referred will be posted without change. Persons submitting comments are cautioned that we do not redact or edit personal identifying information from comment submissions. You should submit only information that you wish to make available publicly. All submissions should refer to File Number SR–CBOE–2021–008, and should be submitted on or before February 26, 2021.

For the Commission, by the Division of Trading and Markets, pursuant to delegated authority.16

J. Matthew DeLesDernier, 
Assistant Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2021–02396 Filed 2–4–21; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 8011–01–P

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION


Self-Regulatory Organizations; NYSE Arca, Inc.; Notice of Filing of Proposed Rule Change To Amend Rule 6.86–O To Eliminate the Use of Dark Series on the Exchange

February 1, 2021.

Pursuant to Section 19(b)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (the “Act”) and Rule 19b–4 thereunder, notice is hereby given that, on January 26, 2021, NYSE Arca, Inc. (“NYSE Arca” or the “Exchange”) filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the “Commission”) the proposed rule change as described in Items I, II, and III below, which Items have been prepared by the self-regulatory organization. The Commission is publishing this notice to solicit comments on the proposed rule change from interested persons.

I. Self-Regulatory Organization’s Statement of the Terms of Substance of the Proposed Rule Change

The Exchange proposes to amend Rule 6.86–O (Firm Quotes) to eliminate the use of dark series on the Exchange. The proposed change is available on the Exchange’s website at www.nyse.com, at the principal office of the Exchange, and at the Commission’s Public Reference Room.

II. Self-Regulatory Organization’s Statement of the Purpose of, and Statutory Basis for, the Proposed Rule Change

In its filing with the Commission, the self-regulatory organization included statements concerning the purpose of, and basis for, the proposed rule change and discussed any comments it received on the proposed rule change. The text of those statements may be examined at the places specified in Item IV below.

As discussed further below, the Exchange believes that OPRA has the capacity to accommodate any increase in quote traffic from the Exchange arising from the publication of quotes in “dark series.” As an OPRA participant, the Exchange makes capacity requests to OPRA. Notwithstanding Commentary .03 to Rule 6.86–O, when the Exchange makes capacity requests to OPRA, it has always factored the total quote traffic it receives from Market Makers, including quotes in dark series. In other words, the Exchange presumes that all series will be active and therefore requests capacity to accommodate sending quotes for all series to OPRA. As such, the Exchange does not believe the proposed rule change would impact or change its capacity requests to OPRA. Nor would it change the total amount of capacity needed at OPRA to accommodate quotes in dark series from the Exchange because those series have already been factored into the Exchange’s capacity requests to OPRA.


7 See id., Notice, 71 FR at 61527. For example, in 2006–2007, OPRA had the capacity to process 360,000 message per second and, at its peak message rate, the Exchange accounted for 15% of OPRA capacity, sending 55,248 message per second for active series.

8 OPRA has delegated certain functions pertaining to planning the capacity of the OPRA System to an Independent System Capacity Advisor (“ISCA”) that “may provide less than all of the capacity that has been requested if it determines (a) that the capacity requests of one or more of the parties are unreasonable, or (b) that it is not reasonable to develop or maintain a System that has capacity sufficient to satisfy the requests of the parties.” See the OPRA Capacity Guidelines, at p. 1, available here, https://assets.website-files.com/5b4b4927a564d8c978c627-_guidelines.pdf. The Exchange has never been informed by the ISCA that the capacity it has requested cannot be met for any reason, including because the ISCA had deemed the request to be unreasonable. Thus, the Exchange believes that any increase in quote traffic that might be sent to OPRA as a result of the current proposal should not impact any other exchange’s capacity at OPRA.

8416 Federal Register /Vol. 86, No. 23 / Friday, February 5, 2021 / Notices
Similarly, because OPRA publishes quote capacity information to the market (which already incorporates capacity planning that includes quotes in dark series that would be disseminated to OPRA), market participants (including data vendors and subscribers) have the opportunity to prepare for and make any necessary accommodations for anticipated quote traffic. Accordingly, the elimination of the Exchange’s suppression of quotes in dark series should not impact market participants or downstream users that consume Exchange or OPRA data. Thus, the Exchange believes that this proposal would not impact its capacity requests to OPRA nor would it impact market participants or downstream consumers of OPRA data.

The Exchange also believes that the proposed discontinuation of its suppression of quotes in dark series would increase transparency and enhance price discovery. Specifically, as proposed, all Market Maker quotes (including in “inactive series” under the current Rule) would be displayed and reflected in the market to the benefit of all market participants who would be on notice of such liquidity. The Exchange also notes that, over the years, certain market participants have expressed confusion regarding what quotes are being published and which are being suppressed. Therefore, the Exchange believes that the proposal would remove the element of potential confusion among market participants by publishing all quotes (not just those in active series) in the disseminated quote feed.

Importantly, since the adoption of Commentary .03 to Rule 6.86–O, the Exchange has implemented the following measures that serve as additional safeguards against excessive quoting:

- Monitoring: The Exchange actively monitors the quotation activity of its Market Makers. When the Exchange detects that a Market Maker is disseminating an unusual number of quotes, the Exchange contacts that Market Maker and alerts it to such activity. Such monitoring may reveal that the Market Maker may have internal system issues or has incorrectly set system parameters that were not immediately apparent. Alerting a Market Maker to the heightened levels of activity will usually result in a change that reduces the number of quotes sent to the Exchange by the Market Maker.

- Codification of select provisions of the Options Listing Procedures Plan (“OLPP”) in Rule 6.4A–O.9 The OLPP is a national market system plan that, among other things, sets forth procedures governing the listing of new options series. From the OLPP, the Exchange incorporated in Rule 6.4A–O “applied uniform standards to the range of options series exercise (or strike) prices available for trading on the [Exchange] as a quote mitigation strategy.”10 In approving the OLPP provisions, subsequently incorporated in Rule 6.4A–O, the Commission indicated that “adopter uniform standards to the range of options series exercise (or strike) prices available for trading on the [Exchange] should reduce the number of option series not available for trading, and thus should reduce increases in the options quote message traffic because market participants will not be submitting quotes in those series.”11 The Exchange believes that adherence to the OLPP standard for strike listings has contributed to the decline of the number of strikes listed, which has in turn, reduced the amount of quotes in “dark series.” that were held back from OPRA.12

- Refined Market Maker Quoting Obligations: Under the OLPP, the Exchange refined the quoting obligations applicable to Market Makers as a quote mitigation strategy.13 Specifically, the Exchange adopted Commentary .01 to Rule 6.37A–O, which states that Lead Market Makers’ and Market Makers’ continuous quoting obligations “shall not apply to Market Makers with respect to adjusted option series, and series with a time to expiration of nine months or greater, for options on equities and Exchange Traded Fund Shares, and series with a time to expiration of twelve months or greater for Index options.”14 Because there are no Market Maker quoting obligations associated with adjusted options series, there is a reduction in quote traffic that is sent to OPRA. Indeed, in approving the text of Commentary .01 to Rule 6.37A–O, the Commission noted, “… the Exchange’s proposal would reduce the burden on market makers to submit continuous quotes that the Exchange may not submit to OPRA.”15

The Exchange believes that these quote mitigation strategies would allow the Exchange to continue to effectively mitigate quote message traffic.

In connection with the foregoing, the Exchange proposes to amend paragraphs (b)(1) and (b)(2) of Rule 6.86–O to delete references to the “Quote Mitigation Plan,” and to delete in its entirety Commentary .03 to Rule 6.86–O.

Implementation

The Exchange will announce the implementation date of the proposed rule change in a Trader Update within 60 days of rule approval.

2. Statutory Basis

The Exchange believes that its proposal is consistent with Section 6(b) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (the “Act”),16 in general, and further the objectives of Section 6(b)(5) of the Act,17 in particular, in that it is designed to prevent fraudulent and manipulative acts and practices, to promote just and equitable principles of trade, to remove impediments to and perfect the mechanism of a free and open market and a national market system, and, in general, to protect investors and the public interest.

The Exchange believes that the proposed elimination of Commentary .03 to Rule 6.86–O (and references to quote mitigation in Rule 6.86–O) would promote just and equitable principles of trade, as well as serve to remove impediments to and perfect the mechanism of a free and open market because the Exchange’s systems capacity is more than sufficient to accommodate any increase in quote traffic to OPRA as a result of the proposed rule change. First, the Exchange believes that the proposed rule change would promote just and equitable principles of trade, as well as serve to remove impediments to and perfect the mechanism of a free and open market because the proposed change would increase transparency and enhance price discovery.

Specifically, as proposed, all Market Maker quotes (including those in “inactive series” under the current Rule) would be displayed and reflected in the market to the benefit of all market participants who would be on notice of such liquidity. The Exchange also believes that the proposal would remove the element of potential confusion among market participants by publishing all quotes (not just those in active series) in the disseminated quote feed.


11 Id., 74 FR at 43174.

12 When the Exchange adopted its quote mitigation rule, the Exchange estimated that deployment of the rule would reduce its quote traffic by 20–30%. See supra note 6, Notice, 71 FR at 61527. In actuality, the rule has resulted in a reduction of approximately 10% of quote message traffic to OPRA. The Exchange believes this disparity was a result of the number of “inactive” series being much lower than anticipated because of increased competition and quoting activity as well as limitations on proliferation of unnecessary strikes, per the OLPP.


14 An “adjusted series” is “an option series wherein, as a result of a corporate action by the issuer of the underlying security, one option contract in the series represents the delivery of other than 100 shares of underlying stock or Exchange-Traded Fund Shares.” See Commentary .01 to Rule 6.37A–O.

15 See supra note 13, 76 FR at 65306.
In addition, the proposed change would promote just and equitable principles of trade, as well as serve to remove impediments to and perfect the mechanism of a free and open market because the Exchange’s capacity requests already presume that all series are active. Hence, the Exchange believes that the existing capacity planning at OPRA already factors in quotes in dark series being lit and therefore does not believe that the elimination of this rule (and any resulting increase in quote traffic) would have a negative impact on capacity.

The Exchange further believes that the existing quote mitigation strategies (i.e., monitoring of quoting activity, codification of the OLPP, and refined Market Maker quoting obligations) employed by the Exchange serve to reduce the potential for excessive quoting and therefore reduce quote traffic. Importantly, the circumstances giving rise to Commentary .03 to Rule 6.86—industry wide concern about “capacity issues related to excessive quoting rates”—has subsided given that OPRA capacity has increased exponentially over the last decade coincident with the influx of new options exchanges. In addition, the proposed increase in quote traffic as a result of this proposal is minimal and therefore unlikely to adversely impact the flow of message traffic and/or harm downstream consumers of OPRA data. As noted above, the increase in quotes message traffic in dark series is already considered in the Exchange’s capacity requests to OPRA and already published to downstream users of OPRA data. As such, the Exchange believes the proposed change would not impede the protection of investors and the public interest. Thus, the Exchange believes there is sufficient capacity at OPRA to accommodate any additional quote traffic that will result from elimination of dark series. The Exchange therefore believes that its proposal will not impact the protection of investors and the public interest.

Finally, as discussed above, the Exchange does not anticipate that its proposal would negatively impact systems capacity. However, to the extent it does, the Exchange has analyzed its capacity and represents that it and the OPRA have the necessary systems capacity to handle any incremental additional traffic associated with this proposed rule change.

B. Self-Regulatory Organization’s Statement on Barden on Competition

The Exchange does not believe that the proposed rule change will impose any burden on competition that is not necessary or appropriate in furtherance of the purposes of the Act. Specifically, as discussed above, the Exchange believes that any increase in quote traffic that might be sent to OPRA as a result of the proposed rule change would be minimal and should not impact any other exchange’s capacity at OPRA. The Exchange likewise believes that there would be no adverse impact on any downstream consumers of OPRA data given that any increase in quote traffic would be minimal and has already been included in the Exchange’s capacity planning requests to OPRA.

Intramarket Competition. The elimination of “dark series” would increase intra market competition and improve quote quality, because prices and sizes of all Exchange quotations would be sent to OPRA to be published and updated. At present, Market Makers cannot “see” the internal best bid and offer in a dark series, nor can they improve upon the displayed market to establish price/time priority. This proposal to publish the quotes in inactive series will enhance intramarket competition because Market Makers will be able to submit more competitive quotes.

Intermarket Competition. For reasons similar to those described in the Intra market Competition section, eliminating the use of dark series and publishing to OPRA the Exchange’s previously unpublished quotes on such series would increase competition between markets, because NYSE Arca’s quotes would now be visible and included in the publication of the NBBO. Including all of NYSE Arca’s quotes in the NBBO (including those in dark series), an options participant will know if an order should be sent to NYSE Arca to get the best price. Market Makers that use a strategy to “match” the NBBO will now need to factor NYSE Arca quotes into their calculations.

C. Self-Regulatory Organization’s Statement on Comments on the Proposed Rule Change Received From Members, Participants, or Others

No written comments were solicited or received with respect to the proposed rule change.

III. Date of Effectiveness of the Proposed Rule Change and Timing for Commission Action

Within 45 days of the date of publication of this notice in the Federal Register or up to 90 days (i) as the Commission may designate if it finds such longer period to be appropriate and publishes its reasons for so finding or (ii) as to which the self-regulatory organization consents, the Commission will:

(A) by order approve or disapprove the proposed rule change, or

(B) institute proceedings to determine whether the proposed rule change should be disapproved.

IV. Solicitation of Comments

Interested persons are invited to submit written data, views, and arguments concerning the foregoing, including whether the proposed rule change is consistent with the Act. Comments may be submitted by any of the following methods:

Electronic Comments

- Use the Commission’s internet comment form (http://www.sec.gov/rules/sro.shtml); or

- Send an email to rule-comments@sec.gov. Please include File Number SR–NYSEArca–2021–09 on the subject line.

Paper Comments

- Send paper comments in triplicate to: Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, 100 F Street NE, Washington, DC 20549–1090.

All submissions should refer to File Number SR–NYSEArca–2021–09. This file number should be included on the subject line if email is used. To help the Commission process and review your comments more efficiently, please use only one method. The Commission will post all comments on the Commission’s internet website (http://www.sec.gov/rules/sro.shtml). Copies of the submission, all subsequent amendments, all written statements with respect to the proposed rule change that are filed with the Commission, and all written communications relating to the proposed rule change between the Commission and any person, other than those that may be withheld from the public in accordance with the provisions of 5 U.S.C. 552, will be available for website viewing and printing in the Commission’s Public Reference Room, 100 F Street NE, Washington, DC 20549 on official business days between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. Copies of the filing also will be available for inspection and copying at the principal office of the Exchange. All comments received will be posted without change. Persons submitting comments are cautioned that we do not redact or edit personal identifying information from comment submissions. You should submit only information that you wish to make available publicly. All submissions should refer to File Number SR–NYSEArca–2021–09 and
should be submitted on or before February 26, 2021.

For the Commission, by the Division of Trading and Markets, pursuant to delegated authority. 18

J. Matthew DeLesDernier, Assistant Secretary.

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
[Investment Company Act Release No. 34184; 812–15166]

The Advisors’ Inner Circle Fund and Pathstone Family Office, LLC; Notice of Application

February 1, 2021.

AGENCY: Securities and Exchange Commission (“Commission”).

ACTION: Notice.

Notice of an application under section 6(c) of the Investment Company Act of 1940 (“Act”) for an exemption from section 15(a) of the Act and rule 18f–2 under the Act, as well as from certain disclosure requirements in rule 20a–1 under the Act, Item 19(a)(3) of Form N–1A, Items 22(c)(1)(ii), 22(c)(1)(iii), 22(c)(8) and 22(c)(9) of Schedule 14A under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, and sections 6–07(2)[a], [b], and (c) of Regulation S–X (“Disclosure Requirements”). The requested exemption would permit an investment adviser to hire and replace certain sub-advisers without shareholder approval and grant relief from the Disclosure Requirements as they relate to fees paid to the sub-advisers.

APPLICANTS: The Advisors’ Inner Circle Fund (the “Trust”), a Massachusetts business trust registered under the Act as an open-end management investment company that offers the Cornerstone Advisors Core Plus Bond Fund and the Cornerstone Advisors Global Public Equity Fund (the “Existing Funds”), and Pathstone Family Office, LLC (the “Adviser”), a Delaware limited liability company that is registered as an investment adviser under the Investment Advisers Act of 1940 (collectively with the Trust, the “Applicants”).

FILING DATES: The application was filed on September 29, 2020, and amended on January 15, 2021.

HEARING OR NOTIFICATION OF HEARING: An order granting the application will be issued unless the Commission orders a hearing. Interested persons may request a hearing by writing to the Commission’s Secretary and serving applicants with a copy of the request, personally or by mail. Hearing requests should be received by the Commission by 5:30 p.m. on February 25, 2021, and should be accompanied by proof of service on the applicants, in the form of an affidavit or, for lawyers, a certificate of service. Pursuant to rule 0–5 under the Act, hearing requests should state the nature of the writer’s interest, any facts bearing upon the desirability of a hearing on the matter, the reason for the request, and the issues contested. Persons who wish to be notified of a hearing may request notification by writing to the Commission’s Secretary.

ADDRESSES: The Commission: Secretary’s Office@sec.gov. Applicants: the Trust, mbeatte@seic.com, and the Adviser, lwilmott@pathstone.com (with a copy to sean.graber@morganlewis.com).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Christine Y. Greenlee, Senior Counsel, at (202) 551–6879, or Lisa Reid Ragen, Branch Chief, at (202) 551–6825 (Division of Investment Management, Chief Counsel’s Office).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The following is a summary of the application. The complete application may be obtained via the Commission’s website by searching for the file number, or an applicant using the Company name box, at http://www.sec.gov/search/search.htm or by calling (202) 551–8090.

Summary of the Application

1. The Adviser will serve as the investment adviser to each Sub-Advised Fund pursuant to an investment advisory agreement with the Trust (the “Investment Management Agreement”).1 Under the terms of each Investment Management Agreement, the Adviser, subject to the supervision of the board of trustees of the Trust (the “Board”) will provide continuous investment management of the assets of each Sub-Advised Fund. Consistent with the terms of each Investment Management Agreement, the Adviser may, subject to the approval of the Board, delegate portfolio management responsibilities of all or a portion of the assets of a Sub-Advised Fund to one or more Sub-Advisers. 2 The Adviser will continue to have overall responsibility for the management and investment of the assets of each Sub-Advised Fund. The Adviser will evaluate, select and recommend Sub-Advisers to manage the assets of a Sub-Advised Fund and will oversee, monitor, and review the Sub-Advisers and their performance and recommend the removal or replacement of Sub-Advisers.

2. Applicants request an order to permit the Adviser, subject to Board approval, to enter into investment sub-advisory agreements with the Sub-Advisers (each, a “Sub-Advisory Agreement”) and materially amend such Sub-Advisory Agreements without obtaining the shareholder approval required under section 15(a) of the Act and rule 18f–2 under the Act. 3 Applicants also seek an exemption from the Disclosure Requirements to permit a Sub-Advised Fund to disclose (as both a dollar amount and a percentage of the Sub-Advised Fund’s net assets): (a) the aggregate fees paid to the Adviser and any Wholly-Owned Sub-Adviser; (b) the aggregate fees paid to Non-Affiliated Sub-Advisers; and (c) the fee paid to each Affiliated Sub-Adviser (collectively, “Aggregate Fee Disclosure”).

3. Applicants agree that any order granting the requested relief will be subject to the terms and conditions stated in the application. Such terms and conditions provide for, among other safeguards, appropriate disclosure to Sub-Advised Fund shareholders and

---

1 Applicants request relief with respect to the named Applicants, including the Existing Funds, as well as to any future series of the Trust and any other registered open-end management investment company or series thereof that: (a) is advised by the Adviser or any entity controlling, controlled by or under common control with the Adviser or its successors (each, an “Adviser”); (b) uses the multi-manager structure described in the application; and (c) complies with the terms and conditions set forth in the application (each, a “Sub-Advised Fund”). For purposes of the requested order, “successor” is limited to an entity that results from a reorganization into another jurisdiction or a change in the type of business organization.

2 A “Sub-Adviser” for a Sub-Advised Fund is (1) an indirect or direct “wholly-owned subsidiary” (as such term is defined in the Act) of the Adviser for that Sub-Advised Fund, or (2) a sister company of the Adviser for that Sub-Advised Fund that is an indirect or direct “wholly-owned subsidiary” of the same company that, indirectly or directly, wholly owns the Adviser (each of (1) and (2) a “Wholly-Owned Sub-Adviser” and collectively, the “Wholly-Owned Sub-Advisers”), or (3) not an “affiliated person” (as such term is defined in section 2(a)(3) of the Act) of the Sub-Advised Fund, the Trust, or the Adviser, except to the extent that an affiliation arises solely because the Sub-Adviser serves as a sub-adviser to a Sub-Advised Fund or as an investment adviser or sub-adviser to any series of the Trust other than the Sub-Advised Funds (“Non-Affiliated Sub-Advisers”).

3 The requested relief will not extend to any sub-adviser, other than a Wholly-Owned Sub-Adviser, who is an affiliated person, as defined in section 2(a)(3) of the Act, of the Sub-Advised Fund or of the Adviser, other than by reason of serving as a sub-adviser to one or more of the Sub-Advised Funds or as an investment adviser or sub-adviser to any series of the Trust other than the Sub-Advised Funds (“Affiliated Sub-Adviser”).

---