

GABELLI EQUITY TRUST INC
Form N-CSR
March 09, 2017

UNITED STATES

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

FORM N-CSR

CERTIFIED SHAREHOLDER REPORT OF REGISTERED MANAGEMENT

INVESTMENT COMPANIES

Investment Company Act file number 811-04700

The Gabelli Equity Trust Inc.

(Exact name of registrant as specified in charter)

One Corporate Center

Rye, New York 10580-1422

(Address of principal executive offices) (Zip code)

Bruce N. Alpert

Gabelli Funds, LLC

One Corporate Center

Rye, New York 10580-1422

(Name and address of agent for service)

Registrant's telephone number, including area code: 1-800-422-3554

Date of fiscal year end: December 31

Date of reporting period: December 31, 2016

Form N-CSR is to be used by management investment companies to file reports with the Commission not later than 10 days after the transmission to stockholders of any report that is required to be transmitted to stockholders under Rule 30e-1 under the Investment Company Act of 1940 (17 CFR 270.30e-1). The Commission may use the information provided on Form N-CSR in its regulatory, disclosure review, inspection, and policymaking roles.

Edgar Filing: GABELLI EQUITY TRUST INC - Form N-CSR

A registrant is required to disclose the information specified by Form N-CSR, and the Commission will make this information public. A registrant is not required to respond to the collection of information contained in Form N-CSR unless the Form displays a currently valid Office of Management and Budget (OMB) control number. Please direct comments concerning the accuracy of the information collection burden estimate and any suggestions for reducing the burden to Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, 450 Fifth Street, NW, Washington, DC 20549-0609. The OMB has reviewed this collection of information under the clearance requirements of 44 U.S.C. § 3507.

Item 1. Reports to Stockholders.

The Report to Shareholders is attached herewith.

The Gabelli Equity Trust Inc.

Annual Report December 31, 2016

(Y)our Portfolio Management Team

| | | | | |
|--|---|---|--|--|
| <p>Mario J. Gabelli, CFA</p> <p><i>Chief Investment Officer</i></p> | <p>Christopher J. Marangi</p> <p><i>Co-Chief Investment Officer</i></p> <p><i>BA, Williams College</i></p> <p><i>MBA, Columbia Business School</i></p> | <p>Kevin V. Dreyer</p> <p><i>Co-Chief Investment Officer</i></p> <p><i>BSE, University of Pennsylvania</i></p> <p><i>MBA, Columbia Business School</i></p> | <p>Robert D. Leininger, CFA</p> <p><i>Portfolio Manager</i></p> <p><i>BA, Amherst College</i></p> <p><i>MBA, Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania</i></p> | <p>Daniel M. Miller</p> <p><i>Managing Director,</i> <i>GAMCO Investors</i></p> <p><i>BS, University of Miami</i></p> |
|--|---|---|--|--|

To Our Shareholders,

For the year ended December 31, 2016, the net asset value (NAV) total return of The Gabelli Equity Trust Inc. (the Fund) was 13.7%, compared with total returns of 12.0% and 16.4% for the Standard & Poor s (S&P) 500 Index and the Dow Jones Industrial Average, respectively. The total return for the Fund s publicly traded shares was 15.7%. The Fund s NAV per share was \$5.84, while the price of the publicly traded shares closed at \$5.52 on the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE). See below for additional performance information.

Enclosed are the financial statements, including the schedule of investments, as of December 31, 2016.

Comparative Results

Average Annual Returns through December 31, 2016 (a) (Unaudited)

| | <u>1 Year</u> | <u>5 Year</u> | <u>10 Year</u> | <u>15 Year</u> | <u>20 Year</u> | <u>25 Year</u> | Since Inception <u>(08/21/86)</u> |
|------------------------------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|--------------------------------------|
| Gabelli Equity Trust | | | | | | | |
| NAV Total Return (b) | 13.66% | 13.40% | 6.96% | 8.87% | 9.55% | 10.20% | 10.63% |
| Investment Total Return (c) | 15.71 | 13.37 | 6.47 | 7.06 | 9.34 | 10.07 | 10.18 |
| S&P 500 Index | 11.96 | 14.66 | 6.95 | 6.69 | 7.68 | 9.45 | 9.93(d) |
| Dow Jones Industrial Average | 16.37 | 12.86 | 7.48 | 7.26 | 8.21 | 10.18 | 10.87(d) |
| Nasdaq Composite Index | 8.92 | 17.16 | 9.58 | 8.13 | 8.33 | 9.27 | 9.44(e) |

(a) Returns represent past performance and do not guarantee future results. Investment returns and the principal value of an investment will fluctuate. When shares are sold, they may be worth more or less than their original cost. Current performance may be lower or higher than the performance data presented. Visit www.gabelli.com for performance information as of the most recent month end. Investors should carefully consider the investment objectives, risks, charges, and expenses of the Fund before investing. The Dow Jones Industrial

Average is an unmanaged index of 30 large capitalization stocks. The S&P 500 and the Nasdaq Composite Indices are unmanaged indicators of stock market performance. Dividends are considered reinvested except for the Nasdaq Composite Index. You cannot invest directly in an index.

- (b) Total returns and average annual returns reflect changes in the NAV per share, reinvestment of distributions at NAV on the ex-dividend date, adjustments for rights offerings, spin-offs, and taxes paid on undistributed long term capital gains and are net of expenses. Since inception return is based on an initial NAV of \$9.34.
- (c) Total returns and average annual returns reflect changes in closing market values on the NYSE, reinvestment of distributions, and adjustments for rights offerings, spin-offs, and taxes paid on undistributed long term capital gains. Since inception return is based on an initial offering price of \$10.00.
- (d) From August 31, 1986, the date closest to the Fund's inception for which data is available.
- (e) From September 30, 1986, the date closest to the Fund's inception for which data is available.

Summary of Portfolio Holdings (Unaudited)

The following table presents portfolio holdings as a percent of total investments as of December 31, 2016:

The Gabelli Equity Trust Inc.

| | |
|--|--------|
| Food and Beverage | 11.3% |
| Financial Services | 9.4% |
| Entertainment | 6.8% |
| Equipment and Supplies | 5.6% |
| Diversified Industrial | 5.0% |
| Health Care | 4.6% |
| Automotive: Parts and Accessories | 4.4% |
| Energy and Utilities | 4.3% |
| Consumer Products | 4.0% |
| Consumer Services | 3.9% |
| Telecommunications | 3.5% |
| Cable and Satellite | 3.3% |
| Retail | 3.3% |
| U.S. Government Obligations | 3.3% |
| Business Services | 3.0% |
| Electronics | 2.4% |
| Broadcasting | 2.4% |
| Specialty Chemicals | 2.3% |
| Machinery | 2.3% |
| Aerospace and Defense | 2.0% |
| Aviation: Parts and Services | 1.7% |
| Hotels and Gaming | 1.6% |
| Environmental Services | 1.6% |
| Computer Software and Services | 1.1% |
| Telecommunication Services | 0.9% |
| Wireless Communications | 0.9% |
| Metals and Mining | 0.7% |
| Communications Equipment | 0.7% |
| Agriculture | 0.7% |
| Automotive | 0.6% |
| Publishing | 0.6% |
| Building and Construction | 0.5% |
| Transportation | 0.5% |
| Real Estate | 0.4% |
| Closed-End Funds | 0.2% |
| Manufactured Housing and Recreational Vehicles | 0.1% |
| Real Estate Investment Trusts | 0.1% |
| | 100.0% |

Edgar Filing: GABELLI EQUITY TRUST INC - Form N-CSR

The Fund files a complete schedule of portfolio holdings with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the SEC) for the first and third quarters of each fiscal year on Form N-Q. Shareholders may obtain this information at www.gabelli.com or by calling the Fund at 800-GABELLI (800-422-3554). The Fund's Form N-Q is available on the SEC's website at www.sec.gov and may also be reviewed and copied at the SEC's Public Reference Room in Washington, DC. Information on the operation of the Public Reference Room may be obtained by calling 800-SEC-0330.

Proxy Voting

The Fund files Form N-PX with its complete proxy voting record for the twelve months ended June 30, no later than August 31 of each year. A description of the Fund's proxy voting policies, procedures, and how the Fund voted proxies relating to portfolio securities is available without charge, upon request, by (i) calling 800-GABELLI (800-422-3554); (ii) writing to The Gabelli Funds at One Corporate Center, Rye, NY 10580-1422; or (iii) visiting the SEC's website at www.sec.gov.

The Gabelli Equity Trust Inc.**Portfolio Changes Quarter Ended December 31, 2016 (Unaudited)**

| | Shares | Ownership at December 31, 2016 |
|---|---------|---|
| NET PURCHASES | | |
| Common Stocks | | |
| Adient plc(a) | 31,350 | 31,350 |
| AdvanSix Inc.(b) | 12,320 | 12,320 |
| Akorn Inc. | 19,615 | 49,615 |
| Alcoa Corp.(c) | 13,888 | 13,888 |
| Arconic Inc. | 41,666 | 41,666 |
| Armstrong Flooring Inc. | 23,500 | 42,500 |
| AutoNation Inc. | 19,000 | 95,300 |
| BioScrip Inc. | 910,820 | 2,841,273 |
| CNH Industrial NV, New York | 6,500 | 60,092 |
| Conagra Brands Inc.(d) | 10,000 | 135,000 |
| Contax Participacoes SA(e) | 354 | 354 |
| CVS Health Corp. | 1,100 | 118,900 |
| Delphi Automotive plc | 12,500 | 12,500 |
| Denny's Corp. | 4,000 | 4,000 |
| Endo International plc | 30,000 | 55,000 |
| Energizer Holdings Inc. | 20,000 | 168,000 |
| General Electric Co. | 4,000 | 153,000 |
| Globus Medical Inc., Cl. A | 17,500 | 17,500 |
| H&R Block Inc. | 5,000 | 66,000 |
| Herc Holdings Inc. | 11,000 | 53,000 |
| Hertz Global Holdings Inc. | 238,000 | 300,000 |
| Hewlett Packard Enterprise Co. | 5,000 | 22,000 |
| Inventure Foods Inc. | 45,000 | 183,347 |
| Jason Industries Inc. | 50,000 | 242,885 |
| Kellogg Co. | 5,000 | 27,800 |
| Lamb Weston Holdings Inc.(d) | 86,666 | 86,666 |
| Liberty Broadband Corp., Cl. A | 2,000 | 66,192 |
| Liberty Expedia Holdings Inc., Cl. A | 26,642 | 26,642 |
| Liberty Interactive Corp. QVC Group., Cl. A | 7,000 | 225,200 |
| Liberty Ventures., Cl. A | 45,398 | 45,398 |
| Lions Gate Entertainment Corp., Cl. B(f) | 48,641 | 48,641 |
| Marathon Petroleum Corp. | 9,000 | 17,000 |
| Millicom International Cellular SA | 37,000 | 93,000 |
| Modine Manufacturing Co., Cl. A | 5,000 | 185,000 |
| Mondelēz International Inc. | 33,000 | 323,000 |
| National Fuel Gas Co. | 6,000 | 25,000 |

Edgar Filing: GABELLI EQUITY TRUST INC - Form N-CSR

| | | |
|--|---------------|--|
| Pandora Media Inc. | 20,000 | 20,000 |
| Rolls-Royce Holdings plc, Cl. C(g) | 55,614,000 | 55,614,000 |
| ServiceMaster Global Holdings Inc. | 1,000 | 15,000 |
| SGL Carbon SE(h) | 9,000 | 18,000 |
| Stericycle Inc. | 4,000 | 4,000 |
| The Timken Co. | 4,000 | 80,000 |
| Time Warner Inc. | 3,000 | 204,800 |
| TimkenSteel Corp. | 10,000 | 130,000 |
| Twitter Inc. | 50,000 | 50,000 |
| Waddell & Reed Financial Inc., Cl. A | 50,000 | 120,000 |
| Whole Foods Market Inc. | 20,000 | 55,000 |
| | | Ownership at December 31, |
| | Shares | 2016 |
| Wynn Resorts Ltd. | 1,000 | 6,000 |
| Zayo Group Holdings Inc. | 15,000 | 15,000 |
| NET SALES | | |
| Common Stocks | | |
| AMETEK Inc. | (16,000) | 420,000 |
| Ascena Retail Group Inc. | (96,811) | - |
| AT&T Inc. | (62,000) | 133,000 |
| CLARCOR Inc. | (8,000) | 96,900 |
| Comcast Corp., Cl. A | (10,000) | 80,000 |
| Corning Inc. | (45,000) | 390,000 |
| Crane Co. | (2,000) | 173,100 |
| Curtiss-Wright Corp. | (6,000) | 256,300 |
| Donaldson Co. Inc. | (6,093) | 337,800 |
| Ferro Corp. | (23,000) | 457,000 |
| Flowserve Corp. | (18,000) | 207,000 |
| GATX Corp. | (7,600) | 131,200 |
| Greif Inc., Cl. A | (2,000) | 132,000 |
| Greif Inc., Cl. B | (2,800) | 10,000 |
| Honeywell International Inc.(b) | (7,000) | 329,000 |
| IDEX Corp. | (17,000) | 240,000 |
| Johnson Controls International plc(a) | (1,688) | 345,490 |
| Liberty Media Corp.-Liberty SiriusXM., Cl. A | (12,000) | 77,000 |
| MasterCard Inc., Cl. A | (28,000) | 289,000 |
| Media General Inc. | (4,000) | 139,123 |
| O Reilly Automotive Inc. | (4,000) | 73,000 |
| Rogers Communications Inc., New York., Cl. B | (10,000) | 427,890 |
| Rollins Inc. | (104,577) | 1,605,000 |
| Starz, Cl. A(f) | (71,700) | - |
| The Boeing Co. | (5,000) | 55,000 |
| The Interpublic Group of Companies Inc. | (12,000) | 294,000 |
| The Madison Square Garden Co., Cl. A | (933) | 102,201 |
| UnitedHealth Group Inc. | (5,000) | 74,000 |
| Xylem Inc. | (12,000) | 274,000 |

(a) Spin off - 0.1 new shares of Adient plc for every 1 share held of Johnson Controls.

Edgar Filing: GABELLI EQUITY TRUST INC - Form N-CSR

- (b) Spin off - 0.04 new shares for every 3 shares held of Honeywell International Inc.
- (c) Stock Split - 1 new share for every 3 shares held of Alcoa Inc.
- (d) Spin off - 1 new share for every 3 shares held of Conagra Brands Inc.
- (e) Rights issue- 0.2 Rights for every 1 share held.
- (f) Merger - \$18 cash plus 0.68 shares of new Lions Gate Entertainment Corp., Cl. B for every 1 share of Starz Class A.
- (g) Stock dividend - 46 new Cl. C shares for every 1 share held of Rolls-Royce Holdings plc.
- (h) Rights issue- 1 Right for every 1 share held.

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

The Gabelli Equity Trust Inc.

Schedule of Investments December 31, 2016

| Shares | | Cost | Market Value |
|--------------------------------|---|------------|--------------|
| COMMON STOCKS 96.4% | | | |
| Food and Beverage 11.3% | | | |
| 3,000 | Ajinomoto Co. Inc. | \$ 52,866 | \$ 60,424 |
| 106,200 | Brown-Forman Corp., Cl. A | 1,837,877 | 4,911,750 |
| 35,950 | Brown-Forman Corp., Cl. B | 1,269,227 | 1,614,874 |
| 63,800 | Campbell Soup Co. | 1,781,130 | 3,857,986 |
| 65,000 | Chr. Hansen Holding A/S | 2,725,303 | 3,599,504 |
| 15,000 | Coca-Cola European Partners plc | 275,290 | 471,000 |
| 135,000 | Conagra Brands Inc. | 4,266,922 | 5,339,250 |
| 30,000 | Constellation Brands Inc., Cl. A | 376,266 | 4,599,300 |
| 18,000 | Crimson Wine Group Ltd. | 91,848 | 168,660 |
| 201,500 | Danone SA | 9,779,634 | 12,769,006 |
| 652,800 | Davide Campari-Milano SpA | 3,566,380 | 6,383,831 |
| 171,000 | Diageo plc, ADR | 11,189,407 | 17,773,740 |
| 85,400 | Dr Pepper Snapple Group Inc. | 2,773,198 | 7,743,218 |
| 80,000 | Flowers Foods Inc. | 263,976 | 1,597,600 |
| 76,200 | Fomento Economico Mexicano SAB de CV, ADR | 1,872,322 | 5,807,202 |
| 55,000 | General Mills Inc. | 2,252,522 | 3,397,350 |
| 1,848,400 | Grupo Bimbo SAB de CV, Cl. A | 2,624,248 | 4,180,147 |
| 41,300 | Heineken NV | 1,962,995 | 3,098,000 |
| 11,000 | Ingredion Inc. | 162,440 | 1,374,560 |
| 183,347 | Inventure Foods Inc. | 1,243,853 | 1,805,968 |
| 105,000 | ITO EN Ltd. | 2,422,898 | 3,490,267 |
| 27,800 | Kellogg Co. | 1,518,251 | 2,049,138 |
| 64,000 | Kerry Group plc, Cl. A | 735,609 | 4,558,917 |
| 86,666 | Lamb Weston Holdings Inc. | 2,655,649 | 3,280,308 |
| 9,700 | LVMH Moet Hennessy Louis Vuitton SE | 335,341 | 1,852,228 |
| 45,000 | Maple Leaf Foods Inc. | 828,035 | 942,465 |
| 323,000 | Mondelēz International Inc., Cl. A | 11,184,359 | 14,318,590 |
| 70,000 | Morinaga Milk Industry Co. Ltd. | 299,202 | 504,299 |
| 41,000 | Nestlé SA. | 1,791,828 | 2,941,226 |
| 190,000 | PepsiCo Inc. | 12,049,493 | 19,879,700 |
| 39,200 | Pernod Ricard SA | 3,228,300 | 4,248,132 |
| 26,000 | Post Holdings Inc. | 882,170 | 2,090,140 |
| 40,000 | Remy Cointreau SA | 2,377,486 | 3,411,440 |
| 55,000 | The Kraft Heinz Co. | 2,017,310 | 4,802,600 |
| 104,600 | The Coca-Cola Co. | 3,308,008 | 4,336,716 |

Edgar Filing: GABELLI EQUITY TRUST INC - Form N-CSR

| | | | |
|---------|-------------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| 32,000 | The Hain Celestial Group Inc. | 214,736 | 1,248,960 |
| 3,000 | The J.M. Smucker Co. | 149,101 | 384,180 |
| 57,000 | The WhiteWave Foods Co. | 3,167,988 | 3,169,200 |
| 128,941 | Tootsie Roll Industries Inc. | 1,771,734 | 5,125,405 |
| 50,000 | Tyson Foods Inc., Cl. A | 421,291 | 3,084,000 |
| 341,000 | Yakult Honsha Co. Ltd. | 9,700,538 | 15,813,647 |
| | | 111,427,031 | 192,084,928 |

Market

| Shares | | Cost | Value |
|---------------|--|---------------|---------------|
| | Financial Services 9.4% | | |
| 417,000 | American Express Co.(a) | \$ 27,482,035 | \$ 30,891,360 |
| 25,000 | American International Group Inc. | 1,374,505 | 1,632,750 |
| 14,520 | Argo Group International Holdings Ltd. | 389,834 | 956,868 |
| 72,000 | Banco Santander SA, ADR | 545,542 | 372,960 |
| 116 | Berkshire Hathaway Inc., Cl. A | 341,248 | 28,318,036 |
| 16,300 | Blackhawk Network Holdings Inc. | 538,327 | 614,104 |
| 10,000 | Calamos Asset Management Inc., Cl. A | 88,164 | 85,500 |
| 12,800 | CIT Group Inc. | 548,363 | 546,304 |
| 88,000 | Citigroup Inc. | 3,646,777 | 5,229,840 |
| 9,000 | Cullen/Frost Bankers Inc. | 665,261 | 794,070 |
| 16,000 | Deutsche Bank AG | 580,703 | 289,600 |
| 8,000 | Financial Engines Inc. | 284,394 | 294,000 |
| 50,000 | Fortress Investment Group LLC, Cl. A | 273,068 | 243,000 |
| 66,000 | H&R Block Inc. | 1,489,550 | 1,517,340 |
| 20,000 | Hennessy Capital Acquisition Corp. II | 200,000 | 210,400 |
| 40,000 | Interactive Brokers Group Inc., Cl. A | 643,310 | 1,460,400 |
| 340,100 | Janus Capital Group Inc. | 3,838,574 | 4,513,127 |
| 61,400 | JPMorgan Chase & Co. | 2,865,137 | 5,298,206 |
| 29,800 | Kinnevik AB, Cl. A | 494,015 | 734,320 |
| 125,000 | Legg Mason Inc. | 3,312,972 | 3,738,750 |
| 88,000 | Leucadia National Corp. | 1,259,355 | 2,046,000 |
| 14,000 | Loews Corp. | 558,454 | 655,620 |
| 125,000 | Marsh & McLennan Companies Inc. | 3,772,923 | 8,448,750 |
| 9,000 | Moody's Corp. | 312,150 | 848,430 |
| 50,000 | Och-Ziff Capital Management Group LLC, Cl. A | 196,848 | 165,500 |
| 20,000 | PayPal Holdings Inc. | 651,955 | 789,400 |
| 15,000 | Quinpario Acquisition Corp. 2 | 150,000 | 151,950 |
| 105,300 | S&P Global Inc. | 4,404,349 | 11,323,962 |
| 124,100 | State Street Corp. | 5,232,321 | 9,645,052 |
| 17,000 | SunTrust Banks Inc. | 358,050 | 932,450 |
| 103,400 | T. Rowe Price Group Inc. | 3,333,961 | 7,781,884 |
| 210,500 | The Bank of New York Mellon Corp. | 6,707,443 | 9,973,490 |
| 20,000 | The Charles Schwab Corp. | 292,250 | 789,400 |
| 12,300 | The Dun & Bradstreet Corp. | 292,691 | 1,492,236 |
| 10,000 | The PNC Financial Services Group Inc. | 956,448 | 1,169,600 |
| 13,000 | W. R. Berkley Corp. | 476,775 | 864,630 |
| 120,000 | Waddell & Reed Financial Inc., Cl. A | 2,866,634 | 2,341,200 |

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

The Gabelli Equity Trust Inc.**Schedule of Investments (Continued) December 31, 2016**

| Shares | | Cost | Market Value |
|---------------------------------------|--|--------------|---------------|
| COMMON STOCKS (Continued) | | | |
| Financial Services (Continued) | | | |
| 235,000 | Wells Fargo & Co. | \$ 7,377,851 | \$ 12,950,850 |
| | | 88,802,237 | 160,111,339 |
| Entertainment 6.8% | | | |
| 30,812 | Charter Communications Inc., Cl. A | 5,281,969 | 8,871,391 |
| 41,600 | Discovery Communications Inc., Cl. A | 1,391,742 | 1,140,256 |
| 235,800 | Discovery Communications Inc., Cl. C | 2,716,076 | 6,314,724 |
| 538,000 | Grupo Televisa SAB, ADR | 8,106,476 | 11,238,820 |
| 10,700 | Liberty Media Corp.- Liberty Braves, Cl. A | 197,899 | 219,243 |
| 73,758 | Liberty Media Corp.- Liberty Braves, Cl. C | 1,204,460 | 1,518,677 |
| 48,641 | Lions Gate Entertainment Corp., Cl. B | 1,269,537 | 1,193,657 |
| 139,123 | Media General Inc. | 2,349,493 | 2,619,686 |
| 24,000 | Pinnacle Entertainment Inc. | 268,320 | 348,000 |
| 102,201 | The Madison Square Garden Co, Cl. A | 5,423,040 | 17,528,494 |
| 204,800 | Time Warner Inc. | 12,971,733 | 19,769,344 |
| 40,000 | Tokyo Broadcasting System Holdings Inc. | 796,181 | 640,000 |
| 560,200 | Twenty-First Century Fox Inc., Cl. A | 5,861,488 | 15,708,008 |
| 370,000 | Twenty-First Century Fox Inc., Cl. B | 8,026,295 | 10,082,500 |
| 70,000 | Universal Entertainment Corp. | 1,103,319 | 2,021,390 |
| 279,521 | Viacom Inc., Cl. A | 13,193,575 | 10,761,559 |
| 270,000 | Vivendi SA. | 6,223,657 | 5,131,529 |
| | | 76,385,260 | 115,107,278 |
| Equipment and Supplies 5.6% | | | |
| 420,000 | AMETEK Inc. | 9,791,462 | 20,412,000 |
| 7,000 | Amphenol Corp., Cl. A | 12,928 | 470,400 |
| 94,000 | CIRCOR International Inc. | 3,412,305 | 6,098,720 |
| 337,800 | Donaldson Co. Inc. | 4,356,185 | 14,214,624 |
| 207,000 | Flowserve Corp. | 4,362,047 | 9,946,350 |
| 37,400 | Franklin Electric Co. Inc. | 215,706 | 1,454,860 |
| 240,000 | IDEX Corp. | 10,190,833 | 21,614,400 |
| 43,000 | Ingersoll-Rand plc | 928,418 | 3,226,720 |
| 4,000 | Manitowoc Foodservice Inc. | 19,596 | 77,320 |
| 40,100 | Mueller Industries Inc. | 944,025 | 1,602,396 |

Edgar Filing: GABELLI EQUITY TRUST INC - Form N-CSR

| | | | |
|--------|-------------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| 13,000 | Sealed Air Corp. | 208,280 | 589,420 |
| 45,000 | Tenaris SA, ADR | 1,981,220 | 1,606,950 |
| 10,000 | The Greenbrier Companies Inc. | 198,206 | 415,500 |
| 4,000 | The Manitowoc Co. Inc. | 5,854 | 23,920 |
| 80,000 | The Timken Co. | 3,018,718 | 3,176,000 |

Market

| Shares | | Cost | Value |
|---------|--------------------------------------|------------|--------------|
| 59,600 | The Weir Group plc | \$ 250,790 | \$ 1,388,233 |
| 125,000 | Watts Water Technologies Inc., Cl. A | 3,970,158 | 8,150,000 |
| | | 43,866,731 | 94,467,813 |

Diversified Industrial 4.8%

| | | | |
|---------|------------------------------------|------------|------------|
| 500 | Acuity Brands Inc. | 12,751 | 115,430 |
| 160,000 | Ampco-Pittsburgh Corp. | 2,128,534 | 2,680,000 |
| 173,100 | Crane Co. | 4,984,346 | 12,483,972 |
| 153,000 | General Electric Co. | 3,712,505 | 4,834,800 |
| 132,000 | Greif Inc., Cl. A | 1,955,631 | 6,772,920 |
| 10,000 | Greif Inc., Cl. B | 635,644 | 675,500 |
| 26,373 | Griffon Corp. | 251,999 | 690,973 |
| 329,000 | Honeywell International Inc. | 24,162,780 | 38,114,650 |
| 117,000 | ITT Inc. | 1,436,279 | 4,512,690 |
| 11,000 | Jardine Strategic Holdings Ltd. | 222,951 | 365,200 |
| 40,000 | Kennametal Inc. | 895,654 | 1,250,400 |
| 50,000 | Myers Industries Inc. | 818,952 | 715,000 |
| 85,000 | Park-Ohio Holdings Corp. | 892,930 | 3,621,000 |
| 9,666 | Rayonier Advanced Materials Inc. | 160,768 | 149,436 |
| 30,000 | Rexnord Corp. | 630,867 | 587,700 |
| 15,000 | ServiceMaster Global Holdings Inc. | 553,798 | 565,050 |
| 15,000 | Sulzer AG | 739,785 | 1,546,695 |
| 100,000 | Toray Industries Inc. | 771,663 | 809,583 |
| 12,000 | Tredegar Corp. | 171,530 | 288,000 |
| 46,000 | Trinity Industries Inc. | 619,878 | 1,276,960 |
| | | 45,759,245 | 82,055,959 |

Health Care 4.6%

| | | | |
|-----------|---------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| 6,000 | Agilent Technologies Inc. | 247,707 | 273,360 |
| 49,615 | Akorn Inc. | 1,024,666 | 1,083,095 |
| 65,000 | Alere Inc. | 2,566,606 | 2,533,050 |
| 14,500 | Allergan plc | 2,765,098 | 3,045,145 |
| 34,000 | Amgen Inc. | 2,470,200 | 4,971,140 |
| 17,000 | Baxter International Inc. | 502,032 | 753,780 |
| 10,000 | Becton, Dickinson and Co. | 1,225,867 | 1,655,500 |
| 9,200 | Biogen Inc. | 1,551,612 | 2,608,936 |
| 2,841,273 | BioScrip Inc. | 5,569,918 | 2,954,924 |
| 270,000 | Boston Scientific Corp. | 1,927,086 | 5,840,100 |

Edgar Filing: GABELLI EQUITY TRUST INC - Form N-CSR

| | | | |
|--------|-----------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| 76,300 | Bristol-Myers Squibb Co. | 3,518,848 | 4,458,972 |
| 15,000 | DaVita Inc. | 944,551 | 963,000 |
| 55,000 | Endo International plc | 996,823 | 905,850 |
| 20,000 | Express Scripts Holding Co. | 1,359,191 | 1,375,800 |
| 17,500 | Globus Medical Inc., Cl. A | 424,107 | 434,175 |
| 28,000 | Henry Schein Inc. | 1,651,762 | 4,247,880 |
| 46,800 | Indivior plc | 28,408 | 170,838 |
| 37,000 | Johnson & Johnson | 2,400,670 | 4,262,770 |
| 25,000 | Mead Johnson Nutrition Co. | 1,123,205 | 1,769,000 |
| 10,000 | Medtronic plc | 737,384 | 712,300 |
| 95,200 | Merck & Co. Inc. | 2,219,590 | 5,604,424 |

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

The Gabelli Equity Trust Inc.**Schedule of Investments (Continued) December 31, 2016**

| Shares | | Cost | Market Value |
|---|--|--------------|--------------|
| COMMON STOCKS (Continued) | | | |
| Health Care (Continued) | | | |
| 84,000 | Novartis AG, ADR | \$ 3,841,437 | \$ 6,118,560 |
| 1,500 | Shire plc, ADR | 289,815 | 255,570 |
| 15,000 | Teva Pharmaceutical Industries Ltd., ADR | 581,414 | 543,750 |
| 74,000 | UnitedHealth Group Inc. | 4,714,012 | 11,842,960 |
| 4,000 | Waters Corp. | 285,470 | 537,560 |
| 268,000 | William Demant Holding A/S | 2,441,826 | 4,659,880 |
| 8,600 | Zimmer Biomet Holdings Inc. | 435,897 | 887,520 |
| 35,000 | Zoetis Inc. | 1,122,327 | 1,873,550 |
| | | 48,967,529 | 77,343,389 |
| Automotive: Parts and Accessories 4.4% | | | |
| 31,350 | Adient plc | 1,473,441 | 1,837,098 |
| 107,600 | BorgWarner Inc. | 4,288,790 | 4,243,744 |
| 96,900 | CLARCOR Inc. | 7,847,205 | 7,991,343 |
| 240,900 | Dana Inc. | 2,144,653 | 4,572,282 |
| 12,500 | Delphi Automotive plc | 842,223 | 841,875 |
| 241,400 | Genuine Parts Co. | 11,784,671 | 23,063,356 |
| 242,885 | Jason Industries Inc. | 676,637 | 437,193 |
| 185,000 | Modine Manufacturing Co. | 3,549,263 | 2,756,500 |
| 73,000 | O Reilly Automotive Inc. | 11,982,909 | 20,323,930 |
| 111,000 | Standard Motor Products Inc. | 1,220,821 | 5,907,420 |
| 73,000 | Superior Industries International Inc. | 1,462,789 | 1,923,550 |
| 14,000 | Visteon Corp. | 1,372,450 | 1,124,760 |
| | | 48,645,852 | 75,023,051 |
| Energy and Utilities 4.3% | | | |
| 11,000 | ABB Ltd., ADR | 171,270 | 231,770 |
| 39,000 | Anadarko Petroleum Corp. | 2,262,604 | 2,719,470 |
| 59,000 | Apache Corp. | 2,771,519 | 3,744,730 |
| 80,000 | BP plc, ADR | 3,952,168 | 2,990,400 |
| 70,000 | Canadian Solar Inc. | 977,386 | 852,600 |
| 16,000 | CMS Energy Corp. | 102,219 | 665,920 |
| 185,100 | ConocoPhillips | 8,559,949 | 9,280,914 |
| 204,000 | El Paso Electric Co. | 5,709,272 | 9,486,000 |

Edgar Filing: GABELLI EQUITY TRUST INC - Form N-CSR

| | | | |
|---------|--------------------------------|-----------|---------------|
| 24,000 | Eversource Energy | 545,324 | 1,325,520 |
| 57,600 | Exxon Mobil Corp. | 2,675,190 | 5,198,976 |
| 140,000 | GenOn Energy Inc., Escrow | 0 | 0 |
| 196,400 | Halliburton Co. | 3,831,496 | 10,623,276 |
| 4,000 | Marathon Oil Corp. | 111,366 | 69,240 |
| 17,000 | Marathon Petroleum Corp. | 580,884 | 855,950 |
| 20,000 | Murphy USA Inc. | 886,754 | 1,229,400 |
| 25,000 | National Fuel Gas Co. | 1,655,495 | 1,416,000 |
| 13,500 | NextEra Energy Inc. | 797,687 | 1,612,710 |
| 1,000 | Niko Resources Ltd., OTC | 54,403 | 70 |
| 3,000 | Niko Resources Ltd., Toronto | 923 | 223 |
| 32,400 | Oceaneering International Inc. | 437,629 | 914,004 |
| 15,100 | Phillips 66 | 1,113,603 | 1,304,791 |
| 120,000 | Rowan Companies plc, Cl. A | 4,470,497 | 2,266,800 |
| | | | Market |

| Shares | | Cost | Value |
|---------|-------------------------------|------------|------------|
| 20,000 | RPC Inc. | \$ 259,649 | \$ 396,200 |
| 15,000 | Southwest Gas Holdings Inc. | 347,695 | 1,149,300 |
| 100,000 | Spectra Energy Corp. | 2,488,608 | 4,109,000 |
| 101,000 | The AES Corp. | 907,143 | 1,173,620 |
| 35,000 | Weatherford International plc | 503,432 | 174,650 |
| 162,000 | Westar Energy Inc. | 8,953,713 | 9,128,700 |
| | | 55,127,878 | 72,920,234 |

Consumer Products 4.0%

| | | | |
|---------|---------------------------------|------------|------------|
| 125,000 | Avon Products Inc. | 1,118,829 | 630,000 |
| 14,100 | Christian Dior SE | 534,292 | 2,957,352 |
| 28,000 | Church & Dwight Co. Inc. | 385,294 | 1,237,320 |
| 65,600 | Coty Inc., Cl. A | 1,228,184 | 1,201,136 |
| 191,000 | Edgewell Personal Care Co. | 13,656,124 | 13,941,090 |
| 168,000 | Energizer Holdings Inc. | 4,661,967 | 7,494,480 |
| 2,100 | Givaudan SA | 725,396 | 3,848,178 |
| 90,000 | Hanesbrands Inc. | 788,898 | 1,941,300 |
| 23,800 | Harley-Davidson Inc. | 1,105,662 | 1,388,492 |
| 1,270 | Hermes International | 444,999 | 521,379 |
| 5,000 | Mattel Inc. | 69,500 | 137,750 |
| 11,000 | National Presto Industries Inc. | 529,994 | 1,170,400 |
| 10,000 | Oil-Dri Corp. of America | 171,255 | 382,100 |
| 46,800 | Reckitt Benckiser Group plc | 1,391,995 | 3,971,615 |
| 27,600 | Svenska Cellulosa AB, Cl. B | 368,427 | 779,474 |
| 816,900 | Swedish Match AB | 9,690,211 | 25,984,855 |
| | | 36,871,027 | 67,586,921 |

Consumer Services 3.9%

| | | | |
|--------|-----------|---------|---------|
| 20,000 | eBay Inc. | 416,823 | 593,800 |
|--------|-----------|---------|---------|

Edgar Filing: GABELLI EQUITY TRUST INC - Form N-CSR

| | | | |
|-----------|--|------------|------------|
| 43,000 | IAC/InterActiveCorp. | 1,098,767 | 2,785,970 |
| 26,642 | Liberty Expedia Holdings Inc., Cl. A | 558,018 | 1,056,888 |
| 225,200 | Liberty Interactive Corp. QVC Group, Cl. A | 3,714,133 | 4,499,496 |
| 21,000 | Liberty TripAdvisor Holdings Inc., Cl. A | 247,059 | 316,050 |
| 45,398 | Liberty Ventures, Cl. A | 901,142 | 1,673,824 |
| 1,605,000 | Rollins Inc. | 17,168,394 | 54,216,900 |
| 5,500 | TripAdvisor Inc. | 194,460 | 255,035 |
| | | 24,298,796 | 65,397,963 |

Telecommunications 3.4%

| | | | |
|---------|---|-----------|-----------|
| 133,000 | AT&T Inc. | 4,779,194 | 5,656,490 |
| 55,400 | BCE Inc. | 1,851,178 | 2,395,496 |
| 914,200 | BT Group plc, Cl. A | 3,780,313 | 4,133,741 |
| 135,000 | Cincinnati Bell Inc. | 2,948,965 | 3,017,250 |
| 100,000 | Deutsche Telekom AG, ADR | 1,656,300 | 1,710,000 |
| 190,000 | Gogo Inc. | 1,727,264 | 1,751,800 |
| 32,001 | Harris Corp. | 2,556,439 | 3,279,142 |
| 36,000 | Hellenic Telecommunications Organization SA | 452,922 | 338,407 |

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

The Gabelli Equity Trust Inc.**Schedule of Investments (Continued) December 31, 2016**

| Shares | | Cost | Market Value |
|--------------------------------------|--|------------|--------------|
| COMMON STOCKS (Continued) | | | |
| Telecommunications(Continued) | | | |
| 15,000 | Hellenic Telecommunications Organization SA, ADR | \$ 91,062 | \$ 69,450 |
| 264,732 | Koninklijke KPN NV | 448,166 | 784,181 |
| 7,040,836 | LIME | 128,658 | 43,715 |
| 21,000 | Loral Space & Communications Inc. | 712,576 | 862,050 |
| 22,000 | Oi SA, ADR | 1,739,813 | 13,970 |
| 31,053 | Sprint Corp. | 176,071 | 261,466 |
| 21,000 | Telecom Argentina SA, ADR | 127,554 | 381,570 |
| 570,000 | Telecom Italia SpA | 2,217,800 | 502,211 |
| 70,000 | Telefonica Brasil SA, ADR | 726,827 | 936,600 |
| 595,739 | Telefonica SA, ADR | 8,915,134 | 5,480,799 |
| 563,700 | Telephone & Data Systems Inc. | 23,634,535 | 16,274,019 |
| 105,000 | Telesites SAB de CV | 79,714 | 57,034 |
| 25,000 | TELUS Corp. | 233,734 | 796,000 |
| 125,000 | Verizon Communications Inc. | 5,239,043 | 6,672,500 |
| 48,027 | Vodafone Group plc, ADR | 2,096,997 | 1,173,300 |
| 15,000 | Zayo Group Holdings Inc. | 489,418 | 492,900 |
| | | 66,809,677 | 57,084,091 |
| Cable and Satellite 3.3% | | | |
| 257,600 | AMC Networks Inc., Cl. A | 12,160,769 | 13,482,784 |
| 1,600 | Cable One Inc. | 542,085 | 994,768 |
| 80,000 | Comcast Corp., Cl. A | 3,263,185 | 5,524,000 |
| 60,400 | DISH Network Corp., Cl. A | 2,044,622 | 3,498,972 |
| 70,048 | EchoStar Corp., Cl. A | 2,725,030 | 3,599,767 |
| 21,712 | Liberty Global plc LiLAC, Cl. A | 407,240 | 476,796 |
| 42,918 | Liberty Global plc LiLAC, Cl. C | 1,218,719 | 908,574 |
| 427,890 | Rogers Communications Inc., New York, Cl. B | 4,533,833 | 16,507,996 |
| 19,310 | Rogers Communications Inc., Toronto, Cl. B | 137,424 | 744,844 |
| 108,800 | Scripps Networks Interactive Inc., Cl. A | 3,513,944 | 7,765,056 |
| 120,000 | Shaw Communications Inc., New York, Cl. B | 354,632 | 2,407,200 |
| 40,000 | Shaw Communications Inc., Toronto, Cl. B | 52,983 | 802,592 |
| | | 30,954,466 | 56,713,349 |

Retail 3.3%

Edgar Filing: GABELLI EQUITY TRUST INC - Form N-CSR

| | | | |
|---------|----------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| 5,000 | Advance Auto Parts Inc. | 704,001 | 845,600 |
| 95,300 | AutoNation Inc. | 2,664,951 | 4,636,345 |
| 38,000 | Costco Wholesale Corp. | 2,505,816 | 6,084,180 |
| 60,500 | CST Brands Inc. | 2,068,656 | 2,913,075 |
| 118,900 | CVS Health Corp. | 8,372,944 | 9,382,399 |
| 4,000 | Denny's Corp. | 42,010 | 51,320 |
| 300,000 | Hertz Global Holdings Inc. | 8,991,221 | 6,468,000 |

Market

| Shares | | Cost | Value |
|---------|-------------------------------|------------|------------|
| 22,100 | HSN Inc. | \$ 597,444 | \$ 758,030 |
| 50,000 | J.C. Penney Co. Inc. | 644,777 | 415,500 |
| 326,000 | Macy's Inc. | 6,367,418 | 11,674,060 |
| 15,000 | Penske Automotive Group Inc. | 649,031 | 777,600 |
| 33,300 | Sally Beauty Holdings Inc. | 264,056 | 879,786 |
| 17,000 | The Cheesecake Factory Inc. | 553,064 | 1,017,960 |
| 3,000 | Tiffany & Co. | 171,090 | 232,290 |
| 17,000 | United Natural Foods Inc. | 595,065 | 811,240 |
| 52,000 | Walgreens Boots Alliance Inc. | 1,540,167 | 4,303,520 |
| 32,000 | Wal-Mart Stores Inc. | 1,618,504 | 2,211,840 |
| 55,000 | Whole Foods Market Inc. | 989,403 | 1,691,800 |
| | | 39,339,618 | 55,154,545 |

Business Services 3.0%

| | | | |
|---------|--|------------|------------|
| 14,334 | Allegion plc | 232,677 | 917,376 |
| 7,500 | Aramark | 194,037 | 267,900 |
| 10,000 | Ascent Capital Group Inc., Cl. A | 242,304 | 162,600 |
| 157,000 | Clear Channel Outdoor Holdings Inc., Cl. A | 1,092,453 | 792,850 |
| 1,650 | Contax Participacoes SA | 67,778 | 4,765 |
| 90,000 | Diebold Nixdorf Inc. | 3,119,797 | 2,263,500 |
| 20,000 | DigitalGlobe Inc. | 325,466 | 573,000 |
| 3,000 | Edenred | 38,786 | 59,480 |
| 160,000 | G4S plc | 0 | 463,385 |
| 16,000 | Jardine Matheson Holdings Ltd. | 534,478 | 884,000 |
| 88,000 | Landauer Inc. | 2,472,818 | 4,232,800 |
| 23,300 | Macquarie Infrastructure Corp. | 1,427,993 | 1,903,610 |
| 289,000 | MasterCard Inc., Cl. A | 10,603,956 | 29,839,250 |
| 4,000 | Stericycle Inc. | 318,160 | 308,160 |
| 294,000 | The Interpublic Group of Companies Inc. | 4,550,584 | 6,882,540 |
| 10,000 | Vectrus Inc. | 106,200 | 238,500 |
| 12,800 | Visa Inc., Cl. A | 140,800 | 998,656 |
| | | 25,468,287 | 50,792,372 |

Electronics 2.4%

| | | | |
|--------|----------------------|---------|---------|
| 20,000 | Bel Fuse Inc., Cl. A | 547,758 | 506,200 |
| 4,000 | Emerson Electric Co. | 222,819 | 223,000 |

Edgar Filing: GABELLI EQUITY TRUST INC - Form N-CSR

| | | | |
|---------|------------------------------------|------------|------------|
| 4,000 | Hitachi Ltd., ADR | 287,076 | 216,000 |
| 32,500 | Integrated Device Technology Inc. | 620,441 | 765,700 |
| 54,000 | Intel Corp. | 1,160,428 | 1,958,580 |
| 345,490 | Johnson Controls International plc | 12,611,075 | 14,230,733 |
| 34,170 | Koninklijke Philips NV | 180,354 | 1,044,577 |
| 2,400 | Mettler-Toledo International Inc. | 337,270 | 1,004,544 |
| 40,000 | TE Connectivity Ltd. | 1,553,958 | 2,771,200 |

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

The Gabelli Equity Trust Inc.**Schedule of Investments (Continued) December 31, 2016**

| Shares | | Cost | Market Value |
|----------------------------------|---|---------------|---------------|
| COMMON STOCKS (Continued) | | | |
| Electronics (Continued) | | | |
| 240,000 | Texas Instruments Inc. | \$ 10,937,263 | \$ 17,512,800 |
| | | 28,458,442 | 40,233,334 |
| Broadcasting 2.4% | | | |
| 247,499 | CBS Corp., Cl. A, Voting | 7,427,347 | 16,000,810 |
| 2,000 | Cogeco Inc. | 39,014 | 84,490 |
| 17,334 | Corus Entertainment Inc., OTC, Cl. B | 30,215 | 162,693 |
| 6,666 | Corus Entertainment Inc., Toronto, Cl. B | 12,406 | 62,557 |
| 16,000 | Gray Television Inc. | 14,422 | 173,600 |
| 19,250 | Liberty Broadband Corp., Cl. A | 608,060 | 1,394,855 |
| 66,192 | Liberty Broadband Corp., Cl. C | 2,236,120 | 4,902,841 |
| 19,250 | Liberty Media Corp.-Liberty Media, Cl. A | 327,003 | 603,488 |
| 52,250 | Liberty Media Corp.-Liberty Media, Cl. C | 1,197,836 | 1,636,994 |
| 77,000 | Liberty Media Corp.-Liberty SiriusXM, Cl. A | 1,653,825 | 2,658,040 |
| 158,000 | Liberty Media Corp.-Liberty SiriusXM, Cl. C | 4,034,747 | 5,359,360 |
| 292,400 | MSG Networks Inc., Cl. A | 1,675,251 | 6,286,600 |
| 20,000 | Pandora Media Inc. | 260,860 | 260,800 |
| 85,200 | Television Broadcasts Ltd. | 339,712 | 280,173 |
| | | 19,856,818 | 39,867,301 |
| Specialty Chemicals 2.3% | | | |
| 12,320 | AdvanSix Inc. | 146,942 | 272,765 |
| 10,000 | Ashland Global Holdings Inc. | 979,500 | 1,092,900 |
| 30,000 | Chemtura Corp. | 747,443 | 996,000 |
| 20,000 | E. I. du Pont de Nemours and Co. | 854,362 | 1,468,000 |
| 457,000 | Ferro Corp. | 5,579,876 | 6,548,810 |
| 8,000 | FMC Corp. | 136,430 | 452,480 |
| 39,000 | H.B. Fuller Co. | 1,131,051 | 1,884,090 |
| 73,000 | International Flavors & Fragrances Inc. | 4,598,574 | 8,601,590 |
| 20,000 | Methanex Corp. | 563,935 | 876,000 |
| 250,000 | OMNOVA Solutions Inc. | 1,510,742 | 2,500,000 |
| 177,800 | Sensient Technologies Corp. | 4,609,358 | 13,971,524 |
| 18,000 | SGL Carbon SE | 252,978 | 158,403 |
| 2,000 | The Chemours Co. | 22,594 | 44,180 |

| | | | |
|--|--------------------------------------|--------------|---------------|
| | | 21,133,785 | 38,866,742 |
| Machinery 2.3% | | | |
| 12,800 | Caterpillar Inc. | 86,323 | 1,187,072 |
| 60,092 | CNH Industrial NV, New York | 516,109 | 522,199 |
| 225,000 | Deere & Co.(a) | 7,473,957 | 23,184,000 |
| | | | Market |
| Shares | | Cost | Value |
| 274,000 | Xylem Inc. | \$ 8,471,673 | \$ 13,568,480 |
| | | 16,548,062 | 38,461,751 |
| Aerospace and Defense 2.0% | | | |
| 275,000 | Aerojet Rocketdyne Holdings Inc. | 2,370,094 | 4,936,250 |
| 1,246,553 | BBA Aviation plc | 2,811,697 | 4,352,228 |
| 35,800 | Kaman Corp. | 881,634 | 1,751,694 |
| 17,500 | Northrop Grumman Corp. | 900,365 | 4,070,150 |
| 1,209,000 | Rolls-Royce Holdings plc | 9,301,551 | 9,953,070 |
| 55,614,000 | Rolls-Royce Holdings plc, Cl. C | 68,272 | 68,539 |
| 55,000 | The Boeing Co. | 7,458,554 | 8,562,400 |
| | | 23,792,167 | 33,694,331 |
| Aviation: Parts and Services 1.7% | | | |
| 41,666 | Arconic Inc. | 880,949 | 772,488 |
| 15,000 | B/E Aerospace Inc. | 826,232 | 902,850 |
| 256,300 | Curtiss-Wright Corp. | 12,587,116 | 25,209,668 |
| 25,500 | KLX Inc. | 1,033,565 | 1,150,305 |
| | | 15,327,862 | 28,035,311 |
| Hotels and Gaming 1.6% | | | |
| 16,000 | Accor SA | 549,282 | 596,728 |
| 45,000 | Belmond Ltd., Cl. A | 621,367 | 600,750 |
| 90,000 | Genting Singapore plc | 74,910 | 56,244 |
| 8,000 | Hyatt Hotels Corp., Cl. A | 263,258 | 442,080 |
| 20,000 | ILG Inc. | 338,287 | 363,400 |
| 9,095 | International Game Technology plc | 172,350 | 232,104 |
| 579,400 | Ladbrokes Coral Group plc | 2,329,980 | 828,306 |
| 34,000 | Las Vegas Sands Corp. | 632,350 | 1,815,940 |
| 4,569,500 | Mandarin Oriental International Ltd. | 8,011,198 | 5,826,114 |
| 23,200 | Marriott International, Inc., Cl. A | 1,734,716 | 1,918,176 |
| 70,000 | MGM China Holdings Ltd | 137,917 | 145,154 |
| 75,000 | MGM Resorts International | 1,230,723 | 2,162,250 |
| 188,800 | Ryman Hospitality Properties Inc. | 5,121,573 | 11,896,288 |
| 200,000 | The Hongkong & Shanghai Hotels Ltd. | 155,450 | 221,807 |

Edgar Filing: GABELLI EQUITY TRUST INC - Form N-CSR

| | | | |
|---------|--|------------|------------|
| 4,000 | Wyndham Worldwide Corp. | 282,896 | 305,480 |
| 6,000 | Wynn Resorts Ltd. | 469,634 | 519,060 |
| | | 22,125,891 | 27,929,881 |
| | Environmental Services 1.6% | | |
| 35,000 | Pentair plc | 1,197,464 | 1,962,450 |
| 230,800 | Republic Services Inc. | 6,848,123 | 13,167,140 |
| 157,400 | Waste Management Inc. | 4,560,250 | 11,161,234 |
| | | 12,605,837 | 26,290,824 |
| | Computer Software and Services 1.1% | | |
| 4,000 | Alphabet Inc., Cl. C | 2,656,885 | 3,087,280 |

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

The Gabelli Equity Trust Inc.**Schedule of Investments (Continued) December 31, 2016**

| Shares | | Cost | Market Value |
|---|---|------------|--------------|
| COMMON STOCKS (Continued) | | | |
| Computer Software and Services (Continued) | | | |
| 65,000 | Blucora Inc. | \$ 369,685 | \$ 958,750 |
| 6,000 | Check Point Software Technologies Ltd. | 101,862 | 506,760 |
| 4,733 | CommerceHub Inc., Cl. A | 31,317 | 71,042 |
| 13,466 | CommerceHub Inc., Cl. C | 84,093 | 202,394 |
| 22,000 | Hewlett Packard Enterprise Co. | 435,172 | 509,080 |
| 1,000,000 | Internap Corp. | 2,250,441 | 1,540,000 |
| 23,000 | InterXion Holding NV | 338,737 | 806,610 |
| 32,000 | NCR Corp. | 476,190 | 1,297,920 |
| 20,900 | Rockwell Automation Inc. | 648,748 | 2,808,960 |
| 50,000 | Twitter Inc. | 836,965 | 815,000 |
| 15,000 | VeriFone Systems Inc. | 329,752 | 265,950 |
| 130,000 | Yahoo! Inc. | 2,884,194 | 5,027,100 |
| | | 11,444,041 | 17,896,846 |
| Telecommunication Services 0.9% | | | |
| 151,505 | Liberty Global plc, Cl. A | 2,536,161 | 4,634,538 |
| 382,893 | Liberty Global plc, Cl. C | 7,953,868 | 11,371,922 |
| | | 10,490,029 | 16,006,460 |
| Wireless Communications 0.9% | | | |
| 105,000 | America Movil SAB de CV, Cl. L, ADR | 735,232 | 1,319,850 |
| 93,000 | Millicom International Cellular SA, SDR | 6,039,318 | 3,973,931 |
| 150,000 | NTT DoCoMo Inc. | 2,980,751 | 3,417,754 |
| 46,075 | Tim Participacoes SA, ADR | 352,294 | 543,685 |
| 35,000 | T-Mobile US Inc. | 1,032,838 | 2,012,850 |
| 104,600 | United States Cellular Corp. | 4,965,942 | 4,573,112 |
| | | 16,106,375 | 15,841,182 |
| Automotive 0.7% | | | |
| 95,746 | General Motors Co. | 3,682,527 | 3,335,791 |
| 158,000 | Navistar International Corp. | 4,003,563 | 4,956,460 |
| 69,000 | PACCAR Inc. | 299,204 | 4,409,100 |

7,985,294 12,701,351

| Agriculture 0.7% | | | |
|-------------------------|----------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| 200,000 | Archer Daniels Midland Co. | 9,150,371 | 9,130,000 |
| 16,000 | Monsanto Co. | 709,230 | 1,683,360 |
| 12,800 | Syngenta AG, ADR | 1,018,941 | 1,011,840 |
| 10,000 | The Mosaic Co. | 428,085 | 293,300 |

11,306,627 12,118,500

| Metals and Mining 0.7% | | | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| 37,400 | Agnico Eagle Mines Ltd. | 1,530,570 | 1,570,800 |
| 13,888 | Alcoa Corp. | 293,636 | 389,975 |
| 54,000 | Barrick Gold Corp. | 1,581,120 | 862,920 |
| 30,000 | Cliffs Natural Resources Inc. | 296,432 | 252,300 |
| 50,000 | Freeport-McMoRan Inc. | 1,021,320 | 659,500 |
| 4,800 | Materion Corp. | 108,162 | 190,080 |

Market

| Shares | | Cost | Value |
|---------|-------------------------------|------------|------------|
| 50,000 | New Hope Corp. Ltd. | \$ 67,580 | \$ 59,717 |
| 143,600 | Newmont Mining Corp. | 5,120,536 | 4,892,452 |
| 130,000 | TimkenSteel Corp. | 2,418,927 | 2,012,400 |
| 140,000 | Turquoise Hill Resources Ltd. | 726,343 | 452,200 |
| 15,000 | Vale SA, ADR | 171,892 | 114,300 |
| | | 13,336,518 | 11,456,644 |

| Communications Equipment 0.6% | | | |
|--------------------------------------|--------------|-----------|-----------|
| 11,000 | Apple Inc. | 1,091,407 | 1,274,020 |
| 390,000 | Corning Inc. | 6,270,736 | 9,465,300 |

7,362,143 10,739,320

| Publishing 0.6% | | | |
|------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| 1,100 | Graham Holdings Co., Cl. B | 588,093 | 563,145 |
| 96,300 | Meredith Corp. | 4,296,128 | 5,696,145 |
| 125,000 | News Corp., Cl. A | 1,939,129 | 1,432,500 |
| 146,600 | News Corp., Cl. B | 1,644,464 | 1,729,880 |
| 40,000 | The E.W. Scripps Co., Cl. A | 399,742 | 773,200 |

8,867,556 10,194,870

| Transportation 0.5% | | | |
|----------------------------|------------|-----------|-----------|
| 131,200 | GATX Corp. | 4,730,843 | 8,079,296 |

Building and Construction 0.5%

Edgar Filing: GABELLI EQUITY TRUST INC - Form N-CSR

| | | | |
|--|--|-----------|-----------|
| 42,500 | Armstrong Flooring Inc. | 707,108 | 846,175 |
| 18,000 | Assa Abloy AB, Cl. B | 310,378 | 334,094 |
| 80,000 | Fortune Brands Home & Security Inc. | 680,866 | 4,276,800 |
| 53,000 | Herc Holdings Inc. | 1,716,695 | 2,128,480 |
| 45,000 | Layne Christensen Co. | 573,982 | 489,150 |
| | | 3,989,029 | 8,074,699 |
| Real Estate 0.4% | | | |
| 40,000 | Forest City Realty Trust Inc., Cl. A | 805,346 | 833,600 |
| 56,000 | Griffin Industrial Realty Inc. | 542,694 | 1,776,880 |
| 265,000 | The St. Joe Co. | 4,873,297 | 5,035,000 |
| | | 6,221,337 | 7,645,480 |
| Closed-End Funds 0.2% | | | |
| 4,285 | Royce Global Value Trust Inc. | 37,280 | 34,623 |
| 30,000 | Royce Value Trust Inc. | 368,797 | 401,700 |
| 88,969 | The Central Europe, Russia, and Turkey Fund Inc. | 2,568,955 | 1,837,210 |
| 135,374 | The New Germany Fund Inc. | 1,786,858 | 1,769,338 |
| | | 4,761,890 | 4,042,871 |
| Manufactured Housing and Recreational Vehicles 0.1% | | | |
| 5,000 | Martin Marietta Materials Inc. | 106,125 | 1,107,650 |
| 30,000 | Nobility Homes Inc. | 349,956 | 502,350 |
| 42,000 | Skyline Corp. | 256,482 | 649,320 |
| | | 712,563 | 2,259,320 |

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

The Gabelli Equity Trust Inc.**Schedule of Investments (Continued) December 31, 2016**

| Shares | | Cost | Market Value |
|---|--|-------------------|--------------------------------|
| COMMON STOCKS (Continued) | | | |
| Real Estate Investment Trusts 0.1% | | | |
| 15,000 | Gaming and Leisure Properties Inc. | \$ 189,641 | \$ 459,300 |
| 29,000 | Rayonier Inc. | 454,837 | 771,400 |
| | | 644,478 | 1,230,700 |
| | TOTAL COMMON STOCKS | 1,010,531,221 | 1,633,510,246 |
| CONVERTIBLE PREFERRED STOCKS 0.1% | | | |
| Telecommunications 0.1% | | | |
| 21,000 | Cincinnati Bell Inc., 6.750%, Ser. B | 515,202 | 1,032,280 |
| RIGHTS 0.0% | | | |
| Business Services 0.0% | | | |
| 354 | Contax Participacoes SA, expire 01/23/17 | 0 | 51 |
| WARRANTS 0.0% | | | |
| Energy and Utilities 0.0% | | | |
| 115,800 | Kinder Morgan Inc., expire 05/25/17 | 139,263 | 637 |
| Principal | | | |
| Amount | | | |
| CONVERTIBLE CORPORATE BONDS 0.2% | | | |
| Diversified Industrial 0.2% | | | |
| \$ 2,000,000 | Griffon Corp., Sub. Deb., 4.000%, 01/15/17(b) | 2,856,176 | 3,526,250 |
| U.S. GOVERNMENT OBLIGATIONS 3.3% | | | |
| 56,652,000 | U.S. Treasury Bills, 0.295% to 0.551% , 01/12/17 to 05/04/17 | 56,620,659 | 56,619,301 |
| | TOTAL INVESTMENTS 100.0% | \$ 1,070,662,521 | 1,694,688,765 |
| Number of Contracts | | Expiration | Unrealized Appreciation |

| | Date |
|--|--------------------------|
| FUTURES CONTRACTS SHORT POSITION | |
| (235) S&P 500 E-Mini Futures(c) | 03/17/17 \$ (405,057) |
| | Market |
| | Value |
| Other Assets and Liabilities (Net) | (835,328) |
| PREFERRED STOCK | |
| (12,537,334 preferred shares outstanding) | (413,333,350) |
| NET ASSETS COMMON STOCK | |
| (219,240,166 common shares outstanding) | \$ 1,280,115,030 |
| NET ASSET VALUE PER COMMON SHARE | |
| (\$1,280,115,030 ÷ 219,240,166 shares outstanding) | \$ 5.84 |

- (a) Securities, or a portion thereof, with a value of \$32,928,800 were pledged as collateral for futures contracts.
- (b) Security exempt from registration under Rule 144A of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended. This security may be resold in transactions exempt from registration, normally to qualified institutional buyers. At December 31, 2016, the market value of the Rule 144A security amounted to \$3,526,250 or 0.21% of total investments.
- (c) At December 31, 2016, all of the futures contracts sold were held at UBS Securities LLC.
 Non-income producing security.
 Represents annualized yield at date of purchase.
 ADR American Depositary Receipt
 SDR Swedish Depositary Receipt

| | % of Total Investments | Market Value |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Geographic Diversification | | |
| North America | 83.7% | \$1,419,078,360 |
| Europe | 12.7 | 214,655,549 |
| Latin America | 2.0 | 33,419,795 |
| Japan | 1.6 | 26,973,365 |
| Asia/Pacific | <u>0.0</u> | <u>561,696</u> |
| Total Investments | <u>100.0%</u> | <u>\$1,694,688,765</u> |

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

The Gabelli Equity Trust Inc.
Statement of Assets and Liabilities**December 31, 2016****Assets:**

| | |
|--|------------------|
| Investments, at value (cost \$1,070,662,521) | \$ 1,694,688,765 |
| Cash | 71,082 |
| Deposit at brokers | 1,227,875 |
| Receivable for investments sold | 119,619 |
| Receivable for Fund shares sold | 4,320 |
| Dividends and interest receivable | 2,407,015 |
| Variation margin receivable | 104,575 |
| Deferred offering expense | 77,977 |

| | |
|---------------------|----------------------|
| Total Assets | 1,698,701,228 |
|---------------------|----------------------|

Liabilities:

| | |
|--------------------------------------|-----------|
| Distributions payable | 240,811 |
| Payable for Fund shares redeemed | 50,000 |
| Payable for investments purchased | 773,875 |
| Payable for investment advisory fees | 2,900,071 |
| Payable for payroll expenses | 72,645 |
| Payable for accounting fees | 7,500 |
| Payable for auction agent fees | 873,578 |
| Other accrued expenses | 334,368 |

| | |
|--------------------------|------------------|
| Total Liabilities | 5,252,848 |
|--------------------------|------------------|

Cumulative Preferred Stock, \$0.001 par value:

| | |
|---|-------------|
| Series C (Auction Rate, \$25,000 liquidation value, 5,200 shares authorized with 2,880 shares issued and outstanding) | 72,000,000 |
| Series D (5.875%, \$25 liquidation value, 3,000,000 shares authorized with 2,363,860 shares issued and outstanding) | 59,096,500 |
| Series E (Auction Rate, \$25,000 liquidation value, 2,000 shares authorized with 1,120 shares issued and outstanding) | 28,000,000 |
| Series G (5.000%, \$25 liquidation value, 3,280,477 shares authorized with 2,789,701 shares issued and outstanding) | 69,742,525 |
| Series H (5.000%, \$25 liquidation value, 4,198,880 shares authorized with 4,179,773 shares issued and outstanding) | 104,494,325 |
| Series J (5.450%, \$25 liquidation value, 4,500,000 shares authorized with 3,200,000 shares issued and outstanding) | 80,000,000 |

| | |
|------------------------------|--------------------|
| Total Preferred Stock | 413,333,350 |
|------------------------------|--------------------|

| | |
|---|-------------------------|
| Net Assets Attributable to Common Shareholders | \$ 1,280,115,030 |
|---|-------------------------|

Net Assets Attributable to Common Shareholders Consist of:

| | |
|---|----------------|
| Paid-in capital | \$ 667,708,707 |
| Distributions in excess of net investment income | (690,575) |
| Distributions in excess of net realized gain on investments, futures contracts, and foreign currency transactions | (10,508,271) |
| Net unrealized appreciation on investments | 624,026,244 |
| Net unrealized depreciation on futures contracts | (405,057) |
| Net unrealized depreciation on foreign currency translations | (16,018) |

| | |
|-------------------|-------------------------|
| Net Assets | \$ 1,280,115,030 |
|-------------------|-------------------------|

Net Asset Value per Common Share:

| | |
|--|---------|
| (\$1,280,115,030 ÷ 219,240,166 shares outstanding at \$0.001 par value; 237,024,900 shares authorized) | \$ 5.84 |
|--|---------|

Statement of Operations**For the Year Ended December 31, 2016****Investment Income:**

| | |
|---|---------------|
| Dividends (net of foreign withholding taxes of \$1,076,175) | \$ 33,876,502 |
| Interest | (316,700)* |

| | |
|--------------------------------|-------------------|
| Total Investment Income | 33,559,802 |
|--------------------------------|-------------------|

Expenses:

| | |
|-------------------------------------|------------|
| Investment advisory fees | 16,519,458 |
| Shareholder communications expenses | 367,626 |
| Custodian fees | 211,516 |
| Directors' fees | 180,000 |
| Payroll expenses | 157,384 |
| Shareholder services fees | 146,606 |
| Legal and audit fees | 98,484 |
| Shelf registration expense | 71,491 |
| Accounting fees | 45,000 |
| Interest expense | 2,630 |
| Miscellaneous expenses | 351,455 |

| | |
|-----------------------|-------------------|
| Total Expenses | 18,151,650 |
|-----------------------|-------------------|

Less:

| | |
|--|----------|
| Advisory fee reduction on unsupervised assets (See Note 3) | (3,528) |
| Expenses paid indirectly by broker (See Note 3) | (11,699) |
| Custodian fee credits | (334) |

| | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Total Reductions and Credits | (15,561) |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------|

| | |
|---------------------|-------------------|
| Net Expenses | 18,136,089 |
|---------------------|-------------------|

| | |
|------------------------------|-------------------|
| Net Investment Income | 15,423,713 |
|------------------------------|-------------------|

Net Realized and Unrealized Gain/(Loss) on Investments, Futures Contracts, and Foreign Currency:

Edgar Filing: GABELLI EQUITY TRUST INC - Form N-CSR

| | |
|---|-----------------------|
| Net realized gain on investments | 135,968,306 |
| Net realized loss on futures contracts | (3,962,478) |
| Net realized loss on foreign currency transactions | (88,258) |
| Net realized gain on investments, futures contracts, and foreign currency transactions | 131,917,570 |
| Net change in unrealized appreciation/depreciation: | |
| on investments | 34,550,005 |
| on futures contracts | (405,057) |
| on foreign currency translations | (7,692) |
| Net change in unrealized appreciation/ depreciation on investments, futures contracts, and foreign currency translations | 34,137,256 |
| Net Realized and Unrealized Gain/(Loss) on Investments, Futures Contracts, and Foreign Currency | 166,054,826 |
| Net Increase in Net Assets Resulting from Operations | 181,478,539 |
| Total Distributions to Preferred Shareholders | (16,210,880) |
| Net Increase in Net Assets Attributable to Common Shareholders Resulting from Operations | \$ 165,267,659 |

* Includes amortization of bond premiums which exceeded the aggregate of interest accrued to income for the period.

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

The Gabelli Equity Trust Inc.**Statement of Changes in Net Assets Attributable to Common Shareholders**

| | Year Ended December 31, 2016 | Year Ended December 31, 2015 |
|---|---|---|
| Operations: | | |
| Net investment income | \$ 15,423,713 | \$ 12,876,072 |
| Net realized gain on investments, futures contracts, and foreign currency transactions | 131,917,570 | 108,195,220 |
| Net change in unrealized appreciation/depreciation on investments, futures contracts, and foreign currency translations | 34,137,256 | (205,789,442) |
| Net Increase/(Decrease) in Net Assets Resulting from Operations | 181,478,539 | (84,718,150) |
| Distributions to Preferred Shareholders: | | |
| Net investment income | (2,007,644) | (1,288,253) |
| Net realized gain | (14,203,236) | (11,017,614) |
| Total Distributions to Preferred Shareholders | (16,210,880) | (12,305,867) |
| Net Increase/(Decrease) in Net Assets Attributable to Common Shareholders Resulting from Operations | 165,267,659 | (97,024,017) |
| Distributions to Common Shareholders: | | |
| Net investment income | (16,172,854) | (11,363,839) |
| Net realized gain | (114,416,126) | (97,187,735) |
| Return of capital | (957,245) | (31,765,154) |
| Total Distributions to Common Shareholders | (131,546,225) | (140,316,728) |
| Fund Share Transactions: | | |
| Net decrease in net assets from preferred offering cost charged to capital | (2,845,000) | |
| Net increase in net assets from repurchase of preferred shares | 81,639 | 6,683 |
| Net Increase/(Decrease) in Net Assets from Fund Share Transactions | (2,763,361) | 6,683 |
| Net Increase/(Decrease) in Net Assets Attributable to Common Shareholders | 30,958,073 | (237,334,062) |
| Net Assets Attributable to Common Shareholders: | | |
| Beginning of year | 1,249,156,957 | 1,486,491,019 |

| | | |
|--|------------------|------------------|
| End of year (including undistributed net investment income of \$0 and \$0, respectively) | \$ 1,280,115,030 | \$ 1,249,156,957 |
|--|------------------|------------------|

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

The Gabelli Equity Trust Inc.
Financial Highlights

Selected data for a common share outstanding throughout each year:

| | Year Ended December 31, | | | | |
|--|-------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| | 2016 | 2015 | 2014 | 2013 | 2012 |
| Operating Performance: | | | | | |
| Net asset value, beginning of year | \$ 5.70 | \$ 6.78 | \$ 7.23 | \$ 5.60 | \$ 5.20 |
| Net investment income | 0.07 | 0.06 | 0.07 | 0.06 | 0.09 |
| Net realized and unrealized gain/(loss) on investments, futures contracts, swap contracts, and foreign currency transactions | 0.75 | (0.44) | 0.30 | 2.26 | 0.97 |
| Total from investment operations | 0.82 | (0.38) | 0.37 | 2.32 | 1.06 |
| Distributions to Preferred Shareholders: (a) | | | | | |
| Net investment income | (0.01) | (0.01) | (0.01) | (0.01) | (0.03) |
| Net realized gain | (0.06) | (0.05) | (0.05) | (0.06) | (0.05) |
| Total distributions to preferred shareholders | (0.07) | (0.06) | (0.06) | (0.07) | (0.08) |
| Net Increase/(Decrease) in Net Assets Attributable to Common Shareholders Resulting from Operations | | | | | |
| | 0.75 | (0.44) | 0.31 | 2.25 | 0.98 |

**Distributions to
Common
Shareholders:**

| | | | | | |
|---|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| Net investment income | (0.08) | (0.05) | (0.05) | (0.05) | (0.06) |
| Net realized gain | (0.52) | (0.44) | (0.49) | (0.57) | (0.11) |
| Return of capital | (0.00)(b) | (0.15) | (0.10) | | (0.39) |
| Total distributions to common shareholders | (0.60) | (0.64) | (0.64) | (0.62) | (0.56) |

**Fund Share
Transactions:**

| | | | | | |
|---|---------------|----------------|---------------|----------------|---------------|
| Decrease in net asset value from common share transactions | | | (0.12) | 0.00(b) | |
| Increase in net asset value from repurchase of preferred shares | 0.00(b) | 0.00(b) | 0.00(b) | 0.00(b) | |
| Offering costs and adjustment to offering costs for preferred shares charged to paid-in capital | (0.01) | | | 0.00(b) | (0.02) |
| Total Fund share transactions | (0.01) | 0.00(b) | (0.12) | 0.00(b) | (0.02) |

**Net Asset Value
Attributable to
Common
Shareholders, End
of Year**

| | | | | | |
|---------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| | \$ 5.84 | \$ 5.70 | \$ 6.78 | \$ 7.23 | \$ 5.60 |
| NAV total return | 13.66% | (6.85)% | 4.68% | 41.90% | 19.05% |
| Market value, end of year | \$ 5.52 | \$ 5.31 | \$ 6.47 | \$ 7.75 | \$ 5.58 |
| Investment total return | 15.71% | (8.54)% | (6.08)% | 52.44% | 23.62% |

**Ratios to Average
Net Assets and
Supplemental Data:**

| | | | | | |
|---|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Net assets including liquidation value of preferred shares, end | \$ 1,693,448 | \$ 1,582,823 | \$ 1,820,361 | \$ 1,712,663 | \$ 1,384,961 |
|---|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|

| | | | | | |
|---|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| of year (in 000 s) | | | | | |
| Net assets attributable to common shares, end of year (in 000 s) | \$ 1,280,115 | \$ 1,249,157 | \$ 1,486,491 | \$ 1,378,436 | \$ 1,050,451 |
| Ratio of net investment income to average net assets attributable to common shares before preferred distributions | 1.23% | 0.91% | 0.82% | 0.84% | 1.54% |
| Ratio of operating expenses to average net assets attributable to common shares: | | | | | |
| before fee reductions | 1.44%(c) | 1.36%(c) | 1.37% | 1.40% | 1.48% |
| net of fee reductions, if any | 1.44%(c) | 1.25%(c) | 1.33% | 1.40% | 1.48% |
| Ratio of operating expenses to average net assets including liquidation value of preferred shares: | | | | | |
| before fee reductions | 1.10%(c) | 1.10%(c) | 1.10% | 1.10% | 1.12% |
| net of fee reductions, if any | 1.10%(c) | 1.01%(c) | 1.07% | 1.10% | 1.12% |
| Portfolio turnover rate | 12.7% | 8.9% | 10.9% | 10.0% | 4.2% |

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

The Gabelli Equity Trust Inc.**Financial Highlights (Continued)**

| | Year Ended December 31, | | | | |
|---|--------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| | 2016 | 2015 | 2014 | 2013 | 2012 |
| Cumulative Preferred Stock: | | | | | |
| Auction Rate Series C | | | | | |
| Liquidation value, end of year (in 000 s) | \$ 72,000 | \$ 72,000 | \$ 72,000 | \$ 72,000 | \$ 72,000 |
| Total shares outstanding (in 000 s) | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 |
| Liquidation preference per share | \$ 25,000 | \$ 25,000 | \$ 25,000 | \$ 25,000 | \$ 25,000 |
| Liquidation value(d) | \$ 25,000 | \$ 25,000 | \$ 25,000 | \$ 25,000 | \$ 25,000 |
| Asset coverage per share(e) | \$ 102,426 | \$ 118,593 | \$ 136,308 | \$ 128,106 | \$ 103,507 |
| 5.875% Series D | | | | | |
| Liquidation value, end of year (in 000 s) | \$ 59,097 | \$ 59,097 | \$ 59,097 | \$ 59,097 | \$ 59,097 |
| Total shares outstanding (in 000 s) | 2,364 | 2,364 | 2,364 | 2,364 | 2,364 |
| Liquidation preference per share | \$ 25.00 | \$ 25.00 | \$ 25.00 | \$ 25.00 | \$ 25.00 |
| Average market value(f) | \$ 26.22 | \$ 25.69 | \$ 25.21 | \$ 25.27 | \$ 25.75 |
| Asset coverage per share(e) | \$ 102.43 | \$ 118.59 | \$ 136.31 | \$ 128.11 | \$ 103.51 |
| Auction Rate Series E | | | | | |
| Liquidation value, end of year (in 000 s) | \$ 28,000 | \$ 28,000 | \$ 28,000 | \$ 28,000 | \$ 28,000 |
| Total shares outstanding (in 000 s) | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Liquidation preference per share | \$ 25,000 | \$ 25,000 | \$ 25,000 | \$ 25,000 | \$ 25,000 |
| Liquidation value(d) | \$ 25,000 | \$ 25,000 | \$ 25,000 | \$ 25,000 | \$ 25,000 |
| Asset coverage per share(e) | \$ 102,426 | \$ 118,593 | \$ 136,308 | \$ 128,106 | \$ 103,507 |
| 5.000% Series G | | | | | |
| Liquidation value, end of year (in 000 s) | \$ 69,743 | \$ 69,925 | \$ 70,099 | \$ 70,373 | \$ 70,413 |
| Total shares outstanding (in 000 s) | 2,791 | 2,797 | 2,804 | 2,815 | 2,817 |
| Liquidation preference per share | \$ 25.00 | \$ 25.00 | \$ 25.00 | \$ 25.00 | \$ 25.00 |
| Average market value(f) | \$ 24.67 | \$ 23.78 | \$ 23.32 | \$ 23.91 | \$ 26.01 |

| | | | | | |
|---|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| Asset coverage per share(e) | \$ 102.43 | \$ 118.59 | \$ 136.31 | \$ 128.11 | \$ 103.51 |
| 5.000% Series H | | | | | |
| Liquidation value, end of year (in 000 s) | \$ 104,494 | \$ 104,644 | \$ 104,674 | \$ 104,757 | \$ 105,000 |
| Total shares outstanding (in 000 s) | 4,180 | 4,186 | 4,187 | 4,190 | 4,200 |
| Liquidation preference per share | \$ 25.00 | \$ 25.00 | \$ 25.00 | \$ 25.00 | \$ 25.00 |
| Average market value(f) | \$ 25.00 | \$ 24.33 | \$ 22.82 | \$ 23.85 | \$ 25.55 |
| Asset coverage per share(e) | \$ 102.43 | \$ 118.59 | \$ 136.31 | \$ 128.11 | \$ 103.51 |
| 5.450% Series J | | | | | |
| Liquidation value, end of period (in 000 s) | \$ 80,000 | | | | |
| Total shares outstanding (in 000 s) | 3,200 | | | | |
| Liquidation preference per share | \$ 25.00 | | | | |
| Average market value(f) | \$ 25.43 | | | | |
| Asset coverage per share(e) | \$ 102.43 | | | | |
| Asset Coverage(g) | 410% | 474% | 545% | 512% | 414% |

For years ended December 31, 2016, 2015, 2014, and 2013 based on net asset value per share, adjusted for reinvestment of distributions at net asset value on the ex-dividend date. The year ended 2012 was based on net asset value per share, adjusted for reinvestment of distributions at prices obtained under the Fund's dividend reinvestment plan.

Based on market value per share, adjusted for reinvestment of distributions at prices determined under the Fund's dividend reinvestment plan.

- (a) Calculated based upon average common shares outstanding on the record dates throughout the years.
- (b) Amount represents less than \$0.005 per share.
- (c) The Fund received credits from a designated broker who agreed to pay certain Fund operating expenses. For the years ended December 31, 2016 and 2015, there was no impact on the expense ratios.
- (d) Since February 2008, the weekly auctions have failed. Holders that have submitted orders have not been able to sell any or all of their shares in the auction.
- (e) Asset coverage per share is calculated by combining all series of preferred stock.
- (f) Based on weekly prices.
- (g) Asset coverage is calculated by combining all series of preferred stock.

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

The Gabelli Equity Trust Inc.

Notes to Financial Statements

1. Organization. The Gabelli Equity Trust Inc. (the Fund) is a non-diversified closed-end management investment company organized as a Maryland corporation on May 20, 1986 and registered under the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended (the 1940 Act), whose primary objective is long term growth of capital with income as a secondary objective. Investment operations commenced on August 21, 1986.

The Fund will invest at least 80% of its assets in equity securities under normal market conditions (the 80% Policy). The 80% Policy may be changed without shareholder approval. The Fund will provide shareholders with notice at least sixty days prior to the implementation of any changes in the 80% Policy.

2. Significant Accounting Policies. As an investment company, the Fund follows the investment company accounting and reporting guidance, which is part of U.S. generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP) that may require the use of management estimates and assumptions in the preparation of its financial statements. Actual results could differ from those estimates. The following is a summary of significant accounting policies followed by the Fund in the preparation of its financial statements.

Security Valuation. Portfolio securities listed or traded on a nationally recognized securities exchange or traded in the U.S. over-the-counter market for which market quotations are readily available are valued at the last quoted sale price or a market s official closing price as of the close of business on the day the securities are being valued. If there were no sales that day, the security is valued at the average of the closing bid and asked prices or, if there were no asked prices quoted on that day, then the security is valued at the closing bid price on that day. If no bid or asked prices are quoted on such day, the security is valued at the most recently available price or, if the Board of Directors (the Board) so determines, by such other method as the Board shall determine in good faith to reflect its fair market value. Portfolio securities traded on more than one national securities exchange or market are valued according to the broadest and most representative market, as determined by Gabelli Funds, LLC (the Adviser).

Portfolio securities primarily traded on a foreign market are generally valued at the preceding closing values of such securities on the relevant market, but may be fair valued pursuant to procedures established by the Board if market conditions change significantly after the close of the foreign market, but prior to the close of business on the day the securities are being valued. Debt instruments with remaining maturities of sixty days or less that are not credit impaired are valued at amortized cost, unless the Board determines such amount does not reflect the securities fair value, in which case these securities will be fair valued as determined by the Board. Debt instruments having a maturity greater than sixty days for which market quotations are readily available are valued at the average of the latest bid and asked prices. If there were no asked prices quoted on such day, the security is valued using the closing bid price. U.S. government obligations with maturities greater than sixty days are normally valued using a model that incorporates market observable data such as reported sales of similar securities, broker quotes, yields, bids, offers, and reference data. Certain securities are valued principally using dealer quotations. Futures contracts are valued at the closing settlement price of the exchange or board of trade on which the applicable contract is traded.

Securities and assets for which market quotations are not readily available are fair valued as determined by the Board. Fair valuation methodologies and procedures may include, but are not limited to: analysis and review of available financial and non-financial information about the company; comparisons with the valuation and changes in valuation of similar securities, including a comparison of foreign securities with the equivalent U.S. dollar value American Depositary Receipt securities at the close of the U.S. exchange; and evaluation of any other information that could be indicative of the value of the security.

The Gabelli Equity Trust Inc.**Notes to Financial Statements (Continued)**

The inputs and valuation techniques used to measure fair value of the Fund's investments are summarized into three levels as described in the hierarchy below:

- Level 1 quoted prices in active markets for identical securities;
- Level 2 other significant observable inputs (including quoted prices for similar securities, interest rates, prepayment speeds, credit risk, etc.); and
- Level 3 significant unobservable inputs (including the Board's determinations as to the fair value of investments).

A financial instrument's level within the fair value hierarchy is based on the lowest level of any input both individually and in the aggregate that is significant to the fair value measurement. The inputs or methodology used for valuing securities are not necessarily an indication of the risk associated with investing in those securities. The summary of the Fund's investments in securities and other financial instruments by inputs used to value the Fund's investments as of December 31, 2016 is as follows:

| | Valuation Inputs | | | Total Market Value |
|--|-------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|
| | Level 1 | Level 2 Other Significant | Level 3 Significant | |
| | Quoted Prices | Observable Inputs | Unobservable Inputs | at 12/31/16 |
| INVESTMENTS IN SECURITIES: | | | | |
| ASSETS (Market Value): | | | | |
| Common Stocks: | | | | |
| Aerospace and Defense | \$ 33,625,792 | \$ 68,539 | | \$ 33,694,331 |
| Energy and Utilities | 72,920,234 | | \$ 0 | 72,920,234 |
| Manufactured Housing and Recreational Vehicles | 1,756,970 | 502,350 | | 2,259,320 |
| Other Industries (a) | 1,524,636,361 | | | 1,524,636,361 |
| Total Common Stocks | 1,632,939,357 | 570,889 | 0 | 1,633,510,246 |
| Convertible Corporate Bonds (a) | | 3,526,250 | | 3,526,250 |
| Convertible Preferred Stocks (a) | 1,032,280 | | | 1,032,280 |
| Rights (a) | 51 | | | 51 |
| Warrants (a) | 637 | | | 637 |
| U.S. Government Obligations | | 56,619,301 | | 56,619,301 |
| TOTAL INVESTMENTS IN SECURITIES ASSETS | \$ 1,633,972,325 | \$ 60,716,440 | \$ 0 | \$ 1,694,688,765 |

**OTHER FINANCIAL
INSTRUMENTS:***

**LIABILITIES (Net Unrealized
Depreciation):**

EQUITY CONTRACTS

| | | | | |
|--|----|-----------|----|-----------|
| Index Futures Contracts - Short Position | \$ | (405,057) | \$ | (405,057) |
|--|----|-----------|----|-----------|

(a) Please refer to the Schedule of Investments (SOI) for the industry classifications of these portfolio holdings.

* Other financial instruments are derivatives reflected in the SOI, such as options, futures, forwards, and swaps, which may be valued at the unrealized appreciation/depreciation of the instrument.

The Fund did not have material transfers among Level 1, Level 2, and Level 3 during the year ended December 31, 2016. The Fund's policy is to recognize transfers among Levels as of the beginning of the reporting period.

The Gabelli Equity Trust Inc.

Notes to Financial Statements (Continued)

Additional Information to Evaluate Qualitative Information.

General. The Fund uses recognized industry pricing services approved by the Board and unaffiliated with the Adviser to value most of its securities, and uses broker quotes provided by market makers of securities not valued by these and other recognized pricing sources. Several different pricing feeds are received to value domestic equity securities, international equity securities, preferred equity securities, and fixed income securities. The data within these feeds is ultimately sourced from major stock exchanges and trading systems where these securities trade. The prices supplied by external sources are checked by obtaining quotations or actual transaction prices from market participants. If a price obtained from the pricing source is deemed unreliable, prices will be sought from another pricing service or from a broker/dealer that trades that security or similar securities.

Fair Valuation. Fair valued securities may be common or preferred equities, warrants, options, rights, or fixed income obligations. Where appropriate, Level 3 securities are those for which market quotations are not available, such as securities not traded for several days, or for which current bids are not available, or which are restricted as to transfer. When fair valuing a security, factors to consider include recent prices of comparable securities that are publicly traded, reliable prices of securities not publicly traded, the use of valuation models, current analyst reports, valuing the income or cash flow of the issuer, or cost if the preceding factors do not apply. A significant change in the unobservable inputs could result in a lower or higher value in Level 3 securities. The circumstances of Level 3 securities are frequently monitored to determine if fair valuation measures continue to apply.

The Adviser reports quarterly to the Board the results of the application of fair valuation policies and procedures. These may include backtesting the prices realized in subsequent trades of these fair valued securities to fair values previously recognized.

Derivative Financial Instruments. The Fund may engage in various portfolio investment strategies by investing in derivative financial instruments for the purposes of increasing the income of the Fund, hedging against changes in the value of its portfolio securities and in the value of securities it intends to purchase, or hedging against a specific transaction with respect to either the currency in which the transaction is denominated or another currency. Investing in certain derivative financial instruments, including participation in the options, futures, or swap markets, entails certain execution, liquidity, hedging, tax, and securities, interest, credit, or currency market risks. Losses may arise if the Adviser's prediction of movements in the direction of the securities, foreign currency, and interest rate markets is inaccurate. Losses may also arise if the counterparty does not perform its duties under a contract, or, in the event of default, the Fund may be delayed in or prevented from obtaining payments or other contractual remedies owed to it under derivative contracts. The creditworthiness of the counterparties is closely monitored in order to minimize these risks. Participation in derivative transactions involves investment risks, transaction costs, and potential losses to which the Fund would not be subject absent the use of these strategies. The consequences of these risks, transaction costs, and losses may have a negative impact on the Fund's ability to pay distributions.

Collateral requirements differ by type of derivative. Collateral requirements are set by the broker or exchange clearing house for exchange traded derivatives, while collateral terms are contract specific for derivatives traded over-the-counter. Securities pledged to cover obligations of the Fund under derivative contracts are noted in the Schedule of Investments. Cash collateral, if any, pledged for the same purpose will be reported separately in the Statement of Assets and Liabilities.

The Gabelli Equity Trust Inc.

Notes to Financial Statements (Continued)

The Fund's policy with respect to offsetting is that, absent an event of default by the counterparty or a termination of the agreement, the master agreement does not result in an offset of reported amounts of financial assets and financial liabilities in the Statement of Assets and Liabilities across transactions between the Fund and the applicable counterparty. The enforceability of the right to offset may vary by jurisdiction.

The Fund's derivative contracts held at December 31, 2016, if any, are not accounted for as hedging instruments under GAAP and are disclosed in the Schedule of Investments together with the related counterparty.

Swap Agreements. The Fund may enter into equity contract for difference swap transactions for the purpose of increasing the income of the Fund. The use of swaps is a highly specialized activity that involves investment techniques and risks different from those associated with ordinary portfolio security transactions. In an equity contract for difference swap, a set of future cash flows is exchanged between two counterparties. One of these cash flow streams will typically be based on a reference interest rate combined with the performance of a notional value of shares of a stock. The other will be based on the performance of the shares of a stock. Depending on the general state of short term interest rates and the returns on the Fund's portfolio securities at the time an equity contract for difference swap transaction reaches its scheduled termination date, there is a risk that the Fund will not be able to obtain a replacement transaction or that the terms of the replacement will not be as favorable as on the expiring transaction.

During the year ended December 31, 2016, the Fund held no investments in equity contract for difference swap agreements.

Futures Contracts. The Fund may engage in futures contracts for the purpose of hedging against changes in the value of its portfolio securities and in the value of securities it intends to purchase. Upon entering into a futures contract, the Fund is required to deposit with the broker an amount of cash or cash equivalents equal to a certain percentage of the contract amount. This is known as the initial margin. Subsequent payments (variation margin) are made or received by the Fund each day, depending on the daily fluctuations in the value of the contract, and are included in unrealized appreciation/depreciation on futures contracts. The Fund recognizes a realized gain or loss when the contract is closed.

There are several risks in connection with the use of futures contracts as a hedging instrument. The change in value of futures contracts primarily corresponds with the value of their underlying instruments, which may not correlate with the change in value of the hedged investments. In addition, there is the risk that the Fund may not be able to enter into a closing transaction because of an illiquid secondary market. Open positions in futures contracts at December 31, 2016 are presented within the Schedule of Investments.

The Fund's volume of equity futures contracts held during the year ended December 31, 2016 had an average monthly notional amount of approximately \$23,928,969 while outstanding.

The Gabelli Equity Trust Inc.

Notes to Financial Statements (Continued)

At December 31, 2016, the Fund's derivative assets (by type) are as follows:

| | Gross Amount of Recognized Assets Presented in the Statement of Assets and Liabilities | Gross Amount Available for Offset in the Statement of Assets and Liabilities | Net Amount of Assets Presented in the Statement of Assets and Liabilities |
|-------------------|---|---|---|
| Assets | | | |
| Futures Contracts | \$104,575 | | \$104,575 |

At December 31, 2016, the Fund's derivative assets (by counterparty) are as follows:

| | Net Amounts Not Offset in the Statement of Assets and Liabilities | | | |
|---------------------|---|-----------------------|-----------------------------|------------|
| | Net Amount of Assets Presented in the Statement of Assets and Liabilities | Financial Instruments | Cash Collateral Received | Net Amount |
| Counterparty | | | | |
| UBS Securities LLC | \$104,575 | \$(104,575) | | |

As of December 31, 2016, the equity risk exposure associated with the futures contracts can be found in the Statement of Assets and Liabilities, under Assets, Variation margin receivable. For the year ended December 31, 2016, the effect of futures contracts with equity risk exposure can be found in the Statement of Operations, under Net Realized and Unrealized Gain/(Loss) on Investments, Futures Contracts, and Foreign Currency, Net realized loss on futures contracts, and Net change in unrealized appreciation/depreciation on futures contracts.

Limitations on the Purchase and Sale of Futures Contracts, Certain Options, and Swaps. Subject to the guidelines of the Board, the Fund may engage in commodity interest transactions (generally, transactions in futures, certain options, certain currency transactions, and certain types of swaps) only for bona fide hedging or other permissible transactions in accordance with the rules and regulations of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission (CFTC). Pursuant to amendments by the CFTC to Rule 4.5 under the Commodity Exchange Act (CEA), the Adviser has filed a notice of exemption from registration as a commodity pool operator with respect to the Fund. The Fund and the

Adviser are therefore not subject to registration or regulation as a commodity pool operator under the CEA. In addition, certain trading restrictions are now applicable to the Fund as of January 1, 2013. These trading restrictions permit the Fund to engage in commodity interest transactions that include (i) bona fide hedging transactions, as that term is defined and interpreted by the CFTC and its staff, without regard to the percentage of the Fund's assets committed to margin and options premiums and (ii) non-bona fide hedging transactions, provided that the Fund does not enter into such non-bona fide hedging transactions if, immediately thereafter, either (a) the sum of the amount of initial margin deposits on the Fund's existing futures positions or swaps positions and option or swaption premiums would exceed 5% of the market value of the Fund's liquidating value, after taking into account unrealized profits and unrealized losses on any such transactions, or (b) the aggregate net notional value of the Fund's commodity interest transactions would not exceed 100% of the market value of the Fund's liquidating value, after taking into account unrealized profits and unrealized losses on any such transactions. Therefore, in order to claim the Rule 4.5 exemption, the Fund is limited in its ability to invest in commodity futures, options, and certain types of swaps (including securities futures, broad based stock index futures, and financial futures contracts). As a result, in the future the Fund will be more limited in its ability to use these instruments than in the past, and these limitations may have a negative impact on the ability of the Adviser to manage the Fund, and on the Fund's performance.

The Gabelli Equity Trust Inc.

Notes to Financial Statements (Continued)

Investments in Other Investment Companies. The Fund may invest, from time to time, in shares of other investment companies (or entities that would be considered investment companies but are excluded from the definition pursuant to certain exceptions under the 1940 Act) (the Acquired Funds) in accordance with the 1940 Act and related rules. Shareholders in the Fund would bear the pro rata portion of the periodic expenses of the Acquired Funds in addition to the Fund's expenses. For the year ended December 31, 2016, the Fund's pro rata portion of the periodic expenses charged by the Acquired Funds was less than 1 basis point.

Foreign Currency Translations. The books and records of the Fund are maintained in U.S. dollars. Foreign currencies, investments, and other assets and liabilities are translated into U.S. dollars at current exchange rates. Purchases and sales of investment securities, income, and expenses are translated at the exchange rate prevailing on the respective dates of such transactions. Unrealized gains and losses that result from changes in foreign exchange rates and/or changes in market prices of securities have been included in unrealized appreciation/depreciation on investments and foreign currency translations. Net realized foreign currency gains and losses resulting from changes in exchange rates include foreign currency gains and losses between trade date and settlement date on investment securities transactions, foreign currency transactions, and the difference between the amounts of interest and dividends recorded on the books of the Fund and the amounts actually received. The portion of foreign currency gains and losses related to fluctuation in exchange rates between the initial purchase trade date and subsequent sale trade date is included in realized gain/(loss) on investments.

Foreign Securities. The Fund may directly purchase securities of foreign issuers. Investing in securities of foreign issuers involves special risks not typically associated with investing in securities of U.S. issuers. The risks include possible revaluation of currencies, the inability to repatriate funds, less complete financial information about companies, and possible future adverse political and economic developments. Moreover, securities of many foreign issuers and their markets may be less liquid and their prices more volatile than securities of comparable U.S. issuers.

Foreign Taxes. The Fund may be subject to foreign taxes on income, gains on investments, or currency repatriation, a portion of which may be recoverable. The Fund will accrue such taxes and recoveries as applicable, based upon its current interpretation of tax rules and regulations that exist in the markets in which it invests.

Restricted Securities. The Fund may invest up to 10% of its net assets in securities for which the markets are restricted. Restricted securities include securities whose disposition is subject to substantial legal or contractual restrictions. The sale of restricted securities often requires more time and results in higher brokerage charges or dealer discounts and other selling expenses than the sale of securities eligible for trading on national securities exchanges or in the over-the-counter markets. Restricted securities may sell at a price lower than similar securities that are not subject to restrictions on resale. Securities freely saleable among qualified institutional investors under special rules adopted by the SEC may be treated as liquid if they satisfy liquidity standards established by the Board. The continued liquidity of such securities is not as well assured as that of publicly traded securities, and, accordingly, the Board will monitor their liquidity. At December 31, 2016, the Fund held no restricted securities.

The Gabelli Equity Trust Inc.**Notes to Financial Statements (Continued)**

Securities Transactions and Investment Income. Securities transactions are accounted for on the trade date with realized gain/(loss) on investments determined by using the identified cost method. Interest income (including amortization of premium and accretion of discount) is recorded on the accrual basis. Premiums and discounts on debt securities are amortized using the effective yield to maturity method. Dividend income is recorded on the ex-dividend date, except for certain dividends from foreign securities that are recorded as soon after the ex-dividend date as the Fund becomes aware of such dividends.

Custodian Fee Credits and Interest Expense. When cash balances are maintained in the custody account, the Fund receives credits which are used to offset custodian fees. The gross expenses paid under the custody arrangement are included in custodian fees in the Statement of Operations with the corresponding expense offset, if any, shown as Custodian fee credits. When cash balances are overdrawn, the Fund is charged an overdraft fee of 110% of the 90 day U.S. Treasury Bill rate on outstanding balances. This amount, if any, would be included in the Statement of Operations.

Distributions to Shareholders. Distributions to common shareholders are recorded on the ex-dividend date. Distributions to shareholders are based on income and capital gains as determined in accordance with federal income tax regulations, which may differ from income and capital gains as determined under GAAP. These differences are primarily due to differing treatments of income and gains on various investment securities and foreign currency transactions held by the Fund, timing differences, and differing characterizations of distributions made by the Fund. Distributions from net investment income for federal income tax purposes include net realized gains on foreign currency transactions. These book/tax differences are either temporary or permanent in nature. To the extent these differences are permanent, adjustments are made to the appropriate capital accounts in the period when the differences arise. Permanent differences were primarily due to tax treatment of foreign currency gains and losses, and disallowed expenses. These reclassifications have no impact on the NAV of the Fund. For the year ended December 31, 2016, reclassifications were made to decrease distributions in excess of net investment income by \$2,630,498 and increase distributions in excess of net realized gain on investments, futures contracts, and foreign currency transactions by \$2,571,348, with an offsetting adjustment to paid-in capital.

Under the Fund's current common share distribution policy, the Fund declares and pays quarterly distributions from net investment income, capital gains, and paid-in capital. The actual source of the distribution is determined after the end of the year. Pursuant to this policy, distributions during the year may be made in excess of required distributions. To the extent such distributions are made from current earnings and profits, they are considered ordinary income or long term capital gains. The Fund's current distribution policy may restrict the Fund's ability to pass through to shareholders all of its net realized long term capital gains as a Capital Gain Dividend and may cause such gains to be treated as ordinary income. Distributions sourced from paid-in capital should not be considered as dividend yield or the total return from an investment in the Fund. The Board will continue to monitor the Fund's distribution level, taking into consideration the Fund's NAV and the financial market environment. The Fund's distribution policy is subject to modification by the Board at any time.

Distributions to shareholders of the Fund's Series C Auction Rate Cumulative Preferred Stock, 5.875% Series D Cumulative Preferred Stock, Series E Auction Rate Cumulative Preferred Stock, Series G Cumulative Preferred Stock, 5.000% Series H Cumulative Preferred Stock, and 5.450% Series J Cumulative Preferred Stock (Preferred Stock) are

recorded on a daily basis and are determined as described in Note 5.

The Gabelli Equity Trust Inc.**Notes to Financial Statements (Continued)**

The tax character of distributions paid during the years ended December 31, 2016 and 2015 was as follows:

| | Year Ended | | Year Ended | |
|---|-----------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|
| | December 31, 2016 | | December 31, 2015 | |
| | Common | Preferred | Common | Preferred |
| Distributions paid from: | | | | |
| Ordinary income (inclusive of short term capital gains) | \$ 18,270,058 | \$ 2,267,984 | \$ 13,597,676 | \$ 1,541,490 |
| Net long term capital gains | 112,318,922 | 13,942,896 | 94,953,898 | 10,764,377 |
| Return of capital | 957,245 | | 31,765,154 | |
| Total distributions paid | \$ 131,546,225 | \$ 16,210,880 | \$ 140,316,728 | \$ 12,305,867 |

Provision for Income Taxes. The Fund intends to continue to qualify as a regulated investment company under Subchapter M of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the Code). It is the policy of the Fund to comply with the requirements of the Code applicable to regulated investment companies and to distribute substantially all of its net investment company taxable income and net capital gains. Therefore, no provision for federal income taxes is required.

As of December 31, 2016, the components of accumulated earnings/losses on a tax basis were as follows:

| | |
|--|-----------------------|
| Net unrealized appreciation on investments, futures contracts, and foreign currency translations | \$ 612,647,136 |
| Other temporary differences* | (240,813) |
| Total | \$ 612,406,323 |

* Other temporary differences were primarily due to distributions payable.

At December 31, 2016, the temporary differences between book basis and tax basis unrealized appreciation were primarily due to deferral of losses from wash sales for tax purposes, adjustments on the sale of securities no longer deemed passive foreign investment companies, and basis adjustments on investments in partnerships.

The following summarizes the tax cost of investments and the related net unrealized appreciation at December 31, 2016:

| | Cost | Gross Unrealized Appreciation | Gross Unrealized Depreciation | Net Unrealized Appreciation |
|-------------|-----------------|--|--|--|
| Investments | \$1,082,025,610 | \$683,096,663 | \$(70,433,508) | \$612,663,155 |

The Fund is required to evaluate tax positions taken or expected to be taken in the course of preparing the Fund's tax returns to determine whether the tax positions are more-likely-than-not of being sustained by the applicable tax authority. Income tax and related interest and penalties would be recognized by the Fund as tax expense in the Statement of Operations if the tax positions were deemed not to meet the more-likely-than-not threshold. For the year ended December 31, 2016, the Fund did not incur any income tax, interest, or penalties. As of December 31, 2016, the Adviser has reviewed all open tax years and concluded that there was no impact to the Fund's net assets or results of operations. The Fund's federal and state tax returns for the prior three fiscal years remain open, subject to examination. On an ongoing basis, the Adviser will monitor the Fund's tax positions to determine if adjustments to this conclusion are necessary.

3. Investment Advisory Agreement and Other Transactions. The Fund has entered into an investment advisory agreement (the "Advisory Agreement") with the Adviser which provides that the Fund will pay the

The Gabelli Equity Trust Inc.

Notes to Financial Statements (Continued)

Adviser a fee, computed weekly and paid monthly, equal on an annual basis to 1.00% of the value of the Fund's average weekly net assets including the liquidation value of preferred stock. In accordance with the Advisory Agreement, the Adviser provides a continuous investment program for the Fund's portfolio and oversees the administration of all aspects of the Fund's business and affairs.

As per the approval of the Board, the Fund compensates officers of the Fund, who are employed by the Fund and are not employed by the Adviser (although the officers may receive incentive based variable compensation from affiliates of the Adviser). For the year ended December 31, 2016, the Fund paid or accrued \$157,384 in payroll expenses in the Statement of Operations.

The Adviser has agreed to reduce the management fee on the incremental assets attributable to the Series C, Series D, and Series E Preferred Stock (C, D, and E Preferred Stock) if the total return of the NAV of the common shares of the Fund, including distributions and advisory fee subject to reduction, does not exceed the stated dividend rate or corresponding swap rate of the C, D, and E Preferred Stock for the year. The Fund's total return on the NAV of the common shares is monitored on a monthly basis to assess whether the total return on the NAV of the common shares exceeds the stated dividend rate of the C, D, and E Preferred Stock for the period. For the year ended December 31, 2016, the Fund's total return on the NAV of the common shares exceeded the dividend rate of the outstanding C, D, and E Preferred Stock. Thus, advisory fees of the C, D, and E Preferred Stock were not reduced.

During the year ended December 31, 2016, the Fund paid \$66,268 in brokerage commissions on security trades to G.research, LLC, an affiliate of the Adviser.

During the year ended December 31, 2016, the Fund received credits from a designated broker who agreed to pay certain Fund operating expenses. The amount of such expenses paid through this directed brokerage arrangement during this period was \$11,699.

The cost of calculating the Fund's NAV per share is a Fund expense pursuant to the Advisory Agreement between the Fund and the Adviser. During the year ended December 31, 2016, the Fund paid or accrued \$45,000 to the Adviser in connection with the cost of computing the Fund's NAV.

There was a reduction in the advisory fee paid to the Adviser relating to certain portfolio holdings, i.e., unsupervised assets, of the Fund with respect to which the Adviser transferred dispositive and voting control to the Fund's Proxy Voting Committee. During the year ended December 31, 2016, the Fund's Proxy Voting Committee exercised control and discretion over all rights to vote or consent with respect to such securities, and the Adviser reduced its fee with respect to such securities by \$3,528.

The Fund pays each Director who is not considered an affiliated person an annual retainer of \$15,000 plus \$2,000 for each Board meeting attended. Each Director is reimbursed by the Fund for any out of pocket expenses incurred in attending meetings. All Board committee members receive \$1,000 per meeting attended. The Audit Committee Chairman receives an annual fee of \$3,000, the Proxy Voting Committee Chairman receives an annual fee of \$1,500, and the Nominating Committee Chairman and the Lead Director each receive an annual fee of \$2,000. A Director may receive a single meeting fee, allocated among the participating funds, for participation in certain meetings held on

behalf of multiple funds. Directors who are directors or employees of the Adviser or an affiliated company receive no compensation or expense reimbursement from the Fund.

The Gabelli Equity Trust Inc.

Notes to Financial Statements (Continued)

Fund engaged in purchase and sale transactions with funds that have a common investment adviser. These purchase and sales transactions complied with Rule 17a-7 under the Act and amounted to \$3,706,730 and \$3,467,730, respectively.

4. Portfolio Securities. Purchases and sales of securities during the year ended December 31, 2016, other than short term securities and U.S. Government obligations, aggregated \$202,440,557 and \$300,410,630, respectively.

5. Capital. The Fund's Articles of Incorporation, as amended, permit the Fund to issue 237,024,900 shares of common stock (par value \$0.001) and authorizes the Board to increase its authorized shares from time to time. The Board has authorized the repurchase of its shares on the open market when the shares are trading on the NYSE at a discount of 10% or more (or such other percentage as the Board may determine from time to time) from the NAV of the shares. During the years ended December 31, 2016 and 2015, the Fund did not repurchase any shares of its common stock in the open market and did not issue new shares upon reinvestment of distributions.

The Fund has an effective shelf registration authorizing the offering of an additional \$500 million of common or preferred shares.

On September 19, 2014, the Fund distributed one transferable right for each of the 191,839,279 common shares outstanding on that date. Seven rights were required to purchase one additional common share at the subscription price of \$5.75 per share. On October 27, 2014, the Fund issued 27,405,612 common shares receiving net proceeds of \$156,969,797, after the deduction of offering expenses of \$612,472. The NAV of the Fund was reduced by \$0.12 per share on the day the additional shares were issued. The additional shares were issued below NAV.

The Fund's Articles of Incorporation, as amended, authorize the issuance of up to 18,000,000 shares of \$0.001 par value Preferred Stock. The Preferred Stock is senior to the common stock and results in the financial leveraging of the common stock. Such leveraging tends to magnify both the risks and opportunities to common shareholders. Dividends on shares of the Preferred Stock are cumulative. The Fund is required by the 1940 Act and by the Fund's Articles Supplementary to meet certain asset coverage tests with respect to the Preferred Stock. If the Fund fails to meet these requirements and does not correct such failure, the Fund may be required to redeem, in part or in full, the Series C, Series D, Series E, Series G, Series H, and Series J Preferred Stock at redemption prices of \$25,000, \$25, \$25,000, \$25, \$25, and \$25, respectively, per share plus an amount equal to the accumulated and unpaid dividends whether or not declared on such shares in order to meet these requirements. Additionally, failure to meet the foregoing asset coverage requirements could restrict the Fund's ability to pay dividends to common shareholders and could lead to sales of portfolio securities at inopportune times. The income received on the Fund's assets may vary in a manner unrelated to the fixed and variable rates, which could have either a beneficial or detrimental impact on net investment income and gains available to common shareholders.

For Series C and Series E Preferred Stocks, the dividend rates, as set by the auction process that is generally held every seven days, are expected to vary with short term interest rates. Since February 2008, the number of shares of Series C and Series E Preferred Stock subject to bid orders by potential holders has been less than the number of shares of Series C and Series E Preferred Stock subject to sell orders. Holders that have

The Gabelli Equity Trust Inc.**Notes to Financial Statements (Continued)**

submitted sell orders have not been able to sell any or all of the Series C and Series E Preferred Stock for which they have submitted sell orders. Therefore, the weekly auctions have failed, and the dividend rate has been the maximum rate. For Series C and Series E Preferred Stock, the maximum auction rate is 175% of the AA Financial Composite Commercial Paper Rate. Existing Series C and Series E shareholders may submit an order to hold, bid, or sell such shares on each auction date, or trade their shares in the secondary market.

The Fund may redeem at any time, in whole or in part, the Series C, Series D, and Series E Preferred Stock at their respective redemption prices. In addition, the Board has authorized the repurchase of Series D Preferred Stock in the open market at prices less than the \$25 liquidation value per share. During the years ended December 31, 2016 and 2015, the Fund did not repurchase or redeem any shares of Series C, Series D, and Series E Preferred Stock.

On March 31, 2016, the Fund received net proceeds of \$77,155,000 (after underwriting discounts of \$2,520,000 and estimated offering expenses of \$325,000) from the public offering of 3,200,000 shares of Series J Preferred.

Commencing July 31, 2017, September 27, 2017, and March 31, 2021, and anytime thereafter, the Fund, at its option, may redeem the Series G, Series H, and Series J Preferred Stock, respectively, in whole or in part at the redemption price. In addition, the Board has authorized the repurchase of the Series G and Series H Preferred Stock in the open market at prices less than the \$25 liquidation value per share. During the years ended December 31, 2016 and 2015, the Fund repurchased and retired 7,300 and 6,960 of the Series G Preferred in the open market at an investment of \$169,201 and \$159,988 and average discounts of approximately 7.33% and 8.09%, respectively from its liquidation preference. During the years ended December 31, 2016 and 2015, the Fund repurchased and retired 6,000 and 1,200 of the Series H Preferred in the open market at an investment of \$138,542 and \$28,968 and an average discount of approximately 7.68% and 3.60%, respectively, from its liquidation preference.

As of December 31, 2016 after considering the 2014 common share rights offering and the Series J Preferred offering, the Fund has approximately \$262 million available for issuance under the current shelf.

The following table summarizes Cumulative Preferred Stock information:

| Series | Issue Date | Number of Shares Issued/ Authorized | Number of Shares Outstanding at 12/31/2016 | Net Proceeds | 2016 Dividend Rate Range | Dividend Rate at 12/31/2016 | Accrued Dividends at 12/31/2016 |
|----------------------|-----------------|---|--|---------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| C Auction Rate | June 27, 2002 | 5,200 | 2,880 | \$128,246,557 | 0.525% to 1.173% | 1.155% | \$ 9,240 |
| D 5.875% | October 7, 2003 | 3,000,000 | 2,363,860 | \$ 72,375,842 | Fixed Rate | 5.875% | \$48,221 |
| E Auction | October 7, 2003 | 2,000 | 1,120 | \$ 49,350,009 | 0.525% to 1.155% | 1.155% | \$ 1,797 |

Edgar Filing: GABELLI EQUITY TRUST INC - Form N-CSR

| Rate | | | | | | | |
|--------|--------------------|-----------|-----------|---------------|------------|--------|----------|
| G | | | | | | | |
| 5.000% | August 1, 2012 | 3,280,477 | 2,789,701 | \$ 69,643,042 | Fixed Rate | 5.000% | \$48,432 |
| H | | | | | | | |
| 5.000% | September 28, 2012 | 4,198,880 | 4,179,773 | \$101,028,958 | Fixed Rate | 5.000% | \$72,565 |
| J | | | | | | | |
| 5.450% | March 28, 2016 | 4,500,000 | 3,200,000 | \$ 77,155,000 | Fixed Rate | 5.450% | \$60,556 |

The holders of Preferred Stock generally are entitled to one vote per share held on each matter submitted to a vote of shareholders of the Fund and will vote together with holders of common stock as a single class. The holders of Preferred Stock voting together as a single class also have the right currently to elect two Directors and, under certain circumstances, are entitled to elect a majority of the Board of Directors. In addition, the affirmative vote of a majority of the votes entitled to be cast by holders of all outstanding shares of the preferred stock, voting as a single class, will be required to approve any plan of reorganization adversely affecting the preferred stock, and the approval of two-thirds of each class, voting separately, of the Fund's outstanding voting stock must approve the conversion of the Fund from a closed-end to an open-end investment company. The

The Gabelli Equity Trust Inc.

Notes to Financial Statements (Continued)

approval of a majority (as defined in the 1940 Act) of the outstanding preferred stock and a majority (as defined in the 1940 Act) of the Fund's outstanding voting securities are required to approve certain other actions, including changes in the Fund's investment objectives or fundamental investment policies.

6. Indemnifications. The Fund enters into contracts that contain a variety of indemnifications. The Fund's maximum exposure under these arrangements is unknown. However, the Fund has not had prior claims or losses pursuant to these contracts. Management has reviewed the Fund's existing contracts and expects the risk of loss to be remote.

7. Subsequent Events. Management has evaluated the impact on the Fund of all subsequent events occurring through the date the financial statements were issued and has determined that there were no subsequent events requiring recognition or disclosure in the financial statements.

The Gabelli Equity Trust Inc.

Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm

To the Board of Directors and Shareholders of

The Gabelli Equity Trust Inc.:

In our opinion, the accompanying statement of assets and liabilities, including the schedule of investments, and the related statements of operations and of changes in net assets attributable to common shareholders and the financial highlights present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of The Gabelli Equity Trust Inc. (the Fund) as of December 31, 2016, the results of its operations for the year then ended, the changes in its net assets attributable to common shareholders for each of the two years in the period then ended and the financial highlights for each of the five years in the period then ended, in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. These financial statements and financial highlights (hereafter referred to as financial statements) are the responsibility of the Fund s management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audits. We conducted our audits of these financial statements in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States). Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements, assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, and evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audits, which included confirmation of securities as of December 31, 2016 by correspondence with the custodian and brokers, provide a reasonable basis for our opinion.

PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP

New York, New York

February 28, 2017

The Gabelli Equity Trust Inc.

Additional Fund Information (Unaudited)

The business and affairs of the Fund are managed under the direction of the Fund's Board of Directors. Information pertaining to the Directors and officers of the Fund is set forth below. The Fund's Statement of Additional Information includes additional information about the Fund's Directors and officers and is available without charge, upon request, by calling 800-GABELLI (800-422-3554) or by writing to The Gabelli Equity Trust Inc. at One Corporate Center, Rye, NY 10580-1422.

| Name, Position(s) | | Number of | | |
|---|---|------------------------------------|---|---|
| | | Funds in Fund | | |
| Address ¹ and Age | Term of Office and Length of Time Served ² | Complex Overseen by Director | Principal Occupation(s) During Past Five Years | Other Directorships Held by Director ³ |
| <u>INTERESTED DIRECTORS⁴ :</u> | | | | |
| Mario J. Gabelli, CFA Director and Chief Investment Officer Age: 74 | Since 1986*** | 31 | Chairman, Chief Executive Officer, and Chief Investment Officer Value Portfolios of GAMCO Investors, Inc. and Chief Investment Officer Value Portfolios of Gabelli Funds, LLC and GAMCO Asset Management Inc.; Director/Trustee or Chief Investment Officer of other registered investment companies within the Gabelli/GAMCO Fund Complex; Chief Executive Officer of GGCP, Inc.; Executive Chairman of Associated Capital Group, Inc. | Director of Morgan Group Holdings, Inc. (holding company); Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer of LICT Corp. (multimedia and communication services company); Director of CIBL, Inc. (broadcasting and wireless communications); Director of ICTC Group Inc. (communications); Director of RLJ Acquisition Inc. (blank check company) (2011-2012) |

INDEPENDENT DIRECTORS⁵ :

| | | | |
|--|-------------|----|--|
| Anthony J. Colavita⁶ Director | Since 1999* | 36 | President of the law firm of Anthony J. Colavita, P.C. |
|--|-------------|----|--|

Edgar Filing: GABELLI EQUITY TRUST INC - Form N-CSR

| | | | | |
|----------------------------------|---------------|----|--|--|
| Age: 81 | | | | |
| James P. Conn⁶ | Since 1989** | 22 | Former Managing Director and Chief Investment Officer of Financial Security Assurance Holdings Ltd. (1992-1998) | |
| Director | | | | |
| Age: 78 | | | | |
| Frank J. Fahrenkopf, Jr. | Since 1998* | 11 | Co-Chairman of the Commission on Presidential Debates; Former President and Chief Executive Officer of the American Gaming Association (1995-2013); Former Chairman of the Republican National Committee (1983-1989) | Director of First Republic Bank (banking) |
| Director | | | | |
| Age: 77 | | | | |
| Arthur V. Ferrara | Since 2001*** | 8 | Former Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer of The Guardian Life Insurance Company of America (1993-1995) | |
| Director | | | | |
| Age: 86 | | | | |
| William F. Heitmann | Since 2012*** | 4 | Managing Director and Senior Advisor of Perlmutter Investment Company (real estate); Senior Vice President of Finance, Verizon Communications, and President, Verizon Investment Management (1971-2011) | |
| Director | | | | |
| Age: 67 | | | | |
| Anthony R. Pustorino | Since 1986** | 13 | Certified Public Accountant; Professor Emeritus, Pace University | Director of The LGL Group, Inc. (diversified manufacturing) (2004-2011) |
| Director | | | | |
| Age: 91 | | | | |
| Salvatore J. Zizza | Since 1986* | 30 | President of Zizza & Associates Corp. (private holding company); Chairman of Harbor Diversified, Inc. (pharmaceuticals); Chairman of BAM (semiconductor and aerospace manufacturing); Chairman of Bergen Cove Realty Inc.; Chairman of Metropolitan Paper Recycling Inc. (recycling) (2005-2014) | Director and Vice Chairman of Trans-Lux Corporation (business services); Director and Chairman of Harbor Diversified Inc. (pharmaceuticals); Director, Chairman, and CEO of General Employment Enterprises (staffing services) (2009-2012) |
| Director | | | | |
| Age: 71 | | | | |

The Gabelli Equity Trust Inc.**Additional Fund Information (Continued) (Unaudited)**

| Name, Position(s) | Term of Office | Principal Occupation(s) |
|---|--------------------------------|---|
| Address¹ | and Length of | During Past Five Years |
| and Age | Time Served² | |
| <u>OFFICERS:</u> | | |
| Bruce N. Alpert President Age: 65 | Since 2003 | Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer of Gabelli Funds, LLC since 1988; Officer of registered investment companies within the Gabelli/GAMCO Fund Complex; Senior Vice President of GAMCO Investors, Inc. since 2008; Director of Teton Advisors, Inc., 1998-2012; Chairman of Teton Advisors, Inc., 2008-2010 |
| Andrea R. Mango Vice President and Secretary Age: 44 | Since 2013 | Vice President of GAMCO Investors, Inc. since 2016; Counsel of Gabelli Funds, LLC since 2013; Secretary of all registered investment companies within the Gabelli/GAMCO Fund Complex since 2013; Vice President of all closed-end funds within the Gabelli/GAMCO Fund Complex since 2014; Corporate Vice President within the Corporate Compliance Department of New York Life Insurance Company, 2011-2013; Vice President and Counsel of Deutsche Bank, 2006-2011 |
| Agnes Mullady Treasurer Age: 58 | Since 2006 | President and Chief Operating Officer of the Fund Division of Gabelli Funds, LLC since 2010; Chief Executive Officer of G.distributors, LLC since 2010; Senior Vice President of GAMCO Investors, Inc. since 2009; Vice President of Gabelli Funds, LLC since 2007; Executive Vice President of Associated Capital Group, Inc. since November 2016; Officer of all of the registered investment companies within the Gabelli/GAMCO Fund Complex |
| Richard J. Walz Chief Compliance Officer Age: 57 | Since 2013 | Chief Compliance Officer of all of the registered investment companies within the Gabelli/ GAMCO Fund Complex since 2013; Chief Compliance Officer of AEGON USA Investment Management, 2011-2013; Chief Compliance Officer of Cutwater Asset Management, 2004-2011 |
| Carter W. Austin Vice President Age: 50 | Since 2000 | Vice President and/or Ombudsman of closed-end funds within the Gabelli/GAMCO Fund Complex; Senior Vice President of GAMCO Investors, Inc. since 2015 and Vice President (1996-2015) of Gabelli Funds, LLC |
| Molly A.F. Marion | Since 2009 | Vice President and/or Ombudsman of closed-end funds within the Gabelli/GAMCO Fund Complex; Vice President of GAMCO |

Vice President and
Ombudsman

Investors, Inc. since 2012

Age: 62

David I. Schachter

Since 2013

Vice President and/or Ombudsman of closed-end funds within the Gabelli/GAMCO Fund Complex; Senior Vice President of GAMCO Investors, Inc. since 2015 and Vice President (1999-2015) of G.research, LLC

Vice President

Age: 63

¹ Address: One Corporate Center, Rye, NY 10580-1422, unless otherwise noted.

² The Fund's Board of Directors is divided into three classes, each class having a term of three years. Each year the term of office of one class expires and the successor or successors elected to such class serve for a three year term. The three year term for each class expires as follows:

* Term expires at the Fund's 2017 Annual Meeting of Shareholders or until their successors are duly elected and qualified.

** Term expires at the Fund's 2018 Annual Meeting of Shareholders or until their successors are duly elected and qualified.

*** Term expires at the Fund's 2019 Annual Meeting of Shareholders or until their successors are duly elected and qualified.

Each officer will hold office for an indefinite term until the date he or she resigns or retires or until his or her successor is elected and qualified.

³ This column includes only directorships of companies required to report to the SEC under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, i.e., public companies, or other investment companies registered under the 1940 Act.

⁴ Interested person of the Fund as defined in the 1940 Act. Mr. Gabelli is considered an interested person because of his affiliation with Gabelli Funds, LLC which acts as the Fund's investment adviser.

⁵ Directors who are not interested persons are considered Independent Directors.

⁶ Represents holders of the Fund's Preferred Stock.

THE GABELLI EQUITY TRUST INC.

INCOME TAX INFORMATION (Unaudited)

December 31, 2016

Cash Dividends and Distributions

| | Payable Date | Record Date | Total Amount Paid Per Share (a) | Ordinary Investment Income (a) | Long Term Capital Gains (a) | Return of Capital (b) | Dividend Reinvestment Price |
|---|-------------------------|------------------------|--|---|--|----------------------------------|--|
| Common Stock | | | | | | | |
| | 03/23/16 | 03/16/16 | \$0.15000 | \$0.01810 | \$0.13080 | \$0.00110 | \$5.38330 |
| | 06/23/16 | 06/16/16 | 0.15000 | 0.01810 | 0.13080 | 0.00110 | 5.46620 |
| | 09/23/16 | 09/16/16 | 0.15000 | 0.01810 | 0.13080 | 0.00110 | 5.60770 |
| | 12/16/16 | 12/09/16 | 0.15000 | 0.01810 | 0.13080 | 0.00110 | 5.66270 |
| | | | \$0.60000 | \$0.07240 | \$0.52320 | \$0.00440 | |
| 5.875% Series D Cumulative Preferred Stock | | | | | | | |
| | 03/28/16 | 03/21/16 | \$0.36719 | \$0.04471 | \$0.32248 | | |
| | 06/27/16 | 06/20/16 | 0.36719 | 0.04471 | 0.32248 | | |
| | 09/26/16 | 09/19/16 | 0.36719 | 0.04471 | 0.32248 | | |
| | 12/27/16 | 12/19/16 | 0.36719 | 0.04471 | 0.32248 | | |
| | | | \$1.46875 | \$0.17884 | \$1.28992 | | |
| 5.000% Series G Cumulative Preferred Stock | | | | | | | |
| | 03/28/16 | 03/21/16 | \$0.31250 | \$0.03800 | \$0.27450 | | |
| | 06/27/16 | 06/20/16 | 0.31250 | 0.03800 | 0.27450 | | |
| | 09/26/16 | 09/19/16 | 0.31250 | 0.03800 | 0.27450 | | |
| | 12/27/16 | 12/19/16 | 0.31250 | 0.03800 | 0.27450 | | |
| | | | \$1.25000 | \$0.15200 | \$1.09800 | | |
| 5.000% Series H Cumulative Preferred Stock | | | | | | | |
| | 03/28/16 | 03/21/16 | \$0.31250 | \$0.03800 | \$0.27450 | | |
| | 06/27/16 | 06/20/16 | 0.31250 | 0.03800 | 0.27450 | | |
| | 09/26/16 | 09/19/16 | 0.31250 | 0.03800 | 0.27450 | | |
| | 12/27/16 | 12/19/16 | 0.31250 | 0.03800 | 0.27450 | | |
| | | | \$1.25000 | \$0.15200 | \$1.09800 | | |
| 5.450% Series J Cumulative Preferred Stock | | | | | | | |
| | 06/27/16 | 06/20/16 | \$0.32549 | \$0.03963 | \$0.28586 | | |
| | 09/26/16 | 09/19/16 | 0.34062 | 0.04147 | 0.29915 | | |
| | 12/27/16 | 12/19/16 | 0.34062 | 0.04147 | 0.29915 | | |

| | | |
|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| \$1.00674 | \$0.12258 | \$0.88416 |
|-----------|-----------|-----------|

Auction Rate Series C and E Cumulative Preferred Stock

Auction Rate Preferred Stocks pay dividends weekly based on the maximum rate. The distributions derived from long term capital gains for the Auction Rate Series C and Series E Cumulative Preferred Stock were \$437,236 and \$169,807, respectively.

A Form 1099-DIV has been mailed to all shareholders of record which sets forth specific amounts to be included in the 2016 tax returns. Ordinary income distributions include net investment income and realized net short term capital gains, if any. Ordinary income is reported in box 1a of Form 1099-DIV. Capital gain distributions are reported in box 2a of Form 1099-DIV. The long term gain distributions for the year ended December 31, 2016 were \$126,261,818.

Corporate Dividends Received Deduction, Qualified Dividend Income, and U.S. Government Securities Income

In 2016, the Fund paid to common, 5.875% Series D, 5.000% Series G, 5.000% Series H, and 5.450% Series J preferred shareholders ordinary income dividends totaling \$0.07240, \$0.17884, \$0.15200, \$0.15200, and \$0.12258 per share, respectively. The Fund paid weekly distributions to auction rate Series C and Series E preferred shareholders at varying rates throughout the year, including an ordinary income dividend totaling \$21.26169 and \$21.33110 per share, respectively, in 2016. For the year ended December 31, 2016, 100% of the ordinary income dividend qualified for the dividend received deduction available to corporations, and 100% of the ordinary income distribution was deemed qualified dividend income and is reported in box 1b on Form 1099-DIV. The percentage of the ordinary income dividends paid by the Fund during 2016 derived from U.S. Government securities was 0.47%. Such income is exempt from state and local tax in all states. However, many states, including New York and California, allow a tax exemption for a portion of the income earned only if a mutual fund has invested at least 50% of its assets at the end of each quarter of the Fund's fiscal year in U.S. Government securities. The Fund did not meet this strict requirement in 2016. The percentage of U.S. Government securities held as of December 31, 2016 was 3.34%. For the year ended December 31, 2016, 0.00% of the ordinary income dividend was qualified interest income.

THE GABELLI EQUITY TRUST INC.
INCOME TAX INFORMATION (Unaudited) (Continued)**December 31, 2016****Historical Distribution Summary**

| | Investment Income (c) | Short Term Capital Gains (c) | Long Term Capital Gains | Non-Taxable Return of Capital (b) | Total Distributions(a) | Adjustment to Cost Basis (d) |
|--|----------------------------------|---|--|--|-----------------------------------|---|
| Common Stock | | | | | | |
| 2016 | \$0.06280 | \$0.00960 | \$0.52320 | \$0.00440 | \$0.60000 | \$0.00440 |
| 2015 | 0.05210 | 0.01020 | 0.43270 | 0.14500 | 0.64000 | 0.14500 |
| 2014 | 0.04848 | 0.01772 | 0.47238 | 0.10143 | 0.64000 | 0.10143 |
| 2013 | 0.05000 | 0.06250 | 0.50750 | | 0.62000 | |
| 2012 | 0.05800 | 0.10800 | | 0.39400 | 0.56000 | 0.39400 |
| 2011 | 0.01676 | 0.00430 | | 0.54895 | 0.57000 | 0.54895 |
| 2010 | | | | 0.51000 | 0.51000 | 0.51000 |
| 2009 | 0.00040 | | | 0.71960 | 0.72000 | 0.71960 |
| 2008 | 0.01000 | | | 0.79000 | 0.80000 | 0.79000 |
| 2007 (e) | 0.10455 | 0.05323 | 0.52679 | 0.63543 | 1.32000 | 0.63543 |
| 5.875% | | | | | | |
| Series D Cumulative Preferred Stock | | | | | | |
| 2016 | \$0.15523 | \$0.02360 | \$1.28992 | | \$1.46875 | |
| 2015 | 0.15444 | 0.03023 | 1.28409 | | 1.46876 | |
| 2014 | 0.13222 | 0.04831 | 1.28822 | | 1.46875 | |
| 2013 | 0.11822 | 0.14819 | 1.20234 | | 1.46875 | |
| 2012 | 0.51428 | 0.95447 | | | 1.46875 | |
| 2011 | 1.16910 | 0.29965 | | | 1.46875 | |
| 2010 | 1.05723 | | | \$0.41152 | 1.46875 | \$0.41152 |
| 2009 | 1.46875 | | | | 1.46875 | |
| 2008 | 1.46875 | | | | 1.46875 | |
| 2007 | 0.22096 | 0.11474 | 1.13305 | | 1.46875 | |
| 5.000% | | | | | | |
| Series G Cumulative Preferred Stock | | | | | | |
| 2016 | \$0.13200 | \$0.02000 | \$1.09800 | | \$1.25000 | |
| 2015 | 0.13160 | 0.02560 | 1.09280 | | 1.25000 | |

Edgar Filing: GABELLI EQUITY TRUST INC - Form N-CSR

| | | | | |
|------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| 2014 | 0.11240 | 0.04120 | 1.09640 | 1.25000 |
| 2013 | 0.11270 | 0.14110 | 1.14550 | 1.39930 |
| 2012 | 0.21155 | 0.39262 | | 0.60417 |

5.000%
Series H
Cumulative
Preferred
Stock

| | | | | |
|------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| 2016 | \$0.13200 | \$0.02000 | \$1.09800 | \$1.25000 |
| 2015 | 0.13160 | 0.02560 | 1.09280 | 1.25000 |
| 2014 | 0.11240 | 0.04120 | 1.09640 | 1.25000 |
| 2013 | 0.10080 | 0.12600 | 1.02320 | 1.25000 |
| 2012 | 0.10700 | 0.19860 | | 0.30560 |

5.450%
Series J
Cumulative
Preferred
Stock

| | | | | |
|------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| 2016 | \$0.10640 | \$0.01618 | \$0.88416 | \$1.00674 |
|------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|

THE GABELLI EQUITY TRUST INC.**INCOME TAX INFORMATION (Unaudited) (Continued)**

December 31, 2016

Historical Distribution Summary (Continued)

| | Investment Income (c) | Short Term Capital Gains (c) | Long Term Capital Gains | Non-Taxable Return of Capital (b) | Total Distributions(a) | Adjustment to Cost Basis (d) |
|---|----------------------------------|---|--|--|-----------------------------------|---|
| Auction Rate Series C Cumulative Preferred Stock | | | | | | |
| 2016 | \$ 18.45541 | \$ 2.80628 | \$ 153.35831 | | \$ 174.62000 | |
| 2015 | 4.58660 | 0.89764 | 38.13575 | | 43.61999 | |
| 2014 | 2.81131 | 1.02727 | 27.39142 | | 31.23000 | |
| 2013 | 2.49523 | 3.12766 | 25.37712 | | 31.00000 | |
| 2012 | 13.04312 | 24.20688 | | | 37.25000 | |
| 2011 | 29.61842 | 7.59158 | | | 37.21000 | |
| 2010 | 47.84624 | | | \$18.62376 | 66.47000 | \$18.62376 |
| 2009 | 70.60000 | | | | 70.60000 | |
| 2008 | 760.66000 | | | | 760.66000 | |
| 2007 | 203.92150 | 105.89030 | 1,045.88200 | | 1,355.50000 | |
| Auction Rate Series E Cumulative Preferred Stock | | | | | | |
| 2016 | \$ 18.51566 | \$ 2.81544 | \$ 153.85890 | | \$ 175.19000 | |
| 2015 | 4.84737 | 0.94868 | 40.30395 | | 46.10000 | |
| 2014 | 2.68709 | 0.98187 | 26.18104 | | 29.85000 | |
| 2013 | 2.56686 | 3.21745 | 26.10568 | | 31.89000 | |
| 2012 | 12.47587 | 23.15413 | | | 35.63000 | |
| 2011 | 27.47723 | 7.04277 | | | 34.52000 | |
| 2010 | 48.73162 | | | \$18.96838 | 67.70000 | \$18.96838 |
| 2009 | 65.24000 | | | | 65.24000 | |
| 2008 | 783.29000 | | | | 783.29000 | |
| 2007 | 199.17211 | 103.42412 | 1,021.33377 | | 1,323.93000 | |

(a) Total amounts may differ due to rounding.

(b) Non-taxable.

(c) Taxable as ordinary income.

(d) Decrease in cost basis

(e) On June 28, 2007, the Fund distributed shares of The Gabelli Healthcare & WellnessRx Trust valued at \$8.40 per share.

All designations are based on financial information available as of the date of this annual report and, accordingly, are subject to change. For each item, it is the intention of the Fund to designate the maximum amount permitted under the Internal Revenue Code and the regulations thereunder.

**AUTOMATIC DIVIDEND REINVESTMENT
AND VOLUNTARY CASH PURCHASE PLANS**

Enrollment in the Plan

It is the policy of The Gabelli Equity Trust Inc. (the Fund) to automatically reinvest dividends payable to common shareholders. As a registered shareholder, you automatically become a participant in the Fund's Automatic Dividend Reinvestment Plan (the Plan). The Plan authorizes the Fund to credit shares of common stock to participants upon an income dividend or a capital gains distribution regardless of whether the shares are trading at a discount or a premium to net asset value. All distributions to shareholders whose shares are registered in their own names will be automatically reinvested pursuant to the Plan in additional shares of the Fund. Plan participants may send their stock certificates to Computershare Trust Company, N.A. (Computershare) to be held in their dividend reinvestment account. Registered shareholders wishing to receive their distribution in cash must submit this request in writing to:

The Gabelli Equity Trust Inc.

c/o Computershare

P.O. Box 30170

College Station, TX 77842-3170

Shareholders requesting this cash election must include the shareholder's name and address as they appear on the share certificate. Shareholders with additional questions regarding the Plan or requesting a copy of the terms of the Plan may contact Computershare at (800) 336-6983.

If your shares are held in the name of a broker, bank, or nominee, you should contact such institution. If such institution is not participating in the Plan, your account will be credited with a cash dividend. In order to participate in the Plan through such institution, it may be necessary for you to have your shares taken out of street name and re-registered in your own name. Once registered in your own name, your dividends will be automatically reinvested. Certain brokers participate in the Plan. Shareholders holding shares in street name at participating institutions will have dividends automatically reinvested. Shareholders wishing a cash dividend at such institution must contact their broker to make this change.

The number of shares of common stock distributed to participants in the Plan in lieu of cash dividends is determined in the following manner. Under the Plan, whenever the market price of the Fund's common stock is equal to or exceeds net asset value at the time shares are valued for purposes of determining the number of shares equivalent to the cash dividends or capital gains distribution, participants are issued shares of common stock valued at the greater of (i) the net asset value as most recently determined or (ii) 95% of the then current market price of the Fund's common stock. The valuation date is the dividend or distribution payment date or, if that date is not a New York Stock Exchange (NYSE) trading day, the next trading day. If the net asset value of the common stock at the time of valuation exceeds the market price of the common stock, participants will receive shares from the Fund valued at market price. If the Fund should declare a dividend or capital gains distribution payable only in cash, Computershare will buy common stock in the open market, or on the NYSE or elsewhere, for the participants' accounts, except that Computershare will endeavor to terminate purchases in the open market and cause the Fund to issue shares at net asset value if, following the commencement of such purchases, the market value of the common stock exceeds the then current net asset value.

The automatic reinvestment of dividends and capital gains distributions will not relieve participants of any income tax which may be payable on such distributions. A participant in the Plan will be treated for federal income tax purposes

as having received, on a dividend payment date, a dividend or distribution in an amount equal to the cash the participant could have received instead of shares.

Voluntary Cash Purchase Plan

The Voluntary Cash Purchase Plan is yet another vehicle for our shareholders to increase their investment in the Fund. In order to participate in the Voluntary Cash Purchase Plan, shareholders must have their shares registered in their own name.

Participants in the Voluntary Cash Purchase Plan have the option of making additional cash payments to Computershare for investments in the Fund's shares at the then current market price. Shareholders may send an amount from \$250 to \$10,000. Computershare will use these funds to purchase shares in the open market on or about the 1st and 15th of each month. Computershare will charge each shareholder who participates \$0.75, plus a pro rata share of the brokerage commissions. Brokerage charges for such purchases are expected to be less than the usual brokerage charge for such transactions. It is suggested that any voluntary cash payments be sent to Computershare, P.O. Box 43010, Providence, RI 02940-3010 such that Computershare receives such payments approximately 10 days before the 1st and 15th of the month. Funds not received at least five days before the investment date shall be held for investment until the next purchase date. A payment may be withdrawn without charge if notice is received by Computershare at least 48 hours before such payment is to be invested.

Shareholders wishing to liquidate shares held at Computershare must do so in writing or by telephone. Please submit your request to the above mentioned address or telephone number. Include in your request your name, address, and account number. The cost to liquidate shares is \$2.50 per transaction as well as the brokerage commission incurred. Brokerage charges are expected to be less than the usual brokerage charge for such transactions.

For more information regarding the Dividend Reinvestment Plan and Voluntary Cash Purchase Plan, brochures are available by calling (914) 921-5070 or by writing directly to the Fund.

The Fund reserves the right to amend or terminate the Plan as applied to any voluntary cash payments made and any dividend or distribution paid subsequent to written notice of the change sent to the members of the Plan at least 90 days before the record date for such dividend or distribution. The Plan also may be amended or terminated by Computershare on at least 90 days written notice to participants in the Plan.

THE GABELLI EQUITY TRUST INC.

AND YOUR PERSONAL PRIVACY

Who are we?

The Gabelli Equity Trust Inc. (the Fund) is a closed-end management investment company registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission under the Investment Company Act of 1940. We are managed by Gabelli Funds, LLC, which is affiliated with GAMCO Investors, Inc. GAMCO Investors, Inc. is a publicly held company that has subsidiaries that provide investment advisory services for a variety of clients.

What kind of non-public information do we collect about you if you become a Fund shareholder?

When you purchase shares of the Fund on the New York Stock Exchange, you have the option of registering directly with our transfer agent in order, for example, to participate in our dividend reinvestment plan.

Information you give us on your application form. This could include your name, address, telephone number, social security number, bank account number, and other information.

Information about your transactions with us. This would include information about the shares that you buy or sell; it may also include information about whether you sell or exercise rights that we have issued from time to time. If we hire someone else to provide services like a transfer agent we will also have information about the transactions that you conduct through them.

What information do we disclose and to whom do we disclose it?

We do not disclose any non-public personal information about our customers or former customers to anyone other than our affiliates, our service providers who need to know such information, and as otherwise permitted by law. If you want to find out what the law permits, you can read the privacy rules adopted by the Securities and Exchange Commission. They are in volume 17 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Part 248. The Commission often posts information about its regulations on its website, www.sec.gov.

What do we do to protect your personal information?

We restrict access to non-public personal information about you to the people who need to know that information in order to provide services to you or the Fund and to ensure that we are complying with the laws governing the securities business. We maintain physical, electronic, and procedural safeguards to keep your personal information confidential.

THE GABELLI EQUITY TRUST INC.

One Corporate Center

Rye, NY 10580-1422

Portfolio Management Team Biographies

Mario J. Gabelli, CFA, is Chairman, Chief Executive Officer, and Chief Investment Officer - Value Portfolios of GAMCO Investors, Inc. that he founded in 1977, and Chief Investment Officer - Value Portfolios of Gabelli Funds, LLC and GAMCO Asset Management Inc. He is also Executive Chairman of Associated Capital Group, Inc. Mr. Gabelli is a summa cum laude graduate of Fordham University and holds an MBA degree from Columbia Business School and Honorary Doctorates from Fordham University and Roger Williams University.

Christopher J. Marangi joined Gabelli in 2003 as a research analyst. Currently he is a Managing Director and Co-Chief Investment Officer for GAMCO Investors, Inc.'s Value team. In addition, he serves as a portfolio manager of Gabelli Funds, LLC and manages several funds within the Gabelli/GAMCO Fund Complex. Mr. Marangi graduated magna cum laude and Phi Beta Kappa with a BA in Political Economy from Williams College and holds an MBA degree with honors from Columbia Business School.

Kevin V. Dreyer joined Gabelli in 2005 as a research analyst covering companies within the consumer sector. Currently he is a Managing Director and Co-Chief Investment Officer for GAMCO Investors, Inc.'s Value team. In addition, he serves as a portfolio manager of Gabelli Funds, LLC and manages several funds within the Gabelli/GAMCO Fund Complex. Mr. Dreyer received a BSE from the University of Pennsylvania and an MBA degree from Columbia Business School.

Robert D. Leininger, CFA, joined GAMCO Investors, Inc. in 1993 as an equity analyst. Subsequently, he was a partner and portfolio manager at Rorer Asset Management before rejoining GAMCO in 2010 where he currently serves as a portfolio manager of Gabelli Funds, LLC. Mr. Leininger is a magna cum laude graduate of Amherst College with a degree in Economics and holds an MBA degree from the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania.

Daniel M. Miller has been the portfolio manager of The Gabelli Focus Five Fund since inception of the investment strategy on January 1, 2012. He is also a Managing Director of GAMCO Investors, Inc. Mr. Miller joined the Firm in 2002 and graduated magna cum laude with a degree in finance from the University of Miami in Coral Gables, Florida.

We have separated the portfolio managers' commentary from the financial statements and investment portfolio due to corporate governance regulations stipulated by the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002. We have done this to ensure that the content of the portfolio managers' commentary is unrestricted. Both the commentary and the financial statements, including the portfolio of investments, will be available on our website at www.gabelli.com.

The Net Asset Value per share appears in the Publicly Traded Funds column, under the heading General Equity Funds, in Monday's The Wall Street Journal. It is also listed in Barron's Mutual Funds/Closed End Funds section under the heading General Equity Funds.

The Net Asset Value per share may be obtained each day by calling (914) 921-5070 or visiting www.gabelli.com.

The NASDAQ symbol for the Net Asset Value is XGABX.

Edgar Filing: GABELLI EQUITY TRUST INC - Form N-CSR

Notice is hereby given in accordance with Section 23(c) of the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended, that the Fund may, from time to time, purchase its common shares in the open market when the Fund's shares are trading at a discount of 10% or more from the net asset value of the shares. The Fund may also, from time to time, purchase its preferred shares in the open market when the preferred shares are trading at a discount to the liquidation value.

THE GABELLI EQUITY TRUST INC.

One Corporate Center

Rye, NY 10580-1422

t 800-GABELLI (800-422-3554)

f 914-921-5118

e info@gabelli.com

GABELLI.COM

DIRECTORS

Mario J. Gabelli, CFA

Chairman and

Chief Executive Officer,

GAMCO Investors, Inc.

Executive Chairman,

Associated Capital Group, Inc.

Anthony J. Colavita

President,

Anthony J. Colavita, P.C.

James P. Conn

Former Managing Director &

OFFICERS

Bruce N. Alpert

President

Andrea R. Mango

Secretary & Vice President

Agnes Mullady

Treasurer

Richard J. Walz

Chief Compliance Officer

Carter W. Austin

Edgar Filing: GABELLI EQUITY TRUST INC - Form N-CSR

Chief Investment Officer, Vice President

Financial Security Assurance

Holdings Ltd.

Molly A.F. Marion

Vice President & Ombudsman

Frank J. Fahrenkopf, Jr.

Former President &

David I. Schachter

Chief Executive Officer,

Vice President

American Gaming Association

INVESTMENT ADVISER

Arthur V. Ferrara

Former Chairman &

Gabelli Funds, LLC

Chief Executive Officer,

One Corporate Center

Guardian Life Insurance

Rye, New York 10580-1422

Company of America

CUSTODIAN

William F. Heitmann

Former Senior Vice President of Finance,

The Bank of New York Mellon

Verizon Communications, Inc.

COUNSEL

Anthony R. Pustorino

Certified Public Accountant,

Willkie Farr & Gallagher LLP

Professor Emeritus,

Pace University

TRANSFER AGENT AND REGISTRAR

Salvatore J. Zizza

Computershare Trust Company, N.A.

Chairman,

Zizza & Associates Corp.

GAB Q4/2016

Item 2. Code of Ethics.

- (a) The registrant, as of the end of the period covered by this report, has adopted a code of ethics that applies to the registrant's principal executive officer, principal financial officer, principal accounting officer or controller, or persons performing similar functions, regardless of whether these individuals are employed by the registrant or a third party.
- (b) There have been no amendments, during the period covered by this report, to a provision of the code of ethics that applies to the registrant's principal executive officer, principal financial officer, principal accounting officer or controller, or persons performing similar functions, regardless of whether these individuals are employed by the registrant or a third party, and that relates to any element of the code of ethics description.
- (d) The registrant has not granted any waivers, including an implicit waiver, from a provision of the code of ethics that applies to the registrant's principal executive officer, principal financial officer, principal accounting officer or controller, or persons performing similar functions, regardless of whether these individuals are employed by the registrant or a third party, that relates to one or more of the items set forth in paragraph (b) of this item's instructions.

Item 3. Audit Committee Financial Expert.

As of the end of the period covered by the report, the registrant's Board of Directors has determined that Anthony R. Pustorino is qualified to serve as an audit committee financial expert serving on its audit committee and that he is independent, as defined by Item 3 of Form N-CSR.

Effective February 22, 2017, Mr. Pustorino retired from the Board of Directors and Mr. William F. Heitmann was appointed as a member and the chairman of the audit committee. The Board of Directors has determined that Mr. Heitmann is qualified to serve as an audit committee financial expert serving on its audit committee and that he is independent, as defined by Item 3 of Form N-CSR.

Item 4. Principal Accountant Fees and Services.

Audit Fees

- (a) The aggregate fees billed for each of the last two fiscal years for professional services rendered by the principal accountant for the audit of the registrant's annual financial statements or services that are normally provided by the accountant in connection with statutory and regulatory filings or engagements for those fiscal years are \$50,362 for 2015 and \$51,621 for 2016.

Audit-Related Fees

- (b) The aggregate fees billed in each of the last two fiscal years for assurance and related services by the principal accountant that are reasonably related to the performance of the audit of the registrant's financial statements and are not reported under paragraph (a) of this Item are \$0 for 2015 and \$0 for 2016. Audit-related fees represent services provided in the preparation of Preferred Shares Reports.

Tax Fees

- (c) The aggregate fees billed in each of the last two fiscal years for professional services rendered by the principal accountant for tax compliance, tax advice, and tax planning are \$4,635 for 2015 and \$4,751 for 2016. Tax fees represent tax compliance services provided in connection with the review of the Registrant's tax returns.

All Other Fees

- (d) The aggregate fees billed in each of the last two fiscal years for products and services provided by the principal accountant, other than the services reported in paragraphs (a) through (c) of this Item are \$0 for 2015 and \$0 for 2016. All other fees represent services provided in review of registration statement.
- (e)(1) Disclose the audit committee's pre-approval policies and procedures described in paragraph (c)(7) of Rule 2-01 of Regulation S-X.

Pre-Approval Policies and Procedures. The Audit Committee (Committee) of the registrant is responsible for pre-approving (i) all audit and permissible non-audit services to be provided by the independent registered public accounting firm to the registrant and (ii) all permissible non-audit services to be provided by the independent registered public accounting firm to the Adviser, Gabelli Funds, LLC, and any affiliate of Gabelli Funds, LLC (Gabelli) that provides services to the registrant (a Covered Services Provider) if the independent registered public accounting firm's engagement related directly to the operations and financial reporting of the registrant. The Committee may delegate its responsibility to pre-approve any such audit and permissible non-audit services to the Chairperson of the Committee, and the Chairperson must report to the Committee, at its next regularly scheduled meeting after the Chairperson's pre-approval of such services, his or her decision(s). The Committee may also establish detailed pre-approval policies and procedures for pre-approval of such services in accordance with applicable laws, including the delegation of some or all of the Committee's pre-approval responsibilities to the other persons (other than Gabelli or the registrant's officers). Pre-approval by the Committee of any permissible non-audit services is not required so long as: (i) the permissible non-audit services were not recognized by the registrant at the time of the engagement to be non-audit services; and (ii) such services are promptly brought to the attention of the Committee and approved by the Committee or Chairperson prior to the completion of the audit.

- (e)(2) The percentage of services described in each of paragraphs (b) through (d) of this Item that were approved by the audit committee pursuant to paragraph (c)(7)(i)(C) of Rule 2-01 of Regulation S-X are as follows:
- (b) N/A

(c) 100%

(d) N/A

- (f) The percentage of hours expended on the principal accountant's engagement to audit the registrant's financial statements for the most recent fiscal year that were attributed to work performed by persons other than the principal accountant's full-time, permanent employees was 0%.
- (g) The aggregate non-audit fees billed by the registrant's accountant for services rendered to the registrant, and rendered to the registrant's investment adviser (not including any sub-adviser whose role is primarily portfolio management and is subcontracted with or overseen by another investment adviser), and any entity controlling, controlled by, or under common control with the adviser that provides ongoing services to the registrant for each of the last two fiscal years of the registrant was \$0 for 2015 and \$0 for 2016.
- (h) The registrant's audit committee of the board of directors has considered whether the provision of non-audit services that were rendered to the registrant's investment adviser (not including any sub-adviser whose role is primarily portfolio management and is subcontracted with or overseen by another investment adviser), and any entity controlling, controlled by, or under common control with the investment adviser that provides ongoing services to the registrant that were not pre-approved pursuant to paragraph (c)(7)(ii) of Rule 2-01 of Regulation S-X is compatible with maintaining the principal accountant's independence.

Item 5. Audit Committee of Listed registrants.

The registrant has a separately designated audit committee consisting of the following members: Anthony J. Colavita, Anthony R Pustorino, Salvatore J. Zizza.

Mr. Pustorino was a member of the registrant's audit committee for the entire fiscal year ended December 31, 2016. Effective February 22, 2017, Mr. Pustorino retired from the Board of Directors and Mr. William F. Heitmann was appointed as a member and the chairman of the audit committee.

Item 6. Investments.

- (a) Schedule of Investments in securities of unaffiliated issuers as of the close of the reporting period is included as part of the report to shareholders filed under Item 1 of this form.
- (b) Not applicable.

Item 7. Disclosure of Proxy Voting Policies and Procedures for Closed-End Management Investment Companies.

The Proxy Voting Policies are attached herewith.

SECTION HH

The Voting of Proxies on Behalf of Clients

Rules 204(4)-2 and 204-2 under the Investment Advisers Act of 1940 and Rule 30b1-4 under the Investment Company Act of 1940 require investment advisers to adopt written policies and procedures governing the voting of proxies on behalf of their clients.

These procedures will be used by GAMCO Asset Management Inc., Gabelli Funds, LLC, Gabelli Securities, Inc., and Teton Advisors, Inc. (collectively, the Advisers) to determine how to vote proxies relating to portfolio securities held by their clients, including the procedures that the Advisers use when a vote presents a conflict between the interests of the shareholders of an investment company managed by one of the Advisers, on the one hand, and those of the Advisers; the principal underwriter; or any affiliated person of the investment company, the Advisers, or the principal underwriter. These procedures will not apply where the Advisers do not have voting discretion or where the Advisers have agreed to with a client to vote the client's proxies in accordance with specific guidelines or procedures supplied by the client (to the extent permitted by ERISA).

I. Proxy Voting Committee

The Proxy Voting Committee was originally formed in April 1989 for the purpose of formulating guidelines and reviewing proxy statements within the parameters set by the substantive proxy voting guidelines originally published in 1988 and updated periodically, a copy of which are appended as Exhibit A. The Committee will include representatives of Research, Administration, Legal, and the Advisers. Additional or replacement members of the Committee will be nominated by the Chairman and voted upon by the entire Committee.

Meetings are held on an as needed basis to form views on the manner in which the Advisers should vote proxies on behalf of their clients.

In general, the Director of Proxy Voting Services, using the Proxy Guidelines, recommendations of Institutional Shareholder Services Inc. (ISS), Glass Lewis & Co., LLC (Glass Lewis) other third-party services and the analysts of G.research, Inc., will determine how to vote on each issue. For non-controversial matters, the Director of Proxy Voting Services may vote the proxy if the vote is: (1) consistent with the recommendations of the issuer's Board of Directors and not contrary to the Proxy Guidelines; (2) consistent with the recommendations of the issuer's Board of Directors and is a non-controversial issue not covered by the Proxy Guidelines; or (3) the vote is contrary to the recommendations of the Board of Directors but is consistent with the Proxy Guidelines. In those instances, the Director of Proxy Voting Services or the Chairman of the Committee may sign and date the proxy statement indicating how each issue will be voted.

Revised June 1, 2016

INTERNAL USE ONLY

HH-1

All matters identified by the Chairman of the Committee, the Director of Proxy Voting Services or the Legal Department as controversial, taking into account the recommendations of ISS, Glass Lewis, or other third party services and the analysts of G.research, Inc., will be presented to the Proxy Voting Committee. If the Chairman of the Committee, the Director of Proxy Voting Services or the Legal Department has identified the matter as one that (1) is controversial; (2) would benefit from deliberation by the Proxy Voting Committee; or (3) may give rise to a conflict of interest between the Advisers and their clients, the Chairman of the Committee will initially determine what vote to recommend that the Advisers should cast and the matter will go before the Committee.

A. Conflicts of Interest.

The Advisers have implemented these proxy voting procedures in order to prevent conflicts of interest from influencing their proxy voting decisions. By following the Proxy Guidelines, as well as the recommendations of ISS, Glass Lewis, other third-party services and the analysts of G.research, the Advisers are able to avoid, wherever possible, the influence of potential conflicts of interest. Nevertheless, circumstances may arise in which one or more of the Advisers are faced with a conflict of interest or the appearance of a conflict of interest in connection with its vote. In general, a conflict of interest may arise when an Adviser knowingly does business with an issuer, and may appear to have a material conflict between its own interests and the interests of the shareholders of an investment company managed by one of the Advisers regarding how the proxy is to be voted. A conflict also may exist when an Adviser has actual knowledge of a material business arrangement between an issuer and an affiliate of the Adviser.

In practical terms, a conflict of interest may arise, for example, when a proxy is voted for a company that is a client of one of the Advisers, such as GAMCO Asset Management Inc. A conflict also may arise when a client of one of the Advisers has made a shareholder proposal in a proxy to be voted upon by one or more of the Advisers. The Director of Proxy Voting Services, together with the Legal Department, will scrutinize all proxies for these or other situations that may give rise to a conflict of interest with respect to the voting of proxies.

B. Operation of Proxy Voting Committee

For matters submitted to the Committee, each member of the Committee will receive, prior to the meeting, a copy of the proxy statement, any relevant third party research, a summary of any views provided by the

Revised June 1, 2016

INTERNAL USE ONLY

HH-2

Chief Investment Officer and any recommendations by G.research, Inc. analysts. The Chief Investment Officer or the G.research, Inc. analysts may be invited to present their viewpoints. If the Director of Proxy Voting Services or the Legal Department believe that the matter before the committee is one with respect to which a conflict of interest may exist between the Advisers and their clients, counsel will provide an opinion to the Committee concerning the conflict. If the matter is one in which the interests of the clients of one or more of the Advisers may diverge, counsel will so advise and the Committee may make different recommendations as to different clients. For any matters where the recommendation may trigger appraisal rights, counsel will provide an opinion concerning the likely risks and merits of such an appraisal action.

Each matter submitted to the Committee will be determined by the vote of a majority of the members present at the meeting. Should the vote concerning one or more recommendations be tied in a vote of the Committee, the Chairman of the Committee will cast the deciding vote. The Committee will notify the proxy department of its decisions and the proxies will be voted accordingly.

Although the Proxy Guidelines express the normal preferences for the voting of any shares not covered by a contrary investment guideline provided by the client, the Committee is not bound by the preferences set forth in the Proxy Guidelines and will review each matter on its own merits. The Advisers subscribe to ISS and Glass Lewis which supply current information on companies, matters being voted on, regulations, trends in proxy voting and information on corporate governance issues.

If the vote cast either by the analyst or as a result of the deliberations of the Proxy Voting Committee runs contrary to the recommendation of the Board of Directors of the issuer, the matter will be referred to legal counsel to determine whether an amendment to the most recently filed Schedule 13D is appropriate.

II. Social Issues and Other Client Guidelines

If a client has provided special instructions relating to the voting of proxies, they should be noted in the client's account file and forwarded to the proxy department. This is the responsibility of the investment professional or sales assistant for the client. In accordance with Department of Labor guidelines, the Advisers' policy is to vote on behalf of ERISA accounts in the best interest of the plan participants with regard to social issues that carry an economic impact. Where an account is not governed by ERISA, the Advisers will vote shares held on behalf of the client in a manner consistent with any individual investment/voting guidelines provided by the client. Otherwise the Advisers may abstain with respect to those shares.

Specific to the Gabelli ESG Fund, the Proxy Voting Committee will rely on the advice of the portfolio managers of the Gabelli ESG Fund to provide voting recommendations on the securities held in the portfolio.

Revised June 1, 2016

INTERNAL USE ONLY

HH-3

III. Client Retention of Voting Rights

If a client chooses to retain the right to vote proxies or if there is any change in voting authority, the following should be notified by the investment professional or sales assistant for the client.

- Operations
- Proxy Department
- Investment professional assigned to the account

In the event that the Board of Directors (or a Committee thereof) of one or more of the investment companies managed by one of the Advisers has retained direct voting control over any security, the Proxy Voting Department will provide each Board Member (or Committee member) with a copy of the proxy statement together with any other relevant information including recommendations of ISS or other third-party services.

IV. Proxies of Certain Non-U.S. Issuers

Proxy voting in certain countries requires share-blocking. Shareholders wishing to vote their proxies must deposit their shares shortly before the date of the meeting with a designated depository. During the period in which the shares are held with a depository, shares that will be voted at the meeting cannot be sold until the meeting has taken place and the shares are returned to the clients' custodian. Absent a compelling reason to the contrary, the Advisers believe that the benefit to the client of exercising the vote is outweighed by the cost of voting and therefore, the Advisers will not typically vote the securities of non-U.S. issuers that require share-blocking.

In addition, voting proxies of issuers in non-US markets may also give rise to a number of administrative issues to prevent the Advisers from voting such proxies. For example, the Advisers may receive the notices for shareholder meetings without adequate time to consider the proposals in the proxy or after the cut-off date for voting. In these cases the Advisers will look to Glass Lewis or other third party service for recommendations on how to vote. Other markets require the Advisers to provide local agents with power of attorney prior to implementing their respective voting instructions on the proxy. Although it is the Advisers' policies to vote the proxies for its clients for which they have proxy voting authority, in the case of issuers in non-US markets, we vote client proxies on a best efforts basis.

V. Voting Records

The Proxy Voting Department will retain a record of matters voted upon by the Advisers for their clients. The Advisers will supply information on how they voted a client's proxy upon request from the client.

Revised June 1, 2016

INTERNAL USE ONLY

HH-4

The complete voting records for each registered investment company (the Fund) that is managed by the Advisers will be filed on Form N-PX for the twelve months ended June 30th, no later than August 31st of each year. A description of the Fund's proxy voting policies, procedures, and how the Fund voted proxies relating to portfolio securities is available without charge, upon request, by (i) calling 800-GABELLI (800-422-3554); (ii) writing to Gabelli Funds, LLC at One Corporate Center, Rye, NY 10580-1422; or (iii) visiting the SEC's website at www.sec.gov.

The Advisers' proxy voting records will be retained in compliance with Rule 204-2 under the Investment Advisers Act.

VI. Voting Procedures

1. Custodian banks, outside brokerage firms and clearing firms are responsible for forwarding proxies directly to the Advisers.

Proxies are received in one of two forms:

Shareholder Vote Instruction Forms (VIFs) - Issued by Broadridge Financial Solutions, Inc. (Broadridge). Broadridge is an outside service contracted by the various institutions to issue proxy materials.

Proxy cards which may be voted directly.

2. Upon receipt of the proxy, the number of shares each form represents is logged into the proxy system, electronically or manually, according to security.

3. Upon receipt of instructions from the proxy committee, the votes are cast and recorded for each account.

Records have been maintained on the ProxyEdge system.

ProxyEdge records include:

Security Name and Cusip Number

Date and Type of Meeting (Annual, Special, Contest)

Client Name

Adviser or Fund Account Number

Directors' Recommendation

How the Adviser voted for the client on item

4. VIFs are kept alphabetically by security. Records for the current proxy season are located in the Proxy Voting Department office. In preparation for the upcoming season, files are transferred to an offsite storage facility during January/February.

5. If a proxy card or VIF is received too late to be voted in the conventional matter, every attempt is made to vote including:

Revised June 1, 2016

INTERNAL USE ONLY

HH-5

When a solicitor has been retained, the solicitor is called. At the solicitor's direction, the proxy is faxed or sent electronically.

In some circumstances VIFs can be faxed or sent electronically to Broadridge up until the time of the meeting.

6. In the case of a proxy contest, records are maintained for each opposing entity.

7. Voting in Person

a) At times it may be necessary to vote the shares in person. In this case, a legal proxy is obtained in the following manner:

Banks and brokerage firms using the services at Broadridge:

Broadridge is notified that we wish to vote in person. Broadridge issues individual legal proxies and sends them back via email or overnight (or the Adviser can pay messenger charges). A lead-time of at least two weeks prior to the meeting is needed to do this. Alternatively, the procedures detailed below for banks not using Broadridge may be implemented.

Banks and brokerage firms issuing proxies directly:

The bank is called and/or faxed and a legal proxy is requested.

All legal proxies should appoint:

Representative of [Adviser name] with full power of substitution.

b) The legal proxies are given to the person attending the meeting along with the limited power of attorney.

Revised June 1, 2016

INTERNAL USE ONLY

HH-6

Appendix A

Proxy Guidelines

PROXY VOTING GUIDELINES

General Policy Statement

It is the policy of GAMCO Investors, Inc, and its affiliated advisers (collectively the Advisers) to vote in the best economic interests of our clients. As we state in our Magna Carta of Shareholders Rights, established in May 1988, we are neither *for* nor *against* management. We are for shareholders.

At our first proxy committee meeting in 1989, it was decided that each proxy statement should be evaluated on its own merits within the framework first established by our Magna Carta of Shareholders Rights. The attached guidelines serve to enhance that broad framework.

We do not consider any issue routine. We take into consideration all of our research on the company, its directors, and their short and long-term goals for the company. In cases where issues that we generally do not approve of are combined with other issues, the negative aspects of the issues will be factored into the evaluation of the overall proposals but will not necessitate a vote in opposition to the overall proposals.

Board of Directors

We do not consider the election of the Board of Directors a routine issue. Each slate of directors is evaluated on a case-by-case basis.

Factors taken into consideration include:

Historical responsiveness to shareholders
This may include such areas as:

- Paying greenmail
- Failure to adopt shareholder resolutions receiving a majority of shareholder votes

Qualifications
Nominating committee in place
Number of outside directors on the board
Attendance at meetings
Overall performance

Revised June 1, 2016

INTERNAL USE ONLY

HH-7

Selection of Auditors

In general, we support the Board of Directors' recommendation for auditors.

Blank Check Preferred Stock

We oppose the issuance of blank check preferred stock.

Blank check preferred stock allows the company to issue stock and establish dividends, voting rights, etc. without further shareholder approval.

Classified Board

A classified board is one where the directors are divided into classes with overlapping terms. A different class is elected at each annual meeting.

While a classified board promotes continuity of directors facilitating long range planning, we feel directors should be accountable to shareholders on an annual basis. We will look at this proposal on a case-by-case basis taking into consideration the board's historical responsiveness to the rights of shareholders.

Where a classified board is in place we will generally not support attempts to change to an annually elected board.

When an annually elected board is in place, we generally will not support attempts to classify the board.

Increase Authorized Common Stock

The request to increase the amount of outstanding shares is considered on a case-by-case basis.

Factors taken into consideration include:

- Future use of additional shares
- Stock split
- Stock option or other executive compensation plan
- Finance growth of company/strengthen balance sheet
- Aid in restructuring
- Improve credit rating
- Implement a poison pill or other takeover defense

Revised June 1, 2016

INTERNAL USE ONLY

Amount of stock currently authorized but not yet issued or reserved for stock option plans

Amount of additional stock to be authorized and its dilutive effect

We will support this proposal if a detailed and verifiable plan for the use of the additional shares is contained in the proxy statement.

Confidential Ballot

We support the idea that a shareholder's identity and vote should be treated with confidentiality.

However, we look at this issue on a case-by-case basis.

In order to promote confidentiality in the voting process, we endorse the use of independent Inspectors of Election.

Cumulative Voting

In general, we support cumulative voting.

Cumulative voting is a process by which a shareholder may multiply the number of directors being elected by the number of shares held on record date and cast the total number for one candidate or allocate the voting among two or more candidates.

Where cumulative voting is in place, we will vote against any proposal to rescind this shareholder right.

Cumulative voting may result in a minority block of stock gaining representation on the board. When a proposal is made to institute cumulative voting, the proposal will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis. While we feel that each board member should represent all shareholders, cumulative voting provides minority shareholders an opportunity to have their views represented.

Director Liability and Indemnification

We support efforts to attract the best possible directors by limiting the liability and increasing the indemnification of directors, except in the case of insider dealing.

Revised June 1, 2016

INTERNAL USE ONLY

HH-9

Equal Access to the Proxy

The SEC's rules provide for shareholder resolutions. However, the resolutions are limited in scope and there is a 500 word limit on proponents' written arguments. Management has no such limitations. While we support equal access to the proxy, we would look at such variables as length of time required to respond, percentage of ownership, etc.

Fair Price Provisions

Charter provisions requiring a bidder to pay all shareholders a fair price are intended to prevent two-tier tender offers that may be abusive. Typically, these provisions do not apply to board-approved transactions.

We support fair price provisions because we feel all shareholders should be entitled to receive the same benefits.

Reviewed on a case-by-case basis.

Golden Parachutes

Golden parachutes are severance payments to top executives who are terminated or demoted after a takeover.

We support any proposal that would assure management of its own welfare so that they may continue to make decisions in the best interest of the company and shareholders even if the decision results in them losing their job. We do not, however, support excessive golden parachutes. Therefore, each proposal will be decided on a case-by-case basis.

Anti-Greenmail Proposals

We do not support greenmail. An offer extended to one shareholder should be extended to all shareholders equally across the board.

Revised June 1, 2016

INTERNAL USE ONLY

HH-10

Limit Shareholders' Rights to Call Special Meetings

We support the right of shareholders to call a special meeting.

Reviewed on a case-by-case basis.

Consideration of Nonfinancial Effects of a Merger

This proposal releases the directors from only looking at the financial effects of a merger and allows them the opportunity to consider the merger's effects on employees, the community, and consumers.

As a fiduciary, we are obligated to vote in the best economic interests of our clients. In general, this proposal does not allow us to do that. Therefore, we generally cannot support this proposal.

Reviewed on a case-by-case basis.

Mergers, Buyouts, Spin-Offs, Restructurings

Each of the above is considered on a case-by-case basis. According to the Department of Labor, we are not required to vote for a proposal simply because the offering price is at a premium to the current market price. We may take into consideration the long term interests of the shareholders.

Military Issues

Shareholder proposals regarding military production must be evaluated on a purely economic set of criteria for our ERISA clients. As such, decisions will be made on a case-by-case basis.

In voting on this proposal for our non-ERISA clients, we will vote according to the client's direction when applicable. Where no direction has been given, we will vote in the best economic interests of our clients. It is not our duty to impose our social judgment on others.

Northern Ireland

Shareholder proposals requesting the signing of the MacBride principles for the purpose of countering the discrimination of Catholics in hiring practices must be evaluated on a purely economic set of criteria for our ERISA clients. As such, decisions will be made on a case-by-case basis.

In voting on this proposal for our non-ERISA clients, we will vote according to client direction when applicable. Where no direction has been given, we will vote in the best economic interests of our clients. It is not our duty to impose our social judgment on others.

Opt Out of State Anti-Takeover Law

This shareholder proposal requests that a company opt out of the coverage of the state's takeover statutes. Example: Delaware law requires that a buyer must acquire at least 85% of the company's stock before the buyer can exercise control unless the board approves.

We consider this on a case-by-case basis. Our decision will be based on the following:

- State of Incorporation
- Management history of responsiveness to shareholders
- Other mitigating factors

Poison Pill

In general, we do not endorse poison pills.

In certain cases where management has a history of being responsive to the needs of shareholders and the stock is very liquid, we will reconsider this position.

Reincorporation

Generally, we support reincorporation for well-defined business reasons. We oppose reincorporation if proposed solely for the purpose of reincorporating in a state with more stringent anti-takeover statutes that may negatively impact the value of the stock.

Stock Incentive Plans

Director and Employee Stock incentive plans are an excellent way to attract, hold and motivate directors and employees. However, each incentive plan must be evaluated on its own merits, taking into consideration the following:

Dilution of voting power or earnings per share by more than 10%.

Kind of stock to be awarded, to whom, when and how much.

Method of payment.

Amount of stock already authorized but not yet issued under existing stock plans.

The successful steps taken by management to maximize shareholder value.

Supermajority Vote Requirements

Supermajority vote requirements in a company's charter or bylaws require a level of voting approval in excess of a simple majority of the outstanding shares. In general, we oppose supermajority-voting requirements. Supermajority requirements often exceed the average level of shareholder participation. We support proposals' approvals by a simple majority of the shares voting.

Reviewed on a case-by-case basis.

Limit Shareholders Right to Act by Written Consent

Written consent allows shareholders to initiate and carry on a shareholder action without having to wait until the next annual meeting or to call a special meeting. It permits action to be taken by the written consent of the same percentage of the shares that would be required to effect proposed action at a shareholder meeting.

Reviewed on a case-by-case basis.

Say-on-Pay / Say-When-on-Pay / Say-on-Golden-Parachutes

Required under the Dodd-Frank Act; these proposals are non-binding advisory votes on executive compensation. We will generally vote with the Board of Directors' recommendation(s) on advisory votes on executive compensation (Say-on-Pay), advisory votes on the frequency of voting on executive compensation (Say-When-on-Pay) and advisory votes relating to extraordinary transaction executive compensation (Say-on-Golden-Parachutes). In those instances when we believe that it is in our clients' best interest, we may abstain or vote against executive compensation and/or the frequency of votes on executive compensation and/or extraordinary transaction executive compensation advisory votes.

Proxy Access

We generally believe that proxy access is a useful tool to promote board accountability by requiring that a company's proxy materials contain not only the names of management nominees, but also any candidates nominated by long-term shareholders holding at least a certain stake in the company. We will review proposals regarding proxy access on a case by case basis taking into account the provisions of the proposal, the company's current governance structure, the successful steps taken by management to maximize shareholder value, as well as other applicable factors.

Item 8. Portfolio Managers of Closed-End Management Investment Companies.**PORTFOLIO MANAGERS**

Mario J. Gabelli, CFA, is Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of GAMCO Investors, Inc. and Executive Chairman of Associated Capital Group, Inc., and Chief Investment Officer Value Portfolios of Gabelli Funds, LLC and GAMCO Asset Management Inc. Mr. Gabelli is a summa cum laude graduate of Fordham University and holds an MBA degree from Columbia Business School and Honorary Doctorates from Fordham University and Roger Williams University.

Kevin V. Dreyer joined Gabelli in 2005 as a research analyst covering companies within the consumer sector. He currently serves as Co-Chief Investment Officer of GAMCO Investors, Inc.'s Value team and a portfolio manager of Gabelli Funds, LLC. He manages several funds within the Gabelli/GAMCO Fund Complex. Mr. Dreyer received a BSE from the University of Pennsylvania and an MBA from Columbia Business School.

Robert Leininger, CFA, joined GAMCO Investors, Inc. in 1993 as an equity analyst. Subsequently, he was a partner and portfolio manager at Rorer Asset Management before rejoining GAMCO in 2010 where he currently serves as a portfolio manager of Gabelli Funds, LLC and co-manages the Fund. Mr. Leininger is a magna cum laude graduate of Amherst College with a degree in economics and holds an MBA from the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania.

Christopher J. Marangi joined Gabelli in 2003 as a research analyst. He currently serves as Co-Chief Investment Officer of GAMCO Investors, Inc.'s Value team and a portfolio manager of Gabelli Funds, LLC. He manages several funds within the Gabelli/GAMCO Fund Complex. Mr. Marangi graduated magna cum laude and Phi Beta Kappa with a BA in Political Economy from Williams College and holds an MBA with honors from Columbia Business School.

Daniel M. Miller currently serves as a portfolio manager of Gabelli Funds, LLC. He is also a Managing Director of GAMCO Investors, Inc. Mr. Miller graduated magna cum laude with a degree in finance from the University of Miami in Coral Gables, Florida.

MANAGEMENT OF OTHER ACCOUNTS

Information provided as of December 31, 2016

The table below shows the number of other accounts managed by the portfolio manager and the total assets in each of the following categories: registered investment companies, other paid investment vehicles and other accounts. For each category, the table also shows the number of accounts and the total assets in the accounts with respect to which the advisory fee is based on account performance.

| Name of Portfolio <u>Manager</u> | Type of <u>Accounts</u> | Total <u>No. of Accounts Managed</u> | Total <u>Assets</u> | No. of <u>Accounts</u> where | Total Assets in <u>Accounts</u> where <u>Advisory Fee</u> is <u>Based on Performance</u> |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------|------------------------------|--|
| | | | | where | |
| | | | | Advisory Fee | |

Edgar Filing: GABELLI EQUITY TRUST INC - Form N-CSR

| | | | | is Based on <u>Performance</u> | |
|---------------------|---|-------|-------|-----------------------------------|------|
| 1. Mario J. Gabelli | Registered Investment Companies: | 26 | 20.8B | 6 | 5.1B |
| | Other Pooled Investment Vehicles: | 29 | 1.2B | 18 | 1.1B |
| | Other | 1,559 | 15.2B | 13 | 1.3B |
| | Accounts: | | | | |

| | | | | | |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----|--------|---|-------|
| 2. Kevin V. Dreyer | Registered Investment Companies: | 6 | 5.5B | 1 | 2.4B |
| | Other Pooled Investment Vehicles: | 1 | 127.5M | 0 | 0 |
| | Other | 327 | 1.3B | 1 | 50.8M |
| | Accounts: | | | | |
| 3. Christopher J. Marangi | Registered Investment Companies: | 7 | 5.9B | 2 | 2.6B |
| | Other Pooled Investment Vehicles: | 1 | 127.5M | 0 | 0 |
| | Other | 335 | 1.3B | 0 | 0 |
| | Accounts: | | | | |
| 4. Daniel M. Miller | Registered Investment Companies: | 1 | 187.0M | 0 | 0 |
| | Other Pooled Investment Vehicles: | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | Other | 13 | 12.3M | 0 | 0 |
| | Accounts: | | | | |
| 5. Robert D. Leininger | Registered Investment Companies: | 2 | 2.5B | 1 | 2.4B |
| | Other Pooled Investment Vehicles: | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | Other | 75 | 290.0M | 1 | 50.8M |
| | Accounts: | | | | |

POTENTIAL CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Actual or apparent conflicts of interest may arise when a Portfolio Manager also has day-to-day management responsibilities with respect to one or more other accounts. These potential conflicts include:

ALLOCATION OF LIMITED TIME AND ATTENTION. Because the portfolio managers manage many accounts, they may not be able to formulate as complete a strategy or identify equally attractive investment opportunities for each of those accounts as might be the case if they were to devote all of their attention to the management of only a few accounts.

ALLOCATION OF LIMITED INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES. If the portfolio managers identify an investment opportunity that may be suitable for multiple accounts, the Fund may not be able to take full advantage of that opportunity because the opportunity may be allocated among all or many of these accounts or other accounts managed primarily by other portfolio managers of the Adviser, and their affiliates.

SELECTION OF BROKER/DEALERS. Because of Mr. Gabelli's indirect majority ownership interest in G.research, LLC, he may have an incentive to use G.research to execute portfolio transactions for a Fund.

PURSUIT OF DIFFERING STRATEGIES. At times, the portfolio managers may determine that an investment opportunity may be appropriate for only some of the accounts for which they exercise investment responsibility, or may decide that certain of these accounts should take differing positions with respect to a particular security. In these cases, the portfolio managers may execute differing or opposite transactions for one or more accounts which may affect the market price of the security or the execution of the transaction, or both, to the detriment of one or more of their accounts.

VARIATION IN COMPENSATION. A conflict of interest may arise where the financial or other benefits available to the portfolio manager differ among the accounts that they manage. If the structure of the Adviser's management fee or the portfolio manager's compensation differs among accounts (such as where certain accounts pay higher management fees or performance-based management fees), the portfolio managers may be motivated to favor certain accounts over others. The portfolio managers also may be motivated to favor accounts in which they have an investment interest, or in which the Adviser, or its affiliates have investment interests. Similarly, the desire to maintain assets under management or to enhance a Portfolio Manager's performance record or to derive other rewards, financial or otherwise, could influence the Portfolio Manager in affording preferential treatment to those accounts that could most significantly benefit the Portfolio Manager. For example, as reflected above, if the Portfolio Manager manages accounts which have performance fee arrangements, certain portions of his/her compensation will depend on the achievement of performance milestones on those accounts. The Portfolio Manager could be incented to afford preferential treatment to those accounts and thereby be subject to a potential conflict of interest.

The Adviser and the Funds have adopted compliance policies and procedures that are designed to address the various conflicts of interest that may arise for the Adviser and their staff members. However, there is no guarantee that such policies and procedures will be able to detect and prevent every situation in which an actual or potential conflict may arise.

COMPENSATION STRUCTURE FOR MARIO J. GABELLI

Mr. Gabelli receives incentive-based variable compensation based on a percentage of net revenues received by the Adviser for managing the Fund. Net revenues are determined by deducting from gross investment management fees the firm's expenses (other than Mr. Gabelli's compensation) allocable to this Fund. Five closed-end registered investment companies (including this Fund) managed by Mr. Gabelli have arrangements whereby the Adviser will only receive its investment advisory fee attributable to the liquidation value of outstanding preferred stock (and Mr. Gabelli would only receive his percentage of such advisory fee) if certain performance levels are met. Additionally, he receives similar incentive based variable compensation for managing other accounts within the firm and its affiliates. This method of compensation is based on the premise that superior long-term performance in managing a portfolio should be rewarded with higher compensation as a result of growth of assets through appreciation and net investment activity. The level of compensation is not determined with specific reference to the performance of any account against any specific benchmark. One of the other closed-end registered investment companies managed by Mr. Gabelli has a performance (fulcrum) fee arrangement for which his compensation is adjusted up or down based on the performance of the investment company relative to an index. Mr. Gabelli manages other accounts with performance fees. Compensation for managing these accounts has two components. One component is based on a percentage of net revenues to the investment adviser for managing the account. The second component is based on absolute performance of the account, with respect to which a percentage of such performance fee is paid to Mr. Gabelli. As an executive officer of the Adviser's parent company, GBL, Mr. Gabelli also receives ten percent of the net operating profits of the parent company. He receives no base salary, no annual bonus, and no stock options.

COMPENSATION STRUCTURE FOR PORTFOLIO MANAGERS OF THE ADVISER OTHER THAN MARIO GABELLI

The compensation of the Portfolio Managers for the Fund is structure to enable the Adviser to attract and retain highly qualified professionals in a competitive environment. The Portfolio Managers receive a compensation package that includes a minimum draw or base salary, equity-based incentive compensation via awards of restricted stock, and incentive-based variable compensation based on a percentage of net revenue received by the Adviser for managing a Fund to the extent that the amount exceeds a minimum level of compensation. Net revenues are determined by deducting from gross investment management fees certain of the firm's expenses (other than the respective Portfolio Manager's compensation) allocable to the respective Fund (the incentive-based variable compensation for managing other accounts is also based on a percentage of net revenues to the investment adviser for managing the account). This method of compensation is based on the premise that superior long-term performance in managing a portfolio should be rewarded with higher compensation as a result of growth of assets through appreciation and net investment activity. The level of equity-based incentive and incentive-based variable compensation is based on an evaluation by the Adviser's parent, GBL, of quantitative and qualitative performance evaluation criteria. This evaluation takes into account, in a broad sense, the performance of the accounts managed by the Portfolio Manager, but the level of compensation is not determined with specific reference to the performance of any account against any specific benchmark. Generally, greater consideration is given to the performance of larger accounts and to longer term performance over smaller accounts and short-term performance.

OWNERSHIP OF SHARES IN THE FUND

Mario J. Gabelli, Kevin V. Dreyer, Christopher J. Marangi, Robert D. Leininger and Daniel M. Miller each owned over \$1,000,000, \$10,001-\$50,000, \$1-\$10,000, \$0 and \$0, respectively, of shares of the Trust as of December 31, 2016.

(b) Not applicable.

Item 9. Purchases of Equity Securities by Closed-End Management Investment Company and Affiliated Purchasers.**REGISTRANT PURCHASES OF EQUITY SECURITIES**

| Period | (a) Total Number of Shares (or Units) Purchased | | (b) Average Price Paid per Share (or Unit) | | (c) Total Number of Shares (or Units) Purchased as Part of Publicly Announced Plans or Programs | | (d) Maximum Number (or Approximate Dollar Value) of Shares (or Units) that May Yet Be Purchased Under the Plans or Programs | |
|-----------------------|---|-----|--|-----|---|-----|---|-------------|
| | | | | | | | | |
| Month # 1 07/01/16 | Common | N/A | Common | N/A | Common | N/A | Common | 219,244,891 |
| through 07/31/16 | Preferred Series D | N/A | Preferred Series D | N/A | Preferred Series D | N/A | Preferred Series D | 2,363,860 |
| | Preferred Series G | N/A | Preferred Series G | N/A | Preferred Series G | N/A | Preferred Series G | 2,797,001 |
| | Preferred Series H | N/A | Preferred Series H | N/A | Preferred Series H | N/A | Preferred Series H | 4,186,973 |
| | Preferred Series J | N/A | Preferred Series J | N/A | Preferred Series J | N/A | Preferred Series J | 3,200,000 |
| Month #2 08/01/16 | Common | N/A | Common | N/A | Common | N/A | Common | 219,244,891 |
| through 08/31/16 | Preferred Series D | N/A | Preferred Series D | N/A | Preferred Series D | N/A | Preferred Series D | 2,363,860 |
| | Preferred Series G | N/A | Preferred Series G | N/A | Preferred Series G | N/A | Preferred Series G | 2,797,001 |
| | Preferred Series H | N/A | Preferred Series H | N/A | Preferred Series H | N/A | Preferred Series H | 4,185,773 |

Edgar Filing: GABELLI EQUITY TRUST INC - Form N-CSR

Preferred Series J N/A Preferred Series J N/A Preferred Series J N/A Preferred Series J 3,200,000

Month #3 Common N/A Common N/A Common N/A Common 219,244,891
09/01/16

through

Preferred Series D N/A Preferred Series D N/A Preferred Series D N/A Preferred Series D 2,363,860
09/30/16

Preferred Series G N/A Preferred Series G N/A Preferred Series G N/A Preferred Series G 2,797,001

Preferred Series H N/A Preferred Series H N/A Preferred Series H N/A Preferred Series H 4,185,773

Preferred Series J N/A Preferred Series J N/A Preferred Series J N/A Preferred Series J 3,200,000

Month #4 Common N/A Common N/A Common N/A Common 219,240,166
10/01/16

through

Preferred Series D N/A Preferred Series D N/A Preferred Series D N/A Preferred Series D 2,363,860
10/31/16

Preferred Series G N/A Preferred Series G N/A Preferred Series G N/A Preferred Series G 2,797,001

Preferred Series H N/A Preferred Series H N/A Preferred Series H N/A Preferred Series H 4,185,773

Preferred Series J N/A Preferred Series J N/A Preferred Series J N/A Preferred Series J 3,200,000

Edgar Filing: GABELLI EQUITY TRUST INC - Form N-CSR

| Month # | Common | N/A | Common | N/A | Common | N/A | Common | N/A | Common | N/A |
|-----------|--------------------|-------|--------------------|-----------|--------------------|-------|--------------------|-------------------|--------------------|-----------|
| 11/01/16 | | | | | | | 219,240,166 | | | |
| through | | | | | | | | | | |
| 11/30/16 | Preferred Series D | N/A | Preferred Series D | N/A | Preferred Series D | N/A | Preferred Series D | N/A | Preferred Series D | 2,363,860 |
| | Preferred Series G | 500 | Preferred Series G | \$23.0900 | Preferred Series G | 500 | Preferred Series G | 500 = 2,796,501 | Preferred Series G | 2,797,001 |
| | Preferred Series H | N/A | Preferred Series H | N/A | Preferred Series H | N/A | Preferred Series H | N/A | Preferred Series H | 4,185,773 |
| | Preferred Series J | N/A | Preferred Series J | N/A | Preferred Series J | N/A | Preferred Series J | N/A | Preferred Series J | 3,200,000 |
| Month # | Common | N/A | Common | N/A | Common | N/A | Common | N/A | Common | N/A |
| 12/01/16 | | | | | | | 219,240,166 | | | |
| through - | | | | | | | | | | |
| 12/31/16 | Preferred Series D | N/A | Preferred Series D | N/A | Preferred Series D | N/A | Preferred Series D | N/A | Preferred Series D | 2,363,860 |
| | Preferred Series G | 6,800 | Preferred Series G | \$23.1001 | Preferred Series G | 6,800 | Preferred Series G | 6,800 = 2,789,701 | Preferred Series G | 2,796,501 |
| | Preferred Series H | 6,000 | Preferred Series H | \$23.0804 | Preferred Series H | 6,000 | Preferred Series H | 6,000 = 4,179,773 | Preferred Series H | 4,185,773 |
| | Preferred Series J | N/A | Preferred Series J | N/A | Preferred Series J | N/A | Preferred Series J | N/A | Preferred Series J | 3,200,000 |
| Total | Common | N/A | Common | N/A | Common | N/A | N/A | | | |
| | Preferred Series D | N/A | Preferred Series D | N/A | Preferred Series D | N/A | | | | |
| | Preferred Series G | 7,300 | Preferred Series G | \$23.2043 | Preferred Series G | 7,300 | | | | |

Preferred Series H 6,000 Preferred Series H \$23.0804 Preferred Series H 6,000

Preferred Series J N/A Preferred Series J N/A Preferred Series J N/A

Footnote columns (c) and (d) of the table, by disclosing the following information in the aggregate for all plans or programs publicly announced:

- a. The date each plan or program was announced The notice of the potential repurchase of common and preferred shares occurs quarterly in the Fund's quarterly report in accordance with Section 23(c) of the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended.
- b. The dollar amount (or share or unit amount) approved Any or all common shares outstanding may be repurchased when the Fund's common shares are trading at a discount of 10% or more from the net asset value of the shares.
Any or all preferred shares outstanding may be repurchased when the Fund's preferred shares are trading at a discount to the liquidation value of \$25.00.
- c. The expiration date (if any) of each plan or program The Fund's repurchase plans are ongoing.
- d. Each plan or program that has expired during the period covered by the table The Fund's repurchase plans are ongoing.
- e. Each plan or program the registrant has determined to terminate prior to expiration, or under which the registrant does not intend to make further purchases. The Fund's repurchase plans are ongoing.

Item 10. Submission of Matters to a Vote of Security Holders.

There have been no material changes to the procedures by which the shareholders may recommend nominees to the registrant's Board of Directors, where those changes were implemented after the registrant last provided disclosure in response to the requirements of Item 407(c)(2)(iv) of Regulation S-K (17 CFR 229.407) (as required by Item 22(b)(15) of Schedule 14A (17 CFR 240.14a-101)), or this Item.

Item 11. Controls and Procedures.

- (a) The registrant's principal executive and principal financial officers, or persons performing similar functions, have concluded that the registrant's disclosure controls and procedures (as defined in Rule 30a-3(c) under the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended (the 1940 Act) (17 CFR 270.30a-3(c))) are effective, as of a date within 90 days of the filing date of the report that includes the disclosure required by this paragraph, based on their evaluation of these controls and procedures required by Rule 30a-3(b) under the 1940 Act (17 CFR 270.30a-3(b)) and Rules 13a-15(b) or 15d-15(b) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (17 CFR 240.13a-15(b) or 240.15d-15(b)).
- (b) There were no changes in the registrant's internal control over financial reporting (as defined in Rule 30a-3(d) under the 1940 Act (17 CFR 270.30a-3(d))) that occurred during the registrant's second fiscal quarter of the period covered by this report that has materially affected, or is reasonably likely to materially affect, the registrant's internal control over financial reporting.

Item 12. Exhibits.

- (a)(1) Code of ethics, or any amendment thereto, that is the subject of disclosure required by Item 2 is attached hereto.
- (a)(2) Certifications pursuant to Rule 30a-2(a) under the 1940 Act and Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 are attached hereto.
- (a)(3) Not applicable.
- (b) Certifications pursuant to Rule 30a-2(b) under the 1940 Act and Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 are attached hereto.
- (12.other) Not applicable.

SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and the Investment Company Act of 1940, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized.

(Registrant) The Gabelli Equity Trust Inc.

By (Signature and Title)* /s/ Bruce N. Alpert
Bruce N. Alpert, Principal Executive Officer

Date 3/09/2017

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and the Investment Company Act of 1940, this report has been signed below by the following persons on behalf of the registrant and in the capacities and on the dates indicated.

By (Signature and Title)* /s/ Bruce N. Alpert
Bruce N. Alpert, Principal Executive Officer

Date 3/09/2017

By (Signature and Title)* /s/ Agnes Mullady
Agnes Mullady, Principal Financial Officer and Treasurer

Date 3/09/2017

* Print the name and title of each signing officer under his or her signature.