BLACKROCK SENIOR HIGH INCOME FUND, INC. Form N-CSR May 01, 2012 UNITED STATES

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

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FORM N-CSR

# CERTIFIED SHAREHOLDER REPORT OF REGISTERED MANAGEMENT INVESTMENT COMPANIES

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Name of Fund: BlackRock Senior High Income Fund, Inc. (ARK)

Fund Address: 100 Bellevue Parkway, Wilmington, DE 19809

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Date of fiscal year end: 02/29/2012

Date of reporting period: 02/29/2012

Item 1 - Report to Stockholders

February 29, 2012

# Annual Report

BlackRock Corporate High Yield Fund, Inc. (COY)
BlackRock Corporate High Yield Fund III, Inc. (CYE)
BlackRock Debt Strategies Fund, Inc. (DSU)
BlackRock Floating Rate Income Strategies Fund II, Inc. (FRB)
BlackRock Senior High Income Fund, Inc. (ARK)

Not FDIC Insured § No Bank Guarantee § May Lose Value

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ANNUAL REPORT

# Dear Shareholder

Risk assets were advancing at this time last year despite a wave of geopolitical revolutions, soaring oil prices and natural disasters in Japan. Markets reversed sharply in May, however, when escalating political strife in Greece rekindled fears about sovereign debt problems spreading across Europe. Concurrently, global economic indicators signaled that the recovery had slowed. Confidence was further shaken by the prolonged debt ceiling debate in Washington, DC. On August 5, 2011, Standard & Poor s downgraded the US government s credit rating and turmoil erupted in financial markets around the world. Extraordinary levels of volatility persisted in the months that followed as Greece teetered on the brink of default, debt problems escalated in Italy and Spain, and exposure to European sovereign bonds stressed banks globally. Financial markets whipsawed on hopes and fears. Macro news flow became a greater influence on trading decisions than the fundamentals of the securities traded. By the end of the third quarter, equity markets had fallen nearly 20% from their April peak while safe-haven assets such as US Treasuries and gold had rallied to historic highs.

October brought enough positive economic data to assuage fears of a global double-dip recession. Additionally, European leaders began to show progress toward stemming the region s debt crisis. Investors began to reenter the markets and risk assets recovered through the month. But a lack of definitive details about Europe s rescue plan eventually raised doubts among investors and thwarted the rally at the end of October. The last two months of 2011 saw more political instability in Greece, unsustainable yields on Italian government bonds, and US policymakers in gridlock over budget issues. Global central bank actions and improving economic data invigorated the markets, but investor confidence was easily tempered by sobering news flow.

Investors showed more optimism at the start of 2012. Risk assets rallied through January and February as economic data grew stronger and debt problems in Europe stabilized. In the United States, jobs data signaled solid improvement in the labor market and the Federal Reserve indicated that it would keep short-term interest rates low through 2014. In Europe, policymakers made significant progress toward securing a Greek bailout plan and restructuring the nation s debt. Nevertheless, considerable head-winds remain. Europe faces a prolonged recession, the US economy still remains somewhat shaky and the risks of additional flare ups of euro-zone debt problems and slowing growth in China weigh heavily on the future of the global economy.

Risk assets, including equities and high yield bonds, recovered their late-summer losses and posted strong returns for the 6-month period ended February 29, 2012. On a 12-month basis, US large-cap stocks and high yield bonds delivered positive results, while small-cap and emerging-market stocks finished slightly negative. International markets, which experienced some significant downturns in 2011, lagged the broader rebound. Fixed income securities, which benefited from declining yields, advanced over the 6- and 12-month periods. Despite their quality rating downgrade, US Treasury bonds performed particularly well. Municipal bonds also delivered superior results. Continued low short-term interest rates kept yields on money market securities near their all-time lows.

Many of the themes that caused uncertainty in 2011 remain. For investors, the risks appear daunting, but this challenging environment offers new opportunities. BlackRock was built for these times. Visit **blackrock.com/newworld** for more information.

Sincerely,

Rob Kapito President, BlackRock Advisors, LLC

For investors, the risks appear daunting, but this challenging environment offers new opportunities. BlackRock was built for these times. Rob Kapito President, BlackRock Advisors, LLC

Total Returns as of February 29, 2012

6-month	12-month
13.31%	5.12%

US large cap equities (S&P 500 <sup>®</sup> Index)		
US small cap equities		
(Russell 2000 <sup>®</sup> Index)	12.40	(0.15)
International equities		
(MSCI Europe, Australasia,		
Far East Index)	4.13	(7.45)
Emerging market		
equities (MSCI Emerging		
Markets Index)	5.27	(0.11)
3-month Treasury		
bill (BofA Merrill Lynch		
3-Month Treasury		
Bill Index)	0.00	0.08
US Treasury securities		
(BofA Merrill Lynch 10-		
Year US Treasury Index)	3.70	17.22
US investment grade bonds		
(Barclays US Aggregate		
Bond Index)	2.73	8.37
Tax-exempt municipal		
bonds (S&P Municipal	5.02	12.00
Bond Index)	5.93	12.88
US high yield bonds		
(Barclays US Corporate		
High Yield 2% Issuer	9 ( )	6.02
Capped Index)	8.62	6.92

Past performance is no guarantee of future results. Index performance is shown for illustrative purposes only. You cannot invest directly in an index.

THIS PAGE NOT PART OF YOUR FUND REPORT

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# Fund Summary as of February 29, 2012

### BlackRock Corporate High Yield Fund, Inc.

#### **Investment Objective**

**BlackRock Corporate High Yield Fund, Inc.** s (COY) (the Fund ) investment objective is to provide shareholders with current income by investing primarily in a diversified portfolio of fixed income securities, which are rated in the lower rating categories of the established rating services (BB or lower by Standard & Poor s Corporation ( $S\&P \ s$ ) or Ba or lower by Moody s Investors Service, Inc. (Moody s)) or are unrated securities considered by BlackRock to be of comparable quality. As a secondary objective, the Fund also seeks to provide shareholders with capital appreciation. The Fund invests, under normal market conditions, at least 80% of its assets in high yield debt instruments, including high yield bonds (commonly referred to as junk bonds) and corporate loans which are below investment grade quality. The Fund may invest directly in such securities or synthetically through the use of derivatives.

No assurance can be given that the Fund s investment objectives will be achieved.

#### Portfolio Management Commentary

#### How did the Fund perform?

For the 12 months ended February 29, 2012, the Fund returned 20.39% based on market price and 7.15% based on net asset value (NAV). For the same period, the closed-end Lipper High Current Yield Funds (Leveraged) category posted an average return of 14.46% based on market price and 6.86% based on NAV. All returns reflect reinvestment of dividends. The Fund moved from a discount to NAV to a premium by period end, which accounts for the difference between performance based on price and performance based on NAV. The following discussion relates to performance based on NAV.

# What factors influenced performance?

The Fund's positive performance during the 12-month period was driven largely by security selection among higher-quality and non-rated credits. The Fund's exposure to Charter Communications, Inc. boosted returns, as did holdings of Delphi Automotive Plc stock received in connection with the company's reorganization in 2009. Overall, risk assets performed well over the period despite sharp volatility in the latter half of 2011.

Assets with higher duration (greater sensitivity to interest rate movements) benefited most from the drop in interest rates over the period. Accordingly, the high yield market underperformed US Treasuries, investment grade corporate bonds and emerging market debt securities. The Fund s performance was negatively impacted by security selection within the mid-tier credit quality range. On a sector basis, selection within automotive, independent energy and paper detracted. The Fund reduced its allocation to floating rate loan interests (bank loans) during the period as the asset class underperformed relative to high yield bonds and higher quality investments.

The Fund uses credit default swaps to express a particular view in an individual credit name and as a means of managing risk. It also utilizes credit default swaps on a basket of securities in order to put cash to work or quickly increase or decrease the portfolio s exposure to market movements. The Fund may also use stock futures and options to hedge the equity risk inherent within an individual position or group of positions. Stock futures are an efficient mechanism for reducing risk under certain market conditions. The Fund also uses forward contracts on foreign currencies to hedge the currency risk of non-dollar denominated bonds. During the period, the use of derivatives had an overall positive impact on Fund returns.

# Describe recent portfolio activity.

During the 12-month period, the Fund s positioning grew more conservative as the outlook for global growth deteriorated. The Fund migrated toward more resilient, higher-quality issuers paying attractive yields while reducing exposure to lower-quality issuers and higher-beta securities (those with greater sensitivity to market movements) that are more vulnerable to the economic cycle.

However, the environment shifted in December when the European Central Bank announced a long-term refinancing operation. This liquidity program provided a much-needed short-term solution for the financial markets and mitigated the risk of a collapse in the European banking system. Moreover, it was the catalyst for a positive turn in the valuation of risk assets. Given these developments, the

Fund started selectively adding back some risk in names with appealing risk-reward characteristics. Despite this modest shift to risk-on, the Fund maintained its higher-quality, income-oriented bias throughout the period. The Fund continued to seek issuers with superior fundamentals (solid cash flows, earnings visibility and attractive downside protection), while generally remaining cautious of higher-beta credits and the more cyclical sectors.

# Describe portfolio positioning at period end.

At period end, the Fund held 80% of its total portfolio in corporate bonds, 12% in floating rate loan interests (bank loans), with the remainder in common stocks, preferred securities and other interests. The Fund s largest sector exposures included non-cable media, wireless and independent energy, while its portfolio holdings reflected less emphasis on the more cyclical segments of the market such as gaming, building materials and technology. The Fund ended the period with economic leverage at 21% of its total managed assets.

The views expressed reflect the opinions of BlackRock as of the date of this report and are subject to change based on changes in market, economic or other conditions. These views are not intended to be a forecast of future events and are no guarantee of future results.

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### BlackRock Corporate High Yield Fund, Inc.

Fund Information	
Symbol on New York Stock Exchange ( NYSE )	СОҮ
Initial Offering Date	June 25, 1993
Yield on Closing Market Price as of February 29, 2012 (\$7.76) <sup>1</sup>	7.89%
Current Monthly Distribution per Common Share <sup>2</sup>	\$0.051
Current Annualized Distribution per Common Share <sup>2</sup>	\$0.612
Economic Leverage as of February 29, 2012 <sup>3</sup>	21%

- <sup>1</sup> Yield on closing market price is calculated by dividing the current annualized distribution per share by the closing market price. Past performance does not guarantee future results.
- <sup>2</sup> The distribution rate is not constant and is subject to change.
- <sup>3</sup> Represents loan outstanding as a percentage of total managed assets, which is the total assets of the Fund (including any assets attributable to borrowings) minus the sum of liabilities (other than borrowings representing financial leverage). For a discussion of leveraging techniques utilized by the Fund, please see The Benefits and Risks of Leveraging on page 14.

The table below summarizes the changes in the Fund s market price and NAV per share:

	2/29/12	2/28/11	Change	High	Low
Market Price	\$7.76	\$7.03	10.38%	\$7.82	\$5.99
Net Asset Value	\$7.29	\$7.42	(1.75)%	\$7.56	\$6.45
The following charts show the portfolio composition of the Fund	s long-term invo	estments and cre	dit quality alloc	ations of the	Fund s corporate
bond investments:					

#### **Portfolio Composition**

	2/29/12	2/28/11
Corporate Bonds	80%	85%
Floating Rate Loan Interests	12	7
Common Stocks	5	5
Preferred Securities	2	1
Other Interests	1	2

# Credit Quality Allocations<sup>4</sup>

	2/29/12	2/28/11
A	1%	1%
BBB/Baa	6	4
BB/Ba	42	31
В	40	46
CCC/Caa	10	13
Not Rated	1	5

<sup>4</sup> Using the higher of S&P s or Moody s ratings.

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# Fund Summary as of February 29, 2012

# BlackRock Corporate High Yield Fund III, Inc.

#### **Investment Objective**

**BlackRock Corporate High Yield Fund III, Inc.** s (CYE) (the Fund ) primary investment objective is to provide current income by investing primarily in fixed-income securities, which are rated in the lower rating categories of the established rating services (BBB or lower by S&P s or Baa or lower by Moody s) or are unrated securities of comparable quality. The Fund s secondary investment objective is to provide capital appreciation. The Fund may invest directly in such securities or synthetically through the use of derivatives.

No assurance can be given that the Fund s investment objectives will be achieved.

#### **Portfolio Management Commentary**

#### How did the Fund perform?

For the 12 months ended February 29, 2012, the Fund returned 18.62% based on market price and 7.11% based on NAV. For the same period, the closed-end Lipper High Current Yield Funds (Leveraged) category posted an average return of 14.46% based on market price and 6.86% based on NAV. All returns reflect reinvestment of dividends. The Fund moved from a discount to NAV to a premium by period-end, which accounts for the difference between performance based on price and performance based on NAV. The following discussion relates to performance based on NAV.

#### What factors influenced performance?

The Fund's positive performance during the 12-month period was driven largely by security selection among higher-quality credits. The Fund's exposure to Charter Communications, Inc. boosted returns, as did holdings of Delphi Automotive Plc stock received in connection with the company's reorganization in 2009. Overall, risk assets performed well over the period despite sharp volatility in the latter half of 2011.

Assets with higher duration (greater sensitivity to interest rate movements) benefited most from the drop in interest rates over the period. Accordingly, the high yield market underperformed US Treasuries, investment grade corporate bonds and emerging market debt securities. The Fund s performance was negatively impacted by security selection within the mid-tier credit quality range. On a sector basis, selection within automotive, independent energy and paper detracted. The Fund reduced its allocation to floating rate loan interests (bank loans) during the period as the asset class underperformed relative to high yield bonds and higher-quality investments.

The Fund uses credit default swaps to express a particular view in an individual credit name and as a means of managing risk. It also utilizes credit default swaps on a basket of securities in order to put cash to work or quickly increase or decrease the portfolio s exposure to market movements. The Fund may also use stock futures and options to hedge the equity risk inherent within an individual position or group of positions. Stock futures are an efficient mechanism for reducing risk under certain market conditions. The Fund also uses forward contracts on foreign currencies to hedge the currency risk of non-dollar denominated bonds. During the period, the use of derivatives had an overall positive impact on Fund returns.

#### Describe recent portfolio activity.

During the 12-month period, the Fund s positioning grew more conservative as the outlook for global growth deteriorated. The Fund migrated toward more resilient, higher-quality issuers paying attractive yields while reducing exposure to lower-quality issuers and higher-beta securities (those with greater sensitivity to market movements) that are more vulnerable to the economic cycle.

However, the environment shifted in December when the European Central Bank announced a long-term refinancing operation. This liquidity program provided a much-needed short-term solution for the financial markets and mitigated the risk of a collapse in the European banking system. Moreover, it was the catalyst for a positive turn in the valuation of risk assets. Given these developments, the Fund started selectively adding back some risk in names with appealing risk-reward characteristics. Despite this modest shift to risk-on, the Fund maintained its higher-quality, income-oriented bias throughout the period. The Fund continued to seek issuers with superior fundamentals (solid cash flows, earnings visibility and attractive downside protection), while generally remaining cautious of

higher-beta credits and the more cyclical sectors.

# Describe portfolio positioning at period end.

At period end, the Fund held 77% of its total portfolio in corporate bonds, 15% in floating rate loan interests (bank loans), with the remainder in common stocks and preferred securities. The Fund s largest sector exposures included non-cable media, wireless and independent energy, while its portfolio holdings reflected less emphasis on the more cyclical segments of the market such as gaming, building materials and technology. The Fund ended the period with economic leverage at 24% of its total managed assets.

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# BlackRock Corporate High Yield Fund III, Inc.

Fund Information	
Symbol on NYSE	CYE
Initial Offering Date	January 30, 1998
Yield on Closing Market Price as of February 29, 2012 (\$7.75) <sup>1</sup>	7.90%
Current Monthly Distribution per Common Share <sup>2</sup>	\$0.051
Current Annualized Distribution per Common Share <sup>2</sup>	\$0.612
Economic Leverage as of February 29, 2012 <sup>3</sup>	24%

<sup>1</sup> Yield on closing market price is calculated by dividing the current annualized distribution per share by the closing market price. Past performance does not guarantee future results.

- <sup>2</sup> The distribution rate is not constant and is subject to change.
- <sup>3</sup> Represents loan outstanding as a percentage of total managed assets, which is the total assets of the Fund (including any assets attributable to borrowings) minus the sum of liabilities (other than borrowings representing financial leverage). For a discussion of leveraging techniques utilized by the Fund, please see The Benefits and Risks of Leveraging on page 14.

The table below summarizes the changes in the Fund s market price and NAV per share:

	2/29/12	2/28/11	Change	High	Low
Market Price	\$7.75	\$7.14	8.54%	\$7.75	\$6.08
Net Asset Value	\$7.41	\$7.56	(1.98)%	\$7.70	\$6.54
The following charts show the portfolio cor	nposition of the Fund s lon	g-term investmen	ts and credit qual	ity allocations	of the Fund s corpora

The following charts show the portfolio composition of the Fund s long-term investments and credit quality allocations of the Fund s corporate bond investments:

# **Portfolio Composition**

	2/29/12	2/28/11
Corporate Bonds	77%	80%
Floating Rate Loan Interests	15	11
Common Stocks	6	5
Preferred Securities	2	2
Other Interests		2

# Credit Quality Allocations<sup>4</sup>

	2/29/12	2/28/11
A	1%	
BBB/Baa	7	4%
BB/Ba	38	31
В	43	46
CCC/Caa	10	14
Not Rated	1	5

<sup>4</sup> Using the higher of S&P s or Moody s ratings.

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# Fund Summary as of February 29, 2012

### BlackRock Debt Strategies Fund, Inc.

#### **Investment Objective**

**BlackRock Debt Strategies Fund, Inc. s (DSU) (the Fund**) primary investment objective is to provide current income by investing primarily in a diversified portfolio of US companies debt instruments, including corporate loans, which are rated in the lower rating categories of the established rating services (BBB or lower by S&P s or Baa or lower by Moody s) or unrated debt instruments, which are in the judgment of the investment adviser of equivalent quality. The Fund s secondary objective is to provide capital appreciation. Corporate loans include senior and subordinated corporate loans, both secured and unsecured. The Fund may invest directly in such securities or synthetically through the use of derivatives.

No assurance can be given that the Fund s investment objectives will be achieved.

#### **Portfolio Management Commentary**

#### How did the Fund perform?

For the 12 months ended February 29, 2012, the Fund returned 10.47% based on market price and 4.53% based on NAV. For the same period, the closed-end Lipper High Current Yield Funds (Leveraged) category posted an average return of 14.46% based on market price and 6.86% based on NAV. All returns reflect reinvestment of dividends. The Fund began the period with a discount to NAV, and ended the period with neither a discount nor a premium, which accounts for the difference between performance based on price and performance based on NAV. The following discussion relates to performance based on NAV.

#### What factors influenced performance?

The Fund s positive performance during the 12-month period was driven largely by security selection among non-rated credits. On a sector basis, selection in non-cable media, chemicals and electric names boosted returns. The Fund s tactical exposure to convertible bonds had a positive impact on performance and the use of leverage was an additional contributor.

The Fund invests roughly half of its assets in high yield bonds and half in floating rate loan interests (bank loans), while most funds in the Lipper category invest primarily in high yield bonds. While the Fund s allocation to bank loans did not detract from performance on an absolute basis, the asset class underperformed high yield bonds for the period. Security selection in the paper and technology sectors pared the Fund s gains for the period.

#### Describe recent portfolio activity.

As the outlook for global growth deteriorated and the European debt crisis intensified during the period, the Fund shifted to a more conservative stance by reducing exposure to higher-beta securities (those with greater sensitivity to market movements) while implementing hedging strategies and increasing its allocation to cash.

However, the environment shifted in December when the European Central Bank announced a long-term refinancing operation. This liquidity program provided a much-needed short-term solution for the financial markets and mitigated the risk of a collapse in the European banking system. Moreover, it was the catalyst for a positive turn in the valuation of risk assets. Given these developments, the Fund added some risk back into the portfolio. The Fund removed hedges and returned to a fully invested posture amid the liquidity-driven credit rally as global sentiment improved and tail risk for financial markets declined. Though the Fund shifted to a more risk-on stance, it continued to favor higher-quality issuers and sought those with stable cash flows and visible earnings, while generally

remaining cautious of higher-beta credits with greater sensitivity to the economic cycle.

# Describe portfolio positioning at period end.

At period end, the Fund held 54% of its total portfolio in floating rate loan interests (bank loans), 43% in corporate bonds, with the remainder in common stocks, asset-backed securities and other interests. The Fund s largest sector exposures included cable media, independent energy and chemicals. The Fund ended the period with economic leverage at 25% of its total managed assets.

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### BlackRock Debt Strategies Fund, Inc.

#### **Fund Information**

Symbol on NYSE	DSU
Initial Offering Date	March 27, 1998
Yield on Closing Market Price as of February 29, 2012 (\$4.13) <sup>1</sup>	7.85%
Current Monthly Distribution per Common Share <sup>2</sup>	\$0.027
Current Annualized Distribution per Common Share <sup>2</sup>	\$0.324
Economic Leverage as of February 29, 2012 <sup>3</sup>	25%

- <sup>1</sup> Yield on closing market price is calculated by dividing the current annualized distribution per share by the closing market price. Past performance does not guarantee future results.
- <sup>2</sup> The distribution rate is not constant and is subject to change.
- <sup>3</sup> Represents loan outstanding as a percentage of total managed assets, which is the total assets of the Fund (including any assets attributable to borrowings) minus the sum of liabilities (other than borrowings representing financial leverage). For a discussion of leveraging techniques utilized by the Fund, please see The Benefits and Risks of Leveraging on page 14.

The table below summarizes the changes in the Fund s market price and NAV per share:

	2/29/12	2/28/11	Change	High	Low	
Market Price	\$4.13	\$4.05	1.98%	\$4.43	\$3.45	
Net Asset Value	\$4.13	\$4.28	(3.50)%	\$4.31	\$3.79	
The following charts show the portfolio composition of the Fund s long-term investments and credit quality allocations of the Fund s corporate						

#### **Portfolio Composition**

bond investments:

	2/29/12	2/28/11
Floating Rate Loan Interests	54%	53%
Corporate Bonds	43	43
Common Stocks	1	1
Asset-Backed Securities	1	2
Other Interests	1	1

#### Credit Quality Allocations<sup>4</sup>