## SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Investment Company Act Release No. 28071; 812-13450]

Unified Series Trust and Envestnet Asset Management, Inc.; Notice of Application November 30, 2007

Agency: Securities and Exchange Commission ("Commission").

Action: Notice of an application for an order under section 6(c) of the Investment Company Act of 1940 ("Act") for an exemption from section 15(a) of the Act and rule 18f-2 under the Act, as well as from certain disclosure requirements.

<u>Summary of the Application</u>: Applicants request an order permitting them to enter into and materially amend subadvisory agreements without shareholder approval and granting relief from certain disclosure requirements.

<u>Applicants</u>: Unified Series Trust ("Trust") and Envestnet Asset Management, Inc. ("Adviser").

<u>Filing Dates</u>: The application was filed on November 14, 2007. Applicants have agreed to file an amendment during the notice period, the substance of which is reflected in this notice.

Hearing or Notification of Hearing: An order granting the application will be issued unless the Commission orders a hearing. Interested persons may request a hearing by writing to the Commission's Secretary and serving applicants with a copy of the request, personally or by mail. Hearing requests should be received by the Commission by December 26, 2007 and should be accompanied by proof of service on applicants, in the form of an affidavit or, for lawyers, a certificate of service. Hearing requests should state the nature of

the writer's interest, the reason for the request, and the issues contested. Persons who wish to be notified of a hearing may request by writing to the Commission's Secretary.

<u>Addresses</u>: Secretary, U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission, 100 F Street, NE, Washington, DC 20549-1090. Applicants, c/o Dee Anne Sjogren, Thompson Coburn LLP, One US Bank Plaza, St. Louis, MO 63101.

<u>For Further Information Contact</u>: Jaea F. Hahn, Senior Counsel, at (202) 551-6870, or Nadya B. Roytblat, Assistant Director, at (202) 551-6821 (Office of Investment Company Regulation, Division of Investment Management).

<u>Supplementary Information</u>: The following is a summary of the application. The complete application may be obtained for a fee at the Commission's Public Reference Branch, 100 F Street, NE, Washington, DC 20549-0102 (telephone (202) 551-5850).

## Applicants' Representations:

- 1. The Trust is organized as Ohio business trust and is registered under the Act as an open-end management investment company. The Adviser, a Delaware corporation, is registered as an investment adviser under the Investment Advisers Act of 1940 ("Advisers Act").
- 2. The Trust currently offers a number of series, each with its own investment objective(s), policies and restrictions. The Adviser will serve as the investment adviser to two of the series of the Trust (each, a "Fund," and collectively, the "Funds"). The Adviser will enter into an investment advisory agreement with the Trust for each Fund (each, an "Advisory Agreement," and collectively, the "Advisory Agreements") approved by the board of trustees of the Trust (the "Board"), including a majority of the trustees who are not

"interested persons," as defined in section 2(a)(19) of the Act (the "Independent Trustees"), and the shareholders of each Fund.<sup>1</sup>

- 3. The Advisory Agreement permits the Adviser to enter into separate advisory agreements ("Subadvisory Agreements") with subadvisers ("Subadvisers"). Each Subadviser will be registered under the Advisers Act. The specific investment decisions for each Fund using a Subadviser will be made by that Subadviser, who will be granted discretionary authority to invest the assets, or a portion of the assets, of a particular Fund, subject to the general supervision by the Adviser and the Board. The Adviser will select Subadvisers based on an evaluation of their skills and proven abilities in managing assets pursuant to a specific investment style and will recommend their hiring to the Board. Subadvisers must be approved by the Board, including a majority of the Independent Trustees. The Adviser will monitor and evaluate the performance of Subadvisers and recommend to the Board their hiring, termination and replacement. The Adviser will compensate a Subadviser out of the management fee paid to the Adviser by the Fund under the Advisory Agreement.
- 4. Applicants request an order to permit the Adviser, subject to Board approval, to enter into and materially amend Subadvisory Agreements without obtaining shareholder approval. The requested relief will not extend to any Subadviser that is an

Applicants also request relief with respect to any future series of the Trust and any other existing or future registered open-end management investment company or series thereof that: (a) is advised by the Adviser or any person controlling, controlled by, or under common control with the Adviser; (b) uses the management structure described in the application; and (c) complies with the terms and conditions contained in the application (included in the term "Funds"). The Trust is the only existing investment company that currently intends to rely on the requested order. If the name of any Fund contains the name of a Subadviser (as defined below), the name of the Adviser or the name of the entity controlling, controlled by, or under common control with the Adviser that serves as the primary adviser to such Fund, or a trademark or trade name owned by them, will precede the name of the Subadviser.

"affiliated person," as defined in section 2(a)(3) of the Act, of a Fund or the Adviser, other than by reason of serving as a Subadviser to one or more of the Funds ("Affiliated Subadviser").

5. Applicants also request an exemption from the various disclosure provisions described below that may require each Fund to disclose fees paid by the Adviser to the Subadvisers. An exemption is requested to permit each Fund to disclose (both as a dollar amount and as a percentage of the Fund's net assets) the: (a) aggregate fees paid to the Adviser and any Affiliated Subadvisers; and (b) aggregate fees paid to Subadvisers other than Affiliated Subadvisers (collectively, "Aggregate Fee Disclosure"). If a Fund employs an Affiliated Subadviser, the Fund will provide separate disclosure of any fees paid to the Affiliated Subadviser.

## Applicants' Legal Analysis:

- 1. Section 15(a) of the Act provides, in relevant part, that it is unlawful for any person to act as an investment adviser to a registered investment company except under a written contract that has been approved by a vote of a majority of the company's outstanding voting securities. Rule 18f-2 under the Act provides that each series or class of stock in a series company affected by a matter must approve the matter if the Act requires shareholder approval.
- 2. Form N-1A is the registration statement used by open-end investment companies. Item 14(a)(3) of Form N-1A requires disclosure of the method and amount of the investment adviser's compensation.
- 3. Rule 20a-1 under the Act requires proxies solicited with respect to an investment company to comply with Schedule 14A under the Securities Exchange Act of

1934 ("Exchange Act"). Items 22(c)(1)(ii), 22(c)(1)(iii), 22(c)(8) and 22(c)(9) of Schedule 14A, taken together, require a proxy statement for a shareholder meeting at which the advisory contract will be voted upon to include the "rate of compensation of the investment adviser," the "aggregate amount of the investment adviser's fees," a description of the "terms of the contract to be acted upon," and, if a change in the advisory fee is proposed, the existing and proposed fees and the difference between the two fees.

- 4. Form N-SAR is the semi-annual report filed with the Commission by registered investment companies. Item 48 of Form N-SAR requires investment companies to disclose the rate schedule for fees paid to their investment advisers, including the Subadvisers.
- 5. Regulation S-X sets forth the requirements for financial statements required to be included as part of investment company registration statements and shareholders reports filed with the Commission. Sections 6-07(2)(a), (b) and (c) of Regulation S-X require that investment companies include in their financial statements information about investment advisory fees.
- 6. Section 6(c) of the Act provides that the Commission may exempt any person, security, or transaction or any class or classes of persons, securities, or transactions from any provisions of the Act, or from any rule thereunder, if and to the extent that such exemption is necessary or appropriate in the public interest and consistent with the protection of investors and the purposes fairly intended by the policies and provisions of the Act. Applicants state that the requested relief meets this standard for the reasons discussed below.

- 7. Applicants assert that the Funds' shareholders rely on the Adviser to select and monitor the Subadvisers best suited to achieve a Fund's investment objectives.

  Applicants contend that, from the perspective of the investor, the role of the Subadvisers is comparable to that of individual portfolio managers employed by traditional investment advisory firms. Applicants state that requiring shareholder approval of each Subadvisory Agreement would impose unnecessary costs and delays on the Funds and may preclude the Adviser from acting promptly in a manner considered advisable by the Board. Applicants note that the Advisory Agreement will remain subject to section 15(a) of the Act and rule 18f-2 under the Act.
- 8. Applicants assert that many Subadvisers use a "posted" rate schedule to set their fees. Applicants state that, while Subadvisers are willing to negotiate fees lower than those posted in the schedule, they are reluctant to do so when the fees are disclosed to other prospective and existing customers. Applicants submit that the requested relief will encourage potential Subadvisers to negotiate lower subadvisory fees with the Adviser.

## Applicants' Conditions:

Applicants agree that any order granting the requested relief will be subject to the following conditions:

1. Before a Fund may rely on the requested order, the operation of the Fund in the manner described in the application will be approved by a majority of the Fund's outstanding voting securities, as defined in the Act, or, in the case of a Fund whose public shareholders purchase shares on the basis of a prospectus containing the disclosure

contemplated by condition 2 below, by the initial shareholder(s) before such Fund's shares are offered to the public.

- 2. The prospectus for each Fund will disclose the existence, substance and effect of any order granted pursuant to the application. Each Fund will hold itself out to the public as employing the management structure described in the application. The prospectus will prominently disclose that the Adviser has ultimate responsibility, subject to oversight by the Board, to oversee the Subadvisers and recommend their hiring, termination, and replacement.
- 3. Within 90 days of the hiring of any new Subadviser, the affected Fund's shareholders will be furnished all information about the new Subadviser that would be included in a proxy statement, except as modified to permit Aggregate Fee Disclosure. This information will include Aggregate Fee Disclosure and any change in such disclosure caused by the addition of a new Subadviser. To meet this obligation, the Fund will provide shareholders within 90 days of the hiring of a new Subadviser with an information statement meeting the requirements of Regulation 14C, Schedule 14C and Item 22 of Schedule 14A under the Exchange Act, except as modified by the order to permit Aggregate Fee Disclosure.
- 4. The Adviser will not enter into a Subadvisory Agreement with any Affiliated Subadviser, without such agreement, including the compensation to be paid thereunder, being approved by the shareholders of the applicable Fund.
- 5. At all times, at least a majority of the Board will be Independent Trustees, and the nomination of new or additional Independent Trustees will be placed within the discretion of the then-existing Independent Trustees.

- 6. When a Subadviser change is proposed for a Fund with an Affiliated Subadviser, the Board, including a majority of the Independent Trustees, will make a separate finding, reflected in the applicable Board minutes, that such change is in the best interests of the Fund and its shareholders and does not involve a conflict of interest from which the Adviser or the Affiliated Subadviser derives an inappropriate advantage.
- 7. Independent legal counsel, as defined in rule 0-1(a)(6) under the Act, has been and will continue to be engaged to represent the Independent Trustees. The selection of such counsel will be within the discretion of the then-existing Independent Trustees.
- 8. The Adviser will provide the Board, no less frequently than quarterly, with information about the Adviser's profitability on a per Fund basis. This information will reflect the impact on profitability of the hiring or termination of any Subadviser during the applicable period.
- 9. Whenever a Subadviser is hired or terminated, the Adviser will provide the Board with information showing the expected impact on the Adviser's profitability.
- 10. The Adviser will provide general management services to each Fund, including overall supervisory responsibility for the general management and investment of the Fund's assets, and subject to review and approval of the Board, will: (a) set each Fund's overall investment strategies; (b) evaluate, select and recommend Subadvisers to manage all or a part of a Fund's assets; (c) where appropriate, allocate and reallocate a Fund's assets among multiple Subadvisers; (d) monitor and evaluate the performance of Subadvisers; and (e) implement procedures reasonably designed to ensure that the Subadvisers comply with each Fund's investment objective, policies, and restrictions.

Adviser will own any interest in a Subadviser, directly or indirectly (other than through a pooled investment vehicle that is not controlled by such person), except for:

(a) ownership of interests in the Adviser or any entity that controls, is controlled by, or is under common control with the Adviser; or (b) ownership of less than 1% of the outstanding securities of any class of equity or debt of a publicly traded company that is

either a Subadviser or an entity that controls, is controlled by, or is under common

control with a Subadviser.

12. Each Fund will disclose in its registration statement the Aggregate Fee

Disclosure.

13. The requested order will expire on the effective date of rule 15a-5 under

the Act, if adopted.

For the Commission, by the Division of Investment Management, under delegated

authority.

Florence E. Harmon Deputy Secretary