

FIRST TRUST SPECIALTY FINANCE & FINANCIAL OPPORTUNITIES FUND

Form N-CSR

February 04, 2015

UNITED STATES  
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
Washington, D.C. 20549

FORM N-CSR

CERTIFIED SHAREHOLDER REPORT OF REGISTERED MANAGEMENT INVESTMENT  
COMPANIES

Investment Company Act file number 811-22039

First Trust Specialty Finance and Financial Opportunities Fund

-----  
(Exact name of registrant as specified in charter)

120 East Liberty Drive, Suite 400  
Wheaton, IL 60187

-----  
(Address of principal executive offices) (Zip code)

W. Scott Jardine, Esq.

First Trust Portfolios L.P.  
120 East Liberty Drive, Suite 400  
Wheaton, IL 60187

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(Name and address of agent for service)

registrant's telephone number, including area code: 630-765-8000  
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Date of fiscal year end: November 30  
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Date of reporting period: November 30, 2014  
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Form N-CSR is to be used by management investment companies to file reports with the Commission not later than 10 days after the transmission to stockholders of any report that is required to be transmitted to stockholders under Rule 30e-1 under the Investment Company Act of 1940 (17 CFR 270.30e-1). The Commission may use the information provided on Form N-CSR in its regulatory, disclosure review, inspection, and policymaking roles.

A registrant is required to disclose the information specified by Form N-CSR, and the Commission will make this information public. A registrant is not required to respond to the collection of information contained in Form N-CSR unless the Form displays a currently valid Office of Management and Budget ("OMB") control number. Please direct comments concerning the accuracy of the information collection burden estimate and any suggestions for reducing the burden to Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, 100 F Street, NE, Washington, DC 20549. The OMB has reviewed this collection of information under the clearance requirements of 44 U.S.C. ss. 3507.

ITEM 1. REPORTS TO STOCKHOLDERS.

The Report to Shareholders is attached herewith.

FIRST TRUST  
SPECIALTY FINANCE  
AND FINANCIAL  
OPPORTUNITIES FUND  
(FGB)

ANNUAL REPORT  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED  
NOVEMBER 30, 2014

FIRST TRUST

CONFLUENCE  
INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT

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NOVEMBER 30, 2014

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CAUTION REGARDING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

This report contains certain forward-looking statements within the meaning of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, and the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended. Forward-looking statements include statements regarding the goals, beliefs, plans or current expectations of First Trust Advisors L.P. ("First Trust" or the "Advisor") and/or Confluence Investment Management LLC ("Confluence" or the "Sub-Advisor") and their respective representatives, taking into account the information currently available to them. Forward-looking statements include all statements that do not relate solely to current or historical fact. For example, forward-looking statements include the use of words such as "anticipate," "estimate," "intend," "expect," "believe," "plan," "may," "should," "would" or other words that convey uncertainty of future events or outcomes.

Forward-looking statements involve known and unknown risks, uncertainties and

other factors that may cause the actual results, performance or achievements of First Trust Specialty Finance and Financial Opportunities Fund (the "Fund") to be materially different from any future results, performance or achievements expressed or implied by the forward-looking statements. When evaluating the information included in this report, you are cautioned not to place undue reliance on these forward-looking statements, which reflect the judgment of the Advisor and/or Sub-Advisor and their respective representatives only as of the date hereof. We undertake no obligation to publicly revise or update these forward-looking statements to reflect events and circumstances that arise after the date hereof.

#### PERFORMANCE AND RISK DISCLOSURE

There is no assurance that the Fund will achieve its investment objectives. The Fund is subject to market risk, which is the possibility that the market values of securities owned by the Fund will decline and that the value of the Fund's shares may therefore be less than what you paid for them. Accordingly, you can lose money by investing in the Fund. See "Risk Considerations" in the Additional Information section of this report for a discussion of certain other risks of investing in the Fund.

Performance data quoted represents past performance, which is no guarantee of future results, and current performance may be lower or higher than the figures shown. For the most recent month-end performance figures, please visit <http://www.ftportfolios.com> or speak with your financial advisor. Investment returns, net asset value and common share price will fluctuate and Fund shares, when sold, may be worth more or less than their original cost.

#### HOW TO READ THIS REPORT

This report contains information that may help you evaluate your investment. It includes details about the Fund and presents data and analysis that provide insight into the Fund's performance and investment approach.

By reading the portfolio commentary by the portfolio management team of the Fund, you may obtain an understanding of how the market environment affected the Fund's performance. The statistical information that follows may help you understand the Fund's performance compared to that of relevant market benchmarks.

It is important to keep in mind that the opinions expressed by personnel of Confluence are just that: informed opinions. They should not be considered to be promises or advice. The opinions, like the statistics, cover the period through the date on the cover of this report. The risks of investing in the Fund are spelled out in the prospectus, the statement of additional information, this report and other Fund regulatory filings.

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SHAREHOLDER LETTER  
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FIRST TRUST SPECIALTY FINANCE AND FINANCIAL OPPORTUNITIES FUND  
(FGB) ANNUAL LETTER FROM THE CHAIRMAN AND CEO

NOVEMBER 30, 2014

Dear Shareholders:

I am pleased to present you with the annual report for your investment in First Trust Specialty Finance and Financial Opportunities Fund (the "Fund"). This report provides detailed information about the Fund, including a performance review and the financial statements for the 12 months ended November 30, 2014. I encourage you to read this document and discuss it with your financial advisor.

Although markets have seemed choppy over the past 12 months, the U.S. has shown sustained growth over the period. In fact, the S&P 500(R) Index, as measured on a total return basis, rose 16.86% in the time covered by this report. First Trust Advisors L.P. ("First Trust") believes that staying invested in quality products through different types of markets can benefit investors over the long term.

First Trust is pleased to offer a variety of products that we believe could fit the financial plans for many investors seeking long-term investment success. We invite you to look at our investment products with your financial advisor to determine if any of them might fit your financial goals. We believe that regularly discussing your financial objectives and investment options with your financial advisor can help keep you on track.

First Trust will continue to make available up-to-date information about your investments so you and your financial advisor are current on any First Trust investments you own. We value our relationship with you, and thank you for the opportunity to assist you in achieving your financial goals.

Sincerely,

/s/ James A. Bowen

James A. Bowen  
 Chairman of the Board of Trustees  
 Chief Executive Officer of First Trust Advisors L.P.

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FIRST TRUST SPECIALTY FINANCE AND FINANCIAL OPPORTUNITIES FUND (FGB)

"AT A GLANCE"  
 AS OF NOVEMBER 30, 2014 (UNAUDITED)

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 FUND STATISTICS  
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Symbol on New York Stock Exchange	FGB
Common Share Price	\$8.58
Common Share Net Asset Value ("NAV")	\$7.72
Premium (Discount) to NAV	11.14%
Net Assets Applicable to Common Shares	\$110,394,741
Current Quarterly Distribution per Common Share (1)	\$0.1725
Current Annualized Distribution per Common Share	\$0.6900
Current Distribution Rate on Closing Common Share Price (2)	8.04%
Current Distribution Rate on NAV (2)	8.94%

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 COMMON SHARE PRICE & NAV (WEEKLY CLOSING PRICE)

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	Common Share Price	NAV
11/13	\$8.19	\$8.61
	8.04	8.41
	7.74	8.28
	7.88	8.40
12/13	7.91	8.42
	7.80	8.43
	7.88	8.47
	7.93	8.54
	7.98	8.50
1/14	7.97	8.40
	7.90	8.39
	8.07	8.63
	8.11	8.55
2/14	8.06	8.48
	7.83	8.26
	7.76	8.26
	7.79	8.27
3/14	7.70	8.19
	7.69	8.18
	7.58	8.02
	7.71	8.11
4/14	7.63	8.12
	7.61	8.02
	7.54	7.83
	7.61	7.92
	7.71	7.94
5/14	7.67	7.99
	7.71	8.05
	7.61	8.08
	7.63	8.11
6/14	7.95	8.42
	7.90	8.32
	7.91	8.28
7/14	8.33	8.33
	8.44	8.05
	8.20	8.13
	8.76	8.22
	8.71	8.08
8/14	8.85	8.22
	8.58	8.19
	8.77	8.12
	8.60	7.91
9/14	8.17	7.85
	8.05	7.73
	7.86	7.52
	7.96	7.63
	8.19	7.72
10/14	8.13	7.86
	8.13	7.87
	8.22	7.87
	8.58	7.67
11/14	8.58	7.72

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PERFORMANCE

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Average Annual Total Ret

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	1 Year Ended 11/30/2014	5 Years Ended 11/30/2014	Incep (5/25/ to 11/3
Fund Performance (3)			
NAV	-2.44%	14.52%	-1.4
Market Value	14.00%	19.24%	0.6
Index Performance			
Blended Benchmark(4)	2.68%	16.18%	3.0
MSCI U.S. Investable Market Financials Index	11.71%	10.69%	-4.1

TOP 10 HOLDINGS	% OF TOTAL INVESTMENTS
Ares Capital Corp.	9.3%
Golub Capital BDC, Inc.	6.8
PennantPark Investment Corp.	5.5
Hercules Technology Growth Capital, Inc.	5.4
TCP Capital Corp.	5.4
New Mountain Finance Corp.	5.3
THL Credit, Inc.	5.2
CYS Investments, Inc.	4.8
Medley Capital Corp.	4.5
Solar Capital Ltd.	4.1
Total	56.3% =====

INDUSTRY	% OF TOTAL INVESTMENTS
Capital Markets	84.9%
Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs)	11.1
Diversified Financial Services	3.6
IT Services	0.4
Total	100.0% =====

ASSET CLASSIFICATION	% OF TOTAL INVESTMENTS
Common Stocks - Business Development Companies	83.5%
Common Stocks	14.3
Master Limited Partnerships	2.2
Total	100.0% =====

(1) Most recent distribution paid or declared through 11/30/2014. Subject to change in the future.

(2) Distribution rates are calculated by annualizing the most recent

distribution paid or declared through the report date and then dividing by Common Share price or NAV, as applicable, as of 11/30/2014. Subject to change in the future.

(3) Total return is based on the combination of reinvested dividend, capital gain and return of capital distributions, if any, at prices obtained by the Dividend Reinvestment Plan, and changes in NAV per share for NAV returns and changes in Common Share price for market value returns. Total returns do not reflect sales load and are not annualized for periods less than one year. Past performance is not indicative of future results.

(4) Blended benchmark consists of the following: Wells Fargo BDC Index (70%), FTSE NAREIT Mortgage REIT Index (20%) and S&P SmallCap Financials Index (10%).

From 2009-2012, the blended benchmark consisted of the following:

- Red Rocks Global Listed Private Equity Index (70%),
- FTSE NAREIT Mortgage REIT Index (20%) and
- S&P SmallCap Financials Index (10%).

One of these indicies was discontinued during 2012, therefore the blended benchmark was changed. From 2007-2009, the blended benchmark consisted of the following:

- Red Rocks Listed Private Equity Index (40%),
- FTSE NAREIT Mortgage REIT Index (20%),
- FTSE NAREIT Hybrid REIT Index (20%),
- Merrill Lynch Preferred Stock Hybrid Securities Index (10%) and
- Russell 2000 Financial Services Index (10%).

Certain of these indices were discontinued during 2009, therefore the blended benchmark was changed.

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PORTFOLIO COMMENTARY  
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FIRST TRUST SPECIALTY FINANCE AND FINANCIAL OPPORTUNITIES FUND (FGB)  
ANNUAL REPORT  
NOVEMBER 30, 2014

SUB-ADVISOR

Confluence Investment Management LLC, a registered investment advisor ("Confluence" or the "Sub-Advisor"), located in St. Louis, Missouri, serves as the Sub-Advisor to First Trust Specialty Finance and Financial Opportunities Fund ("FGB" or the "Fund"). The investment professionals at Confluence have over 80 years of aggregate portfolio management experience. Confluence professionals have invested in a wide range of specialty finance and other financial company securities during various market cycles, working to provide attractive risk-adjusted returns to clients.

CONFLUENCE PORTFOLIO MANAGEMENT TEAM

MARK KELLER, CFA  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER AND CHIEF INVESTMENT OFFICER

DAVID MIYAZAKI, CFA  
SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT AND PORTFOLIO MANAGER

DANIEL WINTER, CFA  
SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT AND PORTFOLIO MANAGER

COMMENTARY

FIRST TRUST SPECIALTY FINANCE AND FINANCIAL OPPORTUNITIES FUND (FGB)

The primary investment objective of the Fund is to seek a high level of current income. As a secondary objective, the Fund seeks an attractive total return. The Fund pursues its investment objectives by investing at least 80% of its managed assets in a portfolio of securities of specialty finance and other financial companies that the Fund's Sub-Advisor believes offer attractive opportunities for income and capital appreciation. There can be no assurance that the Fund's investment objectives will be achieved. The Fund may not be appropriate for all investors.

MARKET RECAP

FGB is a financial sector fund with a particular focus on a niche called business development companies ("BDCs"). BDCs lend to and invest in private companies, oftentimes working with those not large enough to efficiently access the public markets. Each BDC has a unique profile, determined by its respective management team. Some specialize in particular industries, while others apply a more generalized approach and maintain a diversified portfolio. Both approaches can work effectively and offer shareholders a unique and differentiated investment opportunity derived from the private markets. As of November 30, 2014, the Fund had over 80% of its assets invested in 35 BDCs.

The Fund's fiscal year, which ended November 30, 2014, was a tumultuous one for the BDC industry. The period began with volatility caused by rising interest rates, but as the 2014 calendar year got underway, rates began to settle down and decline. This set the stage for a good environment for BDCs and most stocks performed reasonably well in the early part of 2014. However, conditions changed dramatically when Standard & Poor's and Russell Investments, two important equity index providers, decided to exclude BDCs from their benchmarks. The decision ultimately led to a significant volume of BDC selling, particularly from passive fund managers, which pressured BDC valuations lower. And although the index revision was completed by the end of June, the residual effect seemingly carried forward well into the latter part of the year.

How might the index exclusion continue to affect the BDC industry? In our opinion, the BDC industry lost significant equity participation from passive funds. Thus, as capital flows into the U.S. equity markets, BDCs will no longer benefit from a pro rata participation from passive index fund managers. Furthermore, active fund managers will have a greater disincentive to own BDCs, which will not be part of their respective benchmarks. Altogether, this indicates a narrower band of fund managers that may be invested in BDCs in the near to intermediate timeframes.

On the other hand, the BDC industry continues to grow in both number and size. Despite the headwinds from the index exclusion, the industry once again had a year where more BDCs entered the public arena. Included in this list are TriplePoint Venture Growth, TPG Specialty Lending, Alcentra Capital and FS Investment. In addition, many existing BDCs were able to raise both equity and



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PORTFOLIO COMMENTARY (CONTINUED)  
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FIRST TRUST SPECIALTY FINANCE AND FINANCIAL OPPORTUNITIES FUND (FGB)  
ANNUAL REPORT  
NOVEMBER 30, 2014

debt capital. Accordingly, the industry had a contraction in the depth of potential shareholders, while at the same time expanding its size and scope. This 'two steps up, one step back' kind of progress is part of the challenge of investing in an industry that is still maturing and evolving. It can present some attractive opportunities, but it also increases risk and volatility.

And if we dig a little more deeply into the industry, we can see the up-and-back-down dynamic manifest itself in many other ways. For example, a common criticism for the BDC industry is related to managerial fees charged to shareholders. Base management fees are often considered too high, while incentive fees are often collected even when performance is poor. Some BDCs that have been around for a few years, including Ares, Golub and THL Credit, have fee structures that help address the criticism. For a while, these companies were exceptions to the industry standard. But over the past couple years, almost all of the new BDC IPOs have improved fee structures. And one existing BDC, Horizon Technology, amended its fee arrangement to better align its incentive fee with shareholder returns. We believe this kind of change will help to advance the industry in a positive manner. We are hopeful that other legacy BDCs recognize the importance of the change and revisit their own managerial fee structures.

While the progress related to fees is positive, we continue to witness counterproductive decisions related to capital management. Certain BDCs, including Prospect Capital, Fifth Street and Full Circle, raised equity capital over the last year that allowed managers to charge larger fees, while failing to improve earnings, dividends or book value on a per share basis. And many other BDCs raised equity with only nominal prospects of having it really benefit shareholders. This kind of behavior diminishes the credibility of the industry and perpetuates skepticism that BDC managers habitually line their own pockets, regardless of whether shareholders benefit.

Against this backdrop, we believe it is prudent to focus on companies where management teams have not only delivered solid investment performance, but have also properly aligned their incentives with those of shareholders. This approach creates a BDC portfolio allocation that differs significantly from a passive index exposure. It is our belief that this profile creates a better return/risk tradeoff, one that positions the Fund to pursue its income and capital appreciation objectives as the BDC industry evolves.

As of the end of its fiscal year, the Fund had approximately 10% of its assets invested in mortgage REITS, with an emphasis on Agency MBS exposure. And during the period, this industry delivered a high level of returns, which included both income and capital appreciation. Although we believe this allocation plays a constructive role, we limit the Fund's allocation because the nature of the income from this industry is highly variable.

The balance of the Fund was invested opportunistically in companies that may contribute to income, or have the potential to help grow the Fund's net asset value ("NAV").

PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS

	TWELVE MONTHS ENDED 11/30/14
FGB Market Value Total Return	14.00%
FGB NAV Total Return	-2.44%
Blended Benchmark*	2.68%

\* Components of the blended benchmark: Wells Fargo BDC Index (70%); FTSE/NAREIT Mortgage REIT Index (20%); S&P SmallCap Financials Index (10%).

The Fund's market value total return of 14.00% was higher than the Fund's NAV total return of -2.44% as the Fund's common share price relative to its NAV changed from a discount to a premium. It is important to note that because FGB is unique in its focus on BDCs, it often performs in a much different manner than most benchmarks, including its own blended benchmark. In addition, the Fund's allocation is usually different relative to the static weights of its blended benchmark, which may also cause significant performance variations.

1 Total return is based on the combination of reinvested dividend, capital gain and return of capital distributions, if any, at prices obtained by the Dividend Reinvestment Plan, and changes in NAV per share for net asset value returns and changes in Common Share price for market value returns. Total returns do not reflect sales load and are not annualized for periods less than one year. Past performance is not indicative of future results.

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 PORTFOLIO COMMENTARY (CONTINUED)  
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FIRST TRUST SPECIALTY FINANCE AND FINANCIAL OPPORTUNITIES FUND (FGB)  
 ANNUAL REPORT  
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During the year, a large majority of BDCs experienced declining valuations. But despite the decline in stock prices, most BDCs were able to distribute significant levels of income. This income was constructive in that it helped moderate some of the increase in volatility. The Fund's own performance in many ways reflected the trends of the BDC industry; its NAV declined as BDC valuations fell, but its income was generally stable. This stable profile allowed the Fund to increase its own distribution in August.

The allocation to MBS REITs was very constructive through the year. Income distributions remained at high levels and valuations began to improve, resulting in unusually high returns from some of the Fund's positions. We believe MBS REITs provided a complementary allocation to BDCs and helped to position the Fund to pursue both income and capital appreciation objectives.

The Fund uses leverage because we believe that, over time, leverage provides opportunities for additional income and total return for common shareholders. However, the use of leverage can also expose common shareholders to additional volatility. For example, if the prices of securities held by the Fund decline, the negative impact of valuation changes on Common Share NAV and common shareholder total return is magnified by the use of leverage. Conversely, leverage may enhance returns during periods when the prices of securities held

by the Fund generally are rising. During the fiscal year ended November 30, 2014, leverage had a negative impact on the Fund's capital appreciation, but a positive impact on income. The blended index does not utilize leverage.

OUTLOOK

We've noted that the BDC industry is growing and moving forward with many positive changes. But progress seldom takes place in a single direction, and the BDC industry's evolution certainly confirms this dynamic. The index exclusion was a step back, while inequitable management fees and capital mismanagement continue as ongoing challenges that offset some of the improvements provided by some newer BDCs.

Unfortunately, this year's steps backward outnumbered the steps forward, resulting in a general decline in valuations. But because BDC fundamentals remain in good condition, we believe many companies are positioned to continue distributing a significant amount of income through dividends. Furthermore, we believe the industry is likely to resume a positive trend in its evolution, particularly as well-run companies distance themselves from the poor performers. It is for this reason the Fund's BDC allocation is oriented toward high-quality BDCs.

We continue to believe BDCs provide a unique way for investors to participate in opportunities derived from the private debt and equity markets. Although publicly traded BDCs may perform like the broader equity market over shorter timeframes, the private market return/risk profile is often quite differentiated relative to the public markets for long-term, patient investors. Therefore, we believe a BDC exposure can play a constructive role as part of a diversified portfolio, particularly where income is an objective.

FIRST TRUST SPECIALTY FINANCE AND FINANCIAL OPPORTUNITIES FUND (FGB)

PORTFOLIO OF INVESTMENTS  
NOVEMBER 30, 2014

SHARES	DESCRIPTION
-----	
COMMON STOCKS - BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT COMPANIES - 101.3%	
CAPITAL MARKETS - 99.2%	
204,200	American Capital Ltd. (a).....
10,000	American Capital Senior Floating Ltd.....
462,408	Apollo Investment Corp. (b).....
755,971	Ares Capital Corp. (b).....
91,900	BlackRock Kelso Capital Corp.....
72,057	CM Finance, Inc.....
44,000	FS Investment Corp. (b).....
200,000	Gladstone Capital Corp.....
183,333	Gladstone Investment Corp. (b).....
512,017	Golub Capital BDC, Inc. (b).....
8,699	Harvest Capital Credit Corp.....
463,198	Hercules Technology Growth Capital, Inc. (b).....

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210,161	Horizon Technology Finance Corp. (b).....
340,472	KCAP Financial, Inc. (b).....
38,798	Main Street Capital Corp. (b).....
93,086	MCG Capital Corp.....
250,353	Medallion Financial Corp. (b).....
545,561	Medley Capital Corp. (b).....
16,000	Monroe Capital Corp.....
200,496	MVC Capital, Inc. (b).....
473,664	New Mountain Finance Corp. (b).....
142,084	OFS Capital Corp. (b).....
146,012	PennantPark Floating Rate Capital Ltd. (b).....
667,112	PennantPark Investment Corp. (b).....
14,936	Saratoga Investment Corp.....
295,709	Solar Capital Ltd. (b).....
53,031	Solar Senior Capital Ltd. (b).....
142,062	Stellus Capital Investment Corp. (b).....
422,728	TCP Capital Corp. (b).....
521,618	THL Credit, Inc. (b).....
104,903	TICC Capital Corp.....
245,548	Triangle Capital Corp. (b).....
188,752	TriplePoint Venture Growth BDC Corp. (b).....

DIVERSIFIED FINANCIAL SERVICES - 1.6%

99,063	TPG Specialty Lending, Inc. (b).....
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IT SERVICES - 0.5%

40,000	Newtek Business Services Corp. (a).....
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TOTAL COMMON STOCKS - BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT COMPANIES.....  
(Cost \$109,831,112)

Page 6 See Notes to Financial Statements

FIRST TRUST SPECIALTY FINANCE AND FINANCIAL OPPORTUNITIES FUND (FGB)  
PORTFOLIO OF INVESTMENTS (CONTINUED)  
NOVEMBER 30, 2014

SHARES/ UNITS	DESCRIPTION
-----	
COMMON STOCKS - 17.3%	
CAPITAL MARKETS - 1.3%	
73,767	Safeguard Scientifics, Inc. (a).....
REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT TRUSTS - 13.5%	

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367,500	Annaly Capital Management, Inc. (b)
20,000	Ares Commercial Real Estate Corp.
20,000	Capstead Mortgage Corp.
696,880	CYS Investments, Inc. (b)
194,282	Hatteras Financial Corp. (b)

	REGULATED INVESTMENT COMPANY - 2.5%
122,000	Stonecastle Financial Corp. (b)

TOTAL COMMON STOCKS.....

(Cost 22,908,004)

MASTER LIMITED PARTNERSHIPS - 2.7%

	DIVERSIFIED FINANCIAL SERVICES - 2.7%
171,200	Compass Diversified Holdings (b)

TOTAL MASTER LIMITED PARTNERSHIPS.....

(Cost \$453,611)

TOTAL INVESTMENTS - 121.3%.....

(Cost \$133,192,727) (c)

OUTSTANDING LOAN - (22.7%).....

NET OTHER ASSETS AND LIABILITIES - 1.4%.....

NET ASSETS - 100.0%.....

- (a) Non-income producing security.
- (b) All or a portion of this security serves as collateral on the outstanding loan.
- (c) Aggregate cost for financial reporting purposes is \$136,589,898. As of November 30, 2014, the aggregate gross unrealized appreciation for all securities in which there was an excess of value over tax cost was \$13,398,832 and the aggregate gross unrealized depreciation for all securities in which there was an excess of tax cost over value was \$16,123,143.

See Notes to Financial Statements

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FIRST TRUST SPECIALTY FINANCE AND FINANCIAL OPPORTUNITIES FUND (FGB)  
 PORTFOLIO OF INVESTMENTS (CONTINUED)  
 NOVEMBER 30, 2014

VALUATION INPUTS

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A summary of the inputs used to value the Fund's investments as of November 30, 2014 is as follows (see Note 2A - Portfolio Valuation in the Notes to Financial Statements):

INVESTMENTS	TOTAL VALUE AT 11/30/2014	LEVEL 1 QUOTED PRICES	LEVEL 2 SIGNIFI OBSERV INPU
Common Stocks - Business Development Companies*.....	\$111,799,029	\$111,799,029	\$
Common Stocks*.....	19,096,238	19,096,238	
Master Limited Partnerships*.....	2,970,320	2,970,320	
Total Investments.....	\$133,865,587 =====	\$133,865,587 =====	\$ =====

\* See Portfolio of Investments for industry breakout.

All transfers in and out of the Levels during the period are assumed to be transferred on the last day of the period at their current value. There were no transfers between Levels at November 30, 2014.

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See Notes to Financial Statements

FIRST TRUST SPECIALTY FINANCE AND FINANCIAL OPPORTUNITIES FUND (FGB)

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES  
NOVEMBER 30, 2014

ASSETS:

Investments, at value (Cost \$133,192,727).....	.....
Cash.....	.....
Foreign currency (Cost \$26).....	.....
Receivables:	
Investment securities sold.....	.....
Dividends.....	.....
Interest.....	.....
Prepaid expenses.....	.....
 Total Assets.....	 .....

LIABILITIES:

Outstanding loan.....	.....
Payables:	
Distributions payable.....	.....
Securities purchased payable.....	.....
Investment advisory fees.....	.....
Audit and tax fees.....	.....

Administrative fees.....  
 Printing fees.....  
 Custodian fees.....  
 Transfer agent fees.....  
 Legal fees.....  
 Interest and fees on loan.....  
 Trustees' fees and expenses.....  
 Financial reporting fees.....  
 Other liabilities.....  
  
 Total Liabilities.....

NET ASSETS.....

NET ASSETS CONSIST OF:

Paid-in capital.....  
 Par value.....  
 Accumulated net investment income (loss).....  
 Accumulated net realized gain (loss) on investments.....  
 Net unrealized appreciation (depreciation) on investments and  
 foreign currency translation.....

NET ASSETS.....

NET ASSET VALUE, per Common Share (par value \$0.01 per Common Share).....

Number of Common Shares outstanding (unlimited number of Common Shares has been authorized)....

See Notes to Financial Statements

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FIRST TRUST SPECIALTY FINANCE AND FINANCIAL OPPORTUNITIES FUND (FGB)

STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS  
 FOR THE YEAR ENDED NOVEMBER 30, 2014

INVESTMENT INCOME:

Dividends .....  
 Interest.....  
 Other.....

Total investment income.....

EXPENSES:

Investment advisory fees.....  
 Interest and fees on loan.....  
 Administrative fees.....  
 Printing fees.....  
 Audit and tax fees.....  
 Transfer agent fees.....  
 Custodian fees.....  
 Trustees' fees and expenses.....  
 Financial reporting fees.....

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Legal fees.....	
Other.....	
Total expenses.....	
NET INVESTMENT INCOME (LOSS).....	
NET REALIZED AND UNREALIZED GAIN (LOSS):	
Net realized gain (loss) on investments.....	
Net change in unrealized appreciation (depreciation) on:	
Investments.....	
Foreign currency transactions.....	
Net change in unrealized appreciation (depreciation).....	
NET REALIZED AND UNREALIZED GAIN (LOSS).....	
NET INCREASE (DECREASE) IN NET ASSETS RESULTING FROM OPERATIONS.....	

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See Notes to Financial Statements

FIRST TRUST SPECIALTY FINANCE AND FINANCIAL OPPORTUNITIES FUND (FGB)

STATEMENTS OF CHANGES IN NET ASSETS

	YEAR ENDE 11/30/2 -----
OPERATIONS:	
Net investment income (loss).....	\$ 9,317
Net realized gain (loss).....	(6,664)
Net change in unrealized appreciation (depreciation).....	(5,583)
	-----
Net increase (decrease) in net assets resulting from operations.....	(2,930)
	-----
DISTRIBUTIONS TO SHAREHOLDERS FROM:	
Net investment income.....	(9,432)
Return of capital.....	(356)
	-----
Total distributions to shareholders.....	(9,789)
	-----
CAPITAL TRANSACTIONS:	
Proceeds from Common Shares reinvested.....	34
	-----
Net increase (decrease) in net assets resulting from capital transactions.....	34
	-----
Total increase (decrease) in net assets.....	(12,686)



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NET ASSETS:

Beginning of period.....	123,081
End of period.....	\$110,394
Accumulated net investment income (loss) at end of period.....	\$ (3,486)

CAPITAL TRANSACTIONS WERE AS FOLLOWS:

Common Shares at beginning of period.....	14,290
Common Shares issued as reinvestment under the Dividend Reinvestment Plan.....	4
Common Shares at end of period.....	14,294

See Notes to Financial Statements

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FIRST TRUST SPECIALTY FINANCE AND FINANCIAL OPPORTUNITIES FUND (FGB)  
STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED NOVEMBER 30, 2014

CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES:

Net increase (decrease) in net assets resulting from operations .....	\$ (2,930,737)
Adjustments to reconcile net increase (decrease) in net assets resulting from operations to net cash provided by operating activities:	
Purchases of investments.....	(18,981,424)
Sales, maturities and paydowns of investments.....	19,613,661
Return of capital received from investments in MLPs.....	273,751
Net realized gain/loss on investments.....	6,664,362
Net change in unrealized appreciation/depreciation on investments....	5,583,754

CHANGES IN ASSETS AND LIABILITIES:

Increase in interest receivable.....	(24)
Increase in dividends receivable.....	(34,824)
Decrease in prepaid expenses.....	747
Increase in interest and fees on loan payable.....	557
Decrease in investment advisory fees payable.....	(7,084)
Decrease in legal fees payable.....	(1,224)
Increase in printing fees payable.....	70
Increase in administrative fees payable.....	10,057
Decrease in custodian fees payable.....	(5,504)
Increase in transfer agent fees payable.....	2,580
Decrease in Trustees' fees and expenses payable.....	(636)
Increase in other liabilities payable.....	286

CASH PROVIDED BY OPERATING ACTIVITIES.....

CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES:

Distributions to Common Shareholders from net investment income.....	(9,362,277)
Distributions to Common Shareholders from return of capital.....	(356,935)

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CASH USED IN FINANCING ACTIVITIES.....  
 Increase in cash and foreign currency (a).....  
 Cash and foreign currency at beginning of period.....  
 CASH AND FOREIGN CURRENCY AT END OF PERIOD.....

SUPPLEMENTAL DISCLOSURE OF CASH FLOW INFORMATION:  
 Cash paid during the period for interest and fees.....

NON-CASH FINANCING ACTIVITIES:  
 Proceeds from Common Shares reinvested.....

(a) Includes net change in unrealized appreciation (depreciation) on foreign currency of \$(3).

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See Notes to Financial Statements

FIRST TRUST SPECIALTY FINANCE AND FINANCIAL OPPORTUNITIES FUND (FGB)  
 FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS  
 FOR A COMMON SHARE OUTSTANDING THROUGHOUT EACH PERIOD

	YEAR ENDED 11/30/2014	YEAR ENDED 11/30/2013	YEAR ENDED 11/30/2012
Net asset value, beginning of period .....	\$ 8.61	\$ 7.85	\$ 6.98
INCOME FROM INVESTMENT OPERATIONS:			
Net investment income (loss) .....	0.65	0.62	0.59
Net realized and unrealized gain (loss) .....	(0.85)	0.81	0.93
Total from investment operations .....	(0.20)	1.43	1.52
DISTRIBUTIONS PAID TO SHAREHOLDERS FROM:			
Net investment income .....	(0.66)	(0.67)	(0.65)
Return of capital .....	(0.03)	--	(0.00)
Total distributions to Common Shareholders .....	(0.69)	(0.67)	(0.65)
Net asset value, end of period .....	\$ 7.72	\$ 8.61	\$ 7.85
Market value, end of period .....	\$ 8.58	\$ 8.19	\$ 8.07
TOTAL RETURN BASED ON NET ASSET VALUE (b) .....	(2.44)%	18.91%	22.48%
TOTAL RETURN BASED ON MARKET VALUE (b) .....	14.00%	10.03%	41.76%

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RATIOS TO AVERAGE NET ASSETS/SUPPLEMENTAL DATA:

Net assets, end of period (in 000's) .....	\$ 110,395	\$ 123,081	\$ 112,133
Ratio of total expenses to average net assets...	1.71%	1.73%	1.83%
Ratio of total expenses to average net assets excluding interest expense .....	1.52%	1.50%	1.55%
Ratio of net investment income (loss) to average net assets .....	8.00%	7.51%	7.81%
Portfolio turnover rate .....	14%	13%	18%
INDEBTEDNESS:			
Total loan outstanding (in 000's) .....	\$ 25,000	\$ 25,000	\$ 23,000
Asset coverage per \$1,000 of indebtedness (c)...	\$ 5,416	\$ 5,923	\$ 5,875

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- (a) Amount represents less than \$0.01 per share.
  - (b) Total return is based on the combination of reinvested dividend, capital gain and return of capital distributions, if any, at prices obtained by the Dividend Reinvestment Plan, and changes in net asset value per share for net asset value returns and changes in Common Share price for market value returns. Total returns do not reflect sales load and are not annualized for periods less than one year. Past performance is not indicative of future results.
  - (c) Calculated by taking the Fund's total assets less the Fund's total liabilities (not including the loan outstanding) and dividing by the loan outstanding in 000's.

See Notes to Financial Statements

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NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
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FIRST TRUST SPECIALTY FINANCE AND FINANCIAL OPPORTUNITIES FUND (FGB)  
NOVEMBER 30, 2014

1. ORGANIZATION

First Trust Specialty Finance and Financial Opportunities Fund (the "Fund") is a non-diversified, closed-end management investment company organized as a Massachusetts business trust on March 20, 2007, and is registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission under the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended (the "1940 Act"). The Fund trades under the ticker symbol "FGB" on the New York Stock Exchange ("NYSE").

The Fund's primary investment objective is to seek a high level of current income. The Fund seeks attractive total return as a secondary objective. Under normal market conditions, the Fund invests at least 80% of its Managed Assets in a portfolio of securities of specialty finance and other financial companies that Confluence Investment Management LLC ("Confluence" or the "Sub-Advisor") believes offer attractive opportunities for income and capital appreciation. Under normal market conditions, the Fund concentrates its investments in securities of companies within industries in the financial sector. "Managed Assets" means the total asset value of the Fund minus the sum of the Fund's

liabilities other than the principal amount of borrowings. There can be no assurance that the Fund will achieve its investment objectives. The Fund may not be appropriate for all investors.

## 2. SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The following is a summary of significant accounting policies consistently followed by the Fund in the preparation of its financial statements. The preparation of financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America ("U.S. GAAP") requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

### A. PORTFOLIO VALUATION:

The net asset value ("NAV") of the Common Shares of the Fund is determined daily as of the close of regular trading on the NYSE, normally 4:00 p.m. Eastern time, on each day the NYSE is open for trading. If the NYSE closes early on a valuation day, the NAV is determined as of that time. Foreign securities are priced using data reflecting the earlier closing of the principal markets for those securities. The NAV per Common Share is calculated by dividing the value of all assets of the Fund (including accrued interest and dividends), less all liabilities (including accrued expenses, dividends declared but unpaid, and any borrowings of the Fund) by the total number of Common Shares outstanding.

The Fund's investments are valued daily at market value or, in absence of market value with respect to any portfolio securities, at fair value. Market value prices represent last sale or official closing prices from a national or foreign exchange (i.e. a regulated market) and are primarily obtained from third party pricing services. Fair value prices represent any prices not considered market value prices and are either obtained from a third party pricing service, or are determined by the Pricing Committee of the Fund's investment advisor, First Trust Advisors L.P. ("First Trust" or the "Advisor"), in accordance with valuation procedures adopted by the Fund's Board of Trustees, and in accordance with provisions of the 1940 Act. Investments valued by the Advisor's Pricing Committee, if any, are footnoted as such in the footnotes to the Portfolio of Investments. The Fund's investments are valued as follows:

Common stocks, master limited partnerships ("MLPs") and other equity securities listed on any national or foreign exchange (excluding the NASDAQ(R) Stock Market LLC ("NASDAQ") and the London Stock Exchange Alternative Investment Market ("AIM")) are valued at the last sale price on the exchange on which they are principally traded or, for NASDAQ and AIM securities, the official closing price. Securities traded on one or more than one securities exchange are valued at the last sale price or official closing price, as applicable, at the close of the securities exchange representing the principal market for such securities.

Securities traded in an over-the-counter market are fair valued at the mean of their most recent bid and asked price, if available, and otherwise at their closing bid price.

Certain securities may not be able to be priced by pre-established pricing methods. Such securities may be valued by the Fund's Board of Trustees or its delegate, the Advisor's Pricing Committee, at fair value. These securities generally include, but are not limited to, restricted securities (securities which may not be publicly sold without registration under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, for which a pricing service is unable to provide a market price; securities whose trading has been formally suspended; a security whose market or fair value price is not available from a pre-established pricing source; a security with respect to which an event has occurred that is likely to

materially affect the value of the security after the market has closed but before the calculation of the Fund's NAV or make it difficult or impossible to obtain a reliable market quotation; and a security whose price, as provided by the pricing service, does not reflect the security's fair value). As a general principle, the current fair value of a security would appear to be the amount which the owner might reasonably expect to receive for the security upon its current sale. The use of fair value prices by the Fund generally results in prices used by the Fund that may differ from current market quotations or official closing prices on the applicable exchange. A variety of factors may be considered in determining the fair value of such securities, including, but not limited to, the following:

- 1) the type of security;
- 2) the size of the holding;
- 3) the initial cost of the security;

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NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

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FIRST TRUST SPECIALTY FINANCE AND FINANCIAL OPPORTUNITIES FUND (FGB)  
NOVEMBER 30, 2014

- 4) transactions in comparable securities;
- 5) price quotes from dealers and/or pricing services;
- 6) relationships among various securities;
- 7) information obtained by contacting the issuer, analysts, or the appropriate stock exchange;
- 8) an analysis of the issuer's financial statements; and
- 9) the existence of merger proposals or tender offers that might affect the value of the security.

If the securities in question are foreign securities, the following additional information may be considered:

- 1) the value of similar foreign securities traded on other foreign markets;
- 2) ADR trading of similar securities;
- 3) closed-end fund trading of similar securities;
- 4) foreign currency exchange activity;
- 5) the trading prices of financial products that are tied to baskets of foreign securities;
- 6) factors relating to the event that precipitated the pricing problem;

- 7) whether the event is likely to recur; and
- 8) whether the effects of the event are isolated or whether they affect entire markets, countries or regions.

The Fund is subject to fair value accounting standards that define fair value, establish the framework for measuring fair value and provide a three-level hierarchy for fair valuation based upon the inputs to the valuation as of the measurement date. The three levels of the fair value hierarchy are as follows:

- o Level 1 - Level 1 inputs are quoted prices in active markets for identical investments. An active market is a market in which transactions for the investment occur with sufficient frequency and volume to provide pricing information on an ongoing basis.
- o Level 2 - Level 2 inputs are observable inputs, either directly or indirectly, and include the following:
  - o Quoted prices for similar investments in active markets.
  - o Quoted prices for identical or similar investments in markets that are non-active. A non-active market is a market where there are few transactions for the investment, the prices are not current, or price quotations vary substantially either over time or among market makers, or in which little information is released publicly.
  - o Inputs other than quoted prices that are observable for the investment (for example, interest rates and yield curves observable at commonly quoted intervals, volatilities, prepayment speeds, loss severities, credit risks, and default rates).
  - o Inputs that are derived principally from or corroborated by observable market data by correlation or other means.
- o Level 3 - Level 3 inputs are unobservable inputs. Unobservable inputs may reflect the reporting entity's own assumptions about the assumptions that market participants would use in pricing the investment.

The inputs or methodology used for valuing investments are not necessarily an indication of the risk associated with investing in those investments. A summary of the inputs used to value the Fund's investments as of November 30, 2014, is included with the Fund's Portfolio of Investments.

#### B. SECURITIES TRANSACTIONS AND INVESTMENT INCOME:

Securities transactions are recorded as of the trade date. Realized gains and losses from securities transactions are recorded on the identified cost basis. Dividend income is recorded on the ex-dividend date. Interest income, if any, is recorded daily on the accrual basis, including the amortization of premiums and accretion of discounts.

The Fund holds shares of business development companies ("BDCs") and may hold exchange-traded funds ("ETFs"). The tax character of distributions received from these securities may vary when reported by the issuer after their tax reporting periods conclude.

The Fund may also hold real estate investment trusts ("REITs"). Distributions from such investments may be comprised of return of capital, capital gains and

income. The actual character of amounts received during the year is not known until after the REIT's fiscal year end. The Fund records the character of distributions received from the REITs during the year based on estimates available. The REIT's characterization of distributions received by the Fund may be subsequently revised based on information received from the REITs after their tax reporting periods conclude.

The Fund may also hold MLPs. For the year ended November 30, 2014, distributions of \$273,751 received from MLPs have been reclassified as return of capital. The cost basis of applicable MLPs has been reduced accordingly.

C. DIVIDENDS AND DISTRIBUTIONS TO SHAREHOLDERS:

Dividends from net investment income of the Fund are declared and paid quarterly or as the Board of Trustees may determine from time to time. Distributions of any net realized capital gains earned by the Fund are distributed at least annually. Distributions will automatically be reinvested into additional Common Shares pursuant to the Fund's Dividend Reinvestment Plan unless cash distributions are elected by the shareholder.

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 NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)  
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FIRST TRUST SPECIALTY FINANCE AND FINANCIAL OPPORTUNITIES FUND (FGB)  
 NOVEMBER 30, 2014

Distributions from income and realized capital gains are determined in accordance with income tax regulations, which may differ from U.S. GAAP. Certain capital accounts in the financial statements are periodically adjusted for permanent differences in order to reflect their tax character. These permanent differences are primarily due to the varying treatment of income and gain/loss on portfolio securities held by the Fund and have no impact on net assets or NAV per share. Temporary differences, which arise from recognizing certain items of income, expense and gain/loss in different periods for financial statement and tax purposes, will reverse at some point in the future.

Permanent differences incurred during the fiscal year ended November 30, 2014, primarily as a result of the prior year tax character of REIT and BDC distributions, have been reclassified at year end to reflect a decrease in accumulated net investment income (loss) by \$205,283, an increase in accumulated net realized gain (loss) on investments by \$182,019 and an increase to paid-in-capital of \$23,264.

The tax character of distributions paid during the fiscal years ended November 30, 2014 and 2013 was as follows:

	2014	2013
Distributions paid from:		
Ordinary income.....	\$ 9,396,564	\$ 9,571,582
Return of capital.....	356,935	--

As of November 30, 2014 the distributable earnings and net assets on a tax basis were as follows:

Undistributed ordinary income.....	\$	--
Undistributed capital gains.....		--
		-----
Total undistributed earnings.....		--
Accumulated capital and other losses.....		(150,466,005)
Net unrealized appreciation (depreciation)....		(2,724,315)
		-----
Total accumulated earnings (losses).....		(153,190,320)
Other.....		(2,465,873)
Paid-in capital.....		266,050,934
		-----
Net assets.....	\$	110,394,741
		=====

D. INCOME TAXES:

The Fund intends to continue to qualify as a regulated investment company by complying with the requirements under Subchapter M of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, which includes distributing substantially all of its net investment income and net realized gains to shareholders. Accordingly, no provision has been made for federal or state income taxes. However, due to the timing and amount of distributions, the Fund may be subject to an excise tax of 4% of the amount by which approximately 98% of the Fund's taxable income exceeds the distributions from such taxable income for the calendar year.

Under the Regulated Investment Company Modernization Act of 2010 (the "Act"), net capital losses arising in taxable years after December 22, 2010, may be carried forward indefinitely, and their character is retained as short-term and/or long-term losses. Previously, net capital losses were carried forward up to eight years and treated as short-term losses. As a transition rule, the Act requires that post-enactment net capital losses be used before pre-enactment net capital losses. At November 30, 2014, the Fund had capital loss carryforwards for federal income tax purposes of \$149,316,975, expiring as follows:

EXPIRATION DATE	AMOUNT
November 30, 2015	\$ 5,166,354
November 30, 2016	62,747,095
November 30, 2017	55,647,845
November 30, 2018	14,556,882
November 30, 2019	5,452,015
Non-expiring	5,746,784

Certain losses realized during the current fiscal year may be deferred and treated as occurring on the first day of the following fiscal year for federal income tax purposes. For the fiscal year ended November 30, 2014, the Fund incurred and elected to defer capital losses of \$1,149,030.

The Fund is subject to certain limitations under the U.S. tax rules on the use of capital loss carryforwards and net unrealized built-in losses. These limitations apply when there has been a 50% change in ownership.



FIRST TRUST SPECIALTY FINANCE AND FINANCIAL OPPORTUNITIES FUND (FGB)  
NOVEMBER 30, 2014

The Fund is subject to accounting standards that establish a minimum threshold for recognizing, and a system for measuring, the benefits of a tax position taken or expected to be taken in a tax return. Taxable years ended 2011, 2012, 2013 and 2014 remain open to federal and state audit. As of November 30, 2014, management has evaluated the application of these standards to the Fund and has determined that no provision for income tax is required in the Fund's financial statements for uncertain tax positions.

E. EXPENSES:

The Fund will pay all expenses directly related to its operations.

3. INVESTMENT ADVISORY FEE, AFFILIATED TRANSACTIONS AND OTHER FEE ARRANGEMENTS

First Trust, the investment advisor to the Fund, is a limited partnership with one limited partner, Grace Partners of DuPage L.P., and one general partner, The Charger Corporation. The Charger Corporation is an Illinois corporation controlled by James A. Bowen, Chief Executive Officer of First Trust. First Trust is responsible for the ongoing monitoring of the Fund's investment portfolio, managing the Fund's business affairs and providing certain administrative services necessary for the management of the Fund. For these investment management services, First Trust is entitled to a monthly fee calculated at an annual rate of 1.00% of the Fund's Managed Assets. First Trust also provides fund reporting services to the Fund for a flat annual fee in the amount of \$9,250.

Confluence serves as the Fund's sub-advisor and manages the Fund's portfolio subject to First Trust's supervision. The Sub-Advisor receives a monthly portfolio management fee calculated at an annual rate of 0.50% of Managed Assets that is paid by First Trust from its investment advisory fee.

BNY Mellon Investment Servicing (US) Inc. ("BNYM IS") serves as the Fund's administrator, fund accountant and transfer agent in accordance with certain fee arrangements. As administrator and fund accountant, BNYM IS is responsible for providing certain administrative and accounting services to the Fund, including maintaining the Fund's books of account, records of the Fund's securities transactions, and certain other books and records. As transfer agent, BNYM IS is responsible for maintaining shareholder records for the Fund. The Bank of New York Mellon ("BNYM") serves as the Fund's custodian in accordance with certain fee arrangements. As custodian, BNYM is responsible for custody of the Fund's assets.

Each Trustee who is not an officer or employee of First Trust, any sub-advisor or any of their affiliates ("Independent Trustees") is paid a fixed annual retainer that is allocated pro rata among each fund in the First Trust Fund Complex based on net assets. Each Independent Trustee is also paid an annual per fund fee that varies based on whether the fund is a closed-end or other actively managed fund, or is an index fund.

Additionally, the Lead Independent Trustee and the Chairmen of the Audit Committee, Nominating and Governance Committee and Valuation Committee are paid annual fees to serve in such capacities, with such compensation allocated pro rata among each fund in the First Trust Fund Complex based on net assets. Trustees are reimbursed for travel and out-of-pocket expenses in connection with all meetings. The Lead Independent Trustee and Committee Chairmen rotate every three years. The officers and "Interested" Trustee receive no compensation from the Fund for acting in such capacities.

4. PURCHASES AND SALES OF SECURITIES

Cost of purchases and proceeds from sales of securities, excluding short-term investments, for the fiscal year ended November 30, 2014, were \$19,237,174 and \$18,980,335, respectively.

5. CREDIT AGREEMENT

The Fund has a committed facility agreement (the "BNP Facility") with BNP Paribas Prime Brokerage, Inc. ("BNP"), which currently has a maximum commitment amount of \$25,000,000. Absent certain events of default or failure to maintain certain collateral requirements, BNP may not terminate the BNP Facility except upon 180 calendar day's prior notice. The interest rate under the BNP Facility is equal to the 1-month LIBOR plus 70 basis points. Prior to October 21, 2013, the interest rate under the BNP Facility was equal to the 3-month LIBOR plus 80 basis points. In addition, under the BNP Facility, the Fund pays a commitment fee of 0.85% on the undrawn amount.

The average amount outstanding for the year ended November 30, 2014 was \$25,000,000, with a weighted average interest rate of 0.86%. As of November 30, 2014, the Fund had outstanding borrowings of \$25,000,000 under the BNP Facility. The high and low annual interest rates for the year ended November 30, 2014 were 0.87% and 0.85%, respectively, and the interest rate at November 30, 2014 was 0.86%.

6. INDEMNIFICATION

The Fund has a variety of indemnification obligations under contracts with its service providers. The Fund's maximum exposure under these arrangements is unknown. However, the Fund has not had prior claims or losses pursuant to these contracts and expects the risk of loss to be remote.

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NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)  
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FIRST TRUST SPECIALTY FINANCE AND FINANCIAL OPPORTUNITIES FUND (FGB)  
NOVEMBER 30, 2014

7. FINANCIAL SECTOR CONCENTRATION RISK

Under normal market conditions, the Fund will invest at least 80% of its Managed Assets in securities of companies within industries in the financial sector. A fund concentrated in a single industry or sector is likely to present more risks than a fund that is broadly diversified over several industries or groups of industries. Compared to the broad market, an individual sector may be more strongly affected by changes in the economic climate, broad market shifts, moves in a particular dominant stock, or regulatory changes. Specialty finance and other financial companies in general are subject to extensive government regulation, which may change frequently. The profitability of specialty finance and other financial companies is largely dependent upon the availability and cost of capital funds, and may fluctuate significantly in response to changes in interest rates, as well as changes in general economic conditions. From time to

time, severe competition may also affect the profitability of specialty finance and other financial companies. Financial companies can be highly dependent upon access to capital markets and any impediments to such access, such as general economic conditions or a negative perception in the capital markets of a company's financial condition or prospects, could adversely affect its business. Leasing companies can be negatively impacted by changes in tax laws which affect the types of transactions in which such companies engage.

#### 8. SUBSEQUENT EVENTS

Management has evaluated the impact of all subsequent events to the Fund through the date the financial statements were issued, and has determined that there were no subsequent events requiring recognition or disclosure in the financial statements that have not already been disclosed, other than the following:

The Fund intends to offer and sell Common Shares from time to time through an agent for the offer and sale of Common Shares. Sales of Common Shares pursuant to this authorization may be made in negotiated transactions or transactions that are deemed to be "at the market" as defined in Rule 415 under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, including sales made directly on the NYSE or sales made through a market maker other than on an exchange, at an offering price equal to or in excess of the net asset value per share of the Fund's Common Shares at the time such Common Shares are initially sold. A registration statement has been filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission and the sale of the Common Shares is expected to commence during the first quarter of 2015. The Fund intends to use the net proceeds from the sale of the Common Shares in accordance with its investment objectives and policies.

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REPORT OF INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM  
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TO THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES AND SHAREHOLDERS OF FIRST TRUST SPECIALTY FINANCE AND FINANCIAL OPPORTUNITIES FUND:

We have audited the accompanying statement of assets and liabilities of First Trust Specialty Finance and Financial Opportunities Fund (the "Fund"), including the portfolio of investments, as of November 30, 2014, and the related statements of operations and cash flows for the year then ended, the statements of changes in net assets for each of the two years in the period then ended, and the financial highlights for each of the periods presented. These financial statements and financial highlights are the responsibility of the Fund's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements and financial highlights based on our audits.

We conducted our audits in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States). Those standards require that we plan and perform the audits to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements and financial highlights are free of material misstatement. The Fund is not required to have, nor were we engaged to perform, an audit of its internal control over financial reporting. Our audits included consideration of internal control over financial reporting as a basis for designing audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Fund's internal control over financial reporting. Accordingly, we express no such opinion. An audit also

includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements, assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. Our procedures included confirmation of securities owned as of November 30, 2014 by correspondence with the Fund's custodian and brokers. We believe that our audits provide a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, the financial statements and financial highlights referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the First Trust Specialty Finance and Financial Opportunities Fund as of November 30, 2014, and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year then ended, the changes in its net assets for each of the two years in the period then ended, and the financial highlights for each of the periods presented, in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

/s/ Deloitte & Touche LLP

Chicago, Illinois  
January 22, 2015

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION  
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FIRST TRUST SPECIALTY FINANCE AND FINANCIAL OPPORTUNITIES FUND (FGB)  
NOVEMBER 30, 2014 (UNAUDITED)

DIVIDEND REINVESTMENT PLAN

If your Common Shares are registered directly with the Fund or if you hold your Common Shares with a brokerage firm that participates in the Fund's Dividend Reinvestment Plan (the "Plan"), unless you elect, by written notice to the Fund, to receive cash distributions, all dividends, including any capital gain distributions, on your Common Shares will be automatically reinvested by BNY Mellon Investment Servicing (US) Inc. (the "Plan Agent"), in additional Common Shares under the Plan. If you elect to receive cash distributions, you will receive all distributions in cash paid by check mailed directly to you by the Plan Agent, as the dividend paying agent.

If you decide to participate in the Plan, the number of Common Shares you will receive will be determined as follows:

- (1) If Common Shares are trading at or above net asset value ("NAV") at the time of valuation, the Fund will issue new shares at a price equal to the greater of (i) NAV per Common Share on that date or (ii) 95% of the market price on that date.
- (2) If Common Shares are trading below NAV at the time of valuation, the Plan Agent will receive the dividend or distribution in cash and will purchase Common Shares in the open market, on the NYSE or elsewhere, for the participants' accounts. It is possible that the market price for the Common Shares may increase before the Plan

Agent has completed its purchases. Therefore, the average purchase price per share paid by the Plan Agent may exceed the market price at the time of valuation, resulting in the purchase of fewer shares than if the dividend or distribution had been paid in Common Shares issued by the Fund. The Plan Agent will use all dividends and distributions received in cash to purchase Common Shares in the open market within 30 days of the valuation date except where temporary curtailment or suspension of purchases is necessary to comply with federal securities laws. Interest will not be paid on any uninvested cash payments.

You may elect to opt-out of or withdraw from the Plan at any time by giving written notice to the Plan Agent, or by telephone at (866) 340-1104, in accordance with such reasonable requirements as the Plan Agent and the Fund may agree upon. If you withdraw or the Plan is terminated, you will receive a certificate for each whole share in your account under the Plan, and you will receive a cash payment for any fraction of a share in your account. If you wish, the Plan Agent will sell your shares and send you the proceeds, minus brokerage commissions.

The Plan Agent maintains all Common Shareholders' accounts in the Plan and gives written confirmation of all transactions in the accounts, including information you may need for tax records. Common Shares in your account will be held by the Plan Agent in non-certificated form. The Plan Agent will forward to each participant any proxy solicitation material and will vote any shares so held only in accordance with proxies returned to the Fund. Any proxy you receive will include all Common Shares you have received under the Plan.

There is no brokerage charge for reinvestment of your dividends or distributions in Common Shares. However, all participants will pay a pro rata share of brokerage commissions incurred by the Plan Agent when it makes open market purchases.

Automatically reinvesting dividends and distributions does not mean that you do not have to pay income taxes due upon receiving dividends and distributions. Capital gains and income are realized although cash is not received by you. Consult your financial advisor for more information.

If you hold your Common Shares with a brokerage firm that does not participate in the Plan, you will not be able to participate in the Plan and any dividend reinvestment may be effected on different terms than those described above.

The Fund reserves the right to amend or terminate the Plan if in the judgment of the Board of Trustees the change is warranted. There is no direct service charge to participants in the Plan; however, the Fund reserves the right to amend the Plan to include a service charge payable by the participants. Additional information about the Plan may be obtained by writing BNY Mellon Investment Servicing (US) Inc., 301 Bellevue Parkway, Wilmington, Delaware 19809.

#### PROXY VOTING POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

A description of the policies and procedures that the Fund uses to determine how to vote proxies and information on how the Fund voted proxies relating to portfolio investments during the most recent 12-month period ended June 30 is available (1) without charge, upon request, by calling (800) 988-5891; (2) on the Fund's website located at <http://www.ftportfolios.com>; and (3) on the Securities and Exchange Commission's ("SEC") website located at <http://www.sec.gov>.

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION (CONTINUED)  
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FIRST TRUST SPECIALTY FINANCE AND FINANCIAL OPPORTUNITIES FUND (FGB)  
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PORTFOLIO HOLDINGS

The Fund files its complete schedule of portfolio holdings with the SEC for the first and third quarters of each fiscal year on Form N-Q. The Fund's Forms N-Q are available (1) by calling (800) 988-5891; (2) on the Fund's website located at <http://www.ftportfolios.com>; (3) on the SEC's website at <http://www.sec.gov>; and (4) for review and copying at the SEC's Public Reference Room ("PRR") in Washington, DC. Information regarding the operation of the PRR may be obtained by calling (800) SEC-0330.

NYSE CERTIFICATION INFORMATION

In accordance with Section 303A-12 of the New York Stock Exchange ("NYSE") Listed Company Manual, the Fund's President has certified to the NYSE that, as of April 28, 2014, he was not aware of any violation by the Fund of NYSE corporate governance listing standards. In addition, the Fund's reports to the SEC on Forms N-CSR, N-CSRS and N-Q contain certifications by the Fund's principal executive officer and principal financial officer that relate to the Fund's public disclosure in such reports and are required by Rule 30a-2 under the 1940 Act.

SUBMISSION OF MATTERS TO A VOTE OF SHAREHOLDERS

The Joint Annual Meeting of Shareholders of the Common Shares of First Trust Energy Infrastructure Fund, Macquarie/First Trust Global Infrastructure/Utilities Dividend & Income Fund, First Trust Energy Income and Growth Fund, First Trust Enhanced Equity Income Fund, First Trust/Aberdeen Global Opportunity Income Fund, First Trust Mortgage Income Fund, First Trust Strategic High Income Fund II, First Trust/Aberdeen Emerging Opportunity Fund, First Trust Specialty Finance and Financial Opportunities Fund, First Trust Dividend and Income Fund, First Trust High Income Long/Short Fund, First Trust MLP and Energy Income Fund, and First Trust Intermediate Duration Preferred & Income Fund was held on April 23, 2014 (the "Annual Meeting"). At the Annual Meeting, Trustee Robert F. Keith was elected by the Common Shareholders of the First Trust Specialty Finance and Financial Opportunities Fund as Class I Trustee for a three-year term expiring at the Fund's annual meeting of shareholders in 2017. The number of votes cast in favor of Mr. Keith was 12,378,528, the number of votes against was 289,771 and the number of broker non-votes was 1,622,541. Richard E. Erickson, Thomas R. Kadlec, Niel B. Nielson, and James A. Bowen are the other current and continuing Trustees.

TAX INFORMATION

Of the ordinary income (including short-term capital gain) distributions made by the Fund during the year ended November 30, 2014, none qualified for the corporate dividends received deduction available to corporate shareholders.

None of the ordinary income distributions for the year ended November 30, 2014, are designated as qualified dividend income.

RISK CONSIDERATIONS

Risks are inherent in all investing. The following summarizes some, but not all, of the risks that should be considered for the Fund. For additional information about the risks associated with investing in the Fund, please see the Fund's prospectus and statement of additional information, as well as other Fund regulatory filings.

**BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT COMPANY ("BDC") RISK:** Investments in closed-end funds that elect to be treated as BDCs may be subject to a high degree of risk. BDCs typically invest in small and medium-sized private and certain public companies that may not have access to public equity markets or capital raising. As a result, a BDC's portfolio could include a substantial amount of securities purchased in private placements, and its portfolio may carry risks similar to those of a private equity or venture capital fund. Securities that are not publicly registered may be difficult to value and may be difficult to sell at a price representative of their intrinsic value. Investments in BDCs are subject to various risks, including management's ability to meet the BDC's investment objective, and to manage the BDC's portfolio when the underlying securities are redeemed or sold, during periods of market turmoil and as investors' perceptions regarding a BDC or its underlying investments change. BDC shares are not redeemable at the option of the BDC shareholder and, as with shares of other closed-end funds, they may trade in the secondary market at a discount to their NAV.

**INVESTMENT AND MARKET RISK:** An investment in the Fund's Common Shares is subject to investment risk, including the possible loss of the entire principal invested. An investment in Common Shares represents an indirect investment in the securities owned by the Fund. The value of these securities, like other market investments, may move up or down, sometimes rapidly and unpredictably. Common Shares at any point in time may be worth less than the original investment, even after taking into account the reinvestment of Fund dividends and distributions. Security prices can fluctuate for several reasons including the general condition of the securities markets, or when political or economic

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events affecting the issuers occur. When the Advisor or Sub-Advisor determines that it is temporarily unable to follow the Fund's investment strategy or that it is impractical to do so (such as when a market disruption event has occurred and trading in the securities is extremely limited or absent), the Fund may take temporary defensive positions.

**FINANCIAL SECTOR CONCENTRATION RISK:** Under normal market conditions, the Fund will invest at least 80% of its managed assets in securities of companies within industries in the financial sector. A fund concentrated in a single industry or sector is likely to present more risks than a fund that is broadly diversified over several industries or groups of industries. Compared to the broad market, an individual sector may be more strongly affected by changes in the economic

climate, broad market shifts, moves in a particular dominant stock, or regulatory changes. Specialty finance and other financial companies in general are subject to extensive government regulation, which may change frequently. The profitability of specialty finance and other financial companies is largely dependent upon the availability and cost of capital funds, and may fluctuate significantly in response to changes in interest rates, as well as changes in general economic conditions. From time to time, severe competition may also affect the profitability of specialty finance and other financial companies. Financial companies can be highly dependent upon access to capital markets and any impediments to such access, such as general economic conditions or a negative perception in the capital markets of a company's financial condition or prospects, could adversely affect its business. Leasing companies can be negatively impacted by changes in tax laws which affect the types of transactions in which such companies engage.

**REIT, MORTGAGE-RELATED AND ASSET-BACKED SECURITIES RISKS:** Investing in REITs involves certain unique risks in addition to investing in the real estate industry in general. REITs are subject to interest rate risk (especially mortgage REITs) and the risk of default by lessees or borrowers. An equity REIT may be affected by changes in the value of the underlying properties owned by the REIT. A mortgage REIT may be affected by the ability of the issuers of its portfolio of mortgages to repay their obligations. REITs whose underlying assets are concentrated in properties used by a particular industry are also subject to risks associated with such industry. REITs may have limited financial resources, their securities may trade less frequently and in a limited volume, and their securities may be subject to more abrupt or erratic price movements than larger company securities.

In addition to REITs, the Fund may invest in a variety of other mortgage-related securities, including commercial mortgage securities and other mortgage-backed instruments. Rising interest rates tend to extend the duration of mortgage-related securities, making them more sensitive to changes in interest rates, and may reduce the market value of the securities. In addition, mortgage-related securities are subject to prepayment risk, the risk that borrowers may pay off their mortgagees sooner than expected, particularly when interest rates decline. This can reduce the Fund's returns because the Fund may have to reinvest that money at lower prevailing interest rates.

The Fund's investments in other asset-backed securities are subject to risks similar to those associated with mortgage-backed securities, as well as additional risks associated with the nature of the assets and the servicing of those assets.

**LEVERAGE RISK:** The use of leverage results in additional risks and can magnify the effect of any losses. The funds borrowed pursuant to a leverage borrowing program constitute a substantial lien and burden by reason of their prior claim against the income of the Fund and against the net assets of the Fund in liquidation. If the Fund is not in compliance with certain credit facility provisions, the Fund may not be permitted to declare dividends or other distributions.

**NON-DIVERSIFICATION RISK:** Because the Fund is non-diversified, it is only limited as to the percentage of its assets which may be invested in the securities of any one issuer by the diversification requirements imposed by the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended. Because the Fund may invest a relatively high percentage of its assets in a limited number of issuers, the Fund may be more susceptible to any single economic, political or regulatory occurrence and to the financial conditions of the issuers in which it invests.

#### ADVISORY AND SUB-ADVISORY AGREEMENTS

BOARD CONSIDERATIONS REGARDING APPROVAL OF CONTINUATION OF INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT



AGREEMENT AND SUB-ADVISORY AGREEMENT

The Board of Trustees of First Trust Specialty Finance and Financial Opportunities Fund (the "Fund"), including the Independent Trustees, approved the continuation of the Investment Management Agreement (the "Advisory Agreement") between the Fund and First Trust Advisors L.P. (the "Advisor") and the Investment Sub-Advisory Agreement (the "Sub-Advisory Agreement" and together with the Advisory Agreement, the "Agreements") among the Fund, the Advisor and Confluence Investment Management LLC (the "Sub-Advisor") at a meeting held on June 8-9, 2014. The Board determined that the continuation of the Agreements is in the best interests of the Fund in light of the extent and quality of the services provided and such other matters as the Board considered to be relevant in the exercise of its reasonable business judgment.

To reach this determination, the Board considered its duties under the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended (the "1940 Act"), as well as under the general principles of state law in reviewing and approving advisory contracts; the requirements of the 1940 Act in such matters; the fiduciary duty of investment advisors with respect to advisory agreements and compensation; the standards used by courts in determining whether investment company boards have

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fulfilled their duties; and the factors to be considered by the Board in voting on such agreements. To assist the Board in its evaluation of the Agreements, the Independent Trustees received a separate report from each of the Advisor and the Sub-Advisor in advance of the Board meeting responding to a request for information from counsel to the Independent Trustees. The reports, among other things, outlined the services provided by the Advisor and the Sub-Advisor (including the relevant personnel responsible for these services and their experience); the advisory and sub-advisory fees for the Fund as compared to fees charged to other clients of the Advisor and the Sub-Advisor and as compared to fees charged by investment advisors and sub-advisors to comparable funds; expenses of the Fund as compared to expense ratios of comparable funds; the nature of expenses incurred in providing services to the Fund and the potential for economies of scale, if any; financial data on the Advisor and the Sub-Advisor; any fall-out benefits to the Advisor and the Sub-Advisor; and information on the Advisor's and the Sub-Advisor's compliance programs. Following receipt of this information, counsel to the Independent Trustees posed follow-up questions, and the Independent Trustees and their counsel then met separately to discuss the information provided by the Advisor and the Sub-Advisor, including the supplemental responses. The Board applied its business judgment to determine whether the arrangements between the Fund and the Advisor and among the Fund, the Advisor and the Sub-Advisor are reasonable business arrangements from the Fund's perspective as well as from the perspective of shareholders. The Board considered that shareholders chose to invest or remain invested in the Fund knowing that the Advisor and the Sub-Advisor manage the Fund. The Board also considered that the Agreements were approved by shareholders of the Fund at a meeting held in January 2013.

In reviewing the Agreements, the Board considered the nature, extent and quality of services provided by the Advisor and the Sub-Advisor under the Agreements. The Board considered the Advisor's statements regarding the incremental benefits associated with the Fund's advisor/sub-advisor management structure. With respect to the Advisory Agreement, the Board considered that the Advisor is responsible for the overall management and administration of the Fund and reviewed the services provided by the Advisor to the Fund, including the oversight of the Sub-Advisor. The Board noted the compliance program that had been developed by the Advisor and considered that it includes a robust program for monitoring the Sub-Advisor's compliance with the 1940 Act and the Fund's investment objectives and policies. With respect to the Sub-Advisory Agreement, the Board reviewed the materials provided by the Sub-Advisor and considered the services that the Sub-Advisor provides to the Fund, including the Sub-Advisor's day-to-day management of the Fund's investments. In light of the information presented and the considerations made, the Board concluded that the nature, extent and quality of services provided to the Fund by the Advisor and the Sub-Advisor under the Agreements have been and are expected to remain satisfactory and that the Sub-Advisor, under the oversight of the Advisor, has managed the Fund consistent with its investment objectives and policies.

The Board considered the advisory and sub-advisory fees paid under the Agreements. The Board considered the advisory fees charged by the Advisor to similar funds and other non-fund clients, noting that the Advisor does not provide advisory services to other funds with investment objectives and policies similar to the Fund's, but it does provide services to certain separately managed accounts with investment objectives and policies similar to the Fund's. The Board noted that the Advisor charges a lower advisory fee rate to the separately managed accounts, as well as the Advisor's statement that the nature of the services provided to the separately managed accounts is not comparable to those provided to the Fund. The Board considered the sub-advisory fee and how it relates to the Fund's overall advisory fee structure and noted that the sub-advisory fee is paid by the Advisor from its advisory fee. The Board also considered information provided by the Sub-Advisor as to the fees it charges to other clients, noting that the Sub-Advisor does not charge a lower fee to any other client for which it provides comparable services. In addition, the Board received data prepared by Lipper Inc. ("Lipper"), an independent source, showing the advisory fees and expense ratios of the Fund as compared to the advisory fees and expense ratios of a peer group selected by Lipper and similar data for a separate peer group selected by the Advisor. The Board noted that the Lipper and Advisor peer groups did not include any overlapping peer funds. The Board discussed with representatives of the Advisor the limitations in creating a relevant peer group for the Fund, including that (i) the Fund is unique in its composition, which makes assembling peers with similar strategies and asset mix difficult; (ii) peer funds may use different types of leverage which have different costs associated with them or may use no leverage; (iii) most peer funds do not employ an advisor/sub-advisor management structure; and (iv) many of the peer funds are larger than the Fund, which causes the Fund's fixed expenses to be higher on a percentage basis as compared to the larger peer funds. The Board took these limitations into account in considering the peer data. In reviewing the peer data, the Board noted that the Fund's contractual advisory fee was equal to the median of both the Lipper and Advisor peer groups.

The Board also considered performance information for the Fund, noting that the performance information included the Fund's quarterly performance report, which is part of the process that the Board has established for monitoring the Fund's performance, and portfolio risk on an ongoing basis. The Board determined that this process continues to be effective for reviewing the Fund's performance. In addition to the Board's ongoing review of performance, the Board also received data prepared by Lipper comparing the Fund's performance to the Lipper peer group, as well as to a larger peer universe and to two benchmarks, one of which is a blended benchmark. In reviewing the Fund's performance as compared to the

performance of the Lipper peer group and Lipper peer universe, the Board took into account the limitations described above with respect to creating a relevant peer group for the Fund. The Board also considered the Fund's dividend yield as of March 31, 2014 and an analysis prepared by the Advisor on the continued benefits provided by the Fund's leverage. In addition, the Board compared the Fund's premium/discount over the past eight quarters to the average and median premium/discount of the Advisor peer group over the same period, noting that the Fund's premium/discount was generally indicative of the asset class and market events.

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION (CONTINUED)

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On the basis of all the information provided on the fees, expenses and performance of the Fund, the Board concluded that the advisory and sub-advisory fees were reasonable and appropriate in light of the nature, extent and quality of services provided by the Advisor and Sub-Advisor under the Agreements.

The Board noted that the Advisor has continued to invest in personnel and infrastructure and considered whether fee levels reflect any economies of scale for the benefit of shareholders. The Board noted the Advisor's statement that economies of scale in providing services to the Fund are not available at current asset levels. The Board determined that due to the Fund's closed-end structure, the potential for realization of economies of scale as Fund assets grow was not a material factor to be considered. The Board also considered the costs of the services provided and profits realized by the Advisor from serving as investment advisor to the Fund for the twelve months ended December 31, 2013, as set forth in the materials provided to the Board. In addition, the Board considered fall-out benefits described by the Advisor that may be realized from its relationship with the Fund, including the Advisor's compensation for fund reporting services pursuant to a separate Fund Reporting Services Agreement.

The Board considered that many of the Sub-Advisor's costs are fixed, allowing for economies of scale with regard to certain costs. The Board considered that the sub-advisory fee rate was negotiated at arm's length between the Advisor and the Sub-Advisor, an unaffiliated third party. The Board also considered data provided by the Sub-Advisor as to the profitability of the Sub-Advisory Agreement to the Sub-Advisor. The Board noted the inherent limitations in the profitability analysis and concluded that the profitability analysis for the Advisor was more relevant, although the profitability of the Sub-Advisory Agreement appeared to be not excessive in light of the services provided to the Fund. The Board considered fall-out benefits realized by the Sub-Advisor from its relationship with the Fund, including the Sub-Advisor's statement that it benefits from greater exposure to specialty finance companies. The Board noted that the Sub-Advisor does not maintain any soft-dollar arrangements.

Based on all of the information considered and the conclusions reached, the Board, including the Independent Trustees, unanimously determined that the terms of the Agreements continue to be fair and reasonable and that the continuation of the Agreements is in the best interests of the Fund. No single factor was

determinative in the Board's analysis.

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 BOARD OF TRUSTEES AND OFFICERS  
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FIRST TRUST SPECIALTY FINANCE AND FINANCIAL OPPORTUNITIES FUND (FGB)  
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NAME, ADDRESS, DATE OF BIRTH AND POSITION WITH THE FUND	TERM OF OFFICE AND LENGTH OF SERVICE (2)	PRINCIPAL OCCUPATIONS DURING PAST 5 YEARS
----- INDEPENDENT TRUSTEES -----		
Richard E. Erickson, Trustee c/o First Trust Advisors L.P. 120 East Liberty Drive, Suite 400 Wheaton, IL 60187 D.O.B.: 04/51	o Three-Year Term  o Since Fund Inception	Physician; President, Wheaton Orthopedic Limited Partner, Gundersen Real Estate Limited Partnership; Member Sportsmed LLC
Thomas R. Kadlec, Trustee c/o First Trust Advisors L.P. 120 East Liberty Drive, Suite 400 Wheaton, IL 60187 D.O.B.: 11/57	o Three-Year Term  o Since Fund Inception	President (March 2010 to Present), Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer (May 2007 to March 2010), ADM Services, Inc. (Futures Commission Merchant)
Robert F. Keith, Trustee c/o First Trust Advisors L.P. 120 East Liberty Drive, Suite 400 Wheaton, IL 60187 D.O.B.: 11/56	o Three-Year Term  o Since Fund Inception	President (2003 to Present), Hibs Enterprises (Financial and Management Consulting)
Niel B. Nielson, Trustee c/o First Trust Advisors L.P. 120 East Liberty Drive, Suite 400 Wheaton, IL 60187 D.O.B.: 03/54	o Three-Year Term  o Since Fund Inception	Managing Director and Chief Operating Officer (January 2015 to Present), Pelit Harapan Educational Foundation (Education Products and Services); President and Chief Executive Officer (June 2012 to September 2014) Servant Interactive LLC (Education Products and Services); President and Chief Executive Officer (June 2012 to September 2014), Dew Learning LLC (Educational Products and Services); President (June to June 2012), Covenant College

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 INTERESTED TRUSTEE  
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James A. Bowen(1), Trustee and None Chairman of the Board 120 East Liberty Drive, Suite 400 Wheaton, IL 60187 D.O.B.: 09/55	o Three-Year Term  o Since Fund Inception	Chief Executive Officer (December 2010 to Present), President (until December 2010), First Trust Advisors L.P. and Fi Trust Portfolios L.P.; Chairman of the Board of Directors, BondWave LLC (Software Development Company/ Investment Advisor) and Stonebridge Advisors LLC (Investment Advisor)
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(1) Mr. Bowen is deemed an "interested person" of the Fund due to his position as Chief Executive Officer of First Trust Advisors L.P., investment advisor of the Fund.

(2) Currently, Richar