



## Information Circular: First Trust Exchange-Traded Fund

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**To:** Head Traders, Technical Contacts, Compliance Officers, Heads of ETF Trading, Structured Products Traders

**From:** BX Listing Qualifications Department

**DATE:** January 15, 2009

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Exchange-Traded Fund	Symbol	CUSIP #
First Trust Value Line 100 Exchange-Traded Fund	FVL	33735G107

Note: This security previously traded as a closed-end fund on the American Stock Exchange. On June 15, 2007, the security reorganized into the First Trust Value Line 100 Exchange-Traded Fund and shareholders received one share of the exchange-traded fund per share of the closed-end fund.

### Background Information on the Fund

The First Trust Exchange-Traded Fund (the "Trust") is an investment company registered under the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended (the "1940 Act"). The Trust consists of several separate investment portfolios. This circular relates to the First Trust Value Line 100 Exchange-Traded Fund (the "Fund"). The shares of the Fund are referred to herein as "Shares." The Fund seeks investment results that correspond generally to the price and yield performance, before fees and expenses, of an equity index called the Value Line 100 Index (the "Index"). First Trust Advisors L.P. (the "Adviser") is the investment advisor for the Fund.

The Fund will normally invest at least 90% of its total assets in common stocks that comprise the Index. The Index is designed to objectively identify and select 100 stocks ranked #1 by Value Line, Inc. ("Value Line") in the Value Line Timeliness Ranking System (the "Ranking System").

The Fund, using an "indexing" investment approach, attempts to replicate, before expenses, the performance of the Index. The Adviser seeks a correlation of 0.95 or better (before expenses) between the Fund's performance and the performance of the Index; a figure of 1.00 would represent perfect correlation. The Adviser will regularly monitor the Fund's tracking accuracy and will use the investment techniques described below in seeking to maintain an appropriate correlation.

In seeking to achieve the Fund's investment objective, the Fund generally will invest in all of the stocks comprising the Index in proportion to their weightings in the Index. However, under various circumstances, it may not be possible or practicable to purchase all of those stocks in those weightings. In those circumstances, the Fund may purchase a sample of stocks in the Index. There may also be instances in which

the Adviser may choose to overweight certain stocks in the Index, purchase securities not in the Index which the Adviser believes are appropriate to substitute for certain securities in the Index, use futures or other derivative instruments, or utilize various combinations of the above techniques in seeking to track the Index. The Fund may sell stocks that are represented in the Index in anticipation of their removal from the Index or purchase stocks not represented in the Index in anticipation of their addition to the Index.

The Index, which is sponsored and maintained by Value Line, is an equal-dollar weighted index comprised of 100 U.S. exchange-listed securities of companies that are ranked #1 by the Ranking System. Value Line reconstitutes the Index on a monthly basis to match any changes in those stocks ranked #1 by the Ranking System. Value Line removes from the Index those stocks that are no longer ranked #1 in the Ranking System and replaces such stocks with any newly added stocks. The Index will be rebalanced on or about the last Friday of each calendar quarter so that each stock will be equally weighted as of such date. The inception date of the Index was January 16, 2007. The Ranking System was introduced in its present form in 1965. At any one time, only 100 stocks are ranked #1 in the Ranking System.

As described more fully in the prospectus and the Statement of Additional Information ("SAI") for the Fund, the Fund issues and redeems Shares at their net asset value ("NAV") only in blocks of 50,000 shares or multiples thereof ("Creation Units"). Only certain large institutional investors ("Authorized Participants") may purchase or redeem Creation Units directly with the Fund at NAV. These transactions are usually in exchange for a basket of securities similar to the Fund's portfolio and an amount of cash. Except when aggregated in Creation Units, shares of the Fund are not redeemable securities. Shareholders who are not Authorized Participants may not redeem shares directly from the Fund at NAV.

The Fund's NAV is determined as of the close of trading (normally 4:00 p.m., Eastern Time) on each day the New York Stock Exchange is open for business. The Fund's NAV is calculated by taking the market price of the Fund's total assets, including interest or dividends accrued but not yet collected, less all liabilities, and dividing such amount by the total number of Shares outstanding. The result, rounded to the nearest cent, is the NAV per Share. All valuations are subject to review by the Board or its delegate.

Shares of the Fund are held in book-entry form, which means that no stock certificates are issued. The Depository Trust Company, or its nominee, is the record owner of all outstanding shares of the Fund and is recognized as the owner of all shares for all purposes.

Dividends from net investment income, if any, are declared and paid semi-annually. The Fund distributes its net realized capital gains, if any, to shareholders annually.

The Bank of New York is the administrator, custodian and fund accounting and transfer agent for the Fund.

The registration statement for a Fund describes the various fees and expenses for the Fund's shares.

For a more complete description of the Fund and the underlying index, visit the Fund's website at [www.ftportfolios.com](http://www.ftportfolios.com).

## **Purchases and Redemptions in Creation Unit Size**

BX members are hereby informed that procedures for purchases and redemptions of Shares in Creation Unit Size are described in the Trust's prospectus and SAI, and that Shares are not individually redeemable but are redeemable only in Creation Unit Size aggregations or multiples thereof.

## **Principal Risks**

Interested persons are referred to the discussion in the prospectus for the Fund of the principal risks of an investment in the Fund. These include tracking error risk (factors causing the Fund's performance to not match the performance of the underlying index), market trading risk (for example, trading halts, trading above or below net asset value), stock market risk, investment style risk, sector risk, investment approach risk, concentration risk, non-diversification risk, issuer-specific risk, management risk, non-U.S. securities risk, intellectual property risk, small cap and mid cap company risk and concentration risk.

## **Exchange Rules Applicable to Trading in the Shares**

Trading in the Shares on BX is on a UTP basis and is subject to BX equity trading rules.

## **Trading Hours**

The values of the Index underlying the Shares are disseminated to data vendors every 15 seconds. The Shares will trade on BX between 8:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. Eastern Time (ET), unless otherwise indicated. For trading during BX's Pre-Market and Post-Market Sessions, market participants should note that additional risks may exist with respect to trading the Funds during these sessions, when the underlying index's values may not be disseminated.

## **Suitability**

Trading in the Shares on BX will be subject to the provisions of BX Rule 2310. Members recommending transactions in the Shares to customers should make a determination that the recommendation is suitable for the customer. In addition, members must possess sufficient information to satisfy the "know your customer" obligation that is embedded in the BX Conduct Rules.

Members also should review NASD Notice to Members 03-71 for guidance on trading these products. The Notice reminds members of their obligations to: (1) conduct adequate due diligence to understand the features of the product; (2) perform a reasonable-basis suitability analysis; (3) perform customer-specific suitability analysis in connection with any recommended transactions; (4) provide a balanced disclosure of both the risks and rewards associated with the particular product, especially when selling to retail investors; (5) implement appropriate internal controls; and (6) train registered persons regarding the features, risk and suitability of these products.

## Trading Halts

BX will halt trading in the Shares of the Fund in accordance with BX Rule 4120. The grounds for a halt under BX Rule 4120 include a halt by the primary market because the intraday indicative value of the Fund and/or the value of its underlying index are not being disseminated as required, or a halt for other regulatory reasons. In addition, BX will also stop trading the Shares of the Fund if the primary market delists the Fund.

## Delivery of a Prospectus

BX members should be mindful of applicable prospectus delivery requirements under the federal securities laws with respect to transactions in the Fund.

Prospectuses may be obtained through the Fund's website. The prospectus for the Fund does not contain all of the information set forth in the Fund's registration statement (including the exhibits to the registration statement), parts of which have been omitted in accordance with the rules and regulations of the Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC"). For further information about the Fund, please refer to the registration statement.

In the event that the Fund relies upon an order by the SEC exempting the Shares from certain prospectus delivery requirements under Section 24(d) of the 1940 Act and in the future make available a written product description, BX Rule 4420(j)(2) requires that BX members provide to all purchasers of Shares a written description of the terms and characteristics of such securities, in a form prepared by the Trust for the Fund, no later than the time a confirmation of the first transaction in the Shares is delivered to such purchaser. In addition, BX members shall include such a written description with any sales material relating to the Shares that is provided to customers or the public. Any other written materials provided by a BX member to customers or the public making specific reference to the Shares as an investment vehicle must include a statement in substantially the following form: "A circular describing the terms and characteristics of the Shares of the Fund has been prepared by the Trust and is available from your broker. It is recommended that you obtain and review such circular before purchasing Shares of the Fund. In addition, upon request you may obtain from your broker a prospectus for Shares of the Fund."

A BX member carrying an omnibus account for a non-member broker-dealer is required to inform such non-member that execution of an order to purchase Shares for such omnibus account will be deemed to constitute agreement by the non-member to make such written description available to its customers on the same terms as are directly applicable to BX member under this rule.

Upon request of a customer, BX members also shall provide a copy of the Prospectus.

## **Exemptive, Interpretive and No-Action Relief Under Federal Securities Regulations**

The SEC has issued exemptive, interpretive or no-action relief from certain provisions of rules under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (the "Act") regarding trading in the above mentioned exchange-traded Fund.

### **Regulation M Exemptions**

Generally, Rules 101 and 102 of Regulation M prohibit any "distribution participant" and its "affiliated purchasers" from bidding for, purchasing, or attempting to induce any person to bid for or purchase any security which is the subject of a distribution until after the applicable restricted period, except as specifically permitted in Regulation M. The provisions of the Rules apply to underwriters, prospective underwriters, brokers, dealers, and other persons who have agreed to participate or are participating in a distribution of securities.

The SEC has granted an exemption from Rule 101 under Regulation M to permit persons participating in a distribution of shares of the above-mentioned Fund to engage in secondary market transactions in such shares during their participation in such a distribution. In addition, the SEC has granted relief under Regulation M to permit persons who may be deemed to be participating in the distribution of Shares of the above-mentioned Fund (i) to purchase securities for the purpose of purchasing Creation Unit Aggregations of Fund Shares and to (ii) tender securities for redemption in Creation Unit Aggregations. Further, the SEC has clarified that the tender of Fund Shares to the Fund for redemption does not constitute a bid for or purchase of any of the Fund's securities during the restricted period of Rule 101. The SEC has also granted an exemption pursuant to paragraph (e) of Rule 102 under Regulation M to allow the redemption of Fund Shares in Creation Unit Aggregations during the continuous offering of Shares.

### **Customer Confirmations for Creation or Redemption of Fund Shares (SEC Rule 10b-10)**

Broker-dealers who handle purchases or redemptions of Fund Shares in Creation Unit size for customers will be permitted to provide such customers with a statement of the number of Creation Unit Aggregations created or redeemed without providing a statement of the identity, number and price of shares of the individual securities tendered to the Fund for purposes of purchasing Creation Unit Aggregations ("Deposit Securities") or the identity, number and price of shares to be delivered by the Trust for the Fund to the redeeming holder ("Redemption Securities"). The composition of the securities required to be tendered to the Fund for creation purposes and of the securities to be delivered on redemption will be disseminated each business day and will be applicable to requests for creations or redemption, as the case may be, on that day. This exemptive relief under Rule 10b-10 with respect to creations and redemptions is subject to the following conditions:

- 1) Confirmations to customers engaging in creations or redemptions must state that all information required by Rule 10b-10 will be provided upon request;

- 2) Any such request by a customer for information required by Rule 10b-10 will be filed in a timely manner, in accordance with Rule 10b-10(c);
- 3) Except for the identity, number and price of shares of the component securities of the Deposit Securities and Redemption Securities, as described above, confirmations to 10b-10(a).

### **SEC Rule 14e-5**

An exemption from Rule 14e-5 has been granted to permit any person acting as a dealer-manager of a tender offer for a component security of the Fund (1) to redeem Fund Shares in Creation Unit Aggregations from the issuer that may include a security subject to such tender offer and (2) to purchase Fund Shares during such tender offer. In addition, a no-action position has been taken under Rule 14e-5 if a broker-dealer acting as a dealer-manager of a tender offer for a security of the Fund purchases or arranges to purchase such securities in the secondary market for the purpose of tendering such securities to purchase one or more Creation Unit Aggregations of Shares, if made in conformance with the following:

- 1) such bids or purchases are effected in the ordinary course of business, in connection with a basket of 20 or more securities in which any security that is the subject of a distribution, or any reference security, does not comprise more than 5% of the value of the basket purchased; or
- 2) purchases are effected as adjustments to such basket in the ordinary course of business as a result of a change in the composition of the underlying index; and
- 3) such bids or purchases are not effected for the purpose of facilitating such tender offer.

### **Section 11(d)(1); SEC Rules 11d1-1 and 11d1-2**

Section 11(d)(1) of the Act generally prohibits a person who is both a broker and a dealer from effecting any transaction in which the broker-dealer extends credit to a customer on any security which was part of a new issue in the distribution of which he participated as a member of a selling syndicate or group within thirty days prior to such transaction. The SEC has clarified that Section 11(d)(1) does not apply to broker-dealers that are not Authorized Participants (and, therefore, do not create Creation Unit Aggregations) that engage in both proprietary and customer transactions in Shares of the Fund in the secondary market, and for broker-dealer Authorized Participants that engage in creations of Creation Unit Aggregations. This relief is subject to specific conditions, including the condition that such broker-dealer (whether or not an Authorized Participant) does not, directly or indirectly, receive from the fund complex any payment, compensation or other economic incentive to promote or sell the Shares of the Fund to persons outside the fund complex, other than non-cash compensation permitted under NASD Rule 2830(l)(5)(A), (B) or (C). (See [letter](#) from Catherine McGuire, Chief Counsel, SEC Division of Market Regulation, to Securities Industry Association, Derivative Products Committee, dated November 21, 2005.) The SEC also has taken a no-action position under Section

11(d)(1) of the Act that broker-dealers may treat Shares of the Fund, for purposes of Rule 11d1-2, as "securities issued by a registered open-end investment company as defined in the Investment Company Act" and thereby extend credit or maintain or arrange for the extension or maintenance of credit on Shares that have been owned by the persons to whom credit is provided for more than 30 days, in reliance on the exemption contained in the rule.

### **[SEC Rule 15c1-5 and 15c1-6](#)**

The SEC has taken a no-action position with respect to Rule 15c1-5 and Rule 15c1-6 as to the required disclosure of control by a broker or dealer with respect to creations and redemptions of Fund Shares and secondary market transactions therein. (See [letter](#) from Catherine McGuire, Chief Counsel, SEC Division of Market Regulation, to Securities Industry Association, Derivative Products Committee, dated November 21, 2005.)

**This Information Circular is not a statutory prospectus. BX members should consult the Fund's prospectus and/or the Fund's website for relevant information.**

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Inquiries regarding this Information Circular should be directed to:

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- [BX Market Sales](#) at 800.846.0477