

**Bernzott Capital Advisors  
Verification and U.S. Small Cap Value  
Composite Performance Examination  
Report**

**December 31, 2019**





## Verification and Performance Examination Report

Board of Directors

Bernzott Capital Advisors

We have verified whether Bernzott Capital Advisors (the "Firm") (1) has complied with all the composite construction requirements of the Global Investment Performance Standards (GIPS®) on a firm-wide basis for the periods from October 1, 2015 through December 31, 2019, and (2) designed its policies and procedures to calculate and present performance in compliance with the GIPS standards as of December 31, 2019. We have also conducted a performance examination of the Firm's U.S. Small Cap Value Composite for the periods from October 1, 2015 through December 31, 2019. The Firm's management is responsible for compliance with the GIPS standards and the design of its policies and procedures and for the U.S. Small Cap Value Composite's compliant presentation. Our responsibility is to express an opinion based on our verification and performance examination. We conducted this verification and performance examination in accordance with the required verification and performance examination procedures of the GIPS standards. We also conducted such other procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances.

In our opinion, the Firm has, in all material respects:

- Complied with all the composite construction requirements of the GIPS standards on a firm-wide basis for the periods from October 1, 2015 through December 31, 2019; and
- Designed its policies and procedures to calculate and present performance in compliance with the GIPS standards as of December 31, 2019.

A verification covering the periods from January 1, 1995 through September 30, 2015 was performed by another verification firm, whose report expressed an unqualified opinion thereon.



Also, in our opinion, the Firm has, in all material respects:

- Constructed the U.S. Small Cap Value Composite and calculated the U.S. Small Cap Value Composite's performance for the periods from October 1, 2015 through December 31, 2019 in compliance with the GIPS standards; and
- Prepared and presented the U.S. Small Cap Value Composite's accompanying compliant presentation for the periods from October 1, 2015 through December 31, 2019 in compliance with the GIPS standards.

A performance examination of the Firm's U.S. Small Cap Value Composite covering the periods from January 1, 1995 through September 30, 2015 was performed by another verification firm, whose report expressed an unqualified opinion thereon.

This report does not relate to or provide assurance on any composite compliant presentation of the Firm other than the Firm's U.S. Small Cap Value Composite.

*ACA Group*

ACA Group, Performance Services Division

May 21, 2021

## Explanation of Equity Performance

## Performance Footnote Disclosure

Bernzott Capital Advisors claims compliance with the Global Investment Performance Standards (GIPS®) and has prepared and presented this report in compliance with the GIPS standards. Bernzott Capital Advisors has been independently verified for the periods of Jan. 1, 1995 through December 31, 2019. Verification assesses whether the firm has complied with all the composite construction requirements of the GIPS standards on a firm-wide basis and the firm's policies and procedures are designed to calculate and present performance in compliance with the GIPS standards. The US Small Cap Value composite has been examined for the periods of Jan. 1, 1995 through December 31, 2019. The verification and performance examination reports are available upon request.

	# of Portfolios in Composite at period end	Total Composite Assets (\$ millions) at period end	Composite Equity Only Assets (\$ millions) at period end <sup>4</sup>	Composite Dispersion %	Composite 3 Yr Standard Deviation	Russell 2000 Value 3 Yr Standard Deviation	Russell 2500 Value 3 Yr Standard Deviation	Total US Small Cap Value Assets <sup>1</sup> (\$ millions)	Total Firm-wide Assets Under Management (\$ millions)	Composite Assets as a % of US Small Cap Assets at period end	Composite Assets as a % of Firm-wide Assets at period end	Bernzott Gross of Fees	Bernzott Net of Fees	Russell 2000 Value	Russell 2500 Value
2010	94*	\$302.0*	\$275.7	1.2%	20.55%	28.01%	26.97%	\$319.7	\$470.8	94.46%	64.15%	21.13%	20.23%	24.50%	24.82%
2011	81	\$195.6	\$178.7	1.3%	17.70%	26.19%	24.23%	\$198.0	\$372.0	98.79%	52.58%	9.02%	8.24%	-5.50%	-3.36%
2012	39	\$170.9	\$159.7	1.0%	14.21%	20.15%	18.41%	\$192.0	\$395.2	89.01%	43.24%	16.81%	16.04%	18.05%	19.21%
2013	35	\$237.4	\$222.3	0.8%	12.33%	16.32%	15.08%	\$267.0	\$513.6	88.91%	46.22%	34.38%	33.53%	34.52%	33.33%
2014	35	\$269.1	\$260.0	0.4%	10.25%	12.77%	11.25%	\$274.7	\$528.7	97.96%	50.90%	6.73%	6.06%	4.22%	7.11%
2015	37	\$257.9	\$246.5	0.5%	12.62%	13.11%	12.03%	\$339.9	\$577.2	75.88%	44.68%	-6.91%	-7.46%	-7.47%	-5.49%
2016	34	\$385.3	\$365.7	0.3%	13.16%	15.38%	13.17%	\$405.9	\$655.3	94.92%	58.80%	17.62%	16.99%	31.74%	25.20%
2017	37	\$404.5	\$385.3	0.2%	12.47%	13.97%	11.81%	\$512.7	\$854.4	78.90%	47.34%	28.18%	27.54%	7.84%	10.36%
2018	42	\$444.1	\$421.3	0.3%	13.41%	15.76%	13.58%	\$470.0	\$793.8	94.49%	55.95%	-5.15%	-5.68%	-12.86%	-12.35%
2019	41	\$585.8	\$558.8	1.3%	15.14%	15.90%	14.43%	\$618.2	\$1,046.4	92.07%	54.39%	26.95%	26.21%	22.39%	23.56%

*Equity product inception: January 1, 1995. <sup>1</sup>The difference between this column and the "total composite assets at period end" is the accounts that do not meet the size parameter for the composite and any new account under management that has not met the waiting period to join the composite. <sup>2</sup> Presented composite performance prior to October 1, 2006 is based upon equity only returns including allocated cash. Composite performance following October 1, 2006 is based on total account returns. \* - To accommodate the needs of our high net worth non-institutional clients, Bernzott Capital Advisors has and will purchase equities across the capitalization spectrum, and not limit those purchases to the small cap universe. Effective October 1, 2010, the composite was redefined to only include those clients with a specific small cap mandate. This redefinition and client accommodation has resulted in a decline of AUM in the US Small Cap Value composite without impacting firm wide AUM.*

### GIPS Compliance Requirements:

Bernzott Capital Advisors is an equity portfolio investment manager that invests in U.S.-based securities. Bernzott Capital Advisors is defined as an independent investment management firm that is not affiliated with any organization.

The US Small Cap Value Composite includes all fully discretionary portfolios that invest in small capitalization U.S. stocks that are considered to have risk-adjusted returns purchased, at reasonable prices. The composite includes concentrated portfolios of market leading companies with consistent operating performance, significant recurring revenue, solid operating margin, moderate leverage and strong returns on capital. A size parameter of \$250,000 is applied for composite membership. As of October 1, 2006, composite asset performance is derived from total account performance and eligible accounts are added to the composite after accounts are under management for two complete quarters. Prior to October 1, 2006, the composite was constructed from fully discretionary small cap equity only portfolios and fully discretionary small cap equity segment carve outs of accounts included in the firm composite. Prior to October 1, 2006, accounts were included in the composite their first full quarter under management. The benchmark is the Russell 2000 Value Index (taken from published sources). The Russell 2500 Value Index is provided as a secondary benchmark.

Gross-of-Fees returns reflect only the deduction of trading costs. Net performance returns reflect the deduction from gross performance of all trading costs, actual management fees and embedded fees. Since January 1, 2005 non-fee-paying accounts represent <1% of the composite assets. For the period Jan. 1, 2004 through Dec. 31, 2004 non-fee-paying accounts represent 1% of the composite assets. For the period Jan. 1, 1998 through Dec. 31, 2003 non-fee-paying accounts represent 2% of the composite assets. Bernzott performance is stated in US dollars. Prior to 10/1/06 the annual composite dispersion was an asset-weighted standard deviation calculation for the equity only portion of the account in the composite for the entire year and calculations did not take into account the effect of cash. Following that date, the annual composite dispersion is an asset-weighted standard deviation calculation using total account returns. 1995 and 1996 dispersion values are presented as n/a since five or fewer accounts are in the composite for the entire annual periods presented. Returns are presented gross and net of management fees and include the reinvestment of all income.

For institutional client accounts in the US Small Cap Value strategy, the management fee schedule is as follows: 0.90% on the first \$10 Million; 0.80% on the next \$15 Million; 0.75% on the next \$25 Million and 0.65% on the balance. For private client

accounts, the management fee schedule is as follows: 1% on the first \$2 Million; 0.75% on the next \$3 Million; 0.50% on the balance.

Special circumstances unique to a specific client may result in the negotiation of fees different than those set forth herein. We generally aggregate separate accounts of a single relationship for billing purposes. We may serve certain non-profits qualified under Section 501(c)3 IRC at a discount and we waive fees for employees and related parties.

Bernzott's composite was created July 1, 1999 and composite membership parameters were revised December 1, 2006 effective October 1, 2006. A complete list of Bernzott's composites is available upon request. The policies of valuing portfolios, calculating performance and preparing compliant presentations are available upon request. Bernzott does not utilize leverage, derivatives or short positions. Bernzott does not have any significant company events to disclose. A size parameter of \$250,000 is applied for composite membership. The minimum account size was implemented January 1, 2001. As of October 1, 2006, composite asset performance is derived from total account performance. Prior to October 1, 2006, the composite was constructed from fully discretionary small cap equity only portfolios and fully discretionary small cap equity segment carve outs of accounts included in the firm composite. Prior to January 1, 2004, the composite was known as the Small/Mid Cap Domestic Equity Composite. There was no change in the investment process as a result of the composite name change. Prior to October 1, 2006, carve-out portfolio segments were included in this composite and cash was allocated to the composite on a set percentage of 5%. As of October 1, 2006, portfolio segments are not included in this composite and all cash and cash equivalents are included in performance. An account will be removed from the composite membership if a cash outflow reduces the account value below the minimum size parameter. Additional information regarding the treatment of significant cash flows is available upon request.

### Past performance is not indicative of future results.

*Prior to April 2013, Schmetter & Associates, LLC. (S&A) served as an independent institutional sales and marketing representative for Bernzott Capital Advisors. S&A continues to receive 20-25% of collected revenue from specified institutional clients. S&A is not a broker/dealer. BCA currently employs two business development professionals. This professionals receive a % of collected revenue from specified institutional clients. All fees paid by Bernzott Capital are in hard dollars. No additional amount is ever billed to any client as a result of such payments.*