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EXCELSIOR INCOME SHARES INC

Form PREC14A

August 03, 2001

EXCELSIOR INCOME SHARES, INC. PREC14A

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SCHEDULE 14A INFORMATION
PROXY STATEMENT PURSUANT TO SECTION 14(A) OF THE
SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

Filed by Registrant []
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Check the appropriate box:

- [x] Preliminary Proxy Statement [] Confidential, For Use of the
Commission Only (as permitted
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- [] Definitive Proxy Statement
- [] Definitive Additional Materials
- [] Soliciting Material Pursuant to Sec. 240.14a-11(c) or Sec.
240.14a-12

EXCELSIOR INCOME SHARES, INC.

(Name of Registrant as Specified in its Charter)

Ralph W. Bradshaw

Name of Person(s) Filing Proxy Statement, if Other Than the
Registrant)

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PROXY STATEMENT IN OPPOSITION
TO SOLICITATION BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF
EXCELSIOR INCOME SHARES, INC.

ANNUAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS
To be held on September 12, 2001

This proxy statement and the enclosed [GREEN] proxy card are being furnished to holders of record on August 10, 2001, (the "Record Date") of shares of common stock ("Common Stock") of the Excelsior Income Shares, Inc. (the "Fund") by Ralph W. Bradshaw (the "Soliciting Stockholder"), in connection with the solicitation of proxies by the Soliciting Stockholder for use at the 2001 Annual Meeting of the Fund to be held at the offices of Kramer Levin Naftalis & Frankel, 919 Third Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10022, on September 12, 2001, at 11:00 a.m., New York City time, and any adjournment or adjournments hereof. The Soliciting Stockholder is soliciting a proxy to vote your shares at the 2001 Annual Meeting of Stockholders of the Fund and at any and all adjournments or postponements of the meeting.

INTRODUCTION

This proxy statement and the enclosed [GREEN] proxy card are first being sent to stockholders of the Fund on or about _____, 2001 for the following purposes:

- (1) To elect five Directors to hold office until the next Annual Meeting and until their respective successors have been duly elected and qualified;
- (2) To consider a new Investment Advisory Agreement between the Fund and Rafferty Capital Markets, LLC;
- (3) To consider and vote upon a proposal to liquidate and dissolve the Fund pursuant to the plan of liquidation described in the Fund's proxy

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statement (the "Plan");

- (4) To consider and vote upon the appointment of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP as the independent certified public accountants of the Fund for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2001;
- (5) To consider and vote on the change in the name of the Fund from Excelsior Income Shares, Inc. to EIS Fund, Ltd.;

With respect to these matters, the Soliciting Stockholder is soliciting a proxy to vote your shares:

IN FAVOR of the election of the individuals whom the Soliciting Stockholder intends to nominate for election as directors of the Fund and in favor of all items except that the Soliciting Shareholder makes no recommendation with respect to item (3).

The Soliciting Stockholder is also soliciting your proxy to vote your shares on the following Shareholder Value Proposal, that he intends to introduce at the meeting:

- (6a) RESOLVED: If a majority favors liquidation, but it fails to receive the super-majority, two-thirds vote required, the shareholders recommend that the Board provide shareholders an option to receive Net Asset Value, as soon as possible, through open-ending or some other means.
- (6b) RESOLVED: If the liquidation proposal receives the required two-thirds vote, the shareholders request that the first liquidation payment, representing substantially all of the proceeds from sale of the Fund's liquid assets, be distributed within 30 days after the meeting, rather than 90 days as described in the Fund's proxy.

If a shareholder returns the [GREEN] proxy card with no indication of how to vote on any of these matters, the Soliciting Stockholder will vote FOR on these proposals.

How Proxies Will Be Voted

All of the proposals scheduled by the Fund to be voted on at the meeting are included in the enclosed [GREEN] proxy card. The Shareholder Value Proposal is not included in the Fund's proxy. If you wish to vote IN FAVOR of these nominees, and/or FOR, AGAINST, or ABSTAIN on any of the other proposals, you may do so by completing and returning a [GREEN] proxy card.

If you return a [GREEN] proxy card to the Soliciting Stockholder or its agent, your shares will be voted on each matter as you indicate. If you do not indicate how your shares are to be voted on a matter, they will be voted as follows:

-FOR the election of the nominees named in this proxy.

-FOR the remaining proposals, including the above referenced Shareholder Value Proposal that is intended to be proposed at the meeting.

All other proposals introduced at the meeting will be voted in what, as determined by the sole discretion of the Soliciting Stockholder, is in the best interests of shareholders. The proxies may also temporarily decline to attend the Meeting, thereby possibly preventing a quorum, in order to solicit additional proxies or, if they deem it to be in the interest of the shareholders, for any other legal reason.

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Voting Requirements

Only stockholders of record on the Record Date are entitled to vote at the meeting. According to the Fund's proxy statement, as of February 20, 2001, the record date for the first annual meeting, and as of June 30, 2001, there were 2,169,091 issued and outstanding shares of common stock of the Fund. Stockholders will be entitled to one vote for each share held. Only stockholders of record at the close of business on August 10, 2001 will be entitled to vote at the Meeting. Directors of the Fund are elected by a plurality of the votes cast.

In tallying stockholder votes, abstentions and "broker non-votes" (i.e., shares held by brokers or nominees as to which (a) instructions have not been received from the beneficial owners or persons entitled to vote and (b) the broker or nominee does not have discretionary voting power on a particular matter) will be counted for purposes of determining whether a quorum is present for purposes of convening the meeting, but neither abstentions nor broker non-votes will be considered votes cast for any purposes at the Meeting. The five nominees receiving the largest number of votes will be elected to serve as director of the Fund.

If a quorum is not present at the meeting, the persons named as proxies may propose one or more adjournments of the meeting to permit further solicitation of proxies. The proxies may also propose an adjournment for other reasons. Any adjournment will require the affirmative vote of a majority of those shares present at the meeting in person or by proxy. If an adjournment of the meeting is proposed, the person named as proxy on the [GREEN] proxy card will vote for or against such adjournment in his discretion.

Revocation of Proxies

You may revoke any proxy you give to management or the Soliciting Stockholder at any time prior to its exercise in the following ways:

Deliver a written revocation of your proxy to the Secretary of the Fund;

Execute and deliver a later dated proxy to the Soliciting Stockholder or to the Fund or our respective agents; or

Vote in person at the meeting. (Attendance at the meeting will not in and of itself revoke a proxy.)

There is no limit on the number of times you may revoke your proxy prior to the meeting. Only the latest dated, properly signed proxy card will be counted.

INFORMATION CONCERNING THE SOLICITING STOCKHOLDER

The address of the Soliciting Stockholder is One West Pack Square, Suite 1650, Asheville, NC 28801.

As of the Record Date, the Soliciting Stockholder had the beneficial ownership of 501 shares of Common Stock of the Fund.

Exhibit 1 to this proxy statement contains a schedule showing the purchases and sales of Common Stock of the Fund by the Soliciting Stockholder within the past two years.

There are no contracts, arrangements, or understandings of any kind between the Soliciting Stockholder and any other person with respect to how shares of

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the Fund owned by that person might be voted.

REASONS FOR THE SOLICITATION

Prior to this year's proxy contests, the Fund regularly traded at a substantial discount to net asset value per share ("NAV"). The Soliciting Stockholder believes that, in spite of some temporary improvement due to market conditions and the possibility of liquidation, effective measures have not been taken by the investment manager nor has there been effective direction by the current Board to deal with this persistent problem.

As one example, the Fund is not making use of the repurchase program announced during the proxy contest earlier this year. According to the Fund, "The Board believed that adoption of the program might enhance value for shareholders by reducing the NAV Discount and providing some additional liquidity for shareholders who desire to sell their shares in the Fund." However, in spite of the fanfare, the shares of record have not changed. It appears that not a single share has been repurchased during the intervening weeks, This program is clearly beneficial to shareholder value and the Board is not providing effective leadership in its use.

As another example, while the Board is giving shareholders an opportunity to choose whether or not to liquidate the Fund, it is doubtful that the measure will pass because the Board has insisted on a super-majority of all outstanding shares for approval. The Shareholder Value Proposal which I intend to propose at the meeting, recommends that, if the super-majority is not reached but a majority favors liquidation, stockholders should be given an option to receive Net Asset Value.

Because we believe that shareholders deserve better, the purpose of this proxy is to solicit your vote to elect Ralph W. Bradshaw, Gary A. Bentz, Andrew Strauss, Glenn W. Wilcox, Sr. and Scott B. Rogers, respectively, to the Board of Directors.

I believe that the election of Messrs. Bradshaw, Bentz, Strauss, Wilcox and Rogers, respectively, as directors will provide stockholders with an independent voice on important matters affecting the Fund. Their election may give the Board a new perspective and may help assure that measures intended to benefit stockholders are more actively considered. The measures that we expect to advocate may include but are not limited to:

- Improving yield and increasing NAV of the Fund's shares through aggressive, periodic buybacks of shares in the market; and
- Considering actions to bring the discount to NAV under control, which may include tender offers, payout policies, or other methods of enhancing stockholder value; and
- Formulating strategies to improve the Fund's yield and, when appropriate, presenting options for shareholder approval; and
- Seeking greater stockholder guidance to the Board, enhancing its ability to act in the best interests of stockholders.

If you share these goals, I urge you to vote, using the enclosed [GREEN] proxy card.

CERTAIN CONSIDERATIONS

In deciding whether to give the Soliciting Stockholder your proxy, you should consider the following information.

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Even if his nominees are elected, there can be no assurance that the full Board of Directors will take any actions that he may advocate or that such actions, if taken, will achieve their intended goals

Implementation of certain Board actions may require stockholder approval, and no assurance can be given that such approval will be obtained. In addition, various costs, which would be borne indirectly by stockholders, may be associated with certain actions, including but not limited to those associated with holding a special meeting of stockholders.

The Soliciting Stockholder believes that all stockholders of the Fund will benefit if any actions taken to improve stockholder value or to reduce or eliminate the discount from NAV are successful. The Soliciting Shareholder and his nominees will give careful consideration to adopting any or all of the measures outlined above and will make a final determination based on the benefits to the Fund and its shareholders as such compare to the costs and risks, if any, of the implementation of any of these measures. Additionally, the Soliciting Shareholder may seek guidance from Fund shareholders identified by Form 13D and Form 13G filings.

ELECTION OF DIRECTORS

There are five members in the current Board of Directors.

At the meeting, stockholders will have the opportunity to elect five persons as directors of the Fund to serve until the next Annual Meeting and until their successors shall have been elected and qualified.

The Soliciting Stockholder intends to nominate Ralph W. Bradshaw, Gary A. Bentz, Andrew Strauss, Glenn W. Wilcox, Sr. and Scott B. Rogers, respectively, for election as directors of the Fund to serve until the Fund's annual meeting in 2002. Information about the nominees is as follows:

Name, Business Address	Age	Principal Business Occupations
Ralph W. Bradshaw One West Pack Square, Suite 1650 Asheville, NC 28801	50	President, Director and shareholder of Cornerstone Advisors, Inc.; Financial Consultant for the past five years; Vice President, Deep Discount Advisors, Inc. (1993-1999); Director of The Austria Fund, Inc., Cornerstone Strategic Return Fund, Inc., Cornerstone Strategic Value Fund, Inc., Progressive Return Fund, Inc., and The Smallcap Fund, Inc., all NYSE-listed closed-end funds
Gary A. Bentz One West Pack Square Suite 1650 Asheville, NC 28801	45	Vice President, Treasurer, Director and shareholder of Cornerstone Advisors, Inc.; Independent Financial, Accounting, and Investment Consultant and Certified Public Accountant for the past five years; Vice President, Deep Discount Advisors (1993-2000); Director of The Austria Fund, Inc., Vice President Treasurer, and Former Director Cornerstone Strategic Value Fund, Inc. and Cornerstone Strategic Return Fund, Inc.; Vice President and Treasurer, Progressive Return Fund, Inc.

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Andrew Strauss 77 Central Avenue, Suite F Asheville, NC 28801	45	Attorney and senior member of Strauss & Associates, P.A., attorneys, Asheville, N.C.; previous President of White Knight Healthcare, Inc. and LMV Leasing, Inc., a wholly owned subsidiary of Xerox Credit Corporation; Director of Cornerstone Strategic Value Fund, Inc., Cornerstone Strategic Return Fund, Inc., and Progressive Return Fund, Inc.
Glenn W. Wilcox, Sr. Wilcox Travel One West Pack Square Suite 1700 Asheville, NC 28801	68	Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer of Wilcox Travel Agency; Director, Champion Industries, Inc.; Chairman, the Board of Blue Ridge Printing Co., Inc.; Chairman, Tower Associates, Inc. (a real estate venture), Member and Vice Chairman, the Board of First Union National Bank; Board Trustee and Vice Chairman, Appalachian State University; Board Trustee and Director, Mars Hill College; Director of Cornerstone Strategic Value Fund, Inc., Cornerstone Strategic Return Fund, Inc. and Progressive Return Fund, Inc.
Scott B. Rogers 30 Cumberland Ave Asheville, NC 28801	44	Chief Executive Officer, Asheville Buncombe Community Christian Ministry; President, ABCCM Doctor's Medical Clinic; Director, Southeastern Jurisdiction Urban Networkers; Director, A-B Vision Board, Appointee, NC Governor's Commission on Welfare to Work; Chairman, Recycling Unlimited; Director, Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance; Director of Cornerstone Strategic Value Fund, Inc., Cornerstone Strategic Return Fund, Inc. and Progressive Return Fund, Inc.

The Number of Shares Owned Directly or Indirectly as of the record date is 501.

The Fund's proxy contains details concerning compensation arrangements between the Fund and its officers.

Other than fees that may be payable by the Fund to its directors, the nominees named above have no arrangement or understanding with any person with respect to any future employment by the Fund or by any affiliate of the Fund.

The persons named as proxies in the enclosed [GREEN] proxy card intend, in the absence of contrary instructions, to vote all proxies they are entitled to vote IN FAVOR of the election of the nominees named above. The nominees have consented to stand for election and to serve if elected. If any of the nominees are unable to serve, an event not now anticipated, the proxies will be voted for such other person(s), if any, as is designated by the persons

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named as proxies.

Information regarding the persons now serving as directors and officers of the Fund, and additional information regarding the Fund, is contained in the Fund's proxy statement.

PRINCIPAL HOLDERS OF VOTING SECURITIES

The Fund's proxy shows Deep Discount Advisors, Inc. and Ron Olin Investment Management Company as beneficial owners of greater than 5% of the Fund's outstanding shares. Ralph Bradshaw and Gary A. Bentz are former employees and consultants to Deep Discount Advisors. They have been consultants to Ron Olin Investment Management Company for more than five years. Neither company is a party to this solicitation and, as passive investors in the Fund's shares, they are not endorsing the candidacy of any of the Soliciting Stockholder's nominees. The Soliciting Stockholder knows of no other person who owned of record or beneficially more than 5% of the outstanding Common Stock of the Fund that is not disclosed in the Fund's proxy statement.

According to the Fund's proxy statement, the directors and officers of the Fund, as a group owned less than 1% of the outstanding shares of the Fund.

THE SOLICITATION

Ralph W. Bradshaw, the Soliciting Stockholder, is making this solicitation.

Banks, brokerage houses and other custodians, nominees and fiduciaries will be requested to forward this proxy statement and the enclosed [GREEN] proxy card to the beneficial owners of shares of Common Stock for whom they hold shares of record. The Soliciting Stockholder will reimburse these organizations for their reasonable out-of-pocket expenses.

The Soliciting Stockholder will bear all of the fees and expenses related to this proxy solicitation.

The Soliciting Stockholder is not and, within the past year, has not been a party to any contract, arrangement or understanding with any person with respect to any securities of the Fund. In addition, there is no arrangement or understanding involving the Soliciting Stockholder which relates to future employment by the Fund or any future transaction with the Fund.

If you have any questions concerning this proxy solicitation or the procedures to be followed to execute and deliver a proxy, please contact the Soliciting Stockholder at 828-255-4833.

ADDITIONAL PROPOSALS

The Soliciting Stockholder knows of no business that will be presented for consideration at the meeting other than that set forth in this proxy statement and in the Fund's proxy statement. If any other matters are properly presented for consideration at the meeting, it is the intention of the persons named as proxies on the enclosed [GREEN] proxy card to ABSTAIN.

The date by which a stockholder must submit a proposal to be presented at the 2002 Annual Meeting of Stockholders is set forth in the Fund's proxy statement.

Dated: _____, 2001

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EXHIBIT 1 Purchases and Sales of Excelsior Income Shares, Inc. Shares

SECURITIES OF THE FUND PURCHASED OR SOLD WITHIN THE PAST TWO YEARS BY THE SOLICITING STOCKHOLDER

Date	Number of Shares Purchased
3/9/00	1
5/5/00	500

PROXY CARD

PROXY SOLICITED IN OPPOSITION
TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE
EXCELSIOR INCOME SHARES, INC.

BY RALPH W. BRADSHAW
ANNUAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS TO BE HELD ON September 12, 2001

The undersigned hereby appoints Thomas R. Westle and Ralph W. Bradshaw, and each of them, as the undersigned's proxies, with full power of substitution, to attend the Annual Meeting of Stockholders of the Excelsior Income Shares, Inc. (the "Fund") and to vote all shares of Common Stock of the Fund which the undersigned is entitled to vote at the Annual Meeting of Stockholders of the Fund to be held at 919 Third Avenue, 41st Floor Conference Room B, New York, New York on September 12, 2001 at 11 a.m. (eastern time), and at any postponements or adjournments thereof.

Properly executed proxies will be voted (or the vote on such matters may be withheld on specific matters) in accordance with instructions appearing on the proxy. In the absence of specific instructions, proxies will be voted FOR the election of the nominees as directors FOR as to other matters. Please refer to the Proxy Statement for a discussion of the proposals.

(INSTRUCTIONS: Mark votes by placing an "x" in the appropriate [] .)

- To elect five (5) Directors to the Fund's Board of Directors.
The nominees are:

RALPH W. BRADSHAW	FOR THE NOMINEE []	WITHHOLD []
GARY A. BENTZ	FOR THE NOMINEE []	WITHHOLD []
ANDREW STRAUSS	FOR THE NOMINEE []	WITHHOLD []
GLENN W. WILCOX, SR.	FOR THE NOMINEE []	WITHHOLD []
SCOTT B. ROGERS	FOR THE NOMINEE []	WITHHOLD []

THE SOLICITING STOCKHOLDER URGES YOU TO VOTE "FOR" THE ELECTION OF THESE NOMINEES.

- To approve a new Investment Advisory Agreement between the Fund and Rafferty Capital Markets, LLC.

FOR	AGAINST	ABSTAIN

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3. To approve the liquidation and dissolution of Excelsior Income Shares, Inc. pursuant to the plan of liquidation described in the accompanying proxy statement.

FOR AGAINST ABSTAIN
 | | | | | |

4. To ratify the selection of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP as the Fund's independent public accountants for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2001.

FOR AGAINST ABSTAIN
 | | | | | |

5. To ratify the change in name of Excelsior Income Shares, Inc, to EIS Fund, Ltd.

FOR AGAINST ABSTAIN
 | | | | | |

- 6.a) To approve the Shareholder Value Proposal that, if a majority favors liquidation, but it fails to receive the super-majority, two-thirds vote required, the shareholders recommend that the Board provide shareholders an option to receive Net Asset Value

FOR AGAINST ABSTAIN
 | | | | | |

- b) To approve the Shareholder Value Proposal that, if the liquidation proposal receives the required two-thirds vote, the shareholders request that the first liquidation payment be distributed within 30 days after the meeting, rather than 90 days as described in the Fund's proxy.

FOR AGAINST ABSTAIN
 | | | | | |

ANY AND ALL OTHER PROPOSALS WILL BE VOTED BY THE PROXYHOLDERS AS "ABSTAIN". THE UNDERSIGNED HEREBY ACKNOWLEDGES RECEIPT OF THE PROXY STATEMENT DATED _____, 2001, OF RALPH W. BRADSHAW AND THE UNDERSIGNED HEREBY REVOKES ANY PROXY HERETOFORE EXECUTED BY THE UNDERSIGNED RELATING TO THE SUBJECT MATTER HEREOF AND CONFIRMS ALL THAT THE PROXIES MAY LAWFULLY DO BY VIRTUE HEREOF.

(IMPORTANT - PLEASE FILL IN DATE)

This proxy card is provided by Ralph W. Bradshaw, a stockholder of the Fund. Please sign exactly as your name appears hereon or on proxy cards previously sent to you. When shares are held by joint tenants, both should sign. When signing as an attorney, executor, administrator, trustee or guardian, please give full title as such. If a corporation, please sign in full corporate name by the President or other duly authorized officer.

If a partnership, please sign in partnership name by authorized person.

SIGNATURE(S) _____ Dated: _____

Please sign as registered and return promptly in the enclosed envelope. Executors, trustees and other signing in a representative capacity should include their names and the capacity in which they sign.

