetti, Jr.
Chief Operating Officer
24 years industry experience

Jacqueline Dewey
Director Managed Account Services
23 years industry experience

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