# September 2017 Investment Letter



# **Equity Performance**

The U.S. equity markets posted their eleventh consecutive monthly gain in September. The Energy, Financial, and Industrial sectors led the market last month, while the Utility, Consumer Staples, and Technology sectors lagged.

The NovaPoint Dividend Growth Equity Strategy was +1.6% in September versus the S&P 500 Total Return Index at +2.1% and the Russell 1000 Total Return Index at +2.1%.

				Since			
		Quarter to		Inception			
Period ending Sept 30, 2017	Month	Date	Year to Date	(annualized)			
NovaPoint Dividend Growth	1.6%	2.3%	8.9%	10.8%			
S&P 500 Total Return	2.1%	4.5%	14.2%	11.0%			
Russell 1000 Total Return	2.1%	4.5%	14.2%	10.7%			
Returns are shown net of expenses and maximum management fees paid by any account within the composite.  Inception date is August 1, 2015. Return since inception is annualized.							
Please see disclaimer for information about performance calculations.							
NovaPoint Capital has prepared and presented this report in compliance with the Global Investment Performance Standards (GIPS).							

Top performing stocks in the Strategy in September were Genuine Parts (+15.5%), EOG Resources (+13.8%), and W.W. Grainger (+10.6%).

Lagging stocks in the Strategy for the month were Apple (-6.0%), PepsiCo (-3.7%), and Ecolab (-3.5%).

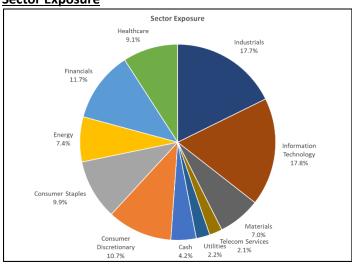
No stocks were added or removed this past month.

# **Dividend Increases**

US Bancorp, Microsoft and Accenture announced dividend increases in September. The average length of consecutive dividend increases for companies in the Strategy is 29 years and the average growth rate of dividends over the past year has been 7.9%.

	New Quarterly		Consecutive			
	Dividend	Percentage	Years	Current		
<u>Company</u>	per Share	Increased	Increased	<u>Yield</u>		
US Bancorp	\$0.30	+7.1%	7	2.2%		
Microsoft Corporation	\$0.42	+7.7%	14	2.2%		
Accenture (1)	\$1.33	+9.9%	8	1.9%		
(1) Accenture's dividend is semi-annual						

# **Sector Exposure**



# **Options**

Some portfolios include an option over-write strategy. We had no options contracts expire in the September cycle.

## Outlook

We continue to be positive on the earnings cycle and see earnings as the primary driver of equity returns. We expect volatility to increase over time but the market to have an overall upward bias.

Our focus remains on owning quality stocks with compelling capital appreciation and dividend growth potential. Our objective is to deliver investment returns above the market with lower volatility.

Joseph Sroka, CFA, CMT Alan Conner, CPFA Chief Investment Officer President

October 16, 2017

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## Investment Performance

Performance data shown is unaudited. It is computed using the weighted-average performance of a composite of fully invested client accounts in the NovaPoint Capital Dividend Growth Equity Strategy. Data is obtained from the account custodians and third-party data providers and may be subject to revision. Returns are shown net of expenses and management fees based on the highest fee applicable to any account in the composite. The information contained herein does not suggest or imply and should not be construed, in any manner, a guarantee of future performance and/or investment advice. Past performance does not guarantee future results. NovaPoint Capital claims compliance with the CFA Institute Asset Manager Code of Professional Conduct. This claim has not been verified by CFA Institute.

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