



# Longleaf Partners

## Global Fund Commentary

Longleaf Partners Global Fund returned 20.43% for the year, more than doubling the MSCI World Index's 7.51% return and beating our absolute goal of inflation plus 10%. In the fourth quarter, the Fund posted a positive return of 1.60%, narrowly falling shy of the MSCI World's 1.86% return in the period.

The Fund's large return had little to do with the index, which experienced two distinct environments. In the first seven months, perceived "safe" stocks dominated. Beginning in August, cyclicals gained meaningful ground, and defensive and minimum volatility stocks declined rapidly. Global markets had significant price volatility across geographies. For example, Hong Kong markets suffered declines in the first and fourth quarters amid China concerns, with the fourth quarter further complicated by fears of higher U.S. interest rates and impacts of a Trump presidency on global trade. In Europe, markets rebounded quickly in the third quarter after a negative first half overshadowed by Brexit and European terrorist attacks. Most of the U.S. market return came in the second half, including the post-election rally.

Solid operational performance and smart capital allocation by our management partners who pursued value accretive transactions drove the Fund's substantial results. The company-specific nature of our 2016 return reinforced the importance of investing with a long time horizon and aligned, shareholder-oriented corporate leadership. While it is difficult to predict near-term stock prices, if our businesses are selling at a meaningful discount to their intrinsic worth, are growing free cash flow over the long term, and are run by people who are motivated to build value per share, good returns can be expected. These same characteristics describe our current holdings, are the criteria required for new investments, and therefore form the basis for our confidence in our ability to continue to deliver solid results.

### Annual Contributors/Detractors (2016 investment return, 2016 Fund contribution)

**Chesapeake Energy** (+319%, +11.13%), one of the largest U.S. producers of natural gas, oil, and natural gas liquids, was the Fund's top contributor to performance in 2016 and gained an additional 12% in the fourth quarter. Earlier in the year, we transitioned our equity position into heavily discounted bonds and convertible preferred stock, which offered equity-like returns higher in the capital structure and a potentially faster

payback. As the bonds rose close to par, we exited them. At the end of the third quarter, we converted all of our appreciated preferred securities into common stock for an attractive premium. Over the course of the year, management executed beyond expectations, selling various assets, improving the balance sheet through discounted debt repurchases, reducing operating and capital expenditures, and renegotiating midstream contracts. The most recent asset sales in the fourth quarter included a portion of the company's properties in the Haynesville Shale in northern Louisiana for proceeds of approximately \$915 million. Signed or closed asset sales reached \$2.5 billion in 2016, exceeding management's original target of \$1 billion. To further strengthen its balance sheet, the company secured a term loan and convertible debt offering, which raised more capital at better terms than expected. Since the beginning of 2012, Chesapeake has reduced debt by 50%, and its remaining fixed liabilities should be well covered in the coming years. The company has targeted a two times net debt over earnings before interests, taxes, depreciation, and amortization (EBITDA) with cash flow neutrality by 2018 and 5 to 15% of annual production growth by 2020. We salute CEO Doug Lawler and Chesapeake's board, with Brad Martin as Chairman, for their successful pursuit of shareholder value in the face of massive headwinds.

**adidas** (+60%, +2.60%), the German-based global sportswear and equipment brand, was another significant contributor for the year. We sold our stake in the third quarter as price approached our appraisal value. We engaged in a productive dialogue with the company when necessary since initiating the position in August 2014. Over that time, adidas re-focused on its core brand, grew revenues, sold or sought buyers for non-core segments including Rockport and golf, repurchased just over five percent of the company at substantially discounted prices, replaced the CEO, and added two highly qualified owners to the Supervisory Board, one of whom we proposed. In the Fund's two year holding period, adidas returned 104% (in U.S. dollar) and 147% in local currency (euro).

**Wynn Resorts** (+28%, +1.76%), the luxury gaming and hotel operator with prime real estate in Las Vegas, Macau, and Boston, also helped drive 2016 returns, despite a slight retreat in the fourth quarter. The total Macau market reported higher gross gaming revenues year-over-year in most months of the second half, indicating stabilization and a return to growth. In August, the company opened the Wynn Palace in Cotai

*Average Annual Total Returns (12/31/16): Since Inception (12/27/12): 5.80%, Ten Year: na%, Five Year: na%, One Year: 20.43%*

*Returns reflect reinvested capital gains and dividends but not the deduction of taxes an investor would pay on distributions or share redemptions. 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 investor's shares, when redeemed, may be worth more or less than their original cost. Current performance of the fund may be lower or higher than the performance quoted. Performance data current to the most recent month end may be obtained by visiting [longleafpartners.com](http://longleafpartners.com).*

*As reported in the Prospectus dated May 1, 2016, the total expense ratio for the Longleaf Partners Global Fund is 1.54%. The expense ratio is subject to fee waiver to the extent normal annual operating expenses exceed 1.65% of average annual net assets. Effective May 1, 2016, Southeastern agreed to voluntarily reduce the expense limit to 1.20%. This voluntary fee waiver for the Global Fund may be discontinued at any time.*

(Macau). The property has ramped up more slowly than some analysts had hoped, but Wynn has a history of careful openings and eventual success. During the fourth quarter, sentiment shifted up and down, as some positive industry level data points were offset by concerns over Chinese policy changes that could potentially impact Macau indirectly. In the U.S., Las Vegas had solid results, and the company received the final licenses necessary to begin construction of Wynn Boston Harbor, which is expected to open in 2019. Wynn also announced plans to develop part of its Las Vegas golf course property into a hotel, restaurants, and other attractions. In December, the company sold 49% of its retail assets in Las Vegas for over twenty times EBITDA, which was accretive to our value and well above where the stock trades. The sale was also further evidence of how our heavily-aligned partner, Steve Wynn, continues to build value per share and pursue value recognition for shareholders.

**FedEx** (+26%, +1.45%), the global transportation and logistics company, was a leading contributor in the Fund for the year after gaining 7% in the fourth quarter. The company raised guidance for fiscal year 2017 and continued to buy back its discounted shares. Our appraisal increased as expense reductions in Express over the last several years helped raise margins. Investing in growth at Ground depressed margins in that division but should have meaningful payoff longer term. The TNT acquisition, finalized in May, should materially benefit profitability by increasing the final mile density of FedEx's business across Europe. Management indicated that the integration of TNT should generate at least \$750 million of annual synergies across its network over the next few years. We believe that CEO Fred Smith and his capable leadership team will continue to drive value growth for shareholders.

**CONSOL Energy** (+131%, +1.45%), the natural gas and Appalachian coal company, also contributed large gains over the year. CEO Nick Delulii, management, and the board, led by Chairman Will Thorndike, monetized assets and continued to cut costs in the pursuit of separating the coal and gas businesses which is expected to happen in 2017. Following the disposition of its metallurgical coal assets in the first half of the year, CONSOL sold its high cost Miller Creek and Fola thermal coal mines to a private buyer at a price above our appraisal. The company also delivered positive free cash flow (FCF) for the year, which many thought very unlikely at the start of 2016. In the fourth quarter, CONSOL announced the unwinding of a joint venture with Noble Energy in which the company received \$205 million in cash from Noble while maintaining ownership of valuable EBITDA-producing properties. Recent transactions involving other companies' gas assets in Appalachia, as well as CONSOL's own midstream master limited partnerships' (MLP) prices, support our appraisal of CONSOL, which is much higher than the stock price.

**OCI** (-30%, -1.44%), a global fertilizer and chemical producer, was the largest detractor in the Fund for the year, even after a rebound of 18% in the fourth quarter. The two main pressures on the share price were weakness in nitrogen fertilizer prices and the cancellation of the CF Industries merger as a result

of the U.S. government crackdown on tax inversions. Despite depressed fertilizer prices, nitrogen remains an essential part of global food production, and global demand is growing by around 2%, which will help deplete the current excess supply by 2018. Given the high cost and long lead time of building a new plant, it is unlikely that new capacity will be built in the medium term. OCI owns the newest and most efficient nitrogen fertilizer plants in the industry, with its large, new Iowa plant now producing. Its Texas Greenfield methanol plant comes online in late 2017. OCI recently initiated a cost savings plan over \$100 million, \$65 million of which is executed, and the company has completed the majority of its large capital expenditures. We expect significant earnings production in the coming two years, and CEO Nassef Sawiris and his team are working diligently to grow value per share. In early December, the company announced a 25% premium offer to acquire all publicly held shares of OCI Partners in exchange for OCI shares. The acquisition should allow for operating synergies between methanol assets and incremental free cash flow with a positive impact on the combined balance sheet in 2017.

**CK Hutchison** (-14%, -0.77%), a global conglomerate comprised of five core businesses (retail, telecommunications, infrastructure, ports, and energy), was the other primary detractor for the year and fell by -11% in the final quarter. The stock declined in the first half of 2016 in the wake of the rejection by European regulators of its acquisition of U.K. telecom company O2, in addition to Brexit which created concerns about the impact on the company's sizable operations in Europe and the U.K. Following a strong third quarter where the company announced a merger creating the largest Italian mobile operator, the stock lost ground in the fourth quarter after the U.S. election. A stronger U.S. dollar and expectations of tougher trade weighed on Hong Kong stocks in general and on the Hong Kong dollar's relationship to the British pound and euro, where over half of the company's earnings before interest and taxes (EBIT) originate. Our owner-operator partners, Victor Li and his father Li Ka-shing, continued to focus the company on its core competencies by selling its aircraft leasing business during the quarter. In recognition of the steep discount at which CK Hutchison trades to value, the company initiated its first share repurchase in the fourth quarter.

#### Annual Portfolio Activity

We took advantage of the market volatility and individual company performance throughout the year. We exited **National Oilwell Varco** in the first quarter and **Philips, SoftBank**, and **adidas** in the third quarter on the back of share price strength. We added three new positions from around the globe, all in the fourth quarter. One of these is a European-based business that remains undisclosed while we build the position. We also added Asian company **Yum China**, which recently spun out of Yum! Brands, a company we have known well for many years. Yum China has exclusive rights to KFC, China's leading quick-service restaurant concept, Pizza Hut, a leading casual dining brand, and Taco Bell, with expansion plans in China. Yum China has over 7,300 restaurants and more than 400,000 employees in 1,100+ cities in China with

additional expansion opportunity in urban centers. Yum China's brand and scale are unique advantages and fit the desires of a rapidly growing middle class, where eating outside the home is becoming more commonplace. Our third addition was U.S. based T. Rowe Price (TROW), a diversified investment advisory firm with a dominant position in U.S. target date fund retirement assets which account for about twenty percent of assets under management (AUM). TROW's funds have performed well and had net inflows, even with the active management headwinds the industry has faced. Over the last ten years, the company has put capital into building its international investments and distribution. The company currently has just below twenty percent of AUM in international funds and a mid-single digit percent of total AUM coming from offshore investors. As this business grows, margins should rise accordingly. The company's balance sheet has net cash, and we are confident in the aligned management team who has a record of prudent capital allocation.

### Outlook

In 2016 we delivered substantial absolute performance, and the Fund far outpaced the index. Much uncertainty remains as to the impact of U.S. tax, trade, and regulatory policies in the new administration. The future of the Eurozone is also unclear in the wake of Brexit and pending elections in France and Germany. Weakness in emerging markets and China macro fears are creating further opportunity in Asia, and the Americas have several on deck investment prospects. More global volatility, lower market correlations, and higher interest rates would likely unearth new opportunities for the Fund's 11% cash.

The Fund's price-to-value (P/V) in the high-60s% offers attractive upside. We believe our companies can grow their values substantially and have the ability to deliver good returns in a variety of scenarios. For example, the Fund's three largest holdings—Level 3, FedEx, and LafargeHolcim—benefitted from merger activity in 2016 and have significant revenue prospects from their combinations that are not included in projected synergies, and they have skilled leadership with experience at successful company integrations. We hold numerous other businesses that have had meaningful capital investment programs over the last few years that should begin to generate returns in 2017 and beyond. These include Wynn's newly opened Palace and Melco's Studio City in Macau, United Technologies' Pratt jet engines, OCI's new fertilizer and methanol plants, Hopewell's Centre II project, and varied projects at Alphabet. As 2016 showed, CEOs and boards who are competent and shareholder-oriented create value. Our corporate partners, as well as the quality of our businesses, give us confidence in our future prospects.

*See following page for important disclosures.*

Before investing in any Longleaf Partners Fund, you should carefully consider the Fund's investment objectives, risks, charges, and expenses. For a current Prospectus and Summary Prospectus, which contain this and other important information, visit [longleafpartners.com](http://longleafpartners.com). Please read the Prospectus and Summary Prospectus carefully before investing.

#### RISKS

*The Longleaf Partners Global Fund is subject to stock market risk, meaning stocks in the Fund may fluctuate in response to developments at individual companies or due to general market and economic conditions. Also, because the Fund generally invests in 15 to 25 companies, share value could fluctuate more than if a greater number of securities were held. Investing in non-U.S. securities may entail risk due to non-US economic and political developments, exposure to non-US currencies, and different accounting and financial standards. These risks may be higher when investing in emerging markets.*

*MSCI World Index is a broad-based, unmanaged equity market index designed to measure the equity market performance of 24 developed markets, including the United States. An index cannot be invested in directly.*

*P/V ("price to value") is a calculation that compares the prices of the stocks in a portfolio to Southeastern's appraisal of their intrinsic values. The ratio represents a single data point about a Fund and should not be construed as something more. P/V does not guarantee future results, and we caution investors not to give this calculation undue weight.*

*Free Cash Flow (FCF) is a measure of a company's ability to generate the cash flow necessary to maintain operations. Generally, it is calculated as operating cash flow minus capital expenditures.*

*EBITDA is a company's earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization.*

*Master limited partnership (MLP) is, generally, a limited partnership that is publicly traded on a securities exchange.*

*EBIT is earnings before interest and taxes.*

*Brexit ("British exit") refers to the June 23, 2016 referendum by British voters to leave the European Union.*

*As of December 31, 2016, the holdings discussed represented the following percentages of the Longleaf Partners Global Fund: Chesapeake, 4.1%; Wynn, 5.8%; FedEx, 6.6%; CONSOL, 2.4%; OCI, 4.3%, CK Hutchison, 5.4%; Yum China, 4.9%; T. Rowe Price, 2.4%. Fund holdings are subject to change and holding discussions are not recommendations to buy or sell any security. Current and future holdings are subject to risk.*

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