## Non-Wrap Fee/SMA Business - Argent Capital Management, LLC Verification and Argent Small Cap Core Equity Composite Performance Examination Report

**December 31, 2019** 





### **Verification and Performance Examination Report**

Chief Compliance Officer Argent Capital Management, LLC

We have verified whether Non-Wrap Fee/SMA Business - Argent Capital Management, LLC (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 April 1, 2017 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 Argent Small Cap Core Equity Composite for the periods from April 1, 2017 through December 31, 2019. The Firm's management is responsible for compliance with the GIPS standards, the design of its policies and procedures, and for the Quarterly Performance and Argent Small Cap Core Equity Composite's compliant presentations. Our responsibility is to express an opinion based on our verification and performance examination. We conducted this 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 April 1, 2017 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, 2003 through March 31, 2017 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 Argent Small Cap Core Equity Composite and calculated the Argent Small Cap Core Equity Composite's performance for the periods from April 1, 2017 through December 31, 2019 in compliance with the GIPS standards; and
- Prepared and presented the Argent Small Cap Core Equity Composite's accompanying compliant presentation for the periods from April 1, 2017 through December 31, 2019 in compliance with the GIPS standards.



A performance examination of the Firm's Argent Small Cap Core Equity Composite covering the periods from January 1, 2008 through March 31, 2017 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 Argent Small Cap Core Equity Composite.

Adviser Compliance Associates, LLC

Adviser Compliance Associates, LLC ACA Performance Services Division June 5, 2020

# NON-WRAP FEE/SMA BUSINESS - ARGENT CAPITAL MANAGEMENT, LLC ARGENT SMALL CAP CORE EQUITY COMPOSITE QUARTERLY PERFORMANCE PRESENTATION

Asset-Weighted Performance Gross and Net of Management Fees Results have been calculated in U.S. Dollars

		1st Qtr	2nd Qtr	3rd Qtr	4th Qtr	Annual	
2019	Gross	17.07%	1.58%	(5.21%)	10.24%	24.27%	
	Net	16.86%	1.40%	(5.38%)	10.05%	23.40%	
2018	Gross	(2.68%)	5.41%	4.86%	(25.10%)	(19.43%)	
	Net	(2.92%)	5.16%	4.61%	(25.26%)	(20.19%)	
2017	Gross	5.08%	4.74%	3.08%	4.36%	18.39%	
	Net	4.82%	4.49%	2.82%	4.10%	17.24%	
2016	Gross	(0.19%)	2.85%	12.13%	9.23%	25.73%	
	Net	(0.45%)	2.59%	11.86%	8.96%	24.48%	
2015	Gross	4.90%	1.01%	(13.34%)	2.94%	(5.48%)	
	Net	4.64%	0.76%	(13.56%)	2.69%	(6.42%)	
2014	Gross	2.65%	2.17%	(5.20%)	8.07%	7.44%	
	Net	2.40%	1.91%	(5.44%)	7.80%	6.37%	
2013	Gross	6.76%	3.33%	8.37%	7.68%	28.74%	
	Net	6.51%	3.07%	8.11%	7.42%	27.48%	
2012	Gross	14.36%	(3.89%)	3.00%	5.71%	19.68%	
	Net	14.09%	(4.13%)	2.74%	5.45%	18.49%	
2011	Gross	10.47%	0.60%	(25.03%)	17.68%	(1.95%)	
	Net	10.20%	0.35%	(25.23%)	17.41%	(2.93%)	
2010	Gross	4.65%	(5.89%)	8.27%	17.59%	25.39%	
	Net	4.37%	(6.12%)	8.02%	17.31%	24.15%	

Past performance is not indicative of future results. The Verification and Performance Examination Report and the compliant presentation are an integral part of this presentation. The periods shown prior to April 1, 2017 were examined by another verification firm.

### **Argent Capital Management, LLC**

## ARGENT SMALL CAP CORE EQUITY COMPOSITE January 1, 2008 through December 31, 2019

For the period ending December 31,	Composite Return % Gross-of- Fees	Composite Return % Net-of-Fees	Russell 2000 Return (%)	Composite 3- Yr St. Dev (%)	Russell 2000 3-Yr St Dev (%)	Number of Composite Accounts	Composite Assets (\$ millions)	Principal Business Assets (\$ millions)	Internal Dispersion (%)		
2019	24.27	23.40	25.53	16.35	15.71	7	199	3,019	1.84		
2018	-19.43	-20.19	-11.01	16.45	15.79	7	184	2,542	0.38		
2017	18.39	17.24	14.65	14.51	13.91	7	227	2,898	0.47		
2016	25.73	24.48	21.31	16.19	15.76	7	207	2,604	0.09		
2015	-5.48	-6.42	-4.41	13.50	13.96	6	169	2,357	0.04		
2014	7.44	6.37	4.89	12.17	13.12	7	186	2,817	0.11		
2013	28.74	27.48	38.82	17.04	16.45	6	178	2,478	0.18		
2012	19.68	18.49	16.35	19.84	20.20	7	139	1,782	0.22		
2011	-1.95	-2.93	-4.18	23.38	24.99	7	109	1,247	0.33		
2010	25.39	24.15	26.85	26.99	27.69	6	95	1,145	NA		
Three -Year Annualized	5.83	4.91	8.59								
Five -Year Annualized	7.09	6.11	8.23								
Ten-Year Annualized	11.11	10.05	11.83								
Information for period(s) ending December 31, 2019											
4 <sup>th</sup> Quarter 2019	10.24	10.05	9.94	16.35	15.71	7	199	3,019			
Since Inception Annualized	8.48	7.44	8.20						•		

#### Disclosures:

- 1. Argent Capital Management, LLC ("Argent") is an independent investment management firm comprised of two distinct business entities: the Non-Wrap Fee/SMA Business of Argent Capital Management, LLC ("Principal Business"), which does not include wrap fee/SMA clients; and the Wrap Fee/SMA Business of Argent Capital Management, LLC ("Wrap Business"), which includes only wrap fee/SMA clients. The Principal Business claims compliance with the Global Investment Performance Standards (GIPS) and has prepared and presented this report in compliance with the GIPS standards. The Principal Business has been independently verified for the period January 1, 2003 through December 31, 2019. Verification assesses whether (1) the firm has complied with all the composite construction requirements of the GIPS standards on a firm-wide basis and (2) the firm's policies and procedures are designed to calculate and present performance with the GIPS standards. The Argent Small Cap Core Equity Composite has been examined for the periods January 1, 2008 through December 31, 2019. The verification and performance examination reports are available upon request.
- 2. This composite represents investment performance for portfolios invested in equities with small capitalization containing both growth and value characteristics for which Argent has sole investment discretion. Portfolios will include small cap equity holdings, with zero fixed investments and cash targeted to be less than 10% of total portfolio value. The creation date of the Argent Small Cap Core Equity Composite is January 1, 2008. A complete list and description of composites is available upon request.
- 3. The benchmark is the Russell 2000® Index which measures the performance of the small-cap segment of the U.S. equity universe. It includes approximately 2,000 of the smallest securities based on a combination of their market cap and current index. Russell Investment Group is the source and owner of the Russell Index data contained or reflected in this material and all trademarks and copyrights related thereto. The presentation may contain confidential information and unauthorized use, disclosure, copying, dissemination or redistribution is strictly prohibited. This is a presentation of Argent. Russell Investment Group is not responsible for the formatting or configuration of this material or for any inaccuracy in Argent's presentation thereof.
- 4. Valuations are computed and performance reported in U.S. currency. Performance results are total return, (i.e. include the reinvestment of all income). Policies for valuing portfolios, calculating performance, and preparing compliant presentations are available upon request. Past performance is no guarantee of future results.
- 5. Gross-of-fees performance returns are presented before management and certain custodial fees, but after all trading expenses except where commissions have been waived or for accounts with asset-based-pricing fees. Net of fee performance is calculated by reducing gross performance by actual management fees incurred and any asset-based-pricing fees for applicable portfolios as asset-based-pricing fees are considered a trading expense. The composite includes portfolios that pay a fee based on a percentage of assets under management. The composite includes accounts with asset-based-pricing fees which represent less than 1% of composite assets during the years 2016 and 2017. During 2018 and 2019, the composite included portfolios where commissions were waived representing less than 1% of composite assets.
- 6. Standard annual advisory fees for the Small Cap Core Equity product are calculated as a percentage of assets under management according to the following schedule; 0.80% on the first \$25M, 0.75% on the next \$25M, 0.70% on the next \$50M, 0.65% on the balance thereafter, although fees may be negotiated or waived in certain circumstances.
- 7. Internal dispersion is calculated using the asset-weighted standard deviation of all portfolios that were included in the composite for the entire calendar month, quarter, or year net of fees. For calendar year 2008 & 2010 internal dispersion is not available (NA) since no portfolio was in the composite for the entire calendar year.
- 8. The three-year annualized standard deviation measures the variability of the composite and the benchmark returns over the preceding 36-month period. The standard deviation is not presented for 2008 and 2009 since the composite inception date of 1/1/2008 does not provide historical data to calculate a 3-year formula.

Small Cap Core 12.19 January 6, 2019