

**April 2019**

The Fiera US Equity strategy was up in absolute performance and outperformed the S&P 500 index over the quarter, on a gross basis. Our relative outperformance was mainly driven by security selection, which was particularly successful in the Financials and Health Care sectors. Our underweight position to the outperforming Information Technology sector, including a lack of exposure to tech-giant Apple, partially offset the strategy's outperformance.

Among the top contributing stocks for the quarter were Moody's, MSCI, and Mastercard. Moody's stock entered the quarter with relatively low valuation and outperformed as guidance looked healthy and better than anticipated. MSCI reported overall strong numbers, in-line with expectations. The stock outperformed based on the company's positive outlook and their continuing opportunities to grow the business with client-driven demand in both indices and analytics. The company additionally continues to benefit from increased demand in ESG related products. As for Mastercard, the company reported solid overall broad-based growth, as the penetration for digital payment continues to expand, outperforming its main competitor in International markets as well as catching up to its competitor within the US market.

Among the leading detractors in the first quarter were CME Group and UnitedHealth. After CME Group's strong performance over the course of 2018, driven by market volatility resulting in increased demand for hedging and hence higher trading volumes, the stock experienced a pull back as volume was off to a slower start in 2019, due to tough comparisons from last year. House Democrats unveiled details of their proposition to pursue a 'Medicare-for-all-bill' that would aim to create a single-payer, government funded health-care program. While the likelihood of this proposed reform remains to be determined, the news was disruptive to the health insurance industry, including UnitedHealth, one of the prominent medical insurers in the US.

Going into the second quarter of 2019, we remain underweight Information Technology, Energy, and Telecommunication Services as we continue to seek more attractive individual investments in other sectors, including Health Care, Materials, and Financials. We remain confident that our bottom-up fundamental research, with a focus on very high quality companies, will continue to provide steady returns over the long term.

	1Q19	2018
US Equity Strategy Composite*		
Gross	16.56%	0.73%
Net	16.31%	-0.17%
S&P 500	13.65%	-4.38%

Top Detractors	Avg. Contrib. Wt.	to Perf.
CME Group Inc.	3.37	-0.43
UnitedHealth Group	4.64	0.02
US Bancorp Del.	3.40	0.23
Linde PLC	2.39	0.30
3M Company	3.23	0.31

Top Contributors		
Moody's Corp.	6.73	1.78
MSCI Inc.	4.48	1.37
MasterCard Inc.	5.62	1.27
TJX Companies Inc.	4.18	0.75
Mettler Toledo Intl.	2.95	0.73

The holdings identified do not represent all of the securities purchased, sold or recommended. Information on the calculation methodology and a listing of every holding's contribution to the composite's performance during the period is available upon request.

\*For information about the composite, see disclosures.

**Past performance is no guarantee of future results. Inherent in any investment is the potential for loss.** Please refer to Important Disclosures on the back of this performance overview regarding performance, the Participating Affiliate Arrangement, Index Comparisons and other important information.

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**S&P 500** – The S&P 500 is a stock market index made up of approximately 500 US large cap stocks. It is often used as a common benchmark for US stock funds. The index comprises a collection of stocks of 500 leading companies and captures 80% coverage of available market capitalization. Index results assume the reinvestment of all dividends and capital gains.