

## December 2021 – MBS Mantra MBS High Income/Absolute Return Strategy returns:

	% Net Return	% Gross Return	Since 3/31/2020 Net %	2021 YTD Net %	2021 YTD Gross %	Trailing 1 year Net %
Aggregated SMAs	+1.62%	+1.69%	+25.2%	+10.0%	+10.9%	+10.0%
<u>Founder's</u> <u>Portfolio</u>	+2.03%	+2.10%	+25.4%	+10.1%	+11.1%	+10.1%

2021 <u>net returns</u> to date: 10.0% 2021 Income (annualized BEY): 16.6% Annualized <u>Income</u> since 3/31/2020: 14.9%

Dec 2021 Income: +1.89%; Annualized: +25.1% (Aggregated SMAs @ recent marks) Dec 2021 Cashflow: +3.1% (~37% annualized rate) Dec 2021 Loss rate: -0.08%

## Happy New Year!

Well, that's a wrap: **10% YTD net return in 2021 for our Aggregated SMAs,** handily outperforming anything "Fixed Income" (Agg: -0.1%; MBS -0.4%; HY 0.7%). This makes it 21 positive months in a row since March 2020's deleveraging driven drawdowns. Since then, we've returned 25%. For the month, we returned 1.6%.

Cashflows (3.1%; 37% annualized), and Income (1.9%; 25% annualized), were higher than in recent months, and significantly higher than what would be expected from most MBS or Fixed Income portfolios. Yes, this implies a short duration.

Returns were helped by the dramatic marking upwards by 14.2% (!) of one of our floating rate bonds (which is still marked too low in our opinion). Other similar floaters were marked down however, ignoring market trading that is higher than the marks.

Marks on our fixed rate bonds (and some derivatives) continue declining with rates rising as the pricing services continue to treat this Variable Income product as Fixed Income. However the Income has dominated price change once again, resulting in positive and high net returns.

The following graph from our Fact Sheet graphically demonstrates the unique and important statisitic the MBS High Income Strategy generates: <u>a positive Skewness in the returns distribution</u>, with more monthly returns in the right tail than in the left. This is different from the returns distribution of most other strategies that depend on

price change, which exhibit typically normal distributions with close-to-zero skewness. A table with skewness statistics for numerous MBS funds can be found on pages 19-20 of our white paper–<u>The MBS Income Factor.</u>



Monthly Total Returns – 2014 - 2021

Our returns are driven primarily by MBS High Income, that dominates price change monthly and especially over longer holding periods.

The following charts show the Income Return, Total Return and Price change of our individual MBS positions (a few outliers with short holding periods that resulted in exaggerated returns due to annualization are removed).





The total returns are driven by the High Income, and not by the returns from Price Change (mostly negative over 2021).



We will reiterate that we are NOT a Fixed Income strategy, as the returns comparisons of different MBS above demonstrate. Our research has demonstrated that MBS is a Variable Income bond product, and we therefore focus on the 'right tail' of the MBS Income distribution, creating a unique High Income strategy and product.

Our current ~15+% High Income allows us to overcome significant price declines and creates self-healing portfolios, as the breakeven prices of our holdings continually decline monthly with realized MBS income. This allows our strategy to create portfolios with positive skewness in returns, a rare outcome in finance where returns tend to be normally distributed and dominated by price change with skewness close to zero. The high cashflow returned allows us to reinvest at high income levels and compound over long periods – a very old-school investing process.

With income greater than inflation, we believe that our strategy can also be viewed as a good inflation hedge in addition to being an absolute return strategy. Since we manage in SMAs, we can also customize portfolios to solve for specific concerns, such as negative duration or rising rates, while maintaining High Income.

Please stay safe, and wishing you good health in 2022.

Regards, Samir Shah

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Samir Shah President and CIO MBS Mantra, LLC (a CT Registered Investment Advisor) "Alpha Through Analysis"®

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