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## **Two Columbia Threadneedle Investments Equity Income Strategic Beta ETFs Gain 4-Star Ratings from Morningstar**

**BOSTON** – August 14, 2019 – Columbia Threadneedle Investments today announced that its equity income strategic beta exchange-traded funds (ETFs) have reached a significant performance milestone, with two of the funds earning an overall rating of four-stars based on a Morningstar risk-adjusted return measure as of June 30, 2019. The funds were launched June 13, 2016 and received their initial Morningstar star rating after marking their three-year anniversaries.

“Columbia Threadneedle has a long history of developing and actively managing successful equity income strategies. That experience directly informed the design of these passive funds,” said Marc Zeitoun, Head of Strategic Beta at Columbia Threadneedle Investments. “By incorporating our real-world insights about which factors and screens matter most, we are giving investors an opportunity to better align their portfolios to their income objectives, while meeting their cost-efficiency preferences.”

The equity income funds are part of a family of rules-based, multi-factor strategic beta ETFs. They incorporate Columbia Threadneedle’s active investing experience and insight into rules that, in the case of the equity income ETFs, provide exposure to companies that have certain attributes believed to offer sustainable income, as well as total return opportunity. Importantly, these funds also incorporate an ESG screen as research has shown that financially strong, dividend-paying companies with consistent cash flow that adhere to material sustainability factors have produced better investment results over time.<sup>1</sup> These funds track underlying Columbia Beta Advantage<sup>®</sup> indices calculated by MSCI Inc.

In total, Columbia Threadneedle manages more than \$25 billion<sup>2</sup> in equity income strategies available to individual and institutional investors in a variety of structures, including mutual funds, separately managed accounts, model portfolios and strategic beta ETFs.

“Our experience as an active manager has shown that identifying and investing in strong, healthy and well-governed companies – such as ones generating strong free cash flow and with a history of initiating or growing dividends – can significantly improve an investor’s ability to generate sustainable future income,” said Mike Barclay, CFA, Senior Portfolio Manager, Equity Income Strategies at Columbia Threadneedle Investments.

Mr. Barclay is a Portfolio Manager of the three sustainable equity income ETFs as well as the Morningstar Overall five-star rated Columbia Dividend Income Fund (Institutional Class). As of June 30, 2019, Morningstar ratings for the overall-, three-, five- and ten-year periods for the A-share are 5 stars, 5 stars, 5 stars, and 4 stars and for the Inst-share are 5 stars, 5 stars, 5 stars, and 5 stars among 1,103, 1,103, 956 and 696 Large Value funds, respectively, and are based on a Morningstar Risk-Adjusted Return measure. The Overall Morningstar Rating for a fund is derived from a weighted average of the performance figures associated with its three-, five- and ten-year (if applicable) Morningstar Rating metrics.

The four-star rated funds are as follows (as of June 30, 2019):

- **Columbia Sustainable U.S. Equity Income ETF (ESGS):** A core U.S. portfolio that seeks to provide access to sustainable income. The Fund tracks the Beta Advantage<sup>®</sup> Sustainable U.S. Equity Income 100 Index, which consists of 100 stocks that provide investors with exposure to U.S. large- and mid-cap companies. As of June 30, 2019, this Fund had an Overall & 3-Year Morningstar Rating<sup>™</sup> of four stars out of 1,103 Large Value Funds that are rated by Morningstar based on a Morningstar risk-adjusted return measure.
- **Columbia Sustainable International Equity Income ETF (ESGN):** A core international portfolio that seeks to provide access to sustainable income. The Fund tracks the Beta Advantage<sup>®</sup> Sustainable International Equity Income 100 Index, which consists of 100 stocks that provide investors with exposure to foreign (developed market) large- and mid-cap companies. As of June 30, 2019, this Fund had an Overall & 3-Year Morningstar Rating<sup>™</sup> of four stars out of 297 Foreign Large Value Funds that are rated by Morningstar based on a Morningstar risk-adjusted return measure.

A third ETF, Columbia Sustainable Global Equity Income ETF (ESGW), earned a three-star Overall and 3-Year Morningstar rating out of 722 World Large Stock Funds that are rated by Morningstar.

Each ETF's underlying index is designed to invest in companies based on dividend yield, dividend growth and cash flow factors. These factors are intended to lead to investing in companies that have the financial stability to support and grow future dividend payments. The ETFs replicate indices custom-designed by Columbia Threadneedle and calculated by MSCI with a sustainable focus, which is implemented by screening companies based on their environmental, social and governance practices to help mitigate possible risks.

Columbia Threadneedle's suite of strategic beta and thematic beta solutions also includes the Columbia Diversified Fixed Income Allocation ETF (DIAL). The first diversified multi-sector fixed income ETF in the marketplace, DIAL is the top performer across 354 open-end mutual funds and exchange-traded funds in the Morningstar category of US Multisector Bonds as of July 1, 2018 - June 30, 2019.<sup>3</sup>

#### **About Columbia Threadneedle Investments:**

Columbia Threadneedle Investments is a leading global asset manager that provides a broad range of investment strategies and solutions for individual, institutional and corporate clients around the world. With more than 2,000 people, including over 450 investment professionals based in North America, Europe and Asia, we manage \$468 billion<sup>4</sup> of assets across developed and emerging market equities, fixed income, asset allocation solutions and alternatives.

Columbia Threadneedle Investments is the global asset management group of Ameriprise Financial, Inc. (NYSE: AMP). For more information, please visit [columbiathreadneedle.com/us](http://columbiathreadneedle.com/us). Follow us on [Twitter](#).

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The Beta Advantage® Sustainable U.S. Equity Income 100 Index is designed to reflect the performance of the top 100 U.S. large- and mid-cap companies (excluding real estate investment trusts) using a subset of the MSCI USA Index, ranked and weighted according to a composite factor score determined through the application of a systematic, rules-based methodology applied by MSCI.

The Beta Advantage® Sustainable International Equity Income 100 Index is designed to reflect the performance of the top 100 (developed markets) foreign large- and mid-cap companies (excluding real estate investment trusts) using a subset of the MSCI World ex USA Index, ranked and weighted according to a composite factor score determined through the application of a systematic, rules-based methodology applied by MSCI.

Indexes are unmanaged and unavailable for direct investment.

Columbia Management Investment Advisers, LLC serves as the investment manager to the ETFs. The ETFs are distributed by ALPS Distributors, Inc., member FINRA, which is not affiliated with Columbia Management Investment Advisers, LLC. 225 Franklin Street, Boston, MA 02110-2804

AdTrax: 2679914

<sup>1</sup> Corporate Sustainability: First Evidence on Materiality, Mozaffar Khan, George Serafeim, Aaron Yoon, Working Paper 15-073, Harvard Business School (2015).

<sup>2</sup> As of June 30, 2019.

<sup>3</sup> Morningstar data from 07/01/2018 through 6/30/2019. Columbia Diversified Fixed Income Allocation ETF was benchmarked against its peer group of US Multisector Bond open-ended and exchange-traded funds. The number of investments ranked during this time-period, in this category, was 354, of which DIAL was the top performer based on absolute return.

<sup>4</sup> As of June 30, 2019.

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**For each exchange-traded fund (“ETF”) with at least a three-year history, Morningstar calculates a Morningstar Rating™ used to rank the fund against other funds in the same category. It is calculated based on a Morningstar Risk-Adjusted Return measure that accounts for variation in a fund’s monthly excess performance, without any adjustments for loads (front-end, deferred, or redemption fees), placing more emphasis on downward variations and rewarding consistent performance.** Exchange-traded funds and open-ended mutual funds are considered a single population for comparative purposes. The top 10% of ETFs in each category receive 5 stars, the next 22.5% receive 4 stars, the next 35% receive 3 stars, the next 22.5% receive 2 stars and the bottom 10% receive 1 star. The overall rating for an ETF is based on a weighted average of the time-period ratings (e.g., the ETF’s 3, 5, and 10-year rating).

**Investors should carefully consider the investment objectives, risks, charges and expenses of the Fund before investing. To obtain a prospectus containing this and other important information, please call 888 800 4347 or visit [columbiathreadneedle.com/us](http://columbiathreadneedle.com/us) to view or download a prospectus. Read the prospectus carefully before investing.**

*ETF shares are bought and sold at market price (not NAV) and are not individually redeemed from the fund. Investors buy and sell shares on a secondary market. Only market or “authorized participants” may trade directly with the Fund(s), typically in blocks of 50,000 shares.*

**Columbia Sustainable International Equity Income ETF & Columbia Sustainable Global Equity ETF: Investing** involves risks, including the risk of loss of principal. **Market** risk may affect a single issuer, sector of the economy, industry or the market as a whole. The fund is **passively managed** and seeks to track the performance of an index. The fund may not sell a poorly performing security unless it was removed from the **index**. There is no guarantee that the index will achieve positive returns. Risk exists that the index provider may not follow its **methodology** for index construction. Errors may result in a negative fund performance. The fund’s **net value** will generally decline when the market value of its targeted index declines. Investments in **mid-cap** companies involve risks and volatility greater than investments in larger, more established companies. **ESG** factors may cause the fund to forgo certain investment opportunities and/or exposures to certain industries, sectors or regions. Additional information regarding the risks of this investment is available in the prospectus. Although the Fund’s shares are listed on an **exchange**, there can be no assurance that an active, liquid or otherwise orderly trading market for shares will be established or maintained. The Fund may have **portfolio turnover**, which may cause an adverse cost impact. There may be additional **portfolio turnover risk** as active market trading of the fund’s shares may cause more frequent creation or redemption activities that could, in certain circumstances, increase the number of portfolio transactions as well as tracking error to the Index and as high levels of transactions increase brokerage and other transaction costs and may result in increased taxable capital gains.

**Columbia Sustainable U.S. Equity Income ETF: Investing** involves risks, including the risk of loss of principal. **Market** risk may affect a single issuer, sector of the economy, industry or the market as a whole. The fund is **passively managed** and seeks to track the performance of an index. The fund may not sell a poorly performing security unless it was removed from the **index**. There is no guarantee that the index will achieve positive returns. Risk exists that the index provider may not follow its **methodology** for index construction. Errors may result in a negative fund performance. The fund’s **net value** will generally decline when the market value of its targeted index declines. **International** investing involves certain risks and volatility due to potential political, economic or currency instabilities and different financial and accounting standards. Investments in **mid-cap** companies involve risks and volatility greater than investments in larger, more established companies. **ESG** factors may cause the fund to forgo certain investment opportunities and/or exposures to certain industries, sectors or regions. Additional information regarding the risks of this investment is available in the

prospectus. Although the Fund's shares are listed on an **exchange**, there can be no assurance that an active, liquid or otherwise orderly trading market for shares will be established or maintained. The Fund may have **portfolio turnover**, which may cause an adverse cost impact. There may be additional **portfolio turnover risk** as active market trading of the fund's shares may cause more frequent creation or redemption activities that could, in certain circumstances, increase the number of portfolio transactions as well as tracking error to the Index and as high levels of transactions increase brokerage and other transaction costs and may result in increased taxable capital gains.

**Columbia Diversified Fixed Income Allocation ETF (DIAL): Fixed income securities** Involve interest rate, credit, inflation, illiquidity and reinvestment risks. **Interest rate risk** is the risk that fixed income securities will decline in value because of changes in interest rates. Generally, the value of debt securities falls as interest rates rise. Fixed income securities differ in their sensitivities to changes in interest rates. Fixed income securities with longer effective durations tend to be more sensitive to changes in interest rates, usually making them more volatile than securities with shorter effective durations. Effective duration is determined by a number of factors including coupon rate, whether the coupon is fixed or floating, time to maturity, call or put features, and various repayment features. **Below investment-grade securities, or "junk bonds,"** are more likely to pose a credit risk, as the issuers of these securities are more likely to have problems making interest and principal payments than issuers of higher-rated securities. Lower-rated securities may be more susceptible to real or perceived adverse economic and competitive industry conditions than higher-grade securities, and prices of these securities may be more sensitive to adverse economic downturns or individual corporate developments. If the issuer of the securities defaults, the ETF may incur additional expenses to seek recovery. Generally, rising interest rates tend to extend the duration of **fixed rate mortgage-related securities**, making them more sensitive to changes in interest rates. As a result, in a period of rising interest rates, if the ETF holds mortgage-related securities, it may exhibit additional volatility. In addition, adjustable and fixed rate mortgage-related securities are subject to prepayment risk. The fund is **passively managed** and seeks to track the performance of an index. The fund's use of a "**representative sampling**" approach in seeking to track the performance of its index (investing in only some of the components of the index that collectively are believed to have an investment profile similar to that of the index) may not allow the fund to track its index with the same degree of accuracy as would an investment vehicle replicating the entire Index. In addition to the **multi-sector bond strategies** employed, the fund may invest in **other securities**, including **private placements**. The Fund may have **portfolio turnover**, which may cause an adverse cost impact. There may be additional **portfolio turnover risk** as active market trading of the fund's shares may cause more frequent creation or redemption activities that could, in certain circumstances, increase the number of portfolio transactions as well as tracking error to the Index and as high levels of transactions increase brokerage and other transaction costs and may result in increased taxable capital gains. **Foreign currency risks** involve risk of capital loss from unfavorable fluctuation in currency values, from differences in generally accepted accounting principles, from economic or political instability in other nations or increased volatility and lower trading volume.

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