

GDL FUND  
Form N-Q  
November 29, 2017

UNITED STATES

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

**FORM N-Q**

**QUARTERLY SCHEDULE OF PORTFOLIO HOLDINGS OF REGISTERED**

**MANAGEMENT INVESTMENT COMPANY**

Investment Company Act file number 811-21969

The GDL Fund

(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: September 30, 2017

Form N-Q is to be used by management investment companies, other than small business investment companies registered on Form N-5 (§§ 239.24 and 274.5 of this chapter), to file reports with the Commission, not later than 60 days after the close of the first and third fiscal quarters, pursuant to rule 30b1-5 under the Investment Company Act of 1940 (17 CFR 270.30b1-5). The Commission may use the information provided on Form N-Q in its regulatory, disclosure review, inspection, and policymaking roles.

A registrant is required to disclose the information specified by Form N-Q, and the Commission will make this information public. A registrant is not required to respond to the collection of information contained in Form N-Q

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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 the 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. Schedule of Investments.**

The Schedule(s) of Investments is attached herewith.

**The GDL Fund****Third Quarter Report September 30, 2017****(Y)our Portfolio Management Team**

<b>Mario J. Gabelli, CFA</b> <i>Chief Investment Officer</i>	<b>Ryan N. Kahn, CFA</b> <i>Analyst</i> <i>BS, Babson College</i>	<b>Gian Maria Magrini, CFA</b> <i>Analyst</i> <i>BS, Fordham University</i>	<b>Geoffrey P. Astle</b> <i>Analyst</i> <i>BS, Fairfield University</i>
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**To Our Shareholders,**

For the quarter ended September 30, 2017, the net asset value ( NAV ) total return of The GDL Fund was 0.3%, compared with a total return of 0.3% for the Bank of America Merrill Lynch 3 Month U.S. Treasury Bill Index. The total return for the Fund's publicly traded shares was 1.1%. The Fund's NAV per share was \$11.62, while the price of the publicly traded shares closed at \$10.21 on the New York Stock Exchange ( NYSE ). See below for additional performance information.

Enclosed is the schedule of investments as of September 30, 2017.

**Comparative Results****Average Annual Returns through September 30, 2017 (a) (Unaudited)**

	Quarter	1 Year	3 Year	5 Year	10 Year	Since Inception (01/31/07)
<b>GDL Fund</b>						
<b>NAV Total Return (b)</b>	0.34%	3.34%	3.87%	3.89%	2.73%	2.97%
<b>Investment Total Return (c)</b>	1.07	9.31	5.37	4.89	3.67	2.36
Bank of America Merrill Lynch 3 Month U.S. Treasury Bill Index	0.26	0.66	0.32	0.22	0.47	0.76

(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](http://www.gabelli.com) for performance information as of the most recent month end. Performance returns for periods of less than one year are not annualized. Investors should carefully consider the investment objectives, risks, charges, and expenses of the Fund before investing. The Bank of America Merrill Lynch 3 Month U.S. Treasury Bill Index is comprised of a single issue purchased at the beginning of the month and held for a full month. At the end of the month, that issue is sold and rolled into the outstanding Treasury Bill that matures closest to, but not beyond

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three months from the re-balancing date. To qualify for selection, an issue must have settled on or before the re-balancing (month end) date. Dividends are not reinvested for the Bank of America Merrill Lynch 3 Month U.S. Treasury Bill Index. You cannot invest directly in an index.

- (b) Total returns and average annual returns reflect changes in the NAV per share and reinvestment of distributions at NAV on the ex-dividend date and are net of expenses. Since inception return is based on an initial NAV of \$19.06.
- (c) Total returns and average annual returns reflect changes in closing market values on the NYSE and reinvestment of distributions. Since inception return is based on an initial offering price of \$20.00.

**The GDL Fund****Schedule of Investments September 30, 2017 (Unaudited)**

Shares		Market Value
<b>COMMON STOCKS 55.7%</b>		
<b>Aerospace 0.8%</b>		
20,500	Orbital ATK Inc.	\$ 2,729,780
1,500	Rockwell Collins Inc.	196,065
		2,925,845
<b>Automotive: Parts and Accessories 0.8%</b>		
15,100	Federal-Mogul Holdings Corp. (a)	151,000
200,000	Haldex AB	2,473,941
		2,624,941
<b>Building and Construction 1.6%</b>		
1,400	ASH Grove Cement Co.	714,000
37,000	Cadus Corp.	45,880
20,000	Fortune Brands Home & Security Inc.	1,344,600
47,750	Johnson Controls International plc	1,923,847
35,414	Lennar Corp., Cl. B	1,596,463
2,800	Norbord Inc., Toronto	106,614
7,000	Polaris Materials Corp.	18,850
		5,750,254
<b>Business Services 0.7%</b>		
92,138	Clear Channel Outdoor Holdings Inc., Cl. A	428,442
87,000	exactEarth Ltd.	76,001
3,000	Funespana SA	26,061
511,000	Gerber Scientific Inc., Escrow (a)	0
175,000	GrainCorp Ltd., Cl. A	1,120,123
8,000	Landauer Inc.	538,400
23,100	MaxPoint Interactive Inc.	320,859
100	Patriot National Inc.	135

500	SAVE SpA	12,404
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2,522,425
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**Cable and Satellite 4.5%**

27,628	Liberty Global plc, Cl. A	936,865
60,000	Liberty Global plc, Cl. C	1,962,000
14,000	Liberty Global plc LiLAC, Cl. A	332,640
31,000	Liberty Global plc LiLAC, Cl. C	722,300
5,000	Scripps Networks Interactive Inc., Cl. A	429,450
220,000	Sky plc	2,697,415
85,000	Time Warner Inc.	8,708,250

15,788,920
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**Computer Hardware 1.2%**

335,000	Brocade Communications Systems Inc.	4,003,250
500	Data Modul AG	51,619

4,054,869
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**Computer Software and Services 0.8%**

8,000	Affecto OYJ	42,737
7,500	Dalenys	74,929
1,671	Dell Technologies Inc., Cl. V	129,018
21,000	Digi International Inc.	222,600
35,170	Exa Corp.	850,411

**Market**

**Shares**

200	InterXion Holding NV	\$ 10,186
90,000	Silver Spring Networks Inc.	1,455,300
200	Synchronoss Technologies Inc.	1,866

2,787,047
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**Consumer Products and Services 0.0%**

100	Accell Group	3,091
20,000	Avon Products Inc.	46,600
1,000	Bang & Olufsen A/S	21,600

71,291
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**Diversified Industrial 0.5%**

2,000	Handy & Harman Ltd.	65,100
15,000	ITT Inc.	664,050
45,000	Myers Industries Inc.	942,750
3,200	SLM Solutions Group AG	134,641
		1,806,541

**Electronics 1.8%**

19,000	Alimco Financial Corp.	231,420
85,900	Axis Communications AB	3,579,474
75,000	Bel Fuse Inc., Cl. A	1,995,000
17,000	Hitachi Kokusai Electric Inc.	465,319
		6,271,213

**Energy and Utilities 2.9%**

170,000	Alvopetro Energy Ltd.	29,974
3,500	Avangrid Inc.	165,970
1,000	Avista Corp.	51,770
41,000	Calpine Corp.	604,750
72,000	Endesa SA	1,623,212
1,000	Enduro Royalty Trust	4,350
500	Etablissements Maurel et Prom	2,222
460,000	Gulf Coast Ultra Deep Royalty Trust	20,700
43,000	Noble Energy Inc.	1,219,480
10,000	NRG Energy Inc.	255,900
7,000	Rice Energy Inc.	202,580
10,000	TerraForm Global Inc., Cl. A	47,500
120,000	Westar Energy Inc.	5,952,000
200	WGL Holdings Inc.	16,840
24,700	Whiting Petroleum Corp.	134,862
		10,332,110

**Entertainment 0.4%**

2,000	SFX Entertainment Inc. (a)	0
30,000	Tribune Media Co., Cl. A	1,225,800
		1,225,800



<b>Equipment and Supplies 0.1%</b>		
2,500	The Middleby Corp.	320,425
<b>Financial Services 3.9%</b>		
35,000	Astoria Financial Corp.	752,500
60,100	Bankrate Inc.	838,395
8,000	BB&T Corp.	375,520

See accompanying notes to schedule of investments.

**The GDL Fund****Schedule of Investments (Continued) September 30, 2017 (Unaudited)**

Shares		Market Value
<b>COMMON STOCKS (Continued)</b>		
<b>Financial Services (Continued)</b>		
13,800	Fidelity & Guaranty Life	\$ 428,490
975,000	Fortress Investment Group LLC, Cl. A	7,770,750
16,000	MoneyGram International Inc.	257,760
60,000	Navient Corp.	901,200
63,500	Nets A/S	1,643,915
8,000	Nordnet AB, Cl. B (a)	37,324
500	Novae Group plc	4,784
60,000	SLM Corp.	688,200
900	Topdanmark A/S	35,407
		13,734,245
<b>Food and Beverage 4.1%</b>		
40,000	Bob Evans Farms Inc.	3,100,400
2,619,000	Parmalat SpA	9,595,674
1,500,000	Premier Foods plc	844,198
10,000	Snyder s-Lance Inc.	381,400
1,000	The Hershey Co.	109,170
2,500,000	Yashili International Holdings Ltd.	531,261
		14,562,103
<b>Health Care 19.3%</b>		
150,000	Akorn Inc.	4,978,500
335,000	Alere Inc.	17,081,650
3,500	Allergan plc	717,325
71,000	AstraZeneca plc, ADR	2,405,480
5,500	Cigna Corp.	1,028,170
10,000	CR Bard Inc.	3,205,000
3,000	Depomed Inc.	17,370
2,200	Humana Inc.	535,986
1,000	ICU Medical Inc.	185,850
40,000	Idorsia Ltd.	714,618

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4,000	Illumina Inc.	796,800
75,500	Kite Pharma Inc.	13,575,655
6,000	Mylan NV	188,220
1,000	NxStage Medical Inc.	27,600
160,000	PAREXEL International Corp.	14,092,800
16,000	Rhoen Klinikum AG	538,754
200	SciClone Pharmaceuticals Inc.	2,240
15,000	Smith & Nephew plc.	270,947
7,500	Smith & Nephew plc, ADR	273,000
230,000	VWR Corp.	7,615,300
		68,251,265

**Hotels and Gaming 0.2%**

27,000	Belmond Ltd., Cl. A	368,550
1,000	MGM Resorts International	32,590
168,000	NYX Gaming Group Ltd.	317,756
		718,896

**Machinery 0.8%**

19,000	CNH Industrial NV	228,153
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**Market**

**Shares**

**Value**

38,000	Xylem Inc.	\$ 2,379,940
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2,608,093

**Metals and Mining 0.6%**

75,001	Alamos Gold Inc., Cl. A	507,007
35,504	AuRico Metals Inc.	35,853
338	Dominion Diamond Corp.	4,793
3,000	Osisko Gold Royalties Ltd.	38,710
12,000	Vulcan Materials Co.	1,435,200

2,021,563

**Paper and Forest Products 0.0%**

35,000	Tembec Inc.	128,471
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**Publishing 0.0%**

10,000	Telegraaf Media Groep NV	65,004
4,000	tronc Inc.	58,120
		123,124

**Real Estate 0.4%**

50,000	First Potomac Realty Trust	557,000
15,500	Forestar Group Inc. (a)	266,600
136,000	Great Wall Pan Asia Holdings Ltd.	33,427
25,184	Parkway Inc.	579,988
		1,437,015

**Retail 0.5%**

78,000	Jimmy Choo plc	239,873
840,000	Rite Aid Corp.	1,646,400
		1,886,273

**Semiconductors 1.0%**

33,800	AIXTRON SE	455,008
23,500	IXYS Corp.	556,950
3,000	KLA-Tencor Corp.	318,000
20,000	NXP Semiconductors NV	2,261,800
		3,591,758

**Specialty Chemicals 2.0%**

2,000	Ashland Global Holdings Inc.	130,780
159,000	Calgon Carbon Corp.	3,402,600
1,500	Linde AG	312,818
6,000	Monsanto Co.	718,920
8,900	SGL Carbon SE	150,472
5,000	Syngenta AG	2,301,595
5,490	Valvoline Inc.	128,741
		7,145,926

**Telecommunications 5.2%**

690,000	Asia Satellite Telecommunications Holdings Ltd.	648,343
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200,000	Koninklijke KPN NV	686,680
58,000	Level 3 Communications Inc.	3,090,820
1,000	Loral Space & Communications Inc.	49,500
10,000	Lumos Networks Corp.	179,200
58,000	Sprint Corp.	451,240

See accompanying notes to schedule of investments.

## The GDL Fund

## Schedule of Investments (Continued) September 30, 2017 (Unaudited)

Shares		Market Value
<b>COMMON STOCKS (Continued)</b>		
<b>Telecommunications (Continued)</b>		
15,000	Straight Path Communications Inc., Cl. B	\$ 2,710,050
130,000	Telenet Group Holding NV	8,601,111
77,100	West Corp.	1,809,537
		18,226,481
<b>Transportation 1.2%</b>		
190,000	Abertis Infraestructuras SA	3,839,972
2,000	XPO Logistics Europe SA	526,238
		4,366,210
<b>Wireless Communications 0.4%</b>		
1,000	DGC One AB (a)	30,694
24,000	T-Mobile US Inc.	1,479,840
		1,510,534
	<b>TOTAL COMMON STOCKS</b>	<b>196,793,638</b>
<b>CLOSED-END FUNDS 0.8%</b>		
42,000	Altaba Inc.	2,782,080
<b>RIGHTS 0.2%</b>		
<b>Entertainment 0.0%</b>		

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225,000 Media General Inc., expire 12/31/17 (a) 0

**Health Care 0.1%**

187,200	Adolor Corp., CPR, expire 07/01/19 (a)	48,672
79,391	Ambit Biosciences Corp., CVR (a)	47,635
201,600	American Medical Alert Corp., CPR (a)	2,016
18,000	Chelsea Therapeutics International Ltd., CVR (a)	0
229,178	Dyax Corp., CVR, expire 12/31/19 (a)	254,388
300,000	Innocoll, CVR (a)	180,000
100	Omthera Pharmaceuticals Inc., expire 12/31/20 (a)	60
206,000	Synergetics USA Inc., CVR (a)	20,600
346,322	Teva Pharmaceutical Industries Ltd., CCCP, expire 02/20/23 (a)	0
11,000	Tobira Therapeutics Inc. (a)	660

554,031

**Retail 0.1%**

400,000	Safeway Casa Ley, CVR, expire 01/30/19	214,000
400,000	Safeway PDC, CVR, expire 01/30/18	6,000

220,000

**TOTAL RIGHTS**

774,031

**WARRANTS 0.0%**

**Metals and Mining 0.0%**

850	Hudbay Minerals Inc., expire 07/20/18	238
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**Principal  
Amount**

**Market  
Value**

**CORPORATE BONDS 0.0%**

**Health Care 0.0%**

\$ 17,000	Constellation Health Promissory Note, PIK, 5.000%, 01/31/24(a)	\$ 7,310
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**U.S. GOVERNMENT OBLIGATIONS 43.3%**

153,073,000	U.S. Treasury Bills, 0.972% to 1.177% , 10/19/17 to 03/29/18(b)	152,762,063
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**TOTAL INVESTMENTS 100.0%**  
(Cost \$351,743,526) \$ 353,119,360

Aggregate tax cost \$ 352,954,564

Gross unrealized appreciation \$ 14,735,099

Gross unrealized depreciation (14,570,303)

Net unrealized appreciation \$ 164,796

**Market****Shares****Value****SECURITIES SOLD SHORT (0.7)%****Building and Construction (0.5)%**

35,414 Lennar Corp., Cl. A \$ 1,869,859

**Cable and Satellite 0.0%**

2,300 Sinclair Broadcast Group Inc., Cl. A 73,715

**Energy and Utilities 0.0%**

1,480 EQT Corp. 96,556

**Health Care Equipment and Supplies (0.2)%**

2,538 Becton Dickinson and Co. 497,321

**TOTAL SECURITIES SOLD SHORT**

(Proceeds received \$2,426,771)(c) \$ 2,537,451

Aggregate proceeds \$ (2,426,771)

Gross unrealized appreciation \$ 11,974

Gross unrealized depreciation (122,654)

Net unrealized depreciation \$ (110,680)



See accompanying notes to schedule of investments.

**The GDL Fund****Schedule of Investments (Continued) September 30, 2017 (Unaudited)**

- (a) Security is valued using significant unobservable inputs and is classified as Level 3 in the fair value hierarchy.
- (b) At September 30, 2017, \$47,250,000 of the principal amount was pledged as collateral for securities sold short, equity contract for difference swap agreements, and forward foreign exchange contracts.
- (c) At September 30, 2017, these proceeds were being held at Pershing LLC.  
 Non-income producing security.  
 Represents annualized yield at date of purchase.

ADR American Depositary Receipt  
 CCCP Contingent Cash Consideration Payment  
 CVR Contingent Value Right  
 CPR Contingent Payment Right

<b>Geographic Diversification</b>	<b>% of Total Investments</b>	<b>Market Value</b>
<b>Long Positions</b>		
North America	83.8%	\$ 296,034,330
Europe	15.3	53,918,006
Latin America	0.5	1,581,582
Asia/Pacific	0.3	1,120,123
Japan	0.1	465,319
<b>Total Investments</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>\$ 353,119,360</b>
<b>Short Positions</b>		
North America	(0.7)%	\$ (2,537,451)

As of September 30, 2017, forward foreign exchange contracts outstanding were as follows:

<b>Currency Purchased</b>	<b>Currency Sold</b>	<b>Counterparty</b>	<b>Settlement Date</b>	<b>Unrealized Appreciation/ (Depreciation)</b>
USD 3,756,046	GBP 2,800,000	State Street Bank and Trust Co.	10/27/17	\$ 530

					530
USD 5,937,428	SEK 48,300,000	State Street Bank and Trust Co.	10/27/17	(2,117)	
USD 26,126,736	EUR 22,200,000	State Street Bank and Trust Co.	10/27/17	(151,880)	
USD 1,855,706	CHF 1,800,000	State Street Bank and Trust Co.	10/27/17	(6,626)	
					(160,623)
<b>TOTAL FORWARD FOREIGN EXCHANGE CONTRACTS</b>					<b>\$(160,093)</b>

As of September 30, 2017, equity contract for difference swap agreements outstanding were as follows:

**One Month LIBOR**

**Plus 90 bps**

**plus Market Value**

<b>Depreciation Paid</b>	<b>Counterparty</b>	<b>Payment Frequency</b>	<b>Termination Date</b>	<b>Notional Amount</b>	<b>Value</b>	<b>Upfront Payments/ Receipts</b>	<b>Unrealized Depreciation</b>
	Gulf Keystone Petroleum Ltd. The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc.	1 month	06/28/2018	\$ 1,199	\$ (299)		\$
	Premier Foods plc The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc.	1 month	04/02/2018	242,124	5,789		\$

See accompanying notes to schedule of investments.

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## The GDL Fund

### Notes to Schedule of Investments (Unaudited)

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 schedule of investments. 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 schedule of investments.

**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 Trustees (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 obligations 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, 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. 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. OTC futures and options on futures for which market quotations are readily available will be valued by quotations received from a pricing service or, if no quotations are available from a pricing service, by quotations obtained from one or more dealers in the instrument in question by the Adviser.

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 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;

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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).

**The GDL Fund****Notes to Schedule of Investments (Unaudited) (Continued)**

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 September 30, 2017 is as follows:

	Valuation Inputs			Total Market Value at 9/30/17
	Level 1 Quoted Prices	Level 2 Observable Inputs	Level 3 Unobservable Inputs	
<b>INVESTMENTS IN SECURITIES:</b>				
<b>ASSETS (Market Value):</b>				
Common Stocks:				
Automotive: Parts and Accessories	\$ 2,473,941		\$ 151,000	\$ 2,624,941
Business Services	2,522,425		0	2,522,425
Entertainment	1,225,800		0	1,225,800
Financial Services	13,696,921		37,324	13,734,245
Real Estate	1,170,415		266,600	1,437,015
Wireless Communications	1,479,840		30,694	1,510,534
Electronics	6,039,793	\$ 231,420		6,271,213
Transportation	3,839,972	526,238		4,366,210
Other Industries (a)	163,101,255			163,101,255
Total Common Stocks	195,550,362	757,658	485,618	196,793,638
Closed-End Funds	2,782,080			2,782,080
Rights (a)		220,000	554,031	774,031
Warrants (a)	238			238
Corporate Bonds (a)			7,310	7,310
U.S. Government Obligations		152,762,063		152,762,063
<b>TOTAL INVESTMENTS IN SECURITIES - ASSETS</b>	<b>\$ 198,332,680</b>	<b>\$153,739,721</b>	<b>\$1,046,959</b>	<b>\$353,119,360</b>
<b>LIABILITIES (Market Value):</b>				
Common Stocks Sold Short (a)	\$ (2,537,451)			\$ (2,537,451)
<b>TOTAL INVESTMENTS IN SECURITIES - LIABILITIES</b>	<b>\$ (2,537,451)</b>			<b>\$ (2,537,451)</b>
<b>OTHER FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS:*</b>				
<b>ASSETS (Unrealized Appreciation):</b>				
<b>FORWARD CURRENCY EXCHANGE CONTRACTS</b>				
Forward Foreign Exchange Contracts		\$ 530		\$ 530
<b>EQUITY CONTRACTS</b>				

Contract for Difference Swap Agreements	5,789	5,789
<b>LIABILITIES (Unrealized Depreciation):</b>		
<b>FORWARD CURRENCY EXCHANGE CONTRACTS</b>		
Forward Foreign Exchange Contracts	(160,623)	(160,623)
<b>EQUITY CONTRACTS</b>		
Contract for Difference Swap Agreements	(299)	(299)
<b>TOTAL OTHER FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS:</b>	\$ (154,603)	\$ (154,603)

(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 GDL Fund

### Notes to Schedule of Investments (Unaudited) (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 are 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.

**Merger Arbitrage Risk.** The principal risk associated with the Fund's investment strategy is that certain of the proposed reorganizations in which the Fund invests may involve a longer time frame than originally contemplated or be renegotiated or terminated, in which case losses may be realized. The Fund invests all or a portion of its assets to seek short term capital appreciation. This can be expected to increase the portfolio turnover rate and cause increased brokerage commission costs.

**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





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## The GDL Fund

### Notes to Schedule of Investments (Unaudited) (Continued)

strategies. The consequences of these risks, transaction costs, and losses may have a negative impact on the Fund's ability to pay distributions.

The Fund's derivative contracts held at September 30, 2017, 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. Equity contract for difference swap agreements at September 30, 2017 are presented within the Schedule of Investments.

**Forward Foreign Exchange Contracts.** The Fund may engage in forward foreign exchange contracts for the purpose of hedging a specific transaction with respect to either the currency in which the transaction is denominated or another currency as deemed appropriate by the Adviser. Forward foreign exchange contracts are valued at the forward rate and are marked-to-market daily. The change in market value is included in unrealized appreciation/depreciation on foreign currency translations. When the contract is closed, the Fund records a realized gain or loss equal to the difference between the value of the contract at the time it was opened and the value at the time it was closed.

The use of forward foreign exchange contracts does not eliminate fluctuations in the underlying prices of the Fund's portfolio securities, but it does establish a rate of exchange that can be achieved in the future. Although forward foreign exchange contracts limit the risk of loss due to a decline in the value of the hedged currency, they also limit any potential gain that might result should the value of the currency increase. Forward foreign exchange contracts at September 30, 2017 are presented within the Schedule of Investments.

**Options.** The Fund may purchase or write call or put options on securities or indices for the purpose of increasing the income of the Fund. As a writer of put options, the Fund receives a premium at the outset and then bears the risk of unfavorable changes in the price of the financial instrument underlying the option. The Fund would incur a loss if the price of the underlying financial instrument decreases between the date the option is written and the date on which the option is terminated. The Fund would realize a gain, to the extent of the premium, if the price of the financial instrument increases between those dates.

As a purchaser of put options, the Fund pays a premium for the right to sell to the seller of the put option the underlying security at a specified price. The seller of the put has the obligation to purchase the underlying security upon exercise at the exercise price. If the price of the underlying security declines, the Fund would realize a gain upon sale or exercise. If the price of the underlying security increases or stays the same, the Fund would realize a loss upon

sale or at expiration date, but only to the extent of the premium paid.

**The GDL Fund****Notes to Schedule of Investments (Unaudited) (Continued)**

If a written call option is exercised, the premium is added to the proceeds from the sale of the underlying security in determining whether there has been a realized gain or loss. If a written put option is exercised, the premium reduces the cost basis of the security. In the case of call options, the exercise prices are referred to as in-the-money, at-the-money, and out-of-the-money, respectively. The Fund may write (a) in-the-money call options when the Adviser expects that the price of the underlying security will remain stable or decline during the option period, (b) at-the-money call options when the Adviser expects that the price of the underlying security will remain stable, decline, or advance moderately during the option period, and (c) out-of-the-money call options when the Adviser expects that the premiums received from writing the call option will be greater than the appreciation in the price of the underlying security above the exercise price. By writing a call option, the Fund limits its opportunity to profit from any increase in the market value of the underlying security above the exercise price of the option. Out-of-the-money, at-the-money, and in-the-money put options (the reverse of call options as to the relation of exercise price to market price) may be utilized in the same market environments that such call options are used in equivalent transactions. At September 30, 2017, the Fund did not hold any written options contracts.

The following table summarizes the net unrealized appreciation/(depreciation) of derivatives held at September 30, 2017 by primary risk exposure:

	<b>Net Unrealized Appreciation/ (Depreciation)</b>
<b>Asset Derivatives:</b>	
Forward Foreign Exchange Contracts	\$ 530
Equity Contract for Difference Swap Agreements	5,789
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 6,319</b>
<b>Liability Derivatives:</b>	
Forward Foreign Exchange Contracts	\$ (160,623)
Equity Contract for Difference Swap Agreements	(299)
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ (160,922)</b>

**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

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**The GDL Fund****Notes to Schedule of Investments (Unaudited) (Continued)**

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.

**Securities Sold Short.** The Fund may enter into short sale transactions. Short selling involves selling securities that may or may not be owned and, at times, borrowing the same securities for delivery to the purchaser, with an obligation to replace such borrowed securities at a later date. The proceeds received from short sales are recorded as liabilities and the Fund records an unrealized gain or loss to the extent of the difference between the proceeds received and the value of an open short position on the day of determination. The Fund records a realized gain or loss when the short position is closed out. By entering into a short sale, the Fund bears the market risk of an unfavorable change in the price of the security sold short. Dividends on short sales are recorded as an expense by the Fund on the ex-dividend date and interest expense is recorded on the accrual basis. The broker retains collateral for the value of the open positions, which is adjusted periodically as the value of the position fluctuates. Securities sold short at September 30, 2017 are reflected within the Schedule of Investments.

**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.



**The GDL Fund**

**Notes to Schedule of Investments (Unaudited) (Continued)**

**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 15% 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 September 30, 2017, the Fund did not hold restricted securities.

**Tax Information.** 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 GDL FUND**

**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.

**Ryan N. Kahn, CFA**, is an analyst dedicated to the Gabelli merger arbitrage portfolios, specifically to our U.S. open and closed-end funds. He joined the team in 2013 after working as a generalist in the research department. Mr. Kahn earned a Bachelor of Science in Business Management from Babson College.

**Gian Maria Magrini, CFA**, is an analyst dedicated to the Gabelli merger arbitrage portfolios, specifically to our U.S. open and closed-end funds. He joined the team in 2013 after serving various roles in the Firm's operations and research departments. Mr. Magrini earned a B.S. in Finance from Fordham University.

**Geoffrey P. Astle** is involved in the analytics and foreign and domestic trading for the Gabelli merger arbitrage portfolios, specifically to our U.S. open and closed end funds. He has been associated in this capacity since 2007. Mr. Astle earned a Bachelor of Science in both Finance and Marketing from Fairfield University.

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](http://www.gabelli.com).

The Net Asset Value per share appears in the Publicly Traded Funds column, under the heading "Specialized 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 "Specialized Equity Funds."

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

The NASDAQ symbol for the Net Asset Value is XGDLX.

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 7.5% 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 GDL FUND

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OFFICERS

Bruce N. Alpert  
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Andrea R. Mango  
Secretary & Vice President

Agnes Mullady  
Vice President

John C. Ball  
Treasurer

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Former Managing Director &  
Chief Investment Officer,  
Financial Security Assurance  
Holdings Ltd.

Richard J. Walz  
Chief Compliance Officer

Clarence A. Davis  
Former Chief Executive Officer,  
Nestor, Inc.

Carter W. Austin  
Vice President

Arthur V. Ferrara  
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Salvatore J. Zizza  
Chairman,  
Zizza & Associates Corp.

TRANSFER AGENT AND  
REGISTRAR

American Stock Transfer and  
Trust Company

GDL Q3/2017

**Item 2. 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 last fiscal quarter that have materially affected, or are reasonably likely to materially affect, the registrant's internal control over financial reporting.

**Item 3. Exhibits.**

Certifications pursuant to Rule 30a-2(a) under the 1940 Act and Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 are attached hereto.

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**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 GDL Fund

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

Date 11/28/2017

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 11/28/2017

By (Signature and Title)\* /s/ John C. Ball  
John C. Ball, Principal Financial Officer and Treasurer

Date 11/28/2017

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