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NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

JOHN HANCOCK ANNOUNCES PORTFOLIO MANAGER ADDITIONS TO JOHN HANCOCK TAX-ADVANTAGED GLOBAL SHAREHOLDER YIELD FUND

BOSTON, MA (February 28, 2014) – John Hancock Advisers, LLC, investment advisor to John Hancock Tax-Advantaged Global Shareholder Yield Fund (NYSE: HTY) (the “Fund”), announced today the addition of two new members to the portfolio management team at Epoch Investment Partners, Inc. (“Epoch”). Epoch is responsible for the day-to-day management of the Fund’s portfolio investments, other than the Fund’s options strategy.

Effective March 1, 2014, John Tobin and Kera Van Valen will be added as portfolio managers of the Fund. They join the current portfolio management team at Epoch, William W. Priest, Eric Sappenfield and Michael A. Welhoelter, who have served as portfolio managers of the Fund since its inception.

John Tobin is a director, portfolio manager, and senior analyst with Epoch. Prior to joining Epoch in 2012, Mr. Tobin taught Economics at Fordham University. He also spent four years at HSBC Global Asset Management and almost 20 years at Credit Suisse Asset Management, where he held senior research analyst roles. Mr. Tobin earned A.B., A.M., and Ph.D. degrees in Economics from Fordham University and holds the Chartered Financial Analyst designation.

Kera Van Valen is a director, portfolio manager, and senior analyst with Epoch. Prior to joining Epoch in 2005, she was a portfolio manager of structured equities and quantitative research at Columbia Management Group. Ms. Van Valen also previously worked at Credit Suisse Asset Management. She earned a B.A. in Mathematics from Colgate University, an M.B.A. from Columbia University’s Graduate School of Business and holds the Chartered Financial Analyst designation.

Statements in this press release that are not historical facts are forward-looking statements as defined by the United States securities laws. You should exercise caution in interpreting and relying on forward-looking statements because they are subject to uncertainties and other factors which are, in some cases, beyond the Fund’s control and could cause actual results to differ materially from those set forth in the forward-looking statements.

An investor should consider a Fund’s investment objectives, risks, charges and expenses carefully before investing.

About John Hancock Investments

John Hancock Investments provides asset management services to individuals and institutions through a unique manager-of-managers approach. A wealth management business of John Hancock Financial, we managed over \$111 billion in assets as of December 31, 2013, across mutual funds, college savings plans, and retirement plans.

About John Hancock Financial and Manulife Financial

John Hancock Financial is a division of Manulife Financial, a leading Canada-based financial services group with principal operations in Asia, Canada and the United States. Operating as Manulife Financial in Canada and Asia, and primarily as John Hancock in the United States, the Company offers clients a diverse range of financial protection products and wealth management services through its extensive network of employees, agents and distribution partners. Funds under management by Manulife Financial and its subsidiaries were C\$599 billion (US\$563 billion) at December 31, 2013. Manulife Financial Corporation trades as 'MFC' on the TSX, NYSE and PSE, and under '945' on the SEHK. Manulife Financial can be found on the Internet at manulife.com.

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