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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Sterling Capital Equity Income Fund receives two 2022 Lipper Fund Awards

CHARLOTTE, N.C., March 24, 2023 – Sterling Capital Management is delighted to announce that our flagship Equity Income Fund received two Lipper Awards at last night's award ceremony in New York. Co-portfolio managers Chip Wittmann, CFA® and Jeremy Lopez, CFA®, were in attendance to accept this prestigious honor.

Robert W. Bridges, CFA®, Co-Chief Investment Officer and Head of Equity, notes that this award is “a fantastic achievement and a recognition of the hard work and expertise of Chip, Jeremy, and the whole Equity Opportunities Group. This is truly well-deserved and a testament to the philosophy and process that has served the Equity Income Fund, and our investors, so well through the years.”

The Equity Income Fund R6 Share Class (ticker: STREX) won in the three-year performance category, from a peer group of 390 equity income funds. The Equity Income Fund Institutional Share Class (ticker: BAEIX) won in the five-year category, from a peer group of 374 equity income funds. Lipper Fund Awards are presented to one fund in each Lipper classification for achieving the strongest trend of consistent risk-adjusted performance against its classification peers over a three-, five- or ten-year period. This year's awards were based on performance for the three respective time periods ended November 30, 2022.

The Sterling Capital Equity Opportunities Group, based in Virginia Beach, VA, manages the Equity Income Fund with a core philosophy that seeks to offer investors above-average growth, above-average profitability, below-average valuation, and stronger-than-average financial strength, partnering with investors through high conviction, accessibility, vested management and rigorous research. The Fund has a track record that dates back to 2004¹ and is benchmarked against the Russell 1000® Value Index.

About Sterling Capital Management

Sterling Capital Management LLC, founded in 1970, is the institutional investment management arm of Truist Financial Corporation. Headquartered in Charlotte, North Carolina, Sterling provides investment advisory services through mutual funds, separately managed accounts, model portfolios, and other commingled vehicles offered through a variety of intermediary and managed account platforms. Sterling's six distinct investment teams provide a full complement of fixed income, concentrated active equity, and multi-asset solutions. Learn more at sterlingcapital.com.

¹For the A, C, and Institutional Share Classes; the R6 Share Class was added in 2018.

The **Chartered Financial Analyst® (CFA)** charter is a graduate-level investment credential awarded by the CFA Institute, the largest global association of investment professionals. To earn the CFA charter, candidates must: 1) pass three sequential, six-hour examinations; 2) have at least four years of qualified professional investment experience; 3) join CFA Institute as members; and 4) commit to abide by, and annually reaffirm, their adherence to the CFA Institute Code of Ethics and Standards of Professional Conduct.

The volatility of an index varies greatly. All indices are unmanaged and investments cannot be made directly in an index. The Russell 1000® Value Index measures the performance of the large-cap value segment of the U.S. equity universe. It includes those Russell 1000® companies with lower price-to-book ratios and lower expected growth values. The index is completely reconstituted annually to ensure new and growing equities are included and that the represented companies continue to reflect value characteristics.

A **Lipper Fund Award** is awarded to one fund in each Lipper classification for achieving the strongest trend of consistent risk-adjusted performance against its classification peers over a three-, five- or ten-year period. For more information, see lipperfundawards.com. Although Refinitiv Lipper makes reasonable efforts to ensure the accuracy and reliability of the data contained herein, the accuracy is not guaranteed by Refinitiv Lipper.

Investors should consider the investment objectives, risk, charges, and expenses carefully before investing. For a prospectus or summary prospectus with this and other information about the Fund, please call 888.228.1872 or click [here](#). Please read the prospectus carefully before investing.

Past performance does not guarantee future results. Mutual fund investing involves risk. Principal loss is possible.
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