

GABELLI EQUITY TRUST INC
Form N-CSRS
August 25, 2017

UNITED STATES

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

FORM N-CSR

CERTIFIED SHAREHOLDER REPORT OF REGISTERED MANAGEMENT

INVESTMENT COMPANIES

Investment Company Act file number 811-04700

The Gabelli Equity Trust Inc.

(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: June 30, 2017

Form N-CSR is to be used by management investment companies to file reports with the Commission not later than 10 days after the transmission to stockholders of any report that is required to be transmitted to stockholders under Rule 30e-1 under the Investment Company Act of 1940 (17 CFR 270.30e-1). The Commission may use the information provided on Form N-CSR in its regulatory, disclosure review, inspection, and policymaking roles.

A registrant is required to disclose the information specified by Form N-CSR, and the Commission will make this information public. A registrant is not required to respond to the collection of information contained in Form N-CSR unless the Form displays a currently valid Office of Management and Budget (OMB) control number. Please direct

Edgar Filing: GABELLI EQUITY TRUST INC - Form N-CSRS

comments concerning the accuracy of the information collection burden estimate and any suggestions for reducing the burden to 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. Reports to Stockholders.

The Report to Shareholders is attached herewith.

The Gabelli Equity Trust Inc.**Semiannual Report June 30, 2017****(Y)our Portfolio Management Team**

| | | | | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Mario J. Gabelli, CFA | Christopher J. Marangi | Kevin V. Dreyer | Robert D. Leininger, CFA | Daniel M. Miller |
| <i>Chief Investment Officer</i> | <i>Co-Chief Investment Officer</i> | <i>Co-Chief Investment Officer</i> | <i>Portfolio Manager</i> | <i>Managing Director,</i> |
| | <i>BA, Williams College</i> | <i>BSE, University of Pennsylvania</i> | <i>BA, Amherst College</i> | <i>GAMCO Investors</i> |
| | <i>MBA, Columbia Business School</i> | <i>MBA, Columbia Business School</i> | <i>MBA, Wharton School,</i> | <i>BS, University of Miami</i> |
| | | | <i>University of Pennsylvania</i> | |

To Our Shareholders,

For the six months ended June 30, 2017, the net asset value (NAV) total return of The Gabelli Equity Trust Inc. (the Fund) was 11.0%, compared with total returns of 9.3% and 9.4% for the Standard & Poor s (S&P) 500 Index and the Dow Jones Industrial Average, respectively. The total return for the Fund s publicly traded shares was 13.7%. The Fund s NAV per share was \$6.18, while the price of the publicly traded shares closed at \$6.18 on the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE). See below for additional performance information.

Enclosed are the financial statements, including the schedule of investments, as of June 30, 2017.

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

| | Year to Date | 1 Year | 5 Year | 10 Year | 15 Year | 20 Year | 25 Year | Since Inception (08/21/86) |
|------------------------------------|--------------|--------|--------|---------|---------|---------|---------|----------------------------|
| Gabelli Equity Trust | | | | | | | | |
| NAV Total Return (b) | 11.04% | 18.30% | 14.12% | 6.91% | 10.39% | 9.35% | 10.52% | 10.83% |
| Investment Total Return (c) | 13.65 | 24.58 | 14.17 | 6.86 | 8.31 | 9.56 | 10.42 | 10.59 |
| S&P 500 Index | 9.34 | 17.90 | 14.63 | 7.18 | 8.34 | 7.15 | 9.66 | 10.08(d) |
| Dow Jones Industrial Average | 9.36 | 22.07 | 13.39 | 7.53 | 8.42 | 7.70 | 10.31 | 11.01(d) |
| Nasdaq Composite Index | 14.75 | 28.37 | 17.45 | 10.23 | 11.22 | 8.47 | 10.02 | 9.75(e) |

(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 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 Dow Jones Industrial Average is an unmanaged index of 30 large capitalization stocks. The S&P 500 and the Nasdaq Composite Indices are unmanaged indicators of stock market performance. Dividends are considered reinvested except for the Nasdaq Composite Index. You cannot invest directly in an index.

- (b) Total returns and average annual returns reflect changes in the NAV per share, reinvestment of distributions at NAV on the ex-dividend date, adjustments for rights offerings, spin-offs, and taxes paid on undistributed long term capital gains and are net of expenses. Since inception return is based on an initial NAV of \$9.34.
- (c) Total returns and average annual returns reflect changes in closing market values on the NYSE, reinvestment of distributions, and adjustments for rights offerings, spin-offs, and taxes paid on undistributed long term capital gains. Since inception return is based on an initial offering price of \$10.00.
- (d) From August 31, 1986, the date closest to the Fund's inception for which data are available.
- (e) From September 30, 1986, the date closest to the Fund's inception for which data are available.

Summary of Portfolio Holdings (Unaudited)

The following table presents portfolio holdings as a percent of total investments as of June 30, 2017:

The Gabelli Equity Trust Inc.

| | |
|--|--------|
| Food and Beverage | 12.0% |
| Financial Services | 10.1% |
| Entertainment | 6.6% |
| Equipment and Supplies | 5.9% |
| Health Care | 5.1% |
| Diversified Industrial | 5.0% |
| Consumer Services | 4.5% |
| Consumer Products | 4.2% |
| Energy and Utilities | 3.9% |
| Automotive: Parts and Accessories | 3.6% |
| Cable and Satellite | 3.4% |
| Business Services | 3.4% |
| Telecommunications | 3.2% |
| Retail | 2.7% |
| Machinery | 2.5% |
| Broadcasting | 2.5% |
| Electronics | 2.4% |
| Specialty Chemicals | 2.3% |
| Aerospace and Defense | 2.2% |
| Hotels and Gaming | 1.9% |
| Environmental Services | 1.6% |
| Aviation: Parts and Services | 1.4% |
| U.S. Government Obligations | 1.1% |
| Wireless Communications | 1.0% |
| Telecommunication Services | 1.0% |
| Computer Software and Services | 0.7% |
| Building and Construction | 0.7% |
| Communications Equipment | 0.7% |
| Metals and Mining | 0.7% |
| Closed-End Funds | 0.7% |
| Automotive | 0.7% |
| Agriculture | 0.6% |
| Publishing | 0.6% |
| Transportation | 0.5% |
| Real Estate | 0.4% |
| Manufactured Housing and Recreational Vehicles | 0.1% |
| Real Estate Investment Trusts | 0.1% |
| | 100.0% |

The Fund files a complete schedule of portfolio holdings with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the SEC) for the first and third quarters of each fiscal year on Form N-Q. Shareholders may obtain this information at www.gabelli.com or by calling the Fund at 800-GABELLI (800-422-3554). The Fund's Form N-Q is available on the SEC's website at www.sec.gov and may also be reviewed and copied at the SEC's Public Reference Room in Washington, DC. Information on the operation of the Public Reference Room may be obtained by calling 800-SEC-0330.

Proxy Voting

The Fund files Form N-PX with its complete proxy voting record for the twelve months ended June 30, no later than August 31 of each year. A description of the Fund's proxy voting policies, procedures, and how the Fund voted proxies relating to portfolio securities is available without charge, upon request, by (i) calling 800-GABELLI (800-422-3554); (ii) writing to The Gabelli Funds at One Corporate Center, Rye, NY 10580-1422; or (iii) visiting the SEC's website at www.sec.gov.

Certifications

The Fund's Chief Executive Officer has certified to the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE) that, as of June 9, 2017, he was not aware of any violation by the Fund of applicable NYSE corporate governance listing standards. The Fund reports to the SEC on Form N-CSR which contains certifications by the Fund's principal executive officer and principal financial officer that relate to the Fund's disclosure in such reports and that are required by Rule 30a-2(a) under the 1940 Act.

The Gabelli Equity Trust Inc.**Portfolio Changes Quarter Ended June 30, 2017 (Unaudited)**

| | Shares | Ownership at June 30, 2017 |
|--|---------|----------------------------------|
| NET PURCHASES | | |
| Common Stocks | | |
| Advance Auto Parts Inc. | 3,000 | 13,000 |
| Altaba Inc. | 130,000 | 130,000 |
| Altice USA Inc., Cl. A | 20,000 | 20,000 |
| Ascena Retail Group Inc. | 120,000 | 250,000 |
| Ashland Global Holdings Inc. | 1,000 | 11,000 |
| Baker Hughes Inc. | 11,000 | 11,000 |
| BioScrip Inc. | 197,998 | 3,134,549 |
| Cincinnati Bell Inc. | 5,000 | 140,000 |
| Clear Channel Outdoor Holdings Inc., Cl. A | 3,000 | 160,000 |
| CNH Industrial NV | 10,000 | 70,092 |
| CR Bard Inc. | 500 | 500 |
| Davide Campari-Milano SpA(a) | 652,800 | 1,305,600 |
| Denny's Corp. | 5,000 | 9,000 |
| Deutsche Bank AG | 8,000 | 24,000 |
| Donnelley Financial Solutions, Inc. | 37,000 | 47,000 |
| Edgewell Personal Care Co. | 3,700 | 199,700 |
| Emerald Expositions Events Inc. | 25,000 | 25,000 |
| Entertainment One Ltd. | 75,000 | 75,000 |
| Essity AB, Cl. B(b) | 27,600 | 27,600 |
| Gerber Scientific Inc., Escrow | 60,000 | 60,000 |
| Herc Holdings Inc. | 43,559 | 96,559 |
| Hertz Global Holdings Inc. | 81,100 | 401,100 |
| Hewlett Packard Enterprise Co. | 14,000 | 49,000 |
| Incyte Corp. | 1,000 | 4,000 |
| International Game Technology plc | 4,000 | 13,095 |
| Inventure Foods Inc. | 65,787 | 429,626 |
| Janus Henderson Group plc | 143,000 | 143,000 |
| Jason Industries Inc. | 30,000 | 395,385 |
| Legg Mason Inc. | 20,000 | 145,000 |
| Liberty Media Corp.- | | |
| Liberty Braves, Cl. C | 6,000 | 79,758 |
| Millicom International Cellular SA, SDR | 6,000 | 99,000 |
| Mueller Water Products Inc., Cl. A | 3,000 | 9,000 |
| National Fuel Gas Co. | 15,000 | 40,000 |
| NeoGenomics Inc. | 27,621 | 27,621 |
| Newell Brands Inc. | 1,500 | 23,000 |
| | 35,000 | 195,000 |

Edgar Filing: GABELLI EQUITY TRUST INC - Form N-CSRS

Och-Ziff Capital Management Group LLC,
Cl. A

| | | |
|--------------------------------------|---------------|---|
| O Reilly Automotive Inc. | 500 | 73,500 |
| Patterson-UTI Energy Inc. | 80,000 | 80,000 |
| Penske Automotive Group Inc. | 8,909 | 20,909 |
| Rockwell Collins Inc.(c) | 4,652 | 4,652 |
| Rolls-Royce Holdings plc, Cl. C(d) | 85,839,000 | 85,839,000 |
| Stericycle Inc. | 2,000 | 9,000 |
| Synchrony Financial | 10,000 | 10,000 |
| T. Rowe Price Group Inc. | 10,000 | 113,400 |
| TimkenSteel Corp. | 30,000 | 160,000 |
| United Natural Foods Inc. | 1,000 | 18,000 |
| Valvoline Inc.(e) | 29,001 | 29,001 |
| Waddell & Reed Financial Inc., Cl. A | 20,000 | 150,000 |
| | | Ownership at June 30, 2017 |
| | Shares | |
| Weatherford International plc | 40,400 | 75,400 |
| Zayo Group Holdings Inc. | 1,000 | 20,000 |

NET SALES

Common Stocks

| | | |
|------------------------------------|----------|---------|
| Adient plc | (1,515) | 29,834 |
| Akorn Inc. | (23,579) | 47,519 |
| Alere Inc. | (9,000) | 31,000 |
| American Express Co. | (6,000) | 411,000 |
| AMETEK Inc. | (4,000) | 414,000 |
| Apple Inc. | (1,000) | 9,000 |
| Armstrong Flooring Inc. | (100) | 162,400 |
| AT&T Inc. | (28,000) | 105,000 |
| Avon Products Inc. | (8,000) | 117,000 |
| B/E Aerospace Inc.(c) | (15,000) | |
| Becton, Dickinson and Co. | (2,000) | 8,000 |
| Berkshire Hathaway Inc., Cl. A | (2) | 114 |
| Blucora Inc. | (17,500) | 15,000 |
| Boston Scientific Corp. | (10,000) | 260,000 |
| Brown-Forman Corp., Cl. A | (1,000) | 105,200 |
| Builders FirstSource Inc. | (25,000) | |
| Cable One Inc. | (300) | 1,000 |
| Canadian Solar Inc. | (30,000) | |
| CBS Corp., Cl. A, Voting | (1,000) | 242,300 |
| Charter Communications Inc., Cl. A | (1,454) | 29,358 |
| Chemtura Corp. | (30,000) | |
| Corning Inc. | (15,000) | 375,000 |
| Crane Co. | (2,000) | 171,100 |
| CST Brands Inc. | (50,500) | |
| Curtiss-Wright Corp. | (4,000) | 252,300 |
| DaVita Inc. | (5,000) | 10,000 |
| Deere & Co. | (4,000) | 221,000 |
| Diageo plc, ADR | (10,000) | 161,000 |
| Donaldson Co. Inc. | (6,000) | 331,800 |

Edgar Filing: GABELLI EQUITY TRUST INC - Form N-CSRS

| | | |
|---|-----------|-----------|
| EchoStar Corp., Cl. A | (7,500) | 42,700 |
| Endo International plc | (55,784) | |
| Ferro Corp. | (45,000) | 397,000 |
| Forest City Realty Trust Inc., Cl. A | (13,000) | 27,000 |
| General Motors Co. | (3,746) | 88,000 |
| Gogo Inc. | (30,000) | 105,000 |
| Halliburton Co. | (4,700) | 191,700 |
| Honeywell International Inc. | (4,000) | 322,000 |
| IAC/InterActiveCorp. | (3,000) | 40,000 |
| IDEX Corp. | (11,000) | 229,000 |
| Integrated Device Technology Inc. | (10,000) | 22,500 |
| Internap Corp. | (36,000) | 526,500 |
| International Flavors & Fragrances Inc. | (2,000) | 71,000 |
| Janus Capital Group Inc. | (340,100) | |
| Landauer Inc. | (2,000) | 86,000 |
| Mandarin Oriental International Ltd. | (118,500) | 4,451,000 |
| Mead Johnson Nutrition Co. | (25,000) | |
| MGM Resorts International | (14,700) | 118,725 |

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

The Gabelli Equity Trust Inc.**Portfolio Changes (Continued) Quarter Ended June 30, 2017 (Unaudited)**

| | Shares | Ownership at June 30, 2017 |
|--|---------------|---|
| PepsiCo Inc. | (10,000) | 180,000 |
| Quinpario Acquisition Corp. 2 | (10,453) | |
| Rollins Inc. | (1,000) | 1,604,000 |
| Syngenta AG, ADR | (12,800) | |
| The Boeing Co. | (2,500) | 40,000 |
| The Coca-Cola Co. | (5,000) | 99,600 |
| The WhiteWave Foods Co. | (57,000) | |
| Time Warner Inc. | (35,000) | 165,800 |
| T-Mobile US Inc. | (5,000) | 30,000 |
| Twitter Inc. | (55,000) | |
| UnitedHealth Group Inc. | (2,000) | 72,000 |
| Westar Energy Inc. | (4,000) | 158,000 |
| Xylem Inc. | (10,000) | 260,000 |
| Yahoo! Inc. | (130,000) | |
| Corporate Bonds | | |
| Mueller Industries Inc., expire 03/01/2027 | (200,000) | |
| Rights | | |
| Deutsche Bank AG, expire 04/06/2017 | (16,000) | |
| Warrants | | |
| Daseke Inc., expire 09/11/2020 | (15,000) | |
| Kinder Morgan Inc., expire 05/25/2017 | (115,800) | |

- (a) Stock Split - 2 shares for every 1 share held.
- (b) Spin-off - 1 share of Essity AB, Cl. B. for every 1 share of Svenska Cellulose AB, Cl. B. held.
- (c) Merger - \$34.10 cash plus 0.3101 shares of new Rockwell Collins Inc., for every B/E Aerospace Inc.
- (d) Spin-off - 71 shares of Rolls-Royce Holdings plc, Cl. C for every 1 share of Rolls-Royce Holdings plc held.
- (e) Spin-off - 2.745338 shares of Valvoline Inc. for every 1 share of Ashland Global Inc. held. 1,198 shares of Valvoline Inc. were sold after the spin off.

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

The Gabelli Equity Trust Inc.**Schedule of Investments June 30, 2017 (Unaudited)**

| | | Market | |
|--------------------------------|---|---------------|--------------|
| Shares | | Cost | Value |
| COMMON STOCKS 98.1% | | | |
| Food and Beverage 12.0% | | | |
| 3,000 | Ajinomoto Co. Inc. | \$ 52,866 | \$ 64,721 |
| 105,200 | Brown-Forman Corp., Cl. A | 1,820,590 | 5,186,360 |
| 35,950 | Brown-Forman Corp., Cl. B | 1,269,227 | 1,747,170 |
| 63,800 | Campbell Soup Co. | 1,781,130 | 3,327,170 |
| 65,000 | Chr. Hansen Holding A/S | 2,725,303 | 4,727,472 |
| 15,000 | Coca-Cola European Partners plc | 275,290 | 610,050 |
| 135,000 | Conagra Brands Inc. | 4,266,922 | 4,827,600 |
| 30,000 | Constellation Brands Inc., Cl. A | 376,266 | 5,811,900 |
| 18,000 | Crimson Wine Group Ltd. | 91,848 | 192,780 |
| 201,500 | Danone SA | 9,779,634 | 15,145,756 |
| 1,305,600 | Davide Campari-Milano SpA | 3,566,380 | 9,200,667 |
| 161,000 | Diageo plc, ADR | 10,765,537 | 19,292,630 |
| 82,400 | Dr Pepper Snapple Group Inc. | 2,704,892 | 7,507,464 |
| 80,000 | Flowers Foods Inc. | 263,976 | 1,384,800 |
| 76,200 | Fomento Economico Mexicano SAB de CV, ADR | 1,872,322 | 7,493,508 |
| 55,000 | General Mills Inc. | 2,252,522 | 3,047,000 |
| 1,848,400 | Grupo Bimbo SAB de CV, Cl. A | 2,624,248 | 4,658,492 |
| 41,300 | Heineken NV | 1,962,995 | 4,015,658 |
| 11,000 | Ingredion Inc. | 162,440 | 1,311,310 |
| 429,626 | Inventure Foods Inc. | 2,980,189 | 1,851,688 |
| 105,000 | ITO EN Ltd | 2,422,898 | 3,827,517 |
| 27,800 | Kellogg Co. | 1,518,251 | 1,930,988 |
| 64,000 | Kerry Group plc, Cl. A | 735,609 | 5,510,839 |
| 86,666 | Lamb Weston Holdings Inc. | 2,655,649 | 3,816,771 |
| 9,700 | LVMH Moet Hennessy Louis Vuitton SE | 335,341 | 2,418,519 |
| 45,000 | Maple Leaf Foods Inc. | 828,035 | 1,136,104 |
| 330,000 | Mondelez International Inc., Cl. A | 11,497,898 | 14,252,700 |
| 70,000 | Morinaga Milk Industry Co. Ltd | 299,202 | 532,741 |
| 41,000 | Nestlé SA. | 1,791,828 | 3,568,099 |
| 180,000 | PepsiCo Inc. | 11,567,080 | 20,788,200 |
| 39,200 | Pernod Ricard SA | 3,228,300 | 5,249,560 |
| 26,000 | Post Holdings Inc. | 882,170 | 2,018,900 |
| 40,000 | Remy Cointreau SA | 2,377,486 | 4,671,403 |
| 55,000 | The Kraft Heinz Co. | 2,017,310 | 4,710,200 |
| 99,600 | The Coca-Cola Co. | 3,092,328 | 4,467,060 |
| 32,000 | The Hain Celestial Group Inc. | 214,736 | 1,242,240 |
| 3,000 | The J.M. Smucker Co. | 149,101 | 354,990 |

Edgar Filing: GABELLI EQUITY TRUST INC - Form N-CSRS

| | | | |
|---------|------------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| 132,809 | Tootsie Roll Industries Inc. | 1,771,732 | 4,628,394 |
| 50,000 | Tyson Foods Inc., Cl. A | 421,291 | 3,131,500 |
| 341,000 | Yakult Honsha Co. Ltd | 9,700,538 | 23,193,154 |
| | | 109,101,360 | 212,854,075 |

Market

| Shares | | Cost | Value |
|---------------|--|---------------|---------------|
| | Financial Services 10.1% | | |
| 411,000 | American Express Co.(a) | \$ 26,917,387 | \$ 34,622,640 |
| 25,000 | American International Group Inc. | 1,374,505 | 1,563,000 |
| 14,520 | Argo Group International Holdings Ltd | 389,834 | 879,912 |
| 72,000 | Banco Santander SA, ADR | 545,542 | 481,680 |
| 114 | Berkshire Hathaway Inc., Cl. A | 335,298 | 29,035,800 |
| 32,600 | Blackhawk Network Holdings Inc. | 1,089,256 | 1,421,360 |
| 12,800 | CIT Group Inc. | 548,363 | 623,360 |
| 88,000 | Citigroup Inc. | 3,646,777 | 5,885,440 |
| 9,000 | Cullen/Frost Bankers Inc. | 665,261 | 845,190 |
| 24,000 | Deutsche Bank AG | 679,775 | 426,960 |
| 8,000 | Financial Engines Inc. | 284,394 | 292,800 |
| 50,000 | Fortress Investment Group LLC, Cl. A | 264,068 | 399,500 |
| 68,000 | H&R Block Inc. | 1,532,208 | 2,101,880 |
| 40,000 | Interactive Brokers Group Inc., Cl. A | 643,310 | 1,496,800 |
| 143,000 | Janus Henderson Group plc | 3,127,990 | 4,734,730 |
| 61,400 | JPMorgan Chase & Co. | 2,865,137 | 5,611,960 |
| 29,800 | Kinnevik AB, Cl. A | 494,015 | 1,054,445 |
| 145,000 | Legg Mason Inc. | 4,109,572 | 5,533,200 |
| 88,000 | Leucadia National Corp. | 1,259,355 | 2,302,080 |
| 14,000 | Loews Corp. | 558,454 | 655,340 |
| 125,000 | Marsh & McLennan Companies Inc. | 3,772,923 | 9,745,000 |
| 9,000 | Moody's Corp. | 312,150 | 1,095,120 |
| 195,000 | Och-Ziff Capital Management Group LLC, Cl. A | 615,978 | 499,200 |
| 20,000 | PayPal Holdings Inc. | 651,955 | 1,073,400 |
| 105,300 | S&P Global Inc. | 4,404,349 | 15,372,747 |
| 124,100 | State Street Corp. | 5,232,321 | 11,135,493 |
| 17,000 | SunTrust Banks Inc. | 358,050 | 964,240 |
| 10,000 | Synchrony Financial | 275,012 | 298,200 |
| 113,400 | T. Rowe Price Group Inc. | 4,065,822 | 8,415,414 |
| 210,500 | The Bank of New York Mellon Corp. | 6,707,443 | 10,739,710 |
| 20,000 | The Charles Schwab Corp. | 292,250 | 859,200 |
| 12,300 | The Dun & Bradstreet Corp. | 292,691 | 1,330,245 |
| 10,000 | The PNC Financial Services Group Inc. | 956,448 | 1,248,700 |
| 13,000 | W. R. Berkley Corp. | 476,775 | 899,210 |
| 150,000 | Waddell & Reed Financial Inc., Cl. A | 3,429,408 | 2,832,000 |
| 235,000 | Wells Fargo & Co. | 7,377,851 | 13,021,350 |
| | | 90,551,927 | 179,497,306 |

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

The Gabelli Equity Trust Inc.**Schedule of Investments (Continued) June 30, 2017 (Unaudited)**

| Shares | | Cost | Market Value |
|------------------------------------|--|--------------|--------------|
| COMMON STOCKS (Continued) | | | |
| Entertainment 6.6% | | | |
| 29,358 | Charter Communications Inc., Cl. A | \$ 5,005,634 | \$ 9,889,242 |
| 41,600 | Discovery Communications Inc., Cl. A | 1,391,742 | 1,074,528 |
| 235,800 | Discovery Communications Inc., Cl. C | 2,716,076 | 5,944,518 |
| 75,000 | Entertainment One Ltd. | 212,881 | 215,296 |
| 533,000 | Grupo Televisa SAB, ADR | 8,059,059 | 12,989,210 |
| 10,700 | Liberty Media Corp.- Liberty Braves, Cl. A | 197,899 | 255,623 |
| 79,758 | Liberty Media Corp.- Liberty Braves, Cl. C | 1,347,050 | 1,911,799 |
| 48,641 | Lions Gate Entertainment Corp., Cl. B | 1,269,530 | 1,278,285 |
| 10,000 | Live Nation Entertainment Inc. | 274,451 | 348,500 |
| 24,000 | Pinnacle Entertainment Inc. | 268,320 | 474,240 |
| 103,200 | The Madison Square Garden Co, Cl. A | 5,592,162 | 20,320,080 |
| 165,800 | Time Warner Inc. | 9,479,845 | 16,647,978 |
| 40,000 | Tokyo Broadcasting System Holdings Inc. | 796,181 | 706,646 |
| 560,200 | Twenty-First Century Fox Inc., Cl. A | 5,861,488 | 15,876,068 |
| 370,000 | Twenty-First Century Fox Inc., Cl. B | 8,026,295 | 10,311,900 |
| 70,000 | Universal Entertainment Corp. | 1,103,319 | 2,137,808 |
| 279,521 | Viacom Inc., Cl. A | 13,193,575 | 10,635,774 |
| 245,000 | Vivendi SA | 5,982,999 | 5,453,834 |
| | | 70,778,506 | 116,471,329 |
| Equipment and Supplies 5.9% | | | |
| 414,000 | AMETEK Inc. | 9,561,678 | 25,075,980 |
| 7,000 | Amphenol Corp., Cl. A | 12,928 | 516,740 |
| 94,000 | CIRCOR International Inc. | 3,412,305 | 5,581,720 |
| 331,800 | Donaldson Co. Inc. | 4,094,830 | 15,110,172 |
| 207,000 | Flowserve Corp. | 4,362,047 | 9,611,010 |
| 37,400 | Franklin Electric Co. Inc. | 215,706 | 1,548,360 |
| 229,000 | IDEX Corp. | 9,184,410 | 25,879,290 |
| 43,000 | Ingersoll-Rand plc | 928,418 | 3,929,770 |
| 40,100 | Mueller Industries Inc. | 944,025 | 1,221,045 |
| 9,000 | Mueller Water Products Inc., Cl. A | 106,793 | 105,120 |
| 13,000 | Sealed Air Corp. | 208,280 | 581,880 |
| 45,000 | Tenaris SA, ADR | 1,981,220 | 1,401,300 |
| 10,000 | The Greenbrier Companies Inc. | 198,206 | 462,500 |
| 4,000 | The Manitowoc Co. Inc. | 5,854 | 24,040 |
| 80,000 | The Timken Co. | 3,018,718 | 3,700,000 |

Edgar Filing: GABELLI EQUITY TRUST INC - Form N-CSRS

| | | | |
|---------------|--|--------------|---------------|
| 59,600 | The Weir Group plc | 250,790 | 1,343,713 |
| | | | Market |
| Shares | | Cost | Value |
| 125,000 | Watts Water Technologies Inc., Cl. A | \$ 3,970,158 | \$ 7,900,000 |
| 4,000 | Welbilt Inc. | 19,597 | 75,400 |
| | | 42,475,963 | 104,068,040 |
| | Health Care 5.1% | | |
| 6,000 | Agilent Technologies Inc. | 247,707 | 355,860 |
| 47,519 | Akorn Inc. | 1,066,857 | 1,593,787 |
| 31,000 | Alere Inc. | 1,210,062 | 1,555,890 |
| 10,000 | Allergan plc | 2,117,098 | 2,430,900 |
| 34,000 | Amgen Inc. | 2,470,200 | 5,855,820 |
| 17,000 | Baxter International Inc. | 502,032 | 1,029,180 |
| 8,000 | Becton, Dickinson and Co. | 898,802 | 1,560,880 |
| 9,200 | Biogen Inc. | 1,427,484 | 2,496,512 |
| 3,134,549 | BioScrip Inc. | 6,048,417 | 8,510,301 |
| 3,500 | Bioverativ Inc. | 114,504 | 210,595 |
| 260,000 | Boston Scientific Corp. | 1,840,086 | 7,207,200 |
| 96,300 | Bristol-Myers Squibb Co. | 4,502,440 | 5,365,836 |
| 500 | CR Bard Inc. | 154,455 | 158,055 |
| 10,000 | DaVita Inc. | 644,504 | 647,600 |
| 20,000 | Express Scripts Holding Co. | 1,359,191 | 1,276,800 |
| 17,500 | Globus Medical Inc., Cl. A | 424,107 | 580,125 |
| 28,000 | Henry Schein Inc. | 1,651,762 | 5,124,560 |
| 4,000 | Incyte Corp. | 486,885 | 503,640 |
| 46,800 | Indivior plc | 28,408 | 190,606 |
| 37,000 | Johnson & Johnson | 2,400,670 | 4,894,730 |
| 10,000 | Medtronic plc | 737,384 | 887,500 |
| 95,200 | Merck & Co. Inc. | 2,219,590 | 6,101,368 |
| 27,621 | NeoGenomics Inc. | 206,529 | 247,484 |
| 84,000 | Novartis AG, ADR | 3,841,437 | 7,011,480 |
| 1,500 | Shire plc, ADR | 289,815 | 247,905 |
| 15,000 | Teva Pharmaceutical Industries Ltd., ADR | 581,414 | 498,300 |
| 72,000 | UnitedHealth Group Inc. | 4,389,309 | 13,350,240 |
| 4,000 | Waters Corp. | 285,470 | 735,360 |
| 268,000 | William Demant Holding A/S | 2,441,826 | 6,936,340 |
| 8,600 | Zimmer Biomet Holdings Inc. | 435,897 | 1,104,240 |
| 35,000 | Zoetis Inc. | 1,122,327 | 2,183,300 |
| | | 46,146,669 | 90,852,394 |
| | Diversified Industrial 5.0% | | |
| 500 | Acuity Brands Inc. | 12,751 | 101,640 |
| 160,000 | Ampco-Pittsburgh Corp. | 2,128,534 | 2,360,000 |
| 171,100 | Crane Co. | 4,833,174 | 13,581,918 |
| 153,000 | General Electric Co. | 3,712,505 | 4,132,530 |
| 132,000 | Greif Inc., Cl. A | 1,955,631 | 7,362,960 |
| 10,000 | Greif Inc., Cl. B | 635,644 | 604,000 |

Edgar Filing: GABELLI EQUITY TRUST INC - Form N-CSRS

| | | | |
|---------|--------------------------------|------------|------------|
| 65,478 | Griffon Corp. | 1,222,257 | 1,437,242 |
| 322,000 | Honeywell International Inc. | 23,900,887 | 42,919,380 |
| 117,000 | ITT Inc. | 1,436,279 | 4,701,060 |
| 11,000 | Jardine Strategic Holdings Ltd | 222,951 | 458,590 |
| 40,000 | Kennametal Inc. | 895,654 | 1,496,800 |

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

The Gabelli Equity Trust Inc.**Schedule of Investments (Continued) June 30, 2017 (Unaudited)**

| Shares | | Cost | Market Value |
|---|--|------------|--------------|
| COMMON STOCKS (Continued) | | | |
| Diversified Industrial (Continued) | | | |
| 50,000 | Myers Industries Inc. | \$ 818,952 | \$ 897,500 |
| 85,000 | Park-Ohio Holdings Corp. | 892,930 | 3,238,500 |
| 9,666 | Rayonier Advanced Materials Inc. | 160,768 | 151,950 |
| 30,000 | Rexnord Corp. | 630,867 | 697,500 |
| 15,000 | ServiceMaster Global Holdings Inc. | 553,798 | 587,850 |
| 15,000 | Sulzer AG | 739,785 | 1,700,386 |
| 100,000 | Toray Industries Inc. | 771,663 | 836,008 |
| 12,000 | Tredegar Corp. | 171,530 | 183,000 |
| 46,000 | Trinity Industries Inc. | 619,878 | 1,289,380 |
| | | 46,316,438 | 88,738,194 |
| Consumer Services 4.5% | | | |
| 20,000 | eBay Inc. | 416,823 | 698,400 |
| 40,000 | IAC/InterActiveCorp. | 1,022,109 | 4,129,600 |
| 24,642 | Liberty Expedia Holdings Inc., Cl. A | 521,749 | 1,331,161 |
| 225,200 | Liberty Interactive Corp. QVC Group, Cl. A | 3,714,133 | 5,526,408 |
| 21,000 | Liberty TripAdvisor Holdings Inc., Cl. A | 247,059 | 243,600 |
| 45,398 | Liberty Ventures, Cl. A | 901,142 | 2,373,861 |
| 1,604,000 | Rollins Inc. | 17,163,833 | 65,298,840 |
| 5,500 | TripAdvisor Inc. | 194,460 | 210,100 |
| | | 24,181,308 | 79,811,970 |
| Consumer Products 4.2% | | | |
| 117,000 | Avon Products Inc. | 980,571 | 444,600 |
| 14,100 | Christian Dior SE | 534,292 | 4,031,723 |
| 28,000 | Church & Dwight Co. Inc. | 385,294 | 1,452,640 |
| 65,600 | Coty Inc., Cl. A | 1,228,184 | 1,230,656 |
| 199,700 | Edgewell Personal Care Co. | 14,419,133 | 15,181,194 |
| 146,000 | Energizer Holdings Inc. | 4,380,826 | 7,010,920 |
| 27,600 | Essity AB, Cl. B | 294,742 | 755,137 |

Edgar Filing: GABELLI EQUITY TRUST INC - Form N-CSRS

| | | | |
|---------|---------------------------------|-----------|------------|
| 2,100 | Givaudan SA | 725,396 | 4,200,438 |
| 90,000 | Hanesbrands Inc. | 788,898 | 2,084,400 |
| 23,800 | Harley-Davidson Inc. | 1,105,662 | 1,285,676 |
| 1,270 | Hermes International | 444,999 | 627,573 |
| 5,000 | Mattel Inc. | 69,500 | 107,650 |
| 11,000 | National Presto Industries Inc. | 529,994 | 1,215,500 |
| 23,000 | Newell Brands Inc. | 1,070,695 | 1,233,260 |
| 10,000 | Oil-Dri Corp. of America | 171,255 | 420,100 |
| 46,800 | Reckitt Benckiser Group plc | 1,391,995 | 4,744,734 |
| 27,600 | Svenska Cellulosa AB, Cl. B | 73,685 | 208,850 |
| 816,900 | Swedish Match AB | 9,690,211 | 28,769,479 |

38,285,332 75,004,530

Energy and Utilities 3.9%

| | | | |
|--------|---------------|---------|---------|
| 11,000 | ABB Ltd., ADR | 171,270 | 273,900 |
|--------|---------------|---------|---------|

Market

Shares

Cost

Value

| | | | |
|---------|--------------------------------|--------------|--------------|
| 39,000 | Anadarko Petroleum Corp. | \$ 2,262,604 | \$ 1,768,260 |
| 59,000 | Apache Corp. | 2,771,519 | 2,827,870 |
| 11,000 | Baker Hughes Inc. | 591,800 | 599,610 |
| 80,000 | BP plc, ADR | 3,952,168 | 2,772,000 |
| 16,000 | CMS Energy Corp. | 102,219 | 740,000 |
| 185,100 | ConocoPhillips | 8,559,949 | 8,136,996 |
| 204,000 | El Paso Electric Co. | 5,709,272 | 10,546,800 |
| 98,400 | Enbridge Inc. | 2,488,608 | 3,917,304 |
| 24,000 | Eversource Energy | 545,324 | 1,457,040 |
| 57,600 | Exxon Mobil Corp. | 2,675,190 | 4,650,048 |
| 140,000 | GenOn Energy Inc., Escrow | 0 | 0 |
| 191,700 | Halliburton Co. | 3,773,551 | 8,187,507 |
| 4,000 | Marathon Oil Corp. | 111,366 | 47,400 |
| 22,000 | Marathon Petroleum Corp. | 836,230 | 1,151,260 |
| 20,000 | Murphy USA Inc. | 886,754 | 1,482,200 |
| 40,000 | National Fuel Gas Co. | 2,460,759 | 2,233,600 |
| 13,500 | NextEra Energy Inc. | 797,687 | 1,891,755 |
| 1,000 | Niko Resources Ltd., OTC | 54,403 | 48 |
| 3,000 | Niko Resources Ltd., Toronto | 923 | 139 |
| 32,400 | Oceaneering International Inc. | 437,629 | 740,016 |
| 80,000 | Patterson-UTI Energy Inc. | 1,700,728 | 1,615,200 |
| 15,100 | Phillips 66 | 1,113,603 | 1,248,619 |
| 120,000 | Rowan Companies plc, Cl. A | 4,470,497 | 1,228,800 |
| 20,000 | RPC Inc. | 259,649 | 404,200 |
| 15,000 | Southwest Gas Holdings Inc. | 347,695 | 1,095,900 |
| 101,000 | The AES Corp. | 907,143 | 1,122,110 |
| 75,400 | Weatherford International plc | 688,722 | 291,798 |
| 158,000 | Westar Energy Inc. | 8,728,974 | 8,377,160 |

Edgar Filing: GABELLI EQUITY TRUST INC - Form N-CSRS

| | | | |
|---|--|------------|------------|
| | | 57,406,236 | 68,807,540 |
| Automotive: Parts and Accessories 3.6% | | | |
| 29,834 | Adient plc | 1,402,198 | 1,950,547 |
| 107,600 | BorgWarner Inc. | 4,288,790 | 4,557,936 |
| 240,900 | Dana Inc. | 2,144,653 | 5,379,297 |
| 12,500 | Delphi Automotive plc | 842,223 | 1,095,625 |
| 241,400 | Genuine Parts Co. | 11,784,671 | 22,392,264 |
| 395,385 | Jason Industries Inc. | 924,131 | 510,047 |
| 185,000 | Modine Manufacturing Co. | 3,549,263 | 3,061,750 |
| 73,500 | O Reilly Automotive Inc. | 12,101,845 | 16,077,390 |
| 111,000 | Standard Motor Products Inc. | 1,220,821 | 5,796,420 |
| 73,000 | Superior Industries International Inc. | 1,462,789 | 1,500,150 |
| 14,000 | Visteon Corp. | 1,372,450 | 1,428,840 |
| | | 41,093,834 | 63,750,266 |
| Cable and Satellite 3.4% | | | |
| 253,600 | AMC Networks Inc., Cl. A | 12,064,774 | 13,544,776 |
| 1,000 | Cable One Inc. | 345,163 | 710,900 |
| 160,000 | Comcast Corp., Cl. A | 3,263,185 | 6,227,200 |
| 60,400 | DISH Network Corp., Cl. A | 2,044,622 | 3,790,704 |
| 42,700 | EchoStar Corp., Cl. A | 1,748,052 | 2,591,890 |

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

The Gabelli Equity Trust Inc.**Schedule of Investments (Continued) June 30, 2017 (Unaudited)**

| Shares | | Cost | Market Value |
|--|--|------------|--------------|
| COMMON STOCKS (Continued) | | | |
| Cable and Satellite (Continued) | | | |
| 21,712 | Liberty Global plc LiLAC, Cl. A | \$ 407,240 | \$ 472,670 |
| 42,918 | Liberty Global plc LiLAC, Cl. C | 1,218,719 | 918,874 |
| 427,890 | Rogers Communications Inc., New York, Cl. B | 4,533,833 | 20,200,687 |
| 19,310 | Rogers Communications Inc., Toronto, Cl. B | 137,424 | 912,043 |
| 108,800 | Scripps Networks Interactive Inc., Cl. A | 3,513,944 | 7,432,128 |
| 120,000 | Shaw Communications Inc., New York, Cl. B | 354,632 | 2,614,800 |
| 40,000 | Shaw Communications Inc., Toronto, Cl. B | 52,983 | 872,609 |
| | | 29,684,571 | 60,289,281 |
| Business Services 3.4% | | | |
| 14,334 | Allegion plc | 232,677 | 1,162,774 |
| 7,500 | Aramark | 194,037 | 307,350 |
| 7,000 | Ascent Capital Group Inc., Cl. A | 127,348 | 107,520 |
| 160,000 | Clear Channel Outdoor Holdings Inc., Cl. A | 1,106,763 | 776,000 |
| 2,004 | Contax Participacoes SA | 68,885 | 2,510 |
| 90,000 | Diebold Nixdorf Inc. | 3,119,797 | 2,520,000 |
| 16,000 | DigitalGlobe Inc. | 240,796 | 532,800 |
| 47,000 | Donnelley Financial Solutions, Inc. | 1,028,200 | 1,079,120 |
| 3,000 | Edenred | 38,786 | 78,226 |
| 25,000 | Emerald Expositions Events Inc. | 425,000 | 547,500 |
| 160,000 | G4S plc | 0 | 680,195 |
| 60,000 | Gerber Scientific Inc., Escrow | 0 | 0 |
| 16,000 | Jardine Matheson Holdings Ltd. | 534,478 | 1,027,200 |

Edgar Filing: GABELLI EQUITY TRUST INC - Form N-CSRS

| | | | |
|---------|---|------------|------------|
| 86,000 | Landauer Inc. | 2,387,051 | 4,497,800 |
| 25,300 | Macquarie Infrastructure Corp. | 1,580,073 | 1,983,520 |
| 289,000 | Mastercard Inc., Cl. A | 10,603,956 | 35,099,050 |
| 9,000 | Stericycle Inc. | 713,585 | 686,880 |
| 290,000 | The Interpublic Group of Companies Inc. | 4,514,220 | 7,134,000 |
| 10,000 | Vectrus Inc. | 106,200 | 323,200 |
| 12,800 | Visa Inc., Cl. A | 140,800 | 1,200,384 |
| | | 27,162,652 | 59,746,029 |

Telecommunications 3.1%

| | | | |
|---------|---------------------|-----------|-----------|
| 105,000 | AT&T Inc. | 3,684,274 | 3,961,650 |
| 55,400 | BCE Inc. | 1,851,178 | 2,495,216 |
| 914,200 | BT Group plc, Cl. A | 3,780,313 | 3,509,605 |

Market

| Shares | | Cost | Value |
|-----------|--|--------------|--------------|
| 140,000 | Cincinnati Bell Inc. | \$ 3,035,365 | \$ 2,737,000 |
| 100,000 | Deutsche Telekom AG, ADR | 1,656,300 | 1,801,500 |
| 105,000 | Gogo Inc. | 904,316 | 1,210,650 |
| 32,001 | Harris Corp. | 2,556,439 | 3,490,669 |
| 36,000 | Hellenic Telecommunications Organization SA | 452,922 | 433,378 |
| 15,000 | Hellenic Telecommunications Organization SA, ADR | 91,062 | 88,920 |
| 264,732 | Koninklijke KPN NV | 448,166 | 846,922 |
| 7,040,836 | LIME | 128,658 | 63,637 |
| 22,000 | Loral Space & Communications Inc. | 753,331 | 914,100 |
| 22,000 | Oi SA, ADR | 1,739,813 | 22,660 |
| 31,053 | Sprint Corp. | 176,070 | 254,945 |
| 21,000 | Telecom Argentina SA, ADR | 127,554 | 532,140 |
| 570,000 | Telecom Italia SpA | 2,217,800 | 526,030 |
| 70,000 | Telefonica Brasil SA, ADR | 726,827 | 944,300 |
| 595,739 | Telefonica SA, ADR | 8,915,134 | 6,189,728 |
| 563,700 | Telephone & Data Systems Inc. | 23,634,535 | 15,642,675 |
| 105,000 | Telesites SAB de CV | 79,714 | 77,179 |
| 25,000 | TELUS Corp. | 233,734 | 863,086 |
| 125,000 | Verizon Communications Inc. | 5,239,043 | 5,582,500 |
| 48,027 | Vodafone Group plc, ADR | 2,096,997 | 1,379,816 |
| 20,000 | Zayo Group Holdings Inc. | 646,738 | 618,000 |
| | | 65,176,283 | 54,186,306 |

Retail 2.7%

| | | | |
|---------|--------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| 13,000 | Advance Auto Parts Inc. | 1,864,076 | 1,515,670 |
| 250,000 | Ascena Retail Group Inc. | 670,769 | 537,500 |
| 95,300 | AutoNation Inc. | 2,664,951 | 4,017,848 |

Edgar Filing: GABELLI EQUITY TRUST INC - Form N-CSRS

| | | | |
|---------|-------------------------------|------------|------------|
| 38,000 | Costco Wholesale Corp. | 2,505,816 | 6,077,340 |
| 118,900 | CVS Health Corp. | 8,372,944 | 9,566,694 |
| 9,000 | Denny's Corp. | 101,644 | 105,930 |
| 25,000 | Fiesta Restaurant Group Inc. | 495,140 | 516,250 |
| 401,100 | Hertz Global Holdings Inc. | 7,591,341 | 4,612,650 |
| 22,100 | HSN Inc. | 597,444 | 704,990 |
| 100,000 | J.C. Penney Co. Inc. | 969,807 | 465,000 |
| 326,000 | Macy's Inc. | 6,367,418 | 7,576,240 |
| 20,909 | Penske Automotive Group Inc. | 957,326 | 918,114 |
| 33,300 | Sally Beauty Holdings Inc. | 264,056 | 674,325 |
| 17,000 | The Cheesecake Factory Inc. | 553,064 | 855,100 |
| 3,000 | Tiffany & Co. | 171,090 | 281,610 |
| 18,000 | United Natural Foods Inc. | 622,373 | 660,600 |
| 52,000 | Walgreens Boots Alliance Inc. | 1,540,167 | 4,072,120 |
| 32,000 | Wal-Mart Stores Inc. | 1,618,504 | 2,421,760 |
| 55,000 | Whole Foods Market Inc. | 989,403 | 2,316,050 |
| | | 38,917,333 | 47,895,791 |

Machinery 2.5%

| | | | |
|--------|-------------------|---------|-----------|
| 12,800 | Caterpillar Inc. | 86,323 | 1,375,488 |
| 70,092 | CNH Industrial NV | 632,983 | 797,647 |

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

The Gabelli Equity Trust Inc.**Schedule of Investments (Continued) June 30, 2017 (Unaudited)**

| Shares | | Cost | Market Value |
|----------------------------------|---|--------------|---------------|
| COMMON STOCKS (Continued) | | | |
| Machinery (Continued) | | | |
| 221,000 | Deere & Co.(a) | \$ 7,229,031 | \$ 27,313,390 |
| 2,250 | Roper Technologies Inc. | 417,199 | 520,943 |
| 260,000 | Xylem Inc. | 8,091,503 | 14,411,800 |
| | | 16,457,039 | 44,419,268 |
| Broadcasting 2.5% | | | |
| 242,300 | CBS Corp., Cl. A, Voting | 7,256,622 | 15,703,463 |
| 2,000 | Cogeco Inc. | 39,014 | 104,102 |
| 17,334 | Corus Entertainment Inc., OTC, Cl. B | 30,215 | 181,990 |
| 6,666 | Corus Entertainment Inc., Toronto, Cl. B | 12,406 | 70,063 |
| 16,000 | Gray Television Inc. | 14,422 | 219,200 |
| 19,250 | Liberty Broadband Corp., Cl. A | 608,060 | 1,651,457 |
| 66,192 | Liberty Broadband Corp., Cl. C | 2,236,120 | 5,742,156 |
| 19,250 | Liberty Media Corp.- Liberty Formula One, Cl. A | 327,003 | 674,328 |
| 52,250 | Liberty Media Corp.- Liberty Formula One, Cl. C | 1,197,836 | 1,913,395 |
| 75,000 | Liberty Media Corp.- Liberty SiriusXM, Cl. A | 1,647,568 | 3,148,500 |
| 158,000 | Liberty Media Corp.- Liberty SiriusXM, Cl. C | 4,034,747 | 6,588,600 |
| 292,400 | MSG Networks Inc., Cl. A | 1,675,251 | 6,564,380 |
| 17,376 | Nexstar Media Group Inc., Cl. A | 1,066,018 | 1,039,085 |
| 36,000 | Pandora Media Inc. | 463,829 | 321,120 |
| 85,200 | Television Broadcasts Ltd | 339,712 | 320,832 |
| | | 20,948,823 | 44,242,671 |
| Electronics 2.4% | | | |
| 20,000 | Bel Fuse Inc., Cl. A | 547,758 | 417,000 |
| 4,000 | Emerson Electric Co. | 222,819 | 238,480 |
| 4,000 | Hitachi Ltd., ADR | 287,076 | 246,600 |
| 22,500 | Integrated Device Technology Inc. | 424,409 | 580,275 |
| 54,000 | Intel Corp. | 1,160,428 | 1,821,960 |
| 345,490 | Johnson Controls International plc | 12,611,075 | 14,980,446 |
| 34,170 | Koninklijke Philips NV | 180,354 | 1,223,969 |
| 2,400 | | 337,270 | 1,412,496 |

Edgar Filing: GABELLI EQUITY TRUST INC - Form N-CSRS

| | | | |
|-----------------------------------|---|-------------|---------------|
| | Mettler-Toledo International Inc. | | |
| 40,000 | TE Connectivity Ltd | 1,553,958 | 3,147,200 |
| 240,000 | Texas Instruments Inc. | 10,937,263 | 18,463,200 |
| | | 28,262,410 | 42,531,626 |
| Specialty Chemicals 2.3% | | | |
| 12,320 | AdvanSix Inc. | 146,942 | 384,877 |
| 11,000 | Ashland Global Holdings Inc. | 541,523 | 725,010 |
| | | | Market |
| Shares | | Cost | Value |
| 20,000 | E. I. du Pont de Nemours and Co. | \$ 854,362 | \$ 1,614,200 |
| 397,000 | Ferro Corp. | 4,527,990 | 7,261,130 |
| 8,000 | FMC Corp. | 136,430 | 584,400 |
| 35,000 | H.B. Fuller Co. | 1,061,829 | 1,788,850 |
| 71,000 | International Flavors & Fragrances Inc. | 4,356,717 | 9,585,000 |
| 5,000 | Methanex Corp. | 137,095 | 220,250 |
| 250,000 | OMNOVA Solutions Inc. | 1,510,742 | 2,437,500 |
| 177,800 | Sensient Technologies Corp. | 4,609,358 | 14,318,234 |
| 18,000 | SGL Carbon SE | 252,978 | 223,576 |
| 2,000 | The Chemours Co. | 22,594 | 75,840 |
| 29,001 | Valvoline Inc. | 543,963 | 687,897 |
| | | 18,702,523 | 39,906,764 |
| Aerospace and Defense 2.2% | | | |
| 275,000 | Aerojet Rocketdyne Holdings Inc. | 2,370,094 | 5,720,000 |
| 1,246,553 | BBA Aviation plc | 2,811,697 | 4,990,888 |
| 35,800 | Kaman Corp. | 881,634 | 1,785,346 |
| 17,500 | Northrop Grumman Corp. | 900,365 | 4,492,425 |
| 4,652 | Rockwell Collins Inc. | 455,800 | 488,780 |
| 1,209,000 | Rolls-Royce Holdings plc | 9,301,551 | 14,030,308 |
| 85,839,000 | Rolls-Royce Holdings plc, Cl. C | 110,312 | 111,802 |
| 40,000 | The Boeing Co. | 5,219,781 | 7,910,000 |
| | | 22,051,234 | 39,529,549 |
| Hotels and Gaming 1.9% | | | |
| 16,000 | Accor SA | 549,282 | 750,074 |
| 45,000 | Belmond Ltd., Cl. A | 621,367 | 598,500 |
| 90,000 | Genting Singapore plc | 74,910 | 70,928 |
| 8,000 | Hyatt Hotels Corp., Cl. A | 263,258 | 449,680 |
| 20,000 | ILG Inc. | 338,287 | 549,800 |
| 13,095 | International Game Technology plc | 246,136 | 239,639 |
| 579,400 | Ladbrokes Coral Group plc | 2,329,980 | 864,067 |
| 34,000 | Las Vegas Sands Corp. | 632,350 | 2,172,260 |

Edgar Filing: GABELLI EQUITY TRUST INC - Form N-CSRS

| | | | |
|-----------|-------------------------------------|------------|------------|
| 4,451,000 | Mandarin Oriental International Ltd | 7,804,113 | 8,902,000 |
| 15,000 | Marriott International, Inc., Cl. A | 1,229,670 | 1,504,650 |
| 70,000 | MGM China Holdings Ltd | 137,917 | 155,646 |
| 118,725 | MGM Resorts International | 2,630,776 | 3,714,905 |
| 188,800 | Ryman Hospitality Properties Inc. | 5,121,573 | 12,085,088 |
| 200,000 | The Hongkong & Shanghai Hotels Ltd | 155,450 | 361,193 |
| 4,000 | Wyndham Worldwide Corp. | 282,896 | 401,640 |
| 6,000 | Wynn Resorts Ltd | 469,634 | 804,720 |
| | | 22,887,599 | 33,624,790 |

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

The Gabelli Equity Trust Inc.**Schedule of Investments (Continued) June 30, 2017 (Unaudited)**

| Shares | | Cost | Market Value |
|--|---|--------------|--------------|
| COMMON STOCKS (Continued) | | | |
| Environmental Services 1.6% | | | |
| 35,000 | Pentair plc | \$ 1,197,464 | \$ 2,328,900 |
| 230,800 | Republic Services Inc. | 6,848,123 | 14,708,884 |
| 157,400 | Waste Management Inc. | 4,560,250 | 11,545,290 |
| | | 12,605,837 | 28,583,074 |
| Aviation: Parts and Services 1.4% | | | |
| 41,666 | Arconic Inc. | 880,949 | 943,735 |
| 252,300 | Curtiss-Wright Corp. | 12,171,871 | 23,156,094 |
| 25,500 | KLX Inc. | 1,033,565 | 1,275,000 |
| | | 14,086,385 | 25,374,829 |
| Wireless Communications 1.0% | | | |
| 20,000 | Altice USA Inc., Cl. A | 600,000 | 646,000 |
| 105,000 | America Movil SAB de CV, Cl. L, ADR | 735,232 | 1,671,600 |
| 99,000 | Millicom International Cellular SA, SDR | 6,382,128 | 5,847,377 |
| 150,000 | NTT DoCoMo Inc. | 2,980,751 | 3,536,786 |
| 46,075 | Tim Participacoes SA, ADR | 352,294 | 681,910 |
| 30,000 | T-Mobile US Inc. | 889,469 | 1,818,600 |
| 104,600 | United States Cellular Corp. | 4,965,942 | 4,008,272 |
| | | 16,905,816 | 18,210,545 |
| Telecommunication Services 1.0% | | | |
| 151,505 | Liberty Global plc, Cl. A | 2,536,161 | 4,866,341 |
| 382,893 | Liberty Global plc, Cl. C | 7,953,868 | 11,938,604 |
| | | 10,490,029 | 16,804,945 |
| Computer Software and Services 0.7% | | | |
| 4,000 | Alphabet Inc., Cl. C | 2,656,885 | 3,634,920 |
| 15,000 | Blucora Inc. | 74,987 | 318,000 |
| 6,000 | Check Point Software Technologies Ltd. | 101,862 | 654,480 |
| 4,733 | CommerceHub Inc., Cl. A | 31,317 | 82,449 |
| 13,466 | CommerceHub Inc., Cl. C | 84,093 | 234,847 |
| 49,000 | Hewlett Packard Enterprise Co. | 796,911 | 812,910 |

Edgar Filing: GABELLI EQUITY TRUST INC - Form N-CSRS

| | | | |
|---------|--------------------------|-----------|------------|
| 526,500 | Internap Corp. | 1,125,485 | 1,932,255 |
| 23,000 | InterXion Holding NV | 338,737 | 1,052,940 |
| 21,000 | NCR Corp. | 364,761 | 857,640 |
| 20,900 | Rockwell Automation Inc. | 648,748 | 3,384,964 |
| 15,000 | VeriFone Systems Inc. | 329,752 | 271,500 |
| | | 6,553,538 | 13,236,905 |

Building and Construction 0.7%

| | | | |
|---------|-------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| 162,400 | Armstrong Flooring Inc. | 2,824,340 | 2,918,328 |
| 18,000 | Assa Abloy AB, Cl. B | 310,378 | 395,480 |
| 80,000 | Fortune Brands Home & Security Inc. | 680,866 | 5,219,200 |
| 96,559 | Herc Holdings Inc. | 3,285,436 | 3,796,700 |

Market

| Shares | | Cost | Value |
|--------|-----------------------|------------|------------|
| 45,000 | Layne Christensen Co. | \$ 573,982 | \$ 395,550 |
| | | 7,675,002 | 12,725,258 |

Communications Equipment 0.7%

| | | | |
|---------|--------------|-----------|------------|
| 9,000 | Apple Inc. | 897,196 | 1,296,180 |
| 375,000 | Corning Inc. | 5,900,614 | 11,268,750 |
| | | 6,797,810 | 12,564,930 |

Metals and Mining 0.7%

| | | | |
|---------|-------------------------------|------------|------------|
| 37,400 | Agnico Eagle Mines Ltd | 1,530,570 | 1,687,488 |
| 13,888 | Alcoa Corp. | 293,636 | 453,443 |
| 54,000 | Barrick Gold Corp. | 1,581,120 | 859,140 |
| 30,000 | Cliffs Natural Resources Inc. | 296,432 | 207,600 |
| 80,000 | Freeport-McMoRan Inc. | 1,408,020 | 960,800 |
| 4,800 | Materion Corp. | 108,162 | 179,520 |
| 50,000 | New Hope Corp. Ltd | 67,580 | 58,798 |
| 143,600 | Newmont Mining Corp. | 5,120,536 | 4,651,204 |
| 160,000 | TimkenSteel Corp. | 2,837,427 | 2,459,200 |
| 140,000 | Turquoise Hill Resources Ltd. | 726,343 | 371,000 |
| 15,000 | Vale SA, ADR | 171,892 | 131,250 |
| | | 14,141,718 | 12,019,443 |

Automotive 0.7%

| | | | |
|---------|------------------------------|-----------|------------|
| 88,000 | General Motors Co. | 3,365,341 | 3,073,840 |
| 158,000 | Navistar International Corp. | 4,003,563 | 4,144,340 |
| 69,000 | PACCAR Inc. | 299,204 | 4,556,760 |
| | | 7,668,108 | 11,774,940 |

Agriculture 0.6%

| | | | |
|---------|----------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| 200,000 | Archer Daniels Midland Co. | 9,150,371 | 8,276,000 |
| 16,000 | Monsanto Co. | 709,230 | 1,893,760 |

Edgar Filing: GABELLI EQUITY TRUST INC - Form N-CSRS

| | | | |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------|------------|
| 10,000 | The Mosaic Co. | 428,085 | 228,300 |
| | | 10,287,686 | 10,398,060 |
| Publishing 0.6% | | | |
| 1,100 | Graham Holdings Co., Cl. B | 588,093 | 659,615 |
| 82,300 | Meredith Corp. | 3,666,696 | 4,892,735 |
| 125,000 | News Corp., Cl. A | 1,939,129 | 1,712,500 |
| 146,600 | News Corp., Cl. B | 1,644,464 | 2,074,390 |
| 40,000 | The E.W. Scripps Co., Cl. A | 399,742 | 712,400 |
| | | 8,238,124 | 10,051,640 |
| Transportation 0.5% | | | |
| 15,000 | Daseke Inc. | 133,500 | 166,950 |
| 131,200 | GATX Corp. | 4,730,843 | 8,432,224 |
| | | 4,864,343 | 8,599,174 |
| Real Estate 0.4% | | | |
| 27,000 | Forest City Realty Trust Inc., Cl. A | 554,456 | 652,590 |
| 56,000 | Griffin Industrial Realty Inc. | 542,694 | 1,756,720 |
| 265,000 | The St. Joe Co. | 4,873,297 | 4,968,750 |
| | | 5,970,447 | 7,378,060 |

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

The Gabelli Equity Trust Inc.**Schedule of Investments (Continued) June 30, 2017 (Unaudited)**

| Shares | | Cost | Market Value |
|--|--|--------------------|----------------------|
| COMMON STOCKS (Continued) | | | |
| Manufactured Housing and Recreational Vehicles 0.1% | | | |
| 5,000 | Martin Marietta Materials Inc. | \$ 106,125 | \$ 1,112,900 |
| 30,000 | Nobility Homes Inc. | 349,956 | 503,250 |
| 42,000 | Skyline Corp. | 256,482 | 252,840 |
| | | 712,563 | 1,868,990 |
| Real Estate Investment Trusts 0.1% | | | |
| 15,000 | Gaming and Leisure Properties Inc. | 189,641 | 565,050 |
| 29,000 | Rayonier Inc. | 454,837 | 834,330 |
| | | 644,478 | 1,399,380 |
| TOTAL COMMON STOCKS | | 984,229,924 | 1,737,217,892 |
| CLOSED-END FUNDS 0.7% | | | |
| 130,000 | Altaba Inc. | 2,884,194 | 7,082,400 |
| 4,285 | Royce Global Value Trust Inc. | 37,280 | 41,179 |
| 30,000 | Royce Value Trust Inc. | 368,797 | 437,700 |
| 90,302 | The Central Europe, Russia, and Turkey Fund Inc. | 2,597,549 | 1,977,614 |
| 143,158 | The New Germany Fund Inc. | 1,894,588 | 2,380,718 |
| | | 7,782,408 | 11,919,611 |
| TOTAL CLOSED-END FUNDS | | 7,782,408 | 11,919,611 |
| CONVERTIBLE PREFERRED STOCKS 0.1% | | | |
| Telecommunications 0.1% | | | |
| 21,000 | Cincinnati Bell Inc., 6.750%, Ser. B | 515,202 | 1,050,210 |
| RIGHTS 0.0% | | | |
| Entertainment 0.0% | | | |
| 139,123 | Media General Inc., expire 12/31/17 | 0 | 237,900 |
| Principal Amount | U.S. GOVERNMENT OBLIGATIONS 1.1% | | |

Edgar Filing: GABELLI EQUITY TRUST INC - Form N-CSRS

\$20,260,000 U.S. Treasury Bills, 0.672% to 1.111% , 08/10/17 to 12/21/17 20,205,521 20,206,013

TOTAL INVESTMENTS 100.0% \$ 1,012,733,055 1,770,631,626

| Number of Contracts | Expiration Date | Unrealized Appreciation | | |
|------------------------|--------------------|----------------------------|---|----------------|
| | | | FUTURES CONTRACTS | SHORT POSITION |
| (360) | 09/15/17 | \$ 111,750 | S&P 500 E-Mini Futures(b) | |
| | | | Market Value | |
| | | | Other Assets and Liabilities (Net) | |
| | | | 1,422,474 | |
| | | | PREFERRED STOCK | |
| | | | (412,913,225) | |
| | | | NET ASSETS COMMON STOCK | |
| | | | \$ 1,359,252,625 | |
| | | | NET ASSET VALUE PER COMMON SHARE | |
| | | | \$ 6.18 | |

(a) Securities, or a portion thereof, with a value of \$48,892,600 were pledged as collateral for futures contracts.

(b) At June 30, 2017, all of the futures contracts sold were held at UBS Securities LLC.

Non-income producing security.

Represents annualized yield at date of purchase.

ADR American Depositary Receipt

SDR Swedish Depositary Receipt

| Geographic Diversification | % of Total Investments | Market |
|----------------------------|---------------------------|------------------|
| | | Value |
| North America | 81.5% | \$ 1,442,824,167 |
| Europe | 14.2 | 250,694,410 |
| Latin America | 2.3 | 41,290,245 |
| Japan | 2.0 | 35,081,981 |
| Asia/Pacific | 0.0* | 740,823 |
| Total Investments | 100.0% | \$ 1,770,631,626 |

* Amount represents less than 0.05%

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

The Gabelli Equity Trust Inc.
Statement of Assets and Liabilities**June 30, 2017 (Unaudited)**

| | |
|---|----------------------|
| Assets: | |
| Investments, at value (cost \$1,012,733,055) | \$ 1,770,631,626 |
| Foreign currency, at value (cost \$37,252) | 37,194 |
| Cash | 3,266 |
| Deposit at brokers | 1,742,400 |
| Receivable for investments sold | 449,335 |
| Dividends receivable | 2,690,468 |
| Deferred offering expense | 77,977 |
| Prepaid expenses | 14,452 |
| Total Assets | 1,775,646,718 |
| Liabilities: | |
| Distributions payable | 243,242 |
| Payable for investments purchased | 80,540 |
| Payable for investment advisory fees | 2,127,292 |
| Payable for payroll expenses | 46,629 |
| Payable for accounting fees | 11,250 |
| Payable for auction agent fees (a) | 873,578 |
| Variation margin payable | 16,200 |
| Other accrued expenses | 82,137 |
| Total Liabilities | 3,480,868 |
| Cumulative Preferred Stock, \$0.001 par value: | |
| Series C (Auction Rate, \$25,000 liquidation value, 5,200 shares authorized with 2,880 shares issued and outstanding) | 72,000,000 |
| Series D (5.875%, \$25 liquidation value, 3,000,000 shares authorized with 2,363,860 shares issued and outstanding) | 59,096,500 |
| Series E (Auction Rate, \$25,000 liquidation value, 2,000 shares authorized with 1,120 shares issued and outstanding) | 28,000,000 |
| Series G (5.000%, \$25 liquidation value, 3,280,477 shares authorized with 2,779,796 shares issued and outstanding) | 69,494,900 |
| Series H (5.000%, \$25 liquidation value, 4,198,880 shares authorized with 4,172,873 shares issued and outstanding) | 104,321,825 |
| Series J (5.450%, \$25 liquidation value, 4,500,000 shares authorized with 3,200,000 shares issued and outstanding) | 80,000,000 |

| | |
|---|-------------------------|
| Total Preferred Stock | 412,913,225 |
| Net Assets Attributable to Common Shareholders | \$ 1,359,252,625 |
| Net Assets Attributable to Common Shareholders Consist of: | |
| Paid-in capital | \$ 609,406,934 |
| Distributions in excess of net investment income | (445,227) |
| Distributions in excess of net realized gain on investments, futures contracts, and foreign currency transactions | (7,728,225) |
| Net unrealized appreciation on investments | 757,898,571 |
| Net unrealized appreciation on futures contracts | 111,750 |
| Net unrealized appreciation on foreign currency translations | 8,822 |
| Net Assets | \$ 1,359,252,625 |
| Net Asset Value per Common Share: | |
| (\$1,359,252,625 ÷ 219,808,898 shares outstanding at \$0.001 par value; 237,024,900 shares authorized) | \$ 6.18 |

(a) This amount represents auction agent fees accrued for earlier fiscal periods, and not for the period covered by this report.

Statement of Operations

For the Six Months Ended June 30, 2017 (Unaudited)

| | |
|---|-------------------|
| Investment Income: | |
| Dividends (net of foreign withholding taxes of \$713,801) | \$ 16,430,757 |
| Interest | (712,914)* |
| Total Investment Income | 15,717,843 |
| Expenses: | |
| Investment advisory fees | 8,707,252 |
| Shareholder communications expenses | 182,164 |
| Custodian fees | 107,063 |
| Payroll expenses | 90,202 |
| Directors fees | 89,542 |
| Shareholder services fees | 71,333 |
| Legal and audit fees | 49,110 |
| Accounting fees | 22,500 |
| Interest expense | 1,074 |
| Miscellaneous expenses | 195,699 |
| Total Expenses | 9,515,939 |

| | |
|--|-----------------------|
| Less: | |
| Advisory fee reduction on unsupervised assets (See Note 3) | (2,240) |
| Expenses paid indirectly by broker (See Note 3) | (5,847) |
| Custodian fee credits | (830) |
| Total Reductions and Credits | (8,917) |
| Net Expenses | 9,507,022 |
| Net Investment Income | 6,210,821 |
| Net Realized and Unrealized Gain/(Loss) on Investments, Futures Contracts, and Foreign Currency: | |
| Net realized gain on investments | 12,830,270 |
| Net realized loss on futures contracts | (3,079,809) |
| Net realized loss on foreign currency transactions | (5,292) |
| Net realized gain on investments, futures contracts, and foreign currency transactions | 9,745,169 |
| Net change in unrealized appreciation/depreciation: | |
| on investments | 133,872,327 |
| on futures contracts | 516,807 |
| on foreign currency translations | 24,840 |
| Net change in unrealized appreciation/ depreciation on investments, futures contracts, and foreign currency translations | 134,413,974 |
| Net Realized and Unrealized Gain/(Loss) on Investments, Futures Contracts, and Foreign Currency | 144,159,143 |
| Net Increase in Net Assets Resulting from Operations | 150,369,964 |
| Total Distributions to Preferred Shareholders | (8,984,273) |
| Net Increase in Net Assets Attributable to Common Shareholders Resulting from Operations | \$ 141,385,691 |

* Includes amortization of bond premiums which exceeded the aggregate of interest accrued to income for the period.

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

The Gabelli Equity Trust Inc.**Statement of Changes in Net Assets Attributable to Common Shareholders**

| | Six Months Ended June 30, 2017 (Unaudited) | Year Ended December 31, 2016 |
|---|---|---|
| Operations: | | |
| Net investment income | \$ 6,210,821 | \$ 15,423,713 |
| Net realized gain on investments, futures contracts, and foreign currency transactions | 9,745,169 | 131,917,570 |
| Net change in unrealized appreciation/depreciation on investments, futures contracts, and foreign currency translations | 134,413,974 | 34,137,256 |
| Net Increase in Net Assets Resulting from Operations | 150,369,964 | 181,478,539 |
| Distributions to Preferred Shareholders: | | |
| Net investment income | (3,992,311)* | (2,007,644) |
| Net realized gain | (4,991,962)* | (14,203,236) |
| Total Distributions to Preferred Shareholders | (8,984,273) | (16,210,880) |
| Net Increase in Net Assets Attributable to Common Shareholders Resulting from Operations | 141,385,691 | 165,267,659 |
| Distributions to Common Shareholders: | | |
| Net investment income | (1,973,162)* | (16,172,854) |
| Net realized gain | (1,973,161)* | (114,416,126) |
| Return of capital | (61,825,727)* | (957,245) |
| Total Distributions to Common Shareholders | (65,772,050) | (131,546,225) |
| Fund Share Transactions: | | |
| Net decrease in net assets from preferred offering cost charged to capital | | (2,845,000) |
| Net increase in net assets from common shares issued upon reinvestment of distributions | 3,504,067 | |
| Net increase in net assets from repurchase of preferred shares | 19,887 | 81,639 |
| Net Increase/(Decrease) in Net Assets from Fund Share Transactions | 3,523,954 | (2,763,361) |
| Net Increase in Net Assets Attributable to Common Shareholders | 79,137,595 | 30,958,073 |

Net Assets Attributable to Common Shareholders:

| | | |
|--|------------------|------------------|
| Beginning of year | 1,280,115,030 | 1,249,156,957 |
| End of period (including undistributed net investment income of \$0 and \$0, respectively) | \$ 1,359,252,625 | \$ 1,280,115,030 |

* Based on year to date book income. Amounts are subject to change and recharacterization at year end.

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

The Gabelli Equity Trust Inc.**Financial Highlights**

Selected data for a common share outstanding throughout each period:

| | Six Months Ended June 30, 2017 (Unaudited) | | Year Ended December 31, | | | |
|--|---|---------|-------------------------|---------|---------|---------|
| | 2016 | 2015 | 2014 | 2013 | 2012 | |
| Operating Performance: | | | | | | |
| Net asset value, beginning of year | \$ 5.84 | \$ 5.70 | \$ 6.78 | \$ 7.23 | \$ 5.60 | \$ 5.20 |
| Net investment income | 0.03 | 0.07 | 0.06 | 0.07 | 0.06 | 0.09 |
| Net realized and unrealized gain/(loss) on investments, futures contracts, swap contracts, and foreign currency transactions | 0.65 | 0.75 | (0.44) | 0.30 | 2.26 | 0.97 |
| Total from investment operations | 0.68 | 0.82 | (0.38) | 0.37 | 2.32 | 1.06 |
| Distributions to Preferred Shareholders: (a) | | | | | | |
| Net investment income | (0.02)* | (0.01) | (0.01) | (0.01) | (0.01) | (0.03) |
| Net realized gain | (0.02)* | (0.06) | (0.05) | (0.05) | (0.06) | (0.05) |
| Total distributions to preferred shareholders | (0.04) | (0.07) | (0.06) | (0.06) | (0.07) | (0.08) |
| Net Increase/(Decrease) in Net Assets Attributable to | 0.64 | 0.75 | (0.44) | 0.31 | 2.25 | 0.98 |

Common Shareholders Resulting from Operations
Distributions to Common Shareholders:

| | | | | | | |
|-----------------------|---------|-----------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Net investment income | (0.01)* | (0.08) | (0.05) | (0.05) | (0.05) | (0.06) |
| Net realized gain | (0.01)* | (0.52) | (0.44) | (0.49) | (0.57) | (0.11) |
| Return of capital | (0.28)* | (0.00)(b) | (0.15) | (0.10) | | (0.39) |

| | | | | | | |
|--|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Total distributions to common shareholders | (0.30) | (0.60) | (0.64) | (0.64) | (0.62) | (0.56) |
|--|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|

Fund Share Transactions:

| | | | | | | |
|---|--|--|--|--------|---------|--|
| Increase/decrease in net asset value from common share transactions | | | | (0.12) | 0.00(b) | |
|---|--|--|--|--------|---------|--|

| | | | | | | |
|---|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|--|
| Increase in net asset value from repurchase of preferred shares | 0.00(b) | 0.00(b) | 0.00(b) | 0.00(b) | 0.00(b) | |
|---|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|--|

| | | | | | | |
|---|--|--------|--|--|---------|--------|
| Offering costs and adjustment to offering costs for preferred shares charged to paid-in capital | | (0.01) | | | 0.00(b) | (0.02) |
|---|--|--------|--|--|---------|--------|

| | | | | | | |
|-------------------------------|---------|--------|---------|--------|---------|--------|
| Total Fund share transactions | 0.00(b) | (0.01) | 0.00(b) | (0.12) | 0.00(b) | (0.02) |
|-------------------------------|---------|--------|---------|--------|---------|--------|

Net Asset Value Attributable to Common Shareholders, End of Period

| | | | | | | |
|--|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| | \$ 6.18 | \$ 5.84 | \$ 5.70 | \$ 6.78 | \$ 7.23 | \$ 5.60 |
|--|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|

| | | | | | | |
|------------------|--------|--------|---------|-------|--------|--------|
| NAV total return | 11.04% | 13.66% | (6.85)% | 4.68% | 41.90% | 19.05% |
|------------------|--------|--------|---------|-------|--------|--------|

| | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Market value, end of period | \$ 6.18 | \$ 5.52 | \$ 5.31 | \$ 6.47 | \$ 7.75 | \$ 5.58 |
|-----------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|

| | | | | | | |
|-------------------------|--------|--------|---------|---------|--------|--------|
| Investment total return | 13.65% | 15.71% | (8.54)% | (6.08)% | 52.44% | 23.62% |
|-------------------------|--------|--------|---------|---------|--------|--------|

**Ratios to Average
Net Assets and
Supplemental Data:**

| | | | | | | |
|---|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Net assets including liquidation value of preferred shares, end of period (in 000 s) | \$ 1,772,166 | \$ 1,693,448 | \$ 1,582,823 | \$ 1,820,361 | \$ 1,712,663 | \$ 1,384,961 |
| Net assets attributable to common shares, end of period (in 000 s) | \$ 1,359,253 | \$ 1,280,115 | \$ 1,249,157 | \$ 1,486,491 | \$ 1,378,436 | \$ 1,050,451 |
| Ratio of net investment income to average net assets attributable to common shares before preferred distributions | 0.93%(c) | 1.23% | 0.91% | 0.82% | 0.84% | 1.54% |
| Ratio of operating expenses to average net assets attributable to common shares: | | | | | | |
| before fee reductions | 1.43%(c)(d) | 1.44%(d) | 1.36%(d) | 1.37% | 1.40% | 1.48% |
| net of fee reductions, if any | 1.43%(c)(d) | 1.44%(d) | 1.25%(d) | 1.33% | 1.40% | 1.48% |
| Ratio of operating expenses to average net assets including liquidation value of preferred shares: | | | | | | |
| before fee reductions | 1.09%(c)(d) | 1.10%(d) | 1.10%(d) | 1.10% | 1.10% | 1.12% |
| net of fee reductions, if any | 1.09%(c)(d) | 1.10%(d) | 1.01%(d) | 1.07% | 1.10% | 1.12% |
| Portfolio turnover rate | 2.1% | 12.7% | 8.9% | 10.9% | 10.0% | 4.2% |

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

The Gabelli Equity Trust Inc.**Financial Highlights (Continued)**

| | Six Months Ended June 30, 2017 (Unaudited) | | Year Ended December 31, | | | |
|---|---|-------------|--------------------------------|-------------|-------------|------------|
| | 2016 | 2015 | 2014 | 2013 | 2012 | |
| Cumulative Preferred Stock: | | | | | | |
| Auction Rate Series C | | | | | | |
| Liquidation value, end of period (in 000 s) | \$ 72,000 | \$ 72,000 | \$ 72,000 | \$ 72,000 | \$ 72,000 | \$ 72,000 |
| Total shares outstanding (in 000 s) | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 |
| Liquidation preference per share | \$ 25,000 | \$ 25,000 | \$ 25,000 | \$ 25,000 | \$ 25,000 | \$ 25,000 |
| Liquidation value(e) | \$ 25,000 | \$ 25,000 | \$ 25,000 | \$ 25,000 | \$ 25,000 | \$ 25,000 |
| Asset coverage per share(f) | \$ 107,297 | \$ 102,426 | \$ 118,593 | \$ 136,308 | \$ 128,106 | \$ 103,507 |
| 5.875% Series D | | | | | | |
| Liquidation value, end of period (in 000 s) | \$ 59,097 | \$ 59,097 | \$ 59,097 | \$ 59,097 | \$ 59,097 | \$ 59,097 |
| Total shares outstanding (in 000 s) | 2,364 | 2,364 | 2,364 | 2,364 | 2,364 | 2,364 |
| Liquidation preference per share | \$ 25.00 | \$ 25.00 | \$ 25.00 | \$ 25.00 | \$ 25.00 | \$ 25.00 |
| Average market value(g) | \$ 25.97 | \$ 26.22 | \$ 25.69 | \$ 25.21 | \$ 25.27 | \$ 25.75 |
| Asset coverage per share(f) | \$ 107.30 | \$ 102.43 | \$ 118.59 | \$ 136.31 | \$ 128.11 | \$ 103.51 |
| Auction Rate Series E | | | | | | |
| Liquidation value, end of period (in 000 s) | \$ 28,000 | \$ 28,000 | \$ 28,000 | \$ 28,000 | \$ 28,000 | \$ 28,000 |
| Total shares outstanding (in 000 s) | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Liquidation preference per share | \$ 25,000 | \$ 25,000 | \$ 25,000 | \$ 25,000 | \$ 25,000 | \$ 25,000 |
| Liquidation value(e) | \$ 25,000 | \$ 25,000 | \$ 25,000 | \$ 25,000 | \$ 25,000 | \$ 25,000 |
| Asset coverage per share(f) | \$ 107,297 | \$ 102,426 | \$ 118,593 | \$ 136,308 | \$ 128,106 | \$ 103,507 |
| 5.000% Series G | | | | | | |
| Liquidation value, end of period (in 000 s) | \$ 69,495 | \$ 69,743 | \$ 69,925 | \$ 70,099 | \$ 70,373 | \$ 70,413 |
| Total shares outstanding (in 000 s) | 2,780 | 2,791 | 2,797 | 2,804 | 2,815 | 2,817 |
| Liquidation preference per share | \$ 25.00 | \$ 25.00 | \$ 25.00 | \$ 25.00 | \$ 25.00 | \$ 25.00 |
| Average market value(g) | \$ 24.14 | \$ 24.67 | \$ 23.78 | \$ 23.32 | \$ 23.91 | \$ 26.01 |
| Asset coverage per share(f) | \$ 107.30 | \$ 102.43 | \$ 118.59 | \$ 136.31 | \$ 128.11 | \$ 103.51 |
| 5.000% Series H | | | | | | |
| Liquidation value, end of period (in 000 s) | \$ 104,322 | \$ 104,494 | \$ 104,644 | \$ 104,674 | \$ 104,757 | \$ 105,000 |
| Total shares outstanding (in 000 s) | 4,173 | 4,180 | 4,186 | 4,187 | 4,190 | 4,200 |

Edgar Filing: GABELLI EQUITY TRUST INC - Form N-CSRS

| | | | | | | |
|--|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Liquidation preference per share | \$ 25.00 | \$ 25.00 | \$ 25.00 | \$ 25.00 | \$ 25.00 | \$ 25.00 |
| Average market value(g) | \$ 24.24 | \$ 25.00 | \$ 24.33 | \$ 22.82 | \$ 23.85 | \$ 25.55 |
| Asset coverage per share(f) | \$ 107.30 | \$ 102.43 | \$ 118.59 | \$ 136.31 | \$ 128.11 | \$ 103.51 |
| 5.450% Series J | | | | | | |
| Liquidation value, end of period (in 000 s) | \$ 80,000 | \$ 80,000 | | | | |
| Total shares outstanding (in 000 s) | 3,200 | 3,200 | | | | |
| Liquidation preference per share | \$ 25.00 | \$ 25.00 | | | | |
| Average market value(g) | \$ 25.02 | \$ 25.43 | | | | |
| Asset coverage per share(f) | \$ 107.30 | \$ 102.43 | | | | |
| Asset Coverage(h) | 429% | 410% | 474% | 545% | 512% | 414% |

For six months ended June 30, 2017 and the years ended December 31, 2016, 2015, 2014, and 2013 based on net asset value per share, adjusted for reinvestment of distributions at net asset value on the ex-dividend date. The year ended 2012 was based on net asset value per share, adjusted for reinvestment of distributions at prices obtained under the Fund's dividend reinvestment plan. Total return for a period of less than one year is not annualized.

Based on market value per share, adjusted for reinvestment of distributions at prices determined under the Fund's dividend reinvestment plan. Total return for a period of less than one year is not annualized.

* Based on year to date book income. Amounts are subject to change and recharacterization at year end.

(a) Calculated based on average common shares outstanding on the record dates through each period.

(b) Amount represents less than \$0.005 per share.

(c) Annualized.

(d) The Fund received credits from a designated broker who agreed to pay certain Fund operating expenses. For the six months ended June 30, 2017 and the years ended December 31, 2016 and 2015, there was no impact on the expense ratios.

(e) Since February 2008, the weekly auctions have failed. Holders that have submitted orders have not been able to sell any or all of their shares in the auction.

(f) Asset coverage per share is calculated by combining all series of preferred stock.

(g) Based on weekly prices.

(h) Asset coverage is calculated by combining all series of preferred stock.

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

The Gabelli Equity Trust Inc.

Notes to Financial Statements (Unaudited)

1. Organization. The Gabelli Equity Trust Inc. (the Fund) is a non-diversified closed-end management investment company organized as a Maryland corporation on May 20, 1986 and registered under the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended (the 1940 Act), whose primary objective is long term growth of capital with income as a secondary objective. Investment operations commenced on August 21, 1986.

The Fund will invest at least 80% of its assets in equity securities under normal market conditions (the 80% Policy). The 80% Policy may be changed without shareholder approval. The Fund will provide shareholders with notice at least sixty days prior to the implementation of any changes in the 80% Policy.

2. Significant Accounting Policies. 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 financial statements. 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 financial statements.

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 Directors (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 Gabelli Equity Trust Inc.**Notes to Financial Statements (Unaudited) (Continued)**

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;

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).

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 June 30, 2017 is as follows:

| | Valuation Inputs | | | Total Market Value |
|---------------------------------------|------------------|---------------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| | Level 1 | Level 2 Other Significant | Level 3 Significant | at 6/30/17 |
| | Quoted Prices | Observable Inputs | Unobservable Inputs | |
| INVESTMENTS IN SECURITIES: | | | | |
| ASSETS (Market Value): | | | | |
| Common Stocks: | | | | |
| Aerospace and Defense | \$ 39,417,747 | | \$ 111,802 | \$ 39,529,549 |
| Business Services | 59,746,029 | | 0 | 59,746,029 |
| Energy and Utilities | 68,807,492 | \$ 48 | 0 | 68,807,540 |
| Manufactured Housing and Recreational | | | | |
| Vehicles | 1,365,740 | 503,250 | | 1,868,990 |
| Other Industries (a) | 1,567,265,784 | | | 1,567,265,784 |
| Total Common Stocks | 1,736,602,792 | 503,298 | 111,802 | 1,737,217,892 |
| Closed-End Funds | 11,919,611 | | | 11,919,611 |
| Convertible Preferred Stocks (a) | 1,050,210 | | | 1,050,210 |
| Rights (a) | | | 237,900 | 237,900 |
| U.S. Government Obligations | | 20,206,013 | | 20,206,013 |

| | | | | |
|---|------------------|---------------|------------|------------------|
| TOTAL INVESTMENTS IN SECURITIES ASSETS | \$ 1,749,572,613 | \$ 20,709,311 | \$ 349,702 | \$ 1,770,631,626 |
| OTHER FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS:* | | | | |
| ASSETS (Net Unrealized Appreciation): | | | | |
| EQUITY CONTRACTS | | | | |
| Index Futures Contracts Short Position | \$ 111,750 | | | \$ 111,750 |

(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 Fund did not have material transfers among Level 1, Level 2, and Level 3 during the six months ended June 30, 2017. The Fund's policy is to recognize transfers among Levels as of the beginning of the reporting period.

The Gabelli Equity Trust Inc.

Notes to Financial Statements (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.

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

Collateral requirements differ by type of derivative. Collateral requirements are set by the broker or exchange clearing house for exchange traded derivatives, while collateral terms are contract specific for derivatives traded over-the-counter. Securities pledged to cover obligations of the Fund under derivative contracts are noted in

The Gabelli Equity Trust Inc.

Notes to Financial Statements (Unaudited) (Continued)

the Schedule of Investments. Cash collateral, if any, pledged for the same purpose will be reported separately in the Statement of Assets and Liabilities.

The Fund's policy with respect to offsetting is that, absent an event of default by the counterparty or a termination of the agreement, the master agreement does not result in an offset of reported amounts of financial assets and financial liabilities in the Statement of Assets and Liabilities across transactions between the Fund and the applicable counterparty. The enforceability of the right to offset may vary by jurisdiction.

The Fund's derivative contracts held at June 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.

During the six months ended June 30, 2017, the Fund held no investments in equity contract for difference swap agreements.

Futures Contracts. The Fund may engage in futures contracts for the purpose of hedging against changes in the value of its portfolio securities and in the value of securities it intends to purchase. Upon entering into a futures contract, the Fund is required to deposit with the broker an amount of cash or cash equivalents equal to a certain percentage of the contract amount. This is known as the initial margin. Subsequent payments (variation margin) are made or received by the Fund each day, depending on the daily fluctuations in the value of the contract, and are included in unrealized appreciation/depreciation on futures contracts. The Fund recognizes a realized gain or loss when the contract is closed.

There are several risks in connection with the use of futures contracts as a hedging instrument. The change in value of futures contracts primarily corresponds with the value of their underlying instruments, which may not correlate with the change in value of the hedged investments. In addition, there is the risk that the Fund may not be able to enter into a closing transaction because of an illiquid secondary market. Open positions in futures contracts at June 30, 2017 are presented within the Schedule of Investments.

The Fund's volume of equity futures contracts held during the six months ended June 30, 2017 had an average monthly notional amount of approximately \$34,044,175 while outstanding.

The Gabelli Equity Trust Inc.

Notes to Financial Statements (Unaudited) (Continued)

At June 30, 2017, the Fund's derivative liabilities (by type) are as follows:

| | Gross Amount of Recognized Liabilities Presented in the Statement of Assets and Liabilities | Gross Amount Available for Offset in the Statement of Assets and Liabilities | Net Amount of Liabilities Presented in the Statement of Assets and Liabilities |
|--------------------|---|--|---|
| Liabilities | | | |
| Futures Contracts | \$16,200 | | \$16,200 |

At June 30, 2017, the Fund's derivative liabilities (by counterparty) are as follows:

| | Net Amounts Not Offset in the Statement of | | |
|---|--|-----------------------------|------------|
| | Assets and Liabilities | | |
| Net Amount of Liabilities Presented in the Statement of Assets and Liabilities | Financial Instruments | Cash Collateral Received | Net Amount |
| Counterparty | | | |
| UBS Securities LLC | \$16,200 | \$(16,200) | |

As of June 30, 2017, the equity risk exposure associated with the futures contracts can be found in the Statement of Assets and Liabilities, under Liabilities, Variation margin payable. For the six months ended June 30, 2017, the effect of futures contracts with equity risk exposure can be found in the Statement of Operations, under Net Realized and Unrealized Gain/(Loss) on Investments, Futures Contracts, and Foreign Currency, Net realized loss on futures contracts, and Net change in unrealized appreciation/depreciation on futures contracts.

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 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

The Gabelli Equity Trust Inc.

Notes to Financial Statements (Unaudited) (Continued)

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.

Investments in Other Investment Companies. The Fund may invest, from time to time, in shares of other investment companies (or entities that would be considered investment companies but are excluded from the definition pursuant to certain exceptions under the 1940 Act) (the Acquired Funds) in accordance with the 1940 Act and related rules. Shareholders in the Fund would bear the pro rata portion of the periodic expenses of the Acquired Funds in addition to the Fund's expenses. For the six months ended June 30, 2017, the Fund's pro rata portion of the periodic expenses charged by the Acquired Funds was less than 1 basis point.

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.

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 10% 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 June 30, 2017, the Fund held no restricted securities.

The Gabelli Equity Trust Inc.**Notes to Financial Statements (Unaudited) (Continued)**

Securities Transactions and Investment Income. Securities transactions are accounted for on the trade date with realized gain/(loss) on investments determined by using the identified cost method. Interest income (including amortization of premium and accretion of discount) is recorded on the accrual basis. Premiums and discounts on debt securities are amortized using the effective yield to maturity method. Dividend income is recorded on the ex-dividend date, except for certain dividends from foreign securities that are recorded as soon after the ex-dividend date as the Fund becomes aware of such dividends.

Custodian Fee Credits and Interest Expense. When cash balances are maintained in the custody account, the Fund receives credits which are used to offset custodian fees. The gross expenses paid under the custody arrangement are included in custodian fees in the Statement of Operations with the corresponding expense offset, if any, shown as Custodian fee credits. When cash balances are overdrawn, the Fund is charged an overdraft fee of 110% of the 90 day U.S. Treasury Bill rate on outstanding balances. This amount, if any, would be included in the Statement of Operations.

Distributions to Shareholders. Distributions to common shareholders are recorded on the ex-dividend date. Distributions to shareholders are based on income and capital gains as determined in accordance with federal income tax regulations, which may differ from income and capital gains as determined under GAAP. These differences are primarily due to differing treatments of income and gains on various investment securities and foreign currency transactions held by the Fund, timing differences, and differing characterizations of distributions made by the Fund. Distributions from net investment income for federal income tax purposes include net realized gains on foreign currency transactions. These book/tax differences are either temporary or permanent in nature. To the extent these differences are permanent, adjustments are made to the appropriate capital accounts in the period when the differences arise. These reclassifications have no impact on the NAV of the Fund.

Under the Fund's current common share distribution policy, the Fund declares and pays quarterly distributions from net investment income, capital gains, and paid-in capital. The actual source of the distribution is determined after the end of the year. Pursuant to this policy, distributions during the year may be made in excess of required distributions. To the extent such distributions are made from current earnings and profits, they are considered ordinary income or long term capital gains. The Fund's current distribution policy may restrict the Fund's ability to pass through to shareholders all of its net realized long term capital gains as a Capital Gain Dividend and may cause such gains to be treated as ordinary income. Distributions sourced from paid-in capital should not be considered as dividend yield or the total return from an investment in the Fund. The Board will continue to monitor the Fund's distribution level, taking into consideration the Fund's NAV and the financial market environment. The Fund's distribution policy is subject to modification by the Board at any time.

Distributions to shareholders of the Fund's Series C Auction Rate Cumulative Preferred Stock, 5.875% Series D Cumulative Preferred Stock, Series E Auction Rate Cumulative Preferred Stock, 5.000% Series G Cumulative Preferred Stock, 5.000% Series H Cumulative Preferred Stock, and 5.450% Series J Cumulative Preferred Stock (Preferred Stock) are recorded on a daily basis and are determined as described in Note 5.

The Gabelli Equity Trust Inc.**Notes to Financial Statements (Unaudited) (Continued)**

The tax character of distributions paid during the year ended December 31, 2016 was as follows:

| | Common | Preferred |
|---|-----------------------|----------------------|
| Distributions paid from: | | |
| Ordinary income (inclusive of short term capital gains) | \$ 18,270,058 | \$ 2,267,984 |
| Net long term capital gains | 112,318,922 | 13,942,896 |
| Return of capital. | 957,245 | |
| Total distributions paid | \$ 131,546,225 | \$ 16,210,880 |

Provision for Income Taxes. 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 Code). It is the policy of the Fund to comply with the requirements of the Code applicable to regulated investment companies and to distribute substantially all of its net investment company taxable income and net capital gains. Therefore, no provision for federal income taxes is required.

As of December 31, 2016, the components of accumulated earnings/losses on a tax basis were as follows:

| | |
|--|-----------------------|
| Net unrealized appreciation on investments, futures contracts, and foreign currency translations | \$ 612,647,136 |
| Other temporary differences* | (240,813) |
| Total. | \$ 612,406,323 |

* Other temporary differences were primarily due to distributions payable.

The following summarizes the tax cost of investments and the related net unrealized appreciation at June 30, 2017:

| | Cost | Gross Unrealized Appreciation | Gross Unrealized Depreciation | Net Unrealized Appreciation |
|-------------|------------------|--|--|--|
| Investments | \$ 1,025,035,580 | \$ 801,564,621 | \$ (55,968,575) | \$ 745,596,046 |

The Fund is required to evaluate tax positions taken or expected to be taken in the course of preparing the Fund's tax returns to determine whether the tax positions are more-likely-than-not of being sustained by the applicable tax authority. Income tax and related interest and penalties would be recognized by the Fund as tax expense in the

Statement of Operations if the tax positions were deemed not to meet the more-likely-than-not threshold. For the six months ended June 30, 2017, the Fund did not incur any income tax, interest, or penalties. As of June 30, 2017, the Adviser has reviewed all open tax years and concluded that there was no impact to the Fund's net assets or results of operations. The Fund's federal and state tax returns for the prior three fiscal years remain open, subject to examination. On an ongoing basis, the Adviser will monitor the Fund's tax positions to determine if adjustments to this conclusion are necessary.

3. Investment Advisory Agreement and Other Transactions. The Fund has entered into an investment advisory agreement (the "Advisory Agreement") with the Adviser which provides that the Fund will pay the Adviser a fee, computed weekly and paid monthly, equal on an annual basis to 1.00% of the value of the Fund's average weekly net assets including the liquidation value of preferred stock. In accordance with the Advisory Agreement, the Adviser provides a continuous investment program for the Fund's portfolio and oversees the administration of all aspects of the Fund's business and affairs.

As per the approval of the Board, the Fund compensates officers of the Fund, who are employed by the Fund and are not employed by the Adviser (although the officers may receive incentive based variable compensation

The Gabelli Equity Trust Inc.

Notes to Financial Statements (Unaudited) (Continued)

from affiliates of the Adviser). During the six months ended June 30, 2017, the Fund paid or accrued \$90,202 in payroll expenses in the Statement of Operations.

The Adviser has agreed to reduce the management fee on the incremental assets attributable to the Series C, Series D, and Series E Preferred Stock (C, D, and E Preferred Stock) if the total return of the NAV of the common shares of the Fund, including distributions and advisory fee subject to reduction, does not exceed the stated dividend rate of the C, D, and E Preferred Stock for the year. The Fund's total return on the NAV of the common shares is monitored on a monthly basis to assess whether the total return on the NAV of the common shares exceeds the stated dividend rate of the C, D, and E Preferred Stock for the period. For the six months ended June 30, 2017, the Fund's total return on the NAV of the common shares exceeded the dividend rate of the outstanding C, D, and E Preferred Stock. Thus, advisory fees of the C, D, and E Preferred Stock were accrued.

During the six months ended June 30, 2017, the Fund paid \$12,938 in brokerage commissions on security trades to G.research, LLC, an affiliate of the Adviser.

During the six months ended June 30, 2017, the Fund received credits from a designated broker who agreed to pay certain Fund operating expenses. The amount of such expenses paid through this directed brokerage arrangement during this period was \$5,847.

The cost of calculating the Fund's NAV per share is a Fund expense pursuant to the Advisory Agreement between the Fund and the Adviser. During the six months ended June 30, 2017, the Fund paid or accrued \$22,500 to the Adviser in connection with the cost of computing the Fund's NAV.

There was a reduction in the advisory fee paid to the Adviser relating to certain portfolio holdings, i.e., unsupervised assets, of the Fund with respect to which the Adviser transferred dispositive and voting control to the Fund's Proxy Voting Committee. During the six months ended June 30, 2017, the Fund's Proxy Voting Committee exercised control and discretion over all rights to vote or consent with respect to such securities, and the Adviser reduced its fee with respect to such securities by \$2,240.

The Fund pays each Director who is not considered an affiliated person an annual retainer of \$15,000 plus \$2,000 for each Board meeting attended. Each Director is reimbursed by the Fund for any out of pocket expenses incurred in attending meetings. All Board committee members receive \$1,000 per meeting attended. The Audit Committee Chairman receives an annual fee of \$3,000, the Proxy Voting Committee Chairman receives an annual fee of \$1,500, and the Nominating Committee Chairman and the Lead Director each receives an annual fee of \$2,000. A Director may receive a single meeting fee, allocated among the participating funds, for participation in certain meetings held on behalf of multiple funds. Directors who are directors or employees of the Adviser or an affiliated company receive no compensation or expense reimbursement from the Fund.

4. Portfolio Securities. Purchases and sales of securities during the six months ended June 30, 2017, other than short term securities and U.S. Government obligations, aggregated \$35,715,020 and \$66,577,600, respectively.

5. Capital. The Fund's Articles of Incorporation, as amended, permit the Fund to issue 237,024,900 shares of common stock (par value \$0.001) and authorizes the Board to increase its authorized shares from time to time. The Board has authorized the repurchase of its shares on the open market when the shares are trading

The Gabelli Equity Trust Inc.**Notes to Financial Statements (Unaudited) (Continued)**

on the NYSE at a discount of 10% or more (or such other percentage as the Board may determine from time to time) from the NAV of the shares. During the six months ended June 30, 2017 and the year ended December 31, 2016, the Fund did not repurchase any shares of its common stock in the open market.

Transactions in shares of common stock were as follows:

| | Six Months Ended | | Year Ended | |
|---|-------------------------|---------------|--------------------------|---------------|
| | June 30, 2017 | | December 31, 2016 | |
| | (Unaudited) | | | |
| | Shares | Amount | Shares | Amount |
| Net increase from common shares issued upon reinvestment of distributions | 568,732 | \$ 3,504,067 | | |

On September 19, 2014, the Fund distributed one transferable right for each of the 191,839,279 common shares outstanding on that date. Seven rights were required to purchase one additional common share at the subscription price of \$5.75 per share. On October 27, 2014, the Fund issued 27,405,612 common shares receiving net proceeds of \$156,969,797, after the deduction of offering expenses of \$612,472. The NAV of the Fund was reduced by \$0.12 per share on the day the additional shares were issued. The additional shares were issued below NAV.

The Fund's Articles of Incorporation, as amended, authorize the issuance of up to 18,000,000 shares of \$0.001 par value Preferred Stock. The Preferred Stock is senior to the common stock and results in the financial leveraging of the common stock. Such leveraging tends to magnify both the risks and opportunities to common shareholders. Dividends on shares of the Preferred Stock are cumulative. The Fund is required by the 1940 Act and by the Fund's Articles Supplementary to meet certain asset coverage tests with respect to the Preferred Stock. If the Fund fails to meet these requirements and does not correct such failure, the Fund may be required to redeem, in part or in full, the Series C, Series D, Series E, Series G, Series H, and Series J Preferred Stock at redemption prices of \$25,000, \$25, \$25,000, \$25, \$25, and \$25, respectively, per share plus an amount equal to the accumulated and unpaid dividends whether or not declared on such shares in order to meet these requirements. Additionally, failure to meet the foregoing asset coverage requirements could restrict the Fund's ability to pay dividends to common shareholders and could lead to sales of portfolio securities at inopportune times. The income received on the Fund's assets may vary in a manner unrelated to the fixed and variable rates, which could have either a beneficial or detrimental impact on net investment income and gains available to common shareholders.

For Series C and Series E Preferred Stocks, the dividend rates, as set by the auction process that is generally held every seven days, are expected to vary with short term interest rates. Since February 2008, the number of shares of Series C and Series E Preferred Stock subject to bid orders by potential holders has been less than the number of shares of Series C and Series E Preferred Stock subject to sell orders. Holders that have submitted sell orders have not been able to sell any or all of the Series C and Series E Preferred Stock for which they have submitted sell orders. Therefore, the weekly auctions have failed, and the dividend rate has been the maximum rate. For Series C and Series E Preferred Stock, the maximum auction rate is 175% of the AA Financial Composite Commercial Paper Rate. Existing Series C and Series E shareholders may submit an order to hold, bid, or sell such shares on each auction date,

or trade their shares in the secondary market.

The Fund may redeem at any time, in whole or in part, the Series C, Series D, and Series E Preferred Stock at their respective redemption prices. In addition, the Board has authorized the repurchase of Series D Preferred

The Gabelli Equity Trust Inc.**Notes to Financial Statements (Unaudited) (Continued)**

Stock in the open market at prices less than the \$25 liquidation value per share. During the six months ended June 30, 2017 and the year ended December 31, 2016, the Fund did not repurchase or redeem any shares of Series C, Series D, and Series E Preferred Stock.

On March 31, 2016, the Fund received net proceeds of \$77,212,332 (after underwriting discounts of \$2,520,000 and offering expenses of \$267,668) from the public offering of 3,200,000 shares of Series J Preferred.

Commencing July 31, 2017, September 27, 2017, and March 31, 2021, and anytime thereafter, the Fund, at its option, may redeem the Series G, Series H, and Series J Preferred Stock, respectively, in whole or in part at the redemption price. In addition, the Board has authorized the repurchase of the Series G and Series H Preferred Stock in the open market at prices less than the \$25 liquidation value per share. During the six months ended June 30, 2017 and the year ended December 31, 2016, the Fund repurchased and retired 9,905 and 7,300 of the Series G Preferred in the open market at an investment of \$235,625 and \$169,201 and average discounts of approximately 4.89% and 7.33%, respectively from its liquidation preference. During the six months ended June 30, 2017 and the year ended December 31, 2016, the Fund repurchased and retired 6,900 and 6,000 of the Series H Preferred in the open market at an investment of \$163,263 and \$138,542 and an average discount of approximately 5.39% and 7.68%, respectively, from its liquidation preference.

The Fund has the authority to purchase its auction rate preferred shares through negotiated private transactions. The Fund is not obligated to purchase any dollar amount or number of auction rate preferred shares, and the timing and amount of any auction rate preferred shares purchased will depend on market conditions, share price, capital availability, and other factors. The Fund is not soliciting holders to sell these shares nor recommending that holders offer them to the Fund. Any offers can be accepted or rejected in the Fund's discretion.

As of June 30, 2017, after considering the 2014 common share rights offering and the Series J Preferred offering, the Fund has approximately \$262 million available for issuing additional common or preferred shares under the current shelf registration.

The following table summarizes Cumulative Preferred Stock information:

| Series | Issue Date | Number of Shares Issued/ Authorized | Number of Shares Outstanding at 06/30/17 | Net Proceeds | 2017 Dividend Rate Range | Dividend Rate at 06/30/17 | Accrued Dividends at 06/30/17 |
|----------------------|-----------------|---|--|----------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| C Auction Rate | June 27, 2002 | 5,200 | 2,880 | \$ 128,246,557 | 0.963% to 2.030% | 2.030% | \$ 12,180 |
| D 5.875% | October 7, 2003 | 3,000,000 | 2,363,860 | \$ 72,375,842 | Fixed Rate | 5.875% | \$ 48,221 |
| E Auction | October 7, 2003 | 2,000 | 1,120 | \$ 49,350,009 | 1.085% to 2.030% | 2.030% | \$ 1,579 |

Edgar Filing: GABELLI EQUITY TRUST INC - Form N-CSRS

| Rate | | | | | | | |
|--------|--------------------|-----------|-----------|----------------|------------|--------|-----------|
| G | | | | | | | |
| 5.000% | August 1, 2012 | 3,280,477 | 2,779,796 | \$ 69,407,417 | Fixed Rate | 5.000% | \$ 60,556 |
| H | | | | | | | |
| 5.000% | September 28, 2012 | 4,198,880 | 4,172,873 | \$ 100,865,695 | Fixed Rate | 5.000% | \$ 48,260 |
| J | | | | | | | |
| 5.450% | March 28, 2016 | 4,500,000 | 3,200,000 | \$ 77,212,332 | Fixed Rate | 5.450% | \$ 72,446 |

The holders of Preferred Stock generally are entitled to one vote per share held on each matter submitted to a vote of shareholders of the Fund and will vote together with holders of common stock as a single class. The holders of Preferred Stock voting together as a single class also have the right currently to elect two Directors and, under certain circumstances, are entitled to elect a majority of the Board of Directors. In addition, the affirmative vote of a majority of the votes entitled to be cast by holders of all outstanding shares of the preferred stock, voting as a single class, will be required to approve any plan of reorganization adversely affecting the preferred stock, and the approval of two-thirds of each class, voting separately, of the Fund's outstanding voting stock must approve the conversion of the Fund from a closed-end to an open-end investment company. The approval of a majority (as defined in the 1940 Act) of the outstanding preferred stock and a majority (as defined

The Gabelli Equity Trust Inc.

Notes to Financial Statements (Unaudited) (Continued)

in the 1940 Act) of the Fund's outstanding voting securities are required to approve certain other actions, including changes in the Fund's investment objectives or fundamental investment policies.

6. Indemnifications. The Fund enters into contracts that contain a variety of indemnifications. The Fund's maximum exposure under these arrangements is unknown. However, the Fund has not had prior claims or losses pursuant to these contracts. Management has reviewed the Fund's existing contracts and expects the risk of loss to be remote.

7. Subsequent Events. Management has evaluated the impact on the Fund of all subsequent events occurring through the date the financial statements were issued and has determined that there were no subsequent events requiring recognition or disclosure in the financial statements.

Shareholder Meeting May 15, 2017 Final Results

The Fund's Annual Meeting of Shareholders was held on May 15, 2017 at the Greenwich Library in Greenwich, Connecticut. At that meeting, common and preferred shareholders, voting together as a single class, elected Frank J. Fahrenkopf, Jr. and Salvatore J. Zizza as Directors of the Fund. A total of 185,498,286 votes and 185,902,618 votes were cast in favor of these Directors, and a total of 9,834,132 votes and 9,429,801 votes were withheld for these Directors, respectively. In addition, preferred shareholders, voting as a separate class, elected Anthony J. Colavita as a Director of the Fund. A total of 10,940,670 votes were cast in favor of this Director and a total of 400,973 votes were withheld for this Director.

Mario J. Gabelli, CFA, James P. Conn, Arthur V. Ferrara, Michael J. Ferrantino, and William F. Heitmann continue to serve in their capacities as Directors of the Fund.

We thank you for your participation and appreciate your continued support.

The Gabelli Equity Trust Inc.

Board Consideration and Re-Approval of Investment Advisory Agreements (Unaudited)

Section 15(c) of the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended (the 1940 Act), contemplates that the Board of Directors (the Board) of The Gabelli Equity Trust Inc. (the Fund), including a majority of the Directors who have no direct or indirect interest in the investment advisory agreement and are not interested persons of the Fund, as defined in the 1940 Act (the Independent Board Members), are required to annually review and re-approve the terms of the Fund s existing investment advisory agreement and approve any newly proposed terms therein. In this regard, the Board reviewed and re-approved, during the most recent six month period covered by this report, the Investment Advisory Agreement (the Advisory Agreement) with Gabelli Funds, LLC (the Adviser) for the Fund.

More specifically, at a meeting held on May 17, 2017, the Board, including the Independent Board Members, considered the factors and reached the conclusions described below relating to the selection of the Adviser and the re-approval of the Advisory Agreement.

Nature, Extent, and Quality of Services.

The Independent Board Members considered information regarding the portfolio managers, the depth of the analyst pool available to the Adviser and the portfolio managers, the nature, quality, and extent of administrative and shareholder services supervised or provided by the Adviser, including portfolio management, supervision of Fund operations and compliance, and regulatory filings and disclosures to shareholders, general oversight of other service providers, review of Fund legal issues, assisting the Independent Board Members in their capacity as directors, and other services, and the absence of significant service problems reported to the Board. The Independent Board Members concluded that the services are extensive in nature and that the Adviser consistently delivered a high level of service.

Investment Performance of the Fund and Adviser.

The Independent Board Members considered short term and long term investment performance for the Fund over various periods of time as compared with relevant equity indices and the performance of other core, growth, and value equity closed-end funds included in the Broadridge peer category. The Independent Board Members noted that the Fund s total return performance was above the average and median of a select group of peers for the one, five, and ten year periods ended March 31, 2017 but below those averages for the three year period ended March 31, 2017. The Independent Board Members concluded that the Adviser was delivering satisfactory performance results consistent with the investment strategies being pursued by the Fund.

Costs of Services and Profits Realized by the Adviser.

(a) Costs of Services to Fund: Fees and Expenses. The Independent Board Members considered the Fund s advisory fee rate and expense ratio relative to industry averages for the Fund s Broadridge peer group category and the advisory fees charged by the Adviser and its affiliates to other fund and non-fund clients. The Independent Board Members noted that the mix of services under the Advisory Agreement is much more extensive than those under the advisory agreements for non-fund clients. The Independent Board Members noted that the other non-advisory expenses paid by the Fund are above the average and median for the Fund s Broadridge peer group category and below the average and median for a select group of peers, and that management and gross advisory fees and total expenses were above the average and median of the Broadridge peer group range and a select group of peers. They took note of the fact that the use of leverage impacts comparative expenses to peer funds, not all of which utilize leverage. The Independent Board

Members were aware that

The Gabelli Equity Trust Inc.

Board Consideration and Re-Approval of Investment Advisory Agreements (Unaudited) (Continued)

the Adviser waives its fee on the incremental liquidation value of the Fund's Series C, Series D, and Series E preferred stock if the total return on net asset value of the common stock does not exceed the stated dividend rate or net swap expense for the Series C, Series D, and Series E preferred stock, as applicable, for the year after consideration of the reinvestment of distributions and the advisory fees attributable to the incremental liquidation value of the Series C, Series D, and Series E preferred stock, and that the comparative total expense ratio and other expense information reflected these waivers, if applicable. The Independent Board Members concluded that the fee is acceptable based upon the qualifications, experience, reputation, and performance of the Adviser.

(b) Profitability and Costs of Services to Adviser.

The Independent Board Members considered the Adviser's overall profitability and costs. The Independent Board Members referred to the Board Materials for the pro forma income statements for the Adviser and the Fund for the period ended December 31, 2016. They noted the pro forma estimates of the Adviser's profitability and costs attributable to the Fund, both as part of the Fund Complex and under the assumption that the Fund constituted the Adviser's only investment company under its management. The Independent Board Members also considered whether the amount of profit is a fair entrepreneurial profit for the management of the Fund and noted that the Adviser has substantially increased its resources devoted to Fund matters in response to regulatory requirements and new or enhanced Fund policies and procedures. The Independent Board Members concluded that the absolute advisory fee was reasonable despite the absence of breakpoints, particularly in light of the above average performance over time.

Extent of Economies of Scale as Fund Grows.

The Independent Board Members considered whether there have been economies of scale with respect to the management of the Fund and whether the Fund has appropriately benefited from any economies of scale. The Independent Board Members noted that, although the ability of the Fund to realize economies of scale through growth is more limited than for an open-end fund, economies of scale may develop for certain funds as their assets increase and their fund level expenses decline as a percentage of assets, but that fund level economies of scale may not necessarily result in Adviser level economies of scale. The Independent Board Members were aware that economies can be shared through an adviser's investment in its fund advisory business and noted that the Adviser increased personnel and resources devoted to the Gabelli/GAMCO fund complex in recent years, which could benefit the Fund.

Whether Fee Levels Reflect Economies of Scale.

The Independent Board Members also considered whether the advisory fee rate is reasonable in relation to the asset size of the Fund and any economies of scale that may exist, and concluded that the Fund's current fee schedule (without breakpoints) was considered reasonable, particularly in light of the Fund's above average performance over time.

Other Relevant Considerations.

(a) Adviser Personnel and Methods. The Independent Board Members considered the size, education, and experience of the Adviser's staff, the Adviser's fundamental research capabilities, and the Adviser's approach to recruiting, training, and retaining portfolio managers and other research and management personnel, and

The Gabelli Equity Trust Inc.

Board Consideration and Re-Approval of Investment Advisory Agreements (Unaudited) (Continued)

concluded that, in each of these areas, the Adviser was structured in such a way to support the high level of services being provided to the Fund.

(b) Other Benefits to the Adviser. The Independent Board Members also considered the character and amount of other incidental benefits received by the Adviser and its affiliates from its association with the Fund. The Independent Board Members considered the brokerage commissions paid to an affiliate of the Adviser. The Independent Board Members concluded that potential fall-out benefits that the Adviser and its affiliates may receive, such as brokerage commissions paid to an affiliated broker, greater name recognition, or increased ability to obtain research services, appear to be reasonable and may in some cases benefit the Fund.

Conclusions

In considering the Advisory Agreement, the Independent Board Members did not identify any factor as all important or all controlling, and instead considered these factors collectively in light of the Fund's surrounding circumstances. Based on this review, it was the judgment of the Independent Board Members that shareholders had received satisfactory absolute and relative performance over time consistent with the investment strategies being pursued by the Fund at reasonable fees and, therefore, continuation of the Advisory Agreement was in the best interests of the Fund and its shareholders. As a part of its decision making process, the Independent Board Members noted that the Adviser has managed the Fund since its inception, and the Independent Board Members believe that a long term relationship with a capable, conscientious adviser is in the best interests of the Fund. The Independent Board Members considered, generally, that shareholders invested in the Fund knowing that the Adviser managed the Fund and knowing its investment advisory fee. As such, the Independent Board Members considered, in particular, whether the Adviser managed the Fund in accordance with its investment objectives and policies as disclosed to shareholders. The Independent Board Members concluded that the Fund was managed by the Adviser in a manner consistent with its investment objectives and policies. On the basis of the foregoing and without assigning particular weight to any single conclusion, the Independent Board Members determined to recommend continuation of the Advisory Agreement to the full Board.

Based on a consideration of all these factors in their totality, the Board Members, including all of the Independent Board Members, determined that the Fund's advisory fee was fair and reasonable in relation to the quality of services provided and in light of the other factors described above that the Board Members deemed relevant. Accordingly, the Board Members determined to approve the continuation of the Fund's Advisory Agreement. The Board Members based their decision on evaluations of all these factors as a whole and did not consider any one factor as all important or controlling.

THE GABELLI EQUITY TRUST INC.

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.

Christopher J. Marangi joined Gabelli in 2003 as a research analyst. Currently he is a Managing Director and Co-Chief Investment Officer for GAMCO Investors, Inc.'s Value team. In addition, he serves as a portfolio manager of Gabelli Funds, LLC and manages several funds within the Gabelli/GAMCO Fund Complex. Mr. Marangi graduated magna cum laude and Phi Beta Kappa with a BA in Political Economy from Williams College and holds an MBA degree with honors from Columbia Business School.

Kevin V. Dreyer joined Gabelli in 2005 as a research analyst covering companies within the consumer sector. Currently he is a Managing Director and Co-Chief Investment Officer for GAMCO Investors, Inc.'s Value team. In addition, he serves as a portfolio manager of Gabelli Funds, LLC and manages several funds within the Gabelli/GAMCO Fund Complex. Mr. Dreyer received a BSE from the University of Pennsylvania and an MBA degree from Columbia Business School.

Robert D. Leininger, CFA, joined GAMCO Investors, Inc. in 1993 as an equity analyst. Subsequently, he was a partner and portfolio manager at Rorer Asset Management before rejoining GAMCO in 2010 where he currently serves as a portfolio manager of Gabelli Funds, LLC. Mr. Leininger is a magna cum laude graduate of Amherst College with a degree in Economics and holds an MBA degree from the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania.

Daniel M. Miller has been the portfolio manager of The Gabelli Focus Five Fund since inception of the investment strategy on January 1, 2012. He is also a Managing Director of GAMCO Investors, Inc. Mr. Miller joined the Firm in 2002 and graduated magna cum laude with a degree in finance from the University of Miami in Coral Gables, Florida.

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.

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

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

The NASDAQ symbol for the Net Asset Value is XGABX.

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 10% 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 GABELLI EQUITY TRUST INC.](#)

One Corporate Center

Rye, NY 10580-1422

t 800-GABELLI (800-422-3554)

f 914-921-5118

e info@gabelli.com

GABELLI.COM

[DIRECTORS](#)

Mario J. Gabelli, CFA

Chairman and

Chief Executive Officer,

GAMCO Investors, Inc.

Executive Chairman,

Associated Capital Group, Inc.

Anthony J. Colavita

President,

Anthony J. Colavita, P.C.

James P. Conn

Former Managing Director &

Chief Investment Officer,

Financial Security Assurance

Holdings Ltd.

Frank J. Fahrenkopf, Jr.

Former President &

Chief Executive Officer,

American Gaming Association

Arthur V. Ferrara

Former Chairman &

Chief Executive Officer,

Guardian Life Insurance

Company of America

Michael J. Ferrantino

Chief Executive Officer,

InterEx, Inc.

William F. Heitmann

Former Senior Vice President

of Finance,

Verizon Communications, Inc.

Salvatore J. Zizza

Chairman,

Zizza & Associates Corp.

OFFICERS

Bruce N. Alpert

President

Andrea R. Mango

Secretary & Vice President

Agnes Mullady

Vice President

John C. Ball

Treasurer

Richard J. Walz

Chief Compliance Officer

Carter W. Austin

Vice President

Molly A.F. Marion

Vice President & Ombudsman

David I. Schachter

Vice President

INVESTMENT ADVISER

Gabelli Funds, LLC

One Corporate Center

Rye, New York 10580-1422

CUSTODIAN

The Bank of New York Mellon

COUNSEL

Willkie Farr & Gallagher LLP

TRANSFER AGENT AND

REGISTRAR

Computershare Trust Company, N.A.

GAB Q2/2017

Item 2. Code of Ethics.

Not applicable.

Item 3. Audit Committee Financial Expert.

Not applicable.

Item 4. Principal Accountant Fees and Services.

Not applicable.

Item 5. Audit Committee of Listed Registrants.

Not applicable.

Item 6. Investments.

(a) Schedule of Investments in securities of unaffiliated issuers as of the close of the reporting period is included as part of the report to shareholders filed under Item 1 of this form.

(b) Not applicable.

Item 7. Disclosure of Proxy Voting Policies and Procedures for Closed-End Management Investment Companies.

Not applicable.

Item 8. Portfolio Managers of Closed-End Management Investment Companies.

There has been no change, as of the date of this filing, in any of the portfolio managers identified in response to paragraph (a)(1) of this Item in the registrant's most recently filed annual report on Form N-CSR.

Item 9. Purchases of Equity Securities by Closed-End Management Investment Company and Affiliated Purchasers.

REGISTRANT PURCHASES OF EQUITY SECURITIES

| Period | (a) Total Number of Shares (or Units) Purchased | | (b) Average Price Paid per Share (or Unit) | | (c) Total Number of Shares (or Units) Purchased as Part of Publicly Announced Plans or Programs | | (d) Maximum Number (or Approximate Dollar Value) of Shares (or Units) that May Yet Be Purchased Under the Plans or Programs | |
|----------|---|-------|--|---------|---|-------|---|-------------------|
| | | | | | | | | |
| Month #1 | Common | N/A | Common | N/A | Common | N/A | Common | 219,240,166 |
| 01/01/17 | | | | | | | | |
| through | Preferred Series D | N/A | Preferred Series D | N/A | Preferred Series D | N/A | Preferred Series D | 2,363,860 |
| 01/31/17 | | | | | | | | |
| | Preferred Series G | N/A | Preferred Series G | N/A | Preferred Series G | N/A | Preferred Series G | 2,789,701 |
| | Preferred Series H | 2,100 | Preferred Series H | \$22.93 | Preferred Series H | 2,100 | Preferred Series H | 4,179,773 |
| | Preferred Series J | N/A | Preferred Series J | N/A | Preferred Series J | N/A | Preferred Series J | 2,100 = 4,177,673 |
| | | | | | | | Preferred Series J | 3,200,000 |
| Month #2 | Common | N/A | Common | N/A | Common | N/A | Common | 219,240,166 |
| 02/01/17 | | | | | | | | |
| through | Preferred Series D | N/A | Preferred Series D | N/A | Preferred Series D | N/A | Preferred Series D | 2,363,860 |
| 02/28/17 | | | | | | | | |
| | Preferred Series G | 900 | Preferred Series G | \$23.39 | Preferred Series G | 900 | Preferred Series G | 2,789,701 |
| | | | | | | | 900 = 2,788,801 | |
| | Preferred Series H | N/A | | | Preferred Series H | N/A | | |

Edgar Filing: GABELLI EQUITY TRUST INC - Form N-CSRS

| | | | | | | | | |
|----------|--------------------|-------|--------------------|---------|--------------------|-------|--------------------|--------------------------------|
| | | | Preferred Series H | N/A | | | Preferred Series H | 4,177,673 |
| | Preferred Series J | N/A | | | Preferred Series J | N/A | | |
| | | | Preferred Series J | N/A | | | Preferred Series J | 3,200,000 |
| Month #3 | Common | N/A | Common | N/A | Common | N/A | Common | 219,240,166 |
| 03/01/17 | | | | | | | | |
| through | Preferred Series D | N/A | Preferred Series D | N/A | Preferred Series D | N/A | Preferred Series D | 2,363,860 |
| 03/31/17 | | | | | | | | |
| | Preferred Series G | 9,005 | Preferred Series G | \$23.80 | Preferred Series G | 9,005 | Preferred Series G | 2,788,801 9,005 = 2,779,796 |
| | Preferred Series H | 4,800 | Preferred Series H | \$23.94 | Preferred Series H | 4,800 | | |
| | Preferred Series J | N/A | | | | | Preferred Series H | 4,177,673 4,800 = 4,172,873 |
| | | | Preferred Series J | N/A | Preferred Series J | N/A | | |
| | | | | | | | Preferred Series J | 3,200,000 |
| Month #4 | Common | N/A | Common | N/A | Common | N/A | Common | 219,240,166 |
| 04/01/17 | | | | | | | | |
| through | Preferred Series D | N/A | Preferred Series D | N/A | Preferred Series D | N/A | Preferred Series D | 2,363,860 |
| 04/30/17 | | | | | | | | |
| | Preferred Series G | N/A | Preferred Series G | N/A | Preferred Series G | N/A | Preferred Series G | 2,779,796 |
| | Preferred Series H | N/A | Preferred Series H | N/A | Preferred Series H | N/A | | |
| | | | | | | | Preferred Series H | 4,172,873 |
| | Preferred Series J | N/A | Preferred Series J | N/A | Preferred Series J | N/A | | |

Edgar Filing: GABELLI EQUITY TRUST INC - Form N-CSRS

| | | | | | | | | |
|-----------|--------------------|-----|--------------------|-----|--------------------|-----|--------------------|-------------|
| Month #5 | Common | N/A | Common | N/A | Common | N/A | Preferred Series J | 3,200,000 |
| | | | | | | | Common | 219,240,166 |
| 05/01/17 | | | | | | | | |
| through - | Preferred Series D | N/A | Preferred Series D | N/A | Preferred Series D | N/A | Preferred Series D | 2,363,860 |
| 05/31/17 | | | | | | | | |
| | Preferred Series G | N/A | Preferred Series G | N/A | Preferred Series G | N/A | Preferred Series G | 2,779,796 |
| | Preferred Series H | N/A | Preferred Series H | N/A | Preferred Series H | N/A | Preferred Series H | 4,172,873 |
| | Preferred Series J | N/A | Preferred Series J | N/A | Preferred Series J | N/A | Preferred Series J | 3,200,000 |

Edgar Filing: GABELLI EQUITY TRUST INC - Form N-CSRS

| Month#6 | Common | N/A | Common | N/A | Common | N/A | Common | 219,808,898 |
|-----------|--------------------|---------|--------------------|-----|--------------------|-----|--------------------|-------------|
| 06/01/17 | | | | | | | | |
| through - | Preferred Series D | N/A | Preferred Series D | N/A | Preferred Series D | N/A | Preferred Series D | 2,363,860 |
| 06/30/17 | | | | | | | | |
| | Preferred Series G | N/A | Preferred Series G | N/A | Preferred Series G | N/A | Preferred Series G | 2,779,796 |
| | Preferred Series H | N/A | Preferred Series H | N/A | Preferred Series H | N/A | Preferred Series H | 4,172,873 |
| | Preferred Series J | N/A | Preferred Series J | N/A | Preferred Series J | N/A | Preferred Series J | 3,200,000 |
| Total | Common | N/A | Common | N/A | Common | N/A | N/A | |
| | Preferred Series D | N/A | Preferred Series D | N/A | Preferred Series D | N/A | | |
| | Preferred Series G | 9,905 | Preferred Series G | | Preferred Series G | | 9,905 | |
| | | \$23.75 | | | | | | |
| | Preferred Series H | 6,900 | Preferred Series H | | Preferred Series H | | 6,900 | |
| | | \$23.38 | | | | | | |
| | Preferred Series J | N/A | Preferred Series J | N/A | Preferred Series J | N/A | | |

Footnote columns (c) and (d) of the table, by disclosing the following information in the aggregate for all plans or programs publicly announced:

- a. The date each plan or program was announced The notice of the potential repurchase of common and preferred shares occurs quarterly in the Fund's quarterly report in accordance with Section 23(c) of the Investment

Company Act of 1940, as amended.

- b. The dollar amount (or share or unit amount) approved Any or all common shares outstanding may be repurchased when the Fund's common shares are trading at a discount of 10% or more from the net asset value of the shares.

Any or all preferred shares outstanding may be repurchased when the Fund's preferred shares are trading at a discount to the liquidation value of \$25.00.

- c. The expiration date (if any) of each plan or program The Fund's repurchase plans are ongoing.

- d. Each plan or program that has expired during the period covered by the table The Fund's repurchase plans are ongoing.

- e. Each plan or program the registrant has determined to terminate prior to expiration, or under which the registrant does not intend to make further purchases. The Fund's repurchase plans are ongoing.

Item 10. Submission of Matters to a Vote of Security Holders.

There have been no material changes to the procedures by which the shareholders may recommend nominees to the registrant's Board of Directors, where those changes were implemented after the registrant last provided disclosure in response to the requirements of Item 407(c)(2)(iv) of Regulation S-K (17 CFR 229.407) (as required by Item 22(b)(15) of Schedule 14A (17 CFR 240.14a-101)), or this Item.

Item 11. 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 second fiscal quarter of the period covered by this report that has materially affected, or is reasonably likely to materially affect, the registrant's internal control over financial reporting.

Item 12. Exhibits.

- (a)(1) Not applicable.
- (a)(2) Certifications pursuant to Rule 30a-2(a) under the 1940 Act and Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 are attached hereto.
- (a)(3) Not applicable.
- (b) Certifications pursuant to Rule 30a-2(b) under the 1940 Act and Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 are attached hereto.

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 Gabelli Equity Trust Inc.

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

Date 8/24/2017

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 8/24/2017

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

Date 8/24/2017

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