



# The Tactical Advantage Strategy

An active investment management approach for all market cycles



Like many investors, you may be leery of market volatility. In recent months, you may have seen your investment or retirement portfolio rapidly lose value as markets have declined.

Your portfolio's asset allocation is based on your long-term objectives and risk tolerance — but a static asset allocation decision may have locked you in to the falling markets.

One dynamic alternative that is designed to be *more responsive to changing market cycles* is Curian's **Tactical Advantage Strategy**.

The strategy is designed to create opportunities for growth, even in sideways markets, while actively managing risk within your portfolio throughout all market cycles.\* It's well suited to times of increased market volatility, especially when the long-term direction of the market is unclear.

Here's why: The Tactical Advantage Strategy periodically adjusts a portfolio's asset allocation based on perceived market trends, cyclical opportunities and/or risks in the markets.

Instead of remaining static, the tactical asset allocation strategy *opportunistically* seeks to exploit strong market sectors and inefficiencies among different asset classes or sub-asset classes.

This means the strategy is designed to add value over time – *through all business cycles* – by attempting to capture incremental returns through overweighting those asset classes or sub-asset classes that are expected to outperform on a relative basis during the current market cycle.

The strategy is also intended to provide risk assessment on the downside, underweighting asset classes and sub-asset classes expected to underperform during the market cycle.

The result is a *global, total return strategy* designed to provide your portfolio with the flexibility to respond to all market cycles. And, there are no additional costs or fees associated with selecting the strategy.



## **How the Tactical Advantage Strategy works**

The Tactical Advantage Strategy uses a proprietary input model from Ned Davis Research, Inc., a well-respected, independent financial research firm with 20 years of experience in developing tactical asset allocation models for institutional investors.

Specifically designed for Curian by Ned Davis Research, this proprietary model is based on proven methodology and is used in guiding asset allocation decisions through changing market conditions.

Ned Davis Research has a long history of providing institutional clients with a full range of sophisticated market research and analytical tools having a high level of data integrity. The asset allocation model developed by Ned Davis Research provides a summary asset allocation recommendation based on objectively assessing the primary trends and relative risks among stocks, bonds and cash. The summary asset allocation recommendation is created using a "fusion analysis" of trend, valuation, sentiment, economic and interest rate indicators as part of Ned Davis Research's custom asset allocation model, which is based on objective, historical analysis.

Curian's Asset Management Team then uses this summary allocation recommendation to determine its ongoing Tactical Advantage Strategy.

#### Who Is Ned Davis Research?

- Founded in 1980
- · Independent institutional research provider
- "Fusion Research" combines technical, quantitative and fundamental analysis
- Research seeks to identify risks, opportunities and trends
- More than 20 years of experience in developing tactical asset allocation models
- Proprietary model based on proven methodology guides asset allocation decisions through changing market conditions

## More flexibility in risk management

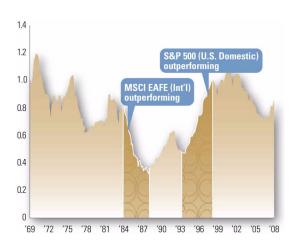
The Tactical Advantage Strategy is designed to give your portfolio more flexibility as it attempts to take advantage of cyclical trends – either positive or negative – in the market. It seeks to limit downside risk and create opportunities for growth in any type of market conditions.

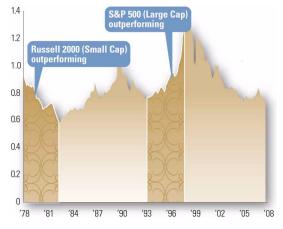
The strategy can potentially help reduce the risk of portfolio underperformance. As an active risk-management strategy, tactical asset allocation attempts to avoid those segments of the market that are overvalued. And tactical asset allocation is designed to place more weight on those asset classes that have the potential to perform well during specific market cycles.



## **Tactical Strategy Opportunities**

These charts show relative performance among various sub-asset classes and demonstrate the opportunity for tactical strategies to exploit these relationships.





Cyclical trends provide tactical strategies opportunities to emphasize the asset class that will add value to portfolios.

Relative Performance: S&P 500 Index vs. MSCI EAFE Index Relative Performance: S&P 500 Index vs. Russell 2000 Index

Past performance is no guarantee of future results. These charts are for illustrative purposes only. Investors cannot invest directly in an index.

A tactical asset allocation strategy seeks to meet its objective by attempting to capture incremental returns through overweighting those asset classes or sub-asset classes that are expected to outperform on a relative basis during certain market cycles and underweighting those expected to underperform.

### **Using the Tactical Advantage Strategy is easy**

Working with your Financial Professional, you can choose the Tactical Advantage Strategy for your Curian Custom Style Portfolio during the portfolio customization process.

The Tactical Advantage Strategy is available for all account types, both qualified and non-qualified. As long as you have at least a Moderate Growth risk tolerance, you will have the option of selecting the Tactical Advantage Strategy. There are no additional costs or fees associated with selecting the strategy.

Combining the power of a managed account with the institutional resources of a partner like Ned Davis Research provides you with a highly customized portfolio that is designed to respond to changing market cycles.

To learn more about the Curian Tactical Advantage Strategy, please contact your Financial Professional today.

For more information on the Curian Custom Style Portfolio Program, including fees and expenses, please call toll free 1-877-847-4143 for a free Wrap Fee Program Brochure. This brochure is also available from your Financial Professional. Please read the Wrap Fee Program Brochure carefully before you invest or send money.

Curian Capital, LLC acts as the Registered Investment Advisor for Curian Custom Style Portfolios. Curian Clearing, LLC (member FINRA/SIPC) is the exclusive broker for these programs, for which it provides brokerage execution, processing and custody services. Investments in the Curian Custom Style Portfolio Program involve investment risk, including possible loss of principal amount invested. Ned Davis Research, Inc. is an independent, institutional research provider and is not affiliated with Curian Capital, LLC or Curian Clearing, LLC.