



## **Information Circular: FIRST TRUST FUNDS**

First Trust IPOX-100 Index Fund

First Trust Morningstar Dividend Leaders Index Fund

First Trust Dow Jones Select MicroCap Index Fund

First Trust Value Line Dividend Index Fund

First Trust Value Line Equity Allocation Index Fund

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**To:** Head Traders, Technical Contacts, Compliance Officers, Head of ETF Trading, Structured Products Traders

**From:** BX Listing Qualifications Department

**DATE:** January 15, 2009

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### **Background Information on the Funds**

See Appendix A for a listing of First Trust Funds ("Funds") that will commence trading on BX on a UTP basis on January 16, 2009. The investment objective of the Funds is to provide investment results that correspond generally to the price and yield, before fees and expenses, of an equity index ("Index"). The Funds will generally invest in all of the securities comprising the Index in the same proportion as in the Index. However, under various circumstances, it may not be possible or practical to purchase all of the stocks in such proportion and the Funds may instead purchase a sample of the stocks in the Index.

First Trust Advisors, L.P. ("Adviser") serves as investment adviser to the Funds. First Trust Portfolios, L.P., is the distributor for the Funds ("Distributor"). The Bank of New York is the administrator, custodian and fund accounting and transfer agent for the Funds ("Custodian").

As described more fully in the prospectus and the Statement of Additional Information ("SAI") for a Fund, the Funds offer and issue shares ("Shares") at their net asset value ("NAV") only in large blocks of 50,000 Shares (each block of 50,000 Shares called a "Creation Unit"), generally in exchange for a basket of equity securities included in the Index, together with the deposit of a specified cash payment. The Shares will trade on BX at market prices that may differ from their NAV. The Shares are redeemable only in Creation Units, and, generally, in exchange for portfolio securities and a specified cash payment. Except when aggregated in Creation Units, the Shares may not be redeemed with a Fund.

Each Fund is part of a Trust that is an open-end management investment company registered under the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended ("1940 Act"), consisting of three series, including the Funds. Each Fund is an investment company and an exchange-traded "index fund."

Each Fund pays out dividends from net investment income, if any, to shareholders semi-annually. The Fund distributes its net capital gains, if any, to shareholders annually, but may make distributions more frequently under certain circumstances.

The Depository Trust Company (“DTC”) serves as securities depository for the Shares, which may be held only in book-entry form; stock certificates will not be issued. DTC, or its nominee, is the record or registered owner of all outstanding Shares.

A Fund’s NAV is determined as of the close of trading (normally, 4:00 p.m. Eastern Standard Time (“ET”)) on each day that the New York Stock Exchange is open for business (a “Business Day”). The NAV is available from the Distributor and is also available to National Securities Clearing Corporation (“NSCC”) participants through data made available from NSCC.

The registration statement for a Fund describes the various fees and expenses for the Fund’s Shares.

For a complete description of the Funds and the underlying indexes, visit [www.ftportfolios.com](http://www.ftportfolios.com).

### **Purchases and Redemptions in Creation Unit Size**

BX members are hereby informed that procedures for purchases and redemptions of Shares in Creation Unit Size are described in the prospectus and SIA for a Fund, and that Shares are not individually redeemable but are redeemable only in Creation Unit Size aggregations or multiples thereof.

### **Principal Risks**

Interested persons are referred to the discussion in the prospectus for a Fund of the principal risks of an investment in that Fund. These include tracking error risk (factors causing a Fund’s performance to not match the performance of the underlying index), market trading risk (for example, trading halts, trading above or below net asset value), stock market risk, investment style risk, interest rate risk, investment approach risk, concentration risk, non-diversification risk, issuer-specific risk, management risk, lack of market liquidity, lack of governmental insurance or guarantee and fiscal policy risk.

### **Exchange Rules Applicable to Trading in the Shares**

Trading in the Shares on BX is subject to BX equity trading rules.

### **Trading Hours**

The value of the Index is disseminated to data vendors every 15 seconds. The Shares will trade on BX between 8:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. For trading during BX’s Pre-Market and Post-Market Sessions, market participants should note that additional risks may exist with respect to trading the Funds during these sessions, when the underlying index’s values may not be disseminated.

## Suitability

Trading in the Shares on BX will be subject to the provisions of BX Rule 2310. Members recommending transactions in the Shares to customers should make a determination that the recommendation is suitable for the customer. In addition, members must possess sufficient information to satisfy the "know your customer" obligation that is embedded in the BX Conduct Rules.

Members also should review [NASD Notice to Members 03-71](#) for guidance on trading these products. The Notice reminds members of their obligations to: (1) conduct adequate due diligence to understand the features of the product; (2) perform a reasonable-basis suitability analysis; (3) perform customer-specific suitability analysis in connection with any recommended transactions; (4) provide a balanced disclosure of both the risks and rewards associated with the particular product, especially when selling to retail investors; (5) implement appropriate internal controls; and (6) train registered persons regarding the features, risk and suitability of these products.

## Trading Halts

BX will halt trading in the Shares of a Fund in accordance with BX Rule 4120. The grounds for a halt under BX Rule 4120 include a halt by the primary market because the intraday indicative value of the Fund and/or the value of its underlying index are not being disseminated as required, or a halt for other regulatory reasons. In addition, BX will stop trading the Shares of a Fund if the primary market de-lists the Fund.

## Delivery of a Prospectus

BX members should be mindful of applicable prospectus delivery requirements under the federal securities laws with respect to transactions in the Funds. Prospectuses may be obtained through the Funds' Distributor at 1-800.621.1675. The prospectus for a Fund does not contain all of the information set forth in the Fund's registration statement (including the exhibits to the registration statement), parts of which have been omitted in accordance with the rules and regulations of the Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC"). For further information about a Fund, please refer to its registration statement. In the event that the Funds rely upon an order by the SEC exempting the Shares from certain prospectus delivery requirements under Section 24(d) of the 1940 Act and in the future make available a written product description, BX Rule 4420(j)(2) requires that BX members provide to all purchasers of Shares a written description of the terms and characteristics of such securities, in a form prepared by the Trust for the Fund, no later than the time a confirmation of the first transaction in the Shares is delivered to such purchaser. In addition, BX members shall include such a written description with any sales material relating to the Shares that is provided to customers or the public. Any other written materials provided by a BX member to customers or the public making specific reference to the Shares as an investment vehicle must include a statement in substantially the following form: "A circular describing the terms and characteristics of the Shares of the Fund has been prepared by the Trust and is available from your broker. It is recommended that you obtain and review such circular before purchasing Shares of the Fund. In addition, upon request you may obtain from your broker a prospectus for Shares of the Fund."

A BX member carrying an omnibus account for a non-member broker-dealer is required to inform such non-member that execution of an order to purchase Shares for such omnibus

account will be deemed to constitute agreement by the non-member to make such written description available to its customers on the same terms as are directly applicable to BX member under this rule.

Upon request of a customer, BX members also shall provide a copy of the Prospectus.

### **Exemptive, Interpretive and No-Action Relief Under Federal Securities Regulations**

The SEC has issued exemptive, interpretive or no-action relief from certain provisions of rules under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (the "Act") regarding trading in the above mentioned exchange-traded funds.

### **Regulation M Exemptions**

Generally, Rules 101 and 102 of Regulation M prohibit any "distribution participant" and its "affiliated purchasers" from bidding for, purchasing, or attempting to induce any person to bid for or purchase any security which is the subject of a distribution until after the applicable restricted period, except as specifically permitted in Regulation M. The provisions of the Rules apply to underwriters, prospective underwriters, brokers, dealers, and other persons who have agreed to participate or are participating in a distribution of securities.

The SEC has granted an exemption from Rule 101 under Regulation M to permit persons participating in a distribution of shares of the above-mentioned Funds to engage in secondary market transactions in such shares during their participation in such a distribution. In addition, the SEC has granted relief under Regulation M to permit persons who may be deemed to be participating in the distribution of shares of the above-mentioned Funds (i) to purchase securities for the purpose of purchasing Creation Unit Aggregations of Fund Shares and to (ii) tender securities for redemption in Creation Unit Aggregations. Further, the SEC has clarified that the tender of Fund Shares to the Funds for redemption does not constitute a bid for or purchase of any of the Funds' securities during the restricted period of Rule 101. The SEC has also granted an exemption pursuant to paragraph (e) of Rule 102 under Regulation M to allow the redemption of Fund Shares in Creation Unit Aggregations during the continuous offering of shares.

### **Customer Confirmations for Creation or Redemption of Fund Shares (SEC Rule 10b-10)**

Broker-dealers who handle purchases or redemptions of Fund Shares in Creation Unit size for customers will be permitted to provide such customers with a statement of the number of Creation Unit Aggregations created or redeemed without providing a statement of the identity, number and price of shares of the individual securities tendered to the Fund for purposes of purchasing Creation Unit Aggregations ("Deposit Securities") or the identity, number and price of shares to be delivered by the Trust to the redeeming holder ("Redemption Securities"). The composition of the securities required to be tendered to the Fund for creation purposes and of the securities to be delivered on redemption will be disseminated each business day and will be applicable to requests for creations or

redemption, as the case may be, on that day. This exemptive relief under Rule 10b-10 with respect to creations and redemptions is subject to the following conditions:

- (1) Confirmations to customers engaging in creations or redemptions must state that all information required by Rule 10b-10 will be provided upon request;
- (2) Any such request by a customer for information required by Rule 10b-10 will be filed in a timely manner, in accordance with Rule 10b-10(c);
- (3) Except for the identity, number and price of shares of the component securities of the Deposit Securities and Redemption Securities, as described above, confirmations to customers must disclose all other information required by Rule 10b-10(a).

### **SEC Rule 14e-5**

An exemption from Rule 14e-5 has been granted to permit any person acting as a dealer-manager of a tender offer for a component security of the Funds to (1) redeem Fund Shares in Creation Unit Aggregations from the issuer that may include a security subject to such tender offer and (2) to purchase Fund shares during such tender offer. In addition, a no-action position has been taken under Rule 14e-5 if a broker-dealer acting as a dealer-manager of a tender offer for a security of the Fund purchases or arranges to purchase such securities in the secondary market for the purpose of tendering such securities to purchase one or more Creation Unit Aggregations of Shares, if made in conformance with the following:

- (1) such bids or purchases are effected in the ordinary course of business, in connection with a basket of 20 or more securities in which any security that is the subject of a distribution, or any reference security, does not comprise more than 5% of the value of the basket purchased; or
- (2) purchases are effected as adjustments to such basket in the ordinary course of business as a result of a change in the composition of the underlying index; and
- (3) such bids or purchases are not effected for the purpose of facilitating such tender offer.

### **Section 11(d)(1); SEC Rules 11d1-1 and 11d1-2**

Section 11(d)(1) of the Act generally prohibits a person who is both a broker and a dealer from effecting any transaction in which the broker-dealer extends credit to a customer on any security which was part of a new issue in the distribution of which he participated as a member of a selling syndicate or group within thirty days prior to such transaction. The SEC has clarified that Section 11(d)(1) does not apply to broker-dealers that are not "Authorized Participants" (and, therefore, do not create Creation Unit Aggregations) that engage in both proprietary and customer transactions in Shares of the Funds in the secondary market, and for broker-dealer Authorized Participants that engage in creations

of Creation Unit Aggregations. This relief is subject to specific conditions, including the condition that such broker-dealer (whether or not an Authorized Participant) does not, directly or indirectly, receive from the fund complex any payment, compensation or other economic incentive to promote or sell the Shares of the Fund to persons outside the fund complex, other than non-cash compensation permitted under NASD Rule 2830 (I)(5)(A), (B) or (C). (See [letter](#) from Catherine McGuire, Chief Counsel, SEC Division of Market Regulation, to Securities Industry Association, Derivative Products Committee, dated November 21, 2005.) The SEC also has taken a no-action position under Section 11(d)(1) of the Act that broker-dealers may treat Shares of the Funds, for purposes of Rule 11d1-2, as "securities issued by a registered open-end investment company as defined in the Investment Company Act" and thereby extend credit or maintain or arrange for the extension or maintenance of credit on Shares that have been owned by the persons to whom credit is provided for more than 30 days, in reliance on the exemption contained in the rule.

### **SEC Rule 15c1-5 and 15c1-6**

The SEC has taken a no-action position with respect to Rule 15c1-5 and Rule 15c1-6 as to the required disclosure of control by a broker or dealer with respect to creations and redemptions of Fund Shares and secondary market transactions therein. (See [letter](#) from Catherine McGuire, Chief Counsel, SEC Division of Market Regulation, to Securities Industry Association, Derivative Products Committee, dated November 21, 2005.)

**This Information Circular is not a statutory prospectus. BX members should consult the prospectus for a Fund and the Funds' website at [www.ftportfolios.com](http://www.ftportfolios.com) for relevant information.**

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Inquiries regarding this Information Circular should be directed to:

- Will Slattery, BX Listing Qualifications, at 301.978.8088
- BX Office of General Counsel at 301.978.8400
- BX Market Sales at 800.846.0477

## Appendix A – First Trust Funds

### Exchange-Traded Fund

	<b>Symbol</b>	<b>CUSIP Number</b>
First Trust IPOX-100 Index Fund	FPX	336920103
First Trust Value Line Dividend Index Fund	FVD	33734H106
First Trust Value Line Equity Allocation Index Fund	FVI	336919105
First Trust Morningstar Dividend Leaders Index Fund	FDL	336917109
First Trust Dow Jones Select MicroCap Index Fund	FDM	33718M105