

## Bristol Gate U.S. Equity Strategy

Dividend Growth Investing for the Digital Age

As at March 31, 2022

Full introduction to the firm - including GIPS®-verified performance information

### **Bristol Gate Capital Partners**



#### **Our Thesis**

We believe that if you can build a portfolio by predicting the best dividend growers for the coming 12 months, over time the portfolio will outperform the market with less downside risk.

### **Bristol Gate Principles**

- 1. Remember why clients are here
- 2. Approach the future actively and together
  - 3. Bring a difference to dividends
  - 4. Cultivate a culture of constant creativity
    - 5. Be of good standing
    - 6. Build everything to last

#### **Employee Owned**

With Partner capital invested on same terms.

#### **19.7%** per year\*

Average annual dividend growth since inception.

2006 2009 2022

#### **Founded**

To develop new product advice to a major Canadian chartered bank serving High Net Worth individual clients.

#### GIPS® track record

US Equity Strategy, with focus on investing in S&P 500 dividend growth stocks.

#### \$2.8B AUM & AUA\*\*

Mix of institutional, Advisor-managed and private client assets.

<sup>\*</sup>US Equity Strategy inception date: May 15, 2009 \*\*As at March 31, 2022 in CAD



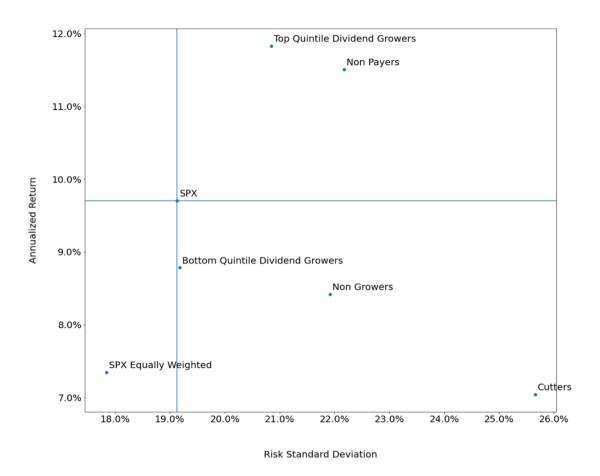
# Why Dividend Growth?

# Why Predict Dividend Growth?



Although markets have been volatile over the last 20 years, investing in the best dividend growth companies each year would have resulted in the best risk-adjusted returns over the period.

#### **Annualized Total Return of Different Portfolios**



The chart above illustrates that if you had the foresight to invest in the best dividend growth stocks ("Top Quintile") in the S&P 500 over the past 20 years then you would have the most attractive risk return profile. The 20-year period referenced is from Dec 31, 2001 to Dec 31, 2021 where each theoretical portfolio presented for the stated category was constructed from an equal weight basket of stocks selected from the S&P 500 universe and reconstituted annually.

Source: Bristol Gate, Bloomberg, Dec 31, 2001-Dec 31, 2021, in USD

## **Higher Dividend Growth**

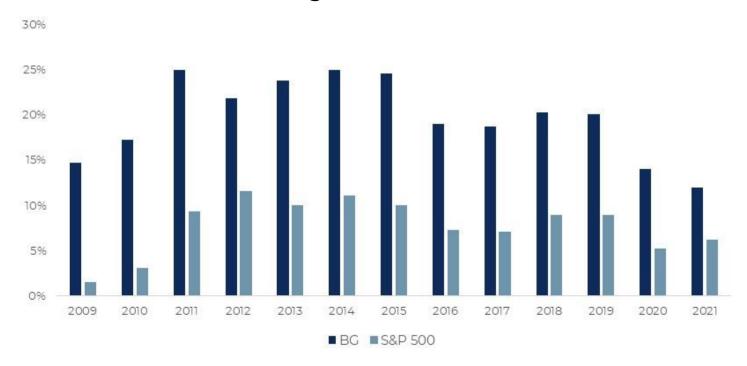


Since inception, the approach has consistently been focused on finding companies that can grow dividends substantially

19.7% per year

Average annual dividend growth since inception

### **Trailing Dividend Growth**



Annual Dividend Growth Rates	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Bristol Gate U.S. Equity Strategy	14.7%	17.3%	25.0%	21.8%	23.8%	25.0%	24.6%	19.0%	18.7%	20.3%	20.1%	14.0%	12.0%
S&P 500 Total Return Index	1.5%	3.1%	9.4%	11.6%	10.0%	11.1%	10.0%	7.3%	7.1%	9.0%	9.0%	5.3%	6.2%

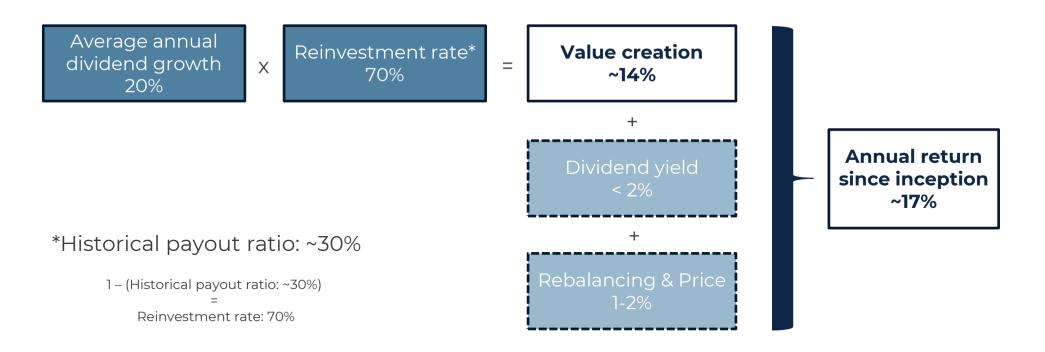
As at December 31, 2021 Source: Bloomberg. Median of the annual trailing 12 month dividend growth (as reported on Bloomberg) of the individual stocks held at the end of each calendar year. See important disclaimers on slides 23 and 25.

## Our Returns: Conceptual



"Over the long term, it's hard for a stock to earn a much better return than the business which underlies it earns."

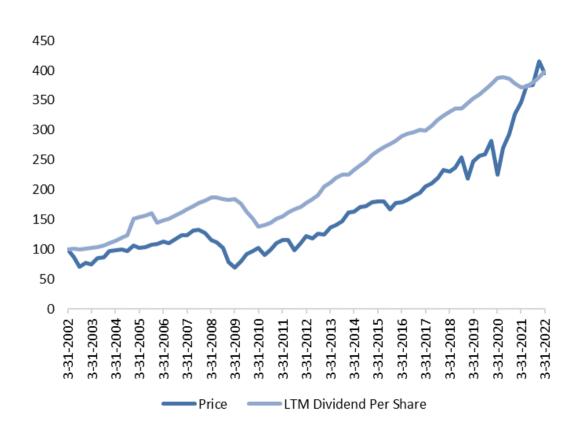
Charlie Munger



For illustration purposes only. Please refer to **Important Disclosures** section on slides 23 and 25.

### S&P 500 Dividend & Price Growth





"Owners of stocks, however, too often let the capricious and often irrational behavior of their fellow owners cause them to behave irrationally as well. Because there is so much chatter about markets, the economy, interest rates, price behavior of stocks, etc., some investors believe it is important to listen to pundits – and, worse yet, important to consider acting upon their comments.

Those people who can sit quietly for decades when they own a farm or apartment house too often become frenetic when they are exposed to a stream of stock quotations and accompanying commentators delivering an implied message of "Don't just sit there, do something." For these investors, liquidity is transformed from the unqualified benefit it should be to a curse."

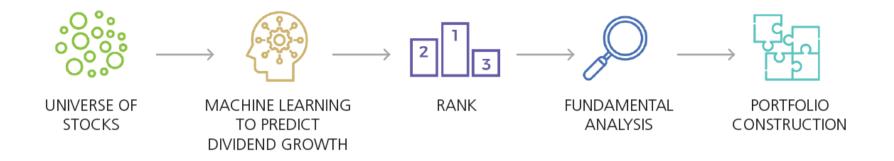
Warren Buffett



## **Investment Process**

# Dividend Growth Investing Re-Imagined





### Machines

- Instuction
- Calculation
- Tactics
- Memory
- Reason
- Unbiased



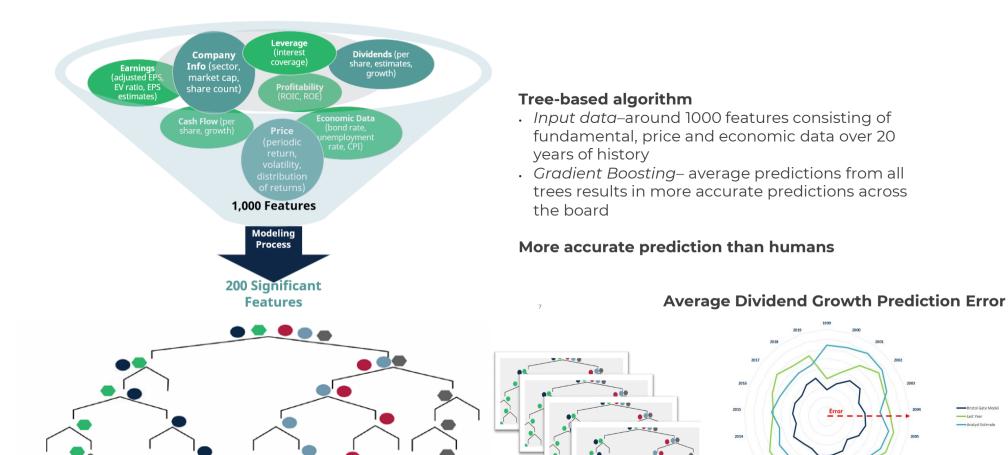
### **Humans**

- Purpose
- Understanding
- Strategy
- Experience
- Intuition
- Emotional

**Process** 

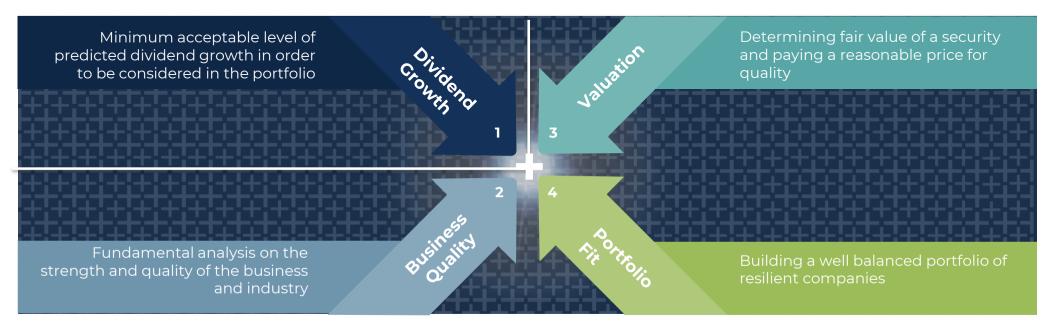
# **Predicting Dividend Growth**







### Bristol Gate's Four Pillars of Portfolio Construction



#### Harnessing the power of technology

· We start quantitatively by predicting dividend growth and finish by assessing the overall portfolio fit using multidimensional risk analysis

#### **Consistent & Repeatable Approach**

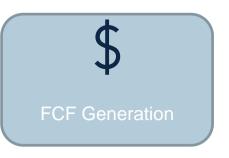
- Our portfolios have consistently contained:
  - 1) Higher dividend growth 2) Higher quality
  - 3) Reasonable valuations relative to prospects 4) Better downside capture
- · Sell discipline
  - · When reviewing sell candidates, we follow the same pillars in the same order

### Traits of Bristol Gate Dividend Growers















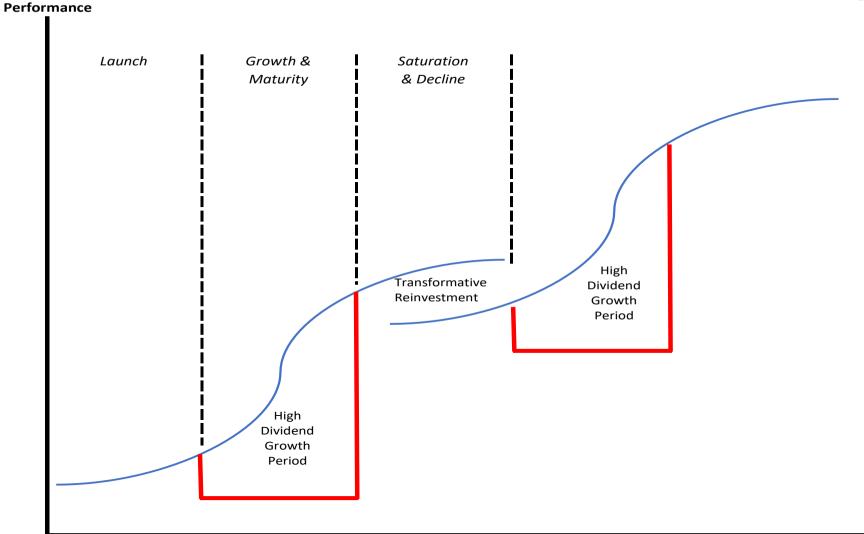






## Business Lifecycle & Dividend Growth





Growth & Maturity phase

- Significant free cash generation
- Ample reinvestment opportunities with high rates of return
- Supports dividend initiation and high dividend growth

Saturation & Decline Phase

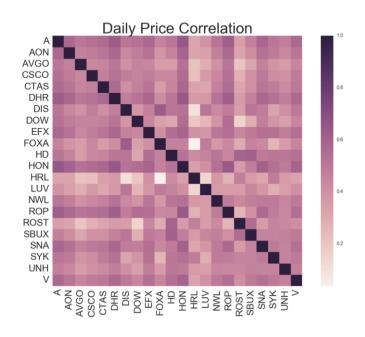
- Reinvestment opportunities slow and returns decline
- Dividend growth slows to mundane levels.

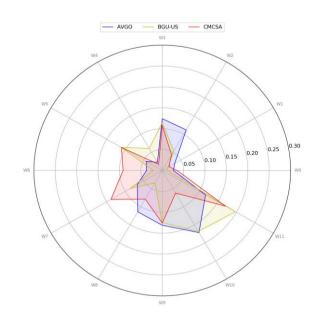
Great companies jump S-curves and become high dividend growers again

Time

## Using Data Science to Construct Better Portfolios RRIST







### Sectors do not tell you much about risk

- · Price correlation of holdings is a better measure of portfolio diversification
- Build a collection of independent risk vectors (W0-W11) and visualize the exposure of each stock to a specific risk factor
- . Measure how a buy/sell affects the risk exposure profile

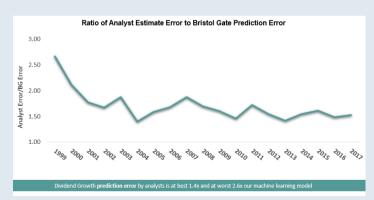
## Our Competitive Edge

A systematic and repeatable process

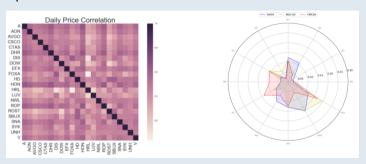


### **Analytical**

- Scientific approach to investment management
- Machine learning model produces better accuracy and less bias than others



Unique view on diversification



### **Behavioural**

- Concentrated portfolio with high active share
- Quarterly rebalancing forces us to act

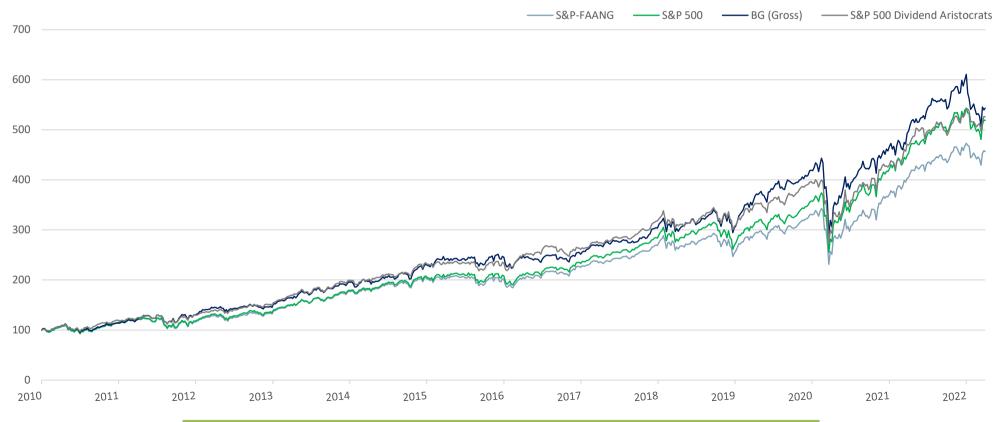


- Dividend growth hurdle instills unemotional sell discipline
- Complete alignment with investors

## 10 Years of Outperformance – No FAANGs



We have managed to outperform the S&P 500 over the last 10 years without ever owning any of the FAANGs



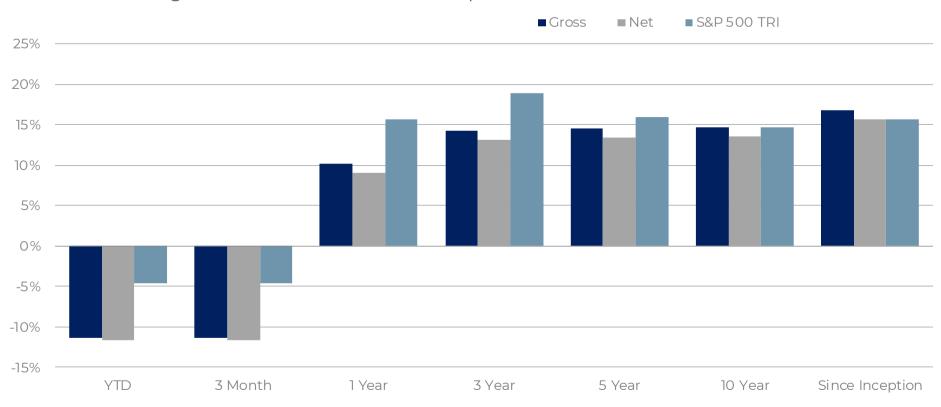
	YTD	1 Year	3 Year	5 Year	10 Year
Bristol Gate U.S. Equity Strategy (Gross)	-11.4%	10.1%	14.3%	14.5%	14.7%
Bristol Gate U.S. Equity Strategy (Net)	-11.6%	9.0%	13.2%	13.4%	13.5%
S&P 500 TRI without FAANGs	-3.6%	13.8%	16.5%	14.1%	13.4%
S&P 500 Dividend Aristocrats	-3.0%	12.6%	14.8%	13.9%	14.2%
S&P 500 Total Return Index	-4.6%	15.6%	18.9%	16.0%	14.6%

Source: Bloomberg, Morningstar from Mar 31, 2012-Mar 31, 2022 in USD – please see slide 17 for full performance history and important disclosures on slides 23 and 25. FAANG = Facebook, Apple, Amazon, Netflix, Google

### **Annualized Performance**



Annualized total gross and net returns since inception in USD



#### Performance from May 15, 2009 to March 31, 2022 – in USD

		YTD	3 Month	1 Year	3 Year	5 Year	10 Year	Since Inception
Bristol Gate U.S. Equity Strategy	Gross	-11.4%	-11.4%	10.1%	14.3%	14.5%	14.7%	16.8%
	Net	-11.6%	-11.6%	9.0%	13.2%	13.4%	13.5%	15.6%
S&P 500 Total Return Index		-4.6%	-4.6%	15.6%	18.9%	16.0%	14.6%	15.7%

Gross and Net Returns USD – see important disclosures on slide 23 and 25.

## **Exposure and Characteristics**



### **US Equity Strategy**

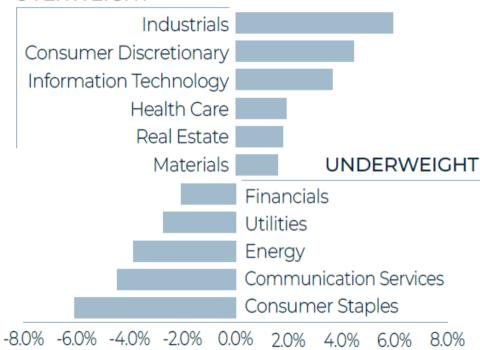
As of March 31, 2022	Bristol Gate Gross	S&P500
Dividend Yield	1.0%	1.496
TTM Median Dividend Growth	14.8%	7.5%
Forward P/E	23.48x	19.55x
P/E Trailing	29.84x	24.56x
Median Market Cap (US\$B)	\$96.8	\$31.7
Min Market Cap (US\$B)	\$9.7	\$3.2
Max Market Cap (US\$B)	\$2,311.4	\$2,849.5
ROA	12.9%	6.5%
ROE	38.1%	18.7%
Active Share	87.6%	-

As of March 31, 2022	Bristol Gate Gross	S&P 500 TRI
Current returns [since inception]		
Total gross return	641.1%	556.7%
Compound annualized gross return	16.8%	15.7%
Average monthly gross return	1.3%	1.2%
Market risk [since inception]		
Correlation to S&P 500 Total Return Index	0.94	1.00
Standard deviation	14.496	13.7%
Sharpe ratio	1.13	1.10
Sortino ratio	1.92	1.86
Calmar ratio	0.72	0.80
Portfolio risk [since inception]		
Best month's return	12.9%	12.8%
Worst Month's return	-16.2%	-12.4%
Upside capture	99.5%	100%
Downside capture	90.2%	100%
Tracking error	4.85	-
Information ratio	0.22	-
Portfolio alpha (annualized)	1.29	- 1
Portfolio beta	0.98	-

#### **Sector Exposure**

vs S&P 500 at March 31, 2022

#### **OVERWEIGHT**



Inception: May 15, 2009. All figures in USD, Gross of Fees,. See important disclosures on slide 23 and 25



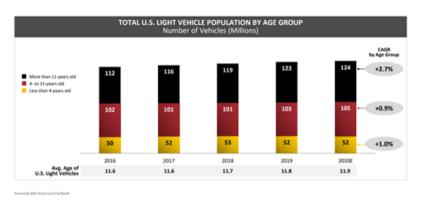






### **Attractive Industry**

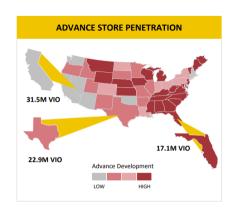
- Industry grew ~4% prior to COVID
- Growth driven by installed base, average age of the fleet and miles driven





- Industry is stable and performs well even during cyclical downturns
- Fragmented competitors providing a long runway of potential share gains









### **Significant Self-Help Opportunity**

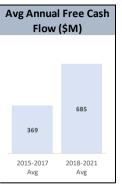
- AAP has materially underperformed peers over an extended period on almost any measure
- Since 2016 virtually the entire senior management team has been replaced, a culture of ownership has been initiated throughout the organization and a significant effort has been made to update legacy systems
- Substantial FCF improvement opportunity if able to achieve peer working capital efficiency





Co	Comparable Store Sales Growth						
		4.1%					
	-1.1%						
20	15-2017 CAGR	2018-2021 CAGR					





Free Cash Flow Per Share							
			12.2%				
	-11.5%						
1	2015-2017 CAGR		2018-2021 CAGR				

	Three-Year Fi	nancial Targets
	Low	<u>High</u>
Estimated Industry Growth Rate	2.0%	4.0%
Advance		
Annual Net Sales Growth	3.0%	6.0%
Annual Comparable Store Sales Growth	2.0%	4.0%
2023 Adj. Operating Income Margin	10.5%	12.5%
Annual Free Cash Flow	\$575M	\$1,000M
Annual Capital Expenditures	\$275M	\$350M
2023 Adj. Diluted Earnings per Share	\$13.90	\$16.60

Source: Company reports, FactSet.





#### **New Total Shareholder Return Focus**

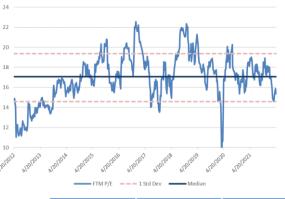
- Quarterly dividend has increased from \$0.06/share in 2019 to \$1.50 in 2022
  - Annualized 3-year CAGR of ~200%
  - · Annualized payout ratio on FCF/share ~45%
  - · Annualized dividend yield of 2.8%
- Targeting a 20-22% organic annual shareholder return profile over the next three years with potential upside from M&A and multiple expansion

#### **Attractive Valuation**

- Reverse DCF implies approximately 2% growth
- ~5% FCF yield on EV
- Trading at a 10% discount to FTM P/E median over the last 10 years and 20% discount on a market relative P/E

Improved inventory

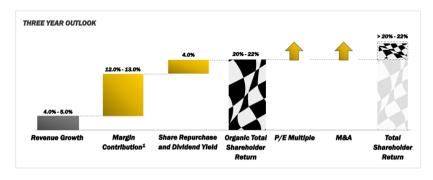
management



Better parts

availability

inventory turns



Margin contribution to average annual Total Shamsholder Return (TSRI) is a 3 year CAGR that represents the improvement in AAP's adjusted operating income margin rate from 8.1% to 1.5% from 2020 in 2022. 11.5% adjusted operating income margin rate in the adjusted operating income margin rate from 8.1% to 1.1% from 2020 in 2022. The 3 year CAGR and contribution to average annual TSR is 1.2.4% and for display purposes we are showing this with a 12-13% range.
 Forecasted shareholder returns are estimated values based on performance forecasts.



Higher multiple

**Better ROIC** 

Higher margins

Source: Company reports, Bloomberg, Factset.

### **Important Disclosures**



#### **Bristol Gate US Equity Strategy**

Gross returns in this report refer to the Bristol Gate US Equity Strategy Composite. No allowance has been made for custodial costs, taxes, operating costs or management and performance fees, which will reduce performance. The Net returns for the Bristol Gate US Equity Strategy Composite are reflective of the maximum management fee charged by Bristol Gate of 1%. Past performance is not indicative of future results. Allowance for withholding tax is partially reflected in the composite returns for periods commencing January 2017 and after

The S&P 500® Total Return Index measures the performance of the broad US equity market, including dividend re-investment, in US dollars. This index is provided for information only and comparisons to the index has limitations. The benchmark is an appropriate standard against which the performance of the strategy can be measured over longer time periods as it represents the primary investment universe from which Bristol Gate selects securities. However, Bristol Gate's portfolio construction process differs materially from that of the benchmark and the securities selected for inclusion in the strategy are not influenced by the composition of the benchmark. For example, the strategy is a concentrated portfolio of approximately equally weighted dividend-paying equity securities, rebalanced quarterly whereas the benchmark is a broad stock index (including both dividend and non-dividend paying equities) that is market capitalization weighted. As such, strategy performance deviations relative to the benchmark may be significant, particularly over shorter time periods. The strategy has concentrated investments in a limited number of companies; as a result, a change in one security's value may have a more significant effect on the strategy's value.

SPDR S&P 500 ETF Trust (SPY US) has been used as a proxy for the S&P 500® for the purpose of providing non-return based portfolio statistics and sector weightings in this presentation.

This Report is for information purposes and should not be construed under any circumstances as a public offering of securities in any jurisdiction in which an offer or solicitation is not authorized. Prospective investors in Bristol Gate's managed funds should rely solely on the fund's offering documents, which outline the risk factors associated with a decision to invest. No representations or warranties of any kind are intended or should be inferred with respect to the economic return or the tax implications of any investment in a Bristol Gate fund

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## **Composite Characteristics**



### Bristol Gate US Equity Strategy

Year	Firm Assets (USD \$M)	Composite Assets (USD \$M)	Number of Accounts in Composite	Composite Gross Return (USD)	S&P 500 Return (USD)	Gross Dispersion	Composite 3 Year Gross Standard Deviation	S&P 500 3 Year Standard Deviation
05/15/09 to 12/31/09	9.68	3.41	Fewer than 5	24.6%	22.8%			
2010	11.95	4.65	Fewer than 5	13.5%	15.1%			
2011	15.05	6.46	Fewer than 5	15.8%	2.1%			
2012	27.03	16.62	Fewer than 5	19.0%	16.0%		14.49	15.09
2013	53.06	33.77	Fewer than 5	39.8%	32.4%		11.81	11.94
2014	201.02	172.99	Fewer than 5	18.7%	13.7%		9.98	8.98
2015	515.69	493.90	7	5.3%	1.4%		11.17	10.47
2016	590.48	578.29	11	2.9%	12.0%	0.14	10.85	10.59
2017	718.18	681.14	8	20.3%	21.8%	0.09	9.51	9.92
2018	670.34	630.27	13	0.8%	-4.4%	0.11	10.22	10.80
2019	1,008.44	862.51	13	35.5%	31.5%	0.21	11.67	11.93
2020	1,529.68	1,154.38	17	11.4%	18.4%	0.56	18.88	18.53

As at December 51, 2020



### GIPS® Disclosures – Bristol Gate US Equity Strategy

The Investment Advisor's objective is to select companies with positive dividend growth and which collectively will generate over the long term a growing income and capital appreciation for investors.

To determine the selection of stocks the Investment Advisor firstly analyzes each company's past and potential future dividend payments with its proprietary statistical methodology. Secondly, it examines the companies' sources and uses of cash to determine sustainable profit and dividend growth. Valuation and risk management metrics are applied which generate a focused portfolio with above average dividend growth, without above market valuations. The Investment Advisor does not attempt to match securities selection to any index. Turnover and trading are strictly limited.

Bristol Gate Capital Partners Inc. claims compliance with the Global Investment Performance Standards (GIPS®) and has prepared and presented this report in compliance with the GIPS standards. Bristol Gate Capital Partners Inc. has been independently verified for the periods May 2009 until December 2015 by Ashland Partners International PLLC and from January 1, 2016 – December 31, 2020 by ACA Group. Performance Services Division. A firm that claims compliance with the GIPS standards must 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.

The Bristol Gate US Equity Strategy Composite has had a performance examination for the periods May 15, 2009 until December 31, 2020. The verification and performance examination reports are available upon request. The Advisor maintains a complete list and description of composites and they are available upon request. The firm's list of pooled fund descriptions for limited distribution pooled funds is available upon request. Policies for valuing investments, calculating performance, and preparing GIPS Reports are available upon request.

The US Dollar is the currency used to measure performance, which is presented on a gross basis and includes the reinvestment of investment income. There is the opportunity for the use of leverage up to 30% of the net asset value of the underlying investments using a margin account at the prime broker. Thus far no material leverage has been utilized. The composite's return is gross of withholding tax. An investor's actual returns may be reduced by management fees, performance fees, and other operating expenses that may be incurred because of the management of the composite. The annual management fee is charged on accounts managed by Bristol Gate up to a maximum of 1% of assets depending on account size and other factors and is charged either daily or monthly in arrears. A performance fee may also be charged on some accounts and funds managed by the firm.

The Bristol Gate US Equity Strategy Composite was created and incepted on May 15, 2009.

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