



# Eagle Point Income Company Inc. (EIC)

Updated November 16<sup>th</sup>, 2021 by Nikolaos Sismanis

## Key Metrics

<b>Current Price:</b>	\$18.09	<b>5 Year CAGR Estimate:</b>	6.8%	<b>Market Cap:</b>	\$110.3 M
<b>Fair Value Price:</b>	\$15.86	<b>5 Year Growth Estimate:</b>	2.0%	<b>Ex-Dividend Date:</b>	12/10/2021
<b>% Fair Value:</b>	114%	<b>5 Year Valuation Multiple Estimate:</b>	-2.6%	<b>Dividend Payment Date:</b>	12/31/2021
<b>Dividend Yield:</b>	8.0%	<b>5 Year Price Target</b>	\$17.51	<b>Years Of Dividend Growth:</b>	N/A
<b>Dividend Risk Score:</b>	F	<b>Retirement Suitability Score:</b>	C	<b>Last Dividend Increase:</b>	N/A

## Overview & Current Events

Eagle Point Income Fund (EIC) is a closed-end fund which invests primarily (75% of its assets) in junior tranches of CLO Debt. The remaining 25% may be invested where the manager sees fit including other high yield plays like bonds, preferred issuances, or CLO Equity. More specifically, the fund intends to allocate its capital in the BB-rated tranches of CLO Debt which is typically one of the last debt tranches in the capital stack before getting to the Sub notes. The fund's portfolio of just over \$137.8 million is comprised of 1,369 loan obligors, none of whom accounts for more than 0.91% of its total assets. The average loan maturity of the portfolio is 4.9 years, against 2.3 years of the average remaining CLO reinvestment period. The average rating on Eagle Point's loans is B+/B. Eagle Point Income Fund was founded in 2018, generates around \$11 million in net investment income annually, and is headquartered in Greenwich, Connecticut. The company makes dividend payments on a monthly basis.

On November 16<sup>th</sup>, 2021, Eagle Point Income Fund reported its Q3 results for the period ending September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2021. Net Investment Income (NII) per share was \$0.31, compared to \$0.28 in the previous quarter. The company's solid performance was attributed to a larger CLO portfolio and the resiliency of its CLO assets, with 100% of its investments continuing to make their scheduled payments. In the midst of the pandemic, the company cut its monthly distributions to \$0.08 in order to maintain a prudent profile amid the COVID-19 outbreak. Due to solid performance, management has sequentially grown the monthly dividend during the year to \$0.085, \$0.09, and most recently, \$0.12. Hence, its current annual run rate stands at \$1.44, which we have used in our estimates. However, FY2021's basic DPS will land at \$1.13. The company also declared a special distribution of \$0.20 per share on its common stock along with its earnings. This distribution is payable on January 24<sup>th</sup>, 2022, to holders of record as of December 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2021. Hence, FY2021's total DPS will land at \$1.33. Due to the company paying out slightly less than it earned in Q3, NAV/share increased by around 1.3%, sequentially to \$17.69. We now expect an FY2021 NII/share of \$1.22.

## Growth on a Per-Share Basis

Year	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2026
<b>NII/share<sup>1</sup></b>	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	\$1.32	\$1.27	<b>\$1.22</b>	<b>\$1.35</b>
<b>DPS</b>	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	\$0.69	\$1.50	<b>\$1.33</b>	<b>\$1.59</b>
<b>Shares<sup>2</sup></b>	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	6.0	6.1	<b>6.1</b>	<b>6.8</b>

Eagle Point Income Fund was founded quite recently, so the lack of historical performance makes it hard to get a clear picture of how well the company manages its assets. Assuming the company is able to keep borrowing at around 3.5% to purchase securities yielding around 8%-9% (current portfolio yield is 10.27%), it should be able to keep paying current distributions and gradually grow its portfolio and NII/share. We have forecasted a 2% annualized growth rate in both NII/share and DPS, in line with the industry average. However, future performance is likely to be very volatile as CLOs tend to be over the long term. Note that while the DPS is not covered by NII/share, the company's net increase in

<sup>1</sup> Net Investment Income

<sup>2</sup> Share count is in millions.

Disclosure: This analyst has no position in the security discussed in this research report, and no plans to initiate one in the next 72 hours.



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assets from operations is much greater than NII. It has been \$1.56/share over the first nine months of the year, against a NII/share of \$0.88 during the same period. Hence, distributions are adequately covered.

## Valuation Analysis

Year	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Now	2026
Avg. P/E	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	14.7	10.4	<b>14.8</b>	<b>13.0</b>
Avg. Yld.	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	2.8%	3.5%	<b>8.0%</b>	<b>9.1%</b>

CLO investment companies generally trade with a multiple in the high single digits to the low double digits. We believe that the slight premium in the stock's current valuation is due to net investment income not accounting for the increase in assets from operations. Still, we remain cautious due to the industry's historical volatility, expecting a modest growth rate and a fair multiple of 13. At that level, the stock's yield would be pushed above 9%, more in line with its industry peers and better reflecting the CLOs' underlying risks. In addition, this implies the potential for a valuation headwind.

## Safety, Quality, Competitive Advantage, & Recession Resiliency

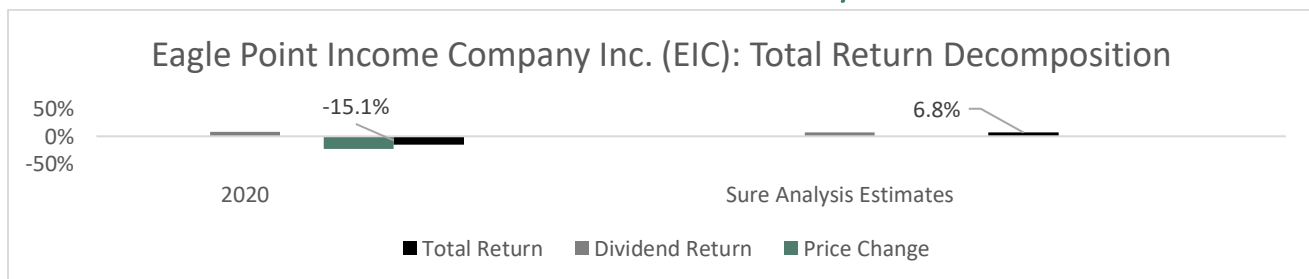
Year	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2026
Payout	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	52%	118%	<b>118%</b>	<b>118%</b>

Eagle Point's distribution cut back in 2020 was prudent, preventing further NAV deterioration. Considering the two recent distribution hikes, the robust portfolio performance, and the special payout, we believe distributions are safe and should not be cut. Again, the increase of assets from operations does cover the ongoing payouts. However, keep in mind that many of the company's peers have experienced sudden adverse scenarios amid sudden defaults and compression in interest rates, which damage the portfolio yields, leading to lower-income levels. Hence, income investors must be cautious of EIC's distribution reliability. The company has an advantage from a competitive standpoint since its advisor will be charging a flat fee of 175bps on gross assets, with no additional fees, which are common in the industry (see ECC/OXLC/OCCI). A potential recession is more than likely to hurt the company's payment collections, nonetheless.

## Final Thoughts & Recommendation

Eagle Point Income Fund is a relatively new CLO investment fund, though its portfolio fundamentals seem to be in place and with adequate diversification. The company is earning a decent yield on its investments, which is likely to increase as its portfolio grows and attracts cheaper financing. However, we believe that valuation headwinds ahead are likely to compress Eagle Point's annualized returns, which we forecast to be around 6.8%. Shares earn a hold rating.

## Total Return Breakdown by Year



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