

H&Q HEALTHCARE INVESTORS
Form DEF 14A
April 30, 2012

UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE
COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20549

SCHEDULE 14A

Proxy Statement Pursuant to Section 14(a) of
the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (Amendment No.)

Filed by the Registrant ☒

Filed by a Party other than the Registrant ☐

Check the appropriate box:

- ☐ Preliminary Proxy Statement
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☒ Definitive Proxy Statement
☐ Definitive Additional Materials
☐ Soliciting Material Pursuant to §240.14a-12

H&Q Healthcare Investors
(Name of Registrant as Specified In Its Charter)

(Name of Person(s) Filing Proxy Statement, if other than the Registrant)

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- ☒ No fee required.
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| (4) | Date Filed: |

H&Q HEALTHCARE INVESTORS

2 Liberty Square, 9th Floor
Boston, Massachusetts 02109
(617) 772-8500

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS

To the Shareholders of
H&Q HEALTHCARE INVESTORS:

An Annual Meeting of Shareholders of H&Q Healthcare Investors (the "Fund" or "HQH") will be held on Monday, June 11, 2012 at 9:00 a.m. at the offices of the Fund, 2 Liberty Square, 9th Floor, Boston, Massachusetts 02109, for the following purposes:

- (1) The election of Trustees of the Fund;
- (2) The ratification or rejection of the selection of Deloitte & Touche LLP as the independent registered public accountants of the Fund for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2012; and
- (3) The transaction of such other business as may properly come before the Annual Meeting and any adjournment(s) or postponement(s) thereof.

Shareholders of record at the close of business on April 30, 2012 will be entitled to vote at the Annual Meeting or at any adjournment(s) or postponement(s) thereof.

By Order of the Board of Trustees,

Daniel R. Omstead, Ph.D.
President

May 1, 2012

Please complete, date and sign the Proxy for the shares held by you and return the Proxy in the envelope provided so that your vote can be recorded. No postage is required if the envelope is mailed in the United States. It is important that you return your signed Proxy promptly, regardless of the size of your holdings, so that a quorum may be assured.

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H&Q HEALTHCARE INVESTORS

PROXY STATEMENT

This Proxy Statement is furnished in connection with the solicitation by the Board of Trustees of H&Q Healthcare Investors (the "Fund" or "HQH") of proxies to be voted at the Annual Meeting of Shareholders of the Fund to be held on June 11, 2012 (the "Annual Meeting"), and any adjournment(s) or postponement(s) thereof, for the purposes set forth in the accompanying Notice of Annual Meeting, dated May 1, 2012. This Proxy Statement, the Notice of Annual Meeting and the Proxy Card(s) are first being mailed to shareholders on or about May 1, 2012.

Proposal 1 relates to the election of Trustees for the Fund and Proposal 2 relates to the ratification of the selection of the independent registered public accountants of the Fund.

The Fund will furnish, without charge, a copy of its Annual Report, or the most recent Semi-Annual Report succeeding the Annual Report, if any, to a shareholder upon request. Requests may be sent to the Fund at 2 Liberty Square, 9th Floor, Boston, MA 02109 or be made by calling (800) 451-2597.

Proposal 1 ELECTION OF TRUSTEES

The Fund's Declaration of Trust provides that its Board of Trustees shall be divided into three classes with staggered terms. The term of office of the Class B Trustees expires on the date of the 2012 Annual Meeting, and the term of office of the Class C and Class A Trustees will expire one and two years, respectively, thereafter. Trustees chosen to succeed the Class B Trustees whose terms are expiring will be elected for a three-year term.

The Fund's Declaration of Trust provides that a majority of its Trustees shall fix the number of the entire Board of Trustees and that such number shall be at least three and no greater than fifteen. The Fund's Board of Trustees has fixed the number of Trustees at eight. Proxies will be voted for the election of the following three nominees to serve as Class B Trustees until the 2015 Annual Meeting: Lawrence S. Lewin, Daniel R. Omstead, Ph.D. and Uwe E. Reinhardt. Each of the other Trustees is presently serving as a Class B Trustee and has consented to continue to so serve. On December 10, 2011, the Trustees, upon the recommendation of the Nominating Committee, nominated Michael W. Bonney to stand for election as a Class C Trustee at the Annual Meeting and appointed him as a Class C Trustee to fill a vacancy on the Board of Trustees until the Annual Meeting. Proxies will also be voted for the election of Michael W. Bonney to serve as a Class C Trustee until the 2013 Annual Meeting. Mr. Bonney is presently serving as a Class C Trustee and has consented to continue to so serve. In the event that a nominee is unable to serve for any reason when the election occurs, the accompanying Proxy will be voted for such other person or persons as the Board of Trustees may recommend.

The Class C Trustees serving until the 2013 Annual Meeting are Michael W. Bonney (if elected), Oleg M. Pohotsky and William S. Reardon. The Class A Trustees serving until the 2014 Annual Meeting are Rakesh K. Jain, Ph.D. and Lucinda H. Stebbins, CPA.

The Board believes that each Trustee's experience, qualifications, attributes and skills on an individual basis and in combination with those of other Trustees lead to the conclusion that each Trustee should serve in such capacity. Among the attributes or skills common to all Trustees are their ability to review critically and to evaluate, question and discuss information provided to them, to interact effectively with the other Trustees, the Fund's investment adviser, the administrator and other service providers, counsel and independent registered public accounting firm, and to exercise effective and independent business judgment in the performance of their duties as Trustees. Each Trustee's ability to perform the duties of a trustee effectively has been attained and enhanced through the Trustee's education, professional training and other life experiences, such as business, consulting or public service positions and through experience from service as a member of this Fund's Board and that of H&Q Life Sciences Investors ("HQL"), public companies, or non-profit entities or other organizations.

Michael W. Bonney: Mr. Bonney is the President, Chief Executive Officer and member of the Board of Directors of Cubist Pharmaceuticals, Inc., providing the Fund with valuable insight into operating matters relating to biotech companies and the overall healthcare industry. He serves on the Governance and Nominating Committees of the Funds. Mr. Bonney is also a Director of NPS Pharmaceuticals, Inc., is Chairman of the Board of Trustees of Bates College and is a Board member of the Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America (PhRMA). He holds an BA degree from Bates College.

Rakesh K. Jain, Ph.D.: Dr. Rakesh Jain is the Andrew Werk Cook Professor of Tumor Biology in the Department of Radiation Oncology at Harvard Medical School and the Director of the Edwin L. Steele Laboratory of Tumor Biology at Massachusetts General Hospital, providing the Fund with a valuable perspective on emerging life sciences technologies. Dr. Jain co-founded XTuit Pharmaceuticals, Inc. in 2011 where he also serves as a board member. He serves on the Governance and Nominating Committees of the Funds. Prior to joining Harvard, he was professor of chemical engineering at Columbia University and Carnegie Mellon University. Dr. Jain is regarded as a pioneer in the fields of tumor biology, drug delivery, in vivo imaging and bioengineering. Dr. Jain has authored more than 520 publications. He serves on advisory panels to government, industry and academia, and is a member of editorial advisory boards of ten journals, including Nature Reviews Cancer and Nature Reviews Clinical Oncology. He has received more than 50 major awards and lectureships, including a Guggenheim Fellowship, the Humboldt Senior Scientist Award, the National Cancer Institute's Research Career Development Award and Outstanding Investigator Grant, the Academic Scientist of the Year Award from the Pharmaceutical Achievements Awards, the Distinguished Service Award from Nature Biotechnology and the Innovator Award from the DoD Breast Cancer Program. He is a member of all three branches of US National Academies – the Institute of Medicine, the National Academy of Engineering and the National Academy of Sciences – and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

Lawrence S. Lewin, MBA: Mr. Lewin serves as Chairman of the Board of Trustees and Chairman of the Governance and Nominating Committees. Mr. Lewin was the Chief Executive Officer for 30 years of the Lewin Group, which he founded in 1970. The Lewin Group, a healthcare public policy and management consulting firm, delivers objective analyses and strategic counsel to public agencies, nonprofit organizations, industry associations and private companies across the United States. Mr. Lewin provides the Fund valuable insights into healthcare economics and reform. He has served on the Boards of a number of healthcare companies, including Intermountain Health Care, Medco Health Solutions, Inc., CardioNet, Inc., and CareFusion, and is currently a member of the Board of Regents of the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences. Mr. Lewin is an elected member of the Institute of Medicine since 1984. He holds an BA degree from Princeton University and an MBA from the Harvard Business School.

Daniel R. Omstead, Ph.D.: Dr. Omstead is President and Chief Executive Officer of Hambrecht & Quist Capital Management LLC (the "Adviser"), a registered investment adviser that serves as investment adviser to HQH and HQL. Dr. Omstead is also President of HQL and HQH. Dr. Omstead is portfolio manager for the public and restricted/venture portfolios within HQH and HQL. As part of these responsibilities, Dr. Omstead is a member of the Board of Directors of several portfolio companies including Magellan Diagnostics, Dynex Corporation, Tibion Corporation, Celladon Corporation and Palyon Medical. Prior to joining the Adviser, Dr. Omstead was President and CEO of Reprogenesis, Inc., a private development stage biotech company which developed therapies in the field of tissue engineering and regenerative medicine. Before joining Reprogenesis, Dr. Omstead was Senior Vice President, Research and Development, at Cytotherapeutics, Inc, a public biotech company. Prior to entering the biotech industry, Dr. Omstead was employed for fourteen years in positions of increasing responsibility within the pharmaceutical industry at Ortho Pharmaceutical Corporation and at the R.W. Johnson Pharmaceutical Research Institute, both divisions of Johnson & Johnson, and at Merck, Sharpe and Dohme Research Laboratories, a division of Merck and Company. Dr. Omstead provides the Fund with insights into both pharmaceutical and biotech companies. Dr. Omstead holds Ph.D. and Master's Degrees in Chemical Engineering and Applied Chemistry from Columbia University and a B.S. degree in Civil Engineering from Lehigh University. He is a member of the Board of Directors of a non-profit agency that provides emergency shelter, housing and supportive services to homeless and low-income individuals and families in the Boston area. Dr. Omstead is also a member of the Board of Visitors of the Columbia University School of Engineering and Applied Science and an Overseer at the Joslin Diabetes Center.

Oleg M. Pohotsky: Mr. Pohotsky is a corporate finance and investment professional with over forty years of diversified experience gained both in industry and in financial markets. He serves as Chairman of the Fund's Audit Committee and Valuation Committee. He has over 45 years of cumulative board experience in the full range of organization types: publicly-traded, privately-held, venture-backed and non-profit. He has also served as a director of a healthcare services company listed on the Nasdaq NMS where he was a member of the audit committee. In his various directorships he has also served on investment, compensation, personnel and executive committees. His career spanned over twenty years in the investment industry, both as an investment banker and as a venture capital and private equity investor, and included serving as chairman of the valuation and fairness opinion committee of a NYSE-member firm. Mr. Pohotsky also currently serves on the Board of Directors of Avangardco Investments Holdings, an LSE-listed agribusiness enterprise based in Ukraine, and on the Board of Advisors of Kaufman & Co., LLC, a Boston-based boutique investment banking firm, and is affiliated with GovernanceMetrics International, Inc. as a Senior Advisor. He provides the Fund with valuable experience in valuation and the financial industry. Mr. Pohotsky holds a BSChE degree from Clarkson University, a JD degree from the University of Miami and MBA from the Harvard Business School of Business Administration. He has also been awarded an honorary doctorate by Clarkson University.

William S. Reardon, CPA: Mr. Reardon's personal experience as a Life Science audit partner at PricewaterhouseCooper ("PwC"), with a broad spectrum of companies across the corporate life cycle from startup to successful product driven pharmaceutical companies, provides the Trustees of the Fund, and especially the Valuation Committee with a valuable perspective in analyzing life science company opportunities and in valuing the venture portion of the portfolio. Until 2002 Mr. Reardon was a business assurance partner in PwC's Boston office and leader of the Life Sciences Industry Practice for New England and the Eastern U.S., working closely with many of the Firm's public clients in SEC-registered equity, convertible and R&D limited partnership offerings and many initial public offerings. He serves on the Valuation Committee of the Fund. From 1998-2000 he served on the Board of the Emerging Companies Section of Biotechnology Industry ("BIO"), and from 2000 to 2002 he served on the Board of Directors of the Massachusetts Biotechnology Council ("MBC"). He has been a frequent speaker at BIO conferences and MBC Industry meetings on issues affecting biotechnology companies. He currently also serves as a board member and audit committee chair of two development-stage public companies, Synta Pharmaceuticals and Idera Pharmaceuticals. Mr. Reardon is member of the American Institute of CPAs and the Massachusetts Society of CPAs, with an MBA from Harvard Business School and a BA in East Asian History from Harvard College.

Uwe E. Reinhardt, Ph.D.: Dr. Reinhardt is the James Madison Professor of Political Economy at Princeton University, teaching economics and public affairs since 1968, and has been a member of the Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Sciences since 1978. He serves on the Audit Committee of the Fund. Dr. Reinhardt is recognized as one of the nation's leading authorities on health care economics, a prominent scholar in health care economics and a frequent speaker and author on subjects ranging from the war in Iraq to the future of Medicare. Dr. Reinhardt provides the Fund with valuable insights in healthcare economics and reform. He is a past president of the Association of Health Services Research. From 1986 to 1995 he served as a commissioner on the Physician Payment Review Committee, established in 1986 by Congress to advise it on issues related to the payment of physicians. He is a senior associate of the Judge Institute for Management of Cambridge University, UK, and a trustee of Duke University, and the Duke University Health System. Dr. Reinhardt is or was a member of numerous editorial boards, among them the Journal of Health Economics, the Milbank Memorial Quarterly, Health Affairs, the New England Journal of Medicine, and the Journal of the American Medical Association. Dr. Reinhardt received his Ph.D. from Yale University.

Lucinda H. Stebbins, CPA: Ms. Stebbins brings to the Board over twenty years experience working in the fund industry, providing valuable perspectives on a variety of technical and industry matters. She serves on the Audit, Governance and Nominating Committees of the Fund. She started her fund career with the investment management firm of Scudder, Stevens and Clark, which was later merged into the U.S operations of Zurich Financial Services, and then finally acquired by Deutsche Bank. She served as a Senior Vice President at Scudder Investments and subsequently as a Director at Deutsche Asset Management and was an officer of approximately 200 funds in these complexes. Ms. Stebbins' expertise is in the accounting, tax, and regulatory side of the business and she continues to act as an independent consultant to the fund industry. Prior to joining Scudder, she was a Senior Manager at Price Waterhouse and is a member of the Massachusetts Society of CPAs. She also serves on the Board of Bald Peak Land Company and has been on a number of non-profit Boards. She holds an MBA degree from Babson College and a BA in economics from Wellesley College.

The Trustees and their principal occupation for at least the last five years are set forth in the table below.

Name, Age and Address	Position(s) Held with HQH and HQL	Term of Office and Length of Time Served	Principal Occupations(s) During Past 5 Years	Number of Portfolios in Fund Complex Overseen by Director or Nominee for Director	Other Directorships Held by Director or Nominee for Director
INDEPENDENT TRUSTEES AND NOMINEES					
Michael W. Bonney (53) 2 Liberty Square, 9th Floor, Boston MA 02109	Trustee of HQH and HQL; Member of each Fund's Governance and Nominating Committees.	Since 2011	President, Chief Executive Officer and member of the Board of Directors of Cubist Pharmaceuticals, Inc.	2	Director, NPS Pharmaceuticals, Inc. (since 2005); Chairman of the Board of Trustees, Bates College (since 2010); Trustee, Bates College (since 2002); Board member of the Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America (PhRMA) (Since 2009).
Rakesh K. Jain, Ph.D. (61) 2 Liberty Square, 9th Floor, Boston MA 02109	Trustee of HQH and HQL; Member of each Fund's Governance and Nominating Committees.	3 years; since 2007	Director, Steele Lab of Tumor Biology at Massachusetts General Hospital (since 1991); A.W. Cook Professor of Tumor Biology (Radiation Oncology) at Harvard Medical School (since 1991).	2	Ad hoc Consultant/Scientific Advisory Board Member for pharmaceutical/biotech companies (various times since 2002); Ad hoc Consultant, Gershon Lehman Group (since 2004); Advisory Committee Member, Department of Biotechnology, Government of India (since 2004); Director, Co-Founder, XTuit Pharmaceuticals, Inc. (Since 2011).

Name, Age and Address	Position(s) Held with HQH and HQL	Term of Office and Length of Time Served	Principal Occupations(s) During Past 5 Years	Number of Portfolios in Fund Complex Overseen by Director or Nominee for Director	Other Directorships Held by Director or Nominee for Director
Lawrence S. Lewin (74) 2 Liberty Square 9th Floor, Boston MA 02109	Trustee of HQH and HQL; Chairman, HQH and HQL (since 2000); Member of each Fund's Governance, Nominating and Qualified Legal Compliance Committees.	3 years; since 1987 (HQH) since 1992 (HQL)	Self-employed Executive Consultant (since 1999).	2	Director, CardioNet, Inc. (2001-2007); Director, Medco Health Solutions, Inc. (2003-2007); Director, Care Fusion, Inc. (2005-2006).
Oleg M. Pohotsky (65) 2 Liberty Square, 9th Floor, Boston MA 02109	Trustee, HQH and HQL; Member of each Fund's Audit, Valuation and Qualified Legal Compliance Committees.	3 years; since 2000	Consultant and Managing Partner, Right Bank Partners (since 2002).	2	Adviser, Board of Advisers, Kaufman & Co. LLC (since 2008); Organizer/Incorporator, EmprendMex (since 2009); Director, Avangardco Investments Holdings (since 2011).
William S. Reardon (65) 2 Liberty Square, 9th Floor, Boston MA 02109	Trustee, HQH and HQL; Member of each Fund's Valuation and Qualified Legal Compliance Committees.	3 years; None. since 2010		2	Director, Idera Pharmaceuticals, Inc. (since 2002); Director, Synta Pharmaceuticals Corp. (since 2004).

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Uwe E. Reinhardt, Ph.D. (74) 2 Liberty Square, 9th Floor, Boston MA 02109	Trustee, HQH and HQL; Member of each Fund's Audit Committee.	3 years; since 1988 (HQH) since 1992 (HQL)	Professor of Economics, Princeton University (since 1968).	2	Director, Boston Scientific Corporation (since 2002); Director, Amerigroup, Inc. (since 2002).
Lucinda H. Stebbins (66) 2 Liberty Square, 9th Floor, Boston MA 02109	Trustee, HQH and HQL; Member of each Fund's Audit, Governance and Nominating Committees.	3 years; since 2006	Independent Consultant, Deutsche Bank (since 2004).	2	Director, Deutsche Asset Management (2002-2004); Director, Bald Peak Land Company (since 2008); Trustee, Massachusetts Hospital School (1997-2008).

Name, Age and Address	Position(s) Held with HQH and HQL INTERESTED TRUSTEE	Term of Office and Length of Time Served	Principal Occupations(s) During Past 5 Years	Number of Portfolios in Fund Complex Overseen by Director or Nominee for Director	Other Directorships Held by Director or Nominee for Director
Daniel R. Omstead (58) 2 Liberty Square, 9th Floor, Boston, MA 02109	Trustee, HQH and HQL; President, HQH and HQL (since 2001); Member of each of the Fund's Valuation Committee.	3 years; since 2003	President, HQH and HQL (since 2001). President, Chief Executive Officer and Managing Member, Hambrecht & Quist Capital Management LLC (since 2002).	2	Director, Magellan Diagnostics, Inc. (since 2006); Director Dynex Corporation (since 2012); Director Celladon Corporation (since 2012); Director, Palyon Medical Corporation (since 2009); Director, Tibion Corporation (since 2011).

* Trustee considered to be an "interested person" within the meaning of the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended (the "1940 Act"), through position or affiliation with the Adviser.

The following table sets forth, for each Trustee, the aggregate dollar range of equity securities owned by such Trustee in HQH and HQL and in the aggregate in HQH and HQL, as of March 31, 2012. The information as to beneficial ownership is based upon statements furnished by each Trustee.

Name of Trustee or Nominee	Dollar Range of Equity Securities in HQH	Dollar Range of Equity Securities in HQL	Aggregate Dollar Range of Equity Securities in Both Funds Overseen by Trustee in Fund Complex
Independent Trustees			
Michael W. Bonney	\$10,001-\$50,000	\$10,001-\$50,000	\$10,001-\$50,000
Rakesh K. Jain, Ph.D.	None	None	None
Lawrence S. Lewin	\$50,001-\$100,000	\$10,001-\$50,000	Over \$100,000
Oleg M. Pohotsky	\$1-\$10,000	\$1-\$10,000	\$1-\$10,000
William S. Reardon	\$10,000-\$50,000	\$10,000-\$50,000	\$10,000-\$50,000
Uwe E. Reinhardt, Ph.D.	\$10,001-\$50,000	\$10,000-\$50,000	\$50,000-\$100,000
Lucinda H. Stebbins, CPA	Over \$100,000	\$50,000-\$100,000	Over \$100,000
Interested Trustee			
Daniel R. Omstead, Ph.D.	Over \$100,000	Over \$100,000	Over \$100,000

Although Trustees are encouraged to attend the annual meetings of shareholders to the extent they are able, the Fund has no formal policy with regard to board members' attendance at annual meetings of shareholders. Last year, two Trustees then in office attended the annual meeting of shareholders.

Shareholders wishing to send communications to the Board may communicate with members of the Board of Trustees by submitting a written communication directed to the Board of Trustees in care of the Fund's President, Daniel R. Omstead, Ph.D., at 2 Liberty Square, 9th Floor, Boston, MA 02109.

Trustees Leadership Structure and Oversight Responsibilities

Overall responsibility for general oversight of the Fund rests with the Board. The Board is comprised of eight individuals, seven of whom are not "interested persons" of the Fund as defined in the 1940 Act ("Independent Trustee"). The Chairman of the Board is an Independent Trustee. The Chairman presides at meetings of the Trustees, participates in the preparation of the agenda for meetings of the Board, and acts as a liaison between the Independent Trustees and the Fund's management between Board meetings. Except for any duties specified herein, the designation as Chairman does not impose any obligations or standards greater than or different from other Trustees.

The Board holds regular quarterly meetings each year to consider and address matters involving the Fund. The Board also may hold special meetings to address matters arising between regular meetings. The Independent Trustees also meet outside the presence of management in executive session at least quarterly and have engaged independent legal counsel to assist them in performing their oversight responsibilities.

The Board has established Audit, Governance, Nominating, Valuation and Qualified Legal Compliance Committees to assist the Board in the oversight of the management and affairs of the Fund. All of the members of these Committees are Independent Trustees. From time to time the Board may establish additional committees or informal working groups to deal with specific matters.

The Fund is subject to a number of risks including investment, compliance, operational and valuation risks. Although the Adviser and the officers of the Fund are responsible for managing these risks on a day-to-day basis, the Board has adopted, and periodically reviews, policies and procedures designed to address these risks. As part of its regular oversight of the Fund, the Board, directly or through a Committee, interacts with the Fund's Chief Compliance Officer, the Fund's independent public accounting firm, and legal counsel to the Fund. These interactions include discussing the Fund's risk management and controls with the independent registered public accounting firm engaged by the Fund, reviewing valuation policies and procedures and the valuations of specific restricted securities, and receiving periodic reports from the Fund's Chief Compliance Officer regarding compliance matters relating to the Fund and its major service providers, including results of the implementation and testing of the Fund's and such providers' compliance programs. The Board's oversight function is facilitated by management reporting processes designed to provide information to the Board regarding the identification, assessment, and management of critical risks and the controls and policies and procedures used to mitigate those risks. The Board reviews its role in supervising the Fund's risk management from time to time and may change the manner in which it fulfills its oversight responsibilities at its discretion at any time.

The Board has determined that its leadership structure is appropriate for the Fund because it enables the Board to exercise informed and independent judgment over matters under its purview, allocates responsibility among committees in a manner that fosters effective oversight and allows the Board to devote appropriate resources to specific issues in a flexible manner as they arise. The Board periodically reviews its leadership structure as well as its overall structure, composition, and functioning and may make changes at its discretion at any time.

Standing Committees

Audit Committee. The Fund has an Audit Committee comprised solely of Independent Trustees who are "independent" as defined in the New York Stock Exchange ("NYSE") Listing Standards. The Fund's Board of Trustees has adopted a written charter for the Audit Committee. The Audit Committee charter is available at <http://www.hqcm.com/Reports/AuditCommitteeCharterFebruary2007.pdf>. The principal purpose of the Fund's Audit Committee is to assist the Board of Trustees in fulfilling its responsibility to oversee management's conduct of the Fund's financial reporting process, including reviewing the financial reports and other financial information provided by the Fund, the Fund's systems of internal accounting and financial controls and the annual independent audit process.

The Audit Committee's role is one of oversight, and it is recognized that the Fund's management is responsible for preparing the Fund's financial statements and that the Fund's independent registered public accountant is responsible for auditing those financial statements. Although each Audit Committee member must be financially literate and one member must have accounting or financial management expertise (as determined by the Board of Trustees in its business judgment), Audit Committee members are not professionally engaged in the practice of accounting or auditing and are not experts in the fields of accounting or auditing, including with respect to auditor independence. Audit Committee members rely, without independent verification, on the information provided to them and on the representations made by management and the Fund's independent registered public accountants.

The members of the Fund's Audit Committee are Mr. Pohotsky, Dr. Reinhardt and Ms. Stebbins. Mr. Pohotsky is the Chairman of the Fund's Audit Committee. The Fund's Audit Committee held four meetings during the fiscal year ended September 30, 2011.

Governance Committee. The Fund has a Governance Committee comprised solely of Independent Trustees who are "independent" as defined in the NYSE Listing Standards. The Fund's Board of Trustees has adopted a written charter for the Governance Committee. The Fund's Governance Committee's mission under its charter is to review, evaluate, and enhance the effectiveness of the Fund's Board of Trustees in its role in governing the Fund and to oversee management of the Fund in accordance with the Corporate Governance Guidelines, which have been adopted by the Fund's Board of Trustees.

The Fund's Governance Committee reviews, discusses and makes recommendations to the Board of Trustees relating to those issues that pertain to the effectiveness of the Board of Trustees in carrying out its responsibilities in governing the Fund and overseeing the Fund's management. The members of the Fund's Governance Committee are Mr. Bonney, Dr. Jain, Mr. Lewin and Ms. Stebbins. Mr. Lewin is the Chairman of the Fund's Governance Committee. The Fund's Governance Committee met one time during the fiscal year ended September 30, 2011.

Nominating Committee. The Fund has a Nominating Committee comprised solely of Independent Trustees who are "independent" as defined in the NYSE Listing Standards. The Fund's Board of Trustees has adopted a written charter for the Nominating Committee. The Nominating Committee charter is not available on the Fund's website and is included as Exhibit A to this Proxy Statement.

The Fund's Nominating Committee requires that each prospective trustee candidate have a college degree or equivalent business experience and that each candidate is not serving in a similar capacity on the board of a registered investment company which (i) is not sponsored or advised by the Fund's investment adviser or its affiliates and (ii) the Board in its discretion has determined to be competitive with the Fund taking into account such registered investment company's investment mandate. The Fund's Nominating Committee may also take into account other factors when considering and evaluating potential trustee candidates, including but not limited to: (i) availability and commitment to attend meetings and perform responsibilities of the Board; (ii) relevant industry and related experience; (iii) educational background; (iv) financial expertise; (v) the candidate's ability, judgment and expertise; and (vi) the overall diversity of the Board's composition.

The Fund's Nominating Committee may identify prospective trustees from any reasonable source, including, but not limited to, the consultation of third-party trustee search services. The Fund's Nominating Committee will consider potential trustee candidates recommended by shareholders, provided that the proposed candidates (i) satisfy any minimum qualifications of the Fund for its trustees; (ii) are not "interested persons" (as that term is defined in Section 2(a)(19) of the 1940 Act) of the Fund or the Adviser; and (iii) are "independent" as defined in the NYSE Listing Standards. In order to be evaluated by the Committee, trustee candidates recommended by shareholders must also meet certain eligibility requirements as set out in the Committees' charter. Other than those eligibility requirements, the Committee shall not evaluate shareholder trustee candidates in a different manner than other candidates. The standard of the Committee is to treat all equally qualified candidates in the same manner.

All recommendations by shareholders must be received by the Fund by the deadline for submission of any shareholder proposals which would be included in the Fund's proxy statement for the next annual meeting of the Fund. Each shareholder or shareholder group must meet the requirements stated in the Nominating Committee's charter in order to recommend a candidate. A shareholder or shareholder group may not submit more than one candidate per year. When recommending a trustee candidate, shareholders must include in their notice to the Fund's Secretary: (i) the shareholder's contact information; (ii) the trustee candidate's contact information and the number of Fund shares owned by the proposed candidate; (iii) all information regarding the candidate that would be required to be disclosed in solicitations of proxies for elections of trustees required by Regulation 14A of the Securities Act of 1934, as amended (the "Exchange Act"); and (iv) a notarized letter executed by the

trustee candidate, stating his or her intention to be a nominee and be named in the Fund's proxy statement, if nominated by the Board of Trustees, and to serve as a trustee, if so elected. Once a recommendation has been timely received in proper form, the candidate will be asked to complete an eligibility questionnaire to assist the Fund in assessing the candidate's qualifications as a potential Independent Trustee and as someone who is "independent" under the NYSE Listing Standards. The Nominating Committee will make such determinations in its sole discretion and such determinations shall be final.

The members of the Fund's Nominating Committee are Mr. Bonney, Dr. Jain, Mr. Lewin and Ms. Stebbins. Mr. Lewin is the Chairman of the Fund's Nominating Committee. The Fund's Nominating Committee met three times during the fiscal year ended September 30, 2011.

Valuation Committee. The Board has delegated to the Fund's Valuation Committee general responsibility for determining, in accordance with the Fund's valuation procedures, the value of assets held by the Fund on any day on which the net asset value per share is determined. The Valuation Committee may appoint, and has appointed, a Sub-Committee made up of employees and officers of the Adviser to deal with day to day valuation decisions, subject to oversight by the Valuation Committee. The Valuation Committee shall meet as often as necessary to ensure that each action taken by the Sub-Committee is reviewed within a calendar quarter of the occurrence. In connection with its review, the Valuation Committee shall ratify or revise the pricing methodologies authorized by the Sub-Committee since the last meeting of the Valuation Committee. The Valuation Committee is charged with the responsibility of determining the fair value of the Fund's securities or other assets in situations set forth in the Fund's valuation procedures.

The members of the Fund's Valuation Committee are Dr. Omstead, Mr. Pohotsky and Mr. Reardon. Mr. Pohotsky is the Chairman of each Funds' Valuation Committee. Each Fund's Valuation Committee met four times during the fiscal year ended September 30, 2011.

Qualified Legal Compliance Committee. The Fund has a Qualified Legal Compliance Committee ("QLCC") comprised solely of Independent Trustees. The Fund's Board of Trustees has adopted a written charter for the QLCC. The principal purpose of the Fund's QLCC is to review and respond to reports of Evidence of a Material Violation (as defined in the QLCC charter). Reporting Evidence of a Material Violation is required under the Standards of Professional Conduct for Attorneys adopted by the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (the "SEC") under the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 (the "Standards"). Under the Standards, if an attorney appearing and practicing before the SEC in the representation of an issuer, such as the Fund, becomes aware of Evidence of a Material Violation by the issuer or by any officer, trustee, employee or agent of the issuer, the Standards provide for the attorney to report such evidence to the issuer's QLCC forthwith. In discharging its role, the QLCC is granted the power to investigate any Evidence of a Material Violation brought to its attention with full access to all books, records, facilities and personnel of the Fund and the power to retain outside counsel, auditors or other experts for this purpose.

The members of the Fund's QLCC are Mr. Lewin, Mr. Pohotsky and Mr. Reardon. Mr. Pohotsky is the Chairman of the Fund's QLCC. The Fund's QLCC did not meet during the fiscal year ended September 30, 2011.

Attendance. During the fiscal year ended September 30, 2011, the Fund's Board of Trustees held four meetings; the Fund's Audit Committee held four meetings; the Fund's Governance Committee held one meeting; the Fund's Nominating Committee held three meetings; and the Fund's Valuation Committee held four meetings.

Each of the Trustees attended at least 89% of the aggregate number of meetings of the Board of Trustees and the Committees of the Board of Trustees on which such Trustee served during the fiscal year-ended September 30, 2011.

Compensation of Trustees and Officers

For the fiscal year ended September 30, 2011, the Fund paid an annual fee of \$18,000 to its Independent Trustees, \$500 to its Audit and Valuation Committee members, and \$250 to its Nominating and Governance Committee members. Additionally, the Fund currently pays each Independent Trustee \$1,000 for each Board and Committee meeting attended in person and \$250 for each Board and Committee meeting attended by telephone. Currently, the Chairman of the Board of Trustees, the Chairman of the Audit Committee and the Chairman of the Valuation Committee of the Fund each receive an additional annual fee of \$2,500. Currently, the Chairman of the Nominating Committee and the Chairman of the Governance Committee of the Fund each receive an additional annual fee of \$1,250. Independent Trustees are also reimbursed for travel expenses incurred in connection with attending such meetings. For the fiscal year ended September 30, 2011, the Independent Trustees as a group received \$187,597 from the Fund for fees and reimbursed expenses. The Fund did not directly pay any additional compensation to the Trustees for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2011. The Fund has entered into a Services Agreement (the "Agreement") with the Adviser. Pursuant to the terms of the Agreement, the Fund reimburses the Adviser for a portion of the payment of salary and provision of benefits to the Fund's Chief Compliance Officer. During the fiscal year ended September 30, 2011 these payments amounted to \$82,527 for the Fund. Trustees and officers of the Fund who hold positions with the Adviser receive indirect compensation from the Fund in the form of the investment advisory fee paid to the Adviser. The following table sets forth information regarding compensation of Trustees by the Fund for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2011, but does not include expenses.

Compensation Table

For the fiscal year ended September 30, 2011

Name of Person, Position	Aggregate Compensation from the Fund	Pension or Retirement Benefits Accrued as part of the Fund's Expenses	Estimated Annual Benefits upon Retirement	Total Compensation from both Funds in Fund Complex Paid to Trustees
Independent Trustees				
Rakesh K. Jain, Ph.D.	\$ 24,000	N/A	N/A	\$ 48,000
Lawrence S. Lewin	\$ 27,500	N/A	N/A	\$ 55,000
Eric Oddleifson	\$ 22,000	N/A	N/A	\$ 44,000
Oleg M. Pohotsky	\$ 34,750	N/A	N/A	\$ 69,500
William S. Reardon	\$ 27,000	N/A	N/A	\$ 54,000
Uwe E. Reinhardt, Ph.D.	\$ 22,250	N/A	N/A	\$ 44,500
Lucinda H. Stebbins, CPA	\$ 25,250	N/A	N/A	\$ 50,500
Interested Trustees				
	\$ 0	N/A	N/A	\$ 0

Daniel R.
Omstead, Ph.D.

Executive Officers

Set forth below is information for at least the last five years with respect to the executive officers of the Fund who do not also serve as Trustees. Each officer has been elected by the Board of Trustees and serves at the pleasure of the Trustees.

Laura Woodward, CPA (43), 2 Liberty Square, 9th Floor, Boston MA 02109: Chief Compliance Officer, HQH, HQL and Hambrecht & Quist Capital Management LLC (since 2009); Secretary and Treasurer, HQH and HQL (since 2009); Senior Manager, PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP (prior to 2009).

Required Vote

The Fund's Declaration of Trust states that the Trustees shall be elected by a plurality of the Fund's shares voting at the Annual Meeting. The Trustees recommend a vote FOR all nominees.

INFORMATION PERTAINING TO THE ADVISER

The Adviser is a limited liability company organized under the laws of Delaware. Under the Fund's Investment Advisory Agreement, the Adviser is responsible for the management of the Fund's assets, subject to the supervision of the Board of Trustees. The Adviser manages the investments of the Fund in accordance with its investment objective and policies. The Adviser is also obligated to supervise and perform certain administrative and management services and is obligated to provide the office space, facilities, equipment and personnel necessary to perform its duties. Except for a portion of the salary of the Funds' Chief Compliance Officer, the salaries of all officers of the Fund and all personnel of the Fund or of the Adviser performing services relating to research, statistical or investment activities, and of all Trustees who are "interested persons" of the Fund or of the Adviser (as defined in the 1940 Act), are paid by the Adviser. The Adviser is located at 2 Liberty Square, 9th Floor, Boston, MA 02109.

Daniel R. Omstead Ph.D. serves as President and Chief Executive Officer of the Adviser. The address for Dr. Omstead is c/o the Adviser at 2 Liberty Square, 9th Floor, Boston, MA 02109.

REPORT OF THE AUDIT COMMITTEE OF THE FUND

The Fund's Audit Committee reviewed and discussed the Fund's audited financial statements with management for the Fund's fiscal year ended September 30, 2011, and discussed with the Fund's independent registered public accountants, Deloitte & Touche LLP, the matters required to be discussed by ASC 950, *Communication with Audit Committees*, which includes, among other items, matters relating to the conduct of an audit of the Fund's financial statements. The Fund's Audit Committee received written disclosures and the letter from Deloitte & Touche LLP required by Independence Standards Board Standard No. 1 (Independence Discussions with Audit Committees) and discussed with Deloitte & Touche LLP its independence. Based on its review and discussions with management and Deloitte & Touche LLP, the Fund's Audit Committee recommended to the Board of Trustees that the Fund's audited financial statements for the Fund's fiscal year ended September 30, 2011, be included in the Fund's Annual Report filed with the SEC. The members of the Fund's Audit Committee are Mr. Pohotsky, Dr. Reinhardt and Ms. Stebbins. Mr. Pohotsky is the Chairman of the Fund's Audit Committee.

Proposal 2

RATIFICATION OR REJECTION OF SELECTION OF INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

The Fund's Audit Committee has approved the appointment of Deloitte & Touche LLP as the independent registered public accountants for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2012, and a majority of the Board of Trustees of the Fund, including a majority of the Independent Trustees, subsequently ratified the appointment. The Fund has been advised that neither Deloitte & Touche LLP nor any of its

partners has any direct or material indirect financial interest in the Fund, nor has had any connection during the past three years with the Fund in the capacity of promoter, underwriter, voting trustee, director, officer or employee.

Accounting services to be performed by Deloitte & Touche LLP for the Fund will consist of the examination of the annual financial statements of the Fund, consultation on financial, accounting and reporting matters, review and consultation regarding various filings with the SEC and attendance at some meetings of the Board of Trustees. Deloitte & Touche LLP also will perform non-audit services consisting of review of income tax returns of the Fund.

A representative of Deloitte & Touche LLP is expected to participate in the Annual Meeting and to be available for questioning and have an opportunity to make a statement.

The following tables set forth the aggregate fees billed for professional services rendered by Deloitte & Touche LLP to the Fund during the Fund's two most recent fiscal years:

Fiscal year	Audit Fees	Audit-Related Fees	Tax Fees	All Other Fees
2011	\$ 92,000	\$ 0	\$ 4,500	\$ 0
2010	\$ 74,500	\$ 0	\$ 4,500	\$ 0

All of the services described in the table above were approved by the Audit Committees pursuant to its pre-approval policies and procedures (the "Pre-Approval Policies and Procedures") which are summarized below to the extent that such services were required to be pre-approved by the Audit Committee.

The aggregate non-audit fees billed by Deloitte & Touche LLP for services rendered to the Fund and to the Adviser, or an affiliate thereof that provides ongoing services to the Fund, amounted to \$4,500 for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2011 and \$4,500 for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2010.

The Fund's Audit Committee has adopted Pre-Approval Policies and Procedures pursuant to which the Committee pre-approves all audit and non-audit services provided by the Fund's independent auditor (the "Auditor") and any non-audit services provided by the Auditor to the Funds' investment adviser and service affiliates ("Service Affiliates") during the period of the Auditor's engagement to provide audit services to the Fund, if those services directly impact the Fund's operations and financial reporting. Audit services include those typically associated with the annual audit such as evaluation of internal controls. Non-Audit services include certain services that are audit-related, such as consultations regarding financial accounting and reporting standards and tax services. Certain services may not be provided by the Auditor to the Fund's or the Fund's Service Affiliates without jeopardizing the Auditor's independence. These services are deemed prohibited services and include certain management functions; human resources services; broker-dealer, investment adviser or investment banking services; legal services; and expert services unrelated to the audit. Other services are conditionally prohibited and may be provided if the Audit Committee reasonably concludes that the results of the services will not be subject to audit procedures during an audit of the Fund's financial statements. These types of services include bookkeeping; financial information systems design and implementation; appraisal or valuation services; actuarial services; and internal audit outsourcing services.

The Pre-Approval Policies and Procedures require Audit Committee approval of the engagement of the Auditor for each fiscal year and approval of the engagement by at least a majority of the Fund's Independent Trustees. In determining whether to engage the Auditor for its audit services, the Audit

Committee will consider the Auditor's proposed fees for the engagement, in light of the scope and nature of the audit services that the Fund will receive. The Pre-Approval Policies and Procedures also permit the Audit Committee to pre-approve the provisions of types or categories of permissible non-audit services for the Fund and its Service Affiliates on an annual basis at the time of the Auditor's engagement and on a project-by-project basis. At the time of the annual engagement of the Fund's Auditor, the Audit Committee is to receive a list of the categories of expected non-audit services with a description and an estimated budget of fees. In their pre-approval, the Audit Committee should determine that the provision of the service is consistent with, and will not impair, the ongoing independence of the Auditor and set any limits on fees or other conditions they find appropriate. Non-audit services may also be approved on a project-by-project basis by the Audit Committee consistent with the same standards for determination and information.

The Audit Committee may also appoint a member of the Committee to pre-approve non-audit services that have not been pre-approved or material changes in the nature or cost of any non-audit services previously pre-approved. The member may not pre-approve any project the estimated budget (or budgeted range) of fees of which exceed or may exceed \$15,000. Any actions by the member are to be ratified by the Audit Committee by the time of their next scheduled meeting. The Fund's Pre-Approval Policies and Procedures are reviewed annually by the Audit Committee, and the Fund maintains a record of the decisions made by the Committee pursuant to these procedures.

Required Vote

The selection of Deloitte & Touche LLP as the Fund's independent public accountants for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2012 is submitted to shareholders for ratification and requires approval by a majority of the Fund's shares voting at the Annual Meeting. The Trustees recommend a vote FOR the selection of Deloitte & Touche LLP as the independent registered public accountants of the Fund.

INFORMATION PERTAINING TO THE CUSTODIAN AND ADMINISTRATOR AND TRANSFER AGENT, DIVIDEND DISBURSING AGENT AND REGISTRAR

The Fund's securities and cash are held under a custodian contract by State Street Bank and Trust Company ("State Street"), whose principal business address is One Lincoln Street, Boston, MA 02111. State Street is also the Administrator of the Fund and also performs certain accounting related functions for the Fund, including calculation of net asset value and net income.

Computershare Inc. serves as Dividend Disbursing Agent. Computershare Trust Company, N.A., a fully owned subsidiary of Computershare Inc., serves as (1) the Plan Agent for the Fund's Dividend Reinvestment Plan and (2) the Transfer Agent and Registrar for Shares of the Fund. Computershare Trust Company, N.A. and Computershare Inc. have their principal business at 250 Royall Street, Canton, MA 02021.

SECTION 16(a) BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP REPORTING COMPLIANCE

Section 16(a) of the Exchange Act and Section 30(j) of the 1940 Act, as applied to the Fund, require the Fund's officers and trustees, investment manager, affiliates of the investment manager, and persons who beneficially own more than ten percent of a registered class of the Fund's outstanding securities ("Reporting Persons") to file reports of ownership of the Fund's securities and changes in such

ownership with the SEC and the NYSE. Such persons are required by SEC regulations to furnish the Fund with copies of all such filings.

Based solely upon its review of the copies of such forms received by it, and written representations from certain Reporting Persons that no year-end reports were required for those persons, each Fund believes that during the fiscal year ended September 30, 2011, its Reporting Persons complied with all applicable filing requirements.

OTHER BUSINESS

As of the date of this Proxy Statement, the Board of Trustees is not aware that any matters are to be presented for action at the Annual Meeting other than those described above. Should other business properly be brought before the Annual Meeting, it is intended that the accompanying Proxy will be voted thereon in accordance with the judgment of the persons named as proxies.

PROXIES AND VOTING AT THE ANNUAL MEETING

Shareholders who execute proxies may revoke them at any time before they are voted by written notice to the Secretary of the Fund at 2 Liberty Square, 9th Floor, Boston, MA 02109, or by casting a vote at the Annual Meeting. Instructions on how to attend the meeting and vote in person can be obtained by calling (800) 451-2597. All valid proxies received prior to the Annual Meeting, or any adjournment(s) or postponements(s) thereof, will be voted at the Annual Meeting and any adjournments or postponements thereof.

The representation in person or by proxy of a majority of the outstanding shares of the Fund is necessary to constitute a quorum for transacting business at the Annual Meeting. For purposes of determining the presence of a quorum, abstentions and broker "non-votes" will be treated as shares that are present. Broker non-votes are proxies received by the Fund from brokers or nominees when the broker or nominee has neither received instructions from the beneficial owner or other persons entitled to vote nor has discretionary power to vote on a particular matter. Proposals 1 and 2 to be voted upon by the shareholders involve matters that the NYSE considers to be routine and within the discretion of brokers to vote if no customer instructions are received.

Proposal 1 requires the approval of a plurality of shares voting at the Annual Meeting (i.e., the three nominees for election as Class B Trustees receiving the greatest number of votes will be elected and the nominee for election as a Class C Trustee receiving the greatest number of votes will be elected).

Proposal 2 requires the approval of a majority of all votes validly cast at the Annual Meeting.

Abstentions and broker non-votes will not be counted in favor of, but will have no other effect on, the votes for Proposal 1 and 2.

Matters on which a choice has been provided will be voted as indicated on the proxy card and, if no instruction is given, the persons named as proxies will vote the shares represented thereby FOR all nominees for election as Trustee and FOR Proposal 2, and will use their best judgment in connection with the transaction of such other business as may properly come before the Annual Meeting or any adjournment(s) or postponement(s) thereof.

In the event that sufficient votes in accordance with the Trustees' recommendations on any Proposal are not received by June 11, 2012 or the necessary quorum has not been obtained, or if other matters arise requiring shareholder attention, the persons named as proxies on the enclosed proxy card may

propose one or more adjournments of the Annual Meeting to permit further solicitation. Any such adjournment will require approval by a majority of the votes validly cast on the matter at the session of the Annual Meeting to be adjourned. When voting on a proposed adjournment, the persons named as proxies will vote FOR the proposed adjournment all shares that they are entitled to vote with respect to each item, unless directed to vote AGAINST an item, in which case such shares will be voted AGAINST the proposed adjournment with respect to that item. A shareholder vote may be taken on one or more items prior to such adjournment if sufficient votes have been received and it is otherwise appropriate. Abstentions and broker non-votes will be disregarded for purposes of voting on adjournment.

As of April 30, 2012, there were 26,006,087 shares of beneficial interest of the Fund issued and outstanding. Shareholders will be entitled to one vote for each share held. Only shareholders of record at the close of business on April 30, 2012, the record date, will be entitled to vote at the Annual Meeting. As of April 30, 2012, the Trustees and officers of the Fund individually and as a group beneficially owned less than 1% of the outstanding voting securities of the Fund. To the best of the Fund's knowledge, based upon filings made with the SEC, as of April 30, 2012, no persons or group beneficially owned more than 5% of the voting securities of the Fund.

PROPOSALS FOR 2013 ANNUAL MEETING

Shareholder proposals for the Fund's 2013 Annual Meeting must be received at the Fund's executive offices at 2 Liberty Square, 9th Floor, Boston, Massachusetts 02109 no later than January 8, 2013 for inclusion in the 2013 Proxy Statement and form of proxy, unless the meeting date is more than 30 days before or after June 11, 2013. Submission of such proposals does not insure that they will be included in the 2012 Proxy Statement or submitted for a vote at the 2013 Annual Meeting.

In addition, shareholder proposals for the 2013 annual meeting of shareholders (other than proposals submitted for inclusion in a Fund's 2013 Proxy Statement) must be submitted to the Fund's Secretary between February 11, 2013 and March 13, 2013, unless the meeting date is more than 30 days before or after June 11, 2013.

GENERAL

The Fund will pay the cost of preparing, printing and mailing the enclosed proxy card(s) and Proxy Statement and all other costs incurred in connection with the solicitation of proxies, including any additional solicitation made by letter, Internet, telephone or telegraph. The solicitation of proxies will be largely by mail. In addition, certain officers of the Fund and certain employees of the Adviser, who will receive no compensation for their services other than their regular salaries, may solicit the return of proxies personally or by telephone or facsimile. Banks, brokerage houses, nominees and other fiduciaries will be requested to forward the proxy soliciting materials to the beneficial owners of the shares of the Fund. The Fund may reimburse brokerage houses, nominees and other fiduciaries for postage and reasonable expenses incurred by them in forwarding of proxy material to beneficial owners.

A number of banks, brokers and financial institutions have instituted "householding". Under this practice, only one Proxy Statement may be delivered to multiple shareholders who share the same address and satisfy other conditions. The Fund will deliver promptly a separate copy of this Proxy Statement to a shareholder at a shared address upon request. To request a separate copy of this Proxy Statement, write or call the Fund at the address and phone number set forth above.

**IMPORTANT NOTICE REGARDING THE AVAILABILITY OF PROXY
MATERIALS FOR THE SHAREHOLDER MEETING TO BE HELD ON JUNE 11, 2012**

The Proxy Statement for the Annual Meeting of Shareholders of H&Q Healthcare Investors is available at www.edocumentview.com/HQFunds.

H&Q HEALTHCARE INVESTORS

May 1, 2012

EXHIBIT A

Nominating Committee Charter

Committee Membership

The Nominating Committee (the "Committee") of the Board of Trustees (the "Board") of the Fund shall be composed entirely of trustees of the Fund who (1) are not "interested persons" (as that term is defined in the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended ("1940 Act")) of the Fund or the Fund's investment adviser and (2) are "independent" as defined in the New York Stock Exchange ("NYSE") Listing Standards. The President of the Fund, although not a member of the Committee, will cooperate with the Committee by recommending candidates and recruiting them for the Board of Trustees (the "Board") of the Fund and for executive offices of the Fund, and otherwise assisting the Committee to discharge its responsibilities.

Mission

The mission of the Committee under this Nominating Charter is to promote the effective participation of qualified individuals on the Board, Committees of the Board, and as executive officers of the Fund.

Nominating Function Board

1. The Committee shall make nominations for trustees and officers of the Fund and submit such nominations to the full Board. The Committee shall evaluate candidates' qualifications for such positions, and, in the case of candidates for independent trustee positions, their independence from the Fund's investment adviser and other principal service providers. Persons selected as independent trustees must not be "interested persons" (as that term is defined in the 1940 Act) of the Fund or the Fund's investment adviser. The Committee shall also consider the effect of any relationships beyond those delineated in the 1940 Act that might impair independence, *e.g.* business, financial or family relationships with the investment adviser. In determining nominees' qualifications for Board membership, the Committee shall consider factors which may be delineated in this Charter or the Fund's bylaws, and may consider such other factors as it may determine to be relevant to fulfilling the role of being a member of the Board.
2. The Committee may consider potential trustee candidates recommended by shareholders, provided that the proposed candidates: (i) satisfy any minimum qualifications of the Fund for its trustees; (ii) are not "interested persons" of the Fund or the Fund's investment adviser within the meaning of the 1940 Act; and (iii) are "independent" as defined in the NYSE listing standards. In order for the Committee to evaluate any nominee recommended by a shareholder or shareholder group, potential trustee candidates and nominating shareholders or shareholder groups must satisfy the requirements provided in Appendix A to this Charter. Other than the requirements provided in Appendix A, the Committee shall not otherwise evaluate shareholder trustee nominees in a different manner than other nominees and the standard of the Committee is to treat all equally qualified nominees in the same manner.

3. Once a nomination has been timely received in proper form, the nominee will be asked to complete an eligibility questionnaire to assist the Fund in assessing the nominee's qualifications as a potential independent Trustee and as someone who is "independent" under the NYSE Listing Standards. The Committee will make such determinations in its sole discretion and such determinations shall be final.
4. The Committee may identify prospective trustee from any reasonable source, including, but not limited to, the consultation of third-party trustee search services.
5. The Committee requires that each prospective trustee candidate have a college degree or equivalent business experience. In addition, the Committee considers whether trustees on the Board may not serve in a similar capacity on the board of a registered investment company which (i) is not sponsored or advised by the Fund's investment adviser or its affiliates and (ii) the Committee in its discretion has determined to be competitive with the Fund taking into account such registered investment company's investment mandate. The Committee may take into account a wide variety of factors in considering prospective trustee candidates, including (but not limited to): (i) availability and commitment of a candidate to attend meetings and perform his or her responsibilities on the Board; (ii) relevant industry and related experience; (iii) educational background; (iv) financial expertise; (v) the candidate's ability, judgment and expertise; and (vi) overall diversity of the Board's composition.
6. The Committee shall evaluate the participation and contribution of each trustee coming to the end of his or her term before deciding whether to recommend reelection. The Committee may seek the views of other trustees to assist them in this evaluation.
7. The Committee shall periodically review the composition of the Board to determine whether it may be appropriate to add individuals with different backgrounds or skills from those already on the Board.
8. The Committee shall periodically review trustee compensation and shall recommend any appropriate changes to the Board as a group.
9. The Committee shall periodically review issues related to the succession of officers of the Fund, including the Chairman of the Board.

Nominating Function Committees

1. The Committee shall make nominations for membership on all committees of the Fund and submit such nominations to the full Board, and shall review committee assignments as necessary.
2. The Committee shall review as necessary the responsibilities of any committees of the Board, whether there is a continuing need for each committee, whether there is a need for additional committees, and whether committees should be combined or reorganized. The Committee shall consult with, and receive recommendations in connection with the foregoing from the Board and Fund management, and shall make recommendations for any such action to the full Board.

Other Powers and Responsibilities

1. The Committee shall normally meet yearly prior to the meeting of the full Board, to carry out its nominating function, and at such other time or times as the Committee or Board may determine appropriate or necessary, and is empowered to hold special meetings as circumstances require.

2. The Committee shall have the resources and authority appropriate to discharge its responsibilities, including authority to utilize Fund counsel and to retain experts or other persons with specific competence at the expense of the Fund.
3. The Committee shall review this Charter periodically, but such review will occur no less than on a triennial basis, and recommend any changes to the full Board.

Appendix A

Procedures and Eligibility Requirements for Shareholder Submission of Nominee Candidates¹

A. Nominee Requirements

Trustee nominees recommended by shareholders must fulfill the following requirements²:

1. The nominee may not be the nominating shareholder, a member of the nominating shareholder group, or a member of the immediate family of the nominating shareholder or any member of the nominating shareholder group.
2. Neither the nominee nor any member of the nominee's immediate family may be currently employed or employed within the last year by any nominating shareholder entity or entity in a nominating shareholder group.
3. Neither the nominee nor any immediate family member of the nominee is permitted to have accepted directly or indirectly, during the year of the election for which the nominee's name was submitted, during the immediately preceding calendar year, or during the year when the nominee's name was submitted, any consulting, Advisory, or other compensatory fee from the nominating shareholder or any member of a nominating shareholder group.
4. The nominee may not be an executive officer, director (or person performing similar functions) of the nominating shareholder or any member of the nominating shareholder group, or of an affiliate of the nominating shareholder or any such member of the nominating shareholder group.
5. The nominee may not control (as "control" is defined in the 1940 Act) the nominating shareholder or any member of the nominating shareholder group (or in the case of a holder or member that is a fund, an interested person of such holder or member as defined by Section 2(a)(19) of the 1940 Act).

B. Nominating Shareholder or Shareholder Group Requirements

The nominating shareholder or shareholder group must meet the following requirements:

1. Any shareholder or shareholder group submitting a proposed nominee must beneficially own, either individually or in the aggregate, more than 5% of the Fund's securities that are eligible to vote at the time of submission of the nominee and at the time of the annual meeting where the nominee may be elected. Each of the securities used for purposes of calculating this ownership must have been

¹ Appendix A applies only to trustee nominee recommendations made by shareholders to the Nominating Committee. Refer to the Fund's By-laws regarding submission of shareholder proposals.

² Unless otherwise specified herein, please refer to the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and regulations thereunder for interpretations of terms used in this Appendix A. Calculating this ownership must have been held continuously for

at least two years as of the date of the nomination. In addition, such securities must continue to be held through the date of the meeting. The nominating shareholder or shareholder group must also bear the economic risk of the investment and the securities used for purposes of calculating the ownership cannot be held "short."

held continuously for at least two years as of the date of the nomination. In addition, such securities must continue to be held through the date of the meeting. The nominating shareholder or shareholder group must also bear the economic risk of the investment and the securities used for purposes of calculating the ownership cannot be held "short."

2. The nominating shareholder or shareholder group must also submit a certification which provides the number of shares which the person or group has (i) sole power to vote or direct the vote; (ii) shared power to vote or direct the vote; (iii) sole power to dispose or direct the disposition of such shares; and (iv) shared power to dispose or direct the disposition of such shares. In addition, the certification shall provide that the shares have been held continuously for at least 2 years.

C. Deadlines and Limitations

A nominating shareholder or shareholder group may not submit more than one nominee per year. All shareholder recommended nominee submissions must be received by the Fund by the deadline for submission of any shareholder proposals which would be included in the Fund's proxy statement for the next annual meeting of the Fund.

D. Making a Submission

Shareholders recommending potential trustee candidates must substantiate compliance with these requirements at the time of submitting their proposed trustee candidate to the attention of the Fund's Secretary. Notice to the Fund's Secretary should include: (i) the shareholder's contact information; (ii) the trustee candidate's contact information and the number of Fund shares owned by the proposed candidate; (iii) all information regarding the candidate that would be required to be disclosed in solicitations of proxies for elections of trustees required by Regulation 14A of the 1934 Act; and (iv) a notarized letter executed by the trustee candidate, stating his or her intention to serve as a nominee and be named in the Fund's proxy statement, if nominated by the Board of Trustees, to be named as a trustee if so elected.

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