

MORGAN STANLEY QUALITY MUNICIPAL INCOME TRUST

Form N-CSR

July 05, 2005

Welcome, Shareholder:

In this report, you'll learn about how your investment in Morgan Stanley Quality Municipal Income Trust performed during the semiannual period. We will provide an overview of the market conditions, and discuss some of the factors that affected performance during the reporting period. In addition, this report includes the Trust's financial statements and a list of Trust investments.

Market forecasts provided in this report may not necessarily come to pass. There is no assurance that the Trust will achieve its investment objective. The Trust is subject to market risk, which is the possibility that market values of securities owned by the Trust will decline and, therefore, the value of the Trust's shares may be less than what you paid for them. Accordingly, you can lose money investing in this Trust.

Fund Report

For the six-month period ended April 30, 2005

Market Conditions

Consumer spending and business investment helped the U.S. economy expand at a solid pace. This, in turn, translated into generally higher interest rates during the six-month fiscal period ended April 30, 2005. The markets also continued to focus on global commodity supply pressures, specifically the rapid climb in oil prices and the large federal budget and trade deficits. However, employment growth remained uneven and bonds often rallied on weaker than anticipated monthly reports.

The Federal Open Market Committee (the "Fed") reaffirmed its pledge to raise the federal funds target rate at a "measured" pace and did so in its meetings throughout the period. The Fed's policy shift began in June 2004 with the first of seven consecutive 25-basis point rate hikes which took the federal funds target rate to 2.75 percent by the end of April 2005. These increases represented a reversal of the Fed's rate reductions between January 2001 and June

2003. At the end of the period, the forward yield curve reflected a widespread view that the Fed would continue its current pace of rate increases.

Against this setting, long-term municipal bond yields remained in a trading range which moved rates higher at the beginning of the period, lower through the winter and higher at the end of the first quarter. By the end of April, yields declined again and ended the fiscal period at or near their lows. In contrast, yields on shorter maturity bonds which were more directly impacted by the Fed's actions rose. As a result, the municipal yield curve continued to flatten and the yield spread (or differential between one-year rates and 30-year rates) narrowed. Investor's quest for yield favored lower-quality investment grade bonds over high grade issues, keeping quality spreads tight.

In the first four months of 2005, total municipal underwriting volume increased by nine percent over the same period in 2004. Refunding issues accounted for the incremental growth. Bonds backed by insurance increased their market penetration from 50 to 60 percent over the same period. Issuers in California, Texas, New York, Florida and New Jersey accounted for 43 percent of the total municipal underwriting volume.

On the demand side, the municipal-to-Treasury yield ratio, which gauges relative performance between the two markets, remained attractive for tax-exempts. As a result, fixed income investors that normally focus on taxable sectors (such as insurance companies and hedge funds) supported municipals by "crossing over" to purchase bonds. However, retail investors continued to experience rate shock from the absolute level of rates and largely remained on the sidelines.

Performance Analysis

For the six-month period ended April 30, 2005, the net asset value (NAV) of the Morgan Stanley Quality Municipal Income Trust (IQI) increased from \$15.42 to \$15.63 per share. IQI declared tax-free dividends totaling \$0.405 per share. The Trust's total NAV return

2



was 4.46 percent. IQI's value on the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE) moved from \$13.83 to \$13.60 per share during the same period. Based on this change plus reinvestment of tax-free dividends, IQI's total market return was 1.28 percent. On April 30, 2005, IQI's NYSE market price was at a 12.99 percent discount to its NAV. *Past performance is no guarantee of future results.*

Monthly dividends for the second quarter of 2005, declared in March, were unchanged at \$0.0675 per share. The dividend reflects the current level of the Trust's net investment income. IQI's level of undistributed net investment income was \$0.107 per share on April 30, 2005, versus \$0.088 per share six months earlier.⁽¹⁾

During the period, IQI maintained a conservative strategy in anticipation of continued Fed tightening and higher interest rates. Adjusted for leverage, the Trust's duration* (a measure of interest rates sensitivity) was 10.1 years. This positioning helped performance early in the period when rates rose, but had the net effect of hampering total returns when rates declined later in the period. The Trust's net assets, including preferred shares, of \$609.2 million were diversified across 104 credits in 13 long-term sectors.

As discussed in previous reports, the total income available for distribution to holders of common shares includes incremental income provided by the Trust's outstanding Auction Rate Preferred Shares (ARPS). ARPS dividends reflect prevailing short-term interest rates on maturities ranging from one week to two years. Incremental income to holders of common shares depends on two factors: the amount of ARPS outstanding and the spread between the portfolio's cost yield and its ARPS auction rate and expenses. The greater the spread and the higher the amount of ARPS outstanding, the greater the amount of incremental income available for distribution to holders of common shares. The level of net investment income available for distribution to holders of common shares varies with the level of short-term interest rates. ARPS leverage also increases the price volatility of common shares and has the effect of extending portfolio duration.

During this six-month period, ARPS leverage contributed approximately \$0.10 per share to common share earnings. The Trust has five ARPS series totaling \$208 million, representing 34 percent of net assets, including preferred shares. Yields on series in two-year auction modes ranged from 1.50 to 2.25 percent. Weekly yields ranged from 1.58 to 2.55 percent.

The Trust's procedure for reinvesting all dividends and distributions in common shares is through purchases in the open market. This method helps support the market value of the Trust's shares. In addition, we would like to remind you that the Trustees have approved a procedure whereby the Trust may, when appropriate, purchase shares in the open market or in privately negotiated transactions at a price not above market value or net asset value, whichever is lower at the time of purchase. The Trust may also utilize procedures to reduce or eliminate the amount of ARPS outstanding, including their purchase in the open market or in privately negotiated transactions. During the six-month period ended April 30, 2005, the Trust

3

purchased and retired 765,190 shares of common shares at a weighted average market discount of 12.10 percent.

Performance data quoted represents past performance, which is no guarantee of future results, and current performance may be lower or higher than the figures shown. Investment return, net asset value and common share market price will fluctuate and Trust shares, when sold, may be worth more or less than their original cost.

There is no guarantee that any sectors mentioned will continue to perform well or be held by the Trust in the future.

(1) Income earned by certain securities in the portfolio may be subject to the federal alternative tax (AMT).

* A measure of the sensitivity of a bond's price to changes in interest rates, expressed in years. Each year of duration represents an expected 1 percent change in the price of a bond for every 1 percent change in interest rates. The longer a bond's duration, the greater the effect of interest-rate movements on its price. Typically, trusts with shorter durations perform better in rising-interest-rate environments, while trusts with longer durations perform better when rates decline.

LARGEST SECTORS	
Water & Sewer	35.5%
Transportation	29.3
General Obligation	23.7
Electric	17.6
Public Facilities	7.5

LONG-TERM CREDIT ANALYSIS	
Aaa/AAA	68.1%
Aa/AA	20.8
A/A	8.0
Baa/BBB	2.0
Ba/BB or Less	1.1

Data as of April 30, 2005. Subject to change daily. All percentages for largest sectors are as a percentage of net assets applicable to common shareholders. All percentages for long-term credit analysis are as a percentage of total long-term investments. These data are provided for informational purposes only and should not be deemed a recommendation to buy or sell the securities mentioned. Morgan Stanley is a full-service securities firm engaged in securities trading and brokerage activities, investment banking, research and analysis, financing and financial advisory services.

4

For More Information About Portfolio Holdings

Each Morgan Stanley trust provides a complete schedule of portfolio holdings in its semiannual and annual reports within 60 days of the end of the trust's second and fourth fiscal quarters by filing the schedule electronically with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC). The semiannual reports are filed on Form N-CSRS and the annual

reports are filed on Form N-CSR. Morgan Stanley also delivers the semiannual and annual reports to trust shareholders and makes these reports available on its public Web site, www.morganstanley.com. Each Morgan Stanley trust also files a complete schedule of portfolio holdings with the SEC for the trust's first and third fiscal quarters on Form N-Q. Morgan Stanley does not deliver the reports for the first and third fiscal quarters to shareholders, nor are the reports posted to the Morgan Stanley public Web site. You may, however, obtain the Form N-Q filings (as well as the Form N-CSR and N-CSR-S filings) by accessing the SEC's Web site, <http://www.sec.gov>. You may also review and copy them at the SEC's Public Reference Room in Washington, DC. Information on the operation of the SEC's Public Reference Room may be obtained by calling the SEC at (800) SEC-0330. You can also request copies of these materials, upon payment of a duplicating fee, by electronic request at the SEC's e-mail address (publicinfo@sec.gov) or by writing the Public Reference section of the SEC, Washington, DC 20549-0102.

5

Distribution by Maturity
(% of Long-Term Portfolio) As of April 30, 2005

Weighted Average Maturity: 18 Years^(a)

(a) Where applicable maturities reflect mandatory tenders, puts and call dates.

Portfolio structure is subject to change.

Geographic Summary of Investments

Based on Market Value as a Percent of Total Investments

Alabama	1.3%
Alaska	0.5
Arizona	4.6
California	8.8
Colorado	2.1
Connecticut	0.4
Florida	3.9
Georgia	5.9
Hawaii	3.4%
Idaho	0.4
Illinois	5.8
Indiana	4.2
Kentucky	1.4
Maine	0.6
Maryland	1.7
Michigan	1.8

Minnesota	0.4%
Missouri	0.1
Montana	0.7
Nevada	2.4
New Jersey	6.0
New Mexico	1.1
New York	13.3
North Carolina	0.8
Ohio	0.9%
Pennsylvania	5.4
Puerto Rico	0.7
South Carolina	3.2
Texas	12.5
Virginia	1.0
Washington	4.3
Wisconsin	0.4
Total†	100.0%

Does not include open short futures contracts with an underlying face amount of \$109,046,880 with unrealized depreciation of \$418,382.

6

Call and Cost (Book) Yield Structure (Based on Long-Term Portfolio) As of April 30, 2005

Years Bonds Callable — Weighted Average Call Protection: 7 Years

Cost (Book) Yield^(b) — Weighted Average Book Yield: 5.2%

(a) May include issues initially callable in previous years.

(b) Cost or "book" yield is the annual income earned on a portfolio investment based on its original purchase price before the Trust's operating expenses. For example, the Trust is earning a book yield of 6.6% on 5% of the long-term portfolio that is callable in 2005.

Portfolio structure is subject to change.

7

Investment Advisory Agreement Approval

Nature, Extent and Quality of Services

The Board reviewed and considered the nature and extent of the investment advisory services provided by the Investment Adviser under the Advisory Agreement, including portfolio management, investment research and fixed income securities trading. The Board also reviewed and considered the nature and extent of the non-advisory, administrative services provided by the Trust's Administrator under the Administration Agreement, including accounting, clerical, bookkeeping, compliance, business management and planning, and the provision of supplies, office space and utilities at the Adviser's expense. (The Investment Adviser and the Administrator together are referred to as the "Adviser" and the Advisory and Administration Agreements together are referred to as the "Management Agreement.") The Board also compared the nature of the services provided by the Adviser with similar services provided by non-affiliated advisers as reported to the Board by Lipper Inc. ("Lipper").

The Board reviewed and considered the qualifications of the portfolio managers, the senior administrative managers and other key personnel of the Adviser who provide the administrative and investment advisory services to the Trust. The Board determined that the Adviser's portfolio managers and key personnel are well qualified by education and/or training and experience to perform the services in an efficient and professional manner. The Board concluded that the nature and extent of the advisory and administrative services provided were necessary and appropriate for the conduct of the business and investment activities of the Trust. The Board also concluded that the overall quality of the advisory and administrative services was satisfactory.

Performance Relative to Comparable Funds Managed by Other Advisers

The Board reviewed the Trust's performance for one-, three- and five-year periods ended November 30, 2004, as shown in reports provided by Lipper (the "Lipper Reports"), compared to the performance of comparable funds selected by Lipper (the "performance peer group"), and noted that the Trust's performance was lower than its performance peer group average for the one-, three- and five-year periods. The Adviser and the Board discussed the portfolio management's team strategy in anticipation of Federal Reserve Board actions and in response to the interest rate environment. The Board considered that the strategy employed was reasonable and that the Trust's more recent performance, for the one- and three-year periods, was only slightly lower than the Trust's performance peer group average. The Board discussed with the Adviser possible steps to improve performance.


Fees Relative to Other Funds Managed by the Adviser with Comparable Investment Strategies

The Board reviewed the advisory and administrative fees (together, the "management fee") paid by the Trust under the Management Agreement. The Board noted that the rate was comparable to the management fee rates charged by the Adviser to any other funds it manages with investment strategies comparable to those of the Trust.

Fees and Expenses Relative to Comparable Funds Managed by Other Advisers

The Board reviewed the management fee rate and total expense ratio of the Trust. The Board noted that: (i) the Trust's management fee rate was lower than the average management fee rate for funds, selected by Lipper (the "expense peer group"), managed by other advisers, with investment strategies comparable to those of the Trust,

8



as shown in the Lipper Report for the Trust; and (ii) the Trust's total expense ratio was also lower than the average total expense ratio of the funds included in the expense peer group. The Board concluded that the Trust's management fee and total expenses were competitive with those of the Trust's expense peer group.

Breakpoints and Economies of Scale

The Board reviewed the structure of the Trust's management fee schedule under the Management Agreement and noted that it does not include any breakpoints. The Board considered that the Trust is closed-end and is not a growth fund and, therefore, that the Trust's assets are not likely to grow with new sales or grow significantly as a result of capital appreciation. The Board concluded that economies of scale for this Trust were not a factor that needed to be considered.

Profitability of Adviser and Affiliates

The Board considered and reviewed information concerning the costs incurred and profits realized by the Adviser and its affiliates during the last two years from their relationship with the Trust and the Morgan Stanley Fund Complex and reviewed with the Controller of the Adviser the cost allocation methodology used to determine the Adviser's profitability. Based on their review of the information they received, the Board concluded that the profits earned by the Adviser and its affiliates were not excessive in light of the advisory, administrative, and other services provided to the Trust.

Fall-Out Benefits

The Board considered so-called "fall-out benefits" derived by the Adviser and its affiliates from their relationship with the Trust and the Fund Complex, such as "float" benefits derived from handling of checks for purchases and sales of Trust shares through a broker-dealer affiliate of the Adviser. The Board considered the float benefits and concluded that they were relatively small.

Soft Dollar Benefits

The Board considered whether the Adviser realizes any benefits from commissions paid to brokers who execute securities transactions for the Trust ("soft dollars"). The Board noted that the Trust invests only in fixed income

securities, which do not generate soft dollars.

Adviser Financially Sound and Financially Capable of Meeting the Trust's Needs

The Board considered whether the Adviser is financially sound and has the resources necessary to perform its obligations under the Management Agreement. The Board noted that the Adviser's operations remain profitable, although increased expenses in recent years have reduced the Adviser's profitability. The Board concluded that the Adviser has the financial resources necessary to fulfill its obligations under the Management Agreement.

Historical Relationship Between the Trust and the Adviser

The Board also reviewed and considered the historical relationship between the Trust and the Adviser, including the organizational structure of the Adviser, the policies and procedures formulated and adopted by the Adviser for

9



managing the Trust's operations and the Board's confidence in the competence and integrity of the senior managers and key personnel of the Adviser. The Board concluded that it is beneficial for the Trust to continue its relationship with the Adviser.

Other Factors and Current Trends

The Board considered the controls and procedures adopted and implemented by the Adviser and monitored by the Trust's Chief Compliance Officer and concluded that the conduct of business by the Adviser indicates a good faith effort on its part to adhere to high ethical standards in the conduct of the Trust's business.

General Conclusion

After considering and weighing all of the above factors, the Board concluded it would be in the best interest of the Trust and its shareholders to approve renewal of the Management Agreement for another year.

10

Edgar Filing: MORGAN STANLEY QUALITY MUNICIPAL INCOME TRUST - Form N-CSR

Portfolio of Investments April 30, 2005 (unaudited)

PRINCIPAL AMOUNT IN THOUSANDS		COUPON RATE	MATURITY DATE	VALUE
	Tax-Exempt Municipal Bonds (146.6%)			
	<i>General Obligation (23.7%)</i>			
\$ 5,000	California, Various Purpose dtd 05/01/03	5.25%	02/01/19	\$5,425,900
4,000	Los Angeles, California, Ser 2004 A (MBIA)	5.00	09/01/24	4,268,760