

## SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

## FORM 8-K

## CURRENT REPORT

Pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d) of  
the Securities Exchange Act of 1934

Date of Report (Date of earliest event reported): September 9, 2008

Merrill Lynch & Co., Inc.  
(Exact name of Registrant as specified in its charter)

|                                                      |                             |                                         |
|------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| Delaware                                             | 1-7182                      | 13-2740599                              |
| (State or other<br>jurisdiction of<br>incorporation) | (Commission<br>File Number) | (I.R.S. Employer<br>Identification No.) |

4 World Financial Center, New York, New York 10080

(Address of principal executive offices) (Zip Code)

Registrant's telephone number, including area code: (212) 449-1000

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(Former name or former address, if changed since last report.)

Check the appropriate box below if the Form 8-K filing is intended to simultaneously satisfy the filing obligation of the registrant under any of the following provisions (see General Instruction A.2. below):

- ☐ Written communications pursuant to Rule 425 under the Securities Act (17 CFR 230.425)
- ☐ Soliciting material pursuant to Rule 14a-12 under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14a-12)
- ☐ Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 14d-2(b) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14d-2(b))
- ☐ Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 13e-4(c) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.13e-4(c))

Item 8.01. Other Events

1. Exhibits are filed herewith in connection with the Registration Statement on Form S-3 (File No. 333-132911) filed by Merrill Lynch & Co., Inc. (the “Company”) with the Securities and Exchange Commission covering Senior Debt Securities issuable under an indenture dated as of April 1, 1983, as amended through the date hereof, between the Company and The Bank of New York Mellon (as so amended, the “Indenture”). The Company has issued as part of its Medium-Term Notes, Series C, \$118,700,000 aggregate principal amount of Strategic Accelerated Redemption Securities<sup>SM</sup>, designated as Strategic Accelerated Redemption Securities<sup>SM</sup> Linked to the Dow Jones Industrial Average<sup>SM</sup> due August 31, 2010 under the Indenture. The exhibits consist of the form of Note and an opinion of counsel relating thereto.

Item 9.01. Financial Statements, Pro Forma Financial Information and Exhibits

EXHIBITS

- (4) Instruments defining the rights of security holders, including indentures.

Form of Merrill Lynch & Co., Inc.’s Strategic Accelerated Redemption Securities<sup>SM</sup>.

- (5) & (23) Opinion re: legality; consent of counsel.

Opinion of Sidley Austin LLP relating to the Strategic Accelerated Redemption Securities<sup>SM</sup> Linked to the Dow Jones Industrial Average<sup>SM</sup> due August 31, 2010 (including consent for inclusion of such opinion in this report and in Merrill Lynch & Co., Inc.’s Registration Statement relating to such Notes).

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**SIGNATURE**

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereto duly authorized.

MERRILL LYNCH & CO., INC.  
(Registrant)

By:                     /s/ JOHN THURLOW                      
                    John Thurlow  
                    Assistant Treasurer

Date: September 9, 2008

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SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549

MERRILL LYNCH & CO., INC.

EXHIBITS TO CURRENT REPORT ON  
FORM 8-K DATED SEPTEMBER 9, 2008

Commission File Number 1-7182

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## Exhibit Index

| <u>Exhibit No.</u> | <u>Description</u>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|--------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| (4)                | Instruments defining the rights of security holders, including indentures.<br>Form of Merrill Lynch & Co., Inc.'s Strategic Accelerated Redemption Securities <sup>SM</sup> .                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| (5) & (23)         | Opinion re: legality; consent of counsel.<br>Opinion of Sidley Austin LLP relating to the Strategic Accelerated Redemption Securities <sup>SM</sup> Linked to the Dow Jones Industrial Average <sup>SM</sup> due August 31, 2010 (including consent for inclusion of such opinion in this report and in Merrill Lynch & Co., Inc.'s Registration Statement relating to such Notes). |

THIS NOTE IS A GLOBAL NOTE WITHIN THE MEANING OF THE INDENTURE HEREINAFTER REFERRED TO AND IS REGISTERED IN THE NAME OF A DEPOSITORY OR A NOMINEE THEREOF. UNLESS AND UNTIL IT IS EXCHANGED IN WHOLE OR IN PART FOR SECURITIES IN CERTIFICATED FORM, THIS NOTE MAY NOT BE TRANSFERRED EXCEPT AS A WHOLE BY THE DEPOSITORY TRUST COMPANY (THE “DEPOSITORY”) TO A NOMINEE OF THE DEPOSITORY OR BY THE DEPOSITORY OR ANY SUCH NOMINEE TO A SUCCESSOR DEPOSITORY OR A NOMINEE OF SUCH SUCCESSOR DEPOSITORY. UNLESS THIS GLOBAL NOTE IS PRESENTED BY AN AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE OF THE DEPOSITORY TO THE COMPANY OR ITS AGENT FOR REGISTRATION OF TRANSFER, EXCHANGE OR PAYMENT, AND ANY NOTE ISSUED IS REGISTERED IN THE NAME OF CEDE & CO. OR IN SUCH OTHER NAME AS REQUESTED BY AN AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE OF THE DEPOSITORY (AND ANY PAYMENT IS MADE TO CEDE & CO. OR TO SUCH OTHER ENTITY AS IS REQUESTED BY AN AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE OF THE DEPOSITORY), ANY TRANSFER, PLEDGE OR OTHER USE HEREOF FOR VALUE OR OTHERWISE BY OR TO ANY PERSON IS WRONGFUL INASMUCH AS THE REGISTERED OWNER HEREOF, CEDE & CO., HAS AN INTEREST HEREIN.

REGISTERED No.: CUSIP No.: PRINCIPAL AMOUNT:

**MERRILL LYNCH & CO., INC.**  
**MEDIUM-TERM NOTES, SERIES C**  
**Strategic Accelerated Redemption Securities<sup>SM</sup>**  
**(the “Notes”)**

|                           |                              |                                |
|---------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| ORIGINAL ISSUE DATE:      | STATED MATURITY:             | MARKET MEASURE:                |
| MARKET MEASURE PUBLISHER: | STARTING VALUE:              | THRESHOLD LEVEL:               |
| CALL PREMIUM:             | CALL LEVEL:                  | OBSERVATION DATE(S):           |
| LEVERAGE FACTOR:          | CALL AMOUNTS (per Unit):     | DEFAULT RATE:                  |
| SPECIFIED CURRENCY:       | CALCULATION AGENT:           | DENOMINATIONS:                 |
| BANKING BUSINESS DAY:     | MARKET MEASURE BUSINESS DAY: | MARKET MEASURE TYPE:<br>Equity |
| OTHER PROVISIONS:         |                              |                                |

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Merrill Lynch & Co., Inc., a Delaware corporation (hereinafter referred to as the “Company”, which term includes any successor corporation under the Indenture herein referred to), for value received, hereby promises to pay to CEDE & CO., or its registered assigns, the payment described below on the Stated Maturity or upon an automatic call (as set forth below).

Payment or delivery of the amount due on this Global Note and any interest on any overdue amount thereof with respect to this Global Note shall be made at the office or agency of the Company maintained for that purpose in the Borough of Manhattan, The City of New York, in such coin or currency of the United States of America as at the time of payment is legal tender for payment of public and private debts.

All determinations made by the Calculation Agent, absent a determination of manifest error, shall be conclusive for all purposes and binding on the Company and the Holders and beneficial owners of this Global Note.

#### **Automatic Call**

This Global Note shall be automatically called and subject to mandatory redemption if the closing level of the Market Measure on any Observation Date is equal to or greater than the applicable Call Level. If this Global Note is called pursuant to the preceding sentence, the Holder shall receive the Call Amount per Unit applicable to such Observation Date.

If this Global Note is automatically called on an Observation Date other than the Final Observation Date, the Company shall redeem this Global Note and pay the applicable Call Amount on the fifth Banking Business Day after the applicable Observation Date, subject to postponement as described below. If this Global Note is called on the Final Observation Date, the Company shall redeem this Global Note and pay the Call Amount on the Stated Maturity.

If an Observation Date (other than the Final Observation Date) is not a Market Measure Business Day or if there is a Market Disruption Event (as defined below) on such day, the applicable Observation Date shall be the immediately succeeding Market Measure Business Day during which no Market Disruption Event shall have occurred or is continuing; provided that the closing level of the Market Measure shall not be determined on a date later than the tenth scheduled Market Measure Business Day after the scheduled Observation Date, and if such day is not a Market Measure Business Day, or if there is a Market Disruption Event on such date, the Calculation Agent shall determine (or, if not determinable, estimate, in a manner which is considered commercially reasonable under the circumstances) the closing level of the Market Measure on such tenth scheduled Market Measure Business Day.

If the Final Observation Date is not a Market Measure Business Day or if there is a Market Disruption Event on such day, the Final Observation Date shall be the immediately succeeding Market Measure Business Day during which no Market Disruption Event shall have occurred or is continuing; provided that the closing level of the Market Measure shall be determined (or, if not determinable, estimated by the Calculation Agent in a manner which is considered commercially reasonable under the circumstances) on a date no later than the second

scheduled Market Measure Business Day prior to the Stated Maturity, regardless of the occurrence of a Market Disruption Event on that scheduled Market Measure Business Day.

If, due to a Market Disruption Event or otherwise, an Observation Date (other than the Final Observation Date) is postponed so that it falls less than five Banking Business Days prior to the scheduled date for payment of the applicable Call Amount, the date on which the Call Amount for such Observation Date shall be paid, if any, shall be the fifth Banking Business Day following the Observation Date as postponed.

#### **Payment on the Stated Maturity**

If this Global Note is not called on any Observation Date, on the Stated Maturity, a Holder shall receive a cash payment per Unit equal to the Redemption Amount per Unit. The “Redemption Amount” with respect to each Unit shall be determined by the Calculation Agent and shall equal:

- (i) If the Ending Value (as defined below) is equal to or greater than the Threshold Level, \$10 per Unit; or
- (ii) If the Ending Value is less than the Threshold Level:

$$\$10 + \left[ \$10 \times \left( \frac{\text{Ending Value} - \text{Threshold Level}}{\text{Starting Value}} \right) \times \text{Leverage Factor} \right]$$

The “Ending Value” shall equal the closing level of the Market Measure on the Final Observation Date.

#### **Market Disruption Events**

“Market Disruption Event” means either of the following events as determined by the Calculation Agent:

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

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

- (1) a limitation on the hours in a trading day and/or number of days of trading shall not constitute a Market Disruption Event if it results from an announced change in the regular business hours of the relevant exchange;
- (2) a decision to permanently discontinue trading in the relevant futures or options contracts related to the Market Measure, or any Successor Market Measure, shall not constitute a Market Disruption Event;
- (3) a suspension in trading in a futures or options contract on the Market Measure, or any Successor Market Measure, by a major securities market by reason of (a) a price change violating limits set by that securities market, (b) an imbalance of orders relating to those contracts or (c) a disparity in bid and ask quotes relating to those contracts shall constitute a suspension of or material limitation on trading in futures or options contracts related to the Market Measure;
- (4) a suspension of or material limitation on trading on the relevant exchange shall not include any time when that exchange is closed for trading under ordinary circumstances; and
- (5) for the purpose of clause (A) above, any limitations on trading during significant market fluctuations under NYSE Rule 80B, or any applicable rule or regulation enacted or promulgated by the NYSE or any other self regulatory organization or the Securities and Exchange Commission of similar scope as determined by the Calculation Agent, shall be considered “material”.

#### **Adjustments to the Market Measure**

If at any time the Market Measure Publisher makes a material change in the formula for or the method of calculating the Market Measure or in any other way materially modifies the Market Measure so that the Market Measure does not, in the opinion of the Calculation Agent, fairly represent the level of the Market Measure had those changes or modifications not been made, then, from and after that time, the Calculation Agent shall, at the close of business in New York, New York, on each date that the closing value of the Market Measure is to be calculated, make any adjustments as, in the good faith judgment of the Calculation Agent, may be necessary in order to arrive at a calculation of a level of a stock index comparable to the Market Measure as if those changes or modifications had not been made, and calculate the closing level with reference to the Market Measure, as so adjusted.

#### **Discontinuance of the Market Measure**

If the Market Measure Publisher discontinues publication of the Market Measure, and the Market Measure Publisher or another entity publishes a successor or substitute market measure that the Calculation Agent determines, in its sole discretion, to be comparable to the Market Measure (a “Successor Market Measure”), then, upon the Calculation Agent’s notification of that determination to the Trustee (as defined below) and the Company, the Calculation Agent shall substitute the Successor Market Measure as calculated by the Market Measure Publisher or any other entity and calculate the closing value of the Market Measure on any Observation Date and/or the Ending Value. Upon any selection by the Calculation Agent of

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a Successor Market Measure, the Company shall cause notice to be given to Holder of this Global Note.

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

- the Calculation Agent does not select a Successor Market Measure; or
- the Successor Market Measure is not published on an applicable Observation Date,

the Calculation Agent shall compute a substitute level for the Market Measure in accordance with the procedures last used to calculate the Market Measure before any discontinuance. If a Successor Market Measure is selected or the Calculation Agent calculates a level as a substitute for the Market Measure as described below, the Successor Market Measure or level shall be used as a substitute for the Market Measure for all purposes, including the purpose of determining whether a Market Disruption Event exists.

If the Market Measure Publisher discontinues publication of the Market Measure before an applicable Observation Date and the Calculation Agent determines that no Successor Market Measure is available at that time, then on each Business Day (as defined below) until the earlier to occur of:

- the occurrence of an automatic call; or
- the determination of the Ending Value; or
- a determination by the Calculation Agent that a Successor Market Measure is available,

the Calculation Agent shall determine the value that would be used in determining whether an automatic call has occurred, computing the Call Amount or the Redemption Amount, as applicable, as described in the preceding paragraph as if that day were an Observation Date. The Calculation Agent shall cause notice of each value to be published not less often than once each month in *The Wall Street Journal* or another newspaper of general circulation and arrange for information with respect to these values to be made available by telephone.

“Business Day” means any day on which (i) the Market Measure or any Successor Market Measure, if any, that has not been discontinued, is calculated and published and (ii) with respect to the Market Measure, or any Successor Market Measure, which has been discontinued, a day on which the applicable exchanges listing the stocks of companies used to calculate a substitute level for the Market Measure following a discontinuance, referred to above, are open for trading.

#### **General**

All percentages resulting from any calculation on the Notes shall be rounded to the nearest one hundred-thousandth of a percentage point, with five one-millionths of a percentage point rounded upwards. For example, 9.876545% (or .09876545) would be rounded to 9.87655% (or .0987655). All dollar amounts used in or resulting from any calculation shall be rounded to the nearest cent with one-half cent being rounded upward.

This Global Note is one of a duly authorized issue of the Company's Medium-Term Notes, Series C, and designated as Strategic Accelerated Redemption Securities<sup>SM</sup> which are due on the Stated Maturity. The Notes are issued and to be issued under an indenture dated as of April 1, 1983, as amended and restated (the "Indenture"), between the Company and The Bank of New York Mellon (herein called the "Trustee", which term includes any successor Trustee under the Indenture), to which Indenture and all indentures supplemental thereto reference is hereby made for a statement of the respective rights thereunder of the Company, the Trustee and the Holders of the Notes and the terms upon which the Notes are to be authenticated and delivered.

Unless the certificate of authentication hereon has been executed by or on behalf of the Trustee with respect to the Notes under the Indenture, or its successor thereunder, by the manual signature of one of its authorized officers, this Global Note shall not be entitled to any benefit under the Indenture or be valid or obligatory for any purpose.

The Notes are issuable only in registered form without coupons in the Denominations specified above. As provided in the Indenture and subject to certain limitations therein set forth, this Global Note is exchangeable for certificates representing notes of like tenor and of an equal Principal Amount as requested by the Holder surrendering the same. If (x) the Depository is at any time unwilling or unable to continue as depository and a successor depository is not appointed by the Company within 60 days, (y) the Company executes and delivers to the Trustee a Company Order to the effect that this Global Note shall be exchangeable or (z) an Event of Default has occurred and is continuing with respect to this Global Note, this Global Note shall be exchangeable for certificates representing the Notes in definitive form of like tenor and of an equal Principal Amount, in authorized denominations. Such definitive Notes shall be registered in such name or names as the Depository shall instruct the Trustee. If definitive Notes are so delivered, the Company may make such changes to the form of this Global Note as are necessary or appropriate to allow for the issuance of such definitive Notes.

In case an Event of Default with respect to this Global Note has occurred and is continuing, the amount payable to a Holder of this Global Note upon any acceleration permitted by the Notes, with respect to each Unit of this Global Note, shall be equal to the Redemption Amount per Unit of this Global Note, as specified above, calculated as though the date of acceleration were the Stated Maturity.

In case of default in payment of this Global Note, whether on the Stated Maturity, as a result of an automatic call or upon acceleration, from and after such date this Global Note shall bear interest, payable upon demand of the Holders thereof, at the Default Rate, to the extent that payment of interest shall be legally enforceable, on the unpaid amount due and payable on such date in accordance with the terms of this Global Note to the date payment of such amount has been made or duly provided for.

"Federal Funds Rate" means:

- (1) the rate with respect to a particular interest determination date displayed on Reuters or any successor service on page FEDFUNDS1 under the heading

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“EFFECT” or any other page as may replace page FEDFUNDS1 on that service (“Reuters Page FEDFUNDS1”), or

- (2) if the rate referred to in clause (1) does not appear on Reuters Page FEDFUNDS1 or is not published by 3:00 P.M., New York City time, on the related calculation date, the rate with respect to a particular interest determination date for United States dollar federal funds as published in H.15 Daily Update, or other recognized electronic source used for the purpose of displaying the applicable rate, under the caption “Federal Funds (Effective)”, or
- (3) if the rate referred to in clause (2) is not published by 3:00 P.M., New York City time, on the related calculation date, the rate with respect to a particular interest determination date calculated by the Calculation Agent as the arithmetic mean of the rates for the last transaction in overnight United States dollar federal funds arranged by three leading brokers of United States dollar federal funds transactions in The City of New York, which may include the agent or its affiliates, selected by the Calculation Agent prior to 9:00 A.M., New York City time, on the Business Day following that interest determination date, or
- (4) if the brokers selected by the Calculation Agent are not quoting as mentioned in clause (3), the Federal Funds Rate for the Business Day preceding the particular interest determination date.

The Indenture permits, with certain exceptions as therein provided, the amendment thereof and the modification of the rights and obligations of the Company and the rights of the Holders of the Securities of each series to be affected under the Indenture at any time by the Company and the Trustee with the consent of the Holders of not less than 66 <sup>2</sup>/<sub>3</sub>% in aggregate principal amount of the Securities at the time Outstanding of each series affected thereby. Holders of specified percentages in aggregate principal amount of the Securities of each series at the time Outstanding, on behalf of the Holders of all Securities of each series, are permitted to waive compliance by the Company with certain provisions of the Indenture and certain past defaults under the Indenture and their consequences. Any such consent or waiver by the Holder of this Global Note shall be conclusive and binding upon such Holder and upon all future Holders of this Global Note and of any Note issued upon the registration of transfer hereof or in exchange herefor or in lieu hereof whether or not notation of such consent or waiver is made upon this Global Note.

No reference herein to the Indenture and no provision of this Global Note or of the Indenture shall alter or impair the obligation of the Company, which is absolute and unconditional, to pay with respect to each Unit hereof the cash payment with respect to each Unit of this Global Note, as specified above and interest on this Global Note, if any, at the time, place and rate, and in the coin or currency, herein prescribed.

As provided in the Indenture and subject to certain limitations set forth therein and on the face hereof, the transfer of this Global Note may be registered on the Security Register of the Company, upon surrender of this Global Note for registration of transfer at the office or agency of the Company in the Borough of Manhattan, The City of New York, duly endorsed by, or accompanied by a written instrument of transfer in form satisfactory to the Company duly

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executed by, the Holder hereof or by his attorney duly authorized in writing, and thereupon one or more new certificates representing the Notes of authorized denominations, of like tenor and for the same Principal Amount shall be issued to the designated transferee or transferees.

Prior to due presentment of this Global Note for registration of transfer, the Company, the Trustee and any agent of the Company or the Trustee may treat the Person in whose name this Global Note is registered as the owner hereof for all purposes, whether or not this Global Note be overdue, and neither the Company, the Trustee nor any such agent shall be affected by notice to the contrary.

No service charge shall be made for any such registration of transfer or exchange, but the Company may require payment of a sum sufficient to cover any tax or other governmental charge payable in connection therewith.

The Company and each Holder and beneficial owner (by acceptance hereof) hereby agree (in the absence of an administrative determination, judicial ruling or other authoritative guidance to the contrary) to characterize and treat this Global Note for all tax purposes as a pre-paid cash-settled forward contract linked to the level of the Market Measure.

The Indenture and this Global Note shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of the State of New York.

All terms used in this Global Note which are defined in the Indenture but not in this Global Note shall have the meanings assigned to them in the Indenture.

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IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Company has caused this instrument to be duly executed under its corporate seal.

Dated:

CERTIFICATE OF AUTHENTICATION

This is one of the Securities of the series  
designated therein referred to in the  
within-mentioned Indenture.

Merrill Lynch & Co., Inc.

[Copy of Seal]

The Bank of New York Mellon, as Trustee

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Assistant Treasurer

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Authorized Officer

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary

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ASSIGNMENT/TRANSFER FORM

FOR VALUE RECEIVED the undersigned registered Holder hereby sell(s), assign(s) and transfer(s) unto (insert Taxpayer Identification No.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Please print or typewrite name and address including postal zip code of assignee)

\_\_\_\_\_  
the within Note and all rights thereunder, hereby irrevocably constituting and appointing \_\_\_\_\_ attorney to transfer said Note on the books of the Company with full power of substitution in the premises.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
NOTICE: The signature of the registered Holder to this assignment must correspond with the name as written upon the face of the within instrument in every particular, without alteration or enlargement or any change whatsoever.



SIDLEY AUSTIN LLP  
 787 SEVENTH AVENUE  
 NEW YORK, NY 10019  
 (212) 839 5300  
 (212) 839 5599 FAX

|           |                  |
|-----------|------------------|
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| GENEVA    | SYDNEY           |
| HONG KONG | TOKYO            |
| LONDON    | WASHINGTON, D.C. |

FOUNDED 1866

September 9, 2008

Merrill Lynch & Co., Inc.  
 4 World Financial Center  
 New York, New York 10080

Ladies and Gentlemen:

As your counsel, we have examined a copy of the Restated Certificate of Incorporation, as amended, of Merrill Lynch & Co., Inc. (the "Company"), certified by the Secretary of State of the State of Delaware. We are familiar with the corporate proceedings had in connection with the proposed issuance and sale by the Company to Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Incorporated ("MLPF&S"), pursuant to a Distribution Agreement dated March 31, 2006 (the "Distribution Agreement") between the Company and MLPF&S, of the Company's Strategic Accelerated Redemption Securities<sup>SM</sup>, which are designated Strategic Accelerated Redemption Securities<sup>SM</sup> Linked to the Dow Jones Industrial Average<sup>SM</sup> due August 31, 2010 (the "Notes") in an amount equal to \$118,700,000 aggregate principal amount of the Notes. We have also examined a copy of the Indenture between the Company and The Bank of New York Mellon as successor Trustee, dated as of April 1, 1983, as amended (the "Indenture"), and the Company's Registration Statement on Form S-3 (File No. 333-132911) relating to the Notes (the "Registration Statement").

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Based upon the foregoing and upon such further investigation as we deemed relevant in the premises, we are of the opinion that:

1. The Company has been duly incorporated under the laws of the State of Delaware.

2. The Notes have been duly and validly authorized by the Company and, when the Notes have been duly executed and authenticated in accordance with the terms of the Indenture and delivered against payment therefor as set forth in the Distribution Agreement, the Notes will constitute valid and legally binding obligations of the Company, enforceable against the Company in accordance with their terms, except to the extent that enforcement thereof may be limited by bankruptcy, moratorium, insolvency, reorganization or similar laws relating to or affecting creditors' rights generally and except as enforcement thereof is subject to general principles of equity (regardless of whether enforcement is considered in a proceeding in equity or at law).

We consent to the filing of this opinion as an exhibit to the Registration Statement and as an exhibit to the Current Report of the Company on Form 8-K dated September 9, 2008.

Very truly yours,

/s/ SIDLEY AUSTIN LLP