

## Setting The Record Straight

PROXY CONTEST FOR BOARD CHANGE AT WISDOMTREE, INC. (NYSE: WT)

May 24, 2023

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#### WHY IS CHANGE NEEDED?



## WisdomTree's long history of underperformance and stockholder value destruction

- Total Stockholder Return (TSR) has underperformed the relevant peer groups and indices
- The Company has destroyed \$1.4bn of value.
- WisdomTree has failed to match its competitors in capitalizing on industry tailwinds
- The Company highlights AUM and inflows but ignores lack of revenue growth and operating margin – the key value drivers
- Poor cost control is responsible for failure to achieve operating leverage
- Recent share price performance is likely due to our pressure

## A history of poor capital allocation, failed investments and unrealistic future plans

- Since 2016, WisdomTree has written off \$63m of the \$72m it has spent on small to medium investments in its core business
- Management desires to transform the Company from an ETF issuer to a consumerfocused DeFi business, WT Prime; a wildly ambitious and unrealistic quest
- Management team lacks DeFi experience
- WT Prime is delayed by a year, and WT Prime has provided no milestones to measure success
- Company would require massive investments which it lacks - to compete with more established DeFi players

## Governance failures, a pay-for performance disconnect and flawed Board refreshment

- The Board consists of a majority of directors with no relevant industry experience in our view.
- All key Board leadership positions are held by long-tenured directors and the Chairman of the Board also serves as the Compensation Committee Chair (17.5-year tenure)
- Recent board changes have yielded the loss of two female directors and the inexplicable replacement of an industry expert with someone with no ETF or board experience
- The CEO has accumulated over \$20m in aggregate reported pay while destroying \$921m in stockholder value (2018-2022)
- The CEO and Chairman have been net sellers of company stock over the last decade

The long-tenured directors have overseen massive stockholder value destruction, lack the expertise and independence to hold management accountable, and have exhibited poor judgement with respect to governance

Source: Bloomberg, SEC Filings, ETFS Capital presentation, dated May 18, 2023

#### WISDOMTREE HAS DESTROYED SHAREHOLDER VALUE, DESPITE MASSIVELY POSITIVE **INDUSTRY TAILWINDS**



#### Claim: WisdomTree has transformed its business

#### WisdomTree Has Transformed its Business to Position it for Innovation, Growth and Margin Expansion Opportunities and Refreshed its Board and Corporate Governance Practices We have created the largest pure-play ETP platform with a high-quality, diversified, and differentiated product suite We have enhanced our ETP platform from a small number of funds, concentrated AUM and outflows to one with a broader suite of funds

- We Have Transformed the Business to a Best-in-Class ETP Platform, Which has Consistently **Outperformed Peers**
- diversified AUM and consistent inflows
  - With the exception of BlackRock, WidsomTree is the only publicly listed U.S. traditional asset manager to have consistent inflows for the past 10 quarters

WisdomTree's 31.4% 2023 YTD annualized organic growth and 15.7% 2022 organic growth are significantly ahead of its publicly listed

Our efforts to transform the Company have been rewarded by the market, which has made WisdomTree the best performing stock over the past three years, one year and year-to-date, relative to all other publicly listed U.S. traditional asset managers (1) By focusing on (i) the most relevant investment themes and (ii) areas where we can capture outsized wins, we will continue to take market share

our competitors do not gain any advantages over our platform in the future - we are committed to ensuring that WisdomTree will outperform

- Forward Looking Leadership
- WisdomTree Continuing to
- and position WisdomTree as the #1 Traditional Asset Manager in the U.S. It is not enough to just win today and tomorrow, by investing in digital assets, tokenization and blockchain-enabled finance, we are ensuring that
- - **Outpace Peers**
- We Have Undertaken a Rigorous Review of our Strategy and
- mbled the Right Board for
- ETFS Capital's Campaign is ssary Unwise and Risks
- Assembled experience, expertise, and diversity critical to overseeing WisdomTree's long-term strategy and maintaining momentur Appointed five new independent directors since 2021, all of whom are diverse

Our long-term strategy will continue to provide scale, stability, and margin expans

U.S. traditional asset management peers

peers on a long-term basis

- Enhanced corporate governance and compensation practices to increase alignment and accountability to stockholders
- Long track record of attempting to engage constructively with ETFS Capital despite its unreasonablenes:
- Unnecessary: Our Board with input from ETFS Capital and their nominees from their 2022 campaign extensively reviewed WisdomTree's strategy last year and unanimously supported the Company's strategy and management Unwise: WisdomTree risks losing integral expertise if Graham Tuckwell and ETFS Capital's nominees are elected
- Risks value destruction: Graham Tuckwell's past and continuing conduct raises serious questions about his and ETFS Capital's ethics and decision

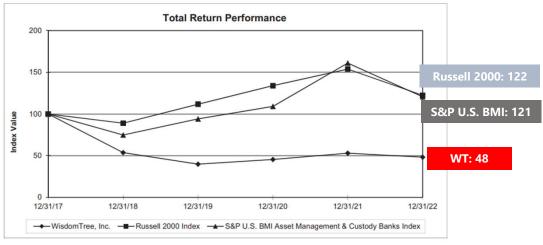
Source: Company Website and filings, FactSet and SNL. Data as of May 17, 2023.
(1) Based on Total Shareholder Return. Peer group includes BLK, BEN, TROW, AB, AMG, FHI, CNS, IVZ, VRTS, APAM, BSIG, JHG and VCTF

Source: WisdomTree Investor Presentation, May 2023

#### Reality: WisdomTree has destroyed shareholder value

"We have not created stockholder value for a while." - Mr. Steinberg, CEO (4Q2019 Earnings Call)

- Shareholder value has been destroyed over short and long-term periods.
- \$100 invested in WisdomTree stock five years ago would be worth \$48 today - down 52%.
- WisdomTree's business transformation has been an abject failure.
- Management and long-tenured directors have limited credibility.



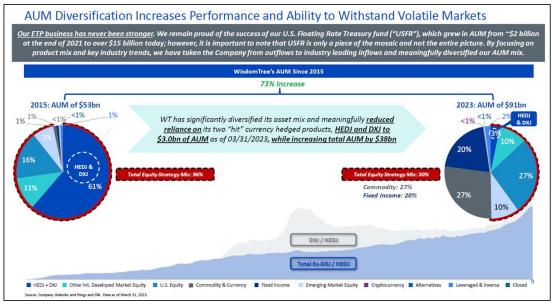
Source: WisdomTree 2022 10-K, Bloomberg

## WISDOMTREE'S FLAWED DIVERSIFICATION: NET OUTFLOWS OF \$3.7bn SINCE 2015, EXCLUDING WISDOMTREE'S FLOATING RATE TREASURY ETF "USFR"



#### Claim: WisdomTree has diversified its AUM mix

"WT has significantly diversified its asset mix and meaningfully reduced reliance on its two "hit" currency hedged products, HEDJ and DXJ to \$3.0bn of AUM as of 03/31/2023, while increasing total AUM by \$38bn"



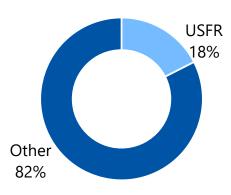
Source: WisdomTree Investor Presentation, May 2023

#### Reality: AUM and inflows largely driven by USFR

Rather than diversifying as claimed, WisdomTree has again become reliant on one "hit" product

In millions	12/31/2015 to Present		
Aggregate WT inflows	\$12,148		
USFR inflows	\$15,838		
<b>Total Non-USFR inflows</b>	(\$3,690)		

#### **AUM (Current)**



Source: SEC Filings, WisdomTree IR website

## WISDOMTREE'S STRATEGY HAS CONSISTENTLY FAILED TO ACHIEVE PROMISED REVENUE GROWTH AND MARGINS



Claim: Strategy will continue to provide scale, stability, and margin expansion

"Through the cycle, organic growth accelerates scale & expands operating margins"



Source: WisdomTree Investor Presentation, May 2023

Reality: AUM growth has **NOT** translated into meaningful revenue growth or improved profitability

	2018	2022	Change
AUM (billions)	\$54.1	\$82.0	51.6%
Revenue (millions)	\$274.1	\$301.3	9.9%
Operating Income (millions)	\$61.3	\$60.1	-1.9%
Operating Margin	22.4%	19.9%	-10.8%

- Single digit revenue growth despite <u>\$30bn</u>
   AUM increase between 2018-2022
- Operating margins have fallen far short of the material improvement promised and have in fact declined by 10.8% over the last 5 years

## WISDOMTREE'S 1Q2023 RESULTS HIGHLIGHT CONTINUED FAILURE TO ACHIEVE OPERATING LEVERAGE



#### Claim: Strong momentum continues in 2023

"We outperformed in our most recent quarter in terms of organic growth and revenue generation"



Source: WisdomTree Investor Presentation, May 2023

Reality: Revenue growth has been disappointing and margins have neem deteriorating

	1Q2022	1Q2023	% change
AUM (billion)	\$79.4	\$90.7	14.2%
Revenues (millions)	\$78.4	\$82.0	4.6%
Adj. Operating Income (millions)	\$20.1	\$17.5	-12.9%
Adjusted Operating income margin	25.7%	21.4%	-16.7%

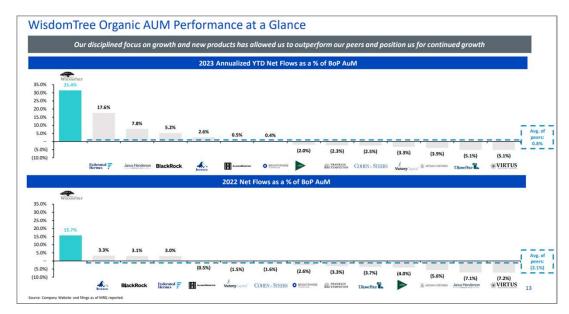
- Despite \$11bn increase in AUM, revenue increased by less than 5% YOY only
- Both adj. operating income and adj. operating income margins declined by double-digits in 1Q2023

## WISDOMTREE'S ORGANIC AUM COMPARISON: WISDOMTREE SELECTED PEERS ARE GROSSLY OVERSIZED



## Claim: WisdomTree has outperformed peers in organic AUM growth

"Our disciplined focus on growth and new products has allowed us to outperform our peers and position us for continued growth."



Source: WisdomTree Investor Presentation, May 2023

## Reality: Misleading peer group selection yields low percentage growth numbers

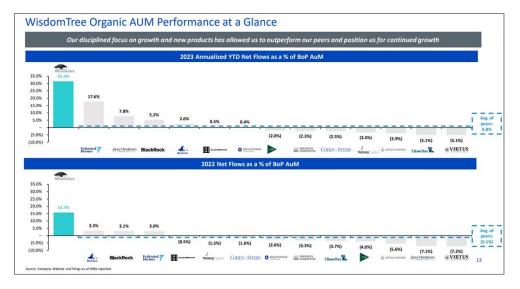
- Comparisons of AUM growth is grossly misleading: WisdomTree, with AUM under \$100bn, compares its growth against outsized peers, many of which have AUM over \$1tr (see Appendix for details)
- ➤ For instance, for BlackRock to achieve 31% organic growth it would need flows of ~\$3tr (greater than the GDP of India)
- \* It should also be noted that most of the selected peers are active managers who have faced huge headwinds over the last few years due to a shift from active to passive

### WISDOMTREE'S ORGANIC AUM COMPARISON: WISDOMTREE HAS MISCHARACTERIZED GROWTH IN AUM FROM NEW PRODUCTS



## Claim: WisdomTree has outperformed peers due to new products

"Our disciplined focus on growth and new products has allowed us to outperform our peers and position us for continued growth."



Source: WisdomTree Investor Presentation, May 2023

Reality: WisdomTree's performance has come from legacy products

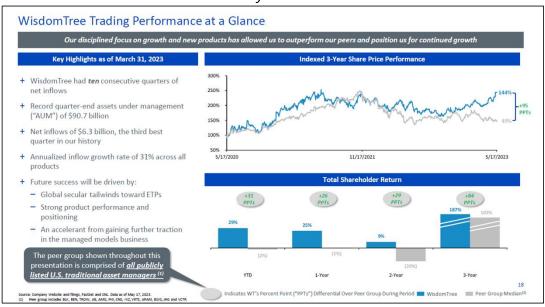
- 98% of the cumulative **net flows** from 2022 to May 2023 came from 4 products which were launched pre-2015 or bought in the ETF Securities Acquisition – <u>NOT</u> new products
- ➤ In any event, between 2018-2022 there have been 414 new products launched in the US market that reached AUM > \$150m.
  - WisdomTree only launched 4 of these 414 new products

## WISDOMTREE'S FOCUS ON THREE-YEAR TSR IS DISINGENUOUS. IT IGNORES LONG TERM UNDERPERFORMANCE AND USES LOW SHARE PRICE TO CALCULATE RETURNS



#### Claim: Total Shareholder Return has outperformed

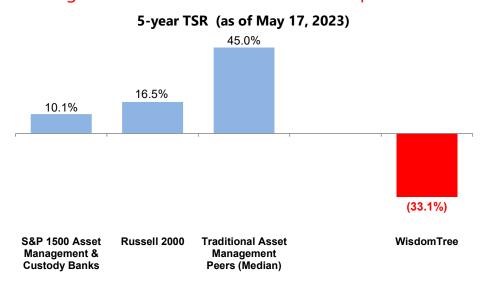
"Our Disciplined and Innovative Efforts Have Been Well Received by the Market"



Source: WisdomTree Investor Presentation, May 2023

#### Reality: WisdomTree are cherry picking dates

- WisdomTree share price fell <u>38%</u> from February 1, 2020 (pre-Covid) to May 17, 2020. By using that low price point to calculate TSR, WisdomTree wrongly contends outperformance
  - ✗ Long-term TSR indicates massive underperformance



Source: SEC Filings, FactSet 10

#### WISDOMTREE LACKS RESOURCES FOR WT PRIME



#### WisdomTree Claim

- "Tokenized Asset Market could reach \$16tr by 2030"
- "Launching tokenized products and WT Prime positions WT as an early mover in blockchain-enabled finance"

#### Reality

- There are bigger, more established peers already operating at global scale- these peers have user bases over 10m, WT has 6,500 test users
- These peers required billions of dollars in funding to achieve meaningful market share and to reach profitability, not \$30m
- WisdomTree does not and is unlikely to have access to sufficient capital to invest at a level to get WT Prime to a viable position.

Metric	WT Prime	Revolut	Chime	Robinhood
Funding	\$30m	\$1.7bn	\$35-45bn valuation in 2021 IPO talks	\$7.9bn (pre-IPO)
User Base	6,500 test users	25m users	13m users	12m users
Annual Revenue	0	\$790m	Private	\$1.36bn
Revenue/ User	0	\$32/ user	N/A	\$113/user
Global Reach?	No	Yes	Yes	Yes

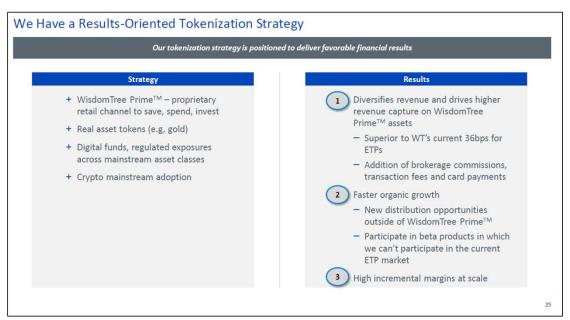
Source: Revolut 2021 Annual Report, Robinhood 2022 10-K, FactSet, Forbes, WisdomTree Year End Letter to Stockholders, December 21, 2022

#### WISDOMTREE HAS YET TO DEFINE MILESTONES TO EVALUATE WT PRIME SUCCESS



## Claim: WisdomTree has a results-oriented tokenization strategy

"Our tokenization strategy is positioned to deliver favorable financial results"



Reality: Tokenization 'strategy' has suffered a delayed launch and significant losses with no milestones

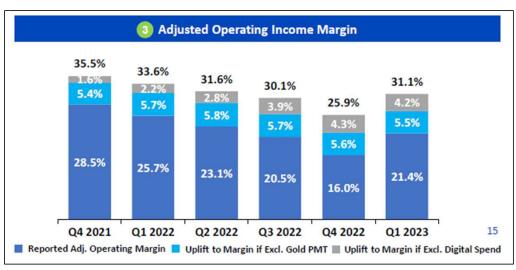
- **▼** WT Prime launch delayed by over a year
- WisdomTree has failed to address key questions on business rationale, team expertise, and distribution strategy
- No Wall Street analysts have come out with strong support for WT Prime

Source: WisdomTree Investor Presentation, May 2023

#### WT PRIME IS NEGATIVELY IMPACTING PROFITABILITY



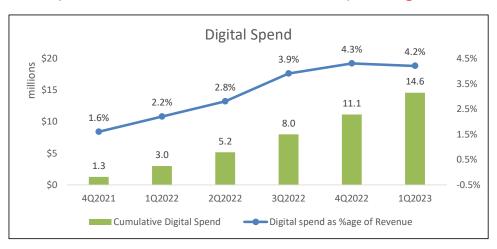
### Claim: Proactive investing in tokenization positions WisdomTree well for the future



Source: WisdomTree Investor Presentation, May 2023

## Reality: Digital spend is negatively impacting margins meaning the initiative is incurring losses

- After investing \$30m of shareholder capital, WT Prime has 6,500 test users only versus 25m active users for its closest competitor, Revolut
  - We question why WisdomTree is adding back digital spend to calculate adjusted margin considering WT Prime is a key element of its growth plan and all related expenses should be included under operating costs





## WISDOMTREE'S STRATEGIC PLAN HAS DESTROYED \$1.4bn OF SHAREHOLDER VALUE. ETFS CAPITAL NOMINEES HAVE THE CREDENTIALS AND PLAN TO UNLOCK VALUE



Claim: WisdomTree's Vision for long term growth and sustainable and material margin enhancement

Reality: Unlike WisdomTree's desire to maintain the status quo, our nominees have a clear path to create stockholder value

#### WisdomTree's Vision for the Future

- + Strong Top-Line Growth
- + Scale Driven Margin Expansion
- + Tokenization Upside
- + Sustainable Earnings Growth
- + Steady P/E at Worst
- + Upside Optionality
  - Accelerated Growth
  - Tokenization "sum-of-the-parts"
- + Increased Stockholder Value
- + Greater Strategic Optionality

1. Accelerate Revenue Growth

2. Reduce Operating Costs

3. Ensure Disciplined Capital Allocation

4. Enhance Corporate Governance

Source: WisdomTree Investor Presentation, May 2023

#### **ETFS CAPITAL'S PATH TO VALUE CREATION**



## 1. Accelerate Revenue Growth

Expand and enhance distribution network

Launch more attractive products

Establish Product-level Profitability Targets

# 2. Reduce Operating Expenses

Evaluate and Negotiate Service Fees with Vendors

Align compensation to metrics and results

Eliminate expenditure on wasteful and non-productive projects

# 3. Apply Discipline to Capital Allocation

Review current processes for capital allocation approval

Conduct Strategic Review of WT Prime

Identify and Disclose KPIs, Milestones and ROI Expectation for WT Prime and Other Initiatives

# 4. Enhance Corporate Governance

Align Executive Compensation with Key KPIs – Revenue Growth, Profitability and TSR

Rotate Key Board Committee Leadership Positions

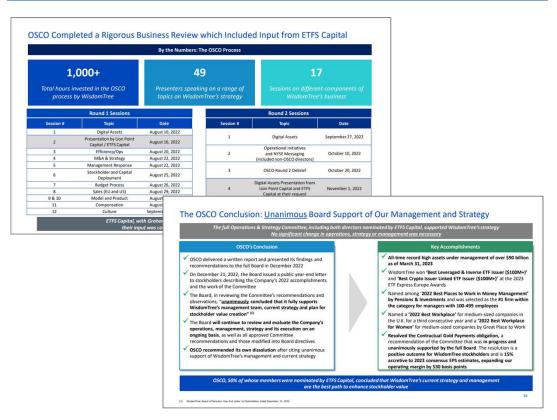
Develop Robust ESG Strategy

Source: ETFS Capital

## DESPITE SUPPOSED UNANIMOUS BOARD SUPPORT FOR THE COMPANY'S STRATEGY AND WT PRIME, THERE ARE A LOT OF UNANSWERED QUESTIONS



Claim: The Board completed a rigorous business review of the company's strategy and supports it unanimously



Reality: The Board continues to be unaccountable and failed to address key strategic shareholder questions

- ETFS Capital gave the Board 2 detailed presentations on operations and WT Prime in August and November 2022.
- If the Operations & Strategy Committee and Board members were truly engaged, why was there not a single question asked during our detailed presentations?
- What was the Board's rationale for ratifying a strategy that clearly destroyed shareholder value?
- Following the unanimous approval of the Board's strategy and direction, why are there still not any defined milestones and benchmarks for WT Prime?

Source: WisdomTree Investor Presentation, May 2023

### WISDOMTREE'S CURRENT CLAIM ABOUT GRAHAM TUCKWELL CONFLICT WITH THEIR OWN PAST STATEMENTS



"We have long held Graham Tuckwell and the business he and his team have built in extremely high regard..."

"...Like WisdomTree, ETF Securities was started from scratch and has had to compete and win at the highest levels of asset management. Graham is one of the true pioneers of the ETF industry as the first to establish an exchange-traded gold exposure on a global basis as well as in Europe. Our shared entrepreneurial spirit should not be underrated in the development of this transaction or in the confidence we both have in our combined company moving forward."

Jonathan SteinbergNovember 13, 2017



Jonathan Steinberg CEO

#### WISDOMTREE'S CONFLICT OF INTEREST CLAIMS HAVE NO MERIT – GRAHAM TUCKWELL



#### WisdomTree Claims

"In 2019, three private equity firms – which were minority investors in ETF Securities Limited...at the time the European ETC business of ETF Securities was sold to WsidomTree– filed a lawsuit...against Mr. Tuckwell and ETF Securities, seeking to receive their fair share of the sale proceeds."

#### Graham Tuckwell's Past Raises Serious Questions About His and ETFS Capital's Ethics and Decision Making

Graham Tuckwell's inappropriate actions showcase his lack of suitability to serve on WisdomTree's Board.
We established a 9.99% ownership limit on ETFS Capital to reduce Graham's influence when WisdomTree acquired his European ETC business

In 2019, three private equity firms – which were minority investors in ETF Securities Limited (now ETFS Capital) at the time the European ETC business of ETF Securities as sold to WisdomTree – filed a lawsuit in the Island of Jersey against Mr. Tuckwell and ETF Securities, seeking to receive their fair share of the sale proceeds

The Court ruled in the minority stockholders' favor, concluding that:

- Mr. Tuckwell "pursued a scheme designed to drive the Plaintiffs out of the Company at the best possible price for Mr. Tuckwell and not at a fair price to the Plaintiffs."
- He threatened and ultimately removed the independent directors who were calling for the fair and equal treatment of stockholders.
- He deliberately misled stockholders and his own board about his intentions for the distribution of the proceeds and sidelined the board from critical conversations about the transaction, making decisions unilaterally and pushing out anyone who stood in his way.
- As Chairman, he "breached his duty to act in the best interests of the Company as a whole," and an Appellate Court confirmed that he had "exercised those powers for the substantial purpose of benefiting himself and exacting revenge on stockholders he had come to resent."

iource: Company records, public filings and court filing

Source: WisdomTree Investor Presentation, May 2023

#### Reality

The private equity firms together with Mr. Tuckwell held over 85% of shares; when they sought a buyout at a 0% discount to NAV, the Court found in favor of a 40% discount, slightly below the 44% Mr. Tuckwell had sought. We contend that Mr. Tuckwell's actions as a majority shareholder in a closely held private company is inconsequential to his candidacy and performance as a shareholder director of WisdomTree

- Following the disposal of ETF Capital's 3 main operating businesses in 2018, 3 private equity shareholders in ETFS Capital (the "Plaintiffs"), which together with Mr. Tuckwell held over 85% of shares in the closely held company, sought to have their shares bought out at net asset value with no discount to reflect their minority holding.
- Mr. Tuckwell sought advice from KPMG to determine a fair market price and was advised that their minority interest should be valued at a 38-50% to net asset value.
- Mr. Tuckwell therefore offered to buy out the Plaintiffs at the mid-point price of a 44% discount to net asset value which the Plaintiffs rejected.
- The Plaintiffs applied to the Royal Courts and sought (i) the winding up of ETFS Capital and a
  distribution of its assets, and (ii) an order that the Plaintiffs' shares be purchased by Mr.
  Tuckwell at net asset value with no discount calculated.
- The Royal Courts rejected the Plaintiffs' application for a wind-up of the Company and started with the premise that the Plaintiffs' shares should be bought out at a 40% discount to net asset value.
- The Royal Courts were required to find that the Plaintiffs had been subject to "unfair prejudice" - otherwise a buy out order would not have been possible.
- The lead Plaintiff (FTV Capital) made a return in excess of 20x their original investment

#### WISDOMTREE'S CONFLICT OF INTEREST CLAIMS HAVE NO MERIT – GRAHAM TUCKWELL (contd.)



#### WisdomTree Claims

"...the resolution of the Contractual Gold Payments obligation is a significant positive for WisdomTree stockholders, but this positive outcome underscores the depth of the conflict of interest Mr. Tuckwell has had for so many years."

#### While ETFS Capital Claims to Be Aligned With All Stockholders, its Interest in the Contractual Gold Payments was a Fundamental Conflict

Make no mistake – the resolution of the Contractual Gold Payments obligation is a significant positive for WisdomTree stockholders but this positive outcome underscores the depth of the conflict of interest Mr. Tuckwell has had for so many years

#### **Background of the Contractual Gold Payments**

- + In connection with the Company's acquisition of the European ETC business of ETFS Capital in April 2018, the Company assumed an obligation for fixed payments to ETFS Capital of physical gold bullion
- The Contractual Gold Payments expense was approximately \$17.1 million during 2022, and approximately \$4.5 million during the first quarter of 2023
- + On May 10, 2023, we resolved WisdomTree's Contractual Gold Payments obligation to ETFS Capital and the World Gold Council ("WGC"), the ultimate recipient of 2/3 of the gold payment, for approximately \$137 million<sup>(1)</sup>
- + The annual impact of the transaction on the Company's financial results adds \$18 million to operating income, expands WisdomTree's operating margin by \$500 basis points, yields a net income lift of more than \$13 million and is approximately 15% accretive to current 2023 consensus EPS
- + Furthermore, the transaction extinguishes the liability of approximately \$180 million reflected on the Company's balance sheet at March 31, 2023

#### ETFS Capital Benefited at the Expense of Stockholders

- Mr. Tuckwell recently negotiated against WisdomTree's stockholders and encouraged our largest creditor, WGC, to seek a higher price from us solely to justify a higher valuation for himself
- We had long sought to resolve the Contractual Gold Payments obligation, which has been an overhang for our Company and our stockholders
- After we had aligned with the WGC on price, Mr. Tuckwell attempted to raise the price WisdomTree would pay to the WGC to enrich himself, at the same moment he proposed himself as a director of your Company with a fiduciary duty to protect your interests
- When his attempts to negotiate a higher price with our largest creditor failed, he then attempted to take credit for this favorable outcome
- His actions only underscore the depth of the conflict of interest Mr.

  Tuckwell has had for so many years, with financial incentives not just different from those of other WisdomTree stockholders but diametrically opposed, demonstrating yet again why he is wholly unsuited to serve as a fiduciary for stockholders other than himself

Source: Public Rings;

(ii) & K filled May 10, 2023. Under the terms of the transaction, Gold Buildon Holdings (Dersey) Limited, a subsidiary of the WGC, received approximately \$4.4 million in call and non-voting preferred shares convertible into approximately 13.1 million shares of WildomTree common stock. Rodber Investments Limited, an enity controlled

Source: WisdomTree Investor Presentation, May 2023

#### Reality

The Contractual Gold Payments were not a conflict of interest – they were simply revenue sharing agreements. The better the gold products performed, the more WisdomTree earned and the safer the payment to ETFS became. WisdomTree hid from stockholders that the low buy-out price was due to the value of Gold ETFs falling due to huge outflows in recent years. Mr. Tuckwell was not obliged to sell the gold payable just because he owns shares in WisdomTree, he helped all stockholders by selling at such a reduced price.

- In 2003, the world's first gold ETFs (called ETCs) were launched in Australia and London by Graham Tuckwell (GT) and the World Gold Council (WGC)
- ETFS was formed in 2005 and by 2008 had \$6 billion of AUM in gold and commodity ETCs
- In Jun 2008, ETFS acquired GBS.LN from GBH by agreeing to pay GBH 9,500 ounces of gold per annum for 50 years(2) (the ETFS Gold Payable)
- When WisdomTree acquired the European ETC business from ETFS in 2018, the purchase consideration comprised:
  - \$611 million in cash and WT shares, plus
  - WisdomTree paying ETFS 9,500 ounces of gold per annum in perpetuity out
    of the management fees received on the gold products acquired from
    ETFS (the WisdomTree Gold Payable)
- The WisdomTree accounts valued the gold payable obligation at \$200 million in Dec 2022 and reduced the value to \$180 million in Mar 2023
- The gold payable obligation was cancelled in May 2023 when ETFS agreed to accept just \$137 million from WisdomTree as consideration to buy back the obligation

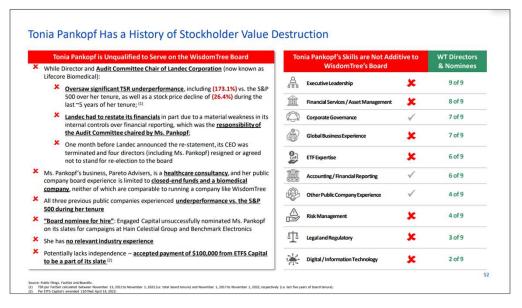
Source: ETFS Capital, SEC Filings

#### WISDOMTREE'S ATTACK CLAIMS HAVE NO MERIT – TONIA PANKOPF



#### WisdomTree Claims

"Tonia Pankopf is unqualified to serve on the WisdomTree Board"



Source: WisdomTree Investor Presentation, May 2023

#### Reality: (Another cheap attack on highly qualified individual)

Tonia Pankopf has a successful history of board service which includes the spin-off and restructuring of a business, the replacement of an underperforming CEO, and service as a Governance Fellow for the National Association of Corporate Directors

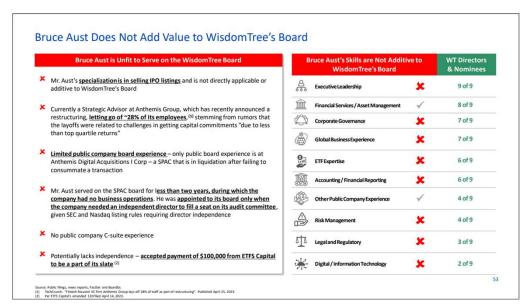
- Ms. Pankopf joined the nine-member Landec board to help restructure the business and transition the company from food to life sciences
- The company had a history of underperformance and during Ms. Pankopf's tenure, the board had to pursue a CEO change
- Ms. Pankopf led the board's strategic and capital allocation efforts including hiring investment banks, selling the food business, conducting a strategic review, and reestablishing the company as a life sciences business
- The restatement related to an expense classification of a divestiture/sale of assets in the discontinued operations of the food business and was unrelated to the core business and restructuring efforts
- Pareto Avisors provides capital investment, financial and strategic consulting across various industries including financial services and technology
- Engaged Capital campaigns for which Ms. Pankopf was nominated were settled and thus her candidacy never reached a shareholder vote

#### WISDOMTREE'S ATTACK CLAIMS HAVE NO MERIT – BRUCE AUST



#### WisdomTree Claims

"Bruce Aust is unfit to serve on the WisdomTree Board"



Source: WisdomTree Investor Presentation, May 2023

#### Reality: (Another cheap attack on highly qualified individual)

Bruce Aust's experience with emerging technology, entrepreneurship, and executive leadership at Nasdaq will prove invaluable on the WisdomTree hoard

- WisdomTree's rejection of an individual such as Mr. Aust is outrageous given his extensive experience, detailed below:
- As Head of Global Listings at Nasdaq, Mr. Aust tripled revenue from \$160m to \$530m through organic growth and acquisitions in investor relations, corporate governance, and private markets.
- Mr. Aust has crafted and executed disciplined strategy to maximize existing sales channel while improving margins in both the core business and new initiatives.
- Relevant experience includes internal boards such as the Nasdaq Exchange Board or Chair of the Nasdaq Entrepreneurial Center.
- As a key executive, Mr. Aust attended <u>all Nasdaq board meetings</u> and worked closely with the Chairman and Nom and Gov committees to diversify the board and to bring in new skill sets as Nasdaq evolved from just being an exchange to a technology leader.

#### WISDOMTREE'S CLAIMS OF TRYING TO RESOLVE THIS CONTEST ARE MISLEADING



#### WisdomTree Claims

May 17 - 19, 2023

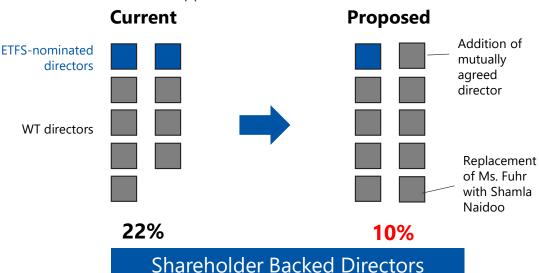
In order to resolve the distracting and costly proxy contest, we contact ETFS Capital to express openness to a settlement that would provide for the appointment of one mutually agreed director.

ETFS Capital rejects the settlement offer on May 19

Source: WisdomTree Investor Presentation, May 2023

#### Reality

- WT proposed to expand the Board from 9 members to 10 members, with appointment of mutually-agreed director
- Since WT did not renominate Deborah Fuhr, this means that WT's offer would effectively reduce ETFS' nominated directors on the board
- WT did not request to interview ETFS nominees Tonia
   Pankopf and Bruce Aust after nomination which makes their settlement offer appear hollow

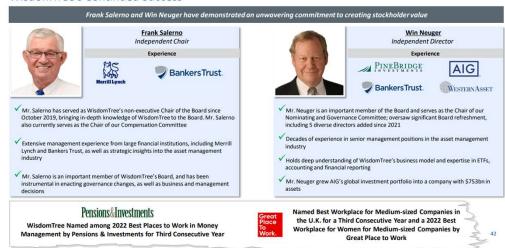


#### LONG TENURED DIRECTORS – FRANK SALERNO AND WIN NEUGER - HAVE BEEN INSTRUMENTAL



#### WisdomTree Claims

#### Our Directors Have Been Instrumental to Building Our Company and are Critical to WisdomTree's Continued Success



Source: WisdomTree Investor Presentation, May 2023

IN VALUE DISTRUCTION

#### Reality

#### Frank Salerno



- **Board Tenure:** 17.5 Years
- No committee refreshment: Has served as chairman of the compensation committee for 17.5 years
- Governance Failures:
  - Entrenched chairman of the board and the chairman of the compensation committee
  - Failed to conduct adequate management oversight and ensure CEO accountability
- Lack of Belief in the Business Strategy: Net seller of company stock

#### **Expertise** is outdated:

BankersTrust: 1981-1999Merrill Lynch: 1999 - 2004

#### Win Neuger



- **Board Tenure:** 9.5 Years
- Governance Failures:
  - While serving as the Chairman of the Nominating and Governance Committee two highly qualified female Directors have left or not been renominated to the board
  - Failure to engage with stockholders and negotiate in good faith
- Questionable Ties: Connections to numerous directors including Frank Salerno and Horold Singleton III

#### **Expertise** is outdated:

- WesternAsset: 1982-1984
- BankersTrust: 1984 1995
- AIG Collapse: (Controversy) 1996-2010
- PineBridge: 2010-2013

#### WISDOMTREE'S FLAWED ESG STRATEGY - HIGH RISK and 'D+' ISS ESG RATING





ORNINGSTAR SUSTAINALYTICS



Source: ISS 2022 report. Permission was neither sought nor received for using excerpts from the report

WisdomTree, Inc. Industry Group: Diversified Financials Country/Region: United States of America Identifier: NYS:WT WisdomTree Inc is a financial innovator, offering a well-diversified suite of exchange-traded products (ETPs), models, and solutions. It offers a broad range of ETFs and exchange-traded products (ETPs). The firm also engages in developing next-generation digital products and structures, including digital funds and tokenized assets, as well as... + Show More Full time employees: 279 **ESG Risk Rating** CORE ? Ranking Industry Group (1st = lowest risk) High 584 out of 856 **Diversified Financials** Risk Universe Global Universe 11428 out of 15346 40+

- WisdomTree did not publish a comprehensive ESG/CSR report in 2021 or 2022
- WisdomTree does not have any Sustainability Accounting Standards Board (SASB), Task Force on Climate-Related Financial Disclosures (TCFD) or CDP related disclosures
- No information is available on WisdomTree's carbon footprint or its Climate Strategy

Source: FactSet, Sustainalytics, Institutional Shareholder Services

#### THE CHOICE IS OBVIOUS



The ETFS Capital slate will deliver a new sense of accountability to a board run by incumbents who have failed in their management oversight duties and lack the requisite leadership skills to foster good governance

	Incumbents			ETFS Capital Nominees			
			Competing Directors	dd			
Frank Salerno	Win Neuger	Shamla Naidoo		Bruce Aust	Tonia Pankopf	Graham Tuckwell	
$\otimes$	$\otimes$	$\otimes$	Prior Industry Experience and Track Record of Success	$\otimes$	$\otimes$	$\otimes$	
$\otimes$	$\otimes$	$\otimes$	No Prior Ties with Other Directors or Controversies	$\otimes$	$\otimes$	$\otimes$	
$\otimes$	$\otimes$	$\otimes$	Capable of Restoring Management Accountability	$\otimes$	$\otimes$	$\otimes$	
$\otimes$	$\otimes$	$\otimes$	Committed to stockholder Rights and Advocacy	$\otimes$	$\otimes$	$\otimes$	

Source: SEC Filings, ETFS Capital

#### **ETFS NOMINEES**



#### We believe our nominees have the requisite skills and experience to deliver real change, if elected.

Nominee	Experience Overview	Core Skills
Bruce Aust	<ul> <li>21 years at Nasdaq overseeing and advising listed companies serving in several executive roles and retiring as Vice Chairman</li> <li>Leader in emerging brokerage services and technologies as former President of the Nasdaq Entrepreneurial Center and current Chairman of AEGIS Swap Execution Facility</li> <li>Unparalleled understanding of products developed and deployed on financial exchanges and global investment platforms</li> </ul>	Executive and Strategic Leadership     Service and Product Development for Exchanges and Trading Platforms     Audit and Exchange Compliance
Tonia Pankopf	<ul> <li>20 years of Board Experience</li> <li>Former Chair of Compensation and Audit Committees</li> <li>Governance Fellow of NACD</li> <li>25 years in Investment Management</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Investment and Portfolio Management</li> <li>Corporate Governance</li> <li>Capital Market Transactions</li> <li>Valuation</li> </ul>
Graham Tuckwell	<ul> <li>20 years in the ETF industry</li> <li>Founder and Executive Chairman, ETFS Capital Limited(2004 – Present)</li> <li>20 years of providing strategic advice and leadership in investment management</li> <li>Served as an Economist for Australia's Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Value Creation and Leadership in the ETF Space</li> <li>Strategic Advisory for Institutional Investors and Corporates</li> <li>Investment Banking</li> </ul>

Source: ETFS Capital

#### **CHANGE IS NECESSARY**



- Our commitment to WisdomTree is undeniable as having over \$210m of capital invested in the Company's stock, we are inherently tied to the company's growth and prosperity.
- As pioneers in the ETF industry, we have attempted to share tried and tested ideas to help heal the business and reverse this \$1bn trend of stockholder value destruction that has extended for over the past five years, to no avail.
- Management admits that the ETF business is highly scalable, and yet its most egregious failure neglecting the core business and failing to achieve scalability continues to be lost in the effusive chorus of record AUM and Net Inflows only to conceal the deteriorating earnings and profitability that continue to plague the business.
- In the shadow of a CEO/Founder, the incumbent Board has not only insulated management from this basic accountability, but also has endorsed this mismanagement with its own entrenchment practices, excessive compensation to executives, and now the selection of an underqualified nominee to replace an ETF industry expert who served as a settlement director under a Cooperation Agreement and was not renominated without explanation.
- This failed approach to the business has infected the Company's capital allocation strategy producing consistent losses and impairments.
- And now we are to trust that the Company's foray into DeFI, WisdomTree Prime is destined for success having invested \$30m over the last four years whereby competitors in the space have spent billions?
- The Company is at a cross-roads: the core business is in desperate need of repair requiring discipline around cost management and capital allocation, and that similar discipline needs to be implemented in the review and execution of WT Prime.
- We believe the long-tenured incumbent Board along with its underqualified and under-accomplished nominee cannot be trusted with this responsibility and that meaningful Board change is urgently needed to ensure the best interest of all stockholders is paramount in the boardroom.



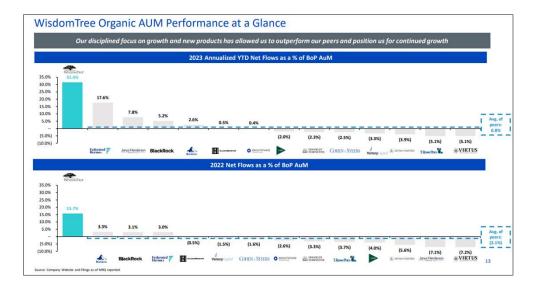
# APPENDIX

#### WISDOMTREE'S ORGANIC AUM COMPARISON: PEERS ARE GROSSLY OVERSIZED



### Claims: WisdomTree has Outperformed Peers in Organic AUM Growth

"Our disciplined focus on growth and new products has allowed us to outperform our peers and position us for continued growth."



## Reality: Peers Selected of Significantly Bigger Size Yields Low Percentage Growth Numbers

Comparisons of AUM growth is grossly misleading: WisdomTree, with AUM under \$100 billion, compares its growth against outsized peers, many of which have AUM over \$1 trillion

	AUI	Multiple of		
Peer	2020	2021	2022	WT AUM (2022)
Blackrock	\$8,676.7	\$10,010.1	\$8,594.5	104.8x
Invesco	\$1,349.9	\$1,610.9	\$1,409.2	17.2x
Franklin Resources	\$1,418.9	\$1,530.1	\$1,297.4	15.8x
T. Rowe Price Group	\$1,470.5	\$1,687.8	\$1,274.7	15.5x
Federated Hermes	\$619.4	\$668.9	\$668.9	8.2x
Affiliated Managers Group	\$716.2	\$813.8	\$650.8	7.9x
AllianceBernstein	\$685.9	\$778.6	\$646.4	7.9x
Janus Henderson Group	\$401.6	\$432.3	\$287.3	3.5x
Victory Capital Holdings	\$147.2	\$183.7	\$153.0	1.9x
Virtus Invst. Partners	\$132.2	\$187.2	\$149.4	1.8x
Artisan Partners Asset Mgmt.	\$157.8	\$174.8	\$127.9	1.6x
BrightSphere Invst. Grp.	\$156.7	\$117.2	\$93.6	1.1x
Cohen & Steers	\$79.9	\$106.6	\$80.4	1.0x
WisdomTree	\$67.4	\$77.5	\$82.0	

- 4 peers have AUM with over \$1 trillion and greater than 15x WisdomTree's AUM
- The peer median has AUM that is ~8x that of WisdomTree

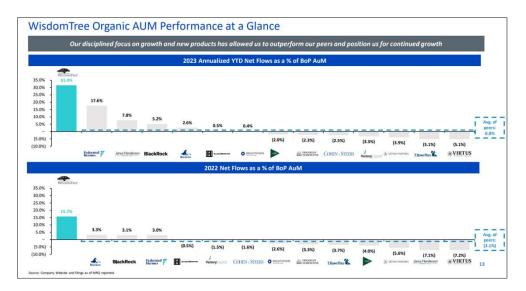
Source: FactSet

#### WISDOMTREE'S ORGANIC AUM COMPARISON: PEERS ARE GROSSLY OVERSIZED (contd.)



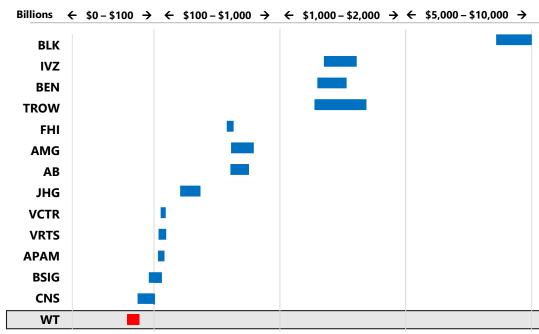
#### WisdomTree Claims

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#### Reality

Comparisons of AUM growth are grossly misleading: WisdomTree, with AUM under \$100bn, compares its growth against outsized peers, many of which have AUM over \$1tr



Source: FactSet

#### **BACKGROUND TO THE GOLD PAYABLE TRANSANCTIONS**

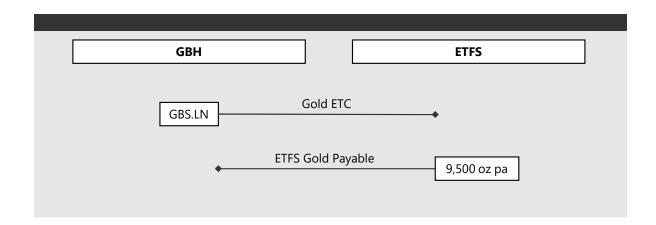


- When WisdomTree acquired the European ETC business from ETF Securities (ETFS) in 2018, the purchase consideration included WisdomTree paying ETFS 9,500 ounces of gold per annum in perpetuity<sup>(1)</sup> out of the management fees received on the gold products acquired from ETFS
- In these slides, this obligation is referred to as the WisdomTree Gold Payable
- In WisdomTree's accounts, this obligation was called the Deferred Consideration and was recorded as a liability on the balance sheet and valued at the present value of all future payments using an appropriate discount rate and forward gold prices
- On acquisition, the payable was valued at \$161 million. Each quarter the payable was revalued using then prevailing discount rate and gold price assumptions and the change in valuation was brought through the profit and loss account of WisdomTree
- The Deferred Consideration caused much confusion amongst people trying to understand WisdomTree's accounts
- The gold payable obligation was cancelled in May 2023 when ETFS agreed to accept \$137 million from WisdomTree as consideration to buy back the obligation in full
- The following slides explain the history of the gold payable transactions

#### THE GENESIS OF THE GOLD PAYABLE OBLIGATION (2008)



- In 2003, the world's first gold ETFs (called ETCs) were launched in Australia and London by Graham Tuckwell (*GT*) and the World Gold Council (*WGC*) through a company called Gold Bullion Holdings (*GBH*), owned 1/3<sup>rd</sup> by GT and 2/3<sup>rds</sup> by WGC
- By 2008 the London gold ETC, GBS LN, had \$3 billion of AUM (3.5moz of gold at \$870/oz). The fees were 0.40% per annum or 14,000 ounces of gold per annum.
- In 2005, ETFS was formed and by 2008 it had \$6 billion of AUM in gold and other commodity ETCs
- In Jun 2008, ETFS acquired GBS.LN from GBH by agreeing to pay GBH 9,500 ounces of gold per annum for 50 years<sup>(2)</sup> (the **ETFS Gold Payable**)

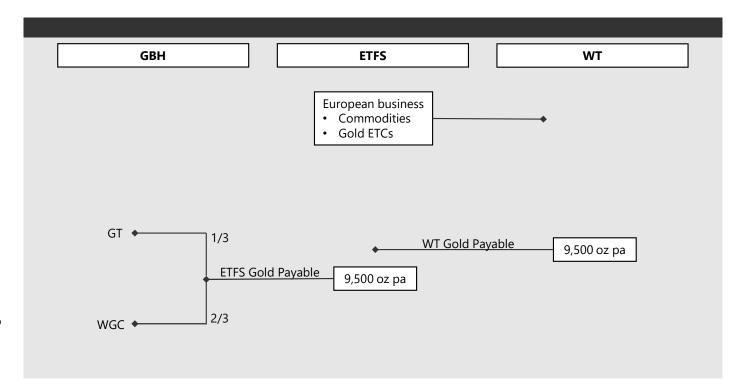


Note: (2) Initially the payment was 9,500 ounces per annum for 50 years to 2058 and later the payment was extended beyond 2058 to be 2/3rds of that amount in perpetuity

#### THE ACQUISITION BY WISDOMTREE OF THE ETFS EUROPEAN BUSINESS (2018)



- When WisdomTree acquired the European ETC business from ETFS in 2018, the purchase consideration comprised:
  - \$611 million in cash and WT shares, plus
  - WisdomTree paying ETFS 9,500 ounces of gold per annum in perpetuity<sup>(1)</sup> out of the management fees received on the gold products acquired from ETFS (the WisdomTree Gold Payable)
- The on-going payment obligation of WisdomTree matched the then existing ongoing payment obligation of ETFS to GBH<sup>(3)</sup>
- The contractual obligations between the various parties remained distinct and separate obligations i.e. there was no contractual obligation between WisdomTree and GT/WGC



<sup>(1) 9,500</sup> ounces per annum for 40 years to 2058 and thereafter 2/3<sup>rds</sup> of the that amount in perpetuity

<sup>(3)</sup> Immediately after the 2008 transaction, the GBH entitlement was paid directly to GT as to 1/3<sup>rd</sup> and WGC as to 2/3<sup>rds</sup>





- The WisdomTree accounts valued the gold payable obligation at \$200 million in Dec 2022 and reduced the value to \$180 million in Mar 2023 even though the gold price had increased by 9% during that period!
- The gold payable obligation was cancelled in May 2023
  when ETFS agreed to accept just \$137 million from
  WisdomTree as consideration to buy back the obligation in
  full. The consideration comprised \$50 million in cash and
  \$87 million in WT shares
- Concurrent with the buy-out from WisdomTree, ETFS bought out its matching obligation to GT and WGC, with GT receiving \$46 million in cash and WGC receiving \$4 million in cash and \$87 million in WT shares
- These transactions cancelled both the WisdomTree Gold Payable and the ETFS Gold Payable obligations and the Deferred Consideration liability on the WisdomTree balance sheet

