

BARINGS PARTICIPATION INVESTORS  
Form N-CSR  
March 10, 2017

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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 811-5531

Barings Participation Investors  
(Exact name of registrant as specified in charter)

1500 Main Street, P.O. Box 15189, Springfield, MA 01115-5189  
(Address of principal executive offices) (Zip code)

Janice M. Bishop, Vice President, Secretary and Chief Legal Officer

Independence Wharf, 470 Atlantic Ave., Boston, MA 02210  
(Name and address of agent for service)

Registrant's telephone number, including area code: 413-226-1000

Date of fiscal year end: 12/31

Date of reporting period: 12/31/16

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, 110 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.

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**ITEM 1. REPORT TO STOCKHOLDERS.**

Attached hereto is the annual shareholder report transmitted to shareholders pursuant to Rule 30e-1 of the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended.



## BARINGS PARTICIPATION INVESTORS

Barings Participation Investors is a closed-end investment company, first offered to the public in 1988, whose shares are traded on the New York Stock Exchange.

## INVESTMENT OBJECTIVE & POLICY

Barings Participation Investors (the "Trust") is a closed-end management investment company, first offered to the public in 1988, whose shares are traded on the New York Stock Exchange under the trading symbol "MPV". The Trust's share price can be found in the financial section of newspapers under either the New York Stock Exchange listings or Closed-End Fund listings.

The Trust's investment objective is to maximize total return by providing a high level of current income, the potential for growth of income, and capital appreciation. The Trust's principal investments are privately placed, below-investment grade, long-term debt obligations purchased directly from their issuers, which tend to be smaller companies. The Trust will also invest in publicly traded debt securities (including high yield securities) again with an emphasis on those with equity features, and in convertible preferred stocks and, subject to certain limitations, readily marketable equity securities. Below-investment grade or high yield securities have predominantly speculative characteristics with respect to the capacity of the issuer to pay interest and repay principal. The Trust is prohibited from purchasing below-investment grade securities if, after giving effect to the purchase, more than 75% of the Trust's total assets would be invested in below-investment grade securities, which are securities that are rated, at the time of purchase, BB or B by S&P or Ba or B by Moody's, or, if unrated, are believed by Barings LLC ("Barings") to be of an equivalent quality. In addition, the Trust will not invest in any debt security that is rated, at the time of acquisition, below B by S&P or Moody's, or if unrated, is believed by Barings to be of an equivalent quality. In addition, the Trust may invest in high quality, readily marketable securities.

Barings manages the Trust on a total return basis. The Trust distributes substantially all of its net income to shareholders each year. Accordingly, the Trust pays dividends to shareholders four times a year in January, May, August, and November. All registered shareholders are automatically enrolled in the Dividend Reinvestment and Cash Purchase Plan unless cash distributions are requested.

In this report, you will find a complete listing of the Trust's holdings. We encourage you to read this section carefully for a better understanding of the Trust. We cordially invite all shareholders to attend the Trust's Annual Meeting of Shareholders, which will be held on April 21, 2017 at 1:00 P.M. in Springfield, Massachusetts.

## PROXY VOTING POLICIES & PROCEDURES: PROXY VOTING RECORD

The Trustees of the Trust have delegated proxy voting responsibilities relating to the voting of securities held by the Trust to Barings. A description of Barings' proxy voting policies and procedures is available (1) without charge, upon request, by calling, toll-free 1-866-399-1516; (2) on the Trust's website at <http://www.barings.com/mpv> and (3) on the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission's ("SEC") website at <http://www.sec.gov>. Information regarding how the Trust voted proxies relating to portfolio securities during the most recent 12-month period ended June 30, 2016 is available (1) on the Trust's website at <http://www.barings.com/mpv> and (2) on the SEC's website at <http://www.sec.gov>.

## FORM N-Q

The Trust files its complete schedule of portfolio holdings with the SEC for the first and third quarters of each fiscal year on Form N-Q. This information is available (i) on the SEC's website at <http://www.sec.gov>; and (ii) at the SEC's Public Reference Room in Washington, DC (which information on their operation may be obtained by calling 1-800-SEC-0330). A complete schedule of portfolio holdings as of each quarter-end is available on the Trust's website at <http://www.barings.com/mpv> or upon request by calling, toll-free, 1-866-399-1516.

**BARINGS PARTICIPATION INVESTORS**

c / o Barings LLC  
1500 Main Street  
P.O. Box 15189  
Springfield, Massachusetts 01115-5189  
(413) 226-1516  
<http://www.barings.com/mpv>

**ADVISER**

Barings LLC  
1500 Main Street, P.O. Box 15189  
Springfield, Massachusetts 01115-5189

**INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM**

KPMG LLP  
Boston, Massachusetts 02111

**COUNSEL TO THE TRUST**

Ropes & Gray LLP  
Boston, Massachusetts 02110

**CUSTODIAN**

State Street Bank and Trust Company  
Boston, MA 02110

**TRANSFER AGENT & REGISTRAR**

DST Systems, Inc.  
P.O. Box 219086  
Kansas City, MO 64121-9086  
1-800-647-7374

2016 Annual Report

PORTFOLIO COMPOSITION AS OF 12/31/16\*

TOTAL ANNUAL PORTFOLIO RETURN (AS OF 12/31 EACH YEAR)\*

\* Data for Barings Participation Investors (the "Trust") represents portfolio returns based on change in the Trust's net asset value (net of all fees and expenses) assuming the reinvestment of all dividends and distributions. These returns differ from the total investment return based on market value of the Trust's shares due to the difference between the Trust's net asset value and the market value of its shares outstanding (see page 12 for total investment return based on market value). Past performance is no guarantee of future results.

Barings Participation Investors (formerly known as Babson Capital Participation Investors)

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## TO OUR SHAREHOLDERS

I am pleased to share with you the Trust's Annual Report for the year ended December 31, 2016.

## PORTFOLIO PERFORMANCE

The Trust's net total portfolio rate of return for 2016 was 8.8%, as measured by the change in net asset value assuming the reinvestment of all dividends and distributions. The Trust's total net assets were \$136,606,731 or \$13.15 per share, as of December 31, 2016. This compares to \$135,349,634 or \$13.10 per share, as of December 31, 2015. The Trust paid a quarterly dividend of \$0.27 per share for each of the four quarters of 2016, for a total annual dividend of \$1.08 per share. In 2015, the Trust also paid four quarterly dividends of \$0.27 per share, for a total annual dividend of \$1.08 per share. Net taxable investment income for 2016 was \$1.08 per share, including approximately \$0.15 per share of non-recurring income, compared to 2015 net taxable investment income of \$1.11 per share, which included approximately \$0.25 per share of non-recurring income.

The Trust's stock price increased 3.3% during 2016, from \$13.75 as of December 31, 2015 to \$14.20 as of December 31, 2016. The Trust's stock price of \$14.20 as of December 31, 2016 equates to an 8.0% premium over the December 31, 2016 net asset value per share of \$13.15. The Trust's average quarter-end premium for the 3-, 5-, and 10-year periods ended December 31, 2016 was 0.7%, 7.0% and 7.1%, respectively.

The table below lists the average annual net returns of the Trust's portfolio, based on the change in net assets and assuming the reinvestment of all dividends and distributions. Average annual returns of the Barclays Capital U.S. Corporate High Yield Index and the Russell 2000 Index for the 1-, 3-, 5-, 10- and 25-year periods ended December 31, 2016 are provided for comparison purposes only.

	The Trust	Barclays Capital U.S. Corporate High Yield Index	Russell 2000 Index
1 Year	8.75%	17.13%	21.32%
3 Years	9.49%	4.66%	6.74%
5 Years	11.04%	7.36%	14.46%
10 Years	9.43%	7.45%	7.07%
25 Years	12.21%	8.04%	9.69%

Past performance is no guarantee of future results.



**PORTFOLIO ACTIVITY**

In 2016, the Trust closed 15 new private placement investments, as well as 10 "add-on" investments in existing portfolio companies. The 15 new investments were in AM Conservation Holding Corp; API Technologies Corp.; CORA Health Services, Inc.; Del Real LLC; Dunn Paper; Elite Sportswear Holding, LLC; Glynlyon Holding Companies, Inc.; Happy Floors Acquisition, Inc.; Midwest Industrial Rubber, Inc.; Money Mailer Equity LLC; NSi Industries Holdings, Inc.; PANOS Brands LLC; Software Paradigms International Group, LLC; Veritext Corporation and Wolf-Gordon, Inc. In addition, the Trust added to existing private placement investments in Church Services Holding Company; Clarion Brands Holding Corp.; CTM Holding, Inc.; ERG Holding Company LLC; Hollandia Produce LLC; HVAC Holdings, Inc.; JMH Investors LLC; Merex Holding Corporation; Petroplex Inv Holdings LLC and PPC Event Services. A brief description of these investments can be found in the Consolidated Schedule of Investments. The total amount invested by the Trust in these transactions was \$27,190,494, which was only slightly less than the \$27,511,179 of new private placement investments made by the Trust in 2015, and the fourth highest dollar volume over the past ten years. We are pleased to have generated strong new investment volume for the Trust three years in a row.

The Trust's level of new investment activity in 2016 benefited from larger average transaction sizes as compared to 2015, a steady flow of investment opportunities from an established network of private equity sponsors, and several follow-on investments in companies which the Trust had an existing investment. After spending most of 2016 at levels below prior year, middle market buyout volume ended the year flat compared to 2015, due to strong fourth quarter activity, particularly at the upper end of the middle market. Competition for new investment opportunities remains intense, as there continues to be an ever increasing abundance of private debt and equity capital looking to be invested. As a result, attractive companies are being aggressively pursued by both buyers and lenders alike. As a result, high purchase multiples and leverage levels continue to be prevalent in the market. In 2016, average purchase price multiples for middle market companies decreased modestly (approximately 3%) but remain higher than any year since 2000 (other than 2015). Average leverage multiples also remained elevated in 2016, albeit modestly lower than 2015. However, the average leverage multiple steadily increased each quarter during 2016 resulting in the fourth quarter average being the fourth highest since 2003.

Though we remained very active investors on behalf of the Trust in 2016, we did so, and will continue to do so, cautiously and with discipline, consistent with our longstanding investment philosophy of seeking to take prudent levels of risk and getting paid appropriately for the risk taken. In 2016, in the face of these aggressive market conditions, we continued our history of investing in companies at lower than market leverage levels. The average leverage of the Trust's new private placement investments in 2016 was 4.9 times EBITDA, compared to the average market multiple of 5.3 times EBITDA. This approach has served us well over the long term and through all kinds of market cycles.

In addition to strong new investment activity, the condition of the Trust's existing portfolio remained solid throughout the year. Sales and earnings for the Trust's portfolio companies as a whole continued their upward momentum. In addition, the number of companies on our watch list or in default remained at acceptable levels in 2016.

We had 19 companies exit from the Trust's portfolio during 2016. This level of exit activity remains relatively high for the Trust's portfolio, especially after the unprecedented 32 exits experienced in 2014 and 21 exits in 2015, and is another indicator of how active and aggressive the markets continued to be in 2016. In all but four of these exits, the Trust realized a positive return on its investment. Of note, 14 of

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the 19 exits in 2016 were the realization of stub equity holdings in companies where the interest bearing debt securities had previously been prepaid.

During 2016, the Trust had five portfolio companies fully or partially prepay their debt obligations. The level of refinancing activity in the portfolio in 2016 was notably lower than in each of the prior three years when prepayments numbered 15, 20, and 32 in 2015, 2014, and 2013, respectively. These transactions, in which the debt instruments held by the Trust were fully or partially prepaid, are generally driven by performing companies seeking to take advantage of lower interest rates and the abundant availability of debt capital. Unless replaced by new private debt investments, these prepayments reduce net investment income.

As a result of the level of new investment activity, combined with the composition of the realizations (majority being the sale of non-cash pay equity securities) and lower level of prepayments, the Trust's recurring net investment income, increased over 9% to \$0.94 per share as compared to \$0.86 per share in 2015.

#### OUTLOOK FOR 2017

As we enter 2017, the pipeline of investment opportunities remains relatively healthy. The market appears optimistic that the new Presidential administration will result in a favorable economic environment, particularly for middle market companies, the very type of companies in which we focus our investment activities. Various surveys of middle market investment banks and capital providers would suggest the same. However, as previously mentioned, the market dynamics have, and are expected to continue to remain aggressive. And while there is much economic optimism, there is also a level of uncertainty that always comes with changes in governmental leadership. Rest assured that despite constantly changing market conditions, we will continue to employ on behalf of the Trust the same investment philosophy that has served it well since its inception: investing in companies which we believe have a strong business proposition, solid cash flow, and experienced, ethical management. We believe this philosophy, along with Barings' seasoned investment management team, positions the Trust well to meet its long-term investment objectives.

The Trust was able to maintain its \$0.27 per share quarterly dividend in 2016 for a total annual dividend of \$1.08 per share. However, it was once again necessary to supplement recurring investment income in each quarter of 2016 with non-recurring income and earnings carry forward in order to maintain the \$1.08 per share annual dividend. As has been discussed in prior reports, recurring investment income alone has not been sufficient, and while improving, is not projected to be sufficient in the near term, to fully fund the current dividend rate. Net investment income has been below the dividend rate since 2013 due principally to the considerable reduction in the number of private debt securities in the portfolio resulting from the high level of exits and prepayment activity that occurred from 2013 through 2015, combined with generally lower investment returns available due to market and competitive dynamics over the past several years. As mentioned above, we made good progress in growing recurring investment income in 2016, but it remains below the dividend rate and will continue to require supplementation from non-recurring income in the near term. The level of expected recurring investment income generated by the Trust in 2017, combined with the availability of earnings carry forwards and other non-recurring income, maintenance of the current dividend rate over the next several quarters is expected. But over time, the Trust's dividend paying ability tends to be correlated with its recurring earnings capacity. As such, until recurring investment income reaches a level equal to the current dividend rate, there is the risk that the dividend may need to be reduced in the future.



As always, I would like to thank you for your continued interest in and support of Barings Participation Investors. I look forward to seeing you at the Trust's annual shareholder meeting in Springfield on April 21, 2017.

Robert M. Shettle

President

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Barings Participation Investors (formerly known as Babson Capital Participation Investors)

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2016	Record Date	Total Paid	Ordinary Income	Short-Term Gains	Long-Term Gains
Regular	5/2/2016	0.2700	0.2700	—	—
Regular	8/1/2016	0.2700	0.2700	—	—
Regular	11/7/2016	0.2700	0.2700	—	—
Regular	12/30/2016	0.2700	0.2700	—	—
		1.0800	1.0800	0.0000	0.0000

Annual Dividend	Qualified for Dividend Received	Qualified Deduction***	Qualified Dividends****	Interest Earned on U.S. Gov't. Obligations
Amount per Share	Percent	Amount per Share	Percent	Amount per Share
\$1.08	13.4585%	0.1321	13.4585%	0.0000

\*\*\*Not available to individual shareholders

\*\*\*\*Qualified dividends are reported in Box 1b on IRS Form 1099-Div for 2016

BARINGS PARTICIPATION INVESTORS

Financial Report

Consolidated Statement of Assets and Liabilities	8
Consolidated Statement of Operations	9
Consolidated Statement of Cash Flows	10
Consolidated Statements of Changes in Net Assets	11
Consolidated Selected Financial Highlights	12
Consolidated Schedule of Investments	13-41
Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements	42-49
Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm	50
Interested Trustees	51-52
Independent Trustees	53-54
	55

Officers of the Trust

Barings Participation Investors (formerly known as Babson Capital Participation Investors)

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**CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES**

December 31, 2016

**Assets:****Investments**

(See Consolidated Schedule of Investments)

Corporate restricted securities at fair value (Cost - \$97,075,180 )	\$94,771,586
Corporate restricted securities at market value (Cost - \$18,139,062 )	18,191,653
Corporate public securities at market value (Cost - \$26,042,529 )	26,734,649
Short-term securities at amortized cost	9,999,142

Total investments (Cost - \$151,255,913 )	149,697,030
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Cash	4,199,021
Interest receivable	1,748,514
Receivable for investments sold	152,188
Other assets	26,783

Total assets	155,823,536
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**Liabilities:**

Note payable	15,000,000
Dividend payable	2,804,267
Tax payable	504,303
Deferred tax liability	415,014
Investment advisory fee payable	307,365
Interest payable	27,267
Accrued expenses	158,589

Total liabilities	19,216,805
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Total net assets	\$136,606,731
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**Net Assets:**

Common shares, par value \$.01 per share	\$103,861
Additional paid-in capital	94,909,097
Retained net realized gain on investments, prior years	40,511,310
Undistributed net investment income	568,739
Accumulated net realized gain on investments	2,487,621
Net unrealized depreciation of investments	(1,973,897 )

Total net assets	\$136,606,731
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Common shares issued and outstanding (14,787,750 authorized)	10,386,173
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Net asset value per share \$13.15

See Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

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8

## 2016 Annual Report

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**CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS**

For the year ended December 31, 2016

Investment Income:	
Interest	\$12,108,459
Dividends	427,016
Other	278,283
 Total investment income	 12,813,758
Expenses:	
Investment advisory fees	1,250,835
Interest	613,500
Trustees' fees and expenses	225,000
Professional fees	165,146
Reports to shareholders	71,000
Custodian fees	16,171
Other	147,864
 Total expenses	 2,489,516
 Investment income - net	 10,324,242
Net realized and unrealized gain on investments:	
Net realized gain on investments before taxes	1,931,283
Income tax expense	(651,292 )
 Net realized gain on investments after taxes	 1,279,991
 Net increase (decrease) in unrealized appreciation (depreciation) of investments before taxes	 (55,675 )
Net (increase) decrease in deferred income tax expense	94,074
 Net increase (decrease) in unrealized appreciation (depreciation) of investments after taxes	 38,399
 Net gain on investments	 1,318,390
 Net increase in net assets resulting from operations	 \$11,642,632

See Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

Barings Participation Investors (formerly known as Babson Capital Participation Investors)

**CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS**

For the year ended December 31, 2016

Net decrease in cash:

Cash flows from operating activities:

Purchases/Proceeds/Maturities from short-term portfolio securities, net	\$(5,948,810 )
Purchases of portfolio securities	(43,862,303)
Proceeds from disposition of portfolio securities	49,663,363
Interest, dividends and other income received	11,244,327
Interest expense paid	(613,500 )
Operating expenses paid	(1,974,948 )
Income taxes paid	(621,436 )

Net cash provided by operating activities	7,886,693
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Cash flows from financing activities:

Cash dividends paid from net investment income	(11,176,907)
Receipts for shares issued on reinvestment of dividends	806,973
Net cash used for financing activities	(10,369,934)
Net decrease in cash	(2,483,241 )
Cash - beginning of year	6,682,262

Cash - end of year	\$4,199,021
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Reconciliation of net increase in net assets to net cash provided by operating activities:

Net increase in net assets resulting from operations	\$11,642,632
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Increase in investments	(3,305,349 )
Increase in interest receivable	(135,252 )
Increase in receivable for investments sold	(152,188 )
Increase in tax payable	29,856
Decrease in deferred tax liability	(94,074 )
Increase in investment advisory fee payable	2,828
Decrease in accrued expenses	(101,760 )

Total adjustments to net assets from operations	(3,755,939 )
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Net cash provided by operating activities	\$7,886,693
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See Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements



## 2016 Annual Report

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**CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CHANGES IN NET ASSETS**  
 For the years ended December 31, 2016 and 2015

	2016	2015
Increase/(decrease) in net assets:		
Operations:		
Investment income - net	\$ 10,324,242	\$ 9,762,813
Net realized gain on investments after taxes	1,279,991	161,395
Net change in unrealized appreciation/(depreciation) of investments after taxes	38,399	(1,368,494 )
Net increase in net assets resulting from operations	11,642,632	8,555,714
Increase from common shares issued on reinvestment of dividends		
Common shares issued (2016 - 57,782; 2015 - 27,306)	806,973	368,734
Dividends to shareholders from:		
Net investment income (2016 - \$1.08 per share; 2015 - \$1.08 per share)	(11,192,508 )	(11,143,733 )
Total increase/(decrease) in net assets	1,257,097	(2,219,285 )
Net assets, beginning of year	135,349,634	137,568,919
Net assets, end of year (including undistributed net investment income of \$568,739 and \$1,404,388, respectively)	\$ 136,606,731	\$ 135,349,634

See Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

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## Barings Participation Investors (formerly known as Babson Capital Participation Investors)

## CONSOLIDATED SELECTED FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

Selected data for each share of beneficial interest outstanding:

	For the years ended December 31,				
	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012
Net asset value:					
Beginning of year	\$13.10	\$13.35	\$12.83	\$12.56	\$11.90
Net investment income (a)	1.00	0.95	1.04	1.00	1.08
Net realized and unrealized gain (loss) on investments	0.13	(0.12 )	0.57	0.35	0.64
Total from investment operations	1.13	0.83	1.61	1.35	1.72
Dividends from net investment income to common shareholders	(1.08 )	(1.08 )	(0.96 )	(1.08 )	(1.04 )
Dividends from realized gain on investments to common shareholders	—	—	(0.12 )	—	(0.04 )
Increase from dividends reinvested	(0.00 )(b)	(0.00 )(b)	(0.01 )	(0.00 )(b)	0.02
Total dividends	(1.08 )	(1.08 )	(1.09 )	(1.08 )	(1.06 )
Net asset value: End of year	\$13.15	\$13.10	\$13.35	\$12.83	\$12.56
Per share market value: End of year	\$14.20	\$13.75	\$13.23	\$12.88	\$13.91
Total investment return					
Net asset value (c)	8.75%	6.23%	13.61%	10.97%	15.89%
Market value (c)	11.45%	12.66%	12.54%	0.47%	(4.54% )
Net assets (in millions):					
End of year	\$136.61	\$135.35	\$137.57	\$131.42	\$127.87
Ratio of total expenses to average net assets	2.26%	2.17%	2.84%	2.15%	2.83%
Ratio of operating expenses to average net assets	1.35%	1.49%	1.49%	1.51%	1.51%
Ratio of interest expense to average net assets	0.44%	0.44%	0.45%	0.47%	0.49%
Ratio of income tax expense to average net assets (d)	0.47%	0.24%	0.90%	0.17%	0.83%
Ratio of net investment income to average net assets	7.45%	6.95%	7.82%	7.77%	8.82%
Portfolio turnover	31%	30%	32%	30%	34%

(a) Calculated using average shares.

(b) Rounds to less than \$0.01 per share.

(c)

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Net asset value return represents portfolio returns based on change in the Trust's net asset value assuming the reinvestment of all dividends and distributions which differs from the total investment return based on the Trust's market value due to the difference between the Trust's net asset value and the market value of its shares outstanding; past performance is no guarantee of future results.

As additional information, this ratio is included to reflect the taxes paid on retained long-term gains. These taxes (d)paid are netted against realized capital gains in the Statement of Operations. The taxes paid are treated as deemed distributions and a credit for the taxes paid is passed on to shareholders.

Senior borrowings:

Total principal amount (in millions)	\$ 15	\$ 15	\$ 15	\$ 15	\$ 15
Asset coverage per \$1,000 of indebtedness	\$10,107	\$10,023	\$10,171	\$9,761	\$9,525

See Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

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## 2016 Annual Report

## CONSOLIDATED SCHEDULE OF INVESTMENTS

December 31, 2016

	Principal Amount, Shares, Units or Ownership Percentage	Acquisition Date	Cost	Fair Value
Corporate Restricted Securities - 82.69%: (A)				
Private Placement Investments - 69.38%: (C)				
1492 Acquisition LLC				
A leading producer of premium Italian cured meats and deli meats in the U.S.				
Limited Liability Company Unit Class A Preferred (B)				
	102 uts.	10/17/12	\$ 102,270	\$ 139,857
Limited Liability Company Unit Class A Common (B)				
	11,364 uts.	10/17/12	11,364	153,737
			113,634	293,594
ABC Industries, Inc.				
A manufacturer of mine and tunneling ventilation products in the U.S.				
13% Senior Subordinated Note due 07/31/2019				
	\$ 139,205 125,000	08/01/12	131,977	137,087
Preferred Stock Series A (B)				
	shs.	08/01/12	125,000	197,584
Warrant, exercisable until 2022, to purchase common stock at \$.02 per share (B)				
	22,414 shs.	08/01/12	42,446	32,955
			299,423	367,626
Advanced Manufacturing Enterprises LLC				
A designer and manufacturer of large, custom gearing products for a number of critical customer applications.				
Limited Liability Company Unit (B)				
	1,945 uts.	*	207,910	—
* 12/07/12, 07/11/13 and 06/30/15.				
AFC - Dell Holding Corporation				
A distributor and provider of inventory management services for "C-Parts" used by OEMs in their manufacturing and production facilities.				
12.5% (1% PIK) Senior Subordinated Note due 09/27/2020				
	\$ 1,203,330	03/27/15	1,185,568	1,227,396
Preferred Stock (B)				
	1,122 shs.	03/27/15	112,154	112,506



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Common Stock (B)	346 shs.	03/27/15	346	—
			1,298,068	1,339,902

Airxcel Holdings

A leading manufacturer of a broad range of climate control solutions, including air-conditioners, heat pumps, cooking appliances, furnaces, powered vents, and water heaters.

12.5% (1.5% PIK) Senior Subordinated Note due 11/18/2020	\$1,483,333	11/18/14	1,462,362	1,483,333
Limited Liability Company Unit	288 uts.	11/18/14	288,000	509,686
			1,750,362	1,993,019

See Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

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## Barings Participation Investors (formerly known as Babson Capital Participation Investors)

## CONSOLIDATED SCHEDULE OF INVESTMENTS (CONTINUED)

December 31, 2016

Corporate Restricted Securities: (A) (Continued)	Principal Amount, Shares, Units or Ownership Percentage	Acquisition Date	Cost	Fair Value
AM Conservation Holding Corp.				
A supplier of energy efficiency ("EE") products, including lighting, shower heads and aerators, and weatherization products such as door seals and weather stripping.				
11.75% (1.5% PIK) Senior Subordinated Note due 04/30/2023				
	\$1,572,233	10/31/16	\$1,541,418	\$1,555,661
	156,818			
Common Stock (B)	shs.	10/31/16	156,818	156,818
			1,698,236	1,712,479

## AMS Holding LLC

A leading multi-channel direct marketer of high-value collectible coins and proprietary-branded jewelry and watches.

Limited Liability Company Unit Class A

Preferred (B)(F)	114 uts.	10/04/12	113,636	254,622
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## API Technologies Corp.

A designer, developer and manufacturer of electronic systems, subsystems, modules and secure communications for technically demanding defense, aerospace and commercial applications in the U.S. and internationally.

12% (1% PIK) Senior Subordinated

Note due 04/22/2023	\$1,389,522	04/22/16	1,369,530	1,392,570
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Limited Liability Company Unit (B)	0.40% int.	04/20/16	345,000	265,650
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			1,714,530	1,658,220
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## ARI Holding Corporation

A leading national supplier of products used primarily by specialty contractors.

11.5% (0.5% PIK) Senior Subordinated

Note due 02/01/2020	\$1,713,112	*	1,695,985	1,713,112
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Limited Partnership Interest	524 uts.	08/01/14	523,950	649,257
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\* 05/21/13 and 08/01/14.

			2,219,935	2,362,369
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ASC Holdings, Inc.

A manufacturer of capital equipment used by corrugated box manufacturers.

13% (1% PIK) Senior Subordinated

Note due 05/18/2021	\$748,684	11/19/15	736,084	738,396
	111,100			
Limited Liability Company Unit (B)	uts.	11/18/15	111,100	34,663
			847,184	773,059

See Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

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## 2016 Annual Report

## CONSOLIDATED SCHEDULE OF INVESTMENTS (CONTINUED)

December 31, 2016

Corporate Restricted Securities: (A) (Continued)	Principal Amount, Shares, Units or Ownership Percentage	Acquisition Date	Cost	Fair Value
<b>Aurora Parts &amp; Accessories LLC</b>				
A distributor of aftermarket over-the-road semi-trailer parts and accessories sold to customers across North America.				
11% Senior Subordinated Note due 02/17/2022	\$1,515,400	08/17/15	\$1,490,834	\$1,535,559
Preferred Stock (B)	210 shs.	08/17/15	209,390	174,632
Common Stock (B)	210 shs.	08/17/15	210	—
			1,700,434	1,710,191

**Avantech Testing Services LLC**

A manufacturer of custom Non-Destructive Testing ("NDT") systems and provider of NDT and inspections services primarily to the oil country tubular goods market.

15% (3.75% PIK) Senior Subordinated

Note due 01/31/2021 (D)	\$500,587	07/31/14	491,228	—
Limited Liability Company Unit (B)(F)	45,504 uts.	*	—	—

\* 07/31/14 and 10/14/15.

491,228      —

**Blue Wave Products, Inc.**

A distributor of pool supplies.

10% Senior Secured Term Note due

09/30/2018	\$139,007	10/12/12	138,017	139,007
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13% (1% PIK) Senior Subordinated Note  
due 09/30/2019

	\$331,416	10/12/12	319,314	331,416
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Common Stock (B)

	51,064 shs.	10/12/12	51,064	232,189
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Warrant, exercisable until 2022, to purchase  
common stock at \$.01 per share (B)

	20,216 shs.	10/12/12	20,216	91,923
			528,611	794,535

**BlueSpire Holding, Inc.**

A marketing services firm that integrates strategy, technology, and content to deliver customized marketing solutions for clients in the senior living, financial services and healthcare end markets.

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12.5% (1.5% PIK) Senior Subordinated

Note due 06/30/2021	\$1,603,816	06/30/15	1,578,222	—
Common Stock (B)	1,417 shs.	06/30/15	156,800	—
			1,735,022	—

BP SCI LLC

A leading value-added distributor of branded pipes, valves, and fittings (PVF) to diversified end markets.

Limited Liability Company Unit

Class A (B)(F)	417 uts.	10/17/12	41,667	77,385
Limited Liability Company Unit				
Class B (B)(F)	167 uts.	10/17/12	166,666	267,799
			208,333	345,184

See Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

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## Barings Participation Investors (formerly known as Babson Capital Participation Investors)

## CONSOLIDATED SCHEDULE OF INVESTMENTS (CONTINUED)

December 31, 2016

Corporate Restricted Securities: (A) (Continued)	Principal Amount, Shares, Units or Ownership Percentage	Acquisition Date	Cost	Fair Value
<b>CG Holdings Manufacturing Company</b>				
A coating provider serving the automotive, agricultural, heavy truck and other end markets.				
13% Senior Subordinated Note due 11/01/2019	\$1,412,605	*	\$1,362,085	\$1,412,605
Preferred Stock (B)	1,350 shs.	*	134,972	169,355
Preferred Stock (B)	489 shs.	*	48,721	61,382
Common Stock (B)	140 shs.	*	14,864	131,712
Warrant, exercisable until 2023, to purchase common stock at \$.01 per share (B)	58 shs.	*	5,430	54,709
* 05/09/13 and 11/01/13.			1,566,072	1,829,763

**CHG Alternative Education Holding Company**

A leading provider of publicly-funded, for profit pre-K-12 education services targeting special needs children at therapeutic day schools and "at risk" youth through alternative education programs.

13.5% (1.5% PIK) Senior Subordinated Note due 01/19/2018	\$779,888	01/19/11	770,565	779,888
14% (2% PIK) Senior Subordinated Note due 08/03/2019	\$205,009	08/03/12	203,185	205,009
Common Stock (B)	375 shs.	01/19/11	37,500	43,372
Warrant, exercisable until 2021, to purchase common stock at \$.01 per share (B)	295 shs.	01/19/11	29,250	34,093
			1,040,500	1,062,362

**Church Services Holding Company**

A provider of diversified residential services to homeowners in the Houston, Dallas, and Austin markets.

14.5% (2% PIK) Senior Subordinated Note due 03/26/2018 (D)	\$191,888	03/26/12	189,978	—
Preferred Stock Series A (B)	65 shs.	09/22/16	6,465	—
Preferred Stock (B)	548 shs.	04/11/16	54,762	—

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Common Stock (B)	1,327 shs.	*	132,700	—
Warrant, exercisable until 2022, to purchase common stock at \$.01 per share (B)	57 shs.	03/26/12	5,740	—
* 03/26/12, 05/25/12 and 06/19/12.			389,645	—

Clarion Brands Holding Corp.

A portfolio of six over-the-counter (OTC) pharmaceutical brands whose products are used to treat tinnitus or ringing of the ear, excessive sweating, urinary tract infections, muscle pain, and skin conditions.

12.5% (1.5% PIK) Senior Subordinated Note due 04/01/2021	\$2,023,440	*	1,991,934	1,994,682
Limited Liability Company Unit	1,853 uts.	07/18/16	189,267	155,383
* 10/01/14, 01/07/16 and 07/18/16.			2,181,201	2,150,065

See Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

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## 2016 Annual Report

## CONSOLIDATED SCHEDULE OF INVESTMENTS (CONTINUED)

December 31, 2016

Corporate Restricted Securities: (A) (Continued)	Principal Amount, Shares, Units or Ownership Percentage	Acquisition Date	Cost	Fair Value
Clough, Harbour and Associates An engineering service firm that is located in Albany, NY.				
Preferred Stock (B)	147 shs.	12/02/08	\$ 146,594	\$ 623,893
Compass Chemical International LLC A manufacturer and supplier of standard and specialty formulated chemicals, primarily phosphoric acid derivatives called phosphonates.				
Limited Liability Company Unit (B)(F)	230 uts.	03/04/15	147,304	117,908
Connecticut Electric, Inc. A supplier and distributor of electrical products sold into the retail and wholesale markets.				
Limited Liability Company Unit Class A (B)	82,613 uts.	01/12/07	82,613	110,660
Limited Liability Company Unit Class C (B)	59,756 uts.	01/12/07	59,756	86,349
	671,525			
Limited Liability Company Unit Class D (B)	uts.	05/03/10	—	915,651
Limited Liability Company Unit Class E (B)	1,102 uts.	05/03/10	—	157,741
			142,369	1,270,401
CORA Health Services, Inc. A provider of outpatient rehabilitation therapy services.				
12.75% (1.75% PIK) Senior Subordinated Note due 06/30/2023				
	\$ 764,929	06/30/16	750,861	771,653
Common Stock Class A (B)	3,791 shs.	06/30/16	3,791	2,692
Preferred Stock Series A (B)	758 shs.	06/30/16	72,033	74,285
			826,685	848,630
CTM Holding, Inc. A leading owner and operator of coin-operated children's rides, penny presses and candy kiosks in the U.S.				
15% (3% PIK) Senior Subordinated Note	\$ 1,296,882	11/22/13	1,282,840	1,290,310



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due 11/22/2019

Common Stock (B)	90 shs.	*	514,284	377,036
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* 11/22/13 and 09/16/16.			1,797,124	1,667,346
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Del Real LLC

A manufacturer and distributor of fully-prepared fresh refrigerated Hispanic entrees as well as side dishes that are typically sold on a heat-and-serve basis at retail grocers.

11% Senior Subordinated Note due

04/06/2023	\$1,420,588	10/07/16	1,392,885	1,397,274
	304,412			

Limited Liability Company Unit (B)(F)	uts.	10/07/16	304,412	304,412
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			1,697,297	1,701,686
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See Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

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## Barings Participation Investors (formerly known as Babson Capital Participation Investors)

## CONSOLIDATED SCHEDULE OF INVESTMENTS (CONTINUED)

December 31, 2016

Corporate Restricted Securities: (A) (Continued)	Principal Amount, Shares, Units or Ownership Percentage	Acquisition Date	Cost	Fair Value
<b>DPL Holding Corporation</b>				
A distributor and manufacturer of aftermarket undercarriage parts for medium and heavy duty trucks and trailers.				
14% (2% PIK) Senior Subordinated Note due 11/04/2020	\$ 1,403,960	05/04/12	\$ 1,392,283	\$ 1,359,968
Preferred Stock (B)	25 shs.	05/04/12	252,434	195,418
Common Stock (B)	25 shs.	05/04/12	28,048	—
			1,672,765	1,555,386
<b>Dunn Paper</b>				
A provider of specialty paper for niche product applications.				
9.75% Second Lien Term Loan due 08/31/2023	\$ 1,725,000	09/28/16	1,691,587	1,690,500
<b>Eagle Family Foods, Inc.</b>				
A producer of low-cost branded and private label canned milk.				
10.05% Last Out Term Loan due 12/31/2021	\$ 1,725,000	12/22/15	1,703,457	1,717,390
<b>ECG Consulting Group</b>				
A healthcare management consulting company who provides strategic, financial, operational, and technology related consulting services to healthcare providers.				
11.75% (0.75% PIK) Senior Subordinated Note due 11/21/2020	\$ 1,314,351	11/21/14	1,292,935	1,327,495
Limited Liability Company Unit (B)(F)	230 uts.	11/19/14	71,875	88,980
			1,364,810	1,416,475
<b>Elite Sportswear Holding, LLC</b>				
A designer and manufacturer of gymnastics, competitive cheerleading and swimwear apparel in the U.S. and internationally.				
11.5% (1% PIK) Senior Subordinated Note due 10/13/2021	\$ 1,568,713	10/14/16	1,542,205	1,551,115
Limited Liability Company Unit (B)(F)	101 uts.	10/14/16	159,722	159,726
			1,701,927	1,710,841

ERG Holding Company LLC

A provider of inpatient and outpatient clinical trial services to pharmaceutical companies and contract research organizations.

13.5% (1.5% PIK) Senior Subordinated Note due 10/04/2019	\$969,346	04/04/14	958,270	979,039
14% (2% PIK) Senior Subordinated Note due 10/04/2019	\$254,509	07/01/16	250,098	262,144
Common Stock (B)	0.31% int.	04/04/14	77,533	87,124
			1,285,901	1,328,307

See Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

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## 2016 Annual Report

## CONSOLIDATED SCHEDULE OF INVESTMENTS (CONTINUED)

December 31, 2016

Corporate Restricted Securities: (A) (Continued)	Principal Amount, Shares, Units or Ownership Percentage	Acquisition Date	Cost	Fair Value
<b>F F C Holding Corporation</b>				
A leading U.S. manufacturer of private label frozen novelty and ice cream products.				
Limited Liability Company Unit				
Preferred (B)	171 uts.	09/27/10	\$58,345	\$80,306
Limited Liability Company Unit Common (B)	171 uts.	09/27/10	17,073	232,843
			75,418	313,149
<b>F G I Equity LLC</b>				
A manufacturer of a broad range of filters and related products that are used in commercial, light industrial, healthcare, gas turbine, nuclear, laboratory, clean room, hotel, educational system, and food processing settings.				
Limited Liability Company Unit				
Preferred (B)	80,559 uts.	04/15/14	—	80,559
Limited Liability Company Unit Class B-1 (B)	65,789 uts.	12/15/10	65,789	167,831
Limited Liability Company Unit Class B-2 (B)	8,248 uts.	12/15/10	8,248	21,041
Limited Liability Company Unit Class B-3 (B)	6,522 uts.	08/30/12	15,000	18,333
Limited Liability Company Unit Class C (B)	1,575 uts.	12/20/10	16,009	32,637
			105,046	320,401
<b>FMH Holdings Corporation</b>				
A designer and manufacturer of highly engineered components for the aerospace, defense and space industries.				
Common Stock (B)	148 shs.	05/01/15	148,096	209,178
<b>GD Dental Services LLC</b>				
A provider of convenient "onestop" general, specialty, and cosmetic dental services with 21 offices located throughout South and Central Florida.				
Limited Liability Company Unit				
Preferred (B)	76 uts.	10/05/12	75,920	102,792

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Limited Liability Company Unit Common (B)	767 uts.	10/05/12	767	15,704
			76,687	118,496
GenNx Novel Holding, Inc.				
A manufacturer and distributor of nutraceutical ingredients.				
15% (1% PIK) Senior Subordinated Note due 03/27/2020	\$1,609,919	03/27/14	1,589,862	1,028,738
Common Stock (B)	15,500 shs.	03/27/14	155,000	—
			1,744,862	1,028,738

See Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

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## Barings Participation Investors (formerly known as Babson Capital Participation Investors)

## CONSOLIDATED SCHEDULE OF INVESTMENTS (CONTINUED)

December 31, 2016

Corporate Restricted Securities: (A) (Continued)	Principal Amount, Shares, Units or Ownership Percentage	Acquisition Date	Cost	Fair Value
gloProfessional Holdings, Inc.				
A marketer and distributor of premium mineral-based cosmetics, cosmeceuticals and professional hair care products to the professional spa and physician's office channels.				
14% (2% PIK) Senior Subordinated Note due 03/27/2019	\$ 1,220,021	03/27/13	\$ 1,209,282	\$ 1,220,021
Common Stock (B)	1,181 shs.	03/27/13	118,110	122,911
			1,327,392	1,342,932
Glynlyon Holding Companies, Inc.				
A technology-enabled curriculum provider of K-12 and support services predominantly to small and medium public school districts.				
12% (1% PIK) Senior Subordinated Note due 01/05/2022	\$ 1,592,781	01/15/16	1,564,860	1,631,491
Common Stock (B)	147 shs.	01/15/16	147,436	165,693
			1,712,296	1,797,184
GlynnDevins Acquisition Corporation				
A marketing communications agency that services senior living facilities.				
Preferred Stock Series A (B)	342 shs.	06/19/15	70,683	78,062
Common Stock (B)	342 shs.	06/19/15	2,945	28,444
			73,628	106,506
Grakon Parent				
The leading designer and manufacturer of highly-engineered and customized LED and incandescent lighting systems for transportation-based markets.				
Common Stock (B)	175 shs.	10/31/14	174,831	148,841
GTI Holding Company				

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A designer, developer, and marketer of precision specialty hand tools and handheld test instruments.

12% Senior Subordinated Note due 02/05/2020	\$727,865	02/05/14	696,212	712,430
Common Stock (B)	846 shs.	02/05/14	84,636	90,272
Warrant, exercisable until 2024, to purchase common stock at \$.01 per share (B)	397 shs.	02/05/14	36,816	42,362
			817,664	845,064

See Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

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## 2016 Annual Report

## CONSOLIDATED SCHEDULE OF INVESTMENTS (CONTINUED)

December 31, 2016

Corporate Restricted Securities: (A) (Continued)	Principal Amount, Shares, Units or Ownership Percentage	Acquisition Date	Cost	Fair Value
<b>Handi Quilter Holding Company (Premier Needle Arts)</b>				
A designer and manufacturer of long-arm quilting machines and related components for the consumer quilting market.				
12% (1% PIK) Senior Subordinated Note due 06/19/2021	\$1,437,500	12/19/14	\$1,415,428	\$1,459,840
Limited Liability Company Unit Preferred (B)	359 uts.	*	359,375	324,132
Limited Liability Company Unit Common Class A (B)	3,594 uts.	12/19/14	—	—
			1,774,803	1,783,972
* 12/19/14 and 04/29/16.				
<b>Happy Floors Acquisition, Inc.</b>				
A wholesale importer and value-added distributor of premium European flooring tile to residential and commercial end markets.				
12.5% (1% PIK) Senior Subordinated Note due 07/01/2022	\$1,583,387	07/01/16	1,554,519	1,592,682
Common Stock (B)	150 shs.	07/01/16	149,500	132,063
			1,704,019	1,724,745
<b>Hartland Controls Holding Corporation</b>				
A manufacturer and distributor of electronic and electromechanical components.				
14% (2% PIK) Senior Subordinated Note due 08/14/2019	\$1,106,379	02/14/14	1,093,856	1,117,443
12% Senior Subordinated Note due 08/14/2019	\$431,250	06/22/15	428,306	439,875
Preferred Stock Series A (B)	1,140 shs.	02/14/14	114,011	129,337
Common Stock (B)	821 shs.	02/14/14	822	267,857
			1,636,995	1,954,512

Healthcare Direct Holding Company



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A direct-to-customer marketer of discount dental plans.

Common Stock (B)	517 shs.	03/09/12	21,419	84,602
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HHI Group, LLC

A developer, marketer, and distributor of hobby-grade radio control products.

14% (2% PIK) Senior Subordinated Note

due 01/17/2020	\$ 1,714,377	01/17/14	1,696,404	942,907
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Limited Liability Company Unit (B)(F)	102 uts.	01/17/14	101,563	—
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			1,797,967	942,907
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See Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

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## Barings Participation Investors (formerly known as Babson Capital Participation Investors)

## CONSOLIDATED SCHEDULE OF INVESTMENTS (CONTINUED)

December 31, 2016

Corporate Restricted Securities: (A) (Continued)	Principal Amount, Shares, Units or Ownership Percentage	Acquisition Date	Cost	Fair Value
Hollandia Produce LLC				
A hydroponic greenhouse producer of branded root vegetables.				
14.25% (2.75% PIK) Senior Subordinated Note due 12/11/2020	\$1,355,622	*	\$1,333,186	\$1,292,672

\* 12/30/15 and 12/23/16

## HOP Entertainment LLC

A provider of post production equipment and services to producers of television shows and motion pictures.

Limited Liability Company Unit Class F (B)(F)	47 uts.	10/14/11	—	—
Limited Liability Company Unit Class G (B)(F)	114 uts.	10/14/11	—	—
Limited Liability Company Unit Class H (B)(F)	47 uts.	10/14/11	—	—
Limited Liability Company Unit Class I (B)(F)	47 uts.	10/14/11	—	—
			—	—

## Hospitality Mints Holding Company

A manufacturer of individually-wrapped imprinted promotional mints.

12% Senior Subordinated Note due 10/01/2018	\$1,098,837	08/19/08	1,094,933	1,029,240
Common Stock (B)	251 shs.	08/19/08	251,163	20,012
Warrant, exercisable until 2018, to purchase common stock at \$.01 per share (B)	65 shs.	08/19/08	60,233	5,173
			1,406,329	1,054,425

HVAC Holdings, Inc.

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A provider of integrated energy efficiency services and maintenance programs for HVAC systems.

12% (1% PIK) Senior Subordinated Note due 07/19/2022	\$1,128,821	*	1,116,749	1,130,185
Limited Liability Company Unit Class A Preferred (B)	1,127 uts.	09/27/12	112,726	169,495
Limited Liability Company Unit Class A Common (B)	910 uts.	09/27/12	910	92,165
* 7/19/16 and 9/6/16			1,230,385	1,391,845

Ideal Tridon Holdings, Inc.

A designer and manufacturer of clamps and couplings used in automotive and industrial end markets.

Common Stock	93 shs.	10/27/11	77,462	173,292
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See Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

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## 2016 Annual Report

## CONSOLIDATED SCHEDULE OF INVESTMENTS (CONTINUED)

December 31, 2016

Corporate Restricted Securities: (A) (Continued)	Principal Amount, Shares, Units or Ownership Percentage	Acquisition Date	Cost	Fair Value
<b>Impact Confections</b>				
An independent manufacturer and marketer of confectionery products including Warheads® brand sour candies, Melster® brand classic candies, and co-manufactured/private label classic candies.				
13% (1% PIK) Senior Subordinated Note due 11/10/2020	\$1,086,749	11/10/14	\$1,071,229	\$1,080,905
Common Stock (B)	2,300 shs.	11/10/14	230,000	208,926
			1,301,229	1,289,831
<b>Insurance Claims Management, Inc.</b>				
A third party administrator providing auto and property claim administration services for insurance companies.				
Common Stock (B)	47 shs.	02/27/07	1,424	142,344
<b>Janus Group Holdings LLC</b>				
A manufacturer of roll-up doors and hallway systems that are primarily used in self-storage facilities.				
13.5% (1.5% PIK) Senior Subordinated Note due 06/10/2019	\$577,581	12/11/13	571,372	577,581
Limited Liability Company Unit Class A (B)(F)	283 uts.	12/11/13	379,581	1,556,776
			950,953	2,134,357
<b>JMH Investors LLC</b>				
A developer and manufacturer of custom formulations for a wide variety of foods.				
Limited Liability Company Unit (B)(F)	1,038,805 uts.	12/05/12	232,207	—
Limited Liability Company Unit Class A-1 (B)(F)	163,043 uts.	10/31/16	163,043	163,043
Limited Liability Company Unit Class A-2 (B)(F)	1,032,609 uts.	10/31/16	—	—

395,250      163,043

K N B Holdings Corporation

A designer, manufacturer and marketer of products for the custom framing market.

Common Stock (B)	71,053 shs.	05/24/06	71,053	87,415
Warrant, exercisable until 2018, to purchase common stock at \$.01 per share (B)	43,600 shs.	05/25/06	37,871	53,640
			108,924	141,055

K P I Holdings, Inc.

The largest player in the U.S. non-automotive, non-ferrous die casting segment.

Limited Liability Company Unit Class C

Preferred (B)	40 uts.	06/30/15	—	77,840
Common Stock (B)	353 shs.	07/15/08	285,619	216,200
			285,619	294,040

See Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

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## Barings Participation Investors (formerly known as Babson Capital Participation Investors)

## CONSOLIDATED SCHEDULE OF INVESTMENTS (CONTINUED)

December 31, 2016

Corporate Restricted Securities: (A) (Continued)	Principal Amount, Shares, Units or Ownership Percentage	Acquisition Date	Cost	Fair Value
<b>Kyjen Company</b>				
A designer and distributor of branded and private label dog toys and accessories primarily in the US.				
13% (1% PIK) Senior Subordinated Note due 10/14/2021	\$1,309,495	10/14/15	\$1,287,347	\$1,328,589
<b>Mail Communications Group, Inc.</b>				
A provider of mail processing and handling services, lettershop services, and commercial printing services.				
Limited Liability Company Unit	12,764 uts.	*	166,481	191,885
Warrant, exercisable until 2017, to purchase common stock at \$.01 per share (B)(F)	1,787 shs.	05/04/07	22,781	26,866
* 05/04/07 and 01/02/08.			189,262	218,751
<b>Manhattan Beachwear Holding Company</b>				
A designer and distributor of women's swimwear.				
12.5% Senior Subordinated Note due 01/15/2018 (D)	\$419,971	01/15/10	404,121	—
15% (2.5% PIK) Senior Subordinated Note due 01/15/2018 (D)	\$115,253	10/05/10	114,604	—
Common Stock (B)	35 shs.	10/05/10	35,400	—
Common Stock Class B (B)	118 shs.	01/15/10	117,647	—
Warrant, exercisable until 2019, to purchase common stock at \$.01 per share (B)	104 shs.	10/05/10	94,579	—
			766,351	—
<b>Master Cutlery LLC</b>				
A designer and marketer of a wide assortment of knives and swords.				
13% Senior Subordinated Note due 04/17/2020	\$872,543	04/17/15	865,307	820,770
Limited Liability Company Unit	5 uts.	04/17/15	678,329	183,327

1,543,636 1,004,097

MC Sign Holdings LLC

A provider of sign and lighting services nationwide.

11.75% (0.75% PIK) Senior Subordinated

Note due 09/15/2021	\$ 768,305	09/22/15	755,493	775,988
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101,500

Limited Liability Company Unit Class B (B) uts.		09/22/15	101,500	175,057
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856,993 951,045

See Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

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## 2016 Annual Report

## CONSOLIDATED SCHEDULE OF INVESTMENTS (CONTINUED)

December 31, 2016

Corporate Restricted Securities: (A) (Continued)	Principal Amount, Shares, Units or Ownership Percentage	Acquisition Date	Cost	Fair Value
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## Merex Holding Corporation

A provider of after-market spare parts and components, as well as maintenance, repair and overhaul services for "out of production" or "legacy" aerospace and defense systems that are no longer effectively supported by the original equipment manufacturers.

16% Senior Subordinated Note due 10/30/2019 (D)	\$454,295	09/22/11	\$449,013	\$340,721
15% PIK Senior Subordinated Note due 04/30/2022 (D)	\$23,839	08/18/15	23,839	—
14% PIK Senior Subordinated Note due 06/30/2019	\$31,492	10/21/16	31,492	31,245
Common Stock Class A (B)	77,118 shs.	08/18/15	170,705	—
			675,049	371,966

## MES Partners, Inc.

An industrial service business offering an array of cleaning and environmental services to the Gulf Coast region of the U.S.

12% (1% PIK) Senior Subordinated Note due 09/30/2021	\$1,106,636	09/30/14	1,090,069	1,078,937
	219,545			
Common Stock Class B (B)	shs.	09/30/14	219,545	90,843
			1,309,614	1,169,780

## Midwest Industrial Rubber, Inc.

A supplier of industrial maintenance, repair, and operations ("MRO") products, specializing in the fabrication and distribution of lightweight conveyor belting and related conveyor components and accessories.

12% (1% PIK) Senior Subordinated Note due 12/02/2022	\$1,554,894	12/02/16	1,524,112	1,561,434
Preferred Stock (B)	1,711 shs.	12/02/16	171,116	171,116
Common Stock (B)	242 shs.	12/02/16	242	242



1,695,470 1,732,792

**MNX Holding Company**

An international third party logistics company providing customized logistics services to customers across the globe.

14% (2% PIK) Senior Subordinated

Note due 11/02/2019	\$1,309,766	11/02/12	1,297,100	1,309,766
Common Stock (B)	45 shs.	11/02/12	44,643	34,163
			1,341,743	1,343,929

See Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

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## Barings Participation Investors (formerly known as Babson Capital Participation Investors)

## CONSOLIDATED SCHEDULE OF INVESTMENTS (CONTINUED)

December 31, 2016

Corporate Restricted Securities: (A) (Continued)	Principal Amount, Shares, Units or Ownership Percentage	Acquisition Date	Cost	Fair Value
<b>Money Mailer Equity LLC</b>				
A leading provider of hyperlocal shared direct mail advertising as well as interactive and online advertising solutions through its nationwide production and distribution network.				
12% (1% PIK) Senior Subordinated Note due 10/29/2021	\$1,735,179	04/29/16	\$1,704,360	\$1,702,229
<b>Motion Controls Holdings</b>				
A manufacturer of high performance mechanical motion control and linkage products.				
14.25% (1.75% PIK) Senior Subordinated Note due 08/15/2020	\$1,009,479	11/30/10	1,002,523	1,009,479
Limited Liability Company Unit Class B-1 (B)(F)	75,000 uts.	11/30/10	—	47,619
Limited Liability Company Unit Class B-2 (B)(F)	6,801 uts.	11/30/10	—	4,318
			1,002,523	1,061,416
<b>NetShape Technologies, Inc.</b>				
A manufacturer of powder metal and metal injection molded precision components used in industrial, consumer, and other applications.				
12% Senior Subordinated Note due 06/10/2020 (D)	\$810,000	02/02/07	809,408	—
Limited Partnership Interest of Saw Mill PCG Partners LLC (B)	1.46% int.	02/01/07	588,077	—
Limited Liability Company Unit Class D of Saw Mill PCG Partners LLC (B)	9 uts.	*	8,873	—
Limited Liability Company Unit Class D-1 of Saw Mill PCG Partners LLC (B)	121 uts.	09/30/09	121,160	—
Limited Liability Company Unit Class D-2 of Saw Mill PCG Partners LLC (B)	68 uts.	04/29/11	34,547	—
Limited Liability Company Unit Class D-3 of Saw Mill PCG Partners LLC (B)	104 uts.	12/10/14	103,904	—
			1,665,969	—

\* 12/18/08 and 09/30/09.

NSi Industries Holdings, Inc.

A manufacturer and distributor of electrical components and accessories to small to mid-sized electrical wholesalers.

12.75% (1.75% PIK) Senior Subordinated

Note due 05/17/2023	\$1,527,814	06/30/16	1,500,242	1,533,103
Common Stock (B)	207 shs.	05/17/16	207,000	250,814
			1,707,242	1,783,917

See Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

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## 2016 Annual Report

## CONSOLIDATED SCHEDULE OF INVESTMENTS (CONTINUED)

December 31, 2016

Corporate Restricted Securities: (A) (Continued)	Principal Amount, Shares, Units or Ownership Percentage	Acquisition Date	Cost	Fair Value
<b>O E C Holding Corporation</b>				
A provider of elevator maintenance, repair and modernization services.				
Preferred Stock Series A (B)	554 shs.	06/04/10	\$55,354	\$71,791
Preferred Stock Series B (B)	311 shs.	06/04/10	31,125	55,532
Common Stock (B)	344 shs.	06/04/10	344	69,811
			86,823	197,134
<b>PANOS Brands LLC</b>				
A marketer and distributor of branded consumer foods in the specialty, natural, better-for-you, "free from" healthy and gluten-free categories.				
12% (1% PIK) Senior Subordinated Note due 07/29/2021	\$1,449,000 276,000	01/29/16	1,423,626	1,484,300
Common Stock Class A (B)	shs.	01/29/16	276,000	323,388
			1,699,626	1,807,688
<b>Pearlman Enterprises, Inc.</b>				
A developer and distributor of tools, equipment and supplies to the natural and engineered stone industry.				
Preferred Stock Series A (B)	1,236 shs.	05/22/09	59,034	1,235,800
Preferred Stock Series B (B)	7,059 shs.	05/22/09	290,050	243,168
Common Stock (B)	21,462 shs.	05/22/09	993,816	—
			1,342,900	1,478,968
<b>Petroplex Inv Holdings LLC</b>				
A leading provider of acidizing services to E&P customers in the Permian Basin. Limited Liability Company				
	0.40% int.	*	175,339	19,089

\* 11/29/12 and 12/20/16

Polytex Holdings LLC

A manufacturer of water based inks and related products serving primarily the wall covering market.

13% (1% PIK) Senior Subordinated Note due 01/31/2020	\$1,062,000	07/31/14	1,048,573	1,036,310
	148,096			
Limited Liability Company Unit	uts.	07/31/14	148,096	48,102
			1,196,669	1,084,412

Power Stop Holdings LLC

A supplier of performance upgrade aftermarket brake products.

11% Senior Subordinated Note due 05/29/2022	\$1,610,100	05/29/15	1,584,654	1,642,302
Limited Liability Company Unit Preferred (B)(F)	1,149 uts.	05/29/15	114,900	131,223
Limited Liability Company Unit Common (B)(F)	1,149 uts.	05/29/15	—	79,165
			1,699,554	1,852,690

See Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

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## Barings Participation Investors (formerly known as Babson Capital Participation Investors)

## CONSOLIDATED SCHEDULE OF INVESTMENTS (CONTINUED)

December 31, 2016

Corporate Restricted Securities: (A) (Continued)	Principal Amount, Shares, Units or Ownership Percentage	Acquisition Date	Cost	Fair Value
<b>PPC Event Services</b>				
A special event equipment rental business.				
14% (2% PIK) Senior Subordinated Note due 05/20/2020				
Limited Liability Company Unit (B)	\$ 1,166,893	11/20/14	\$ 1,151,233	\$ 1,166,893
Limited Liability Company Unit Series A-1 (B)	3,450 uts.	11/20/14	172,500	471,636
	339 uts.	03/16/16	42,419	53,747
			1,366,152	1,692,276
<b>Randy's Worldwide Automotive</b>				
A designer and distributor of automotive aftermarket parts.				
11.5% Senior Subordinated Note due 05/12/2021				
Common Stock (B)	\$ 1,135,898	05/12/15	1,119,043	1,158,616
	118 shs.	05/12/15	118,476	179,520
			1,237,519	1,338,136
<b>Safety Infrastructure Solutions</b>				
A provider of trench safety equipment to a diverse customer base across multiple end markets in Texas and the Southwestern United States.				
Preferred Stock (B)	2,098 shs.	03/30/12	83,920	126,487
Common Stock (B)	983 shs.	03/30/12	9,830	193,855
			93,750	320,342
<b>Signature Systems Holding Company</b>				
A seller and installer of a variety of modular surfaces, industrial matting and related products used for ground protection.				
Common Stock (B)	76 shs.	03/15/13	75,509	34,749
Warrant, exercisable until 2023, to purchase common stock A at \$.01 per share (B)	31 shs.	03/15/13	28,316	14,197

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			103,825	48,946
Smart Source Holdings LLC				
A short-term computer rental company.				
Limited Liability Company Unit (B)	328 uts.	*	261,262	415,349
Warrant, exercisable until 2020, to purchase common stock at \$.01 per share (B)	83 shs.	*	67,467	105,208
* 08/31/07 and 03/06/08.			328,729	520,557

See Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

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## 2016 Annual Report

## CONSOLIDATED SCHEDULE OF INVESTMENTS (CONTINUED)

December 31, 2016

Corporate Restricted Securities: (A) (Continued)	Principal Amount, Shares, Units or Ownership Percentage	Acquisition Date	Cost	Fair Value
<b>SMB Machinery Holdings, Inc.</b>				
A reseller of used, rebuilt and refurbished packaging and processing equipment, primarily serving the bottling and food manufacturing industries.				
14% (2% PIK) Senior Subordinated				
Note due 10/18/2019 (D)	\$738,694	10/18/13	\$726,147	\$—
Common Stock (B)	841 shs.	10/18/13	84,100	—
			810,247	—
<b>Software Paradigms International Group, LLC</b>				
An outsourced IT services provider focused on the retail industry.				
12.5% (1.5% PIK) Senior Subordinated				
Note due 11/23/2021	\$1,725,000	05/23/16	1,693,237	1,728,129
<b>Strahman Holdings Inc</b>				
A manufacturer of industrial valves and wash down equipment for a variety of industries, including chemical, petrochemical, polymer, pharmaceutical, food processing, beverage and mining.				
14% (2% PIK) Senior Subordinated				
Note due 06/13/2019	\$1,059,783	12/13/13	1,045,337	1,042,835
	158,967			
Preferred Stock Series A (B)	shs.	12/13/13	158,967	135,122
Preferred Stock Series A-2 (B)	26,543 shs.	09/10/15	29,994	22,562
			1,234,298	1,200,519
<b>Sunrise Windows Holding Company</b>				
A manufacturer and marketer of premium vinyl windows exclusively selling to the residential remodeling and replacement market.				
16% Senior Subordinated Note due				
12/14/2017 (D)	\$1,372,356	*	1,358,229	960,649
Common Stock (B)	38 shs.	12/14/10	38,168	—
Warrant, exercisable until 2020, to purchase	37 shs.	12/14/10	37,249	—



common stock at \$.01 per share (B)

\* 12/14/10, 08/17/12 and 03/31/16. 1,433,646 960,649

Sunvair Aerospace Group Inc.

An aerospace maintenance, repair, and overhaul provider servicing landing gears on narrow body aircraft.

12% (1% PIK) Senior Subordinated

Note due 07/31/2021	\$1,218,639	07/31/15	1,199,559	1,191,831
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Common Stock (B)	68 shs.	07/31/15	78,150	37,434
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			1,277,709	1,229,265
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See Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

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## Barings Participation Investors (formerly known as Babson Capital Participation Investors)

## CONSOLIDATED SCHEDULE OF INVESTMENTS (CONTINUED)

December 31, 2016

Corporate Restricted Securities: (A) (Continued)	Principal Amount, Shares, Units or Ownership Percentage	Acquisition Date	Cost	Fair Value
<b>Team Drive-Away Holdings LLC</b>				
An asset-light provider of over the road driveway services for class 8 trucks and specialized equipment.				
12.5% (1.5% PIK) Senior Subordinated				
Note due 04/15/2021	\$766,700	10/15/15	\$753,889	\$778,127
Limited Liability Company Unit (B)	95,800 uts.	10/15/15	95,800	107,392
			849,689	885,519
<b>Torrent Group Holdings, Inc.</b>				
A contractor specializing in the sales and installation of engineered drywells for the retention and filtration of stormwater and nuisance water flow.				
15% (7.5% PIK) Senior Subordinated				
Note due 12/05/2020 (D)	\$67,125	12/05/13	219,203	67,125
Warrant, exercisable until 2023, to purchase common stock at \$.01 per share (B)	28,079 shs.	12/05/13	—	11,512
			219,203	78,637
<b>Tranzonic Holdings LLC</b>				
A producer of commercial and industrial supplies, such as safety products, janitorial supplies, work apparel, washroom and restroom supplies and sanitary care products.				
Limited Liability Company Unit	147,727			
Preferred Class A (B)	shs.	07/05/13	147,727	218,582
<b>Tristar Global Energy Solutions, Inc.</b>				
A hydrocarbon and decontamination services provider serving refineries worldwide.				
12.5% (1.5% PIK) Senior Subordinated				
Note due 07/31/2020	\$1,143,391	01/23/15	1,127,539	1,166,258

**Veritext Corporation**

A provider of stenographic staffing and other services used during the legal deposition process.

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10.75% Second Lien Term Loan due 01/29/2023	\$1,725,000	01/21/16	1,695,060	1,725,000
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VP Holding Company

A provider of school transportation services for special-needs and homeless children in  
Massachusetts.

Common Stock (B)	3,632 shs.	03/31/14	363,158	401,147
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See Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

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## 2016 Annual Report

## CONSOLIDATED SCHEDULE OF INVESTMENTS (CONTINUED)

December 31, 2016

Corporate Restricted Securities: (A) (Continued)	Principal Amount, Shares, Units or Ownership Percentage	Acquisition Date	Cost	Fair Value
<b>Wellborn Forest Holding Company</b>				
A manufacturer of semi-custom kitchen and bath cabinetry.				
8% Senior Subordinated Note due 09/30/2017 (D)	\$ 1,680,931	11/30/06	\$867,531	\$1,512,838
Common Stock (B)	101 shs.	11/30/06	101,250	—
Warrant, exercisable until 2017, to purchase common stock at \$.01 per share (B)	51 shs.	11/30/06	45,790	—
			1,014,571	1,512,838
<b>Westminster Acquisition LLC</b>				
A manufacturer of premium, all-natural oyster cracker products sold under the Westminster and Olde Cape Cod brands.				
12% (1% PIK) Senior Subordinated Note due 02/03/2021	\$ 375,486	08/03/15	369,829	378,985
Limited Liability Company Unit (B)(F)	370,241 uts.	08/03/15	370,241	456,225
			740,070	835,210
<b>Whitcraft Holdings, Inc.</b>				
A leading independent manufacturer of precision formed, machined, and fabricated flight-critical aerospace components.				
Common Stock (B)	205 shs.	12/16/10	205,480	292,372
Warrant, exercisable until 2018, to purchase common stock at \$.01 per share (B)	55 shs.	12/16/10	49,334	78,571
			254,814	370,943
<b>Wolf-Gordon, Inc.</b>				
A designer and specialty distributor of wallcoverings and related building products, including textiles, paint, and writeable surfaces.				
12.5% (1.5% PIK) Senior Subordinated Note due 07/22/2021	\$ 1,590,450	01/22/16	1,563,022	1,616,394

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Common Stock (B)	157 shs.	01/22/16	156,818	172,197
			1,719,840	1,788,591

WP Supply Holding Corporation

A distributor of fresh fruits and vegetables to grocery wholesalers and foodservice distributors in the upper Midwest.

14.5% (2.5% PIK) Senior Subordinated

Note due 06/12/2020	\$ 966,680	11/03/11	960,404	966,680
Common Stock (B)	1,500 shs.	11/03/11	150,000	145,020
			1,110,404	1,111,700

See Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

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## Barings Participation Investors (formerly known as Babson Capital Participation Investors)

## CONSOLIDATED SCHEDULE OF INVESTMENTS (CONTINUED)

December 31, 2016

Corporate Restricted Securities: (A) (Continued)	Principal Amount, Shares, Units or Ownership Percentage	Acquisition Date	Cost	Fair Value
York Wall Holding Company				
A designer, manufacturer and marketer of wall covering products for both residential and commercial wall coverings.				
12.5% (1.5% PIK) Senior Subordinated				
Note due 03/04/2021	\$1,584,137	03/04/15	\$1,560,355	\$1,369,132
Common Stock (B)	1,835 shs.	03/04/15	183,500	66,834
			1,743,855	1,435,966
Total Private Placement Investments (E)			\$97,075,180	\$94,771,586

See Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

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32

## 2016 Annual Report

## CONSOLIDATED SCHEDULE OF INVESTMENTS (CONTINUED)

December 31, 2016

Corporate Restricted Securities: (A) (Continued)	Interest Rate	Maturity Date	Principal Amount	Cost	Market Value
Rule 144A Securities - 13.31%:					
Bonds - 13.31%					
Altice Financing S.A.	7.500	% 05/15/26	\$ 400,000	\$ 400,000	\$ 416,000
Amsted Industries	5.375	09/15/24	240,000	240,000	235,800
A. Schulman Inc.	6.875	06/01/23	500,000	506,088	522,500
Beazer Homes USA, Inc.	8.750	03/15/22	160,000	160,000	172,800
Belden Inc.	5.250	07/15/24	210,000	210,000	211,050
Boise Cascade Company	5.625	09/01/24	130,000	130,000	129,025
CITGO Petroleum Corporation	6.250	08/15/22	425,000	425,000	442,000
Consolidated Energy Finance S.A.	6.750	10/15/19	500,000	495,038	500,000
Constellium N.V.	7.875	04/01/21	373,000	373,000	400,974
Cornerstone Chemical Company	9.375	03/15/18	500,000	503,745	501,250
CTP Transportation Products, LLC	8.250	12/15/19	310,000	310,000	267,375
CVR Partners, LP.	9.250	06/15/23	500,000	488,220	515,000
Dean Foods	6.500	03/15/23	329,000	329,000	346,272
Dell Inc.	4.420	06/15/21	600,000	626,826	620,847
Digicel Group Limited	6.000	04/15/21	500,000	459,222	452,235
First Data Corporation	5.000	01/15/24	406,000	406,000	408,160
HD Supply, Inc.	5.250	12/15/21	127,000	127,000	133,984
Hilcorp Energy Company	5.000	12/01/24	335,000	335,000	332,488
Hughes Satellite Systems Corporation	6.625	08/01/26	500,000	496,577	502,500
J.B. Poindexter Co., Inc.	9.000	04/01/22	500,000	500,000	525,000
Jupiter Resources Inc.	8.500	10/01/22	500,000	472,924	431,250
OPE KAG Finance Sub	7.875	07/31/23	500,000	520,954	505,000
LBC Tank Terminals Holding Netherlands B.V.	6.875	05/15/23	663,000	678,637	677,918
Mallinckrodt PLC	5.750	08/01/22	500,000	500,000	481,250
MEG Energy Corporation	6.375	01/30/23	500,000	500,000	445,000
Micron Technology, Inc.	5.250	08/01/23	494,000	494,000	495,853
Micron Technology, Inc.	7.500	09/15/23	203,000	203,000	224,823
Moog Inc.	5.250	12/01/22	500,000	503,281	510,000
Nielsen Finance LLC	5.000	04/15/22	271,000	272,565	276,081
Penske Corporation	4.875	07/11/22	500,000	498,616	536,556
Prime Security Services Borrower	9.250	05/15/23	500,000	500,000	544,375
Sabre GLOBL, Inc.	5.250	11/15/23	122,000	122,000	125,278
Sinclair Broadcast Group, Inc.	5.875	03/15/26	204,000	204,000	204,510
Sinclair Television Group, Inc.	5.125	02/15/27	500,000	500,000	475,000



See Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

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33

## Barings Participation Investors (formerly known as Babson Capital Participation Investors)

## CONSOLIDATED SCHEDULE OF INVESTMENTS (CONTINUED)

December 31, 2016

Corporate Restricted Securities: (A) (Continued)	Interest Rate	Maturity Date	Principal Amount	Cost	Market Value
Suncoke Energy	7.375	%02/01/20	\$500,000	\$472,952	\$497,500
Tallgrass Operations LLC	5.500	09/15/24	304,000	304,000	301,720
TeamHealth Holdings Inc	7.250	12/15/23	115,000	115,000	130,813
Topaz Marine S.A.	8.625	11/01/18	500,000	500,000	485,000
Unitymedia KabelBW GmbH	6.125	01/15/25	500,000	500,000	513,750
Univision Communications, Inc.	5.125	05/15/23	160,000	160,000	157,600
UPCB Finance IV Limited	5.375	01/15/25	208,000	208,000	209,560
Valeant Pharmaceuticals International	7.000	10/01/20	250,000	250,435	215,469
Virgin Media Secured Finance PLC	5.250	01/15/26	500,000	503,259	493,749
VRX Escrow Corp.	6.125	04/15/25	182,000	182,000	136,728
Welltec A/S	8.000	02/01/19	375,000	372,140	376,875
West Corporation	5.375	07/15/22	500,000	492,583	483,124
Western Digital Corporation	10.500	04/01/24	253,000	253,000	299,173
Wolverine World Wide, Inc.	5.000	09/01/26	335,000	335,000	322,438
Total Bonds				18,139,062	18,191,653
Common Stock - 0.00%					
TherOX, Inc. (B)			2	—	—
Touchstone Health Partnership (B)			292	—	—
Total Common Stock				—	—
Total Rule 144A Securities				18,139,062	18,191,653
Total Corporate Restricted Securities				\$115,214,242	\$112,963,239

See Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements



## 2016 Annual Report

## CONSOLIDATED SCHEDULE OF INVESTMENTS (CONTINUED)

December 31, 2016

Corporate Public Securities - 19.57%: (A)	Interest Rate	Maturity Date	Principal Amount	Cost	Market Value
Bank Loans - 0.36%					
Aquilex Holdings LLC	5.000	% 12/31/20	\$ 157,303	\$ 157,077	\$ 153,173
Seadrill Partners Finco, LLC	4.000	02/21/21	494,898	238,437	337,026
Total Bank Loans				395,514	490,199
Bonds - 19.21%					
ADT Security Services Corporation	4.125	06/15/23	500,000	440,305	477,500
Air Lease Corp.	3.000	09/15/23	600,000	594,612	573,232
Alcoa, Inc.	6.150	08/15/20	600,000	615,591	652,500
Anglogold Holdings PLC	5.375	04/15/20	600,000	602,613	616,500
Anixter, Inc.	5.125	10/01/21	165,000	165,000	171,600
Antero Resources Corporation	5.375	11/01/21	395,000	395,000	403,888
Bank of America Corporation	4.000	04/01/24	500,000	498,569	515,670
Brunswick Corporation	7.125	08/01/27	500,000	504,007	583,750
Bunge Limited Finance Corp.	3.250	08/15/26	600,000	602,135	576,165
Clearwater Paper Corporation	4.500	02/01/23	500,000	496,640	490,000
Commercial Metals Company	4.875	05/15/23	750,000	751,091	753,750
Crown Castle International Corp	5.250	01/15/23	600,000	671,906	645,750
CVR Refining LLC	6.500	11/01/22	350,000	341,324	347,375
Discovery Communications	4.900	03/11/26	600,000	653,571	631,811
Duke Realty Limited Partnership	3.875	10/15/22	500,000	501,271	520,063
EP Energy Corporation	9.375	05/01/20	406,000	198,984	374,279
Expedia Inc.	4.500	08/15/24	600,000	627,457	609,736
Ferrellgas Partners, L.P.	8.625	06/15/20	650,000	650,582	640,250
Ford Motor Credit Co. LLC	4.375	08/06/23	600,000	647,970	619,200
Forum Energy Technologies	6.250	10/01/21	160,000	160,000	160,000
Frontier Communications Corporation	6.875	01/15/25	500,000	490,730	423,750
General Motors Financial Co. Inc.	4.000	01/15/25	500,000	508,649	487,821
GEO Group, Inc.	5.875	01/15/22	500,000	475,066	506,250
HealthSouth Corporation	5.125	03/15/23	421,000	412,647	416,789
Hertz Corporation	6.750	04/15/19	79,000	78,541	79,000
Hornbeck Offshore Services, Inc.	1.500	09/01/19	500,000	257,500	354,688
Hospital Corporation of America	5.375	02/01/25	100,000	101,574	100,250
Hospital Corporation of America	5.250	06/15/26	174,000	174,000	179,873
Hewlett Packard Enterprise Company	4.900	10/15/25	500,000	498,571	514,407
Icahn Enterprises L.P.	6.000	08/01/20	600,000	607,084	612,750

See Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

---

35

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Barings Participation Investors (formerly known as Babson Capital Participation Investors)

CONSOLIDATED SCHEDULE OF INVESTMENTS (CONTINUED)

December 31, 2016

Corporate Public Securities: (A) (Continued)	Interest Rate	Maturity Date	Principal Amount	Cost	Market Value
Jabil Circuit, Inc.	4.700	%09/15/22	\$500,000	\$499,988	\$510,000
Laboratory Corporation of America Holdings	3.600	02/01/25	500,000	499,343	497,810
Lamar Media Corp.	5.375	01/15/24	160,000	160,000	165,600
Laredo Petroleum, Inc.	5.625	01/15/22	500,000	473,387	503,750
Lazard Group LLC	4.250	11/14/20	500,000	499,030	523,378
Lifepoint Hospitals, Inc.	5.500	12/01/21	350,000	357,240	364,000
LyondellBasell Industries N.V.	5.750	04/15/24	500,000	593,852	572,213
MasTec, Inc.	4.875	03/15/23	500,000	492,649	488,750
Meritor, Inc.	6.750	06/15/21	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,022,500
MPLX LP	4.875	12/01/24	500,000	500,000	514,847
Netflix, Inc.	5.500	02/15/22	299,000	299,000	322,173
Owens Corning	4.200	12/01/24	600,000	636,839	614,628
Perry Ellis International, Inc.	7.875	04/01/19	125,000	124,487	125,000
Pitney Bowes Inc.	3.375	10/01/21	500,000	499,622	485,442
Precision Drilling Corporation	6.625	11/15/20	149,477	151,932	151,720
Reinsurance Group of America	3.950	09/15/26	500,000	503,150	494,665
R.R. Donnelley & Sons Company	6.000	04/01/24	500,000	500,000	471,250
Sanchez Energy Corporation	6.125	01/15/23	500,000	361,364	475,000
Sprint Corporation	7.125	06/15/24	155,000	155,000	159,650
Steelcase, Inc.	6.375	02/15/21	500,000	504,225	558,858
Suburban Propane Partners, L.P.	5.750	03/01/25	500,000	500,000	507,500
Summit Midstream Holdings, LLC	5.500	08/15/22	92,000	67,493	89,700
Time Warner Cable, Inc.	5.000	02/01/20	500,000	496,262	530,665
Tyson Foods, Inc.	4.500	06/15/22	500,000	510,045	532,063
William Lyon Homes	7.000	08/15/22	500,000	500,000	517,500
WPX Energy, Inc.	5.250	09/15/24	425,000	425,000	412,250
Xlit Ltd	4.450	03/31/25	600,000	614,117	594,941
Total Bonds				25,647,015	26,244,450
Total Corporate Public Securities				\$26,042,529	\$26,734,649

See Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements



## 2016 Annual Report

## CONSOLIDATED SCHEDULE OF INVESTMENTS (CONTINUED)

December 31, 2016

Short-Term Security:	Interest Rate/Yield <sup>^</sup>	Maturity Date	Principal Amount	Cost	Market Value
Commercial Paper - 7.32%					
Avangrid, Inc.	0.850	%01/05/17	\$2,000,000	\$1,999,811	\$1,999,811
Kroger Co.	0.900	01/04/17	2,000,000	1,999,850	1,999,850
Kroger Co.	0.850	01/03/17	2,000,000	1,999,906	1,999,906
Southern Co.	0.900	01/06/17	2,000,000	1,999,750	1,999,750
Tate & Lyle International	1.050	01/04/17	2,000,000	1,999,825	1,999,825
Total Short-Term Security				\$9,999,142	\$9,999,142
Total Investments	109.58	%		\$151,255,913	\$149,697,030
Other Assets	4.49				6,126,506
Liabilities	(14.07	)			(19,216,805 )
Total Net Assets	100.00	%			\$136,606,731

(A) In each of the convertible note, warrant, and common stock investments, the issuer has agreed to provide certain registration rights.

(B) Non-income producing security.

(C) Security valued at fair value using methods determined in good faith by or under the direction of the Board of Trustees.

(D) Defaulted security; interest not accrued.

(E) Illiquid security. As of December 31, 2016 the values of these securities amounted to \$94,771,586 or 69.38% of net assets.

(F) Held in CI Subsidiary Trust

PIK - Payment-in-kind



See Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

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37

## Barings Participation Investors (formerly known as Babson Capital Participation Investors)

## CONSOLIDATED SCHEDULE OF INVESTMENTS (CONTINUED)

December 31, 2016

Industry Classification:	Fair Value/ Market Value
<b>AEROSPACE &amp; DEFENSE - 2.81%</b>	
API Technologies Corp.	\$1,658,220
FMH Holdings Corporation	209,178
Merex Holding Corporation	371,966
Sunvair Aerospace Group Inc.	1,229,265
Whitcraft Holdings, Inc.	370,943
	3,839,572
<b>AUTOMOTIVE - 8.49%</b>	
Aurora Parts & Accessories LLC	1,710,191
CG Holdings Manufacturing Company	1,829,763
DPL Holding Corporation	1,555,386
Ford Motor Credit Co. LLC	619,200
General Motors Financial Co. Inc.	487,821
Grakon Parent	148,841
J.B. Poindexter Co., Inc.	525,000
Meritor, Inc.	1,022,500
Moog Inc.	510,000
Power Stop Holdings LLC	1,852,690
Randy's Worldwide Automotive	1,338,136
	11,599,528
<b>BANKING - 0.38%</b>	
Bank of America Corporation	515,670
<b>BROKERAGE, ASSET MANAGERS &amp; EXCHANGES - 0.83%</b>	
Icahn Enterprises L.P.	612,750
Lazard Group LLC	523,378
	1,136,128
<b>BUILDING MATERIALS - 10.70%</b>	
ARI Holding Corporation	2,362,369
Boise Cascade Company	129,025
Janus Group Holdings LLC	2,134,357
Happy Floors Acquisition, Inc.	1,724,745
NSi Industries Holdings, Inc.	1,783,917
Owens Corning	614,628
Pearlman Enterprises, Inc.	1,478,968
	Fair Value/ Market

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	Value
Signature Systems Holding Company	\$48,946
Sunrise Windows Holding Company	960,649
Torrent Group Holdings, Inc.	78,637
Wellborn Forest Holding Company	1,512,838
Wolf-Gordon, Inc.	1,788,591
	14,617,670

CABLE & SATELLITE - 1.65%

Hughes Satellite Systems Corporation	502,500
Time Warner Cable, Inc.	530,665
Unitymedia KabelBW GmbH	513,750
UPCB Finance IV Limited	209,560
Virgin Media Secured Finance PLC	493,749
	2,250,224

CHEMICALS - 3.29%

A. Schulman Inc.	522,500
Compass Chemical International LLC	117,908
Consolidated Energy Finance S.A.	500,000
Cornerstone Chemical Company	501,250
CVR Partners, LP.	515,000
LBC Tank Terminals Holding Netherlands B.V.	677,918
LyondellBasell Industries N.V.	572,213
Polytex Holdings LLC	1,084,412
	4,491,201

CONSTRUCTION MACHINERY - 0.23%

Safety Infrastructure Solutions	320,342
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CONSUMER CYCLICAL SERVICES - 3.49%

ADT Security Services Corporation	477,500
CHG Alternative Education Holding Company	1,062,362
Church Services Holding Company	—
GEO Group, Inc.	506,250
PPC Event Services	1,692,276
Prime Security Services Borrower	544,375
West Corporation	483,124
	4,765,887

See Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

## 2016 Annual Report

## CONSOLIDATED SCHEDULE OF INVESTMENTS (CONTINUED)

December 31, 2016

Industry Classification: (Continued)	Fair Value/ Market Value
<b>CONSUMER PRODUCTS - 8.93%</b>	
AMS Holding LLC	\$254,622
Blue Wave Products, Inc.	794,535
Elite Sportswear Holding, LLC	1,710,841
gloProfessional Holdings, Inc.	1,342,932
GTI Holding Company	845,064
Handi Quilter Holding Company	1,783,972
HHI Group, LLC	942,907
K N B Holdings Corporation	141,055
Kyjen Company	1,328,589
Manhattan Beachwear Holding Company	—
MasTec, Inc.	488,750
Master Cutlery LLC	1,004,097
Perry Ellis International, Inc.	125,000
York Wall Holding Company	1,435,966
	12,198,330
<b>DIVERSIFIED MANUFACTURING - 4.85%</b>	
ABC Industries, Inc.	367,626
Advanced Manufacturing Enterprises LLC	—
Airxcel Holdings	1,993,019
Amsted Industries	235,800
Belden Inc.	211,050
BP SCI LLC	345,184
CTP Transportation Products, LLC	267,375
F G I Equity LLC	320,401
Forum Energy Technologies	160,000
Ideal Tridon Holdings, Inc.	173,292
K P I Holdings, Inc.	294,040
Motion Controls Holdings	1,061,416
NetShape Technologies, Inc.	—
Strahman Holdings Inc	1,200,519
	6,629,722
<b>ELECTRIC - 2.72%</b>	
AM Conservation Holding Corp.	1,712,479
Avangrid, Inc.	1,999,811
	3,712,290
	Fair Value/ Market

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	Value
FINANCE COMPANIES - 0.42%	
Air Lease Corp.	\$573,232
FINANCIAL OTHER - 0.10%	
Insurance Claims Management, Inc.	142,344
FOOD & BEVERAGE - 11.76%	
1492 Acquisition LLC	293,594
Bunge Limited Finance Corp.	576,165
Dean Foods	346,272
Del Real LLC	1,701,686
Eagle Family Foods, Inc.	1,717,390
F F C Holding Corporation	313,149
GenNx Novel Holding, Inc.	1,028,738
Hollandia Produce LLC	1,292,672
Hospitality Mints Holding Company	1,054,425
Impact Confections	1,289,831
JMH Investors LLC	163,043
PANOS Brands LLC	1,807,688
Tate & Lyle International	1,999,825
Tyson Foods, Inc.	532,063
Westminster Acquisition LLC	835,210
WP Supply Holding Corporation	1,111,700
	16,063,451
GAMING - 1.22%	
CTM Holding, Inc.	1,667,346
HEALTHCARE - 3.30%	
CORA Health Services, Inc.	848,630
ECG Consulting Group	1,416,475
GD Dental Services LLC	118,496
Healthcare Direct Holding Company	84,602
HealthSouth Corporation	416,789
Hospital Corporation of America	280,123
Laboratory Corporation of America Holdings	497,810
Lifepoint Hospitals, Inc.	364,000
TeamHealth Holdings Inc	130,813
TherOX, Inc.	—

See Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

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Barings Participation Investors (formerly known as Babson Capital Participation Investors)

## CONSOLIDATED SCHEDULE OF INVESTMENTS (CONTINUED)

December 31, 2016

Industry Classification: (Continued)	Fair Value/ Market Value
Touchstone Health Partnership	\$—
Valeant Pharmaceuticals International	215,469
VRX Escrow Corp.	136,728
	4,509,935
 HEALTH INSURANCE - 0.36%	
Reinsurance Group of America	494,665
 HOME CONSTRUCTION - 0.51%	
Beazer Homes USA, Inc.	172,800
William Lyon Homes	517,500
	690,300
 INDEPENDENT - 2.04%	
Antero Resources Corporation	403,888
EP Energy Corporation	374,279
Jupiter Resources Inc.	431,250
Laredo Petroleum, Inc.	503,750
MEG Energy Corporation	445,000
Precision Drilling Corporation	151,720
Sanchez Energy Corporation	475,000
	2,784,887
 INDUSTRIAL OTHER - 8.78%	
AFC - Dell Holding Corporation	1,339,902
Aquilex Holdings LLC	153,173
Brunswick Corporation	583,750
Clough, Harbour and Associates	623,893
Connecticut Electric, Inc.	1,270,401
Hartland Controls Holding Corporation	1,954,512
HVAC Holdings, Inc.	1,391,845
Mail Communications Group, Inc.	218,751
MC Sign Holdings LLC	951,045
Midwest Industrial Rubber, Inc.	1,732,792
Nielsen Finance LLC	276,081
O E C Holding Corporation	197,134
Smart Source Holdings LLC	520,557
SMB Machinery Holdings, Inc.	—

Fair Value/  
Market

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Value

Steelcase, Inc.	\$558,858
Tranzonic Holdings LLC	218,582
	11,991,276

MEDIA & ENTERTAINMENT - 3.10%

BlueSpire Holding, Inc.	—
Discovery Communications	631,811
GlynnDevins Acquisition Corporation	106,506
HOP Entertainment LLC	—
Lamar Media Corp.	165,600
Money Mailer Equity LLC	1,702,229
Netflix, Inc.	322,173
R.R. Donnelley & Sons Company	471,250
Sinclair Broadcast Group, Inc.	204,510
Sinclair Television Group, Inc.	475,000
Univision Communications, Inc.	157,600
	4,236,679

METALS & MINING - 2.14%

Alcoa, Inc.	652,500
Anglogold Holdings PLC	616,500
Commercial Metals Company	753,750
Constellium N.V.	400,974
Suncoke Energy	497,500
	2,921,224

MIDSTREAM - 1.38%

CVR Refining LLC	347,375
Ferrellgas Partners, L.P.	640,250
Suburban Propane Partners, L.P.	507,500
Summit Midstream Holdings, LLC	89,700
Tallgrass Operations LLC	301,720
	1,886,545

NATURAL GAS - 1.46%

Southern Co.	1,999,750
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OIL FIELD SERVICES - 1.70%

Avantech Testing Services LLC	—
Hilcorp Energy Company	332,488

See Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

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40



## 2016 Annual Report

## CONSOLIDATED SCHEDULE OF INVESTMENTS (CONTINUED)

December 31, 2016

Industry Classification: (Continued)	Fair Value/ Market Value
Hornbeck Offshore Services, Inc.	\$354,688
Petroplex Inv Holdings LLC	19,089
Seadrill Partners Finco, LLC	337,026
Topaz Marine S.A.	485,000
Welltec A/S	376,875
WPX Energy, Inc.	412,250
	2,317,416
OTHER - REITS - 0.38%	
Duke Realty Limited Partnership	520,063
PACKAGING - 0.57%	
ASC Holdings, Inc.	773,059
PAPER - 1.60%	
Clearwater Paper Corporation	490,000
Dunn Paper	1,690,500
	2,180,500
PHARMACEUTICALS - 2.90%	
Clarion Brands Holding Corp.	2,150,065
ERG Holding Company LLC	1,328,307
Mallinckrodt PLC	481,250
	3,959,622
PROPERTY & CASUALTY - 0.44%	
Xlit Ltd	594,941
REFINING - 2.41%	
CITGO Petroleum Corporation	442,000
MES Partners, Inc.	1,169,780
MPLX LP	514,847
Tristar Global Energy Solutions, Inc.	1,166,258
	3,292,885
RETAILERS - 0.33%	
HD Supply, Inc.	133,984
Wolverine World Wide, Inc.	322,438
	456,422

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SUPERMARKET - 2.93%

Kroger Co. 3,999,756

Fair Value/  
Market Value

TECHNOLOGY - 7.11%

Anixter, Inc.	\$ 171,600
Dell Inc.	620,847
Expedia Inc.	609,736
First Data Corporation	408,160
Glynlyon Holding Companies, Inc.	1,797,184
Hewlett Packard Enterprise Company	514,407
Jabil Circuit, Inc.	510,000
Micron Technology, Inc.	720,676
Pitney Bowes Inc.	485,442
Sabre GLOBL, Inc.	125,278
Software Paradigms International Group, LLC	1,728,129
Veritext Corporation	1,725,000
Western Digital Corporation	299,173
	9,715,632

TELECOMMUNICATIONS - 0.29%

Altice Financing S.A. 416,000

TRANSPORTATION SERVICES - 2.75%

Hertz Corporation	79,000
MNX Holding Company	1,343,929
OPE KAG Finance Sub	505,000
Penske Corporation	536,556
Team Drive-Away Holdings LLC	885,519
VP Holding Company	401,147
	3,751,151

WIRELESS - 0.92%

Crown Castle International Corp	645,750
Digicel Group Limited	452,235
Sprint Corporation	159,650
	1,257,635

WIRELINES - 0.31%

Frontier Communications Corporation 423,750

Total Investments - 109.58%

(Cost - \$151,255,913) \$ 149,697,030

See Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements



Barings Participation Investors (formerly known as Babson Capital Participation Investors)

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## NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

### 1. History

Barings Participation Investors (formerly known as Babson Capital Participation Investors) (the "Trust") was organized as a Massachusetts business trust under the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts pursuant to a Declaration of Trust dated April 7, 1988. In order to clarify the Trust's relationship to Barings LLC (formerly known as Babson Capital Management LLC), as of September 12, 2016, the Trust's name was changed to replace "Babson Capital Participation Investors" with "Barings Participation Investors".

The Trust is a diversified closed-end management investment company. Barings LLC ("Barings"), a wholly-owned indirect subsidiary of Massachusetts Mutual Life Insurance Company ("MassMutual"), acts as its investment adviser. The Trust's investment objective is to maximize total return by providing a high level of current income, the potential for growth of income, and capital appreciation. The Trust's principal investments are privately placed, below-investment grade, long-term debt obligations purchased directly from their issuers, which tend to be smaller companies. The Trust will also invest in publicly traded debt securities (including high yield securities), and in convertible preferred stocks and, subject to certain limitations, readily marketable equity securities. Below-investment grade or high yield securities have predominantly speculative characteristics with respect to the capacity of the issuer to pay interest and repay capital. In addition, the Trust may invest in high quality, readily marketable securities.

On January 27, 1998, the Board of Trustees authorized the formation of a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Trust ("PI Subsidiary Trust") for the purpose of holding certain investments. The results of the PI Subsidiary Trust are consolidated in the accompanying financial statements. Footnote 2.D below discusses the Federal tax consequences of the PI Subsidiary Trust.

### 2. Significant Accounting Policies

The following is a summary of significant accounting policies followed consistently by the Trust in the preparation of its consolidated financial statements in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America ("U.S. GAAP").

The Trustees have determined that the Trust is an investment company in accordance with Accounting Standards Codification ("ASC") 946, Financial Services - Investment Companies, for the purpose of financial reporting.

#### A. Fair Value Measurements:

Under U.S. GAAP, fair value represents the price that should be received to sell an asset (exit price) in an orderly transaction between willing market participants at the measurement date.

#### Determination of Fair Value

The determination of the fair value of the Trust's investments is the responsibility of the Trust's Board of Trustees (the "Trustees"). The Trustees have adopted procedures for the valuation of the Trust's securities and has delegated responsibility for applying those procedures to Barings. Barings has established a Pricing Committee which is responsible for setting the guidelines used in following the procedures adopted by the Trustees ensuring that those guidelines are being followed. Barings considers all relevant factors that are reasonably available, through either public information or information available to Barings, when determining the fair value of a security. The Trustees meet at least once each quarter to approve the value of the Trust's portfolio securities as of the close of business on the last business day of the preceding quarter. This valuation requires the approval of a majority of the Trustees of the Trust, including a majority of the Trustees who are not interested persons of the Trust or of Barings. In approving

valuations, the Trustees will consider reports by Barings analyzing each portfolio security in accordance with the procedures and guidelines referred to above, which include the relevant factors referred to below. Barings has agreed to provide such reports to the Trust at least quarterly. The consolidated financial statements include private placement restricted securities valued at \$94,771,586 (69.38% of net assets) as of December 31, 2016 whose values have been estimated by the Trustees based on the process described above in the absence of readily ascertainable market values. Due to the inherent uncertainty of valuation, those estimated values may differ significantly from the values that would have been used had a ready market for the securities existed, and the differences could be material.

Following is a description of valuation methodologies used for assets recorded at fair value.

#### Corporate Public Securities – Bank Loans, Corporate Bonds, Preferred Stocks and Common Stocks

The Trust uses external independent third-party pricing services to determine the fair values of its Corporate Public Securities. At December 31, 2016, 100% of the carrying value of these investments was from external pricing services. In the event that the primary pricing service does not provide a price, the

NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

Trust utilizes the pricing provided by a secondary pricing service.

Public debt securities generally trade in the over-the-counter market rather than on a securities exchange. The Trust's pricing services use multiple valuation techniques to determine fair value. In instances where significant market activity exists, the pricing services may utilize a market based approach through which quotes from market makers are used to determine fair value. In instances where significant market activity may not exist or is limited, the pricing services also utilize proprietary valuation models which may consider market characteristics such as benchmark yield curves, option adjusted spreads, credit spreads, estimated default rates, coupon rates, anticipated timing of principal underlying prepayments, collateral, and other unique security features in order to estimate the relevant cash flows, which are then discounted to calculate the fair value.

The Trust's investments in bank loans are normally valued at the bid quotation obtained from dealers in loans by an independent pricing service in accordance with the Trust's valuation policies and procedures approved by the Trustees.

Public equity securities listed on an exchange or on the NASDAQ National Market System are valued at the last quoted sales price of that day.

Annually, Barings conducts reviews of the primary pricing vendors to validate that the inputs used in that vendors' pricing process are deemed to be market observable as defined in the standard. While Barings is not provided access to proprietary models of the vendors, the reviews have included on-site walk-throughs of the pricing process, methodologies and control procedures for each asset class and level for which prices are provided. The review also includes an examination of the underlying inputs and assumptions for a sample of individual securities across asset classes, credit rating levels and various durations, a process Barings continues to perform annually. In addition, the pricing vendors have an established challenge process in place for all security valuations, which facilitates identification and resolution of prices that fall outside expected ranges. Barings believes that the prices received from the pricing vendors are representative of prices that would be received to sell the assets at the measurement date (exit prices) and are classified appropriately in the hierarchy.

#### Corporate Restricted Securities – Corporate Bonds

The fair value of certain notes is determined using an internal model that discounts the anticipated cash flows of those notes using a specific discount rate. Changes to that discount rate are driven by changes in general interest rates, probabilities of default and credit adjustments. The discount rate used within the models to discount the future anticipated cash flows is considered a significant unobservable input. Significant increases/(decreases) in the discount rate would result in a significant (decrease)/increase to the notes' fair value.

The fair value of certain distressed notes is based on an enterprise waterfall methodology which is discussed in the equity security valuation section below.

#### Corporate Restricted Securities – Common Stock, Preferred Stock and Partnerships & LLC's

The fair value of equity securities is determined using an enterprise waterfall methodology. Under this methodology, the enterprise value of the company is first estimated and that value is then allocated to the company's outstanding debt and equity securities based on the documented priority of each class of securities in the capital structure. Generally, the waterfall proceeds from senior debt tranches of the capital structure to senior then junior subordinated debt, followed by each class of preferred stock and finally the common stock.

To estimate a company's enterprise value, the company's trailing twelve months earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization ("EBITDA") is multiplied by a valuation multiple.

Both the company's EBITDA and valuation multiple are considered significant unobservable inputs. Significant increases/(decreases) to the company's EBITDA and/or valuation multiple would result in significant increases/(decreases) to the equity value. An increase/(decrease) to the discount would result in a (decrease)/increase to the equity value.

#### Short-Term Securities

Short-term securities, of sufficient credit quality, with more than sixty days to maturity are valued at fair value, using external independent third-party services. Short-term securities having a maturity of sixty days or less are valued at amortized cost, which approximates fair value.

Barings Participation Investors (formerly known as Babson Capital Participation Investors)

## NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

## Quantitative Information about Level 3 Fair Value Measurements

The following table represents quantitative information about Level 3 fair value measurements as of December 31, 2016:

	Fair Value	Valuation Technique	Unobservable Inputs	Range	Weighted Average
Bank Loans	\$1,690,500	Broker Quote	Single Broker	98%	98%
	\$3,442,390	Discounted Cash Flows	Discount Rate	8.8% to 9.2%	9.0%
Corporate Bonds	\$64,814,541	Discounted Cash Flows	Discount Rate	9.3% to 17.1%	12.5%
	\$4,785,853	Market Approach	Valuation Multiple	3.8x to 10.2x	7.4x
			EBITDA	\$0.0 million to \$9.2 million	\$4.9 million
Equity Securities	\$19,245,989	Market Approach	Valuation Multiple	3.8x to 12.2x	7.8x
			EBITDA	\$0.0 million to \$157.6 million	\$23.4 million

Certain of the Trust's Level 3 investments have been valued using unadjusted inputs that have not been internally developed by the Trust, including recently purchased securities held at cost. As a result, fair value of assets of \$792,313 have been excluded from the preceding table.

## Fair Value Hierarchy

The Trust categorizes its investments measured at fair value in three levels, based on the inputs and assumptions used to determine fair value. These levels are as follows:

Level 1 – quoted prices in active markets for identical securities

Level 2 – other significant observable inputs (including quoted prices for similar securities, interest rates, prepayment speeds, credit risk, etc.)

Level 3 – significant unobservable inputs (including the Trust's own assumptions in determining the fair value of investments)

The following table summarizes the levels in the fair value hierarchy into which the Trusts' financial instruments are categorized as of December 31, 2016.

The fair values of our investments disaggregated into the three levels of the fair value hierarchy based upon the lowest level of significant input used in the valuation as of December 31, 2016 are as follows:



Assets:	Total	Level		
		1	Level 2	Level 3
Restricted Securities				
Corporate Bonds	\$87,792,048	\$ —	\$18,191,653	\$69,600,395
Bank Loans	5,132,890	—	—	5,132,890
Common Stock - U.S.	5,972,591	—	—	5,972,591
Preferred Stock	3,878,030	—	—	3,878,030
Partnerships and LLCs	10,187,680	—	—	10,187,680
Public Securities				
Bank Loans	490,199	—	490,199	—
Corporate Bonds	26,244,450	—	26,244,450	—
Short-term Securities	9,999,142	—	9,999,142	—
Total	\$149,697,030	\$ —	\$54,925,444	\$94,771,586

See information disaggregated by security type and industry classification in the Consolidated Schedule of Investments.

## 2016 Annual Report

## NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

Following is a reconciliation of Level 3 assets for which significant unobservable inputs were used to determine fair value:

Assets:	Beginning balance at 12/31/2015	Included in earnings	Purchases	Sales	Prepayments	Transfers		Ending balance at 12/31/2016
						into Level 3	out of Level 3	
Restricted Securities								
Corporate Bonds	\$64,291,346	\$(4,240,349)	\$21,708,153	\$(4,966,788)	\$(7,191,967)	\$—	\$—	\$69,600,395
Bank Loans	3,366,726	144,664	3,381,000	(1,759,500)	—	—	—	5,132,890
Common Stock - U.S.	7,806,723	(330,138)	1,182,594	(2,686,588)	—	—	—	5,972,591
Preferred Stock	6,609,176	748,482	304,376	(3,784,004)	—	—	—	3,878,030
Partnerships and LLCs	9,670,199	2,830,837	1,124,122	(3,437,478)	—	—	—	10,187,680
	\$91,744,170	\$(846,504)	\$27,700,245	\$(16,634,358)	\$(7,191,967)	\$—	\$—	\$94,771,586

There were no transfers into or out of Level 1 and Level 2 assets.

Income, Gains and Losses included in Net Increase in Net Assets resulting from Operations for the year are presented in the following accounts on the Statement of Operations:

	Net Increase in Net Assets Resulting from Operations	Change in Unrealized Gains & (Losses) in Net Assets from assets still held
Interest (Amortization)	\$250,345	\$—
Net realized gain on investments before taxes	3,160,604	—
Net change in unrealized depreciation of investments before taxes	(4,257,453)	(4,533,796)

#### B. Accounting for Investments:

Investment transactions are accounted for on the trade date. Dividend income is recorded on the ex-dividend date. Interest income is recorded on the accrual basis, including the amortization of premiums and accretion of discounts on bonds held using the yield-to-maturity method. The Trust does not accrue income when payment is delinquent and when management believes payment is questionable.

Realized gains and losses on investment transactions and unrealized appreciation and depreciation of investments are reported for financial statement and Federal income tax purposes on the identified cost method.

C. Use of Estimates:

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with U.S. GAAP requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities, disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

D. Federal Income Taxes:

The Trust has elected to be taxed as a "regulated investment company" under the Internal Revenue Code, and intends to maintain this qualification and to distribute substantially all of its net taxable income to its shareholders. In any year when net long-term capital gains are realized by the Trust, management, after evaluating the prevailing economic conditions, will recommend that Trustees either designate the net realized long-term gains as undistributed and pay the federal capital gains taxes thereon, or distribute all or a portion of such net gains. For the year ended December 31, 2016, the Trust did not have any realized taxable long-term capital gains.

As of December 31, 2016, for federal income tax purposes, capital loss carryforwards of \$62,362 were available to the extent provided by the regulations to offset future realized gains of the Trust. These unlimited capital loss carryforwards do not expire and are used to offset future realized gains. The Trust utilized \$628,445 of capital loss carryforwards during the year ended December 31, 2016.

The Trust is taxed as a regulated investment company and is therefore limited as to the amount of

Barings Participation Investors (formerly known as Babson Capital Participation Investors)

## NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

non-qualified income that it may receive as the result of operating a trade or business, e.g. the Trust's pro rata share of income allocable to the Trust by a partnership operating company. The Trust's violation of this limitation could result in the loss of its status as a regulated investment company, thereby subjecting all of its net income and capital gains to corporate taxes prior to distribution to its shareholders. The Trust, from time-to-time, identifies investment opportunities in the securities of entities that could cause such trade or business income to be allocable to the Trust. The PI Subsidiary Trust (described in Footnote 1, above) was formed in order to allow investment in such securities without adversely affecting the Trust's status as a regulated investment company.

Net investment income and net realized gains or losses of the Trust as presented under U.S. GAAP may differ from distributable taxable earnings due to earnings from the PI Subsidiary Trust as well as certain permanent and temporary differences in the recognition of income and realized gains or losses on certain investments. Permanent differences will result in reclassifications to the capital accounts. In 2016, the Trust increased undistributed net investment income by \$32,617, increased accumulated net realized gain on investments by \$1,119,320 and decreased additional paid in capital by \$1,151,937 to more accurately display the Trust's capital financial position on a tax-basis in accordance with U.S. GAAP. These re-classifications had no impact on net asset value.

The PI Subsidiary Trust is not taxed as a regulated investment company. Accordingly, prior to the Trust receiving any distributions from the PI Subsidiary Trust, all of the PI Subsidiary Trust's taxable income and realized gains, including non-qualified income and realized gains, is subject to taxation at prevailing corporate tax rates.

The components of income taxes included in the consolidated statement of operations for the year ended December 31, 2016 were as follows:

## Income tax expense (benefit)

## Current:

Federal	\$411,581
State	239,711
Total current	651,292

## Deferred:

Federal	(82,917 )
State	(11,157 )
Total deferred	(94,074 )

## Total income tax expense

from continuing operations \$557,218

Deferred tax assets and liabilities are recognized for the future tax consequences attributable to differences between the financial statement carrying amounts of the existing assets and liabilities and their respective tax basis.

The tax effects of temporary differences that give rise to significant portions of the deferred tax assets and liabilities as of December 31, 2016 were as follows:

## Deferred tax liabilities:

Unrealized gain on investments	415,014
Total deferred tax liabilities	415,014
Net deferred tax liability	\$(415,014)

The Trust recognizes a tax benefit from an uncertain position only if it is more likely than not that the position is sustainable, based solely on its technical merits and consideration of the relevant taxing authority's widely understood administrative practices and precedents. If this threshold is met, the Trust measures the tax benefit as the largest amount of benefit that is greater than fifty percent likely of being realized upon ultimate settlement. Tax positions not deemed to meet the "more-likely-than-not" threshold are reserved and recorded as a tax benefit or expense in the current year. All penalties and interest associated with income taxes are included in income tax expense. The Trust has evaluated and determined that the tax positions did not have a material effect on the Trust's financial position and results of operations for the year ended December 31, 2016.

A reconciliation of the differences between the PI Subsidiary Trust's income tax expense and the amount computed by applying the prevailing U.S. federal tax rate to pretax income for the year ended December 31, 2016 is as follows:

	Amount	Percentage
Provision for income taxes at the U.S. federal rate	\$311,048	34.00%
State tax, net of federal effect	228,553	24.98%
Change in valuation allowance	—	0.00%
Other	17,617	1.93%
Income tax expense	\$557,218	60.91%

Each of the Trust's Federal tax returns for the prior three fiscal years remain subject to examination by the Internal Revenue Service.

## 2016 Annual Report

## NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

## E. Distributions to Shareholders:

The Trust records distributions to shareholders from net investment income and net realized gains, if any, on the ex-dividend date. The Trust's net investment income dividend is declared four times per year, in April, July, October, and December. The Trust's net realized capital gain distribution, if any, is declared in December.

The components of capital shown in the following table represent the Trust's undistributed net investment income, undistributed net capital gains, losses the Trust may be able to offset against gains in future taxable years, as well as unrealized appreciation (depreciation) on securities and other fund investments, if any, at December 31, 2016, each of which determined on a U.S. Federal tax basis:

Undistributed (Overdistributed) Net Investment Income	Undistributed Net Capital Gain	Accumulated Loss Carryforward	Net Unrealized Appreciation (Depreciation) on Securities and Other Investments
\$ 1,329,982	\$ 0	\$ (62,362 )	\$ (3,094,878 )

The tax character of distributions declared during the years ended December 31, 2016 and 2015 was as follows:

Distributions paid from:	2016	2015
Ordinary Income	\$11,192,508	\$11,143,733

## 3. Investment Advisory and Administrative Services Contract

## A. Services:

Under an Investment Advisory and Administrative Services Contract (the "Contract") with the Trust, Barings has agreed to use its best efforts to present to the Trust a continuing and suitable investment program consistent with the investment objectives and policies of the Trust. Barings represents the Trust in any negotiations with issuers, investment banking firms, securities brokers or dealers and other institutions or investors relating to the Trust's investments. Under the Contract, Barings also provides administration of the day-to-day operations of the Trust and provides the Trust with office space and office equipment, accounting and bookkeeping services, and necessary executive, clerical and secretarial personnel for the performance of the foregoing services.

## B. Fee:

For its services under the Contract, Barings is paid a quarterly investment advisory fee equal to 0.225% of the value of the Trust's net assets as of the last business day of each fiscal quarter, an amount approximately equivalent to 0.90% on an annual basis. A majority of the Trustees, including a majority of the Trustees who are not interested persons of the Trust or of Barings, approve the valuation of the Trust's net assets as of such day.

## 4. Senior Indebtedness

MassMutual holds the Trust's \$15,000,000 Senior Fixed Rate Convertible Note (the "Note") issued by the Trust on December 13, 2011. The Note is due December 13, 2023 and accrues interest at 4.09% per annum. MassMutual, at its option, can convert the principal amount of the Note into common shares. The dollar amount of principal would be converted into an equivalent dollar amount of common shares based upon the average price of the common shares for ten business days prior to the notice of conversion. For the year ended December 31, 2016, the Trust incurred total interest expense on the Note of \$613,500.

The Trust may redeem the Note, in whole or in part, at the principal amount proposed to be redeemed together with the accrued and unpaid interest thereon through the redemption date plus the Make Whole Premium. The Make Whole Premium equals the excess of (i) the present value of the scheduled payments of principal and interest which the Trust would have paid but for the proposed redemption, discounted at the rate of interest of U.S. Treasury obligations whose maturity approximates that of the Note plus 0.50% over (ii) the principal of the Note proposed to be redeemed.

Management estimates that the fair value of the Note was \$15,405,615 as of December 31, 2016. The fair value of the Note is categorized as a Level 3 under ASC 820.

## 5. Purchases and Sales of Investments

	For the year ended 12/31/16	
	Cost of Investments Acquired	Proceeds from Sales or Maturities
Corporate restricted securities	\$33,373,750	\$34,533,703
Corporate public securities	10,488,553	15,129,660

The difference between book-basis and tax-basis cost is primarily due to holdings of partnerships. The net unrealized depreciation of investments for financial reporting and Federal tax purposes as of December 31, 2016 is \$1,558,883 and consists of \$11,658,423 appreciation and \$13,217,306 depreciation.

Barings Participation Investors (formerly known as Babson Capital Participation Investors)

## NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

Net unrealized depreciation of investments on the Statement of Assets and Liabilities reflects the balance net of a deferred tax liability of \$415,014 on net unrealized gains on the PI Subsidiary Trust.

6. Quarterly Results of Investment Operations  
(Unaudited)

	March 31, 2016	
	Amount	Per Share
Investment income	\$2,914,218	
Net investment income	2,253,036	\$0.22
Net realized and unrealized gain on investments (net of taxes)	655,058	0.06
	June 30, 2016	
	Amount	Per Share
Investment income	\$3,195,325	
Net investment income	2,534,391	\$0.25
Net realized and unrealized gain on investments (net of taxes)	1,008,402	0.10
	September 30, 2016	
	Amount	Per Share
Investment income	\$3,089,755	
Net investment income	2,425,345	\$0.23
Net realized and unrealized gain on investments (net of taxes)	2,299,389	0.22
	December 31, 2016	
	Amount	Per Share
Investment income	\$3,614,460	
Net investment income	3,111,470	\$0.30
Net realized and unrealized loss on investments (net of taxes)	(2,644,459)	(0.26)



## 7. Investment Risks

In the normal course of its business, the Trust trades various financial instruments and enters into certain investment activities with investment risks. These risks include: (i) market risk, (ii) volatility risk and (iii) credit, counterparty and liquidity risk. It is the Trust's policy to identify, measure and monitor risk through various mechanisms including risk management strategies and credit policies. These include monitoring risk guidelines and diversifying exposures across a variety of instruments, markets and counterparties. There can be no assurance that the Trust will be able to implement its credit guidelines or that its risk monitoring strategies will be successful.

## 8. Commitments and Contingencies

During the normal course of business, the Trust may enter into contracts and agreements that contain a variety of representations and warranties. The exposure, if any, to the Trust under these arrangements is unknown as this would involve future claims that may or may not be made against the Trust and which have not yet occurred. The Trust has no history of prior claims related to such contracts and agreements. At December 31, 2016, the Trust had the following unfunded commitments:

<u>Investment</u>	Unfunded Amount
CORA Health Services, Inc.	\$ 890,933
HVAC Holdings, Inc.	\$ 600,572

## 9. Aggregate Remuneration Paid to Officers, Trustees and Their Affiliated Persons

For the year ended December 31, 2016, the Trust paid its Trustees aggregate remuneration of \$212,600. During the year, the Trust did not pay any compensation to any of its Trustees who are "interested persons" (as defined by the 1940 Act) of the Trust. The Trust classifies Messrs. Noreen and Joyal as "interested persons" of the Trust.

All of the Trust's officers are employees of Barings or MassMutual. Pursuant to the Contract, the Trust does not compensate its officers who are employees of Barings or MassMutual (except for the Chief Compliance Officer of the Trust unless assumed by Barings). For the year ended December 31, 2016, Barings paid the compensation of the Chief Compliance Officer of the Trust.

Mr. Noreen, one of the Trust's Trustees, is an "affiliated person" (as defined by the 1940 Act) of MassMutual and Barings.

The Trust did not make any payments to Barings for the year ended December 31, 2016, other than amounts payable to Barings pursuant to the Contract.

## 10. Certifications

As required under New York Stock Exchange ("NYSE") Corporate Governance Rules, the Trust's principal executive officer has certified to the NYSE that he was not aware, as of the certification date, of any violation by the Trust of the NYSE's Corporate Governance listing standards. In addition, as required by Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 and related SEC rules, the Trust's principal executive and principal financial officers have made quarterly



2016 Annual Report

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NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

certifications, included in filings with the SEC on Forms N-CSR and N-Q, relating to, among other things, the Trust's disclosure controls and procedures and internal control over financial reporting, as applicable.

11. Subsequent Events

The Trust has evaluated the possibility of subsequent events after the balance sheet date of December 31, 2016, through the date that the financial statements are issued. The Trust has determined that there are no material events that would require recognition or disclosure in this report through this date.



Barings Participation Investors (formerly known as Babson Capital Participation Investors)

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REPORT OF INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM

The Shareholders and Board of Trustees of Barings Participation Investors:

We have audited the accompanying consolidated statement of assets and liabilities of Barings Participation Investors (f/k/a Babson Capital Participation Investors) (the "Trust"), including the consolidated schedule of investments, as of December 31, 2016, and the related consolidated statements of operations and cash flows for the year then ended, the consolidated statements of changes in net assets for each of the years in the two-year period then ended, and the consolidated selected financial highlights for each of the years in the five-year period then ended. These consolidated financial statements and consolidated selected financial highlights are the responsibility of the Trust's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these consolidated financial statements and consolidated selected 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 audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the consolidated financial statements and consolidated selected financial highlights are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. Our procedures included confirmation of securities owned as of December 31, 2016, by correspondence with custodian and counterparties. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audits provide a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, the consolidated financial statements and consolidated selected financial highlights referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Barings Participation Investors (f/k/a Babson Capital Participation Investors), as of December 31, 2016, the consolidated results of their operations and cash flows for the year then ended, the consolidated changes in their net assets for each of the years in the two-year period then ended, and the consolidated selected financial highlights for each of the years in the five-year period then ended, in conformity with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles.

Boston, Massachusetts  
February 24, 2017



## 2016 Annual Report

## INTERESTED TRUSTEES

Name (Age), Address	Position With The Trust	Office Term / Length of Time Served	Principal Occupations During Past 5 Years	Portfolios Overseen in Fund Complex	Other Directorships Held by Director
Clifford M. Noreen* (59) Barings Participation Investors 1500 Main Street P.O. Box 15189 Springfield, MA 01115-5189	Trustee, Chairman	Term expires 2018; Trustee since 2009	Deputy Chief Investment Officer and Managing Director (since 2016), MassMutual; President (2008-2016), Vice Chairman (2007-2008), Member of the Board of Managers (2006-2016), Managing Director (2000-2016), Barings; President (2005-2009), Vice President (1993-2005) of the Trust.	2	Chairman and Trustee (since 2009), President (2005-2009), Vice President (1993-2005), Barings Corporate Investors; President (since 2009), Senior Vice President (1996-2009), HYP Management LLC (LLC Manager); Director (2005-2013), MassMutual Corporate Value Limited (investment company); Director (2005-2013), MassMutual Corporate Value Partners Limited (investment company); Director (since 2008), Jefferies Finance LLC (finance company); Chairman and Chief Executive Officer (since 2009), Manager (since 2007), MMC Equipment Finance LLC; Director (2011-2016), Wood Creek Capital Management, LLC (investment advisory firm); Chairman (since 2009), Trustee (since 2005), President (2005-2009), CI Subsidiary Trust and PI Subsidiary Trust; Member of Investment Committee (since 1999), Diocese of Springfield; and Member of Investment Committee (since 2015), Baystate Health Systems.

Mr. Noreen is classified as an "interested person" of the Trust and Barings (as defined by the Investment Company \*Act of 1940, as amended) because of his position as an Officer of the Trust and his former position as President of Barings.



## Barings Participation Investors (formerly known as Babson Capital Participation Investors)

## INTERESTED TRUSTEES

Name (Age), Address	Position With The Trust	Office Term / Length of Time Served	Principal Occupations During Past 5 Years	Portfolios Overseen in Fund Complex	Other Directorships Held by Director
Robert E. Joyal* (72)  Barings Participation Investors 1500 Main Street P.O. Box 15189 Springfield, MA 01115-5189	Trustee	Term expires 2019; Trustee since 2003	Retired (since 2003); President (2001-2003), Barings; and President (1993-2003) of the Trust.	95	Trustee (since 2003), President (1993-2003), Barings Corporate Investors; Director (2006-2014), Jefferies Group, Inc. (financial services); Director (2007-2011), Scottish Re Group Ltd. (global life reinsurance specialist); Trustee (since 2003), MassMutual Select Funds (an open-end investment company advised by MassMutual); Trustee (since 2003), MML Series Investment Fund (an open-end investment company advised by MassMutual); Trustee (since 2012), MML Series Investment Fund II (an open-ended investment company advised by MassMutual); Trustee (since 2012), MassMutual Premier Funds (an open-ended investment company advised by MassMutual); Director (since 2012), Ormat Technologies, Inc. (a geothermal energy company); Director (2013-2016), Leucadia National Corporation (holding company owning businesses ranging from insurance to telecommunications); and Director (2013-2016), Baring Asset Management Korea Limited (company that engages in asset management, business administration and investment management).

Mr. Joyal retired as President of Barings in June 2003. In addition and as noted above, Mr. Joyal is a director of Leucadia National Corporation, which is the parent company of Jefferies Group, Inc., and a former Director of Jefferies Group, Inc., which has a wholly-owned broker-dealer subsidiary that may execute portfolio transactions \*and/or engage in principal transactions with the Trust, other investment companies advised by Barings or any other advisory accounts over which Barings has brokerage placement discretion. Accordingly, the Trust has determined to classify Mr. Joyal as an "interested person" of the Trust and Barings (as defined by the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended).

## 2016 Annual Report

## INDEPENDENT TRUSTEES

Name (Age), Address	Position With The Trust of	Office Term / Length of Time Served	Principal Occupations During Past 5 Years	Portfolios Overseen in Fund Complex	Other Directorships Held by Director
Michael H. Brown (59)					
Barings Participation Investors 1500 Main Street P.O. Box 15189 Springfield, MA 01115-5189	Trustee /Nominee	Term expires 2017; Trustee since 2005	Private Investor; and Managing Director (1994-2005), Morgan Stanley.	2	Trustee (since 2005), Barings Corporate Investors; Independent Director (2006-2014), Invicta Holdings LLC and its subsidiaries (a derivative trading company owned indirectly by MassMutual).
Barbara M. Ginader (60)					
Barings Participation Investors 1500 Main Street P.O. Box 15189 Springfield, MA 01115-5189	Trustee /Nominee	Term expires 2017; Trustee since 2013	Managing Director and General Partner (since 1993), Boston Ventures Management (private equity firm).	2	Trustee (since 2013), Barings Corporate Investors; Managing Director (since 1993), Boston Ventures V L.P. (private equity fund); Managing Director (since 1993), Boston Ventures VI L.P. (private equity fund); Member of the Board Overseers (2013-2014), MSPCA-Angell; Member of the Grants Committee (2013-2014), IECA Foundation; and President of the Board (2006-2012), Codman Academy Public Charter School.
Edward P. Grace III (66)	Trustee	Term expires 2018; Trustee since 2012	President (since 1997), Phelps Grace International, Inc. (investment management); Managing Director (since 1998), Grace Ventures Partners LP	2	Trustee (since 2012), Barings Corporate Investors; Director (since 2010), Larkburger, Inc. (restaurant chain); Director (since 2012), Benihana, Inc. (restaurant chain); Director (since 2011), Firebirds Wood Fired Holding Corporation

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1500 Main  
Street  
P.O. Box  
15189  
Springfield,  
MA  
01115-5189

(venture capital fund);  
Senior Advisor (since 2011),  
Angelo Gordon & Co.  
(Investment adviser).

(restaurant chain); Director (since 1998),  
Shawmut Design and Construction  
(construction management and general  
contracting firm); Director (2004-2012),  
Not Your Average Joe's, Inc. (restaurant  
chain).

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Barings Participation Investors (formerly known as Babson Capital Participation Investors)

INDEPENDENT TRUSTEES

Name (Age), Address	Position With The Trust	Office Term / Length of Time Served	Principal Occupations During Past 5 Years	Portfolios Overseen in Fund Complex	Other Directorships Held by Director
Susan B. Sweeney (64)  Barings Participation Investors 1500 Main Street P.O. Box 15189 Springfield, MA 01115-5189	Trustee	Term expires 2019; Trustee since 2012	Retired (since 2014); Senior Vice President and Chief Investment Officer (2010-2014), Selective Insurance Company of America; Senior Managing Director (2008-2010), Ironwood Capital.	95	Trustee (since 2012), Barings Corporate Investors; Trustee (since 2009), MassMutual Select Funds (an open-ended investment company advised by MassMutual); Trustee (since 2009), MML Series Investment Fund (an open-ended investment company advised by MassMutual); Trustee (since 2012), MassMutual Premier Funds (an open-ended investment company advised by MassMutual); Trustee (since 2012), MML Series Investment Fund II (an open-ended investment company advised by MassMutual).
Maleyne M. Syracuse (60)	Trustee / Nominee	Term expires 2017; Trustee since 2007	Private Investor; Managing Director (2000-2007), JP Morgan Securities, Inc. (investments and banking); Managing Director (1999-2000), Deutsche Bank Securities; Managing Director (1981-1999), Bankers Trust / BT Securities.	2	Trustee (since 2007), Barings Corporate Investors.
Barings Participation Investors 1500 Main Street P.O. Box 15189 Springfield, MA 01115-5189					



## 2016 Annual Report

## OFFICERS OF THE TRUST

Name (Age), Address	Position With The Trust	Office Term / Length of Time Served	Principal Occupations During Past 5 Years
Robert M. Shettle (49)  Barings Corporate Investors 1500 Main Street P.O. Box 15189 Springfield, MA 01115-5189	President	Since 2016	Vice President (2015-2016) of the Trust; President (since 2016), Vice President (2015-2016), Barings Corporate Investors; Managing Director (since 2006), Director (1998-2006), Barings; President (since 2016), Vice President (2005-2016), CI Subsidiary Trust and PI Subsidiary Trust.
Janice M. Bishop (52)  Barings Participation Investors 1500 Main Street P.O. Box 15189 Springfield, MA 01115-5189	Vice President, Secretary and Chief Legal Officer	Since 2015	Associate Secretary (2008-2015) of the Trust; Vice President, Secretary and Chief Legal Officer (since 2015), Associate Secretary (2008-2015), Barings Corporate Investors; Vice President, Secretary and Chief Legal Officer (since 2013), Barings Funds Trust; Vice President, Secretary and Chief Legal Officer (since 2012), Barings Global Short Duration High Yield Fund; Senior Counsel and Managing Director (since 2014), Counsel (2007-2014), Barings; Vice President and Secretary (since 2015), Assistant Secretary (2008-2015), CI Subsidiary Trust and PI Subsidiary Trust.
James M. Roy (54)  Barings	Vice President and Chief Financial Officer	Since 2005	Treasurer (2003-2005), Associate Treasurer (1999-2003) of the Trust; Vice President and Chief Financial Officer (since 2005), Treasurer (2003-2005), Associate Treasurer (1999-2003), Barings Corporate Investors; Managing Director (since 2005), Director (2000-2005), Barings; and Trustee (since 2005), Treasurer (since 2005), Contoller (2003-2005), CI Subsidiary Trust

Participation  
Investors  
1500 Main  
Street  
P.O. Box  
15189  
Springfield,  
MA  
01115-5189

and PI Subsidiary Trust.

Melissa M.  
LaGrant (43)

Barings  
Participation  
Investors  
1500 Main  
Street  
P.O. Box  
15189  
Springfield,  
MA  
01115-5189

Chief  
Compliance  
Officer

Since  
2006

Chief Compliance Officer (since 2006), Barings Corporate Investors; Chief Compliance Officer (since 2013), Barings Finance LLC; Chief Compliance Officer (since 2013), Barings Funds Trust; Chief Compliance Officer (since 2012), Barings Global Short Duration High Yield Fund; Managing Director (since 2005), Barings.

Daniel J.  
Florence (44)

Barings  
Participation  
Investors  
1500 Main  
Street  
P.O. Box  
15189  
Springfield,  
MA  
01115-5189

Treasurer

Since  
2008

Associate Treasurer (2006-2008) of the Trust; Treasurer (since 2008), Associate Treasurer (2006-2008), Barings Corporate Investors; and Director (since 2013), Associate Director (2008-2013), Analyst (2000-2008), Barings.

Sean Feeley  
(49)

Vice President

Since  
2011

Vice President (since 2011), Barings Corporate Investors; Vice President (since 2012), Barings Global Short Duration High Yield Fund; Managing Director (since 2003), Barings; and Vice President (since 2011), CI Subsidiary Trust and PI Subsidiary Trust.

Barings  
Participation  
Investors  
1500 Main  
Street  
P.O. Box  
15189



Springfield,  
MA  
01115-5189

\* Officers hold their position with the Trust until a successor has been duly elected and qualified. Officers are generally elected annually by the Board of Trustees of the Trust. The officers were last elected on July 20, 2016.

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Barings Participation Investors (formerly known as Babson Capital Participation Investors)

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**DIVIDEND REINVESTMENT AND CASH PURCHASE PLAN**

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Barings Participation Investors (the "Trust") offers a Dividend Reinvestment and Cash Purchase Plan (the "Plan"). The Plan provides a simple and automatic way for shareholders to add to their holdings in the Trust through the receipt of dividend shares issued by the Trust or through the reinvestment of cash dividends in Trust shares purchased in the open market. The dividends of each shareholder will be automatically reinvested in the Trust by DST Systems, Inc., the Transfer Agent, in accordance with the Plan, unless such shareholder elects not to participate by providing written notice to the Transfer Agent. A shareholder may terminate his or her participation by notifying the Transfer Agent in writing.

Participating shareholders may also make additional contributions to the Plan from their own funds. Such contributions may be made by personal check or other means in an amount not less than \$100 nor more than \$5,000 per quarter. Cash contributions must be received by the Transfer Agent at least five days (but no more than 30 days) before the payment date of a dividend or distribution.

Whenever the Trust declares a dividend payable in cash or shares, the Transfer Agent, acting on behalf of each participating shareholder, will take the dividend in shares only if the net asset value is lower than the market price plus an estimated brokerage commission as of the close of business on the valuation day. The valuation day is the last day preceding the day of dividend payment. When the dividend is to be taken in shares, the number of shares to be received is determined by dividing the cash dividend by the net asset value as of the close of business on the valuation date or, if greater than net asset value, 95% of the closing share price. If the net asset value of the shares is higher than the market value plus an estimated commission, the Transfer Agent, consistent with obtaining the best price and execution, will buy shares on the open market at current prices promptly after the dividend payment date.

The reinvestment of dividends does not, in any way, relieve participating shareholders of any federal, state or local tax. For federal income tax purposes, the amount reportable in respect of a dividend received in newly-issued shares of the Trust will be the fair market value of the shares received, which will be reportable as ordinary income and/or capital gains.

As compensation for its services, the Transfer Agent receives a fee of 5% of any dividend and cash contribution (in no event in excess of \$2.50 per distribution per shareholder.)

Any questions regarding the Plan should be addressed to DST Systems, Inc., Agent for Barings Participation Investors' Dividend Reinvestment and Cash Purchase Plan, P.O. Box 219086, Kansas City, MO 64121-9086.

Members of the Board of Trustees

Michael H. Brown*	Barbara M. Ginader	Edward P. Grace
Private Investor	Managing Director and General Partner	President
	Boston Ventures Management	Phelps Grace International, Inc
Robert E. Joyal	Clifford M. Noreen	Susan B. Sweeney*
Retired President,	Deputy Chief Investment Officer	Private Investor
Barings LLC	Massachusetts Mutual Life Insurance Company	
Maleyne M. Syracuse*		
Private Investor		

Officers

Clifford M. Noreen	Robert M. Shettle	James M. Roy
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Chairman

President

Vice President &  
Chief Financial Officer

Janice M. Bishop  
Vice President, Secretary &  
Chief Legal Officer  
Melissa M. LaGrant  
Chief Compliance Officer

Sean Feeley  
Vice President

Daniel J. Florence  
Treasurer

\* Member of the Audit Committee

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**ITEM 2. CODE OF ETHICS.**

The Registrant adopted a Code of Ethics for Senior Financials Officers (the "Code") on October 17, 2003, which is available on the Registrant's website at [www.barings.com/mpv](http://www.barings.com/mpv). During the period covered by this Form N-CSR, there were no amendments to, or waivers from, the Code.

**ITEM 3. AUDIT COMMITTEE FINANCIAL EXPERT.**

The Registrant's Board of Trustees has determined that Mr. Michael H. Brown, a Trustee of the Registrant and a member of its Audit Committee, is an audit committee financial expert. Mr. Brown is "independent" for purposes of this Item 3 as required by applicable regulation.

**ITEM 4. PRINCIPAL ACCOUNTANT FEES AND SERVICES.**

The Registrant has engaged its principal accountant, KPMG LLP, to perform audit services, audit-related services, tax services and other services during the past two fiscal years. The following table details the aggregate fees billed or expected to be billed for each of the last two fiscal years by KPMG LLP.

Fees Billed to the Registrant:

	KPMG LLP Year Ended December 31, 2016	KPMG LLP Year Ended December 31, 2015
Audit Fees	\$ 78,100	\$ 71,000
Audit-Related Fees	0	0
Tax Fees	45,665	45,665
All Other Fees	0	0
Total Fees	\$ 123,765	\$ 116,665

Non-Audit Fees Billed to Barings and MassMutual:

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	KPMG LLP Year Ended December 31,  2016	KPMG LLP Year Ended December 31,  2015
Audit-Related Fees	\$ 1,239,527	\$ 1,393,808
Tax Fees	227,500	333,000
All Other Fees	35,000	23,100
Total Fees	\$ 1,502,027	\$ 1,749,908

The category "Audit Fees" refers to performing an audit of the Registrant's annual financial statements or services that are normally provided by the principal accountant in connection with statutory and regulatory filings or engagements for those fiscal years. The category "Audit-Related Fees" reflects fees billed by KPMG LLP for various non-audit and non-tax services rendered to the Registrant, Barings and MassMutual, such as a SOC - 1 review, consulting and agreed upon procedures reports. Preparation of Federal, state and local income tax and tax compliance work are representative of the fees reported in the "Tax Fees" category. The category "All Other Fees" represents fees billed by KPMG LLP for consulting rendered to the Registrant, Barings and MassMutual.

The Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 and its implementing regulations allow the Registrant's Audit Committee to establish a pre-approval policy for certain services rendered by the Registrant's principal accountant. During 2016, the Registrant's Audit Committee approved all of the services rendered to the Registrant by KPMG LLP and did not rely on such a pre-approval policy for any such services.

The Audit Committee has also reviewed the aggregate fees billed for professional services rendered by KPMG LLP for 2015 and 2016 for the Registrant and for the non-audit services provided to Barings, and Barings' parent, MassMutual. As part of this review, the Audit Committee considered whether the provision of such non-audit services was compatible with maintaining the principal accountant's independence.

The 2015 fees billed represent final 2015 amounts, which may differ from the preliminary figures available as of the filing date of the Registrant's 2016 Annual Form N-CSR and includes, among other things, fees for services that may not have been billed as of the filing date of the Registrant's 2016 Annual Form N-CSR, but are now properly included in the 2015 fees billed to the Registrant, Barings and MassMutual.



## **ITEM 5. AUDIT COMMITTEE OF LISTED REGISTRANTS.**

The Registrant maintains an Audit Committee composed exclusively of Trustees of the Registrant who qualify as "independent" Trustees under the current listing standards of the New York Stock Exchange and the rules of the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission. The Audit Committee operates pursuant to a written Audit Committee Charter, which is available (1) on the Registrant's website, [www.barings.com/mpv](http://www.barings.com/mpv); and (2) without charge, upon request, by calling, toll-free 866-399-1516. The current members of the Audit Committee are Michael H. Brown, Susan B. Sweeney and Maleyne M. Syracuse.

## **ITEM 6. SCHEDULE OF INVESTMENTS**

A schedule of investments for the Registrant is included as part of this report to shareholders under Item 1 of this Form N-CSR.

## **ITEM 7. DISCLOSURE OF PROXY VOTING POLICIES AND PROCEDURES FOR CLOSED-END MANAGEMENT INVESTMENT COMPANIES.**

The Registrant's Board of Trustees has delegated proxy voting responsibilities relating to the voting securities held by the Registrant to its investment adviser, Barings LLC ("Barings"). A summary of Barings' proxy voting policies and procedures are set forth below.

### Summary of Barings' Proxy Voting Policy:

Barings understands that the voting of proxies is an integral part of its investment management responsibility and believes, as a general principle, that proxies should be acted upon (voted or abstained) solely in the best interest of its clients (i.e. in a manner believed by Barings to best pursue a client's investment objectives). To implement this general principle, Barings engages a proxy service provider (the "Service Provider") that is responsible for processing and maintaining records of proxy votes. In addition, the Service Provider will retain the services of an independent third party research provider (the "Research Provider") to provide research and recommendations on proxies. It is Barings' Proxy Voting Policy to generally vote proxies in accordance with the recommendations of the Research Provider. In circumstances where the Research Provider has not provided recommendations with respect to a proxy, Barings will vote in accordance with the Research Provider's proxy voting guidelines (the "Guidelines"). In circumstances where the Research Provider has not provided a recommendation or has not contemplated an issue within its Guidelines, the proxy will be analyzed on a case-by-case basis.

Barings recognizes that there could be times when it is in the best interest of clients to vote proxies (i) against the Research Provider's recommendations or (ii) in instances where the Research Provider has not provided a recommendation vote against the Guidelines. Barings can vote, in whole or in part, against the Research Provider's recommendations or Guidelines, as it deems appropriate. The procedures set forth in the Proxy Voting Policy are

designed to ensure that votes against the Research Provider's recommendations or Guidelines are made in the best interests of clients and are not the result of any material conflict of interest (a "Material Conflict"). For purposes of the Proxy Voting Policy, a Material Conflict is defined as any position, relationship or interest, financial or otherwise, of Barings or a Barings associate that could reasonably be expected to affect the independence or judgment concerning proxy voting.

Summary of Barings' Proxy Voting Procedures:

Barings will vote all client proxies for which it has proxy voting discretion, where no Material Conflict exists, in accordance with the Research Provider's recommendations or Guidelines, unless (i) Barings is unable or determines not to vote a proxy in accordance with the Proxy Voting Policy or (ii) an authorized investment person or designee (a "Proxy Analyst") determines that it is in the client's best interests to vote against the Research Provider's recommendations or Guidelines. In such cases where a Proxy Analyst believes a proxy should be voted against the Research Provider's recommendations or Guidelines, the proxy administrator will vote the proxy in accordance with the Proxy Analyst's recommendation as long as (i) no other Proxy Analyst disagrees with such recommendation and (ii) no known Material Conflict is identified by the Proxy Analyst(s) or the proxy administrator. If a Material Conflict is identified by a Proxy Analyst or the proxy administrator, the proxy will be submitted to the Trading Practices Committee to determine how the proxy is to be voted in order to achieve that client's best interests.

No associate, officer, director or board of managers/directors of Barings or its affiliates (other than those assigned such responsibilities under the Proxy Voting Policy) can influence how Barings votes client proxies, unless such person has been requested to provide assistance by a Proxy Analyst or Trading Practices Committee member and has disclosed any known Material Conflict. Pre-vote communications with proxy solicitors are prohibited. In the event that pre-vote communications occur, it should be reported to the Trading Practices Committee or Barings' Chief Compliance Officer prior to voting. Any questions or concerns regarding proxy-solicitor arrangements should be addressed to Barings' Chief Compliance Officer.

Investment management agreements generally delegate the authority to vote proxies to Barings in accordance with Barings' Proxy Voting Policy. In the event an investment management agreement is silent on proxy voting, Barings should obtain written instructions from the client as to their voting preference. However, when the client does not provide written instructions as to their voting preferences, Barings will assume proxy voting responsibilities. In the event that a client makes a written request regarding voting, Barings will vote as instructed.

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Obtaining a Copy of the Proxy Voting Policy:

Clients can obtain a copy of Barings' Proxy Voting Policy and information about how Barings voted proxies related to their securities, free of charge, by contacting the Chief Compliance Officer, Barings LLC, 1500 Main Street, Suite 2800, P.O. Box 15189, Springfield, MA 01115-5189, or calling toll-free, 1-877-766-0014.

**ITEM 8. PORTFOLIO MANAGERS OF CLOSED-END MANAGEMENT INVESTMENT COMPANIES.**

The following disclosure item is made as of the date of this Form N-CSR unless otherwise indicated.

**PORTFOLIO MANAGER.** Robert M. Shettle serves as the President of the Registrant (since June 2016) and as one of its Portfolio Managers. Mr. Shettle began his service to the Registrant in 2015 as a Vice President. With over 17 years of industry experience, Mr. Shettle is a Managing Director of Barings and Head of the North America Mezzanine and Private Equity Group of Barings. He joined Barings in 2006. Prior to joining Barings, he spent six years at Fleet National Bank as a Vice President and commercial loan officer and three years at Anderson Consulting. At Barings, he has focused on originating, analyzing, structuring and documenting mezzanine and private equity investments. Mr. Shettle holds a B.S. from the University of Connecticut and a M.B.A. from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. He is also a Chartered Financial Analyst. Mr. Shettle also presently serves as President of Barings Participation Investors, another closed-end management investment company advised by Barings.

**PORTFOLIO MANAGEMENT TEAM.** Mr. Shettle has primary responsibility for overseeing the investment of the Registrant's portfolio, with the day-to-day investment management responsibility of the Registrant's portfolio being shared with the following Barings' investment professional (together with the Portfolio Manager, the "Portfolio Team").

Sean Feeley is responsible for the day-to-day management of the Registrant's public high yield and investment grade fixed income portfolio. Mr. Feeley has been a Vice President of the Registrant since 2011. Mr. Feeley is a Managing Director of Barings and head of the High Yield Research Team with over 22 years of industry experience in high yield bonds and loans in various investment strategies. Prior to joining Barings in 2003, he was a Vice President at Cigna Investment Management in project finance and a Vice President at Credit Suisse in leveraged loan finance. Mr. Feeley holds a B.S. from Canisius College and an M.B.A. from Cornell University. Mr. Feeley is a Certified Public Accountant and a Chartered Financial Analyst. Mr. Feeley also serves as Vice President of Barings Participation Investors, another closed-end management investment company advised by Barings.

**OTHER ACCOUNTS MANAGED BY THE PORTFOLIO TEAM.** The members of the Registrant's Portfolio Team also have primary responsibility for the day-to-day management of other Barings advisory accounts, including, among others, closed-end and open-end investment companies, private investment funds, MassMutual-affiliated accounts, as well as separate accounts for institutional clients. These advisory accounts are identified below.

OTHER ACCOUNTS MANAGED BY THE PORTFOLIO MANAGEMENT TEAM.

PORTFOLIO TEAM	ACCOUNT CATEGORY	TOTAL NUMBER OF ACCOUNTS	APPROXIMATE TOTAL ASSET SIZE (A) (B)	NUMBER OF ACCOUNTS WITH PERFORMANCE-BASED ADVISORY FEE	APPROXIMATE ASSET SIZE OF PERFORMANCE-BASED ADVISORY FEE ACCOUNTS (A) (B)
Eric Lloyd (C) (D)	Registered Investment Companies	1	\$315.1	0	N/A
	Other Pooled Investment Vehicles	1	\$479.9	0	N/A
	Other Accounts	0	N/A	0	N/A
Sean Feeley (C)	Registered Investment Companies	7	\$1,620.6	0	N/A
	Other Pooled Investment Vehicles	5	\$2,749.8	0	N/A
	Other Accounts (E)	14	\$4,165.4	0	N/A
Robert M. Shettle (C)	Registered Investment Companies	1	\$315.1	0	N/A
	Other Pooled Investment Vehicles	6	\$540.9	0	N/A
	Other Accounts (F)	0	N/A	0	N/A

(A) Account asset size has been calculated as of December 31, 2016.

(B) Asset size in millions.

(C)

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Represents accounts advised by Barings over which Messrs. Lloyd, Feeley and Shettle have day-to-day management responsibilities.

- (D) Mr. Lloyd, as head of Barings' Global Private Finance Group, has overall responsibility for all private placement mezzanine assets managed by Barings. Except for the accounts noted in the table above, Mr. Lloyd is not primarily responsible for the day-to-management of the other accounts managed by Barings' Global Private Finance Group.
  - (E) Mr. Feeley manages the high yield sector of the general investment account of Massachusetts Mutual Life Insurance Company and C.M. Life Insurance Company; however, these assets are not represented in the table above.
  - (F) Mr. Shettle manages the private placement mezzanine debt securities of the general investment account of Massachusetts Mutual Life Insurance Company and C.M. Life Insurance Company; however, these assets are not represented in the table above.
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**MATERIAL CONFLICTS OF INTEREST.** The potential for material conflicts of interest may exist as the members of the Portfolio Management Team have responsibilities for the day-to-day management of multiple advisory accounts. These conflicts may be heightened to the extent the individual, Barings and/or an affiliate has an investment in one or more of such accounts. Barings has identified (and summarized below) areas where material conflicts of interest are most likely to arise, and has adopted policies and procedures that it believes are reasonable to address such conflicts.

Transactions with Affiliates: Barings or its affiliates, including MassMutual and its affiliates, may from time to time, acting as principal, buy securities or other investments for itself from or sell securities or other investments it owns to its advisory clients. Likewise, Barings may either directly or on behalf of MassMutual, purchase and/or hold securities or other investments that are subsequently sold or transferred to advisory clients. Barings has a conflict of interest in connection with a transaction where it or an affiliate is acting as principal since it may have an incentive to favor itself or its affiliates over its advisory clients in connection with the transaction. To address the conflicts of interest, Barings has adopted a Transactions with Affiliates Policy, which ensures any such transaction is consistent with Barings' fiduciary obligations to act in the best interests of its clients, including its ability to obtain best execution in connection with the transaction, and is in compliance with applicable legal and regulatory requirements.

Cross Trades: Barings may effect cross-trades on behalf of its advisory clients whereby one advisory client buys securities or other investments from or sells securities or other investments to another advisory client. Barings may also effect cross-trades involving advisory accounts or funds in which it or its affiliates, including MassMutual, and their respective employees, have an ownership interest or for which Barings is entitled to earn a performance fee. As a result, Barings has a conflict of interest in connection with the cross-trade since it may have an incentive to favor the advisory client or fund in which it or its affiliate has an ownership interest and/or is entitled to a performance fee. To address the conflicts of interest, Barings has adopted a Transactions with Affiliates Policy, which ensures any such cross-trade is consistent with Barings' fiduciary obligations to act in the best interests of each of its advisory clients, including its ability to obtain best execution for each advisory client in connection with the cross-trade transaction, and is in compliance with applicable legal and regulatory requirements. Barings will not receive a commission or any other remuneration (other than its advisory fee) for effecting cross-trades between advisory clients.

Loan Origination Transactions: While Barings or its affiliates generally do not act as an underwriter or member of a syndicate in connection with a securities offering, Barings or its affiliates (or an unaffiliated entity in which Barings or its affiliates have an ownership interest) may act as an underwriter, originator, agent, or member of a syndicate in connection with the origination of senior secured loans or other lending arrangements with borrowers, where such loans may be purchased by Barings advisory clients during or after the original syndication. Barings advisory clients may purchase such loans directly from Barings or its affiliates (or an unaffiliated entity in which Barings or its affiliates have an ownership interest) or from other members of the lending syndicate. Barings or its affiliates may directly or indirectly receive underwriting, origination, or agent fees in connection with such loan originations. As a result, Barings has a conflict of interest in connection with such loan origination transactions since it has an incentive to base its investment recommendation to its advisory clients on the amount of compensation, underwriting, origination or agent fees it would receive rather than on its advisory clients' best interests. To address the conflict of interest, Barings has adopted a Transactions with Affiliates Policy, which ensures any such transaction is consistent with Barings' fiduciary obligations to act in the best interests of its clients, including its ability to obtain best execution in connection with the transaction, and is in compliance with applicable legal and regulatory requirements.

MML Investors Services, LLC ("MMLISI"), an indirect wholly-owned subsidiary of MassMutual, is an SEC-registered investment adviser and broker-dealer and is a member of the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority. MMLISI may act as an introducing broker for the purpose of effecting securities transactions for brokerage customers. While a Barings advisory client could request that MMLISI effect securities transactions for it that would result in commissions to MMLISI, currently no Barings advisory client directs Barings to effect securities transactions for its account through MMLISI.

Investments by Advisory Clients: Barings may invest client assets in securities or other investments that are also held by (i) Barings or its affiliates, including MassMutual, (ii) other Barings advisory accounts, (iii) funds or accounts in which Barings or its affiliates or their respective employees have an ownership or economic interest or (iv) employees of Barings or its affiliates. Barings may also, on behalf of its advisory clients, invest in the same or different securities or instruments of issuers in which (a) Barings or its affiliates, including MassMutual, (b) other Barings advisory accounts, (c) funds or accounts in which Barings, its affiliates, or their respective employees have an ownership or economic interest or (d) employees of Barings or its affiliates, have an ownership interest as a holder of the debt, equity or other instruments of the issuer. Barings has a conflict of interest in connection with any such transaction since investments by its advisory clients may directly or indirectly benefit Barings and/or its affiliates and employees by potentially increasing the value of the securities or instruments it holds in the issuer. Any investment by Barings on behalf of its advisory clients will be consistent with its fiduciary obligations to act in the best interests of its advisory clients, and otherwise be consistent with such clients' investment objectives and restrictions.

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Barings or its affiliates may also recommend that clients invest in registered or unregistered investment companies, including private investment funds such as hedge funds, private equity funds or structured funds (i) advised by Barings or an affiliate, (ii) in which Barings, an affiliate or their respective employees has an ownership or economic interest or (iii) with respect to which Barings or an affiliate has an interest in the entity entitled to receive the fees paid by such funds. Barings has a conflict of interest in connection with any such recommendation since it may have an incentive to base its recommendation to invest in such investment companies or private funds on the fees that Barings or its affiliates would earn as a result of the investment by its advisory clients in the investment companies or private funds. Any recommendation to invest in a Barings advised fund or other investment company will be consistent with Barings' fiduciary obligations to act in the best interests of its advisory clients, consistent with such clients' investment objectives and restrictions. Barings may, in certain limited circumstances, offer to clients that invest in private investment funds that it advises an equity interest in entities that receive advisory fees and carried profits interest from such funds.

**Employee Co-Investment:** Barings may permit certain of its portfolio managers and other eligible employees to invest in certain private investment funds advised by Barings or its affiliates and/or share in the performance fees received by Barings from such funds. If the portfolio manager or other eligible employee was responsible for both the portfolio management of the private fund and other Barings advisory accounts, such person would have a conflict of interest in connection with investment decisions since the person may have an incentive to direct the best investment ideas, or to allocate trades, in favor of the fund in which he or she is invested or otherwise entitled to share in the performance fees received from such fund. To address the conflicts of interest, Barings has adopted a Side by Side Management of Private Investment Funds and Other Advisory Accounts Policy which requires, among others things, that Barings treat each of its advisory clients in a manner consistent with its fiduciary obligations and prohibits Barings from favoring any particular advisory account as a result of the ownership or economic interests of Barings, its affiliates or employees, in such advisory account. Any investment by a Barings employee in one of its private funds is also governed by Barings' Employee Co-Investment Policy, which ensures that any co-investment by a Barings employee is consistent with Barings' Code of Ethics, as summarized above.

**Management of Multiple Accounts:** As noted above, Barings' portfolio managers are often responsible for the day-to-day management of multiple accounts, including, among others, separate accounts for institutional clients, closed-end and open-end registered investment companies, and/or private investment funds (such as hedge funds, private equity funds and structured funds), as well as for proprietary accounts of Barings and its affiliates, including MassMutual and its affiliates. The potential for material conflicts of interest exist whenever a portfolio manager has responsibility for the day-to-day management of multiple advisory accounts. These conflicts may be heightened to the extent a portfolio manager is responsible for managing a proprietary account for Barings or its affiliates or where the portfolio manager, Barings and/or an affiliate has an investment in one or more of such accounts or an interest in the performance of one or more of such accounts (e.g., through the receipt of a performance fee).

**Investment Allocation:** Such potential conflicts include those relating to allocation of investment opportunities. For example, it is possible that an investment opportunity may be suitable for more than one account managed by Barings, but may not be available in sufficient quantities for all accounts to participate fully. Similarly, there may be limited opportunity to sell an investment held by multiple accounts. A conflict arises where the portfolio manager has an incentive to treat an account preferentially because the account pays Barings or its affiliates a performance-based fee or the portfolio manager, Barings or an affiliate has an ownership or other economic interest in the account. As noted above, Barings also acts as an investment manager for certain of its affiliates, including MassMutual. These affiliate accounts sometimes co-invest jointly and concurrently with Barings' other advisory clients and therefore share in the allocation of such investment opportunities. To address the conflicts of interest associated with the allocation of trading and investment opportunities, Barings has adopted an Investment Allocation Policy and trade allocation procedures that govern the allocation of portfolio transactions and investment opportunities across multiple advisory accounts, including affiliated accounts, which are summarized below under Item 12 – Brokerage Practices, Investment Allocation Policy. In addition, as noted above, to address the conflicts, Barings has adopted a Side by Side Management of Private Investment Funds and Other Advisory Accounts Policy which requires, among others things,



that Barings treat each of its advisory clients in a manner consistent with its fiduciary obligations and prohibits Barings from favoring any particular advisory account as a result of the ownership or economic interests of Barings, its affiliates or employees, in such advisory accounts. Any investment by a Barings employee in one of its private funds is also governed by Barings' Employee Co-Investment Policy, which ensures that any co-investment by a Barings employee is consistent with Barings' Code of Ethics.

Personal Securities Transactions; Short Sales: Potential material conflicts of interest may also arise related to the knowledge and timing of an account's trades, investment opportunities and broker or dealer selection. Barings and its portfolio managers have information about the size, timing and possible market impact of the trades of each account they manage. It is possible that portfolio managers could use this information for their personal advantage and/or to the advantage or disadvantage of various accounts which they manage. For example, a portfolio manager could cause a favored account to "front run" an account's trade or sell short a security for an account immediately prior to another account's sale of that security. To address these conflicts, Barings has adopted policies and procedures, including a Short Sales Policy, which ensures that the use of short sales by Barings is consistent with Barings' fiduciary obligations to its clients, a Side by Side Management of Private Investment Funds and Other Advisory Accounts Policy, which requires, among other things, that Barings treat each of its advisory clients in a manner consistent with its fiduciary obligations and prohibits Barings from favoring any particular account as a result of the ownership or economic interest of Barings, its affiliates or employees and a Code of Ethics.

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**Trade Errors:** Potential material conflicts of interest may also arise if a trade error occurs in a client account. A trade error is deemed to occur if there is a deviation by Barings from the applicable standard of care in connection with the placement, execution or settlement of a trade for an advisory account that results in (1) Barings purchasing assets not permitted or authorized by a client's investment advisory agreement or otherwise failing to follow a client's specific investment directives; (2) Barings purchasing or selling the wrong security or the wrong amount of securities on behalf of a client's account; or (3) Barings purchasing or selling assets for, or allocating assets to, the wrong client account. When correcting these errors, conflicts of interest between Barings and its advisory accounts may arise as decisions are made on whether to cancel, reverse or reallocate the erroneous trades. In order to address the conflicts, Barings has adopted a Global Errors Policy governing the resolution of trading errors, and will follow the Global Errors Policy in order to ensure that trade errors are handled promptly and appropriately and that any action taken to remedy an error places the interest of a client ahead of Barings' interest.

**Best Execution; Directed or Restricted Brokerage:** With respect to securities and other transactions (including, but not limited to, derivatives transactions) for most of the accounts it manages, Barings determines which broker, dealer or other counterparty to use to execute each order, consistent with its fiduciary duty to seek best execution of the transaction. Barings manages certain accounts, however, for clients who limit its discretion with respect to the selection of counterparties or direct it to execute such client's transaction through a particular counterparty. In these cases, trades for such an account in a particular security or other transaction may be placed separately from, rather than aggregated with, those in the same security or transaction for other accounts. Placing separate transaction orders for a security or transaction may temporarily affect the market price of the security or transaction or otherwise affect the execution of the transaction to the possible detriment of one or more of the other account(s) involved. Barings has adopted a Best Execution Policy and a Directed or Restricted Brokerage Policy which are summarized below under Item 12 – Brokerage Practices, Counterparty Selection/Recommendations and Directed/Restricted Brokerage.

Barings and its portfolio managers or employees may have other actual or potential conflicts of interest in managing an advisory account, and the list above is not a complete description of every conflict of interest that could be deemed to exist.

**COMPENSATION.** Compensation packages at Barings are structured such that key professionals have a vested interest in the continuing success of the firm. Portfolio managers' compensation is comprised of base salary and a discretionarily allocated incentive bonus, which includes a performance-driven annual bonus, and may include a deferred long-term incentive bonus and also may contain a performance fee award. As part of the firm's continuing effort to monitor retention, Barings participates in annual compensation surveys of investment management firms to ensure that Barings' compensation is competitive with industry norms.

The base salary component is generally positioned at mid-market. Increases are tied to market, individual performance evaluations and budget constraints.

Portfolio Managers may receive a yearly incentive bonus. Factors impacting the potential bonuses include but are not limited to: i) investment performance of funds/accounts managed by a Portfolio Manager, ii) financial performance of Barings, iii) client satisfaction, iv) collaboration, v) risk management and vi) integrity.

Long-term incentives are designed to share the long-term success of the firm and take the form of deferred cash awards, which may include an award that resembles phantom restricted stock; linking the value of the award to a formula which includes Babson's overall earnings, revenue and assets under management. A voluntary separation of service will result in a forfeiture of unvested long-term incentive awards.

**BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP.** As of December 31, 2016, members of the Portfolio Management Team beneficially owned the following dollar range of equity securities in the Registrant:

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Portfolio Management Team: Dollar Range of Beneficially Owned\* Equity Securities of the Registrant:

Eric Lloyd	None
Sean Feeley	None
Robert M. Shettle	None

\* Beneficial ownership has been determined in accordance with Rule 16(a)-1(a)(2) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended.

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**ITEM 9. PURCHASES OF EQUITY SECURITIES BY CLOSED-END MANAGEMENT INVESTMENT COMPANY AND AFFILIATED PURCHASERS.**

Not applicable for this filing.

**ITEM 10. SUBMISSION OF MATTERS TO A VOTE OF SECURITY HOLDERS.**

Not applicable for this filing.

**ITEM 11. CONTROLS AND PROCEDURES.**

- (a) The principal executive officer and principal financial officer of the Registrant evaluated the effectiveness of the Registrant's disclosure controls and procedures (as defined in Rule 30a-3(c) under the Investment Company Act of 1940 (the "Act")) as of a date within 90 days of the filing date of this report and based on that evaluation have concluded that such disclosure controls and procedures are effective to provide reasonable assurance that material information required to be disclosed by the Registrant on Form N-CSR is recorded, processed, summarized and reported within the time periods specified in the Securities and Exchange Commission's rules and forms.
- (b) There were no changes in the Registrant's internal control over financial reporting (as defined in Rule 30a-3(d) under the Act) during the Registrant's second fiscal half year that have materially affected, or are reasonably likely to materially affect, the Registrant's internal control over financial reporting.

**ITEM 12. EXHIBITS.**

- (a)(1) ANY CODE OF ETHICS, OR AMENDMENTS THERETO, THAT IS THE SUBJECT OF DISCLOSURE REQUIRED BY ITEM 2, TO THE EXTENT THAT THE REGISTRANT INTENDS TO SATISFY THE ITEM 2 REQUIREMENTS THROUGH THE FILING OF AN EXHIBIT.

Not applicable for this filing.

- (a)(2) A SEPARATE CERTIFICATION FOR EACH PRINCIPAL EXECUTIVE OFFICER AND PRINCIPAL FINANCIAL OFFICER OF THE REGISTRANT AS REQUIRED BY RULE 30a-2 UNDER THE ACT.

Attached hereto as EX-99.31.1

Attached hereto as EX-99.31.2

(a)(3) ANY WRITTEN SOLICITATION TO PURCHASE SECURITIES UNDER RULE 23c-1 UNDER THE ACT (17 CFR 270.23c-1) SENT OR GIVEN DURING THE PERIOD COVERED BY THE REPORT BY OR ON BEHALF OF THE REGISTRANT TO 10 OR MORE PERSONS.

Not applicable for this filing.

(b) CERTIFICATIONS PURSUANT TO RULE 302-2(b) UNDER THE ACT.

Attached hereto as EX-99.32

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**SIGNATURES**

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and the Investment Company Act of 1940, the Registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized.

(Registrant): Barings Participation Investors

By: */s/ Robert M. Shettle*  
Robert M. Shettle, President  
Date: March 10, 2017

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and the Investment Company Act of 1940, this report has been signed below by the following persons on behalf of the Registrant and in the capacities and on the dates indicated.

By: */s/ Robert M. Shettle*  
Robert M. Shettle, President

Date: March 10, 2017

By: */s/ James M. Roy*  
James M. Roy, Vice President and

Chief Financial Officer

Date: March 10, 2017