



03.31.2020

**Overall Morningstar Rating™**



Overall rating based on risk-adjusted returns against 1,107 Morningstar US Fund Large Value Funds as of 03.31.2020, derived from a weighted average of the performance figures associated with its three-, five- and ten-year (if applicable) Morningstar Rating metrics. (BEGIX)

**Morningstar Sustainability Rating™**



**Percent Rank in Global Category: 27**  
**Historical Sustainability Score: 24**  
As of 02.29.2020. Based on 100% of AUM. Data is based on long positions only.

**FUND FACTS**

**Investment Objective:**

Seeks capital growth and current income.

Total Net Assets	\$1,487,674,262
Number of Holdings	33
Weighted Harmonic Med. P/E	15.60
Weighted Avg. P/B	2.31
Weighted Avg. Market Cap	\$161.20 B
Active Share	87.6
Turnover	24%

**TOTAL EXPENSE RATIO**

	Net	Gross
A Shares (BAEIX)	1.02%	1.02%
C Shares (BCEGX)	1.77%	1.77%
Inst'l Shares (BEGIX)	0.77%	0.77%
R6 Shares* (STREX)	0.67%	0.77%

\*The Administrator has contractually agreed to waive its administrative fees, pay Fund operating expenses, and/or reimburse the Fund to keep R6 shares Net Expense Ratio to 0.67% from February 1, 2020 through January 31, 2021. Performance would have been lower without limitations in effect.

**RISK/RETURN STATISTICS VS. RUSSELL 1000® VALUE INDEX**

**10-Year**

Alpha	1.52
Beta	0.82
R-Squared	88.43
Standard Deviation	12.38
Sharpe Ratio	0.59
Capture Ratio Up	85.92
Capture Ratio Down	80.47

**30-DAY SEC YIELD**

A Shares (BAEIX)	2.40%
Inst'l Shares (BEGIX)	2.81%

SEC Yield is an annualization of the fund's total net investment income per share for the 30-day period ended on the last day of the month.

**Philosophy and Process**

The fund's management team utilizes fundamental analysis overlaid with top-down macroeconomic trends. They look for the best ideas that include companies with strong balance sheets that are reasonably valued and have shown market/sales gain over time with a credible plan to continue such growth in the future. Valuation is the key to the management of the fund and the management team evaluates on the front end and buys basic businesses that are in demand all the time, have done well in past market downturns and where management has a vested interest in the value per share of the stock. The fund represents a concentrated portfolio utilizing "best ideas" with the typical number of core holdings between 30 and 35.

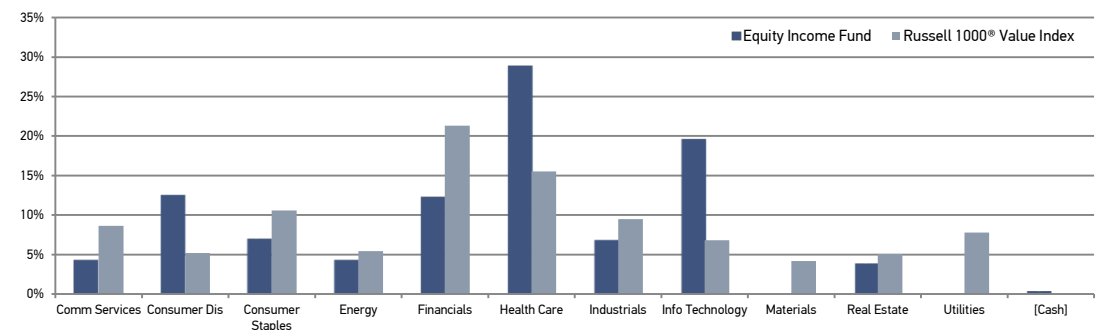
Dividends matter to the management team and they only include companies that have raised their dividends for the last three consecutive years or for six years of the last 10. They target stocks with dividend yields greater than the yield of the S&P 500 Index.

Fund Performance 03.31.2020	QTR	YTD	1 Year	3 Years	5 Years	10 Years	Since Inception
A Shares with 5.75% Sales Charge	-29.61%	-29.61%	-20.09%	0.40%	3.05%	7.05%	7.68%
A Shares without Sales Charge	-25.32%	-25.32%	-15.19%	2.40%	4.28%	7.68%	8.09%
Institutional Shares	-25.28%	-25.28%	-14.99%	2.67%	4.54%	7.95%	8.36%
Russell 1000® Value Index*	-26.73%	-26.73%	-17.17%	-2.18%	1.90%	7.67%	5.92%
Lipper Equity Income Median	-23.84%	-23.84%	-14.74%	-0.51%	2.40%	7.51%	--

Year-End Returns	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
A Shares without Sales Charge	23.77%	3.91%	-3.18%	15.39%	20.65%	-0.92%	25.04%
Institutional Shares	24.08%	4.16%	-2.91%	15.64%	20.96%	-0.67%	25.38%
Russell 1000® Value Index*	32.53%	13.45%	-3.83%	17.34%	13.66%	-8.27%	26.54%

**Past performance does not guarantee future results. The performance data quoted represents past performance and current returns may be lower or higher. 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 the original cost. To obtain performance information current to the most recent month end and information on other share classes, please visit [www.sterlingcapital.com](http://www.sterlingcapital.com). Performance for periods greater than one year is annualized.**

**Sector Allocation**



Allocations are based on the current weight to funds in the cited Sector. The composition of the fund's holdings is subject to change.

**Investors should consider the investment objectives, risks, charges and expenses carefully before investing. For a prospectus or summary prospectus with this and other information about the fund, please call (888) 228-1872 or visit our website at [www.sterlingcapital.com](http://www.sterlingcapital.com). Read the prospectus carefully before investing.**



**EQUITY INCOME FUND**



**Portfolio Management**

**George F. Shipp, CFA®**  
Senior Managing Director  
Lead Portfolio Manager

George founded what is now the Sterling Capital Equity Opportunities group in December 2000, after serving for 18 years as a sell-side equity analyst with the broker-dealer BB&T Scott & Stringfellow. George serves as the lead portfolio manager for the Equity Income and Special Opportunities strategies, and has since their inception. George is a graduate of the University of Virginia where he received a B.A. in Biology, and an MBA from its Darden Graduate School of Business in 1982. He holds the CFA® designation.

**Adam B. Bergman, CFA®**  
Executive Director  
Associate Portfolio Manager

Adam joined the CHOICE Asset Management team of Scott & Stringfellow in 2007, which integrated with Sterling Capital Management in January 2013. He has investment experience since 1996. Adam is a graduate of the University of Virginia's McIntire School of Commerce where he received his BS in Commerce. He holds the CFA® designation.

*The Chartered Financial Analyst® (CFA) charter is a graduate-level investment credential awarded by CFA Institute, the largest global association of investment professionals. To earn the CFA charter, candidates must: 1) pass three sequential, six-hour examinations; 2) have at least four years of qualified professional investment experience; 3) join CFA Institute as members; and 4) commit to abide by, and annually reaffirm, their adherence to the CFA Institute Code of Ethics and Standards of Professional Conduct.*

\*Returns for the Russell 1000® Value Index are included to show how the Fund's performance compares with the overall performance of the large-cap value segment of the U.S. equity universe. Ratings and Rankings would have been lower for Class A shares due to fees and expenses.

Lipper and Morningstar rankings are based on total return, including the reinvestment of dividends and capital gains but do not include sales charges for the periods indicated. Rankings shown are for Class I Shares and may be lower for Class A Shares due to higher fees and expenses. Mutual funds are assigned a rank within a universe of funds, relative to a peer group and similar in investment objective as determined by Lipper and Morningstar. The lower the number rank, the better the fund performed compared to other funds in the classification group. Lipper and Morningstar also calculate a percentile measure for each fund ranging from 1% (best) to 100% (worst).

The Morningstar Rating™ for funds, or "star rating", is calculated for managed products (including mutual funds, variable annuity and variable life subaccounts, exchange-traded funds, closed-end funds, and separate accounts) with at least a three-year history. Exchange-traded funds and open-ended mutual funds are considered a single population for comparative purposes. It is calculated based on a Morningstar Risk-Adjusted Return measure that accounts for variation in a managed product's monthly excess performance, placing more emphasis on downward variations and rewarding consistent performance. The top 10% of products in each product category receive 5 stars, the next 22.5% receive 4 stars, the next 35% receive 3 stars, the next 22.5% receive 2 stars, and the bottom 10% receive 1 star. The Overall Morningstar Rating for a managed product is derived from a weighted average of the performance figures associated with its three-, five-, and 10-year (if applicable) Morningstar Rating metrics. The weights are: 100% three-year rating for 36-59 months of total returns, 60% five-year rating/40% three-year rating for 60-119 months of total returns, and 50% 10-year rating/30% five-year rating/20% three-year rating for 120 or more months of total returns. While the 10-year overall star rating formula seems to give the most weight to the 10-year period, the most recent three-year period actually has the greatest impact because it is included in all three rating periods.

Sustainalytics provides company-level analysis used in the calculation of Morningstar's Historical Sustainability Score. The Morningstar® Sustainability Rating™ is intended to measure how well the issuing companies of the securities within a fund's portfolio holdings are managing their environmental, social, and governance, or ESG, risks and opportunities relative to the fund's Morningstar Global Category peers. The Morningstar Sustainability Rating calculation is a three-step process. First, each fund with at least 67% of assets covered by a company level ESG score from Sustainalytics1 receives a Morningstar Portfolio Sustainability Score. The Morningstar Portfolio Sustainability Score is an asset-weighted average of normalized company-level ESG scores with deductions made for controversial incidents by the issuing companies, such as environmental accidents, fraud, or discriminatory behavior. The Portfolio Sustainability Score ranges between 0 to 100, with a higher score indicating that a fund has, on average, more of its assets invested in companies that score well after normalization and controversy-level deductions are applied. Second, the Historical Sustainability Score is an exponential weighted moving average of the Portfolio Sustainability Scores over the past 12 months. The process rescales the current Portfolio Sustainability Score to reflect the consistency of the scores. The Historical Sustainability Score ranges between 0 to 100, with a higher score indicating that a fund has, on average, more of its assets invested in companies that score well after normalization and controversy-level deductions are applied, on a consistent historical basis. Third, the Morningstar Sustainability Rating is then assigned to all scored funds within Morningstar Global Categories in which at least thirty (30) funds receive a Historical Sustainability Score and is determined by each fund's Morningstar Sustainability Rating Score rank. Please visit <http://corporate1.morningstar.com/SustainableInvesting/> for more detailed information about the Morningstar Sustainability Rating methodology and calculation frequency.

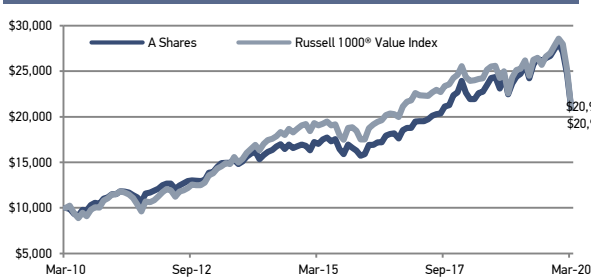
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Technical Terms: **Weighted Median P/E:** A ratio used to compare the price of a fund's stocks with their per-share earnings, with a higher ratio indicating the market has belief that a company has the ability to increase its earnings. **Weighted Average P/B:** A weighted harmonic average ratio used to compare the book value of fund's stocks with their market value. The price to book ratio indicates how much an investor is paying for a company's assets based on historical valuations. It does not reflect current market value. **Active Share:** Measures the degree of active management by a portfolio manager represented as a percentage of the fund's holdings that differ from the benchmark. **Portfolio Turnover Rate:** A measure of how frequently assets within a fund are bought and sold by the managers. **Alpha:** measure of performance on a risk-adjusted basis by comparing it to the benchmark index. **Beta:** A measure of relative risk. A Beta rating above 1.0 indicates greater volatility than the market while below 1.0 indicates lower volatility. **R-Squared:** A statistical measure that represents what amount of a fund's movements can be explained by movements in its benchmark index. A high R-Squared (between 85 and 100) indicates the fund's performance patterns have been in line with the index. **Standard Deviation:** A statistical measurement showing how widely the returns varied over a certain period of time. When a fund has a high standard deviation, it may imply greater volatility. **Sharpe Ratio:** The measurement of a fund's excess return due to sound investment decisions or excess risk. The greater a fund's Sharpe ratio, the better its risk-adjusted performance has been. **Upside/Downside Capture Ratio:** The measurement of a fund's cumulative return divided by its benchmark's cumulative return during positive and negative market periods.

Sterling Capital Management LLC, a separate subsidiary of BB&T Corporation now Truist Financial Corporation, serves as investment adviser to the Sterling Capital Funds and is paid a fee for its services. Shares of the Sterling Capital Funds are not deposits or obligations of, or guaranteed or endorsed by, Branch Banking and Trust Company now Truist Bank or its affiliates. The Funds are not insured by the FDIC or any other government agency. The Funds are distributed by Sterling Capital Distributors LLC, which is not affiliated with Branch Banking and Trust Company now Truist Bank or its affiliates.

Not a deposit • Not FDIC insured • May lose value • Not guaranteed by the bank • Not insured by any government agency

**Growth of \$10,000**



The Growth of \$10,000 chart is hypothetical based upon the performance of A Shares without sales charge for the period ended 03.31.2020. It includes the reinvestment of dividends and capital gains.

**Top Ten Equity Holdings**

1. Microsoft Corp.	5.71%
2. Abbott Laboratories	4.99%
3. Merck & Co., Inc.	4.39%
4. Accenture Plc.	4.33%
5. Verizon Communications, Inc.	4.33%
6. Home Depot, Inc. (The)	4.21%
7. Johnson & Johnson	4.13%
8. Anthem, Inc.	4.02%
9. CVS Health Corp.	4.00%
10. Pepsico, Inc.	3.93%

Current and future portfolio holdings are subject to change and risk. Based on Market Value of securities.

**Lipper Equity Income Category**

Based on Total Return as of 03.31.2020

	QTR	YTD	1 Year	3 Years	5 Years	10 Years
Lipper Ranking / Number of Funds in Category	323 / 523	323 / 523	267 / 508	76 / 463	76 / 400	91 / 249
Lipper Quartile (Percentile)	3rd (62%)	3rd (62%)	3rd (53%)	1st (17%)	1st (19%)	2nd (37%)

**Morningstar Large Value Category**

Based on Risk-Adjusted Returns as of 03.31.2020

	Overall Rating	1 Year	3 Years	5 Years	10 Years
Institutional Shares Morningstar Rating™	★★★★★	--	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★
Morningstar Ranking / Number of Funds in Category	1,107	375 / 1,212	45 / 1,107	59 / 957	154 / 703
Morningstar Quartile (Percentile)		2nd (32%)	1st (5%)	1st (8%)	2nd (26%)

**Firm Overview**

Sterling Capital Management LLC is a registered investment adviser founded in 1970, and an independently operated subsidiary of BB&T Corporation now Truist Financial Corporation, one of the nation's largest financial services holding companies. Sterling is headquartered in Charlotte, NC with offices in Raleigh, NC; Washington, D.C.; Philadelphia, PA; San Francisco, CA; Richmond, VA; and Virginia Beach, VA. We are driven by our commitment to pursue performance excellence and provide exceptional client service. Our seasoned investment teams aim to generate long-term consistent investment performance in line with specific fund objectives. What matters most to you matters most to us.

**Investment Considerations**

The fund invests primarily in dividend-paying securities but also in convertible securities in search of yield. These securities may be undervalued not performing as anticipated and its value could be negatively affected by a rise in interest rates. The fund may engage in writing covered call options. By selling covered call options, the fund limits its opportunity to profit from an increase in the price of the underlying stock above the exercise price, but continues to bear the risk of a decline in the stock. While the fund receives premiums for writing the call options, the price it realizes from the exercise of an option could be substantially below a stock's current market price.