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▸ As a fixed-income security with equity attributes, a convertible may be viewed as offering the best of both worlds.

The Case for Strategic Convertible Allocations

Our experience with convertible securities dates to the volatile financial markets of the 1970s. During this period, convertible strategies often provided better returns than either the stock or bond markets. As a fixed-income security with equity attributes, a convertible may be viewed as offering the best of both worlds. When we consider the current environment, we believe the case for actively managed convertible allocations is especially strong.

- » **Convertibles can provide compelling advantages in advancing but volatile equity markets.** Economic growth, strong corporate earnings, contained inflation, deregulation and tax reform provide more room for stocks to advance. However, markets are likely to be volatile due to more normalized interest rates and a higher level of global economic uncertainty. In this environment, convertible securities may provide an attractive way to participate in equity market upside with potentially less exposure to equity downside.
- » **Convertibles have proven less vulnerable to rate increases than non-convertible debt.** Convertible securities' outperformance of traditional bonds is a timely consideration given the likelihood of further Fed tightening in response to economic growth.
- » **Issuance is likely to remain strong, creating opportunities for active managers.** Against a backdrop of business-friendly policies in the U.S. and global economic expansion, corporations are in growth mode. As interest rates rise, we believe convertible securities provide an increasingly attractive way to access the capital markets at lower borrowing costs. Further, interest deductibility caps put in place as part of tax reform provide increased incentives for corporations to issue convertibles.

As we will discuss in this paper, the use of convertibles in a risk-managed strategy may provide benefits that stock and bond allocations alone cannot. However, due to their structural complexities, convertible securities require active management to achieve a desired outcome.

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ABOUT THE AUTHORS

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Founder, Chairman and Global CIO

John P. Calamos, Sr. founded Calamos Investments in 1977. With origins as an institutional convertible bond manager, the firm has grown into a global asset management firm with major institutional and individual clients around the world. With 49 years of investment industry experience, John has established research and investment processes centered around a team-based approach designed to deliver superior risk-adjusted performance over full market cycles. He is Chairman of the Calamos Investment Committee, which is charged with providing a top-down framework, maintaining oversight of risk and performance metrics, and evaluating investment process.

John is often quoted as an authority on risk-managed investment strategies, markets and the economy, and has authored two books on convertible securities. He is a frequent speaker at investment seminars and conferences around the world and appears regularly on leading news networks. He holds a B.A. in Economics and M.B.A. in Finance, both from the Illinois Institute of Technology. After college graduation, he joined the United States Air Force where he served as a combat pilot during the Vietnam War and ultimately earned the rank of Major.

Eli Pars, CFA

Co-CIO, Head of Alternative Strategies and Co-Head of Convertible Strategies, Senior Co-Portfolio Manager

As a Co-Chief Investment Officer, Eli Pars is responsible for oversight of investment team resources, investment processes, performance and risk. As Head of Alternative Strategies and Co-Head of Convertible Strategies, he manages investment team members and has portfolio management responsibilities for those investment verticals. He is also a member of the Calamos Investment Committee, contributing 31 years of industry experience, including 11 at Calamos. He received a B.A. in English Literature from the University of Illinois and an M.B.A. with a specialization in Finance from the University of Chicago Graduate School of Business.

*The strategy data has been updated through the most recent quarter.

I. INTRODUCTION: CONVERTIBLES AND ASSET ALLOCATION

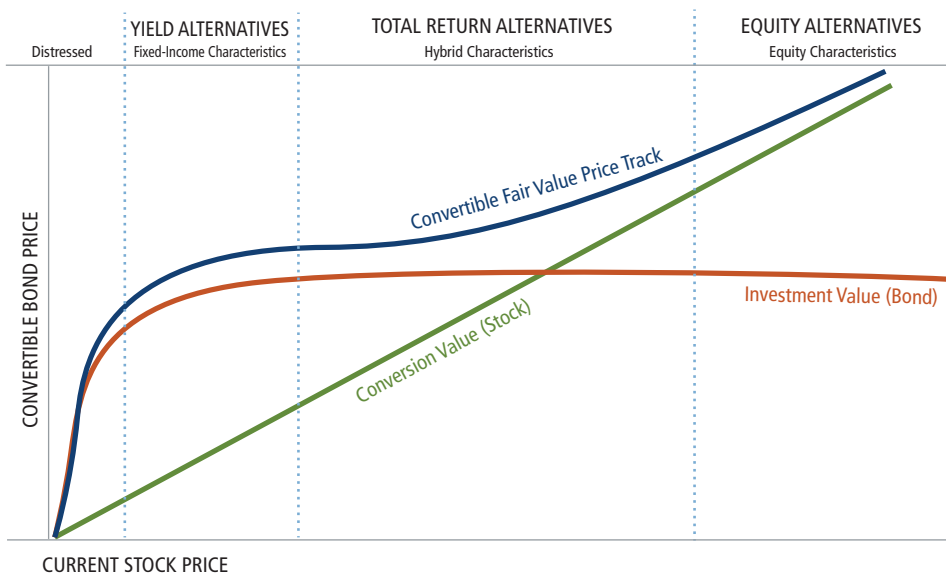
Convertible securities are equity-linked instruments that offer equity market participation with potential downside resilience when equity markets decline. In simplest terms, a convertible is a fixed-income security that includes an embedded option. Structurally, the risk/reward characteristics of convertibles allow them to support a range of asset allocation goals. However, convertible securities are complex. The attributes of convertibles may differ considerably and a specific convertible may be more equity-like at certain periods and more fixed-income-like in others.

Because of their structural complexities, we believe convertible securities demand active management within asset allocations. Often, convertibles are thought of as a single asset class; this ignores the variations within the convertible universe. Our approach is to use different convertibles within specific investment strategies. It is not simply the convertibles that make a strategy work but how convertibles are managed to achieve a particular investment objective.

One of the most compelling features of a convertible bond is its potential to participate in equity upside with downside protection during periods of equity volatility. With active management, convertible strategies can be attractive choices for risk-conscious investors who wish to stay invested through full market cycles. When a convertible strategy is positioned with sufficient downside protection, investors are better equipped to resist the temptation of market timing. In volatile markets, the bond value provides a floor, and through coupon income, investors are “paid to wait” for the markets to turn.

FIGURE 1. CONVERTIBLE BONDS: AN OVERVIEW

A convertible bond has three main parts: its value as a straight bond (investment value), its value as a stock (conversion value) and the theoretical fair value. The three factors are interdependent, and each must be considered for a proper valuation of a convertible security.



Source: Calamos Investments.

Because of their structural complexities, convertible securities demand active management within asset allocations.

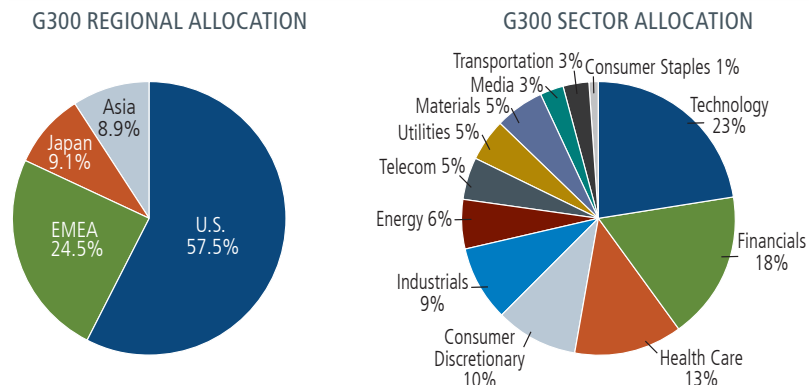
- » Yield Alternatives: Exhibit more fixed-income characteristics and lower levels of equity sensitivity
- » Total Return Alternatives: Offer a balance of equity and fixed-income characteristics
- » Equity Alternatives: Exhibit higher levels of equity sensitivity

Convertibles can serve a role within enhanced fixed-income allocations. Convertibles have historically performed well during periods of rising interest rates and inflation, and therefore convertible strategies may be used to diversify a traditional fixed-income portfolio (i.e., government bonds) as a high yield corporate bond allocation might. Additionally, convertibles with a range of characteristics can be used within alternative allocations, such as hedge strategies that employ convertible arbitrage.

II. MARKET ENVIRONMENT

The global convertible market is valued at more than \$324 billion, with the U.S. representing the lion’s share of the market (\$186 billion). The convertible market provides a diverse set of opportunities, but is tilted toward growth oriented companies, such as the technology sector.

FIGURE 2. REGIONAL AND SECTOR CHARACTERISTICS OF GLOBAL CONVERTIBLE MARKET

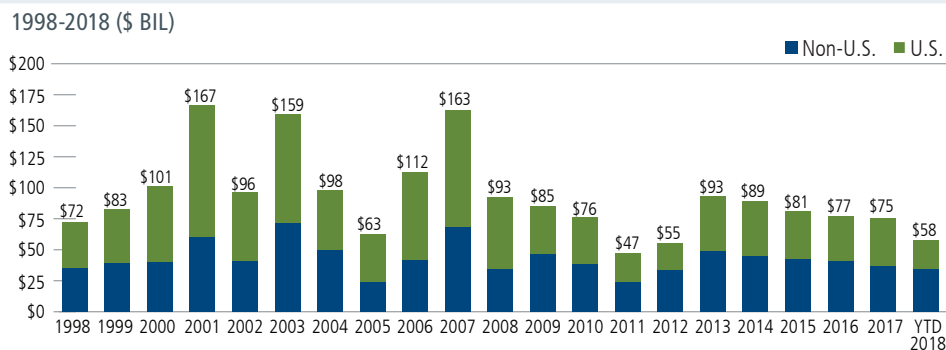


Data as of June 30, 2018. Source: BofA Merrill Lynch Global Research.

The dynamics of all asset classes ebb and flow due to economic and market factors, issuance trends and investor sentiment. Convertible securities are no exception. **One of the most exciting trends we have seen this year is a surge of issuance.** During the first half of 2018, global issuance reached \$58 billion, the fastest pace since 2008. A number of factors have contributed to this brisk clip. Convertible issuance is about capital market access, and capital market access is tied to economic growth. Convertible issuance has soared this year as companies have sought growth capital to forge ahead with mergers, acquisitions, R&D and capital spending.

More normal interest rates and changes to U.S. tax laws have also made convertible securities a more attractive choice for issuers versus non-convertible debt. Convertible issuers can typically offer a lower coupon in exchange for providing investors with the opportunity to participate in the upside of the convertible’s underlying equity. Recent changes to U.S. tax codes have limited interest deductibility for corporations, strengthening the relative appeal of issuing a convertible security instead of a non-convertible one.

FIGURE 3. NEW CONVERTIBLE SECURITIES ISSUANCE



Source: BofA Merrill Lynch Global Research.

Convertible market issuance is about capital market access; capital market access is closely tied with economic growth.

Convertible securities can be brought to market with vastly different characteristics. Some convertibles are issued with mandatory conversion features, which increase a convertible’s equity sensitivity—and potential vulnerability to equity market downside. In the years prior to 2018, we saw a ramp up in mandatory issuance, but this year, convertible issuance has favored traditional structures without mandatory conversion features. We’ve seen more balanced structures with a better blend of upside participation and potential downside protection.

III. THE IMPORTANCE OF ACTIVE MANAGEMENT

As we discussed, convertibles have varying degrees of equity and fixed-income sensitivity, and these characteristics may change for a given convertible over time. Figure 4 provides a good example of how convertible characteristics change alongside market conditions. The convertible market demonstrated a much higher degree of equity sensitivity in March of 2000, against the backdrop of a peaking equity market and technology bubble. In February of 2009, the pendulum had swung to the other extreme. As the markets troughed in the liquidity crisis, more than two-thirds of convertible markets were trading as “credit-sensitive.”

FIGURE 4. THE MARKET CYCLE AND U.S. CONVERTIBLE CHARACTERISTICS

	YIELD ALTERNATIVES	TOTAL RETURN ALTERNATIVES	EQUITY ALTERNATIVES
3/1/2000	18.9%	27.8%	53.3%
2/28/2009	67.4%	20.9%	11.7%
6/30/2018	29.9%	40.4%	29.7%

Source: BofA Merrill Lynch, All U.S. Convertibles Index (VXA0). Data as of June 30, 2018.

A convertible bond has “fixed-income characteristics” when it is valued at about the same level as a similar non-convertible bond and is not as sensitive to the underlying equity. A convertible bond has “hybrid characteristics” when it has fixed-income characteristics as previously explained but is becoming increasingly sensitive to changes in the underlying equity price. “Equity characteristics” represents a convertible bond that is highly sensitive to movements in the underlying equity. Percentages shown represent the proportion of convertible bonds in the BofA Merrill Lynch, All U.S. Convertibles Index (VXA0) which fall into each classification.

These changing characteristics speak to the importance of actively managing convertible allocations. The most equity-sensitive convertibles may not provide adequate downside protection, while the most bond-like convertibles may not offer sufficient equity upside participation. Passive strategies cannot adjust to either the changes in an individual convertible's characteristics or to the characteristics of the convertible universe as a whole. Therefore, they cannot provide investors with the benefits that an actively managed convertible portfolio may offer. In contrast, in a number of U.S. and global convertible strategies, our goal is to earn equity-like returns over a full market cycle with less volatility than the equity market. An active approach affords us this opportunity, and we continually monitor the equity- and credit-sensitivities of the issues in a portfolio, among our many risk-management considerations.

IV. A PROACTIVE WAY TO ADDRESS INTEREST RATE INCREASES

Convertibles can provide a way for investors to hedge against a rising interest-rate environment. Bonds tend to lose value in an environment of rising interest rates. However, convertible returns have tended to more closely reflect equity returns than bond returns when the 10-year Treasury yield rose more than 100 basis points (Figure 5). While convertibles are influenced to a degree by interest-rate fluctuations, they also are affected by the price movements of their underlying stocks, a factor that historically has helped soften the negative effect of rising interest rates. In general, the more a convertible's price is determined by the value of its underlying equities, the greater its tendency not to be influenced by changing interest rates.

FIGURE 5. RETURNS IN RISING INTEREST RATE ENVIRONMENTS

	OCT '93- NOV '94	JAN '96- JUN '96	OCT '98- JAN '00	NOV '01- APR '02	JUN '03- JUN '04	JUN '05- JUN '06	DEC '08- JUN '09	OCT '10- FEB '11	JUL '12- DEC '13	JUL '16- DEC '16	SEP'17- MAY '18
Yield Increase (bps)*	286	150	263	122	176	134	187	134	157	123	106
Bloomberg Barclays U.S. Govt/Credit	-5.15%	-4.08%	-3.38%	-3.09%	-3.64%	-1.49%	-2.08%	-3.94%	-2.14%	-4.88%	-3.36%
ICE BofAML All U.S. Convertibles	-2.28	11.97	68.85	2.29	11.49	9.46	24.68	11.63	35.49	7.58	8.69
S&P 500	2.22	11.42	46.59	3.07	14.66	6.71	9.41	14.89	42.09	8.65	11.84

Past performance is no guarantee of future results.

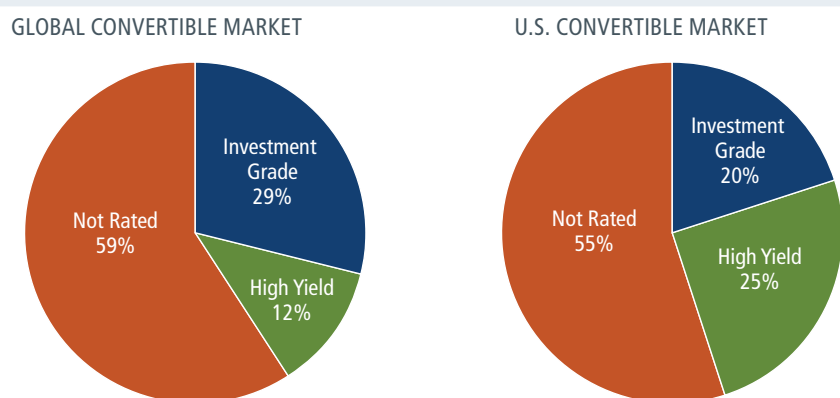
*10-year Treasury yield. Rising rate environment periods from troughs to peak from October 1993 to June 2018. Performance shown is cumulative. Source: Morningstar.

V. CREDIT QUALITY CONSIDERATIONS

Convertible issuers frequently choose to avoid the lengthy—and expensive—process of having their securities rated at the outset. This year, 89% of U.S. convertible issuance has come to market unrated. Overall, unrated credits make up more than half of both markets. Unrated securities provide opportunities for experienced and discerning asset managers. In evaluating the unrated segment of the market, we draw upon decades of proprietary research, including company fundamentals, balance sheet data, debt servicing prospects and our analysis of other securities within the company’s capital structure.

Unrated securities provide opportunities for experienced and discerning asset managers.

FIGURE 6. CREDIT QUALITY COMPOSITION OF THE GLOBAL AND U.S. CONVERTIBLE MARKETS



Source: BofA Merrill Lynch Convertible Research. Global convertibles are represented by the G300 Index. U.S. convertibles are represented by the VXA0 Index. Data as of June 30, 2018.

Proprietary research is no less important for rated issues. For example, a third-party credit rating in isolation may give a misleading picture of a convertible’s risk/reward potential. A convertible with an investment grade rating may have low default risk, but it is not necessarily “lower risk” in terms of its vulnerability to a downturn in its issuer’s stock or the broader stock market. As a convertible’s equity sensitivity rises, the credit rating becomes a less telling measure of risk and the underlying equity valuation becomes more important. Understanding a convertible’s risk/reward therefore requires a multi-layered approach that includes equity analysis, credit analysis and convertible analysis.

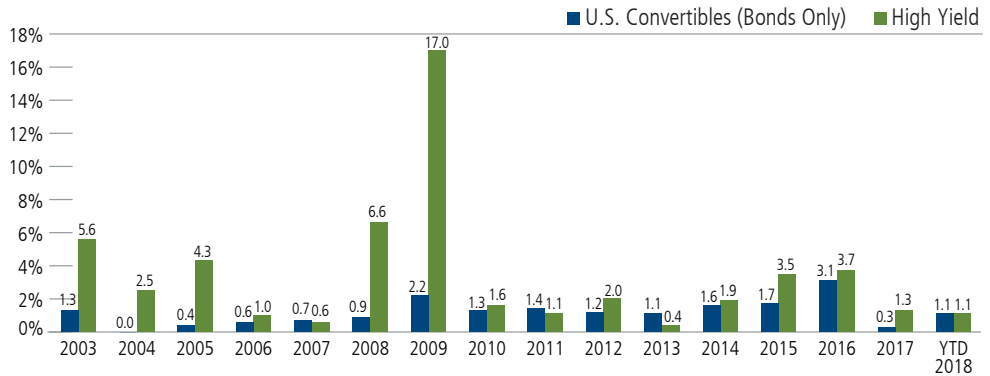
VI. HISTORICALLY, CONVERTIBLES HAVE SEEN LOW LEVELS OF DEFAULTS

We are often asked about default rates in the convertible market. As Figure 7 shows, defaults in the U.S. convertible market have been lower than in the high yield market. According to Barclay’s equity research, the default rates for convertible bonds have averaged 1% versus 4% for traditional high yield from 2003 through April 2018. Defaults in the convertible market were

also lower than in the high yield market for every year during this period. Interestingly, there has not been a wide disparity among the default rates of investment grade, non-investment grade and non-rated convertible issues (Figure 8).

FIGURE 7. DEFAULTS IN THE CONVERTIBLE MARKET HAVE BEEN LOWER THAN HIGH YIELD

DEFAULT RATE, 2003-APRIL 2018



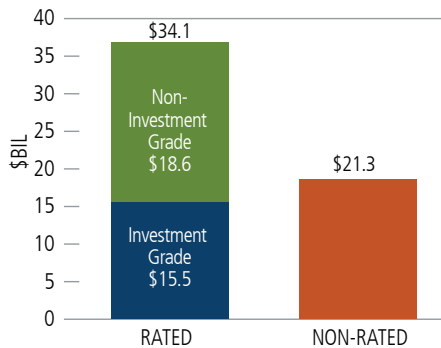
Past performance is no guarantee of future results.

Source: Barclays Equity Research, April 30, 2018; using data from Barclays Research and Moody's, as of April 25 2018.

Financials account for the largest amount of defaults over recent years, including a number of investment grade issues hit hard during the financial crisis. Notably, technology companies—the largest sector in the U.S. market—have seen far fewer defaults. Generally, technology issuers have maintained more modest levels of leverage, which has help keep defaults in check.

FIGURE 8. AGGREGATE DEFAULTS BY RATINGS

ALL CONVERTIBLE STRUCTURES, FACE VALUE (2003-APRIL 2018)

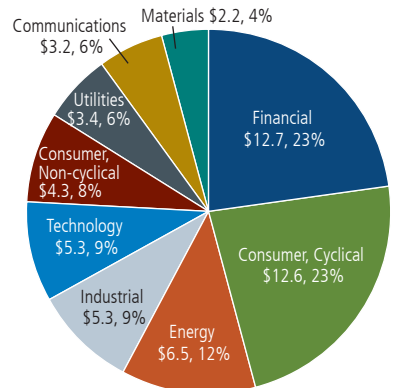


Past performance is no guarantee of future results.

Source: Barclays Equity Research, 30 April 2018, using data from Barclays Research as of 25 April 2018.

FIGURE 9. SECTOR MIX OF DEFAULTS

FACE VALUE (2003-APRIL 2018)



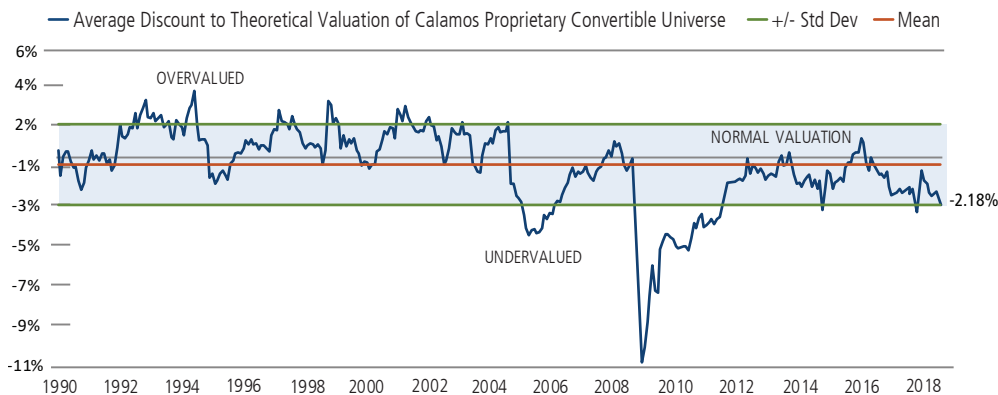
VII. FROM A VALUATION PERSPECTIVE, THE HUNTING GROUNDS ARE FINE

In 2008, systemic risk led to unparalleled valuation opportunities within convertibles. No other period came close to the undervaluation level recorded in the second half of 2008, when we saw an 11% discount to theoretical fair value, based on our fair value proprietary methodology. Presently, the average valuation remains in the normal band (Figure 10), supporting our constructive view of the asset class.

However, even if the average valuation moves above normal levels, we believe the case for convertibles remains intact. In our view, the variability of the valuation climate speaks to the

FIGURE 10. CONVERTIBLE VALUATIONS PROVIDE OPPORTUNITIES FOR ACTIVE MANAGERS

ALL U.S. CONVERTIBLES, JANUARY 31, 1990 TO JULY 31, 2018



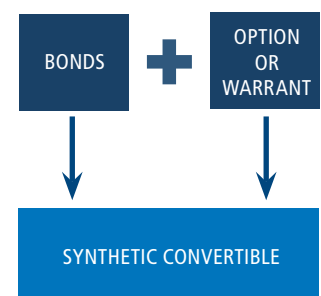
Past performance is no guarantee of future results. Current performance may be higher or lower than the performance quoted. Please note that the chart above includes data derived from Calamos Corporate Systems (CCS), a proprietary valuation system designed and maintained solely by Calamos. CCS data is unavailable prior to 1/31/90. While we deem the information contained in the charts to be reliable, Calamos makes no public claims as to the validity of the information derived from the system. Standard deviation is a measure of historical volatility, with higher values indicating increased volatility.

importance of actively managed strategies versus passive strategies, such as exchange traded funds. Since we began managing convertible portfolios in the 1970s, we have invested through many valuation environments. We are not looking to buy the asset class as a whole, but rather, to construct portfolios of securities most likely to deliver the specific risk/return profiles we seek. Also, the emphasis we place on valuations may differ as the result of strategy-specific considerations. For example, in a convertible arbitrage strategy, valuations are the most important criteria because we seek to take advantage of pricing discrepancies in the convertible security itself. (In a convertible arbitrage strategy, we purchase convertibles that we believe are mispriced while simultaneously short-selling a specific number of shares of the underlying stock.) In contrast, while valuations are important in a long-only strategy, the direction of the underlying stock's movement tends to be our top criteria.

VIII. SYNTHETIC CONVERTIBLES INCREASE THE INVESTABLE UNIVERSE

Our investable universe is not solely dictated by convertible issuance. We can also build synthetic convertibles. A convertible bond can be thought of as the sum of its parts—that is, a straight bond and a long-term call option (the right to convert the bond into stock). A synthetic convertible can be constructed by purchasing these parts in such quantities to provide the balanced risk/reward attributes that we seek. This allows us to create a convertible security for a company that may not have any convertible or even non-convertible debt outstanding. The bond component could be a credit instrument of any kind, including a Treasury bond, sovereign debt or a straight corporate bond. The synthetic convertible is created when this credit instrument is combined with a long-term call option such as long-term equity anticipation securities (LEAPS) or warrants.

The standard deviation around the current average is 1.97%, meaning that two thirds of the convertible market trades in a range of -2.39% undervalued to 1.55% overvalued. This wide distribution of convertible valuations provides a strong argument in favor of active management.



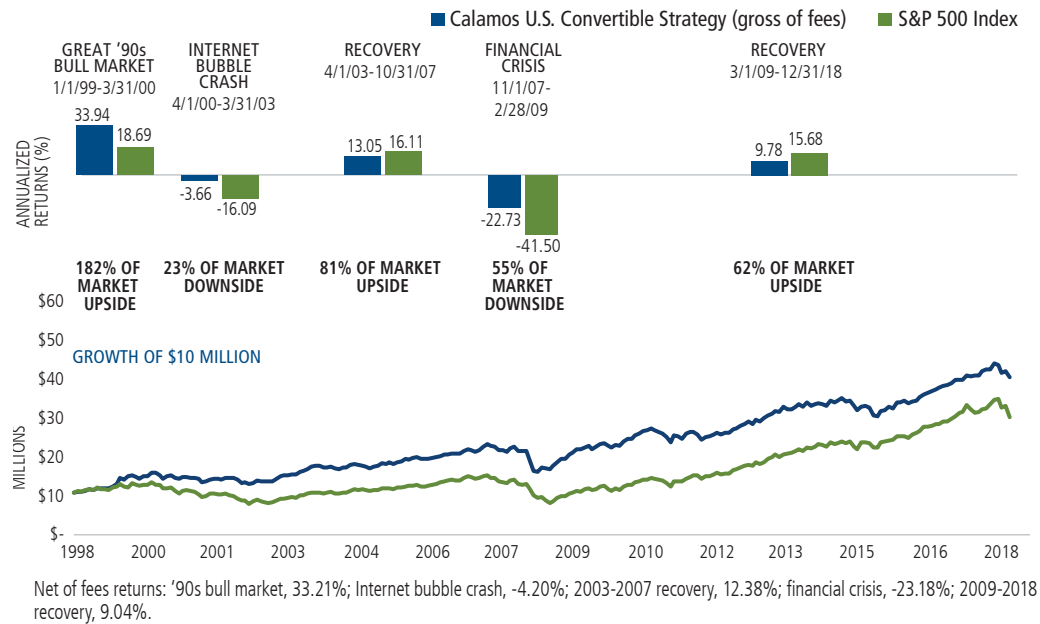
Strategic convertible allocations may provide investors with opportunities to manage returns and risk in ways that stocks or bonds cannot.

IX. CALAMOS U.S. CONVERTIBLE AND GLOBAL CONVERTIBLE STRATEGIES

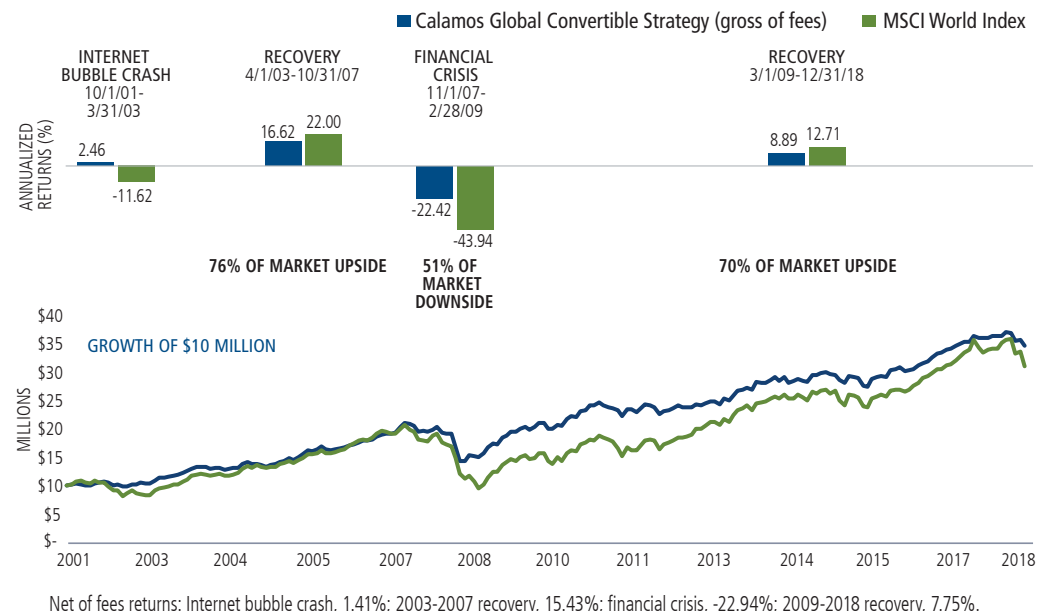
The Calamos Convertible Strategy is one of the oldest convertible strategies in the marketplace, with roots that date to 1979. In 2001, we introduced our global convertible strategy, designed to capitalize on the global growth in the convertible market. We believe the performance of these strategies speaks to potential benefits of including convertible securities as an actively managed strategic allocation (Figure 11).

FIGURE 11. MANAGING RISK OVER MARKET CYCLES

11A. CALAMOS U.S. CONVERTIBLE STRATEGY VERSUS U.S. EQUITY MARKET, 20 YEARS THROUGH 12/31/18



11B. CALAMOS GLOBAL CONVERTIBLE STRATEGY VERSUS GLOBAL EQUITY MARKET, SINCE INCEPTION THROUGH 12/31/18



Past performance is no guarantee of future results. Current performance may be lower or higher than the performance quoted. The principal value and return of an investment will fluctuate so that your shares, when redeemed, may be worth more or less than their original cost. For the most recent strategy performance information visit www.calamos.com. For Calamos Global Convertible Strategy, index data shown is from 10/1/01, since comparative index data is available only for full monthly periods. Source: Mellon Analytical Solutions LLC.

In both strategies, our goal is to provide a favorably asymmetrical risk/return profile over full market cycles, with more equity upside than downside. Our emphasis on capital preservation sets us apart both from passive strategies as well as from investment managers that invest more heavily in the most speculative issues. While there are periods when our focus on mitigating downside risk may cause our approach to trail during rapidly rising markets, we believe the risk-management opportunities offered by select convertible securities are too compelling to overlook within an overall asset allocation.

X. CONCLUSION

The case for strategic convertible allocations has been demonstrated over decades and remains strong today. Strategic convertible allocations can provide investors with opportunities to manage returns and risk in ways that stocks or bonds cannot. However, convertible portfolios require active management to maximize their potential benefits. In our view, the structural characteristics of convertibles (the opportunity for upside equity participation with a degree of downside resilience) can serve investors well, given our expectations for global economic expansion, advancing but at times volatile equity markets, and more normalized interest rates in the U.S.

We are encouraged by recent global issuance trends and believe that economic growth can support new opportunities for convertible investors. We are confident that our long track record speaks to our ability to identify convertible opportunities to support a variety of long-term asset allocation needs.

For additional information about convertible securities and asset allocations, please visit us at www.calamos.com. You can also contact us at 800.582.6959.

ANNUALIZED PERFORMANCE, AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2018

CALAMOS GLOBAL CONVERTIBLE STRATEGY

	1-YEAR	3-YEAR	5-YEAR	10-YEAR	15-YEAR	SINCE INCEPTION (10/01)
Return Gross of Fees	-1.83%	6.10%	4.89%	8.48%	6.76%	7.46%
Return Net of Fees	-3.13	4.66	3.42	7.36	5.69	6.38
T. R. Global Convertible Bond Index	-3.74	3.97	2.27	8.21	5.25	6.13
MSCI World Index	-8.20	6.91	5.14	10.29	6.75	6.80

CALAMOS U.S. CONVERTIBLE STRATEGY

	1-YEAR	3-YEAR	5-YEAR	10-YEAR	15-YEAR	SINCE COMPOSITE INCEPTION (1/1991)
Return Gross of Fees	1.60%	7.50%	5.14%	9.35%	6.25%	9.39%
Return Net of Fees	0.89	6.75	4.41	8.61	5.57	8.72
ICE BofAML V0A0	0.65	9.16	6.70	12.60	7.07	9.69
S&P 500 Index	-4.39	9.26	8.49	13.12	7.77	9.75

Past performance does not guarantee or indicate future results. Current performance may be lower or higher than the performance quoted. Portfolios are managed according to their respective strategies which may differ significantly in terms of security holdings, industry weightings, and asset allocation from those of the benchmark(s). Portfolio performance, characteristics and volatility may differ from the benchmark(s) shown.

In addition to market risk, there are certain other risks associated with an investment in a convertible bond, such as default risk, the risk that the company issuing debt securities will be unable to repay principal and interest, and interest rate risk, the risk that the security may decrease in value if interest rates increase.

The opinions referenced are as of the date of publication and are subject to change due to changes in the market or economic conditions and may not necessarily come to pass. Information contained herein is for informational purposes only and should not be considered investment advice. Past performance is no guarantee of future results.

Active management does not guarantee that the strategy will produce its intended results.

The results portrayed on the preceding pages are for the Calamos Global Convertible Composite. Representative holdings and portfolio characteristics are specific only to the portfolio shown at that point in time. Other portfolios will vary in composition, characteristics, and will experience different investment results. The representative portfolio shown has been selected by the advisor based on account characteristics that the advisor feels accurately represents the investment strategy as a whole. Supplemental information has been provided for the Global Convertible Composite.

The Calamos Global Convertible Composite is an actively managed composite investing primarily in a globally diversified portfolio of convertible securities. The composite includes all fully discretionary, fee-paying accounts, including those no longer with the firm. All returns are net of commission and other similar fees charged on securities transactions and include reinvestment of net realized gains and interest.

The results portrayed on the preceding pages are for the Calamos Institutional Convertible Composite (inception date: 1/1991). The inception dates and performance results shown are for the composite. Representative holdings and portfolio characteristics are specific only to the portfolio shown at that point in time. Other portfolios will vary in composition, characteristics, and will experience different investment results. The representative portfolio shown has been selected by the advisor based on account characteristics that the advisor feels accurately represents the investment strategy as a whole. Supplemental information has been provided for the Institutional Convertible Composite.

Returns presented are based on the Calamos Institutional Convertible Composite, which is an actively managed composite investing primarily in high-quality U.S. convertible bonds. The composite includes all fully discretionary, fee paying accounts. All returns are net of commission and other similar fees charged on securities transactions and include reinvestment of net realized gains and interest.

Fees include the investment advisory fee charge by Calamos Advisors LLC. Returns greater than 12 months are annualized. Chart Data Sources: Mellon Analytical Solutions LLC and Calamos Advisors LLC

The Thomson Reuters Global Convertible Bond Index is designed to broadly represent the global convertible bond market. The ICE Bank of America Merrill Lynch All U.S. Convertibles ex Mandatory Index (V0A0) is broadly representative of the U.S. convertible securities market, consisting of publicly traded issues, denominated in U.S. dollars, of all credit qualities, and excluding mandatory (equity-linked) convertibles. The ICE Bank of America Merrill Lynch Emerging Markets Convertible Index is a measure of emerging market convertible performance. Unmanaged index returns assume reinvestment of any and all distributions and do not reflect any fees, expenses or sales charges. Investors cannot invest directly in an index. The ICE Bank of America Merrill Lynch Global 300 Convertible Index (VG00) is a global convertible index composed of companies representative of the market structure of countries in North America, Europe and the Asia/Pacific region. Source ICE Data Indices, LLC, used with permission. ICE permits use of the ICE BofAML indices and related data on an 'as is' basis, makes no warranties regarding same, does not guarantee the suitability, quality, accuracy, timeliness, and/or completeness of the ICE BofAML Indices or data included in, related to, or derived therefrom, assumes no liability in connection with the use of the foregoing and

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