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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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

BOSTON, MA (March 1, 2019) – The five John Hancock closed-end funds listed below declared their quarterly distributions today as follows:

Declaration Date: March 1, 2019
Ex Date: March 8, 2019
Record Date: March 11, 2019
Payment Date: March 29, 2019

	Fund Name	Distribution Per Share	Change From Previous Distribution	Market Price as of 02/28/2019	Annualized Current Distribution Rate at Market
HEQ	Hedged Equity & Income Fund	\$0.3760	-	\$14.67	10.25%
JHI	Investors Trust	\$0.2458	-\$0.0709	\$15.80	6.22%
JHS	Income Securities Trust	\$0.1522	-\$0.0563	\$13.70	4.44%
HTY	Tax-Advantaged Global Shareholder Yield Fund	\$0.1600	-	\$7.03	9.10%
BTO	Financial Opportunities Fund	\$0.5500	-	\$35.03	6.28%

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.

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 \$0.5500 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.

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 has helped individuals and institutions build and protect wealth since 1862. Today, we’re one of the strongest and most-recognized financial brands. We serve investors globally

through a unique multimanager approach: We search the world to find proven portfolio teams with specialized expertise for every strategy we offer, then we apply robust investment oversight to ensure they continue to meet our uncompromising standards and serve the best interests of our shareholders. Our approach to asset management has led to a diverse set of investments deeply rooted in investor needs, along with strong risk-adjusted returns across asset classes.

About John Hancock Financial and Manulife Financial

John Hancock is a division of Manulife Financial Corporation, a leading international financial services group that helps people achieve their dreams and aspirations by putting customers' needs first and providing the right advice and solutions. We operate primarily as John Hancock in the United States and as Manulife elsewhere. We provide financial advice, insurance, and wealth and asset management solutions for individuals, groups, and institutions. Assets under management and administration by Manulife and its subsidiaries were over CAD\$1.1 trillion (US\$849 billion) as of September 30, 2018. Manulife Financial Corporation trades as MFC on the TSX, NYSE, and PSE, and under 945 on the SEHK. Manulife can be found at manulife.com.

One of the largest life insurers in the United States, John Hancock supports approximately 10 million Americans with a broad range of financial products, including life insurance, annuities, investments, 401(k) plans, and education savings plans. Additional information about John Hancock may be found at johnhancock.com.