

## Dividend Growth Strategy

# ACHIEVE YOUR FINANCIAL GOALS BY INVESTING IN QUALITY

At American Trust we understand the importance of investments that provide our clients with a growing stream of income over time together with the peace of mind knowing they are investing in companies with a history of success.

Our Dividend Growth Strategy consists primarily of companies with meaningful and sustainable competitive advantages. These companies have consistently grown their dividends and have been excellent stewards of capital. Through rising dividends and potential capital appreciation, a high return on initial investment can be achieved by investing in companies whose definable intrinsic values should continue to grow over time.

#### STEWARDS OF CAPITAL

American Trust believes that a sustained dividend growth rate and a consistently high return on equity are two meaningful signs of superior stewardship by their management.

The ability to achieve these measures over past market cycles are strong indicators of a quality company.

#### **OUR APPROACH**

We screen for firms that have done at least one of the following: increase their dividend at least eight of the past ten years, grown their dividend and book value by at least 100% from ten years ago or generated a minimum return on equity of 15% over each of the last ten years. Ideally, we look for those companies that have accomplished all three.

Companies being considered for the Dividend Growth Strategy are analyzed to determine if they are likely to remain strong or even improve. We review industry and company specific issues, paying particular attention to the stability of the company's returns as well as any sustainable competitive advantages.



As a discretionary trustee, our clients can rest assured that the Dividend Growth Strategy is handled with a prudent expert standard of care. Companies that make up the portfolio, as well as potential replacements, are evaluated regularly by our investment team to verify that they still possess the qualities required to be a part of the Strategy.

### Let's talk.

For more information on Dividend Growth Strategy, please contact us at (859) 514- 6161 or 1-866-934-5078 or simply email wealthmanagement@americantrust.com.

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