

Subject to Completion. Dated October 23, 2024.



## BofA Finance LLC

\$  
Leveraged Buffered S&P 500<sup>®</sup> Index-Linked Notes due  
Fully and Unconditionally Guaranteed by  
Bank of America Corporation

**The notes do not bear interest.** The amount that you will be paid on your notes on the stated maturity date (expected to be the second scheduled business day after the determination date) is based on the performance of the S&P 500<sup>®</sup> Index (which we refer to as the "underlier"), as measured from the trade date to and including the determination date (expected to be between 20 and 23 months after the trade date). If the final underlier level on the determination date is greater than the initial underlier level (set on the trade date and may be higher or lower than the actual closing level of the underlier on the trade date), the return on your notes will be positive, subject to the maximum settlement amount (expected to be between \$1,151.38 and \$1,178.02 for each \$1,000 face amount of your notes). If the final underlier level declines by up to 12.50% from the initial underlier level, you will receive the face amount of your notes. **If the final underlier level declines by more than 12.50% from the initial underlier level, you will be exposed on a leveraged basis to any decrease in the final underlier level beyond 12.50%. In this case, the return on your notes will be negative. You may lose some or all of your investment in the notes.**

To determine your payment at maturity, we will calculate the underlier return, which is the percentage increase or decrease in the final underlier level from the initial underlier level. On the stated maturity date, for each \$1,000 face amount of your notes, you will receive an amount in cash equal to:

- if the underlier return is *positive* (the final underlier level is *greater than* the initial underlier level), the *sum* of (i) \$1,000 *plus* (ii) the *product* of (a) \$1,000 *times* (b) 1.8 *times* (c) the underlier return, subject to the maximum settlement amount;
- if the underlier return is *zero or negative* but *not below* -12.50% (the final underlier level is *equal to* the initial underlier level or is *less than* the initial underlier level, but not by more than 12.50%), \$1,000; or
- if the underlier return is *negative* and is *below* -12.50% (the final underlier level is *less than* the initial underlier level by more than 12.50%), the *sum* of (i) \$1,000 *plus* (ii) the *product* of (a) approximately 1.14286 *times* (b) the *sum* of the underlier return *plus* 12.50% *times* (c) \$1,000. You will receive less than the face amount of your notes.

**The notes will not be listed on any securities exchange. Investment in the notes involves certain risks, including the credit risk of BofA Finance LLC ("BofA Finance"), as issuer of the notes, and the credit risk of Bank of America Corporation ("BAC" or the "Guarantor"), as guarantor of the notes. Potential purchasers of the notes should consider the information in "Risk Factors" beginning on page PS-11 of this pricing supplement, page PS-5 of the accompanying product supplement, page S-6 of the accompanying prospectus supplement, and page 7 of the accompanying prospectus.**

**As of the date of this pricing supplement, the initial estimated value of the notes at the time of pricing is expected to be between \$962.30 and \$992.30 per \$1,000 in face amount. See "Summary Information" beginning on page PS-3 of this pricing supplement, "Risk Factors" beginning on page PS-11 of this pricing supplement and "Structuring the Notes" on page PS-23 of this pricing supplement for additional information. The actual value of your notes at any time will reflect many factors and cannot be predicted with accuracy.**

Original issue date:	, 2024	Price to public:	100.00% of the face amount
Underwriting discount <sup>(1)</sup> :	0.00% of the face amount	Net proceeds to the issuer:	100.00% of the face amount

<sup>(1)</sup> BofA Securities, Inc. ("BofAS"), an affiliate of BofA Finance, will participate as selling agent in the distribution of the notes. See "Supplemental Plan of Distribution — Conflicts of Interest" beginning on page PS-21 of this pricing supplement.

**Neither the Securities and Exchange Commission nor any other regulatory body has approved or disapproved of these securities or passed upon the accuracy or adequacy of this pricing supplement or the accompanying prospectus, prospectus supplement or product supplement. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense. The notes and the related guarantee of the notes by the Guarantor 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, and are not insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation or any other governmental agency.**

**BofA Securities**  
Selling Agent

The price to public and net proceeds listed above relate to the notes we sell initially. We may decide to sell additional notes after the date of this pricing supplement, at prices to public and with underwriting discounts and net proceeds that differ from the amounts set forth above. The return (whether positive or negative) on your investment in notes will depend in part on the price to public you pay for such notes.

BofAS and any of our other broker-dealer affiliates may use this pricing supplement in the initial sale of the notes. In addition, BofAS and any of our other broker-dealer affiliates may use this pricing supplement in a market-making transaction in a note after its initial sale. ***Unless BofAS or any of our other broker-dealer affiliates informs the purchaser otherwise in the confirmation of sale, this pricing supplement is being used in a market-making transaction.***

#### **About Your Prospectus**

The notes are unsecured senior notes issued by BofA Finance, a consolidated finance subsidiary of BAC. Payments on the notes are fully and unconditionally guaranteed by the Guarantor. This prospectus includes this pricing supplement and the accompanying documents listed below. This pricing supplement constitutes a supplement to the documents listed below and should be read in conjunction with those documents:

Product supplement EQUITY-1 dated December 30, 2022:

<https://www.sec.gov/Archives/edgar/data/1682472/000119312522315473/d429684d424b2.htm>

Series A MTN prospectus supplement dated December 30, 2022 and prospectus dated December 30, 2022:

<https://www.sec.gov/Archives/edgar/data/1682472/000119312522315195/d409418d424b3.htm>

The information in this pricing supplement supersedes any conflicting information in the documents listed above. In addition, some of the terms or features described in the listed documents may not apply to your notes.

## SUMMARY INFORMATION

We refer to the notes we are offering by this pricing supplement as the “offered notes” or the “notes”. Each of the offered notes has the terms described below. Capitalized terms used but not defined in this pricing supplement have the meanings set forth in the accompanying product supplement, prospectus supplement and prospectus. Unless otherwise indicated or unless the context requires otherwise, all references in this pricing supplement to “we,” “us,” “our,” or similar references are to BofA Finance, and not to BAC (or any other affiliate of BofA Finance). This section is meant as a summary and should be read in conjunction with the accompanying product supplement, prospectus supplement and prospectus. This pricing supplement supersedes any conflicting provisions of the documents listed above.

### Key Terms

<b>Issuer:</b>	BofA Finance LLC (“BofA Finance”)
<b>Guarantor:</b>	Bank of America Corporation (“BAC”)
<b>Underlier:</b>	The S&P 500 <sup>®</sup> Index (Bloomberg symbol, “SPX Index”), as published by S&P Dow Jones Indices LLC (“SPDJI” or the “Underlier Sponsor”)
<b>Specified Currency:</b>	U.S. dollars (“\$”)
<b>Face Amount:</b>	Each note will have a face amount of \$1,000; \$ _____ in the aggregate for all the offered notes; the aggregate face amount of the offered notes may be increased if we, at our sole option, decide to sell an additional amount of the offered notes on a date subsequent to the date of this pricing supplement.
<b>Purchase at Amount Other Than the Face Amount:</b>	The amount we will pay you at the stated maturity date for your notes will not be adjusted based on the price to public you pay for your notes, so if you acquire notes at a premium (or discount) to face amount and hold them to the stated maturity date, it could affect your investment in a number of ways. The return on your investment in such notes will be lower (or higher) than it would have been had you purchased the notes at face amount. Also, the stated Buffer Level would not offer the same measure of protection to your investment as would be the case if you had purchased the notes at face amount. Additionally, the Cap Level would be triggered at a lower (or higher) percentage return than indicated below, relative to your initial investment. See “Risk Factors — If You Purchase Your Notes at a Premium to Face Amount, the Return on Your Investment Will Be Lower Than the Return on Notes Purchased at Face Amount and the Impact of Certain Key Terms of the Notes Will Be Negatively Affected” on page PS-13 of this pricing supplement.
<b>Cash Settlement Amount:</b>	For each \$1,000 face amount of your notes, we will pay you on the stated maturity date an amount in cash equal to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• if the Final Underlier Level is <i>greater than</i> or <i>equal to</i> the Cap Level, the Maximum Settlement Amount;</li><li>• if the Final Underlier Level is <i>greater than</i> the Initial Underlier Level but <i>less than</i> the Cap Level, the <i>sum</i> of (1) \$1,000 <i>plus</i> (2) the <i>product</i> of (i) \$1,000 <i>times</i> (ii) the Upside Participation Rate <i>times</i> (iii) the Underlier Return;</li><li>• if the Final Underlier Level is <i>equal to</i> or <i>less than</i> the Initial Underlier Level but <i>greater than</i> or <i>equal to</i> the Buffer Level, \$1,000; or</li><li>• if the Final Underlier Level is <i>less than</i> the Buffer Level, the <i>sum</i> of (1) \$1,000 <i>plus</i> (2) the <i>product</i> of (i) \$1,000 <i>times</i> (ii) the Buffer Rate <i>times</i> (iii) the <i>sum</i> of the Underlier Return <i>plus</i> the Buffer Amount. In this case, the cash settlement</li></ul>

amount will be less than the face amount of the notes, and you will lose some or all of the face amount.

<b>Initial Underlier Level:</b>	The closing level or an intraday level of the Underlier on the trade date, as determined by the calculation agent in its sole discretion and which may be higher or lower than the actual closing level of the Underlier on the trade date.
<b>Final Underlier Level:</b>	The closing level of the Underlier on the Determination Date, except in the limited circumstances described under “—Events Relating to the Determination Date” below and “Description of the Notes—Adjustments to an Index” and “—Discontinuance of an Index” in the accompanying product supplement.
<b>Upside Participation Rate:</b>	180.00%
<b>Cap Level:</b>	Expected to be between 108.41% and 109.89% of the Initial Underlier Level (to be set on the trade date)
<b>Maximum Settlement Amount:</b>	Expected to be between \$1,151.38 and \$1,178.02 per \$1,000 face amount of the notes (to be set on the trade date)
<b>Underlier Return:</b>	The <i>quotient</i> of (1) the Final Underlier Level <i>minus</i> the Initial Underlier Level <i>divided</i> by (2) the Initial Underlier Level, expressed as a percentage
<b>Buffer Level:</b>	87.50% of the Initial Underlier Level
<b>Buffer Amount:</b>	12.50%
<b>Buffer Rate:</b>	The <i>quotient</i> of the Initial Underlier Level <i>divided</i> by the Buffer Level, which equals approximately 114.286%
<b>Trade Date:</b>	
<b>Original Issue Date (Settlement Date):</b>	Expected to be the fifth scheduled business day following the trade date (to be set on the trade date)
<b>Determination Date:</b>	A specified date that is expected to be between 20 and 23 months following the trade date (to be set on the trade date)
<b>Stated Maturity Date:</b>	A specified date that is expected to be the second scheduled business day following the Determination Date (to be set on the trade date)
<b>Closing Level of the Underlier:</b>	The official closing level of the Underlier or any successor index published by the Underlier Sponsor on such trading day for that Underlier
<b>Business Day:</b>	As described under “Description of the Notes— Payment of Principal, Interest, and Other Amounts Payable— Business Day Convention” in the accompanying prospectus supplement
<b>Trading Day:</b>	As described under “Description of the Notes—Certain Terms of the Notes—Trading Days” in the accompanying product supplement
<b>Market Disruption Events:</b>	The following replaces in its entirety the section entitled “Description of the Notes—Market Disruption Events—Indices” in the accompanying product supplement: With respect to any given trading day, any of the following will be a Market Disruption Event with respect to the Underlier:

- a suspension, absence or material limitation of trading in Underlier Stocks (as defined below) constituting 20% or more, by weight, of the Underlier on their respective primary markets, in each case for more than two consecutive hours of trading or during the one-half hour before the close of trading in that market, as determined by the calculation agent in its sole discretion,
- a suspension, absence or material limitation of trading in option or futures contracts, if available, relating to the Underlier or to Underlier Stocks constituting 20% or more, by weight, of the Underlier in their respective primary markets for those contracts, in each case for more than two consecutive hours of trading or during the one-half hour before the close of trading in that market, as determined by the calculation agent in its sole discretion, or
- Underlier Stocks constituting 20% or more, by weight, of the Underlier, or option or futures contracts, if available, relating to the Underlier or to Underlier Stocks constituting 20% or more, by weight, of the Underlier do not trade on what were the respective primary markets for those Underlier Stocks or contracts, as determined by the calculation agent in its sole discretion,

and, in the case of any of these events, the calculation agent determines in its sole discretion that the event could materially interfere with the ability of us or any of our affiliates or a similarly situated party to unwind all or a material portion of a hedge that could be effected with respect to the notes. For more information about hedging by us and/or any of our affiliates, see "Supplemental Use of Proceeds" on page PS-20 of product supplement EQUITY-1. The following events will not be Market Disruption Events with respect to the Underlier:

- a limitation on the hours or numbers of days of trading, but only if the limitation results from an announced change in the regular business hours of the relevant market, and
- a decision to permanently discontinue trading in the option or futures contracts relating to the Underlier or to any Underlier Stock.

For this purpose, an "absence of trading" in the primary securities market on which an Underlier Stock, or on which option or futures contracts, if available, relating to the Underlier or to any Underlier Stock are traded will not include any time when that market is itself closed for trading under ordinary circumstances. In contrast, a suspension or limitation of trading in an Underlier Stock or in option or futures contracts, if available, relating to the Underlier or to any Underlier Stock in the primary market for that stock or those contracts, by reason of:

- a price change exceeding limits set by that market,
- an imbalance of orders relating to that Underlier Stock or those contracts, or
- a disparity in bid and ask quotes relating to that Underlier Stock or those contracts,

will constitute a suspension or material limitation of trading in the Underlier or those contracts in that market.

If, with respect to the Underlier, (i) a Market Disruption Event occurs on the Determination Date or (ii) the Determination Date is determined by the calculation agent not to be a Trading Day by reason of an extraordinary event, occurrence, declaration, or otherwise, the closing level of the Underlier for the Determination Date will be its closing level on the first scheduled Trading Day following the Determination Date. However, if (i) a Market Disruption Event occurs on the first scheduled Trading Day following the Determination Date or (ii) the first scheduled Trading Day following the Determination Date is determined by the calculation agent not to be a Trading Day by reason of an extraordinary event, occurrence, declaration or otherwise, the closing level of the Underlier for the Determination Date will be determined (or, if not determinable, estimated) by the calculation agent in a manner which the calculation agent considers commercially reasonable

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**Events Relating to the Determination Date:**

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under the circumstances on such first scheduled Trading Day following the Determination Date, regardless of the occurrence of a Market Disruption Event or non-Trading Day on that day.

**No Listing:** The notes will not be listed on any securities exchange or interdealer quotation system

**No Interest:** The notes do not bear interest

**No Redemption:** The notes will not be subject to any optional redemption right or price dependent redemption right

**Events of Default:** If an Event of Default, as defined in the senior indenture and in the section entitled "Description of Debt Securities of BofA Finance LLC — Events of Default and Rights of Acceleration; Covenant Breaches" on page 54 of the accompanying prospectus, with respect to 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 amount described under the caption "—Cash Settlement Amount" above, calculated as though the date of acceleration were the maturity date of the notes and as though the determination date were the second trading day prior to the date of acceleration. In case of a default in the payment of the notes, the notes will not bear a default interest rate.

**Calculation Agent:** BofAS, an affiliate of BofA Finance.

**Selling Agent:** BofAS

**CUSIP/ISIN:** 09711FDD6 / US09711FDD69

**Initial Estimated Value:** The initial estimated value range of the notes as of the date of this pricing supplement is set forth on the cover page of this pricing supplement. The final pricing supplement will set forth the initial estimated value of the notes as of the trade date.

Payments on the notes, including the Maximum Settlement Amount, depend on the credit risk of BofA Finance and BAC and on the performance of the Underlier. The economic terms of the notes are based on BAC's internal funding rate, which is the rate it would pay to borrow funds through the issuance of market-linked notes and the economic terms of certain related hedging arrangements it enters into. BAC's internal funding rate is typically lower than the rate it would pay when it issues conventional fixed or floating rate debt securities. This difference in funding rate, as well as the hedging-related charges described below, will reduce the economic terms of the notes to you and the initial estimated value of the notes. Due to these factors, the public offering price you pay to purchase the notes will be greater than the initial estimated value of the notes as of the trade date.

For more information about the initial estimated value and the structuring of the notes, see "Risk Factors" beginning on page PS-11 and "Structuring the Notes" on page PS-23.

*The trade date, issue date and other dates set forth above are subject to change, and will be set forth in the final pricing supplement relating to the notes.*

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### Supplemental Terms of the Notes

For purposes of the notes offered by this pricing supplement, all references to each of the following terms used in the accompanying product supplement will be deemed to refer to the corresponding term used in this pricing supplement, as set forth in the table below:

**Product Supplement Term**

pricing date  
maturity date  
calculation day  
principal amount  
Underlying  
Index

**Pricing Supplement Term**

trade date  
stated maturity date  
Determination Date  
face amount  
Underlier  
Underlier

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## HYPOTHETICAL EXAMPLES

The following table and chart are provided for purposes of illustration only. They should not be taken as an indication or prediction of future investment results and merely are intended to illustrate the impact that the various hypothetical levels of the Underlier on the Determination Date could have on the Cash Settlement Amount at maturity assuming all other variables remain constant.

The examples below are based on a range of Final Underlier Levels that are entirely hypothetical; the level of the Underlier on any day throughout the life of the notes, including the Final Underlier Level on the Determination Date, cannot be predicted. The Underlier has been highly volatile in the past — meaning that the level of the Underlier has changed considerably in relatively short periods — and its performance cannot be predicted for any future period.

The information in the following examples reflects hypothetical rates of return on the offered notes assuming that they are purchased on the original issue date at the face amount and held to the stated maturity date. If you sell your notes in a secondary market prior to the stated maturity date, your return will depend upon the market value of your notes at the time of sale, which may be affected by a number of factors that are not reflected in the table below, such as interest rates, the volatility of the Underlier, the creditworthiness of BofA Finance, as issuer, and the creditworthiness of BAC, as guarantor. In addition, the initial estimated value of your notes at the time the terms of your notes are set on the trade date (as determined by reference to pricing models used by us and our affiliates) will be less than the original price to public of your notes. For more information on the estimated value of your notes, see “Risk Factors — The Public Offering Price You Pay for the Notes Will Exceed Their Initial Estimated Value” on page PS-12 of this pricing supplement. The information in the table also reflects the key terms and assumptions in the box below.

<b>Key Terms and Assumptions</b>	
Face Amount	\$1,000
Upside Participation Rate	180.00%
Cap Level	108.41% of the Initial Underlier Level
Maximum Settlement Amount	\$1,151.38 per note
Buffer Level	87.50% of the Initial Underlier Level
Buffer Rate	Approximately 114.286%
Buffer Amount	12.50%
Neither a Market Disruption Event nor a non-trading day occurs on the originally scheduled Determination Date, and the Underlier is not discontinued on or prior to such date	
No change in or affecting any of the stocks included in the Underlier (the “Underlier Stocks”) or the method by which the Underlier Sponsor calculates the Underlier	
Notes purchased on original issue date at the face amount and held to the stated maturity date	

Moreover, we have not yet set the Initial Underlier Level that will serve as the baseline for determining the Underlier Return and the amount that we will pay on your notes, if any, at maturity. We will not do so until the trade date. As a result, the actual Initial Underlier Level may differ substantially from the level of the Underlier prior to the trade date and may be higher or lower than the actual closing level of the Underlier on that date.

For these reasons, the actual performance of the Underlier over the life of your notes, as well as the amount payable at maturity, if any, may bear little relation to the hypothetical examples shown below or to the historical levels of the Underlier shown elsewhere in this pricing supplement. For information about the historical levels of the Underlier during recent periods, see “The Underlier — Historical Closing Levels of the Underlier” below. Before investing in the offered notes, you should consult publicly available information to determine the levels of the Underlier between the date of this pricing supplement and the date of your purchase of the offered notes.

Also, the hypothetical examples shown below do not take into account the effects of applicable taxes. Because of the U.S. tax treatment applicable to your notes, tax liabilities could affect the after-tax rate of return on your notes to a comparatively greater extent than the after-tax return on the Underlier Stocks.

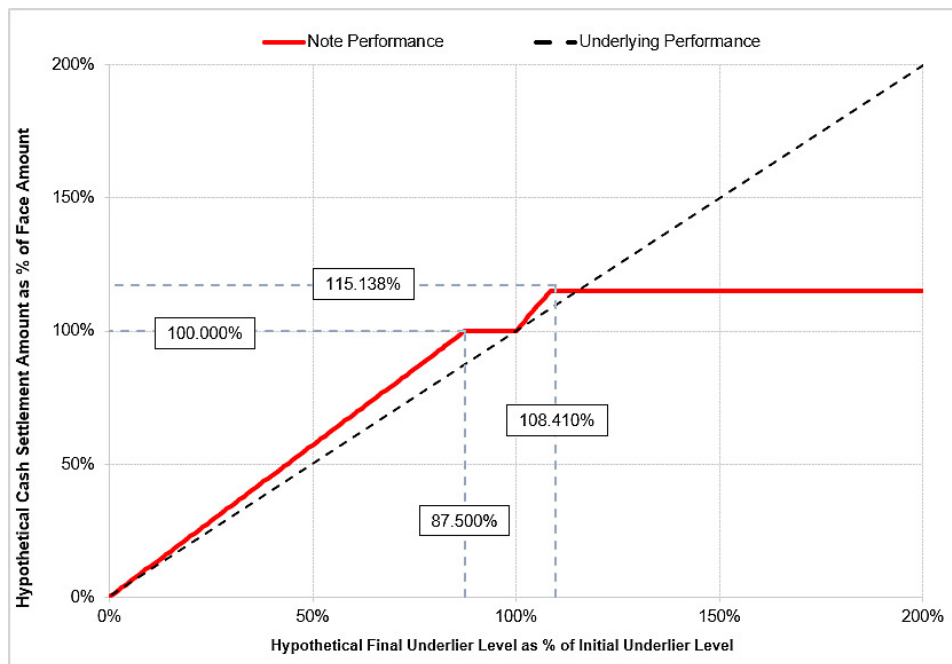


The levels in the left column of the table below represent hypothetical Final Underlier Levels and are expressed as percentages of the Initial Underlier Level. The amounts in the right column represent the hypothetical Cash Settlement Amounts, based on the corresponding hypothetical Final Underlier Level, and are expressed as percentages of the face amount of a note (rounded to the nearest one-thousandth of a percent). Thus, a hypothetical Cash Settlement Amount of 100.000% means that the value of the cash payment that we would deliver for each \$1,000 of the outstanding face amount of the offered notes on the stated maturity date would equal 100.000% of the face amount of a note, based on the corresponding hypothetical Final Underlier Level and the assumptions noted above.

Hypothetical Final Underlier Level (as Percentage of Initial Underlier Level)	Hypothetical Cash Settlement Amount (as Percentage of Face Amount)
150.000%	115.138%
140.000%	115.138%
130.000%	115.138%
120.000%	115.138%
<b>108.410%</b>	<b>115.138%</b>
105.000%	109.000%
104.000%	107.200%
102.000%	103.600%
<b>100.000%</b>	<b>100.000%</b>
96.000%	100.000%
<b>87.500%</b>	<b>100.000%</b>
85.000%	97.143%
80.000%	91.429%
75.000%	85.714%
50.000%	57.143%
25.000%	28.571%
<b>0.000%</b>	<b>0.000%</b>

If, for example, the Final Underlier Level were determined to be 25.000% of the Initial Underlier Level, the Cash Settlement Amount that we would deliver on your notes at maturity would be approximately 28.571% of the face amount of your notes (which would be equal to a Cash Settlement Amount of approximately \$285.71), as shown in the table above. As a result, if you purchased your notes on the original issue date at the face amount and held them to the stated maturity date, you would lose approximately 71.429% of your investment (if you purchased your notes at a premium to face amount you would lose a correspondingly higher percentage of your investment). If the Final Underlier Level were determined to be 0.000% of the Initial Underlier Level, you would lose your entire investment in the notes. In addition, if the Final Underlier Level were determined to be 140.000% of the Initial Underlier Level, the Cash Settlement Amount that we would deliver on your notes at maturity would be capped at the Maximum Settlement Amount of \$1,151.38, or 115.138% of each \$1,000 face amount of your notes, as shown in the table above. As a result, if you held your notes to the stated maturity date, you would not benefit from any increase in the Final Underlier Level of greater than 108.410% of the Initial Underlier Level.

The following chart shows a graphical illustration of the hypothetical Cash Settlement Amounts that we would pay on your notes on the stated maturity date, if the Final Underlier Level were any of the hypothetical levels shown on the horizontal axis. The hypothetical Cash Settlement Amounts in the chart are expressed as percentages of the face amount of your notes and the hypothetical Final Underlier Levels are expressed as percentages of the Initial Underlier Level. The chart shows that any hypothetical Final Underlier Level of less than 87.500% (the section left of the 87.500% marker on the horizontal axis) would result in a hypothetical Cash Settlement Amount of less than 100.000% of the face amount of your notes (the section below the 100.000% marker on the vertical axis) and, accordingly, in a loss of principal to the holder of the notes. The chart also shows that any hypothetical Final Underlier Level of greater than or equal to 108.410% of the Initial Underlier Level (the section right of the 108.410% marker on the horizontal axis) would result in a capped return on your investment.



The Cash Settlement Amounts shown above are entirely hypothetical; they are based on market prices for the Underlier Stocks that may not be achieved on the Determination Date and on assumptions that may prove to be erroneous. The actual market value of your notes on the stated maturity date or at any other time, including any time you may wish to sell your notes, may bear little relation to the hypothetical Cash Settlement Amounts shown above, and these amounts should not be viewed as an indication of the financial return on an investment in the offered notes. The hypothetical Cash Settlement Amounts on notes held to the stated maturity date in the examples above assume you purchased your notes at their face amount and have not been adjusted to reflect the actual price to public you pay for your notes. The return on your investment (whether positive or negative) in your notes will be affected by the amount you pay for your notes. If you purchase your notes for a price other than the face amount, the return on your investment will differ from, and may be significantly lower than, the hypothetical returns suggested by the above examples. Please read "Risk Factors — If You Purchase Your Notes at a Premium to Face Amount, the Return on Your Investment Will Be Lower Than the Return on Notes Purchased at Face Amount and the Impact of Certain Key Terms of the Notes Will Be Negatively Affected" below.

Payments on the notes are economically equivalent to the amounts that would be paid on a combination of other instruments. For example, payments on the notes are economically equivalent to a combination of an interest-bearing bond bought by the holder and one or more options entered into between the holder and us (with one or more implicit option premiums paid over time). The discussion in this paragraph does not modify or affect the terms of the notes or the U.S. federal income tax treatment of the notes, as described elsewhere in this pricing supplement.

*We cannot predict the actual Final Underlier Level or what the market value of your notes will be on any particular trading day, nor can we predict the relationship between the level of the Underlier and the market value of your notes at any time prior to the stated maturity date. The actual amount that you will receive, if any, at maturity and the rate of return on the offered notes will depend on the actual Initial Underlier Level, the Cap Level and the Maximum Settlement Amount, which we will set on the trade date, and the actual Final Underlier Level determined by the calculation agent as described above. Moreover, the assumptions on which the hypothetical returns are based may turn out to be inaccurate. Consequently, the amount of cash to be paid in respect of your notes, if any, on the stated maturity date may be very different from the information reflected in the table and chart above.*

## RISK FACTORS

*An investment in your notes is subject to the risks described below, as well as the risks and considerations described in the accompanying prospectus, prospectus supplement and product supplement. You should carefully review these risks and considerations as well as the terms of the notes described herein and in the accompanying prospectus, prospectus supplement and product supplement. Your notes are a riskier investment than ordinary debt securities. Also, your notes are not equivalent to investing directly in the Underlier Stocks, i.e., the stocks comprising the Underlier to which your notes are linked. You should carefully consider whether the offered notes are suited to your particular circumstances.*

### **Structure-related Risks**

#### **You May Lose Your Entire Investment in the Notes**

You can lose your entire investment in the notes. The cash payment on your notes, if any, on the stated maturity date will be based on the performance of the Underlier as measured from the Initial Underlier Level set on the trade date (which could be higher or lower than the actual closing level of the Underlier on that date) to the closing level on the Determination Date. If the Final Underlier Level is *less than* the Buffer Level, you will have a loss for each \$1,000 of the face amount of your notes equal to the *product* of (i) the Buffer Rate *times* (ii) the *sum* of the Underlier Return *plus* the Buffer Amount *times* (iii) \$1,000. Thus, you will be exposed on a leveraged basis to any decrease in the Final Underlier Level beyond the Buffer Amount, and the return on your investment will be negative. You may lose your entire investment in the notes, which would include any premium to face amount you paid when you purchased the notes.

Also, the market price of your notes prior to the stated maturity date may be significantly lower than the purchase price you pay for your notes. Consequently, if you sell your notes before the stated maturity date, you may receive far less than the amount of your investment in the notes.

#### **The Return on Your Notes Will Be Limited to the Maximum Settlement Amount**

Your ability to participate in any appreciation in the level of the Underlier over the life of your notes will be limited because of the Cap Level. The Maximum Settlement Amount will limit the Cash Settlement Amount you may receive for each of your notes at maturity, no matter how much the level of the Underlier increases beyond the Cap Level over the life of your notes. Accordingly, the amount payable for each of your notes may be significantly less than it would have been had you invested directly in the Underlier Stocks.

#### **Any Payment on the Notes Is Subject to Our Credit Risk and the Credit Risk of the Guarantor, and Actual or Perceived Changes in Our or the Guarantor's Creditworthiness Are Expected to Affect the Value of the Notes**

The notes are our senior unsecured debt securities. Any payment on the notes will be fully and unconditionally guaranteed by the Guarantor. The notes are not guaranteed by any entity other than the Guarantor. As a result, your receipt of the Cash Settlement Amount at maturity will be dependent upon our ability and the ability of the Guarantor to repay our obligations under the notes on the stated maturity date, regardless of the level of the Underlier. No assurance can be given as to what our financial condition or the financial condition of the Guarantor will be on the stated maturity date. If we and the Guarantor become unable to meet our respective financial obligations as they become due, you may not receive the amounts payable under the terms of the notes.

In addition, our credit ratings and the credit ratings of the Guarantor are assessments by ratings agencies of our respective abilities to pay our obligations. Consequently, our or the Guarantor's perceived creditworthiness and actual or anticipated decreases in our or the Guarantor's credit ratings or increases in the spread between the yield on our respective securities and the yield on U.S. Treasury securities (the "credit spread") prior to the stated 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 and the ability of the Guarantor to pay our respective obligations, such as the level of the Underlier, an improvement in our or the Guarantor's credit ratings will not reduce the other investment risks related to the notes.

#### **We Are a Finance Subsidiary and, as Such, Have No Independent Assets, Operations or Revenues**

We are a finance subsidiary of the Guarantor, have no operations other than those related to the issuance, administration and repayment of our debt securities that are guaranteed by the Guarantor, and are dependent upon the Guarantor and/or its other subsidiaries to meet our obligations under the notes in the ordinary course. However, we will have no assets available for distributions to holders of the notes if they make claims in respect of such notes in a bankruptcy, resolution or similar proceeding. Accordingly, any recoveries by such holders in respect of such

claims in any such proceeding will be limited to those available under the Guarantor's guarantee of such notes, and any obligations under that guarantee will rank equally in right of payment with all other unsecured and unsubordinated obligations of the Guarantor except obligations that are subject to any priorities or preferences by law, and senior in right of payment to the Guarantor's subordinated obligations. Therefore, our ability to make payments on the notes may be limited.

**The Amount Payable on Your Notes Is Not Linked to the Level of the Underlier at Any Time Other Than the Determination Date**

The Final Underlier Level will be the closing level of the Underlier on the Determination Date (subject to adjustment as described elsewhere in this pricing supplement). Therefore, if the closing level of the Underlier decreased significantly on the Determination Date, the Cash Settlement Amount for your notes may be significantly less than it would have been had the Cash Settlement Amount been linked to the closing level of the Underlier prior to such decrease in the level of the Underlier. Although the actual level of the Underlier on the stated maturity date or at other times during the life of your notes may be higher than the Final Underlier Level, you will not benefit from the closing level of the Underlier at any time other than on the Determination Date.

**Your Notes Will Not Bear Interest**

You will not receive any interest payments on your notes. As a result, even if the Cash Settlement Amount payable for your notes on the stated maturity date exceeds the face amount of your notes, the overall return you earn on your notes may be less than you would have earned by investing in a non-indexed debt security of comparable maturity that bears interest at a prevailing market rate.

**The Initial Underlier Level Will Be Determined at the Discretion of the Calculation Agent**

The Initial Underlier Level will be the closing level or an intraday level of the Underlier on the trade date, as determined by the calculation agent in its sole discretion. As such, the Initial Underlier Level may not be based on the closing level of the Underlier on the trade date. The Initial Underlier Level may be higher or lower than the actual closing level of the Underlier on the trade date.

**Valuation- and Market-related Risks**

**The Public Offering Price You Pay for the Notes Will Exceed Their Initial Estimated Value**

The range of initial estimated values of the notes that is provided in this preliminary pricing supplement, and the initial estimated value of the notes that will be provided in the final pricing supplement, are each an estimate only, determined as of a particular point in time by reference to our and our affiliates' pricing models. These pricing models consider certain assumptions and variables, including our credit spreads and those of the Guarantor, changes in the Guarantor's internal funding rate, mid-market terms on hedging transactions, expectations on interest rates, dividends and volatility, price-sensitivity analysis, and the expected term of the notes. These pricing models rely in part on certain forecasts about future events, which may prove to be incorrect.

The initial estimated value does not represent a minimum or maximum price at which we, the Guarantor, BofAS or any other entities would be willing to purchase your notes in any secondary market (if any exists) at any time. The value of your notes at any time after the date of this pricing supplement will vary based on many factors that cannot be predicted with accuracy, including the performance of the Underlier, our and the Guarantor's creditworthiness and changes in market conditions.

If you attempt to sell the notes prior to maturity, their market value may be lower than the price you paid for them and lower than their initial estimated value. This is due to, among other things, changes in the level of the Underlier, the Guarantor's internal funding rate, and the inclusion in the public offering price of the hedging-related charges, all as further described in "Structuring the Notes" below. These factors, together with various credit, market and economic factors over the term of the notes, are expected to reduce the price at which you may be able to sell the notes in any secondary market and will affect the value of the notes in complex and unpredictable ways.

**The Price of the Notes That May Be Paid by BofAS (and Which May Be Reflected on Customer Account Statements) May Be Higher Than the Then-Current Estimated Value of the Notes for a Limited Time Period After the Trade Date**

As agreed by BofAS and the distribution participants, for approximately a three-month period after the trade date, BofAS expects to offer to buy the notes in the secondary market at a price that will exceed the estimated value of the notes at that time. The amount of this excess, which represents a portion of the hedging-related charges expected to be realized by BofAS and the distribution participants over the term of the notes, will decline to zero on

a straight line basis over that three-month period. Accordingly, the estimated value of your notes during this initial three-month period may be lower than the value shown on your customer account statements. Thereafter, if BofAS buys or sells your notes, it will do so at prices that reflect the estimated value determined by reference to its pricing models at that time. Any price at any time after the trade date will be based on then-prevailing market conditions and other considerations, including the performance of the Underlier and the remaining term of the notes. However, none of us, the Guarantor, BofAS or any other party is obligated to purchase your notes at any price or at any time, and we cannot assure you that any party will purchase your notes at a price that equals or exceeds the initial estimated value of the notes.

**We Cannot Assure You that a Trading Market for Your Notes Will Ever Develop or Be Maintained**

We will not list the notes on any securities exchange. We cannot predict how the notes will trade in any secondary market or whether that market will be liquid or illiquid.

The development of a trading market for the notes will depend on the Guarantor's financial performance and other factors, including changes in the level of the Underlier. The number of potential buyers of your notes in any secondary market may be limited. We anticipate that BofAS will act as a market-maker for the notes, but none of us, the Guarantor or BofAS is required to do so. There is no assurance that any party will be willing to purchase your notes at any price in any secondary market. BofAS may discontinue its market-making activities as to the notes at any time. To the extent that BofAS engages in any market-making activities, it may bid for or offer the notes. Any price at which BofAS 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 the notes might otherwise trade in the market.

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

**We May Sell Additional Notes at a Different Issue Price**

At our sole option, we may decide to sell an additional aggregate face amount of the notes subsequent to the date of this pricing supplement. The price to public of the notes in the subsequent sale may differ substantially (higher or lower) from the original price to public you paid as provided on the cover of this pricing supplement.

**If You Purchase Your Notes at a Premium to Face Amount, the Return on Your Investment Will Be Lower Than the Return on Notes Purchased at Face Amount and the Impact of Certain Key Terms of the Notes Will Be Negatively Affected**

The Cash Settlement Amount will not be adjusted based on the price to public you pay for the notes. If you purchase notes at a price that differs from the face amount of the notes, then the return on your investment in such notes held to the stated maturity date will differ from, and may be substantially less than, the return on notes purchased at face amount. If you purchase your notes at a premium to face amount and hold them to the stated maturity date, the return on your investment in the notes will be lower than it would have been had you purchased the notes at face amount or a discount to face amount. In addition, the impact of the Buffer Level and the Cap Level on the return on your investment will depend upon the price you pay for your notes relative to face amount. For example, if you purchase your notes at a premium to face amount, the Cap Level will only permit a lower positive return in your investment in the notes than would have been the case for notes purchased at face amount or a discount to face amount. Similarly, the Buffer Level, while still providing some protection for the return on the notes, will allow a greater percentage decrease in your investment in the notes than would have been the case for notes purchased at face amount or a discount to face amount.

**If the Level of the Underlier Changes, the Market Value of Your Notes May Not Change in the Same Manner**

Your notes may trade quite differently from the performance of the Underlier. Changes in the levels of the Underlier may not result in a comparable change in the market value of your notes. We discuss some of the reasons for this disparity under " — The Market Value of the Notes Will Be Affected by Various Factors That Interrelate in Complex Ways, and Their Market Value May Be Less Than the Face Amount" below.

**Trading and Hedging Activities by Us, the Guarantor and Any of Our Other Affiliates, including BofAS, May Affect Your Return on the Notes and Their Market Value**

We, the Guarantor and our other affiliates, including BofAS, and any other distributors of the notes may buy or sell the Underlier Stocks, or futures or options contracts on the Underlier or the Underlier Stocks, or other listed or over-

the-counter derivative instruments linked to the Underlier or the Underlier Stocks. We, the Guarantor and any of our other affiliates, including BofAS, and any other distributors of the notes may execute such purchases or sales for our own or their own accounts, for business reasons, or in connection with hedging our obligations under the notes. These transactions could adversely affect the value of these securities and, in turn, the value of the Underlier in a manner that could be adverse to your investment in the notes. On or before the applicable trade date, any purchases or sales by us, the Guarantor or other entities (including for the purpose of hedging some or all of our anticipated exposure in connection with the notes) may affect the level of the Underlier or the Underlier Stocks. Consequently, the level of the Underlier or the prices of the Underlier Stocks may change subsequent to the trade date of an issue of the notes, which may adversely affect the market value of the notes.

We, the Guarantor or one or more of our other affiliates, including BofAS, and any other distributors of the notes may also engage in hedging activities that could affect the level of the Underlier on the trade date. In addition, these hedging activities, including the unwinding of a hedge, may decrease the market value of your notes prior to maturity, and may affect the amounts to be paid on the notes. We, the Guarantor or one or more of our other affiliates, including BofAS, and any other distributors of the notes may purchase or otherwise acquire a long or short position in the notes and may hold or resell the notes. For example, BofAS may enter into these transactions in connection with any market making activities in which they engage. We cannot assure you that these activities will not adversely affect the level of the Underlier, the market value of your notes prior to maturity or the amounts payable on the notes.

**The Market Value of the Notes Will Be Affected by Various Factors That Interrelate in Complex Ways, and Their Market Value May Be Less Than the Face Amount**

If you wish to liquidate your investment in the notes prior to maturity, your only option would be to sell them in the secondary market. At that time, there may be an illiquid market for your notes or no market at all. Even if you were able to sell your notes, there are many factors outside of our control that may affect their market value, such as the level and the volatility of the Underlier, economic and other conditions generally, interest rates, dividend yields on the securities represented by the Underlier, exchange rate movements and volatility, our and the Guarantor's financial condition and creditworthiness, and time to maturity. The impact of any one factor may be offset or magnified by the effect of another factor. These factors may interact with each other in complex and unpredictable ways. See "Risk Factors—Valuation- and Market-related Risks—The Notes are not designed to be short-term trading instruments, and 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 the principal amount" beginning on page PS-10 of product supplement EQUITY-1.

**Conflict-related Risks**

**Trading and Hedging Activities by Us, the Guarantor and Any of Our Other Affiliates, Including BofAS, May Create Conflicts of Interest With You and May Affect Your Return on the Notes and Their Market Value.**

We, the Guarantor or one or more of our other affiliates, including BofAS, and any other distributors of the notes may engage in trading activities related to the Underlier and to the Underlier Stocks that are not for your account or on your behalf. We, the Guarantor or one or more of our other affiliates, including BofAS, and any other distributors of the notes also may issue or underwrite other financial instruments with returns based upon the Underlier. These trading and other business activities may present a conflict of interest between your interest in the notes and the interests we, the Guarantor and our other affiliates, including BofAS, and any other distributors of the notes may have in our or their proprietary accounts, in facilitating transactions, including block trades, for our or their other customers, and in accounts under our or their management. These trading and other business activities, if they influence the level of the Underlier or secondary trading in your notes, could be adverse to your interests as a beneficial owner of the notes.

We, the Guarantor or one or more of our other affiliates, including BofAS, expect to enter into arrangements or adjust or close out existing transactions to hedge our obligations under the notes. We, the Guarantor or our other affiliates, including BofAS, and any other distributors of the notes 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 the notes. We may enter into such hedging arrangements with one of our affiliates. Our affiliates or such other distributors may enter into additional hedging transactions with other parties relating to the notes and the Underlier. 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 could also result in a loss. We and these other entities will price these hedging transactions with the intent to realize a profit, regardless of whether the value of the notes increases or decreases. Any profit in connection with such hedging activities will be in addition to any other compensation that we or other parties receive for the sale of the notes, which creates an additional incentive to sell the notes to you.

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**There May Be Potential Conflicts of Interest Involving the Calculation Agent, Which Is an Affiliate of Ours. We Have the Right to Appoint and Remove the Calculation Agent**

BofAS will be the calculation agent for the notes and, as such, will make a variety of determinations relating to the notes, including the amounts that will be paid on the notes. Under some circumstances, these duties could result in a conflict of interest between its 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. The calculation agent will be required to carry out its duties in good faith and use its reasonable judgment. However, because we expect that the Guarantor will control the calculation agent, potential conflicts of interest could arise.

**Underlying-related Risks**

**The Probability that the Final Underlier Level Will Be Less Than the Buffer Level Will Depend in Part on the Volatility of the Underlier**

"Volatility" refers to the frequency and magnitude of changes in the level of the Underlier. The greater the expected volatility with respect to the Underlier on the trade date, the higher the expectation as of the trade date that the Final Underlier Level could be less than the Buffer Level, indicating a higher expected risk of loss on the notes. The terms of the notes are set, in part, based on expectations about the volatility of the Underlier as of the trade date. The volatility of the Underlier can change significantly over the term of the notes. The level of the Underlier could fall sharply, which could result in a significant loss of principal. You should be willing to accept the downside market risk of the Underlier and the potential to lose a significant amount of your principal at maturity.

**You Have No Shareholder Rights or Rights to Receive Any Underlier Stock**

Investing in your notes will not make you a holder of any of the Underlier Stocks. Neither you nor any other holder or owner of your notes will have any rights with respect to the Underlier Stocks, including voting rights, any right to receive dividends or other distributions, any rights to make a claim against the Underlier Stocks or any other rights of a holder of the Underlier Stocks. Your notes will be paid in cash and you will have no right to receive delivery of any Underlier Stocks.

**The Publisher of the Underlier May Adjust the Underlier in a Way that Affects Its Levels, and the Publisher Has No Obligation to Consider Your Interests**

The publisher of the Underlier can add, delete, or substitute the components included in the Underlier or make other methodological changes that could change its level. A new security included in the Underlier may perform significantly better or worse than the replaced security, and the performance will impact the level of the Underlier. Additionally, the publisher of the Underlier may alter, discontinue, or suspend calculation or dissemination of the Underlier. Any of these actions could adversely affect the value of your notes. The publisher of the Underlier will have no obligation to consider your interests in calculating or revising the Underlier.

**Tax-related Risks**

**The U.S. Federal Income Tax Consequences of an Investment in the Notes Are Uncertain, and May Be Adverse to a Holder of the Notes**

No statutory, judicial, or administrative authority directly addresses the characterization of the notes or securities similar to the notes for U.S. federal income tax purposes. As a result, significant aspects of the U.S. federal income tax consequences of an investment in the notes are not certain. Under the terms of the notes, you will have agreed with us to treat the notes as single financial contracts, as described below under "U.S. Federal Income Tax Summary—General." If the Internal Revenue Service (the "IRS") were successful in asserting an alternative characterization for the notes, the timing and character of gain 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.

## THE UNDERLIER

All disclosures contained in this pricing supplement regarding the Underlier, including, without limitation, its make-up, method of calculation, and changes in its components, have been derived from publicly available sources. The information reflects the policies of, and is subject to change by, S&P Dow Jones Indices LLC (“SPDJ” or the “Underlier Sponsor”). The Underlier Sponsor, which licenses the copyright and all other rights to the Underlier, has no obligation to continue to publish, and may discontinue publication of, the Underlier. The consequences of the Underlier Sponsor discontinuing publication of the applicable Underlier are discussed in “Description of the Notes—Discontinuance of an Index” in the accompanying product supplement. None of us, the Guarantor, the calculation agent, or BofAS accepts any responsibility for the calculation, maintenance or publication of the Underlier or any successor index.

None of us, the Guarantor, BofAS or any of our other affiliates makes any representation to you as to the future performance of the Underlier.

You should make your own investigation into the Underlier.

### The S&P 500<sup>®</sup> Index

The S&P 500<sup>®</sup> Index (Bloomberg symbol, “SPX”) includes a representative sample of 500 companies in leading industries of the U.S. economy. The 500 companies are not the 500 largest companies listed on the NYSE and not all 500 companies are listed on the NYSE. S&P chooses companies for inclusion in the S&P 500<sup>®</sup> Index with an aim of achieving a distribution by broad industry groupings that approximates the distribution of these groupings in the common stock population of the U.S. domiciled equity market. Although the S&P 500<sup>®</sup> Index contains 500 constituent companies, at any one time it may contain greater than 500 constituent trading lines since some companies included in the S&P 500<sup>®</sup> Index prior to July 31, 2017 may be represented by multiple share class lines in the S&P 500<sup>®</sup> Index. The S&P 500<sup>®</sup> Index is calculated, maintained and published by S&P and is part of the S&P Dow Jones Indices family of indices. Additional information about the S&P 500<sup>®</sup> Index (including the sector weights) is available on the following websites: [spglobal.com/spdji/en/indices/equity/sp-500](http://spglobal.com/spdji/en/indices/equity/sp-500) and [spglobal.com](http://spglobal.com). We are not incorporating by reference the websites or any material they include in this pricing supplement.

S&P intends for the S&P 500<sup>®</sup> Index to provide a performance benchmark for the large-cap U.S. domiciled equity markets. Constituent changes are made on an as-needed basis and there is no schedule for constituent reviews. Index additions and deletions are announced with at least three business days advance notice. Less than three business days’ notice may be given at the discretion of the S&P Index Committee. Relevant criteria for additions to the S&P 500<sup>®</sup> Index that are employed by S&P include: the company proposed for addition should have an unadjusted company market capitalization of \$18.0 billion or more and a security level float-adjusted market capitalization of at least 50% of such threshold (for spin-offs, eligibility is determined using when-issued prices, if available); the float-adjusted liquidity ratio of the stock (defined as the annual dollar value traded divided by the float-adjusted market capitalization) should be greater than or equal to 0.75 at the time of the addition to the S&P 500<sup>®</sup> Index and the stock should trade a minimum of 250,000 shares in each of the six months leading up to the evaluation date (current constituents have no minimum requirement), where the annual dollar value traded is calculated as the average closing price multiplied by the historical volume over the 365 calendar days prior to the evaluation date (reduced to the available trading period for IPOs, spin-offs or public companies considered to be U.S. domiciled for index purposes that do not have 365 calendar days of trading history on a U.S. exchange); the company must be a U.S.-domiciled company (characterized as a company that satisfies U.S. Securities Exchange Act’s periodic reporting obligations by filing certain required forms for domestic issuers (e.g., Form 10-K annual reports, Form 10-Q quarterly reports and Form 8-K current reports, among others) and with a primary listing of the common stock on the NYSE, NYSE Arca, NYSE American (formerly NYSE MKT), Nasdaq Global Select Market, Nasdaq Global Market, Nasdaq Capital Market, Cboe BZX (formerly Bats BZX), Cboe BYX (formerly Bats BYX), Cboe EDGA (formerly Bats EDGA) or Cboe EDGX (formerly Bats EDGX) (each, an “eligible exchange”)); the proposed constituent has an investable weight factor (“IWF”) of 10% or more; the inclusion of the company will contribute to sector balance in the S&P 500<sup>®</sup> Index relative to sector balance in the market in the relevant market capitalization range; financial viability (the sum of the most recent four consecutive quarters’ Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) earnings (net income excluding discontinued operations) should be positive as should the most recent quarter); and, for IPOs, the company must be traded on an eligible exchange for at least twelve months (for former SPACs, S&P considers the de-SPAC transaction to be an event equivalent to an IPO, and 12 months of trading post the de-SPAC event are required before a former SPAC can be considered for inclusion in the S&P 500<sup>®</sup> Index; spin-offs or in-specie distributions from existing constituents do not need to be traded on an eligible exchange for twelve months prior to their inclusion in the S&P 500<sup>®</sup> Index). In addition, constituents of the S&P MidCap 400<sup>®</sup> Index and the S&P SmallCap 600<sup>®</sup> Index can be added to the S&P 500<sup>®</sup> Index provided they meet the unadjusted company level market capitalization eligibility criteria for the S&P 500<sup>®</sup> Index. Migrations from the S&P MidCap 400<sup>®</sup> Index or the S&P SmallCap 600<sup>®</sup> Index do not need to meet the



financial viability, liquidity, or 50% of the S&P 500<sup>®</sup> Index's unadjusted company level minimum market capitalization threshold criteria. Further, constituents of the S&P Total Market Index Ex S&P Composite 1500 (which includes all eligible U.S. common equities except for those included in the S&P 500<sup>®</sup> Index, the S&P MidCap 400<sup>®</sup> Index and the S&P SmallCap 600<sup>®</sup> Index) that acquire a constituent of the S&P 500<sup>®</sup> Index, the S&P MidCap 400<sup>®</sup> Index or the S&P SmallCap 600<sup>®</sup> Index that do not fully meet all of the eligibility criteria may still be added to the S&P 500<sup>®</sup> Index at the discretion of the Index Committee if the merger consideration includes the acquiring company issuing stock to target company shareholders, and the Index Committee determines that the addition could minimize turnover and enhance the representativeness of the S&P 500<sup>®</sup> Index as a market benchmark. Certain types of organizational structures and securities are always excluded, including, but not limited to, business development companies (BDCs), limited partnerships, master limited partnerships, limited liability companies (LLCs), OTC bulletin board issues, closed-end funds, ETFs, ETNs, royalty trusts, tracking stocks, special purpose acquisition companies (SPACs), preferred stock and convertible preferred stock, unit trusts, equity warrants, convertible bonds, investment trusts, rights and American depository receipts (ADRs). Stocks are deleted from the S&P 500<sup>®</sup> Index when they are involved in mergers, acquisitions or significant restructurings such that they no longer meet the inclusion criteria, and when they substantially violate one or more of the addition criteria. Stocks that are delisted or moved to the pink sheets or the bulletin board are removed, and those that experience a trading halt may be retained or removed in S&P's discretion. S&P evaluates additions and deletions with a view to maintaining S&P 500<sup>®</sup> Index continuity.

For constituents included in the S&P 500<sup>®</sup> Index prior to July 31, 2017, all publicly listed multiple share class lines are included separately in the S&P 500<sup>®</sup> Index, subject to, in the case of any such share class line, that share class line satisfying the liquidity and float criteria discussed above and subject to certain exceptions. It is possible that one listed share class line of a company may be included in the S&P 500<sup>®</sup> Index while a second listed share class line of the same company is excluded. For companies that issue a second publicly traded share class to index share class holders, the newly issued share class line is considered for inclusion if the event is mandatory and the market capitalization of the distributed class is not considered to be de minimis.

As of July 31, 2017, companies with multiple share class lines are no longer eligible for inclusion in the S&P 500<sup>®</sup> Index. Only common shares are considered when determining whether a company has a multiple share class structure. Constituents of the S&P 500<sup>®</sup> Index prior to July 31, 2017 with multiple share class lines will be grandfathered in and continue to be included in the S&P 500<sup>®</sup> Index. If an S&P 500<sup>®</sup> Index constituent reorganizes into a multiple share class line structure, that company will be reviewed for continued inclusion in the S&P 500<sup>®</sup> Index at the discretion of the S&P Index Committee.

### **Calculation of the S&P 500<sup>®</sup> Index**

The S&P 500<sup>®</sup> Index is calculated using a base-weighted aggregative methodology. This discussion describes the "price return" calculation of the S&P 500<sup>®</sup> Index. The applicable pricing supplement will describe the calculation if the underlier for your securities is not the price return calculation. The value of the S&P 500<sup>®</sup> Index on any day for which an index value is published is determined by a fraction, the numerator of which is the aggregate of the market price of each stock in the S&P 500<sup>®</sup> Index times the number of shares of such stock included in the S&P 500<sup>®</sup> Index, and the denominator of which is the divisor. The "market value" of any index stock is the product of the market price per share of that stock times the number of the then-outstanding shares of such index stock that are then included in the S&P 500<sup>®</sup> Index.

The S&P 500<sup>®</sup> Index is also sometimes called a "base-weighted aggregative index" because of its use of a divisor. The "divisor" is a value calculated by S&P that is intended to maintain conformity in index values over time and is adjusted for all changes in the index stocks' share capital after the "base date." The level of the S&P 500<sup>®</sup> Index reflects the total market value of all index stocks relative to the index's base date of 1941-43.

In addition, the S&P 500<sup>®</sup> Index is float-adjusted, meaning that the share counts used in calculating the S&P 500<sup>®</sup> Index reflect only those shares available to investors rather than all of a company's outstanding shares. S&P seeks to exclude shares held by long-term, strategic shareholders concerned with the control of a company, a group that generally includes the following: officers and directors and related individuals whose holdings are publicly disclosed, private equity, venture capital, special equity firms, asset managers and insurance companies with board of director representation, publicly traded companies that hold shares in another company, holders of restricted shares (except for shares held as part of a lock-up agreement), company-sponsored employee share plans/trusts, defined contribution plans/savings, investment plans, foundations or family trusts associated with the company, government entities at all levels (except government retirement or pension funds), sovereign wealth funds and any individual person listed as a 5% or greater stakeholder in a company as reported in regulatory filings (collectively, "strategic holders"). To this end, S&P excludes all share-holdings (other than depository banks, pension funds (including government pension and retirement funds), mutual funds, exchange traded fund providers, investment funds, hedge funds, asset managers that do not have direct board of director representation (including stakeholders

who may have the right to appoint a board of director member but choose not to do so, stakeholders who have exercised a right to appoint a board of director "observer" even if that observer is employed by the stakeholder and stakeholders who have exercised a right to appoint an independent director who is not employed by the stakeholder), investment funds of insurance companies and independent foundations not associated with the company) with a position greater than 5% of the outstanding shares of a company from the float-adjusted share count to be used in S&P 500<sup>®</sup> Index calculations.

The exclusion is accomplished by calculating an IWF for each stock that is part of the numerator of the float-adjusted index fraction described above:

$$\text{IWF} = (\text{available float shares})/(\text{total shares outstanding})$$

where available float shares is defined as total shares outstanding less shares held by strategic holders. In most cases, an IWF is reported to the nearest one percentage point. For companies with multiple share class lines, a separate IWF is calculated for each share class line.

### ***Maintenance of the S&P 500<sup>®</sup> Index***

In order to keep the S&P 500<sup>®</sup> Index comparable over time S&P engages in an index maintenance process. The S&P 500<sup>®</sup> Index maintenance process involves changing the constituents as discussed above, and also involves maintaining quality assurance processes and procedures, adjusting the number of shares used to calculate the S&P 500<sup>®</sup> Index, monitoring and completing the adjustments for company additions and deletions, adjusting for stock splits and stock dividends and adjusting for other corporate actions. In addition to its daily governance of indices and maintenance of the S&P 500<sup>®</sup> Index methodology, at least once within any 12 month period, the S&P Index Committee reviews the S&P 500<sup>®</sup> Index methodology to ensure the S&P 500<sup>®</sup> Index continues to achieve the stated objective, and that the data and methodology remain effective. The S&P Index Committee may at times consult with investors, market participants, security issuers included in or potentially included in the S&P 500<sup>®</sup> Index, or investment and financial experts.

*Divisor Adjustments.* The two types of adjustments primarily used by S&P are divisor adjustments and adjustments to the number of shares (including float adjustments) used to calculate the S&P 500<sup>®</sup> Index. If a corporate event requires an adjustment to the divisor, that event has the effect of altering the market value of the affected index stock and consequently of altering the aggregate market value of the index stocks following the event. In order that the level of the S&P 500<sup>®</sup> Index not be affected by the altered market value (which could be an increase or decrease) of the affected index stock, S&P generally derives a new divisor by dividing the post-event market value of the index stocks by the pre-event index value, which has the effect of reducing the S&P 500<sup>®</sup> Index's post-event value to the pre-event level.

*Changes to the Number of Shares of a Constituent.* The index maintenance process also involves tracking the changes in the number of shares included for each of the index companies. Changes as a result of mandatory events, such as mergers or acquisition driven share/IWF changes, stock splits and mandatory distributions are not subject to a minimum threshold for implementation and are implemented when the transaction occurs. At S&P's discretion, however, de minimis merger and acquisition changes may be accumulated and implemented with the updates made with the quarterly share updates. Material share/IWF changes resulting from certain non-mandatory corporate actions follow the accelerated implementation rule. Non-material share/IWF changes are implemented quarterly.

*IWF Updates.* Accelerated implementation for events less than \$1 billion will include an adjustment to the company's IWF only to the extent that such an IWF change helps the new float share total mimic the shares available in the offering. To minimize unnecessary turnover, these IWF changes do not need to meet any minimum threshold requirement for implementation. Any IWF change resulting in an IWF of 0.96 or greater is rounded up to 1.00 at the next annual IWF review. IWF changes will only be made at the quarterly review if the change represents at least 5% of total current shares outstanding and is related to a single corporate action that did not qualify for the accelerated implementation rule, regardless of whether there is an associated share change. Quarterly share change events resulting from the conversion of derivative securities, acquisitions of private companies, or acquisitions of non-index companies that do not trade on a major exchange are considered to be available to investors unless there is explicit information stating that the new owner is a strategic holder. Other than the situations described above, please note that IWF changes are only made at the annual IWF review.

### Historical Closing Levels of the Underlier

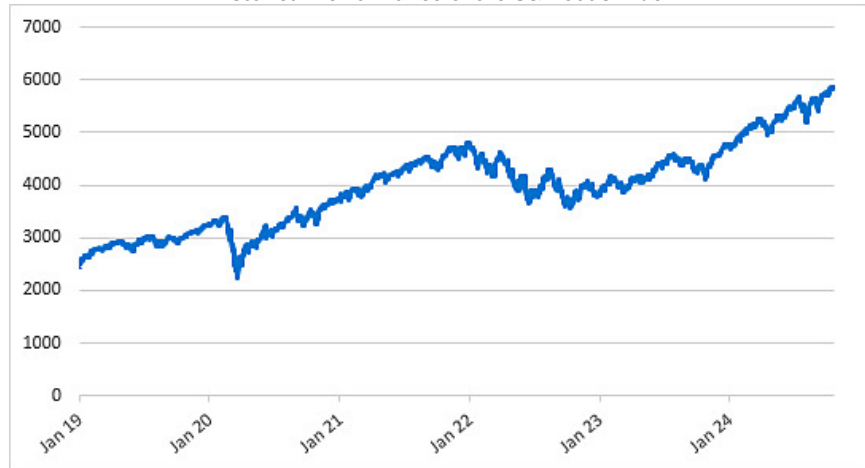
The closing level of the Underlier has fluctuated in the past and may, in the future, experience significant fluctuations. **In particular, the underliers have recently experienced extreme and unusual volatility.** Any historical upward or downward trend in the closing level of the Underlier during the period shown below is not an indication that such Underlier is more or less likely to increase or decrease at any time during the life of your notes.

**You should not take the historical levels of the Underlier as an indication of its future performance of an underlier, including because of the recent volatility described above.** We cannot give you any assurance that the future performance of any Underlier or the Underlier Stocks will result in you receiving the outstanding face amount of your notes on the stated maturity date.

Neither we nor any of our affiliates make any representation to you as to the performance of the Underlier. Before investing in the offered notes, you should consult publicly available information to determine the levels of the Underlier between the date of this pricing supplement and the date of your purchase of the offered notes **and, given the recent volatility described above, you should pay particular attention to recent levels of the underliers.** The actual performance of the Underlier over the life of the offered notes, as well as the Cash Settlement Amount, may bear little relation to the historical closing levels shown below.

The graph below shows the daily historical closing levels of the Underlier from January 2, 2019 through October 21, 2024. As a result, the following graphs do not reflect the global financial crisis which began in 2008, which had a materially negative impact on the price of most equity securities and, as a result, the level of most equity indices. We obtained the closing levels in the graph below from Bloomberg Financial Services, without independent verification.

Historical Performance of the S&P 500® Index



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S&P DOW JONES INDICES DO NOT GUARANTEE THE ADEQUACY, ACCURACY, TIMELINESS AND/OR THE COMPLETENESS OF THE INDEX OR ANY DATA RELATED THERETO OR ANY COMMUNICATION, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO, ORAL OR WRITTEN COMMUNICATION (INCLUDING ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS) WITH RESPECT THERETO. S&P DOW JONES INDICES SHALL NOT BE SUBJECT TO ANY DAMAGES OR LIABILITY FOR ANY ERRORS, OMISSIONS, OR DELAYS THEREIN. S&P DOW JONES INDICES MAKE NO EXPRESS OR IMPLIED WARRANTIES, AND EXPRESSLY DISCLAIM ALL WARRANTIES, OF MERCHANTABILITY OR FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE OR USE OR AS TO RESULTS TO BE OBTAINED BY US, BAC, MLPF&S, BOFAS, HOLDERS OF THE NOTES, OR ANY OTHER PERSON OR ENTITY FROM THE USE OF THE INDEX OR WITH RESPECT TO ANY DATA RELATED THERETO. WITHOUT LIMITING ANY OF THE FOREGOING, IN NO EVENT WHATSOEVER SHALL S&P DOW JONES INDICES BE LIABLE FOR ANY INDIRECT, SPECIAL, INCIDENTAL, PUNITIVE, OR CONSEQUENTIAL DAMAGES INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO, LOSS OF PROFITS, TRADING LOSSES, LOST TIME OR GOODWILL, EVEN IF THEY HAVE BEEN ADVISED OF THE POSSIBILITY OF SUCH DAMAGES, WHETHER IN CONTRACT, TORT, STRICT LIABILITY, OR OTHERWISE. THERE ARE NO THIRD PARTY BENEFICIARIES OF ANY AGREEMENTS OR ARRANGEMENTS BETWEEN S&P DOW JONES INDICES AND MLPF&S, OTHER THAN THE LICENSORS OF S&P DOW JONES INDICES.

## SUPPLEMENTAL PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION—CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

BofA Finance expects to agree to sell to BofAS, and BofAS expects to agree to purchase from BofA Finance, the aggregate face amount of the offered notes specified on the front cover of this pricing supplement. BofAS proposes initially to offer the notes to the public at the price to public set forth on the cover page of this pricing supplement.

BofAS or one of its affiliates will also pay a fee to iCapital Markets LLC, a broker-dealer in which an affiliate of Goldman Sachs & Co. LLC, who is acting as a dealer in connection with the distribution of the notes, holds an indirect minority equity interest, for services it is providing in connection with this offering.

We expect to deliver the notes against payment therefor in New York, New York on \_\_\_\_\_, 2024, which is expected to be the fifth scheduled business day following the trade date. Under Rule 15c6-1 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, trades in the secondary market generally are required to settle in one business day, unless the parties to any such trade expressly agree otherwise. Accordingly, purchasers who wish to trade the notes on any date prior to one business day before delivery will be required to specify alternative settlement arrangements to prevent a failed settlement.

BofAS, a broker-dealer affiliate of ours, is a member of the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority, Inc. (“FINRA”) and will participate as selling agent in the distribution of the notes. Accordingly, the offering of the notes will conform to the requirements of FINRA Rule 5121. BofAS may not make sales in this offering to any of its discretionary accounts without the prior written approval of the account holder.

BofAS and any of our other broker-dealer affiliates, may use this pricing supplement, and the accompanying product supplement, prospectus supplement and prospectus for offers and sales in secondary market transactions and market-making transactions in the notes. However, they are not obligated to engage in such secondary market transactions and/or market-making transactions. The selling agent may act as principal or agent in these transactions, and any such sales will be made at prices related to prevailing market conditions at the time of the sale.

As agreed by BofAS and the distribution participants, for approximately a three-month period after the trade date, BofAS expects to offer to buy the notes in the secondary market at a price that will exceed the estimated value of the notes at that time; the amount of this excess will decline on a straight line basis over that period. Thereafter, if BofAS buys or sells your notes, it will do so at prices that reflect the estimated value determined by reference to its pricing models at that time. Any price at any time after the trade date will be based on then-prevailing market conditions and other considerations, including the performance of the Underlier and the remaining term of the notes. However, none of us, the Guarantor, BofAS or any other party is obligated to purchase your notes at any price or at any time, and we cannot assure you that any party will purchase your notes at a price that equals or exceeds the initial estimated value of the notes.

Any price that BofAS may pay to repurchase the notes will depend upon then prevailing market conditions, the creditworthiness of us and the Guarantor, and transaction costs. At certain times, this price may be higher than or lower than the initial estimated value of the notes.

### European Economic Area and United Kingdom

None of this pricing supplement, the accompanying product supplement, the accompanying prospectus or the accompanying prospectus supplement is a prospectus for the purposes of the Prospectus Regulation (as defined below). This pricing supplement, the accompanying product supplement, the accompanying prospectus and the accompanying prospectus supplement have been prepared on the basis that any offer of notes in any Member State of the European Economic Area (the “EEA”) or in the United Kingdom (each, a “Relevant State”) will only be made to a legal entity which is a qualified investor under the Prospectus Regulation (“Qualified Investors”). Accordingly any person making or intending to make an offer in that Relevant State of notes which are the subject of the offering contemplated in this pricing supplement, the accompanying product supplement, the accompanying prospectus and the accompanying prospectus supplement may only do so with respect to Qualified Investors. Neither BofA Finance nor BAC has authorized, nor does it authorize, the making of any offer of notes other than to Qualified Investors. The expression “Prospectus Regulation” means Regulation (EU) 2017/1129.

**PROHIBITION OF SALES TO EEA AND UNITED KINGDOM RETAIL INVESTORS** – The notes are not intended to be offered, sold or otherwise made available to and should not be offered, sold or otherwise made available to any retail investor in the EEA or in the United Kingdom. For these purposes: (a) a retail investor means a person who is one (or more) of: (i) a retail client as defined in point (11) of Article 4(1) of Directive 2014/65/EU, as amended (“MiFID II”); or (ii) a customer within the meaning of Directive (EU) 2016/97 (the Insurance Distribution

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Directive) where that customer would not qualify as a professional client as defined in point (10) of Article 4(1) of MiFID II; or (iii) not a qualified investor as defined in the Prospectus Regulation; and (b) the expression “offer” includes the communication in any form and by any means of sufficient information on the terms of the offer and the notes to be offered so as to enable an investor to decide to purchase or subscribe for the notes. Consequently no key information document required by Regulation (EU) No 1286/2014, as amended (the “PRIIPs Regulation”) for offering or selling the notes or otherwise making them available to retail investors in the EEA or in the United Kingdom has been prepared and therefore offering or selling the notes or otherwise making them available to any retail investor in the EEA or in the United Kingdom may be unlawful under the PRIIPs Regulation.

#### **United Kingdom**

The communication of this pricing supplement, the accompanying product supplement, the accompanying prospectus supplement, the accompanying prospectus and any other document or materials relating to the issue of the notes offered hereby is not being made, and such documents and/or materials have not been approved, by an authorized person for the purposes of section 21 of the United Kingdom’s Financial Services and Markets Act 2000, as amended (the “FSMA”). Accordingly, such documents and/or materials are not being distributed to, and must not be passed on to, the general public in the United Kingdom. The communication of such documents and/or materials as a financial promotion is only being made to those persons in the United Kingdom who have professional experience in matters relating to investments and who fall within the definition of investment professionals (as defined in Article 19(5) of the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 (Financial Promotion) Order 2005, as amended (the “Financial Promotion Order”), or who fall within Article 49(2)(a) to (d) of the Financial Promotion Order, or who are any other persons to whom it may otherwise lawfully be made under the Financial Promotion Order (all such persons together being referred to as “relevant persons”). In the United Kingdom, the notes offered hereby are only available to, and any investment or investment activity to which this pricing supplement, the accompanying product supplement, the accompanying prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus relates will be engaged in only with, relevant persons. Any person in the United Kingdom that is not a relevant person should not act or rely on this pricing supplement, the accompanying product supplement, the accompanying prospectus supplement or the accompanying prospectus or any of their contents.

Any invitation or inducement to engage in investment activity (within the meaning of Section 21 of the FSMA) in connection with the issue or sale of the notes may only be communicated or caused to be communicated in circumstances in which Section 21(1) of the FSMA does not apply to BofA Finance, as issuer, or BAC, as guarantor.

All applicable provisions of the FSMA must be complied with in respect to anything done by any person in relation to the notes in, from or otherwise involving the United Kingdom.

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## STRUCTURING THE NOTES

The notes are our debt securities, the return on which is linked to the performance of the Underlier. The related guarantees are BAC's obligations. As is the case for all of our and BAC's respective debt securities, including our market-linked notes, the economic terms of the notes reflect our and BAC's actual or perceived creditworthiness at the time of pricing. In addition, because market-linked notes result in increased operational, funding and liability management costs to us and BAC, BAC typically borrows the funds under these types of notes at a rate, which we refer to in this pricing supplement as BAC's internal funding rate, that is more favorable to BAC than the rate that it might pay for a conventional fixed or floating rate debt security. This generally relatively lower internal funding rate, which is reflected in the economic terms of the notes, along with the fees and charges associated with market-linked notes, typically results in the initial estimated value of the notes on the trade date being less than their public offering price.

In order to meet our payment obligations on the notes, at the time we issue the notes, we may choose to enter into certain hedging arrangements (which may include call options, put options or other derivatives) with BofAS or one of our other affiliates. The terms of these hedging arrangements are determined based upon terms provided by BofAS and its affiliates, and take into account a number of factors, including our and BAC's creditworthiness, interest rate movements, the volatility of the Underlier, the tenor of the notes and the hedging arrangements. The economic terms of the notes and their initial estimated value depend in part on the terms of these hedging arrangements.

BofAS has advised us that the hedging arrangements will include hedging-related charges, reflecting the costs associated with, and our affiliates' profit earned from, these hedging arrangements. Since hedging entails risk and may be influenced by unpredictable market forces, actual profits or losses from these hedging transactions may be more or less than any expected amounts.

For further information, see "Risk Factors" beginning on page PS-11 above and "Supplemental Use of Proceeds" on page PS-20 of product supplement EQUITY-1.

## U.S. FEDERAL INCOME TAX SUMMARY

The following summary of the material U.S. federal income and estate tax considerations of the acquisition, ownership, and disposition of the notes supplements, and to the extent inconsistent supersedes, the discussion under “U.S. Federal Income Tax Considerations” in the accompanying prospectus and is not exhaustive of all possible tax considerations. This summary is based upon the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (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 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 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.

Although the notes are issued by us, they will be treated as if they were issued by BAC for U.S. federal income tax purposes. Accordingly throughout this tax discussion, references to “we,” “our” or “us” are generally to BAC unless the context requires otherwise.

This summary is directed solely to U.S. Holders and Non-U.S. 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, and that are not excluded from the discussion under “U.S. Federal Income Tax Considerations” in the accompanying prospectus.

*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.*

### General

Although there is no statutory, judicial, or administrative authority directly addressing the characterization of the notes, we intend to treat the notes for all tax purposes as single financial contracts with respect to the Underlier and under the terms of the notes, we and every investor in the notes agree, in the absence of an administrative determination or judicial ruling to the contrary, to treat the notes in accordance with such characterization. In the opinion of our counsel, Sidley Austin LLP, it is reasonable to treat the notes as single financial contracts with respect to the Underlier. This discussion assumes that the notes constitute single financial contracts with respect to the Underlier for U.S. federal income tax purposes. If the notes did not constitute single financial contracts, the tax consequences described below would be materially different.

*This characterization of the notes is not binding on the IRS or the courts. No statutory, judicial, or administrative authority directly addresses the characterization of the notes or any similar instruments for U.S. federal income tax purposes, and no ruling is being requested from the IRS with respect to their proper characterization and treatment. Due to the absence of authorities on point, significant aspects of the U.S. federal income tax consequences of an investment in the notes are not certain, and no assurance can be given that the IRS or any court will agree with the characterization and tax treatment described in this pricing supplement. Accordingly, you are urged to consult your tax advisor regarding all aspects of the U.S. federal income tax consequences of an investment in the notes, including possible alternative characterizations.*

Unless otherwise stated, the following discussion is based on the characterization described above. The discussion in this section assumes that there is a significant possibility of a significant loss of principal on an investment in the notes.

We will not attempt to ascertain whether any issuer of a component stock included in the Underlier would be treated as a “passive foreign investment company” (“PFIC”), within the meaning of Section 1297 of the Code, or a United States real property holding corporation, within the meaning of Section 897(c) of the Code. If the issuer of one or more stocks included in the Underlier were so treated, certain adverse U.S. federal income tax consequences could possibly apply to a holder of the notes. You should refer to information filed with the SEC by the issuers of the component stocks included in the Underlier and consult your tax advisor regarding the possible consequences to you, if any, if any issuer of a component stock included in the Underlier is or becomes a PFIC or is or becomes a United States real property holding corporation.



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## U.S. Holders

Upon receipt of a cash payment at maturity or upon a sale or exchange of the notes prior to maturity, a U.S. Holder generally will recognize capital gain or loss equal to the difference between the amount realized and the U.S. Holder's tax basis in the notes. A U.S. Holder's tax basis in the notes will equal the amount paid by that holder to acquire them. This capital gain or loss generally will be long-term capital gain or loss if the U.S. Holder held the notes for more than one year. The deductibility of capital losses is subject to limitations.

*Alternative Tax Treatments.* Due to the absence of authorities that directly address the proper tax treatment of the notes, prospective investors are urged to consult their tax advisors regarding all possible alternative tax treatments of an investment in the notes. In particular, the IRS could seek to subject the notes to the Treasury regulations governing contingent payment debt instruments. If the IRS were successful in that regard, the timing and character of income on the notes would be affected significantly. Among other things, a U.S. Holder would be required to accrue original issue discount every year at a "comparable yield" determined at the time of issuance. In addition, any gain realized by a U.S. Holder at maturity or upon a sale or exchange of the notes generally would be treated as ordinary income, and any loss realized at maturity or upon a sale or exchange of the notes generally would be treated as ordinary loss to the extent of the U.S. Holder's prior accruals of original issue discount, and as capital loss thereafter.

The IRS released Notice 2008-2 (the "Notice"), which sought comments from the public on the taxation of financial instruments currently taxed as "prepaid forward contracts." This Notice addresses instruments such as the notes. According to the Notice, the IRS and Treasury are considering whether a holder of an instrument such as the notes should be required to accrue ordinary income on a current basis, regardless of whether any payments are made prior to maturity. It is not possible to determine what guidance the IRS and Treasury will ultimately issue, if any. Any such future guidance may affect the amount, timing and character of income, gain, or loss in respect of the notes, possibly with retroactive effect.

The IRS and Treasury are also considering additional issues, including whether additional gain or loss from such instruments should be treated as ordinary or capital, whether foreign holders of such instruments should be subject to withholding tax on any deemed income accruals, whether Section 1260 of the Code, concerning certain "constructive ownership transactions," generally applies or should generally apply to such instruments, and whether any of these determinations depend on the nature of the underlying asset.

In addition, proposed Treasury regulations require the accrual of income on a current basis for contingent payments made under certain notional principal contracts. The preamble to the regulations states that the "wait and see" method of accounting does not properly reflect the economic accrual of income on those contracts, and requires current accrual of income for some contracts already in existence. While the proposed regulations do not apply to prepaid forward contracts, the preamble to the proposed regulations expresses the view that similar timing issues exist in the case of prepaid forward contracts. If the IRS or Treasury publishes future guidance requiring current economic accrual for contingent payments on prepaid forward contracts, it is possible that you could be required to accrue income over the term of the notes.

Because of the absence of authority regarding the appropriate tax characterization of the notes, it is also possible that the IRS could seek to characterize the notes in a manner that results in tax consequences that are different from those described above. For example, the IRS could possibly assert that any gain or loss that a holder may recognize at maturity or upon the sale or exchange of the notes should be treated as ordinary gain or loss.

Because the Underlier is an index that periodically rebalances, it is possible that the notes could be treated as a series of single financial contracts, each of which matures on the next rebalancing date. If the notes were properly characterized in such a manner, a U.S. Holder would be treated as disposing of the notes on each rebalancing date in return for new notes that mature on the next rebalancing date, and a U.S. Holder would accordingly likely recognize capital gain or loss on each rebalancing date equal to the difference between the holder's tax basis in the notes (which would be adjusted to take into account any prior recognition of gain or loss) and the fair market value of the notes on such date.

## Non-U.S. Holders

Except as discussed below, a Non-U.S. Holder generally will not be subject to U.S. federal income or withholding tax for amounts paid in respect of the notes provided that the Non-U.S. Holder complies with applicable certification requirements and that the payment is not effectively connected with the conduct by the Non-U.S. Holder of a U.S. trade or business. Notwithstanding the foregoing, gain from the sale or exchange of the notes or their settlement at maturity may be subject to U.S. federal income tax if that Non-U.S. Holder is a non-resident alien individual and is

present in the U.S. for 183 days or more during the taxable year of the sale, exchange, or settlement and certain other conditions are satisfied.

If a Non-U.S. Holder of the notes is engaged in the conduct of a trade or business within the U.S. and if gain realized on the settlement at maturity, or upon sale or exchange of the notes, is effectively connected with the conduct of such trade or business (and, if certain tax treaties apply, is attributable to a permanent establishment maintained by the Non-U.S. Holder in the U.S.), the Non-U.S. Holder, although exempt from U.S. federal withholding tax, generally will be subject to U.S. federal income tax on such gain on a net income basis in the same manner as if it were a U.S. Holder. Such Non-U.S. Holders should read the material under the heading “—U.S. Holders,” 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 any applicable 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 U.S., subject to certain adjustments.

A “dividend equivalent” payment is treated as a dividend from sources within the United States and such payments generally would be subject to a 30% U.S. withholding tax if paid to a Non-U.S. Holder. Under Treasury regulations, payments (including deemed payments) with respect to equity-linked instruments (“ELIs”) that are “specified ELIs” may be treated as dividend equivalents if such specified ELIs reference an interest in an “underlying security,” which is generally any interest in an entity taxable as a corporation for U.S. federal income tax purposes, if a payment with respect to such interest could give rise to a U.S. source dividend. However, IRS guidance provides that withholding on dividend equivalent payments will not apply to specified ELIs that are not delta-one instruments and that are issued before January 1, 2027. Based on our determination that the notes are not delta-one instruments, Non-U.S. Holders should not be subject to withholding on dividend equivalent payments, if any, under the notes. However, it is possible that the notes could be treated as deemed reissued for U.S. federal income tax purposes upon the occurrence of certain events affecting the Underlier or the notes, and following such occurrence the notes could be treated as subject to withholding on dividend equivalent payments. Non-U.S. Holders that enter, or have entered, into other transactions in respect of the Underlier or the notes should consult their tax advisors as to the application of the dividend equivalent withholding tax in the context of the notes and their other transactions. If any payments are treated as dividend equivalents subject to withholding, we (or the applicable paying agent) would be entitled to withhold taxes without being required to pay any additional amounts with respect to amounts so withheld.

As discussed above, alternative characterizations of the notes for U.S. federal income tax purposes are possible. Should an alternative characterization, by reason of change or clarification of the law, by regulation or otherwise, cause payments as to the notes to become subject to withholding tax, tax will be withheld at the applicable statutory rate. As discussed above, the IRS has indicated in the Notice that it is considering whether income in respect of instruments such as the notes should be subject to withholding tax. Prospective Non-U.S. Holders should consult their own tax advisors regarding the tax consequences of such alternative characterizations.

*U.S. Federal Estate Tax.* Under current law, while the matter is not entirely clear, individual Non-U.S. Holders, and entities whose property is potentially includible in those individuals’ gross estates for U.S. federal estate tax purposes (for example, a trust funded by such an individual and with respect to which the individual has retained certain interests or powers), should note that, absent an applicable treaty benefit, a note is likely to be treated as U.S. situs property, subject to U.S. federal estate tax. These individuals and entities should consult their own tax advisors regarding the U.S. federal estate tax consequences of investing in a note.

#### **Backup Withholding and Information Reporting**

Please see the discussion under “U.S. Federal Income Tax Considerations — General — Backup Withholding and Information Reporting” in the accompanying prospectus for a description of the applicability of the backup withholding and information reporting rules to payments made on the notes.

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