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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**JOHN HANCOCK CLOSED-END FUNDS
DECLARE QUARTERLY DISTRIBUTIONS**

BOSTON, MA (February 23, 2017) – The four John Hancock closed-end funds listed below declared their quarterly distributions today as follows:

Declaration Date: February 23, 2017
Ex Date: March 9, 2017
Record Date: March 13, 2017
Payment Date: March 31, 2017

The John Hancock Tax-Advantaged Global Shareholder Fund quarterly distribution is being announced in a separate release.

Ticker	Fund Name	Distribution Per Share	Change From Previous Distribution	Market Price as of 2/22/2017	Annualized Current Distribution Rate at Market
HEQ	Hedged Equity & Income Fund	\$0.3760	-	\$16.56	9.08%
JHI	Investors Trust	\$0.3225	\$(0.0043)	\$17.27	7.47%
JHS	Income Securities Trust	\$0.1979	\$(0.0205)	\$14.52	5.45%
BTO	Financial Opportunities Fund	\$0.3701	-	\$36.61	4.04%

John Hancock Financial Opportunities Fund

Financial Opportunities Fund (the “Fund”) declared its quarterly distribution pursuant to the Fund’s managed distribution plan (the “BTO Plan”). Under the BTO Plan, the Fund makes quarterly distributions in a fixed amount of \$0.3701 per share, which will be paid quarterly until further notice.

Distributions under the BTO Plan may consist of net investment income, net realized long-term capital gains, net realized short-term capital gains and, to the extent necessary, return of capital. The BTO Plan intends to fund each distribution, to the extent possible, in a tax-advantaged manner through the realization of long-term capital gains where the distribution amount exceeds net investment income. The Fund will seek to realize capital gains for this purpose in a manner which the advisor and subadvisor believe is consistent with prudent portfolio management and the investment objective, policies and restrictions of the Fund.

The Fund may also make additional distributions (i) for purposes of not incurring federal income tax on investment company taxable income and net capital gain of the Fund, if any, not included

in such regular distributions and (ii) for purposes of not incurring federal excise tax on ordinary income and capital gain net income, if any, not included in such regular quarterly distributions. The Board may amend the terms of the BTO Plan or terminate the BTO Plan at any time.

John Hancock Hedged Equity & Income Fund

Hedged Equity & Income Fund (the “Fund”) declared its quarterly distribution pursuant to the Fund’s managed distribution plan (the “HEQ Plan”). Under the HEQ Plan, the Fund makes quarterly distributions in a fixed amount of \$0.3760 per share, which will be paid quarterly until further notice.

Distributions under the HEQ Plan may consist of net investment income, net realized long-term capital gains, net realized short-term capital gains and, to the extent necessary, return of capital. The Fund may also make additional distributions (i) for purposes of not incurring federal income tax on investment company taxable income and net capital gain of the Fund, if any, not included in such regular distributions and (ii) for purposes of not incurring federal excise tax on ordinary income and capital gain net income, if any, not included in such regular quarterly distributions. The Board may amend the terms of the HEQ Plan or terminate the HEQ Plan at any time.

A portion of a Fund’s current distribution may include sources other than net investment income, including a return of capital. Investors should understand that a return of capital is not a distribution from income or gains of a Fund. As required under the Investment Company Act of 1940, a notice with the estimated components of the distribution will be mailed to shareholders at the time of payment if it does not consist solely of net investment income. At this time, one or more of the Funds anticipates that the notice accompanying the current distribution will include an estimate of return of capital. Such notice will also be posted to the Funds’ website at www.jhinvestments.com. The notice should not be used to prepare tax returns as the estimates indicated in the notice may differ from the ultimate federal income tax characterization of distributions. After the end of each calendar year, investors will be sent a Form 1099-DIV informing them how to report distributions received during that year for federal income tax purposes.

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 more than \$135 billion in assets as of December 31, 2016 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\$977 billion (US\$728 billion) as of December 31, 2016. 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.

The John Hancock unit, through its insurance companies, comprises one of the largest life insurers in the United States. John Hancock offers and administers a broad range of financial products, including [life insurance](#), [annuities](#), fixed products, [mutual funds](#), [401\(k\) plans](#), [college savings](#), and other forms of business insurance. Additional information about John Hancock may be found at johnhancock.com.