



Conditional Interest Notes Linked to an Index

- The Conditional Interest Notes Linked to an Index (the “notes”) are unsecured senior debt securities issued by Bank of America Corporation. Payment of each interest payment and the repayment of principal at maturity are subject to our credit risk.
- We will pay periodic Coupon Payments (as defined below) on the notes (to the extent interest is payable) and we will pay the principal amount of the notes and the final Coupon Payment (as defined below), if any, at maturity. However, if you sell your notes before maturity, you may incur a loss.
- This product supplement describes the general terms of the notes and the general manner in which they may be offered and sold. For each offering of the notes, we will provide you with a pricing supplement (which we may refer to as a “term sheet”) that will describe the specific terms of that offering. The term sheet will identify any additions or changes to the terms specified in this product supplement.
- The term sheet will also identify the underlying “Market Measure,” which may be an equity-based or commodity-based index, or any other statistical measure of economic or financial performance, including, but not limited to, any currency index or consumer price index. We also may describe the Market Measure in an additional supplement to the prospectus, which we refer to as an “index supplement.”
- Interest, if due, will be paid periodically (each, a “Coupon Payment”) on predetermined dates (each a “Coupon Payment Date,” and collectively, the “Coupon Payment Dates”) with the final Coupon Payment paid on the maturity date. Unless otherwise set forth in the applicable term sheet, the applicable interest rate (the “Coupon Rate”) will be paid on each Coupon Payment Date that the closing level of the Market Measure on the applicable Coupon Determination Date (as defined below) is greater than the Threshold Value. The applicable Coupon Rate will be set forth in each term sheet.
- The “Threshold Value” will be a value of the Market Measure that reflects a specified percentage of the Starting Value (as defined below).
- If provided for in the applicable term sheet, at our option, we may redeem the notes, in whole or in part, on any of the certain specified redemption dates set forth in the term sheet (each, an “Early Redemption Date”).
- The notes will be issued in denominations of whole units. Each unit will have a public offering price as set forth in the applicable term sheet (the “Original Offering Price”). The term sheet may also set forth a minimum number of units that you must purchase.
- If provided for in the applicable term sheet, we may apply to have your notes listed on a securities exchange or quotation system. If approval of such an application is granted, your notes will be listed on the securities exchange or quotation system at the time of such approval. We make no representation, however, that your notes will be listed or, if listed, will remain listed for the entire term of your notes.
- One or more of our affiliates, including Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Incorporated (“MLPF&S”), may act as our selling agents to offer the notes.

The notes are unsecured and are not savings accounts, deposits, or other obligations of a bank. The notes are not guaranteed by Bank of America, N.A. or any other bank, are not insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (“FDIC”) or any other governmental agency and involve investment risks. Potential purchasers of the notes should consider the information in “Risk Factors” beginning on page S-8.

None of the Securities and Exchange Commission (the “SEC”), any state securities commission, or any other regulatory body has approved or disapproved of these securities or passed upon the adequacy or accuracy of this product supplement, the prospectus supplement, or the prospectus. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense.

Merrill Lynch & Co.

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SUMMARY

This product supplement relates only to the notes and does not relate to any underlying asset that comprises the Market Measure described in any term sheet. This summary includes questions and answers that highlight selected information from the prospectus, prospectus supplement, and this product supplement to help you understand the notes. You should read carefully the entire prospectus, prospectus supplement, and product supplement, together with the applicable term sheet and any applicable index supplement, to understand fully the terms of your notes, as well as the tax and other considerations important to you in making a decision about whether to invest in any notes. In particular, you should review carefully the section in this product supplement entitled “Risk Factors,” which highlights a number of risks of an investment in the notes, to determine whether an investment in the notes is appropriate for you. If information in this product supplement is inconsistent with the prospectus or prospectus supplement, this product supplement will supersede those documents. However, if information in any term sheet or index supplement is inconsistent with this product supplement, that term sheet or index supplement will supersede this product supplement.

Certain capitalized terms used and not defined in this product supplement have the meanings ascribed to them in the prospectus supplement and prospectus.

In light of the complexity of the transactions described in this product supplement, you are urged to consult with your own attorneys and business and tax advisors before making a decision to purchase any of the notes.

The information in this “Summary” section is qualified in its entirety by the more detailed explanation set forth elsewhere in this product supplement, the prospectus supplement, and the prospectus, as well as the applicable term sheet and any applicable index supplement. You should rely only on the information contained in those documents. We have not authorized any other person to provide you with different information. If anyone provides you with different or inconsistent information, you should not rely on it. Neither we nor any selling agent is making an offer to sell the notes in any jurisdiction where the offer or sale is not permitted. You should assume that the information in this product supplement, the prospectus supplement, and the prospectus, together with the term sheet and any applicable index supplement, is accurate only as of the date on their respective front covers.

Unless otherwise indicated or unless the context requires otherwise, all references in this product supplement to “we,” “us,” “our,” or similar references are to Bank of America Corporation.

What are the notes?

The notes are senior unsecured debt securities issued by Bank of America Corporation, and are not guaranteed or insured by the FDIC or secured by collateral. The notes will rank equally with all of our other unsecured senior indebtedness from time to time outstanding, and all payments due on the notes, including any interest payments and the repayment of principal, will be subject to our credit risk. Each series of the notes will mature on the date set forth in the applicable term sheet. If set forth in the applicable term sheet, we may redeem the notes before maturity.

The notes are designed for investors who wish to receive periodic interest payments, where the payment of interest for one or more interest periods during the term of the notes will depend on whether the closing level of the Market Measure is greater than the Threshold Value on the applicable Coupon Determination Date (each as defined below).

Are the notes equity or debt securities?

The notes are our senior debt securities and are not secured by collateral. However, the notes will differ from traditional debt securities in that their interest payments are linked to the performance of the underlying Market Measure. We describe below how payments of interest will be determined.

Will you receive your principal at maturity?

Yes. If you hold the notes until maturity, unless otherwise set forth in the applicable term sheet, you will receive your principal amount and any accrued and unpaid interest on the notes, subject to our credit risk. See “Risk Factors—Payments on the notes are subject to our credit risk, and changes in our credit ratings are expected to affect the value of the notes.” However, if you sell the notes prior to maturity, you may find that their market value may be less than the Original Offering Price.

How will interest payments on the notes be determined?

Unless otherwise set forth in the applicable term sheet, the rate of interest (the “Coupon Rate”) to be paid (the “Coupon Payment”) will be paid on each Coupon Payment Date (as defined below) that the closing level of the Market Measure on the applicable Coupon Determination Date is greater than the Threshold Value.

- If the closing level of the Market Measure is greater than the Threshold Value on the applicable Coupon Determination Date, then the Coupon Payment for that interest period will be paid.
- If the closing level of the Market Measure is equal to or less than the Threshold Value on the applicable Coupon Determination Date, then the Coupon Payment for that interest period will not be paid.

Interest will be paid quarterly, semi-annually, annually, or on such other dates (each a “Coupon Payment Date”), as specified in the term sheet. See “Description of the Notes—Interest.”

The applicable Coupon Rate will be set forth in the term sheet for the notes. The applicable term sheet may also specify a minimum or fixed Coupon Rate for your notes that will apply in one or more interest periods.

What is the Market Measure?

Unless otherwise set forth in the applicable term sheet, the Market Measure may consist of one of the following:

- a U.S. broad-based equity index;
- a U.S. sector or style-based equity index;
- a non-U.S. or global equity index;
- a commodity-based index; or
- any other statistical measure of U.S. or non-U.S. economic or financial performance, including, but not limited to, any currency index or consumer price index.

The applicable term sheet or index supplement will set forth information as to the specific Market Measure, including information as to the historical values of the Market Measure. However, historical values of the Market Measure are not indicative of the future performance of the Market Measure or the performance of your notes.

How will the Starting Value and Threshold Value be determined?

Unless otherwise specified in the applicable term sheet, the “Starting Value” will be the closing value of the Market Measure or a percentage of the closing value of the Market Measure on the pricing date (or on such other date or dates as specified in the applicable term sheet), as determined by the calculation agent; provided, however, that if the Market Measure is linked to a commodity index, and a Market Disruption Event (as defined below) occurs on the pricing date, then the calculation agent will establish the Starting Value as set forth in the section “Description of the Notes—Determining the Starting Value.”

If the Market Measure is not equity-based or commodity-based, the applicable term sheet or index supplement will set forth the manner by which the Starting Value will be determined.

The “Threshold Value” will be a value of the Market Measure that reflects a specified percentage of the Starting Value. The Threshold Value may be less than, greater than, or equal to, the Starting Value. Unless otherwise set forth in the applicable term sheet, the Starting Value and the Threshold Value will be determined on the pricing date and set forth in the applicable term sheet.

Who will determine the Starting Value, the Threshold Value, and whether the Coupon Payment is payable on a Coupon Payment Date?

The calculation agent will make all determinations associated with the notes, such as determining the Starting Value, the Threshold Value, and whether the Coupon Payment is payable on the applicable Coupon Payment Date. Unless otherwise set forth in the applicable term sheet, we will appoint our affiliate, MLPF&S, or one of our other affiliates, to act as calculation agent for the notes. See the section entitled “Description of the Notes—Role of the Calculation Agent.”

Can a Coupon Payment Date or the maturity date be postponed if a Market Disruption Event occurs?

No. See the section entitled “Description of the Notes—Market Disruption Events.”

Is it possible that you will not receive any interest for any interest period?

Yes. If the Market Measure is equal to or less than the Threshold Value on a Coupon Determination Date, interest will not accrue for that interest payment period. There can be no assurance that the Coupon Payments on the notes will be similar to, or greater than, the interest that is payable on a conventional debt security. **During any interest period, it is possible that the notes will not pay interest.**

Will the notes be subject to early redemption?

If so specified in the applicable term sheet, we may redeem the notes prior to maturity on any specified “Early Redemption Date.” Unless otherwise set forth in the applicable term sheet, upon an early redemption, you will receive the principal amount of your notes, plus accrued and unpaid interest through the Early Redemption Date. You will not receive any

interest payments after the Early Redemption Date. See the section below, “Description of the Notes—Early Redemption at Our Option.”

Will you have an ownership interest in the securities, commodities, or other assets that are represented by the Market Measure?

No. An investment in the notes does not entitle you to any ownership interest, including any voting rights, dividends paid, interest payments, or other distributions, in the securities of any of the companies included in an equity-based Market Measure or in any futures contract for a commodity included in a commodity-based Market Measure. If the Market Measure is not equity-based or commodity-based, you similarly will not have any right to receive the relevant asset underlying the Market Measure. We will make all payments on the notes only in U.S. dollars.

Who are the selling agents for the notes?

One or more of our affiliates, including MLPF&S, will act as our selling agents in connection with each offering of the notes and will receive a commission or an underwriting discount based on the number of units of the notes sold. None of the selling agents is your fiduciary or advisor, and you should not rely upon any communication from any of them in connection with the notes as investment advice or a recommendation to purchase the notes. You should make your own investment decision regarding the notes after consulting with your legal, tax, and other advisors.

How are the notes being offered?

We have registered the notes with the SEC in the United States. However, we will not register the notes for public distribution in any jurisdiction other than the United States. The selling agents may solicit offers to purchase the notes from non-U.S. investors in reliance on available private placement exemptions. See the section entitled “Supplemental Plan of Distribution—Selling Restrictions” in the prospectus supplement.

How are the notes treated for U.S. federal income tax purposes?

We intend to treat the notes, for U.S. federal income tax purposes, as debt instruments. Depending on the terms of the notes, we intend to treat the notes either as “variable rate debt instruments” or as “contingent payment debt instruments” for U.S. federal income tax purposes. You are urged to review the section entitled “U.S. Federal Income Tax Summary” and consult your own tax advisor.

Will the notes be listed on an exchange?

If provided for in the applicable term sheet, we will apply to have the notes listed on a securities exchange or quotation system. If approval of such an application is granted, the notes will be listed on the securities exchange or quotation system at the time of such approval. We make no representations, however, that the notes will be listed or, if listed, will remain listed for the entire term of the notes.

Does ERISA impose any limitations on purchases of the notes?

Yes. An employee benefit plan subject to the fiduciary responsibility provisions of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, as amended (commonly referred to as “ERISA”), or a plan that is subject to Section 4975 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, or the “Code,” including individual retirement accounts, individual retirement

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annuities, or Keogh plans, or any entity the assets of which are deemed to be “plan assets” under the ERISA regulations, should not purchase, hold, or dispose of the notes unless that plan or entity has determined that its purchase, holding, or disposition of the notes will not constitute a non-exempt prohibited transaction under ERISA or Section 4975 of the Code.

Any plan or entity purchasing the notes will be deemed to represent that it has made that determination, or that a prohibited transaction class exemption (“PTCE”) or other statutory or administrative exemption exists and can be relied upon by such plan or entity. See the section entitled “ERISA Considerations.”

Are there any risks associated with your investment?

Yes. An investment in the notes is subject to risk. Please refer to the section entitled “Risk Factors” beginning on the following page of this product supplement and page S-4 of the prospectus supplement. If the applicable term sheet or index supplement sets forth any additional risk factors, you should read those carefully before purchasing any notes.

RISK FACTORS

Your investment in the notes entails significant risks, many of which differ from those of a conventional debt security. Your decision to purchase the notes should be made only after carefully considering the risks of an investment in the notes, including those discussed below, with your advisors in light of your particular circumstances. The notes are not an appropriate investment for you if you are not knowledgeable about significant elements of the notes or financial matters in general.

General Risks Relating to the Notes

You may not receive the Coupon Payment on one or more Coupon Payment Dates. Other than the principal amount of the notes that you will be entitled to receive on the maturity date, the only return, if any, that you will be entitled to receive on the notes will be the Coupon Payments payable on the Coupon Payment Dates. Unless otherwise set forth in the applicable term sheet, the payment of the Coupon Payment will depend on the closing level of the Market Measure on the applicable Coupon Determination Date. If the closing level of the Market Measure is greater than the Threshold Value on the applicable Coupon Determination Date, you will receive the Coupon Payment for that interest period. If the closing level of the Market Measure is equal to or less than the Threshold Value on the applicable Coupon Determination Date, then you will not receive the Coupon Payment for that interest period. It is possible that you will not receive any Coupon Payments during the entire term of the notes.

Your return on the notes, if any, is limited to the return represented by the Coupon Rate payable over the term of the notes. Your return on the notes is limited to the Coupon Rate payable over the term of the notes regardless of the extent to which the closing level of the Market Measure exceeds the Threshold Value on any Coupon Determination Date.

Your yield may be less than the yield on a conventional debt security of comparable maturity. Because the payment of the Coupon Payment will depend upon the performance of the Market Measure, the aggregate yield that you will receive on the notes, which could be zero, may be less than the return you would earn if you purchased a conventional debt security with the same maturity date. As a result, your investment in the notes may not reflect the full opportunity cost to you when you consider factors that affect the time value of money, including inflation.

Your investment return may be less than a comparable investment directly in the Market Measure, or the components included in the Market Measure. Your return on the notes, if any, is limited to the applicable Coupon Rate for each interest period, payment of which may be based on the closing level of the Market Measure on a Coupon Determination Date. In contrast, a direct investment in the Market Measure or the components of the Market Measure would allow you to receive the full benefit of any appreciation in the value of the Market Measure or those components, and could exceed the return of the notes.

Your return on the notes, if any, will not reflect the return you would realize if you actually owned the securities or commodities underlying the Market Measure, or if you received the dividends paid or other distributions made on such securities. Additionally, the values of certain equity-based indices reflect only the prices of the relevant stocks and do not take into consideration the value of any dividends paid on those stocks.

In addition, in certain instances, the Market Measure may consist of an equity index that is traded in a non-U.S. currency, such as the euro or the Japanese yen. In such instances, if the value of that currency increases against the U.S. dollar during the term of the notes, you

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may not obtain the benefit of that increase, which you would have received if you had owned the securities included in the applicable index.

If specified in the applicable term sheet, the notes will be subject to our early redemptionIf specified in the applicable term sheet, we may redeem the notes prior to their maturity date. If you purchase notes that are redeemable prior to maturity, you must be willing to have your notes redeemed as early as the first Early Redemption Date specified in the applicable term sheet. We are generally more likely to redeem the notes during periods when we expect that the level of the Market Measure will be greater than the Threshold Level, so that the Coupon Payment will be payable. In contrast, we are generally less likely to redeem the notes during periods when we do not expect this to be the case. In general, the lower the then current interest rates are and the more we expect that the applicable Market Measure will be above the Threshold Value, the more likely it will be that we will elect to redeem the notes.

If we redeem the notes prior to the maturity date, unless otherwise specified in the applicable term sheet, you will receive for each unit of your notes a cash payment equal to the principal amount, plus any accrued and unpaid interest to, but excluding, the Early Redemption Date, and you will not receive any future interest payments. In the case of an early redemption, you will not benefit if the Market Measure is above the Threshold Value after the Early Redemption Date. You may be unable to reinvest your proceeds from the redemption in an investment with a return that is as high as the return on the notes would have been if they had not been redeemed.

For additional information, see “Description of the Notes—Early Redemption at Our Option” below.

Payments on the notes are subject to our credit risk, and changes in our credit ratings are expected to affect the value of the notesThe notes are our senior unsecured debt securities. As a result, your receipt of each Coupon Payment on the notes and the principal amount at maturity is dependent upon our ability to repay our obligations on the applicable payment date. This will be the case even if the value of the Market Measure increases after the pricing date. No assurance can be given as to what our financial condition will be on any payment date.

In addition, our credit ratings are an assessment by ratings agencies of our ability to pay our obligations. Consequently, our perceived creditworthiness and an actual or anticipated decrease in our credit ratings prior to the maturity date may adversely affect the market value of the notes. However, because your return on the notes depends upon factors in addition to our ability to pay our obligations, such as the value of the applicable Market Measure, an improvement in our credit ratings will not reduce the other investment risks related to the notes.

You must rely on your own evaluation of the merits of an investment linked to the applicable Market Measure.In the ordinary course of our or their business, we or our affiliates may have expressed views on expected movements in a Market Measure, or the components of a Market Measure, as the case may be, and may do so in the future. These views or reports may be communicated to our clients and clients of our affiliates. However, these views are subject to change from time to time. Moreover, other professionals who deal in markets relating to a Market Measure may at any time have significantly different views from ours and those of our affiliates. For these reasons, you are encouraged to derive information concerning a Market Measure and any of its components from multiple sources, and you should not rely on the views expressed by our affiliates.

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Neither the offering of the notes nor any views which we or our affiliates from time to time may express in the ordinary course of our business or their business constitutes a recommendation as to the merits of an investment in the notes.

In seeking to provide you with what we believe to be commercially reasonable terms for the notes while providing MLPF&S or any other selling agents with compensation for its services, we have considered the costs of developing, hedging, and distributing the notes. In determining the economic terms of the notes, and consequently the potential return on the notes to you, a number of factors are taken into account. Among these factors are certain costs associated with creating, hedging, and offering the notes. In structuring the economic terms of the notes, we seek to provide you with what we believe to be commercially reasonable terms and to provide MLPF&S or any other applicable selling agent with compensation for its services in developing the securities. The price, if any, at which you could sell the notes in a secondary market transaction is expected to be affected by the factors that we considered in setting the economic terms of the notes, namely the selling agent commissions or underwriting discount paid in respect of the notes and other costs associated with the notes, and compensation for developing and hedging the notes. The quoted price of any of our affiliates for the notes, or the listed price in the case of listed notes, could be higher or lower than the Original Offering Price.

Assuming there is no change in the value of the applicable Market Measure and no change in market conditions or any other relevant factors, the price, if any, at which MLPF&S or another purchaser might be willing to purchase the notes in a secondary market transaction is expected to be lower than the Original Offering Price. This is due to, among other things, the fact that the Original Offering Price includes, and secondary market prices are likely to exclude, selling agent commissions or underwriting discounts paid with respect to, and the development and hedging costs associated with, the notes.

We cannot assure you that a trading market for the notes will ever develop or be maintained. Unless otherwise set forth in the applicable term sheet, we will not list the notes on any securities exchange. Even if an application were made to list the notes, we cannot assure you that the application will be approved or that the notes will be listed and, if listed, that they will remain listed for the entire term of the notes. We cannot predict how the notes will trade in the secondary market, or whether that market will be liquid or illiquid. You should be aware that the listing of the notes on any securities exchange will not necessarily ensure that a trading market will develop for the notes, and if a trading market does develop, that there will be liquidity in the trading market.

The development of a trading market for the notes will depend on our financial performance and other factors, including changes in the value of the Market Measure. The number of potential buyers of the notes in any secondary market may be limited. We anticipate that one or more of the selling agents will act as a market-maker for the notes that it offers, but none of them is required to do so. Any such selling agent may discontinue its market-making activities as to any series of the notes at any time. To the extent that a selling agent engages in any market-making activities, it may bid for or offer any series of the notes. Any price at which a selling agent may bid for, offer, purchase, or sell any notes may differ from the values determined by pricing models that it may use, whether as a result of dealer discounts, mark-ups, or other transaction costs. These bids, offers, or completed transactions may affect the prices, if any, at which those notes might otherwise trade in the market.

In addition, if at any time the applicable selling agent were to cease acting as a market-maker as to any series of the notes, it is likely that there would be significantly less liquidity in the secondary market. In such a case, the price at which those notes could be sold likely would be lower than if an active market existed.

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Each Coupon Payment will not be affected by all developments relating to the Market Measure. Changes in the value of the Market Measure during the term of the notes on days that are not the Coupon Determination Dates will not be reflected in the determination of whether the Coupon Payment is payable for a Coupon Payment Date. The calculation agent will determine whether the Coupon Payment will be paid on each Coupon Payment Date only by comparing the closing level of the Market Measure on the Coupon Determination Date to the Threshold Value. No other values of the Market Measure will be taken into account. As a result, you may not receive the Coupon Payment on any Coupon Payment Date even if the value of the Market Measure has increased at certain times prior to the applicable Coupon Determination Date before decreasing to a value equal to or below the Threshold Value on that Coupon Determination Date.

The respective publishers of the Market Measures (each a “Market Measure Publisher”) may adjust such Market Measures or any component of a Market Measure in a way that affects its value, and these respective Market Measure Publishers have no obligation to consider your interests. The Market Measure Publishers can add, delete, or substitute the components included in a Market Measure or make other methodological changes that could change the value of such Market Measure. You should realize that the changing of companies, commodities, or other components included in a Market Measure may affect such Market Measure, as a newly added component may perform significantly better or worse than the component it replaces. Additionally, a Market Measure Publisher may alter, discontinue, or suspend calculation or dissemination of its Market Measure. Any of these actions could adversely affect the value of the notes. The Market Measure Publishers will have no obligation to consider your interests in calculating or revising the Market Measure.

If you attempt to sell the notes prior to maturity, their market value, if any, will be affected by various factors that interrelate in complex ways, and their market value may be less than their Original Offering Price. Unlike savings accounts, certificates of deposit, and other similar investment products, you have no right to have the notes redeemed prior to maturity. If you wish to liquidate your investment in the notes prior to maturity, your only option would be to sell them. At that time, there may be an illiquid market for the notes or no market at all. Even if you were able to sell the notes, there are many factors outside of our control that may affect their market value, some of which, but not all, are stated below. Some of these factors are interrelated in complex ways. As a result, the effect of any one factor may be offset or magnified by the effect of another factor. The following paragraphs describe the expected impact on the market value of the notes from a change in a specific factor, assuming all other conditions remain constant.

- **Value of the Market Measure.** Because the payment of the Coupon Payment for one or more interest periods will depend upon the value of the Market Measure on the applicable Coupon Determination Date, the market value of the notes at any time generally will depend to a large extent on the value of the Market Measure. The value of the Market Measure will be influenced by complex and interrelated political, economic, financial, and other factors that affect the capital markets generally, the markets on which the securities or commodities of the Market Measure are traded, and the market segments of which these securities or commodities are a part. Even if the value of the Market Measure increases after the applicable pricing date, if you are able to sell the notes before their maturity date, you may receive substantially less than the principal because of the impact of the Threshold Value and the anticipation that the value of the Market Measure will continue to fluctuate until the maturity date. If you sell the notes when the value of the Market Measure is less than or not sufficiently above the applicable Threshold Value, then you may receive less than the Original Offering Price of the notes. In general, the market value of the notes will decrease as the value of the Market Measure decreases. However, as the value of the Market Measure increases or decreases, the market value of the notes is not expected to increase or decrease at the same rate.

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- **Volatility of the Market Measure.** Volatility is the term used to describe the size and frequency of market fluctuations. The volatility of the Market Measure during the term of the notes may vary. In addition, an unsettled international environment and related uncertainties may result in greater market volatility, which may continue over the term of the notes. Increases or decreases in the volatility of the Market Measure may have an adverse impact on the market value of the notes.
- **Economic and Other Conditions Generally.** The general economic conditions of the capital markets in the United States, as well as geopolitical conditions and other financial, political, regulatory, and judicial events that affect stock markets and commodities markets generally, may affect the value of the Market Measure and the value of the notes. If the Market Measure includes one or more securities or commodities that have returns that are calculated based upon currencies other than the U.S. dollar or prices in one or more non-U.S. markets (a “non-U.S. Market Measure”), the value of the notes may also be affected by similar events in those markets.
- **Interest Rates.** We expect that changes in interest rates will affect the market value of the notes. In general, if U.S. interest rates increase, we expect that the market value of the notes will decrease, and conversely, if U.S. interest rates decrease, we expect that the market value of the notes will increase. The level of prevailing interest rates also may affect the U.S. economy and any applicable market outside of the United States, and, in turn, the value of the Market Measure. If the Market Measure is, or if any components of any Market Measure are, traded in currencies other than the U.S. dollar, the level of interest rates in the relevant foreign countries may also affect their economies and in turn the value of the related Market Measure or component, and, thus, the market value of the notes may be adversely affected.
- **Dividend Yields.** In general for equity-based Market Measures, if dividend yields on the securities included in the Market Measure increase, we anticipate that the market value of the notes will decrease; conversely, if those dividend yields decrease, we anticipate that the market value of the notes will increase.
- **Exchange Rate Movements and Volatility.** Foreign currency exchange rates represent the number of units of one currency (an “underlying currency”) for which one unit of another currency can be exchanged (a “base currency”). An exchange rate increases when the value of an underlying currency decreases relative to the applicable base currency, and decreases when the value of the underlying currency increases relative to that base currency. If the Market Measure of the notes includes any non-U.S. Market Measure, changes in, and the volatility of, the exchange rates between the U.S. dollar and the relevant non-U.S. currency or currencies could have a negative impact on the value of the notes, and the payment of each Coupon Payment may depend in part on the relevant exchange rates.
- **Relationship Between Exchange Rates and the Market Measure.** The correlation between the relevant currency exchange rate and any applicable non-U.S. Market Measure reflects the extent to which a percentage change in that exchange rate corresponds to a percentage change in the applicable non-U.S. Market Measure. If the Market Measure of the notes includes a non-U.S. Market Measure, changes in these correlations may have a negative impact on the value of the notes.
- **Time to Maturity.** As the time remaining to maturity of the notes decreases, we anticipate that the notes may have a market value that may be different from that which would be expected based on the levels of market interest rates and the value of the Market Measure. This difference will reflect a time premium or discount due to

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expectations concerning the value of the Market Measure during the period before the applicable maturity date. In general, as the time remaining to maturity decreases, the value of the notes will approach the amount of principal and interest that would be payable at maturity based on the then-current value of the Market Measure.

Purchases and sales by us and our affiliates may affect your return. We and our affiliates may from time to time buy or sell the Market Measures, components of Market Measures, or futures or options contracts on Market Measures or components of the Market Measures for our own accounts for business reasons. We also expect to enter into these transactions in connection with hedging our obligations under the notes. These transactions could affect the value of these components and, in turn, the value of a Market Measure in a manner that could be adverse to your investment in the notes. Any purchases or sales by us, our affiliates or others on our behalf on or before the applicable pricing date may temporarily increase or decrease the value of a Market Measure or the components of a Market Measure. Consequently, the values of such Market Measure or the components of such Market Measure may change subsequent to the applicable pricing date, affecting the value of the Market Measure and therefore the market value of the notes.

Our trading and hedging activities may create conflicts of interest with you. We or one or more of our affiliates, including MLPF&S, may engage in trading activities related to the Market Measure and the securities, commodities, or other assets represented by the Market Measure that are not for your account or on your behalf. We and our affiliates from time to time may buy or sell the securities, commodities, or other assets represented by the Market Measure or related futures or options contracts for our or their own accounts, for business reasons, or in connection with hedging our obligations under the notes. We also may issue, or our affiliates may underwrite, other financial instruments with returns based upon the applicable Market Measure. These trading and underwriting activities could affect the Market Measure in a manner that would be adverse to your investment in the notes.

We expect to enter into arrangements to hedge the market risks associated with our obligation to pay the Coupon Payments due on the notes and repayment of principal at maturity. We may seek competitive terms in entering into the hedging arrangements for the notes, but are not required to do so, and we may enter into such hedging arrangements with one of our subsidiaries or affiliates. This hedging activity is expected to result in a profit to those engaging in the hedging activity, which could be more or less than initially expected, but which could also result in a loss for the hedging counterparty.

We or our affiliates may enter into these transactions on or prior to the applicable pricing date, in order to hedge some or all of our anticipated obligations under the notes. This hedging activity could increase the value of the Market Measure on the applicable pricing date.

In addition, from time to time during the term of the notes and in connection with the determination of each applicable Coupon Rate, we or our affiliates may enter into additional hedging transactions or adjust or close out existing hedging transactions. We or our affiliates also may enter into hedging transactions relating to other notes or instruments that we or they issue, some of which may have returns calculated in a manner related to that of a particular series of the notes. We or our affiliates will price these hedging transactions with the intent to realize a profit, considering the risks inherent in these hedging activities, whether the value of the notes increases or decreases. However, these hedging activities may result in a profit that is more or less than initially expected, or could result in a loss.

These trading activities may present a conflict of interest between your interest in the notes and the interests we and our affiliates may have in our proprietary accounts, in facilitating transactions, including block trades, for our other customers, and in accounts under our management. These trading activities, if they influence the Market Measure or

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secondary trading in the notes, could be adverse to your interests as a beneficial owner of the notes.

Our hedging activities may affect your return on the notes and their market value. We, or one or more of our affiliates, including MLPF&S, may engage in hedging activities that may affect the value of the Market Measure. Accordingly, our hedging activities may result in the Coupon Payment not being due for a Coupon Payment Date, and may decrease the market value of the notes prior to maturity. In addition, we or one or more of our affiliates, including MLPF&S, may purchase or otherwise acquire a long or short position in the notes. We or any of our affiliates, including MLPF&S, may hold or resell the notes. Although we have no reason to believe that any of those activities will have a material impact on the value of the Market Measure, we cannot assure you that these activities will not affect the value of the Market Measure, whether the Coupon Payment is payable on the applicable Coupon Payment Date, or the market value of the notes prior to maturity.

There may be potential conflicts of interest involving the calculation agent. We have the right to appoint and remove the calculation agent. One of our affiliates will be the calculation agent for the notes and, as such, will determine the Starting Value, the Threshold Value, and whether the Coupon Payment is payable on the applicable Coupon Payment Date. Under some circumstances, these duties could result in a conflict of interest between our affiliate's status as our affiliate and its responsibilities as calculation agent. These conflicts could occur, for instance, in connection with the calculation agent's determination as to whether a "Market Disruption Event" has occurred, or in connection with judgments that it would be required to make if the publication of an index is discontinued. See the sections entitled "Description of the Notes—Market Disruption Events," "—Adjustments to a Market Measure," and "—Discontinuance of a Market Measure." The calculation agent will be required to carry out its duties in good faith and using its reasonable judgment. However, because we expect to control the calculation agent, potential conflicts of interest could arise.

The U.S. federal income tax consequences of the notes are uncertain, and may be adverse to a holder of the notes. No statutory provisions, regulations, published rulings, or judicial decisions address the characterization of the notes or other instruments with terms substantially the same as the notes for U.S. federal income tax purposes. As a result, certain aspects of the U.S. federal income tax consequences of an investment in the notes are not certain. Depending on the terms of the notes, we intend to treat the notes as either "variable rate debt instruments" or "contingent payment debt instruments," as described under the section entitled "U.S. Federal Income Tax Summary." If the Internal Revenue Service (the "IRS") were successful in asserting an alternative characterization for the notes, the timing and character of income or loss with respect to the notes may differ. No ruling will be requested from the IRS with respect to the notes and no assurance can be given that the IRS will agree with the statements made in the section entitled "U.S. Federal Income Tax Summary."

You are urged to consult with your own tax advisor regarding all aspects of the U.S. federal income tax consequences of investing in the notes.

Risks Relating to Equity-Based Market Measures

If the Market Measure to which the notes are linked is equity-based, you will have no rights of a securityholder, you will have no rights to receive any of the securities represented by the Market Measure, and you will not be entitled to dividends or other distributions by the issuers of these securities. The notes are our debt securities. They are not equity instruments, shares of stock, or securities of any other issuer. Investing in the notes will not make you a holder of any of the securities represented by the Market Measure. You will not have any voting rights, any rights to receive dividends or other distributions, or

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any other rights with respect to those securities. The notes will be paid in cash and you have no right to receive delivery of any of these securities.

If the Market Measure to which the notes are linked includes stocks traded on foreign exchanges, your return may be affected by factors affecting international securities markets. The value of an equity-based Market Measure that includes equity securities traded on foreign exchanges is computed by reference to the sales prices of the underlying equity securities, as reported by the exchange on which the underlying equity securities are listed or admitted to trade. Therefore, the return on the notes will be affected by factors affecting the value of securities in the relevant non-U.S. markets. The relevant foreign securities markets may be more volatile than U.S. or other securities markets and may be affected by market developments in different ways than U.S. or other securities markets. Direct or indirect government intervention to stabilize a particular securities market and cross-shareholdings in companies in the relevant foreign markets may affect prices and the volume of trading in those markets. Also, there is generally less publicly available information about foreign companies than about U.S. companies that are subject to the reporting requirements of the SEC. Additionally, accounting, auditing, and financial reporting standards and requirements in foreign countries differ from those applicable to U.S. reporting companies.

The prices and performance of securities of companies in foreign countries may be affected by political, economic, financial, and social factors in those regions. In addition, changes in government, economic, and fiscal policies in the relevant jurisdictions, the possible imposition of, or changes in, currency exchange laws, or other laws or restrictions, and possible fluctuations in the rate of exchange between currencies, are factors that could negatively affect the relevant securities markets. Moreover, the relevant foreign economies may differ favorably or unfavorably from the U.S. economy in economic factors such as growth of gross national product, rate of inflation, capital reinvestment, resources, and self-sufficiency.

Unless otherwise set forth in the applicable term sheet, we do not control any company included in any equity-based Market Measure and are not responsible for any disclosure made by any other company. We currently, or in the future, may engage in business with companies represented by an equity-based Market Measure. However, neither we nor any of our affiliates, including the selling agents, have the ability to control the actions of any of these companies or assume any responsibility for the adequacy or accuracy of any publicly available information about any of these companies, unless (and only to the extent that) our securities or the securities of our affiliates are represented by that Market Measure. In addition, unless otherwise set forth in the applicable term sheet, neither we nor any of our affiliates are responsible for the calculation of any index represented by a Market Measure. You should make your own investigation into the Market Measure and the companies represented by the applicable constituent securities.

Unless otherwise set forth in the applicable term sheet, none of the Market Measure Publishers, their affiliates, nor any company included in the Market Measure will be involved in any offering of the notes or will have any obligation of any sort with respect to the notes. As a result, none of those companies will have any obligation to take your interests as holders of the notes into consideration for any reason, including taking any corporate actions that might affect the value of the securities represented by the Market Measure or the value of the notes.

Our business activities relating to the companies represented by an equity-based Market Measure may create conflicts of interest with you. We and our affiliates, including the selling agents, at the time of any offering of the notes or in the future, may engage in business with the companies represented by an equity-based Market Measure, including making loans to, equity investments in, or providing investment banking, asset management, or other services to those companies, their affiliates, and their competitors. In connection with these activities, we or our affiliates may receive information about those companies that we will

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not divulge to you or other third parties. One or more of our affiliates have published, and in the future may publish, research reports on one or more of these companies. This research is modified from time to time without notice and may express opinions or provide recommendations that are inconsistent with purchasing or holding the notes. Any of these activities may affect the market value of the notes. Neither we nor any of our affiliates makes any representation to any purchasers of the notes regarding any matters whatsoever relating to the issuers of the stocks included in an equity-based Market Measure. Any prospective purchaser of the notes should undertake an independent investigation of the companies included in an equity-based Market Measure as in its judgment is appropriate to make an informed decision regarding an investment in the notes. The composition of those companies does not reflect any investment recommendations from us or our affiliates.

Risks Relating to Commodity-Based Market Measures

If the Market Measure to which the notes are linked is commodity-based, ownership of the notes will not entitle you to any rights with respect to any futures contracts or commodities included in or tracked by the Market Measure. If the Market Measure to which the notes are linked is commodity-based, you will not own or have any beneficial or other legal interest in, and will not be entitled to any rights with respect to, any of the commodities or commodity futures included in that Market Measure. We will not invest in any of the commodities or commodity futures contracts included in that Market Measure on behalf or for the benefit of holders of the notes.

The prices of commodities included in a commodity-based Market Measure may change unpredictably, affecting the value of the notes in unforeseeable ways. Trading in commodities is speculative and can be extremely volatile. Market prices of the commodities may fluctuate rapidly based on numerous factors, including: changes in supply and demand relationships; weather; agriculture; trade; fiscal, monetary, and exchange control programs; domestic and foreign political and economic events and policies; disease; technological developments; and changes in interest rates. These factors may affect the value of a commodity-based Market Measure and the value of the notes in varying ways, and different factors may cause the value of the commodities, and the volatilities of their prices, to move in inconsistent directions at inconsistent rates. Additionally, certain commodity-based Market Measures may be concentrated in only a few, or even a single industry (*e.g.*, energy). These Market Measures are likely to be more volatile than those comprised of a variety of commodities.

With respect to a commodity-based Market Measure, suspension or disruptions of market trading in the applicable commodities and related futures markets may adversely affect the value of the notes. The commodity markets are subject to disruptions due to various factors, including the lack of liquidity in the markets and government regulation and intervention. In addition, U.S. futures exchanges and some foreign exchanges have regulations that limit the amount of fluctuation in futures contract prices that may occur during a single business day. These limits are generally referred to as “daily price fluctuation limits” and the maximum or minimum price of a contract on any given day as a result of these limits is referred to as a “limit price.” Once the limit price has been reached in a particular contract, no trades may be made at a different price. Limit prices have the effect of precluding trading in a particular contract or forcing the liquidation of contracts at disadvantageous times or prices. There can be no assurance that any such disruption or any other force majeure (such as an act of God, fire, flood, severe weather conditions, act of governmental authority, labor difficulty, etc.) will not have an adverse affect on the value of or trading in the Market Measure, or the manner in which it is calculated, and therefore, the value of the notes.

Notes linked to a commodity-based Market Measure will not be regulated by the U.S. Commodity Futures Trading Commission (the “CFTC”). Unlike an investment in notes linked to a commodity-based Market Measure, an investment in a collective investment vehicle

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that invests in futures contracts on behalf of its participants may be regulated as a commodity pool and its operator may be required to be registered with and regulated by the CFTC as a “commodity pool operator” (a “CPO”). Because notes linked to a commodity-based Market Measure will not be interests in a commodity pool, those notes will not be regulated by the CFTC as a commodity pool, we will not be registered with the CFTC as a CPO and you will not benefit from the CFTC’s or any non-U.S. regulatory authority’s regulatory protections afforded to persons who trade in futures contracts or who invest in regulated commodity pools. Notes linked to a commodity-based Market Measure will not constitute investments by you or by us on your behalf in futures contracts traded on regulated futures exchanges, which may only be transacted through a person registered with the CFTC as a “futures commission merchant” (“FCM”). We are not registered with the CFTC as an FCM and you will not benefit from the CFTC’s or any other non-U.S. regulatory authority’s regulatory protections afforded to persons who trade in futures contracts on a regulated futures exchange through a registered FCM.

A commodity-based Market Measure may include futures contracts on foreign exchanges that are less regulated than U.S. markets. A commodity-based Market Measure may include futures contracts on physical commodities on exchanges located outside the United States. The regulations of the CFTC do not apply to trading on foreign exchanges, and trading on foreign exchanges may involve different and greater risks than trading on U.S. exchanges. Certain foreign markets may be more susceptible to disruption than U.S. exchanges due to the lack of a government-regulated clearinghouse system. Trading on foreign exchanges also involves certain other risks that are not applicable to trading on U.S. exchanges. Those risks include: (a) exchange rate risk relative to the U.S. dollar; (b) exchange controls; (c) expropriation; (d) burdensome or confiscatory taxation; and (e) moratoriums, and political or diplomatic events. It will also likely be more costly and difficult for participants in those markets to enforce the laws or regulations of a foreign country or exchange, and it is possible that the foreign country or exchange may not have laws or regulations which adequately protect the rights and interests of investors in the Market Measure.

Other Risk Factors Relating to the Applicable Market Measure

The applicable term sheet or index supplement may set forth additional risk factors as to the Market Measure that you should review prior to purchasing the notes.

USE OF PROCEEDS

We will use the net proceeds we receive from each sale of the notes for the purposes described in the accompanying prospectus under “Use of Proceeds.” In addition, we expect that we or our affiliates may use a portion of the net proceeds to hedge our obligations under the notes.

DESCRIPTION OF THE NOTES

General

Each series of the notes will be part of a series of medium-term notes entitled “Medium-Term Notes, Series L” that will be issued under the Senior Indenture, as amended and supplemented from time to time. The Senior Indenture is described more fully in the prospectus and prospectus supplement. The following description of the notes supplements the description of the general terms and provisions of the notes and debt securities set forth under the headings “Description of the Notes” in the prospectus supplement and “Description of Debt Securities” in the prospectus. These documents should be read in connection with the applicable term sheet.

The aggregate principal amount of each series of notes will be set forth in the applicable term sheet. The notes will mature on the date set forth in the applicable term sheet. If set forth in the applicable term sheet, we may redeem the notes before maturity.

Prior to the applicable maturity date, the notes are not repayable at the option of any holder. The notes are not subject to any sinking fund.

We will issue the notes in the denominations of whole units, each with a specified Original Offering Price. The CUSIP number for each series of notes will be set forth in the applicable term sheet. You may transfer notes only in whole units.

Interest

On each Coupon Payment Date, you will receive the applicable Coupon Payment at the Coupon Rate set forth in the term sheet if the closing level of the Market Measure is greater than the Threshold Value on the applicable Coupon Determination Date. If the closing level of the Market Measure is equal to or less than the Threshold Value on the Coupon Determination Date, then you will not receive the Coupon Payment for that interest period.

The applicable term sheet may also specify a minimum or fixed Coupon Rate for your notes that will apply in one or more interest periods.

Each Coupon Determination Date and Coupon Payment Date for your notes will be set forth in the applicable term sheet, and may occur quarterly, semi-annually, annually, or at other intervals. Unless otherwise set forth in the applicable term sheet, interest payable on the notes will be computed on the basis of a 360-day year of twelve 30-day months.

Each interest payment on a Coupon Payment Date will include interest accrued from, and including, the issue date or the most recent Coupon Payment Date for which interest has been paid or provided for, as the case may be, to, but excluding, that Coupon Payment Date. Unless otherwise specified in the applicable term sheet, for so long as the notes are held in book-entry only form, we will pay interest to the persons in whose names the notes are registered at the close of business one business day prior to the applicable Coupon Payment Date. However, the final payment of interest will be made to the person entitled to receive the principal amount at maturity. If a Coupon Payment Date falls on a day that is not a business day, that interest payment will be made on the next succeeding business day and no additional interest will accrue as a result of the delayed payment.

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Unless otherwise specified in the applicable term sheet, the following definitions will apply:

Each “Coupon Determination Date” will be a date shortly before the applicable Coupon Payment Date. The actual Coupon Determination Dates will be determined on the pricing date and set forth in the term sheet that will be made available in connection with sales of the notes.

If any scheduled Coupon Determination Date is not a Market Measure Business Day or if there is a Market Disruption Event on that day, the applicable Coupon Determination Date will be the immediately succeeding Market Measure Business Day during which no Market Disruption Event shall have occurred or is continuing; provided that the closing value of the Market Measure will be determined (or, if not determinable, estimated) by the calculation agent in a manner which the calculation agent considers commercially reasonable under the circumstances on a date no later than the second scheduled Market Measure Business Day prior to the applicable Coupon Payment Date or the maturity date, as applicable, regardless of the occurrence of a Market Disruption Event on that second scheduled Market Measure Business Day. For commodity-based Market Measures, if a Market Disruption Event occurs and is continuing on any scheduled Coupon Determination Date, the value of the Market Measure will be determined using the “Market Disruption Calculation” described below under “—Market Disruption Events—Commodity-Based Market Measures.”

Unless otherwise specified in the applicable term sheet, a “Market Measure Business Day” means a day on which (i) the New York Stock Exchange (the “NYSE”) and The NASDAQ Stock Market (“NASDAQ”), or their successors, are open for trading and (ii) the Market Measure or any successor thereto is calculated and published.

Unless otherwise specified in the applicable term sheet, a “trading day” is a day, as determined by the calculation agent, on which trading is generally conducted (or was scheduled to have been generally conducted, but for the occurrence of a Market Disruption Event) on the NYSE, NASDAQ, the Chicago Mercantile Exchange, the Chicago Board Options Exchange, and in the over-the-counter market for equity securities in the United States, or any successor exchange or market.

Unless otherwise set forth in the applicable term sheet, a “business day” means any day other than a day on which banking institutions in New York, New York are authorized or required by law, regulation, or executive order to close or a day on which transactions in U.S. dollars are not conducted.

Payment at Maturity

At maturity, in addition to any Coupon Payment that is payable, subject to our credit risk as issuer of the notes, and unless the applicable term sheet provides otherwise, you will receive the principal amount per unit of the notes that you hold, denominated in U.S. dollars.

Early Redemption at Our Option

If so specified in the applicable term sheet, we may redeem some or all of the notes prior to maturity on any specified “Early Redemption Date.” Unless otherwise set forth in the applicable term sheet, upon an early redemption, you will receive the principal amount of your notes, plus accrued and unpaid interest through the Early Redemption Date. You will not receive any Coupon Payment after the Early Redemption Date.

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Unless we specify otherwise in the applicable term sheet, we may exercise our right to redeem the notes by giving notice to the trustee at least five business days but not more than 60 calendar days before the applicable Early Redemption Date. The notice will take the form of a certificate specifying:

- the Early Redemption Date;
- the redemption price (which, unless otherwise set forth in the applicable term sheet, will be the principal amount of your notes, plus accrued and unpaid interest);
- the CUSIP number of the notes to be redeemed;
- the amount of notes to be redeemed, if less than all of a series of notes is to be redeemed;
- the place of payment for the notes to be redeemed; and
- that on and after the Early Redemption Date, interest will cease to accrue on the notes to be redeemed.

For so long as DTC is the record holder of the applicable notes to be redeemed, the trustee will deliver any notice of our election to exercise our redemption right only to that depository.

Determining the Level of a Market Measure

Unless otherwise specified in the applicable term sheet, the “Starting Value” of the Market Measure will equal the closing value of the Market Measure or a percentage of the closing value of the Market Measure on the pricing date (or on such other date or dates as specified in the applicable term sheet) as determined by the calculation agent; provided, however, that if the Market Measure is linked to one or more commodities or commodity indices, and a Market Disruption Event (as defined below) occurs on the pricing date, then the calculation agent will establish the Starting Value as described in the next paragraph.

If the Market Measure is commodity-based and a Market Disruption Event occurs on the pricing date, the calculation agent will establish the “Starting Value” using the following procedures:

- (1) With respect to each commodity or futures contract, the value of which is tracked by the Market Measure and which is not affected by a Market Disruption Event (an “Unaffected Commodity Component”), the Starting Value will be based on the exchange published settlement price of such Unaffected Commodity Component on the pricing date.
- (2) With respect to each commodity or futures contract, the value of which is tracked by the Market Measure and which is affected by a Market Disruption Event (an “Affected Commodity Component”), the calculation agent will determine the Starting Value based on the exchange published settlement price of each Affected Commodity Component on the first Market Measure Business Day following the pricing date on which no Market Disruption Event occurs with respect to such Affected Commodity Component. In the event that a Market Disruption Event occurs with respect to any Affected Commodity Component on the first and second scheduled Market Measure Business Day following the pricing date, the calculation agent (not later than the close of business in New York, New York on the second scheduled Market Measure Business Day following the pricing date) will estimate the price of such Affected Commodity Component used to determine the Starting

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Value in a manner that the calculation agent considers commercially reasonable under the circumstances.

Market Disruption Events

Equity-Based Market Measures

For equity-based Market Measures, “Market Disruption Event” means one or more of the following events, as determined by the calculation agent:

- (A) the suspension of or material limitation on trading, in each case, for more than two hours of trading, or during the one-half hour period preceding the close of trading, on the primary exchange where component stocks of a Market Measure trade as determined by the calculation agent (without taking into account any extended or after-hours trading session), in 20% or more of the stocks which then comprise Market Measure or any successor market measure; and
- (B) the suspension of or material limitation on trading, in each case, for more than two hours of trading, or during the one-half hour period preceding the close of trading, on the primary exchange that trades options contracts or futures contracts related to the Market Measure as determined by the calculation agent (without taking into account any extended or after-hours trading session), whether by reason of movements in price otherwise exceeding levels permitted by the relevant exchange or otherwise, in options contracts or futures contracts related to the Market Measure, or any successor market measure.

For the purpose of determining whether a Market Disruption Event has occurred:

- (1) a limitation on the hours in a trading day and/or number of days of trading will not constitute a Market Disruption Event if it results from an announced change in the regular business hours of the relevant exchange;
- (2) a decision to permanently discontinue trading in the relevant futures or options contracts related to the Market Measure, or any successor market measure, will not constitute a Market Disruption Event;
- (3) a suspension in trading in a futures or options contract on the Market Measure, or any successor market measure, by a major securities market by reason of (a) a price change violating limits set by that securities market, (b) an imbalance of orders relating to those contracts, or (c) a disparity in bid and ask quotes relating to those contracts will constitute a suspension of or material limitation on trading in futures or options contracts related to the Market Measure;
- (4) a suspension of or material limitation on trading on the relevant exchange will not include any time when that exchange is closed for trading under ordinary circumstances; and

- (5) if applicable to equity-based Market Measures with component stocks listed on the NYSE, for the purpose of clause (A) above, any limitations on trading during significant market fluctuations under NYSE Rule 80B, or any applicable rule or regulation enacted or promulgated by the NYSE or any other self regulatory organization or the SEC of similar scope as determined by the calculation agent, will be considered “material.”

Commodity-Based Market Measures

For commodity-based Market Measures, “Market Disruption Event” means one or more of the following events, as determined by the calculation agent:

- (1) a material limitation, suspension, or disruption of trading in one or more Market Measure components which results in a failure by the exchange on which each applicable Market Measure component is traded to report an exchange published settlement price for such contract on the day on which such event occurs or any succeeding day on which it continues;
- (2) the exchange published settlement price for any Market Measure component is a “limit price,” which means that the exchange published settlement price for such contract for a day has increased or decreased from the previous day’s exchange published settlement price by the maximum amount permitted under applicable exchange rules;
- (3) failure by the applicable exchange or other price source to announce or publish the exchange published settlement price for any Market Measure component;
- (4) a suspension of trading in one or more Market Measure components, for which the trading does not resume at least 10 minutes prior to the scheduled or rescheduled closing time; or
- (5) any other event, if the calculation agent determines in its sole discretion that the event materially interferes with our ability or the ability of any of our affiliates to unwind all or a material portion of a hedge that we or our affiliates have effected or may effect as to the applicable notes.

If the Market Measure is commodity-based and a Market Disruption Event occurs on a Coupon Determination Date, the closing value of the Market Measure will be determined by the calculation agent using the following “Market Disruption Calculation”:

- (1) With respect to each commodity or futures contract, the value of which is tracked by the Market Measure and which is not affected by the Market Disruption Event, the closing value will be based on the exchange published settlement price of each such contract on that Coupon Determination Date.
- (2) With respect to each commodity or futures contract, the value of which is tracked by the Market Measure and which is affected by the Market Disruption Event, the closing value will be based on the exchange published settlement price of each such contract on the first Market Measure Business Day following that Coupon Determination Date on which no Market Disruption Event occurs with respect to such contract. In the event that a Market Disruption Event occurs with respect to any commodity or futures contract, the value of which is tracked by the Market Measure, on that Coupon Determination Date, and on each day to and including the second scheduled Market Measure Business Day prior to the applicable Coupon Payment Date or the maturity date, as applicable, the price of such contract used to determine the closing value will

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be estimated by the calculation agent in a manner which the calculation agent considers commercially reasonable under the circumstances.

- (3) The calculation agent shall determine the closing value by reference to the exchange published settlement prices or other prices determined in clauses (1) and (2) above using the then current method for calculating the Market Measure. The exchange on which a commodity or futures contract, the value of which is tracked by the Market Measure, is traded for purposes of the foregoing definition means the exchange used to value such contract for the calculation of the Market Measure.

Other Market Measures

If the Market Measure is not equity-based or commodity-based, the applicable term sheet will set forth the definition of “Market Disruption Event,” and include additional related terms.

Determinations by the Calculation Agent

All determinations made by the calculation agent, absent a determination of a manifest error, will be conclusive for all purposes and binding on us and the holders and beneficial owners of the notes.

Adjustments to a Market Measure

If at any time after the pricing date a Market Measure Publisher makes a material change in the formula for or the method of calculating a Market Measure or in any other way materially modifies that Market Measure so that the Market Measure does not, in the opinion of the calculation agent, fairly represent the value of the Market Measure had those changes or modifications not been made, then, from and after that time, the calculation agent will, at the close of business in New York, New York, on each date that the closing value of the Market Measure is to be calculated, make any adjustments as, in the good faith judgment of the calculation agent, may be necessary in order to arrive at a calculation of a value of the applicable Market Measure as if those changes or modifications had not been made, and calculate the closing value with reference to the Market Measure, as so adjusted. Accordingly, if the method of calculating a Market Measure is modified so that the value of the Market Measure is a fraction or a multiple of what it would have been if it had not been modified, then the calculation agent will adjust the Market Measure in order to arrive at a value of the Market Measure as if it had not been modified.

Discontinuance of a Market Measure

If a Market Measure Publisher discontinues publication of a Market Measure to which an issue of the notes is linked, and that Market Measure Publisher or another entity publishes a successor or substitute market measure that the calculation agent determines, in its sole discretion, to be comparable to that Market Measure (a “successor market measure”), then, upon the calculation agent’s notification of that determination to the trustee and to us, the calculation agent will substitute the successor market measure as calculated by the relevant Market Measure Publisher or any other entity. Upon any selection by the calculation agent of a successor market measure, the calculation agent will cause written notice of the selection to be promptly furnished to the trustee, to us, and to the holders of the notes.

In the event that a Market Measure Publisher discontinues publication of a Market Measure and:

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- the calculation agent does not select a successor market measure; or
- the successor market measure is not published on any Coupon Determination Date,

the calculation agent will compute a substitute value for the Market Measure in accordance with the procedures last used to calculate the Market Measure before any discontinuance. If a successor market measure is selected or the calculation agent calculates a value as a substitute for a Market Measure as described below, the successor market measure or value will be used as a substitute for that Market Measure for all purposes, including for the purpose of determining whether a Market Disruption Event exists.

If a Market Measure Publisher discontinues publication of the Market Measure before any scheduled Coupon Determination Date, and the calculation agent determines that no successor market measure is available on that date, then on the day that would have been the Coupon Determination Date, the calculation agent will determine the level of the Market Measure as described in the preceding paragraph as if that day were the applicable Coupon Determination Date. The calculation agent will make available to holders of the notes information as to each such value; this information may be disseminated by means of Bloomberg, Reuters, a website, or any other means selected by the calculation agent in its reasonable discretion.

Notwithstanding these alternative arrangements, discontinuance of the publication of the specific Market Measure to which the notes are linked may adversely affect trading in the notes.

Role of the Calculation Agent

The calculation agent has the sole discretion to make all determinations regarding the notes as described in this product supplement, including determinations regarding the Starting Value, the Threshold Value, whether the Coupon Payment is payable on each Coupon Determination Date, the Market Measure, any Market Disruption Events, a successor Market Measure, business days, Market Measure Business Days, trading days, and determinations related to the discontinuance of any Market Measure. Absent manifest error, all determinations of the calculation agent will be final and binding on you and us, without any liability on the part of the calculation agent.

We expect to appoint MLPF&S or one of our other affiliates as the calculation agent for each series of the notes. However, we may change the calculation agent at any time without notifying you. The identity of the calculation agent will be set forth in the applicable term sheet.

Same-Day Settlement and Payment

The notes will be delivered in book-entry form only through The Depository Trust Company against payment by purchasers of the notes in immediately available funds. We will pay each periodic interest payment and the repayment of principal in immediately available funds so long as the notes are maintained in book-entry form.

Events of Default and Acceleration

Unless otherwise set forth in the applicable term sheet, if an event of default, as defined in the Senior Indenture, with respect to any series of the notes occurs and is continuing, the amount payable to a holder of the notes upon any acceleration permitted under the Senior Indenture will be equal to the principal amount of the notes plus any accrued and unpaid

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interest, and the final Coupon Payment on the notes will be calculated as though the final Coupon Determination Date were the fourth business day prior to the date of acceleration. If a bankruptcy proceeding is commenced in respect of us, your claim may be limited, under the United States Bankruptcy Code, to the Original Offering Price of your notes. In case of a default in payment of the notes, whether at their maturity or upon acceleration, they will not bear a default interest rate.

Listing

If provided for in the applicable term sheet, we may apply to have the notes listed on a securities exchange or quotation system. If approval of such an application is granted, the notes will be listed on the securities exchange or quotation system at the time of such approval. We make no representations, however, that the notes will be listed or will remain listed for the entire term of the notes.

SUPPLEMENTAL PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION

One or more of our affiliates, including MLPF&S, may act as our selling agent for any offering of the notes. The selling agents may act on either a principal basis or an agency basis, as set forth in the applicable term sheet. Each selling agent will be a party to the Distribution Agreement described in the “Supplemental Plan of Distribution” on page S-12 of the accompanying prospectus supplement.

Each selling agent will receive an underwriting discount or commission that is a percentage of the aggregate Original Offering Price of the notes sold through its efforts, which will be set forth in the applicable term sheet. You must have an account with the applicable selling agent in order to purchase the notes.

No selling agent is acting as your fiduciary or advisor, and you should not rely upon any communication from it in connection with the notes as investment advice or a recommendation to purchase any of the notes. You should make your own investment decision regarding the notes after consulting with your legal, tax, and other advisors.

MLPF&S and any of our other affiliates and subsidiaries may use this product supplement, the prospectus supplement, and the prospectus, together with the applicable term sheet and any applicable index supplement, in a market-making transaction for any notes after their initial sale.

U.S. FEDERAL INCOME TAX SUMMARY

The following summary of the material U.S. federal income tax considerations of the acquisition, ownership, and disposition of the notes is based upon the advice of Morrison & Foerster LLP, our tax counsel. The following discussion is not exhaustive of all possible tax considerations. This summary is based upon the Code, regulations promulgated under the Code by the U.S. Treasury Department (“Treasury”) (including proposed and temporary regulations), rulings, current administrative interpretations and official pronouncements of the Internal Revenue Service (“IRS”), and judicial decisions, all as currently in effect and all of which are subject to differing interpretations or to change, possibly with retroactive effect. No assurance can be given that the IRS would not assert, or that a court would not sustain, a position contrary to any of the tax consequences described below.

This summary is for general information only, and does not purport to discuss all aspects of U.S. federal income taxation that may be important to a particular holder in light of its investment or tax circumstances or to holders subject to special tax rules, such as partnerships, subchapter S corporations, or other pass-through entities, banks, financial institutions, tax-exempt entities, insurance companies, regulated investment companies, real estate investment trusts, trusts and estates, dealers in securities or currencies, traders in securities that have elected to use the mark-to-market method of accounting for their securities, persons holding the notes as part of an integrated investment, including a “straddle,” “hedge,” “constructive sale,” or “conversion transaction,” persons (other than Non-U.S. Holders, as defined below) whose functional currency for tax purposes is not the U.S. dollar, persons holding the notes in a tax-deferred or tax-advantaged account, and persons subject to the alternative minimum tax provisions of the Code. This summary does not include any description of the tax laws of any state or local governments, or of any foreign government, that may be applicable to a particular holder.

This summary is directed solely to holders that, except as otherwise specifically noted, will purchase the notes upon original issuance and will hold the notes as capital assets within the meaning of Section 1221 of the Code, which generally means property held for investment. This summary assumes that the issue price of the notes, as determined for U.S. federal income

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tax purposes, equals the principal amount thereof. The following summary applies to notes that have a term of more than one year. The U.S. federal income tax treatment of notes with a term of one year or less will be set forth in the applicable term sheet. In addition, if a note has terms that would result in a U.S. federal income tax treatment that is different from the treatment described below, the U.S. federal income tax treatment will be set forth in the applicable term sheet.

You should consult your own tax advisor concerning the U.S. federal income tax consequences to you of acquiring, owning, and disposing of the notes, as well as any tax consequences arising under the laws of any state, local, foreign, or other tax jurisdiction and the possible effects of changes in U.S. federal or other tax laws.

As used in this product supplement, the term “U.S. Holder” means a beneficial owner of a note that is for U.S. federal income tax purposes:

- a citizen or resident of the United States;
- a corporation (including an entity treated as a corporation for U.S. federal income tax purposes) created or organized in or under the laws of the United States or of any state of the United States or the District of Columbia;
- an estate the income of which is subject to U.S. federal income taxation regardless of its source; or
- any trust if a court within the United States is able to exercise primary supervision over the administration of the trust and one or more United States persons have the authority to control all substantial decisions of the trust.

Notwithstanding the preceding paragraph, to the extent provided in Treasury regulations, some trusts in existence on August 20, 1996, and treated as United States persons prior to that date, that elect to continue to be treated as United States persons also are U.S. Holders. As used in this product supplement, the term “Non-U.S. Holder” means a holder that is not a U.S. Holder.

If an entity or arrangement treated as a partnership for U.S. federal income tax purposes holds a note, the U.S. federal income tax treatment of a partner generally will depend upon the status of the partner and the activities of the partnership and, accordingly, this summary does not apply to partnerships. A partner of a partnership holding a note should consult its own tax advisor regarding the U.S. federal income tax consequences to the partner of the acquisition, ownership, and disposition by the partnership of a note.

Tax Characterization of the Notes

Although, there are no statutory provisions, regulations, published rulings, or judicial decisions addressing the characterization, for U.S. federal income tax purposes, of the notes or other instruments with terms substantially the same as the notes, we intend, unless otherwise specified in the applicable term sheet, to treat the notes as debt instruments for U.S. federal income tax purposes and, where required, intend to file information returns with the IRS in accordance with such treatment, in the absence of any change or clarification in the law, by regulation or otherwise, requiring a different characterization of the notes. You should be aware, however, that the IRS is not bound by our characterization of the notes as indebtedness and the IRS could possibly take a different position as to the proper characterization of the notes for U.S. federal income tax purposes. If the notes are not in fact treated as debt instruments for U.S. federal income tax purposes, then the U.S. federal income tax treatment of the purchase, ownership, and disposition of the notes could differ materially from the

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treatment discussed below with the result that the timing and character of income, gain, or loss recognized in respect of the notes could differ materially from the timing and character of income, gain, or loss recognized in respect of the notes had the notes in fact been treated as debt instruments for U.S. federal income tax purposes.

U.S. Holders—Income Tax Considerations

Depending on the terms of the notes, we intend to treat the notes either as “variable rate debt instruments” or “contingent payment debt instruments” for U.S. federal income tax purposes.

Variable Rate Debt Instruments

Interest. If the notes are properly characterized as variable rate debt instruments, interest on a note generally will be included in income of a U.S. Holder as ordinary income at the time it is accrued or is received in accordance with the U.S. Holder’s regular method of accounting for U.S. federal income tax purposes. For accrual method U.S. Holders, the accrual is generally determined by constructing a fixed rate debt instrument assuming that the variable rate is a fixed rate equal to a fixed rate that reflects the yield that is reasonably expected for the note and making appropriate adjustments for interest allocable to an accrual period when interest is actually paid.

Sale, Exchange, or Redemption. Upon the sale, exchange, or redemption of a note that is properly characterized as a variable rate debt instrument, a U.S. Holder will recognize gain or loss equal to the difference between the amount realized upon the sale, exchange, or redemption (except to the extent attributable to accrued but unpaid interest) and the U.S. Holder’s adjusted tax basis in the note. A U.S. Holder’s adjusted tax basis in a note generally will be the cost of the note to such U.S. Holder. Gain or loss realized on the sale, exchange, or redemption of a note generally will be capital gain or loss and will be long-term capital gain or loss if the note has been held for more than one year. The deductibility of capital losses is subject to limitations.

Contingent Payment Debt Instruments

Interest and Original Issue Discount. If the notes are properly characterized as contingent payment debt instruments for U.S. federal income tax purposes, such notes generally will be subject to the Treasury regulations governing contingent payment debt instruments. Under those regulations, a U.S. Holder will be required to report original issue discount (“OID”) or interest income based on a “comparable yield” and a “projected payment schedule,” both as described below, established by us for determining interest accruals and adjustments with respect to a note. A U.S. Holder which does not use the “comparable yield” and follow the “projected payment schedule” to calculate its OID and interest income on a note must timely disclose and justify the use of other estimates to the IRS.

A “comparable yield” with respect to a note generally is the yield at which we could issue a fixed-rate debt instrument with terms similar to those of the note (taking into account for this purpose the level of subordination, term, timing of payments, and general market conditions, but ignoring any adjustments for liquidity or the riskiness of the contingencies with respect to the note). Notwithstanding the foregoing, a comparable yield must not be less than the applicable U.S. federal rate based on the overall maturity of the note.

A “projected payment schedule” with respect to a note generally is a series of projected payments, the amount and timing of which would produce a yield to maturity on that note equal to the comparable yield. This projected payment schedule will consist of a projection for tax purposes of each non-contingent and contingent payment.

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Based on the comparable yield and the projected payment schedule of the notes, a U.S. Holder of a note (regardless of accounting method) generally will be required to accrue as OID the sum of the daily portions of interest on the note for each day in the taxable year on which the holder held the note, adjusted upward or downward to reflect the difference, if any, between the actual and projected amount of any contingent payments on the note, as set forth below. The daily portions of interest for a note are determined by allocating to each day in an accrual period the ratable portion of interest on the note that accrues in the accrual period. The amount of interest on the note that accrues in an accrual period is the product of the comparable yield on the note (adjusted to reflect the length of the accrual period) and the adjusted issue price of the note at the beginning of the accrual period. The adjusted issue price of a note at the beginning of the first accrual period will equal its issue price. The issue price of each note in an issue of notes is the first price at which a substantial amount of those notes has been sold (including any premium paid for those notes and ignoring sales to bond houses, brokers, or similar persons or organizations acting in the capacity of underwriters, placement agents, or wholesalers). For any subsequent accrual period, the adjusted issue price will be (1) the sum of the issue price of the note and any interest previously accrued on the note by a holder (without regard to any positive or negative adjustments, described below) minus (2) the amount of any projected payments on the note for previous accrual periods. A U.S. Holder of a note generally will be required to include in income OID in excess of actual cash payments received for certain taxable years.

A U.S. Holder will be required to recognize interest income equal to the amount of any positive adjustment for a note for the taxable year in which a contingent payment is paid (including a payment of interest at maturity). A positive adjustment is the excess of actual payments in respect of contingent payments over the projected amount of contingent payments. A U.S. Holder also will be required to account for any "negative adjustment" for a taxable year in which a contingent payment is paid. A negative adjustment is the excess of the projected amounts of contingent payments over actual payments in respect of the contingent payments. A net negative adjustment is the amount by which total negative adjustments in a taxable year exceed total positive adjustments in such taxable year. A net negative adjustment (1) will first reduce the amount of interest for the note that a U.S. Holder would otherwise be required to include in income in the taxable year, and (2) to the extent of any excess, will result in an ordinary loss equal to that portion of the excess as does not exceed the excess of (A) the amount of all previous interest inclusions under the note over (B) the total amount of the U.S. Holder's net negative adjustments treated as ordinary loss on the note in prior taxable years. A net negative adjustment is not subject to the 2% floor limitation imposed on miscellaneous deductions under Section 67 of the Code. Any net negative adjustment in excess of the amounts described above in (1) and (2) will be carried forward to offset future interest income on the note or to reduce the amount realized on a sale, exchange, or retirement of the note and, in the case of a payment at maturity, should result in a capital loss. The deductibility of capital losses by a U.S. Holder is subject to limitations.

If a contingent payment becomes fixed (within the meaning of applicable Treasury regulations) more than six months before its due date, a positive or negative adjustment, as appropriate, is made to reflect the difference between the present value of the amount that is fixed and the present value of the projected amount. The present value of each amount is determined by discounting the amount from the date the payment is due to the date the payment becomes fixed, using a discount rate equal to the comparable yield. If all contingent payments on the note become fixed, substantially contemporaneously, applicable Treasury regulations provide that, with regard to contingent payments that become fixed on a day that is more than six months before their due date, U.S. Holders should take into account positive or negative adjustments in respect of such contingent payments over the period to which they relate in a reasonable manner. U.S. Holders should consult their tax advisors as to what would be a "reasonable manner" in their particular situation.

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Tax Accrual Table. We expect that the term sheet will include a table that sets forth the following information with respect to the principal amount of the notes for each of the applicable accrual periods through the maturity date of the notes:

- the amount of interest deemed to have accrued during the accrual period; and
- the total amount of interest deemed to have accrued from the original issue date through the end of the accrual period.

The table will be based upon a projected payment schedule and a comparable yield. The comparable yield will be determined based upon market conditions as of the date of the applicable term sheet. Please note that the comparable yield is likely to change between the date of any preliminary term sheet and the date of the related final term sheet. Therefore, the projected payment schedule included in any preliminary term sheet will be subject to change. We will determine the actual projected payment schedule and the actual comparable yield on the pricing date. Any tax accrual table included in a preliminary term sheet will be revised, and the revised table will be set forth in the final term sheet prepared in connection with the initial sale of the notes.

Sale, Exchange, or Redemption. Upon a sale, exchange, or redemption of a note prior to maturity, a U.S. Holder generally will recognize taxable gain or loss equal to the difference between the amount realized on the sale, exchange, or retirement and that holder's tax basis in the note. A U.S. Holder's tax basis in a note generally will equal the cost of that note, increased by the amount of OID previously accrued by the holder for that note (without regard to any positive or negative adjustments) and reduced by any projected payments for previous periods on the notes. A U.S. Holder generally will treat any gain as interest income, and will treat any loss as ordinary loss to the extent of the excess of previous interest inclusions over the total negative adjustments previously taken into account as ordinary losses, and the balance as long-term or short-term capital loss depending upon the U.S. Holder's holding period for the note. The deductibility of capital losses by a U.S. Holder is subject to limitations.

Unrelated Business Taxable Income

Section 511 of the Code generally imposes a tax, at regular corporate or trust income tax rates, on the "unrelated business taxable income" of certain tax-exempt organizations, including qualified pension and profit sharing plan trusts and individual retirement accounts. In general, if the notes are held for investment purposes, the amount of income or gain realized with respect to a note should not constitute unrelated business taxable income. However, if a note constitutes debt-financed property (as defined in Section 514(b) of the Code) by reason of indebtedness incurred by a holder of a note to purchase or carry the note, all or a portion of any income or gain realized with respect to such note may be classified as unrelated business taxable income pursuant to Section 514 of the Code. Moreover, prospective investors in the notes should be aware that whether or not any income or gain realized with respect to a note which is owned by an organization that is generally exempt from U.S. federal income taxation constitutes unrelated business taxable income will depend upon the specific facts and circumstances applicable to such organization. Accordingly, any potential investors in the notes that are generally exempt from U.S. federal income taxation should consult with their own tax advisors concerning the U.S. federal income tax consequences to them of investing in the notes.

Non-U.S. Holders—Income Tax Considerations

U.S. Federal Income and Withholding Tax

Under current U.S. federal income tax law and subject to the discussion below concerning backup withholding, principal and interest payments, including any OID, that are

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received from us or our agent and that are not effectively connected with the conduct by the Non-U.S. Holder of a trade or business within the United States, or a permanent establishment maintained in the United States if certain tax treaties apply, generally will not be subject to U.S. federal income or withholding tax except as provided below. Interest, including any OID and any gain realized on the sale, exchange, or redemption of a note, may be subject to a 30% withholding tax (or less under an applicable treaty, if any) if:

- a Non-U.S. Holder actually or constructively owns 10% or more of the total combined voting power of all classes of our stock entitled to vote;
- a Non-U.S. Holder is a “controlled foreign corporation” for U.S. federal income tax purposes that is related to us (directly or indirectly) through stock ownership;
- a Non-U.S. Holder is a bank extending credit under a loan agreement in the ordinary course of its trade or business;
- the payments on the notes are determined by reference to the income, profits, changes in the value of property or other attributes of the debtor or a related party (other than payments that are based on the value of a security or index of securities that are, and will continue to be, actively traded within the meaning of Section 1092(d) of the Code, and that are not nor will be a “United States real property interest” as described in Section 897(c)(1) or 897(g) of the Code); or
- the Non-U.S. Holder does not satisfy the certification requirements described below.

A Non-U.S. Holder generally will satisfy the certification requirements if either: (A) the Non-U.S. Holder certifies to us or our agent, under penalties of perjury, that it is a non-United States person and provides its name and address (which certification may generally be made on an IRS Form W-8BEN, or a successor form), or (B) a securities clearing organization, bank, or other financial institution that holds customer securities in the ordinary course of its trade or business (a “financial institution”) and holds the notes either (i) certifies to us or our agent under penalties of perjury that either it or another financial institution has received the required statement from the Non-U.S. Holder certifying that it is a non-United States person and furnishes us with a copy of the statement or (ii) otherwise complies with applicable U.S. federal income and withholding tax certification requirements.

Payments not meeting the requirements set forth above and thus subject to withholding of U.S. federal income tax may nevertheless be exempt from withholding (or subject to withholding at a reduced rate) if the Non-U.S. Holder provides us with a properly executed IRS Form W-8BEN (or successor form) claiming an exemption from, or reduction in, withholding under the benefit of a tax treaty, or IRS Form W-8ECI (or other applicable form) stating that income on the notes is not subject to withholding tax because it is effectively connected with the conduct of a trade or business within the United States as discussed below. To claim benefits under an income tax treaty, a Non-U.S. Holder must obtain a taxpayer identification number and certify as to its eligibility under the appropriate treaty’s limitations on benefits article, if applicable. In addition, special rules may apply to claims for treaty benefits made by Non-U.S. Holders that are entities rather than individuals. A Non-U.S. Holder that is eligible for a reduced rate of U.S. federal withholding tax pursuant to an income tax treaty may obtain a refund of any excess amounts withheld by filing an appropriate claim for refund with the IRS.

If a Non-U.S. Holder of a note is engaged in the conduct of a trade or business within the United States and if interest (including any OID) on the note, or gain realized on the sale, exchange, or other disposition of the note, is effectively connected with the conduct of such

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trade or business (and, if certain tax treaties apply, is attributable to a permanent establishment maintained by the Non-U.S. Holder in the United States), the Non-U.S. Holder, although exempt from U.S. federal withholding tax (provided that the applicable certification requirements are satisfied), generally will be subject to U.S. federal income tax on such interest (including any OID) or gain on a net income basis in the same manner as if it were a U.S. Holder. Non-U.S. Holders should read the material under the heading “—U.S. Holders—Income Tax Considerations,” for a description of the U.S. federal income tax consequences of acquiring, owning, and disposing of the notes. In addition, if such Non-U.S. Holder is a foreign corporation, it may also be subject to a branch profits tax equal to 30% (or such lower rate provided by an applicable U.S. income tax treaty) of a portion of its earnings and profits for the taxable year that are effectively connected with its conduct of a trade or business in the United States, subject to certain adjustments.

U.S. Federal Estate Tax

Under current law, a note should generally not be includible in the estate of a Non-U.S. Holder unless the individual actually or constructively owns 10% or more of the total combined voting power of all classes of our stock entitled to vote or, at the time of the individual’s death, payments in respect of that note would have been effectively connected with the conduct by the individual of a trade or business in the United States.

Backup Withholding and Information Reporting

In general, in the case of a U.S. Holder, other than certain exempt holders, we and other payors are required to report to the IRS all payments of principal, any premium, and interest on the notes, and the accrual of OID. In addition, we and other payors generally are required to report to the IRS any payment of proceeds of the sale of a note before maturity. Additionally, backup withholding generally will apply to any payments, including payments of OID, if a U.S. Holder fails to provide an accurate taxpayer identification number and certify that the taxpayer identification number is correct, the U.S. Holder is notified by the IRS that it has failed to report all interest and dividends required to be shown on its U.S. federal income tax returns or a U.S. Holder does not certify that it has not underreported its interest and dividend income.

In the case of a Non-U.S. Holder, backup withholding and information reporting will not apply to payments made if the Non-U.S. Holder provides the required certification that it is not a United States person, or the Non-U.S. Holder otherwise establishes an exemption, provided that the payor or withholding agent does not have actual knowledge that the holder is a United States person, or that the conditions of any exemption are not satisfied.

In addition, payments of the proceeds from the sale of a note to or through a foreign office of a broker or the foreign office of a custodian, nominee, or other dealer acting on behalf of a holder generally will not be subject to information reporting or backup withholding. However, if the broker, custodian, nominee, or other dealer is a United States person, the government of the United States or the government of any state or political subdivision of any state, or any agency or instrumentality of any of these governmental units, a controlled foreign corporation for U.S. federal income tax purposes, a foreign partnership that is either engaged in a trade or business within the United States or whose U.S. partners in the aggregate hold more than 50% of the income or capital interest in the partnership, a foreign person 50% or more of whose gross income for a certain period is effectively connected with a trade or business within the United States, or a U.S. branch of a foreign bank or insurance company, information reporting (but not backup withholding) generally will be required with respect to payments made to a holder unless the broker, custodian, nominee, or other dealer has documentation of the holder’s foreign status and the broker, custodian, nominee, or other dealer has no actual knowledge to the contrary.

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Payment of the proceeds from a sale of a note to or through the U.S. office of a broker is subject to information reporting and backup withholding, unless the holder certifies as to its non-United States person status or otherwise establishes an exemption from information reporting and backup withholding.

Any amounts withheld under the backup withholding rules will be allowed as a refund or a credit against a holder's U.S. federal income tax liability provided the required information is furnished to the IRS.

Reportable Transactions

Applicable Treasury regulations require taxpayers that participate in "reportable transactions" to disclose their participation to the IRS by attaching Form 8886 to their tax returns and to retain a copy of all documents and records related to the transaction. In addition, "material advisors" with respect to such a transaction may be required to file returns and maintain records, including lists identifying investors in the transaction, and to furnish those records to the IRS upon demand. A transaction may be a "reportable transaction" based on any of several criteria, one or more of which may be present with respect to an investment in the notes. Whether an investment in the notes constitutes a "reportable transaction" for any investor depends on the investor's particular circumstances. Investors should consult their own tax advisors concerning any possible disclosure obligation they may have for their investment in the notes and should be aware that, should any "material advisor" determine that the return filing or investor list maintenance requirements apply to this transaction, they would be required to comply with these requirements.

Additional Medicare Tax on Unearned Income

With respect to taxable years beginning after December 31, 2012, certain U.S. Holders, including individuals and estates and trusts, will be subject to an additional 3.8% Medicare tax on unearned income. For individual U.S. Holders, the additional Medicare tax applies to the lesser of (i) "net investment income," or (ii) the excess of "modified adjusted gross income" over \$200,000 (\$250,000 if married and filing jointly or \$125,000 if married and filing separately). "Net investment income" generally equals the taxpayer's gross investment income reduced by the deductions that are allocable to such income. Investment income generally includes passive income such as interest, dividends, annuities, royalties, rents, and capital gains. U.S. Holders are urged to consult their own tax advisors regarding the implications of the additional Medicare tax resulting from an investment in the notes.

Legislation Affecting Taxation of Notes Held by or Through Foreign Entities

Legislation was enacted on March 18, 2010 that will, effective for payments made after December 31, 2012, impose a 30% U.S. withholding tax on interest income from debt obligations of U.S. issuers and on the gross proceeds from a disposition of such obligations paid to a foreign financial institution, unless such institution enters into an agreement with Treasury to collect and provide to Treasury substantial information regarding U.S. account holders, including certain account holders that are foreign entities with U.S. owners, with such institution. The legislation also generally imposes a withholding tax of 30% on interest income from such obligations and on the gross proceeds from the disposition of such obligations paid to a non-financial foreign entity unless such entity provides the withholding agent with a certification that it does not have any substantial U.S. owners or a certification identifying the direct and indirect substantial U.S. owners of the entity. Under certain circumstances, a holder may be eligible for refunds or credits of such taxes. These withholding and reporting requirements will generally apply to payments made after December 31, 2012; however, the withholding tax will not be imposed on payments pursuant to obligations outstanding as of

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March 18, 2012. Investors are urged to consult with their own tax advisors regarding the possible implications of this recently enacted legislation on their investment in the notes.

ERISA CONSIDERATIONS

Each fiduciary of a pension, profit-sharing, or other employee benefit plan subject to ERISA (a “Plan”), should consider the fiduciary standards of ERISA in the context of the Plan’s particular circumstances before authorizing an investment in the notes. Accordingly, among other factors, the fiduciary should consider whether the investment would satisfy the prudence and diversification requirements of ERISA and would be consistent with the documents and instruments governing the Plan.

In addition, we and certain of our subsidiaries and affiliates may be each considered a party in interest within the meaning of ERISA or a disqualified person (within the meaning of the Code), with respect to many Plans, as well as many individual retirement accounts and Keogh plans (also “Plans”). Prohibited transactions within the meaning of ERISA or the Code would likely arise, for example, if the notes are acquired by or with the assets of a Plan with respect to which we or any of our affiliates is a party in interest, unless the notes are acquired under an exemption from the prohibited transaction rules. A violation of these prohibited transaction rules could result in an excise tax or other liabilities under ERISA and/or Section 4975 of the Code for such persons, unless exemptive relief is available under an applicable statutory or administrative exemption.

Under ERISA and various PTCEs issued by the U.S. Department of Labor, exemptive relief may be available for direct or indirect prohibited transactions resulting from the purchase, holding, or disposition of the notes. Those exemptions are PTCE 96-23 (for certain transactions determined by in-house asset managers), PTCE 95-60 (for certain transactions involving insurance company general accounts), PTCE 91-38 (for certain transactions involving bank collective investment funds), PTCE 90-1 (for certain transactions involving insurance company separate accounts), PTCE 84-14 (for certain transactions determined by independent qualified asset managers), and the exemption under Section 408(b)(17) of ERISA and Section 4975(d)(20) of the Code for certain arm’s-length transactions with a person that is a party in interest solely by reason of providing services to Plans or being an affiliate of such a service provider (the “Service Provider Exemption”).

Because we may be considered a party in interest with respect to many Plans, the notes may not be purchased, held, or disposed of by any Plan, any entity whose underlying assets include plan assets by reason of any Plan’s investment in the entity (a “Plan Asset Entity”) or any person investing plan assets of any Plan, unless such purchase, holding, or disposition is eligible for exemptive relief, including relief available under PTCE 96-23, 95-60, 91-38, 90-1, or 84-14 or the Service Provider Exemption, or such purchase, holding, or disposition is otherwise not prohibited. Any purchaser, including any fiduciary purchasing on behalf of a Plan, transferee or holder of the notes will be deemed to have represented, in its corporate and its fiduciary capacity, by its purchase and holding of the notes that either (a) it is not a Plan or a Plan Asset Entity and is not purchasing the notes on behalf of or with plan assets of any Plan or with any assets of a governmental, church, or foreign plan that is subject to any federal, state, local, or foreign law that is substantially similar to the provisions of Section 406 of ERISA or Section 4975 of the Code or (b) its purchase, holding, and disposition are eligible for exemptive relief or such purchase, holding, and disposition are not prohibited by ERISA or Section 4975 of the Code (or in the case of a governmental, church, or foreign plan, any substantially similar federal, state, local, or foreign law).

The fiduciary investment considerations summarized above generally apply to employee benefit plans maintained by private-sector employers and to individual retirement accounts

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and other arrangements subject to Section 4975 of the Code, but generally do not apply to governmental plans (as defined in Section 3(32) of ERISA), certain church plans (as defined in Section 3(33) of ERISA), and foreign plans (as described in Section 4(b)(4) of ERISA). However, these other plans may be subject to similar provisions under applicable federal, state, local, foreign, or other regulations, rules, or laws (“similar laws”). The fiduciaries of plans subject to similar laws should also consider the foregoing issues in general terms as well as any further issues arising under the applicable similar laws.

Purchasers of the notes have exclusive responsibility for ensuring that their purchase, holding, and disposition of the notes do not violate the prohibited transaction rules of ERISA or the Code or any similar regulations applicable to governmental or church plans, as described above.

This discussion is a general summary of some of the rules which apply to benefit plans and their related investment vehicles. This summary does not include all of the investment considerations relevant to Plans and other benefit plan investors such as governmental, church, and foreign plans and should not be construed as legal advice or a legal opinion. Due to the complexity of these rules and the penalties that may be imposed upon persons involved in non-exempt prohibited transactions, it is particularly important that fiduciaries or other persons considering purchasing the notes on behalf of or with “plan assets” of any Plan or other benefit plan investor consult with their legal counsel prior to directing any such purchase.