

# Shenkman Capital Floating Rate High Income Fund

December 31, 2024



## INVESTMENT PHILOSOPHY

The investment strategy is to seek to maximize risk-adjusted returns by investing in primarily first lien, senior secured, floating rate bank loans of non-investment grade (i.e., high yield) companies. The Shenkman Capital Floating Rate High Income Fund employs a conservative approach which focuses on principal preservation. Portfolios are well diversified across issue, issuer, and industry.

## FUND FACTS

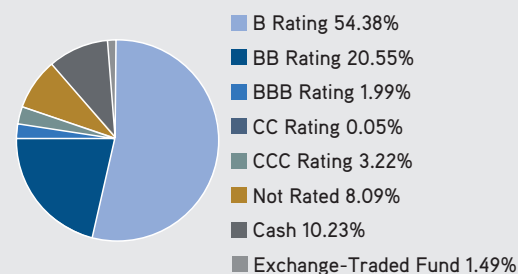
Ticker	SFHIX	SFHFH
CUSIP	00770X576	00770X485
Inception Date	10/15/14	3/1/2017
Min. Investment	\$1,000,000	\$1,000
Subs. Investment	\$100,000	\$100
Net Asset Value	\$9.18	\$9.18
Gross Exp. Ratio	0.70%	0.80%
Net Exp. Ratio <sup>^</sup>	0.54%	0.64%

## SEC YIELDS

	Institutional Class	Class F
30-Day SEC Yield Subsidized	7.50%	7.46%
30-Day SEC Yield Unsubsidized	7.33%	7.29%

The SEC 30-day yield is computed under an SEC standardized formula and is based on the maximum offer price per share. Subsidized yields reflect fee waivers in effect, while unsubsidized yields do not reflect fee waivers in effect.

## CREDIT QUALITY DISTRIBUTION<sup>1</sup>



## FUND OBJECTIVE

- The Shenkman Capital Floating Rate High Income Fund seeks a high level of current income.

## WHY SHENKMAN FOR SENIOR SECURED LOAN INVESTING

- Loan & Bond Expertise:** David Lerner's 20+ years of dedicated leveraged loan experience combined with the clout of a \$35.2 billion\* high yield platform facilitates strong capital market relationships that enable us to source paper, garner additional access to company management and work closely with our research coverage.
- Prudent Investment Philosophy:** As a firm, Shenkman focuses first and foremost on identifying money good credits, a key element of success in this asset class.
- Depth of Research Team:** The quality of Shenkman's 22 member credit research team allows our bank loan portfolio managers to feel confident seeking out price anomalies and relative value trades.
- Mandatory Management Contact:** We believe the significant overlap between Bond and Loan issuers is a key advantage for Shenkman as we often have had a meaningful dialogue that can include one-on-one meetings, a rarity for loan-only managers.
- Track Record Through Many Market Cycles:** While there are many bank loan strategies, Shenkman Capital is one of a few managers with a track record dating back to 1998.

\*The Shenkman Group of Companies AUM represents \$32.0bn managed by Shenkman Capital Management Inc. and \$3.3bn managed by Romark Credit Advisors LP and its relying advisors. Assets managed by Shenkman Capital Management, Inc. that are invested in securitization vehicles managed by Romark Credit Advisors LP are included in the AUM of both companies, but are included only once when calculating the AUM of the Shenkman Group. AUM calculations include uncalled commitments and gross assets of securitization vehicles. See disclaimers for additional important information on the Shenkman Group of Companies.

## FUND PERFORMANCE (as of 12/31/24)

	(as of 12/31/24)						(as of 12/31/24)		
	MTD	YTD	1 Yr	3 Yr	5 Yr**	Since Incept**	1 Yr	5 Yr**	Since Incept**
Institutional Class (I)	0.57%	8.14%	8.14%	6.10%	4.77%	4.30%	8.14%	4.77%	4.30%
Class F	0.56%	8.12%	8.12%	6.08%	4.78%	4.26%	8.12%	4.78%	4.26%
Morningstar LSTA US B-Rating & Above Loan Index	0.56%	9.06%	9.06%	7.30%	5.83%	5.06%	9.06%	5.83%	5.06%

\*\*The Institutional Class inception on October 15, 2014, and Class F inception on March 1, 2017. Since Inception Performance for Class F reflects performance since October 15, 2014. Class F performance for the period from October 15, 2014 to March 1, 2017 reflects the performance of the Institutional Class, adjusted to reflect Class F fees and expenses.

Performance data quoted represents past performance and does not guarantee future results. The investment return and principal value of an investment will fluctuate so that an investor's shares, when redeemed, may be worth more or less than their original cost. Fund performance current to the most recent month-end may be lower or higher than the performance quoted and can be obtained by calling 1-855-SHENKMAN. The fund imposes a redemption fee of 1.00% on shares held for 30 days or less. Performance data does not reflect the redemption fee. If it had, returns would be reduced.

<sup>1</sup>Rating Agency: Standard and Poors; All ratings include each tranche within their respective ratings category.

<sup>^</sup>The adviser has contractually agreed to waive a portion of the fund expenses through January 27, 2025. Performance would have been lower without fee waivers in effect.

## MONTHLY COMMENTARY

The leveraged loan market, as defined by the Morningstar LSTA US Leveraged Loan Index (the "Index"), returned 2.27% in the fourth quarter, marking the 11th consecutive quarterly gain for the asset class. Elevated coupons and robust collateralized loan obligation (CLO) formations provided tailwinds for the asset class during the quarter. The looming election and subsequent Republican sweep spurred significant market volatility, though the loan market remained largely insulated from the tumultuous quarter in the equity markets. For calendar year 2024, high yield bonds, investment grade bonds, and Treasuries, as measured by the ICE BofA US High Yield Index (H0A0), ICE BofA Corporate Index (COA0), and the ICE BofA Current 10-year Treasury Index (GA10), posted returns of 8.20%, 2.76%, and -1.69%, respectively, while leveraged loans gained 8.95%.

Returns by rating showed a risk-off quality bias among rating tiers during the quarter as BBs and Bs outperformed the riskier CCC & below rated cohort. For the quarter, BBs, Bs, and CCC & below returned 2.21%, 2.51%, and 0.40%, respectively. While a risk-on tone was evident in the loan market throughout much of the front half of the year, CCC & below loans trailed the higher rated cohorts during the second half of the year. For the full year, BB and B loans gained 8.15% and 9.55%, respectively, while CCC & below trailed with a gain of 7.36%. Liquid loans, as measured by the Morningstar LSTA US Leveraged Loan 100 Index, modestly outperformed the Index during the quarter with a return of 2.49%. Of the 62 industries in the Index, 58 showed a positive return in the fourth quarter. The top performing industries included Diversified Telecommunication Services, Electronic Equipment, Instruments & Components, and Media, while the performance laggards included Automobile Components, Food Products, and IT Services.

Primary leveraged loan market activity surged in the fourth quarter to \$418.7 billion, following issuance of \$205.6 billion, \$385.0 billion and \$317.6 billion in the third, second, and first quarters, respectively, amid unprecedented wave of repricing/refinancing activity. Full year issuance of \$1.3 trillion marked a new annual issuance total, though issuance was dominated by repricing and refinancing activity, which accounted for 57% and 30% of issuance, respectively. From a demand perspective, net CLO formations totaled \$50.7 billion in the fourth quarter, following \$41.1 billion in the third quarter and second and first quarter issuance of \$52.3 billion and \$48.4, respectively. Full year 2024 net issuance of \$197.7 billion marked the highest annual volume on record, surpassing 2021 issuance of \$183.7 billion. Following outflows in both 2022 and 2023, retail demand for leveraged loans rebounded in 2024. The fourth quarter showed inflows of \$11.6 billion, bringing the full year inflows total to \$21.1 billion. Nine loan issuers defaulted in the fourth quarter affecting \$6.9 billion in loans following ten defaults in the third quarter (\$6.5 billion). The trailing 12-month par-weighted default rate ended the quarter/year at 1.52%, a 24 basis points (bps) increase from the previous quarter and 59 bps lower than one year ago, according to J.P. Morgan Research. For context, the historical leveraged loan default rate is approximately 3%. While the default rate has fallen over the last year, distressed exchange activity, including liability management exercises (LME), has remained elevated. Distressed exchange volume has accounted for nearly two-thirds of default/distressed volume this year, and the default rate including distressed exchanges ended the year at 4.49%, a 51-month high.

Investors have contended with a series of mixed messages from the Fed over the last year. The Fed seemed to soften its rhetoric in the closing months of 2023, with the first talk of potential rate cuts being forecast for the front half of 2024. However, inflation deceleration stalled in the first quarter sparking hawkish comments from Fed governors, which appeared to dash hopes for imminent rate cuts. A subsequent slowdown of employment gains and continually subsiding inflation during the second and third quarters led to the markets pricing in several rate cuts before the end of the year, which came to fruition as the Fed cut their target rate by 50 bps in September followed by two 25 bps cuts in November and December. While 2024 was heavily focused on actions from the Fed, we expect the coming months to focus on administrative and legislative policy changes from the change in Administration. The new year could be a crucial test of market resilience as consumers and corporations adapt to these changes, which are poised to arise at a rapid pace compared to the prior four years of relatively muted policy shifts. We continue to monitor developments across industries and the broader economy, seeking to assess the potential impact on the leveraged loan market. Given the current attractive all-in credit spreads, we believe the leveraged loan market presents compelling relative value opportunities, particularly given high current base rates. As we seek to proactively manage the portfolio and trade exposures across our global platform, our goal remains to safeguard against potential downside risks while concurrently optimizing returns.

## ABOUT SHENKMAN

Shenkman Capital Management, Inc. ("Shenkman") is an independent investment management organization, founded and registered as an investment adviser with the SEC in 1985. Over the past 39 years, Shenkman has dedicated its investment management services exclusively to the leveraged finance market, earning a reputation as a pioneer in the asset class as well as an early practitioner of credit research analytics. We seek to be a world leader in the research and management of leveraged finance investments for risk averse investors. Shenkman Group of Companies manages approximately \$35.2 billion of assets for a predominately institutional client base, with offices located in New York, NY, Stamford, CT, Boca Raton, FL, and London, UK.

## FUND CHARACTERISTICS (as of 12/31/24)

Total Fund Assets	\$274.5 million
Number of Holdings	440
Average Maturity*	4.46 Yrs
Distribution Frequency	Monthly
Redemption Fee	30 days/1.00%

\*Based on Shenkman's internal valuations, classifications, and records.

Fund holdings, industry allocations and other characteristics are subject to change at any time and are not recommendations to buy or sell any security. **S&P ratings** represent Standard & Poor's opinion on the general creditworthiness of a debtor, or the creditworthiness of a debtor with respect to a particular debt security or other financial obligation. Ratings are used to evaluate the likelihood a debt will be repaid and range from AAA (excellent capacity to meet financial obligations) to D (in default). In limited situations when the rating agency has not issued a formal rating, the Advisor will classify the security as nonrated. The **Morningstar LSTA U.S. B- Rating & Above Loan Index** tracks the current outstanding balance and spread over LIBOR for fully funded institutional term loans that are rated B- or above and syndicated to U.S. loan investors. The **Morningstar LSTA US Leveraged Loan Index** is a market-value weighted index designed to measure the performance of the US leveraged loan market. The **Morningstar LSTA US Leveraged Loan 100 Index** is designed to measure the performance of the 100 largest facilities in the US leveraged loan market. Index constituents are market-value weighted, subject to a single loan facility weight cap of 2%. The **ICE BofA Current 10-Year U.S. Treasury Index (GA10)** is a one security index comprised of the most recently issued 10-year U.S. Treasury Note. **London Interbank Offer Rate (LIBOR)** - the rate at which banks charge each other for short-term funds; also used as a benchmark for short-term interest rates. **Basis Points (bps)** - A basis point is a value equaling one one-hundredth of a percent (1/100 of 1%). The **Consumer Price Index (CPI)** is a measure that examines the weighted average of prices of a basket of consumer goods and services, such as transportation, food, and medical care. **Gross domestic product (GDP)** is the total monetary or market value of all the finished goods and services produced within a country's borders in a specific time period. **Par** - The term at par means at face value. A bond, preferred stock, or other debt instruments may trade at par, below par, or above par. An **Original Issue Discount (OID)** is the discount in price from a bond's face value at the time a bond or other debt instrument is first issued. A covenant is a commitment in a bond or other formal debt agreement that certain activities will or will not be undertaken. **Secured Overnight Financing Rate (SOFR)** - The secured overnight financing rate (SOFR) is a benchmark interest rate for dollar-denominated derivatives and loans that is replacing the London interbank offered rate (LIBOR). The **ICE BofA U.S. High Yield Index (H0AO)** has an inception date of August 31, 1986, and tracks the performance of U.S. dollar denominated below investment grade corporate debt publicly issued in the U.S. domestic market. The **ICE BofA U.S. Corporate Index (COAO)** has an inception date of December 31, 1972, and tracks the performance of U.S. dollar denominated investment grade corporate debt publicly issued in the U.S. domestic market. Any information in these materials from ICE Data Indices, LLC ("ICE BofA") was used with permission. ICE BofA PERMITS USE OF THE ICE BofA INDICES AND RELATED DATA ON AN "AS IS" BASIS, MAKES NO WARRANTIES REGARDING SAME, DOES NOT GUARANTEE THE SUITABILITY, QUALITY, ACCURACY, TIMELINESS, AND/OR COMPLETENESS OF THE ICE BofA INDICES OR ANY DATA INCLUDED IN, RELATED TO, OR DERIVED THEREFROM, ASSUMES NO LIABILITY IN CONNECTION WITH THE USE OF THE FOREGOING, AND DOES NOT SPONSOR, ENDORSE, OR RECOMMEND THE SHENKMAN GROUP, OR ANY OF ITS PRODUCTS OR SERVICES.

## TOP 10 HOLDINGS

Name	Coupon	Maturity	S&P Rating	% of Fund
Invesco Senior Loan ETF	N/A	N/A	N/A	1.64%
Gen Digital, Inc.	5.00%	4/15/2025	BB-	0.81%
Delivery Hero Finco LLC	9.522%	12/12/2029	B-	0.77%
Cloud Software Group, Inc.	8.088%	3/30/2029	B	0.77%
Medline Borrower LP	6.823%	10/23/2028	BB-	0.77%
Global Medical Response, Inc.	9.106%	10/2/2028	B-	0.76%
Acrisure LLC	7.106%	2/15/2027	NR	0.69%
UKG, Inc.	7.617%	1/31/2031	B-	0.65%
Carnival Corp.	7.323%	8/8/2027	BBB-	0.64%
Cincinnati Bell, Inc.	7.116%	11/22/2028	B-	0.64%

## TOP 5 INDUSTRIES

Name	% of Fund
Technology - Software & Services	15.57%
Healthcare - Facilities	6.57%
Financials - Diversified	6.55%
Commercial Services	5.53%
Financials - Insurance	4.12%

## FUND MANAGEMENT TEAM

### Mark R. Shenkman

Founder, President;  
Co-Portfolio Manager

### Justin W. Slatky

Executive Vice President; Chief  
Investment Officer;  
Co-Portfolio Manager

### David H. Lerner

Senior Vice President, President of  
Romark & Head of Structured Credit;  
Co-Portfolio Manager

### Jordan N. Barrow, CFA

Senior Vice President, Co-Head of  
Liquid Credit; Co-Portfolio Manager

### Jeffrey Gallo

Senior Vice President, Co-Head of  
Liquid Credit; Co-Portfolio Manager

### Brian C. Goldberg

Senior Vice President, Head of Bank  
Loan & CLO Capital Markets;  
Co-Portfolio Manager

### Eileen Spiro, CFA

Senior Vice President;  
Associate Portfolio Manager

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Shenkman Capital Management, Inc. ("Shenkman" or "Shenkman Capital") is registered as an investment adviser with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (the "SEC"). Romark Credit Advisors LP is also registered as an investment adviser with the SEC and Romark CLO Advisors LLC is registered as a relying adviser of Romark Credit Advisors LP (together, "Romark"). Shenkman Capital Management Ltd is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Shenkman Capital Management, Inc. and is authorized and regulated by the UK Financial Conduct Authority. Such registrations do not imply any specific skill or training. EEA Investors: This material is provided to you because you have been classified as a professional client in accordance with the Markets in Financial Instruments Directive (Directive 2014/65/EU) (known as "MiFID II") or as otherwise defined under applicable local regulations. If you are unsure about your classification, or believe that you may be a retail client under these rules, please contact the Shenkman Group and disregard this information.

**Mutual fund investing involves risk. Principal loss is possible. There can be no assurance that the Fund will achieve its stated objective. In addition to the normal risks associated with investing, bonds and bank loans, and the funds that invest in them are subject to interest rate risk and can be expected to decline in value as interest rates rise. Investment by the Fund in lower-rated and non-rated securities presents a greater risk of loss to principal and interest than higher-rated securities. Diversification does not assure a profit, nor does it protect against a loss in a declining market. The SEC does not endorse, indemnify, approve nor disapprove of any security.**

The Fund invests in foreign securities which involve political, economic and currency risks, greater volatility and differences in accounting methods. Derivatives may involve certain costs and risks such as liquidity, interest rate, market, credit, management, and the risk that a position could not be closed when most advantageous. Leverage may cause the effect of an increase or decrease in the value of the portfolio securities to be magnified and the fund to be more volatile than if leverage was not used. Investments in CLOs carry additional risks, including the possibility that distributions from collateral securities will not be adequate to make interest payments and that the quality of the collateral may decline in value or default.

The indices mentioned are unmanaged, not available for direct investment and do not reflect deductions for fees or expenses.

**Must be preceded or accompanied by a prospectus. The Fund's investment objectives, risks, charges and expenses must be considered carefully before investing. The summary and statutory prospectus contains this and other important information about the Fund and may be obtained by calling 1-855-SHENKMAN (1-855-743-6562). Read carefully before investing.**

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