

BANK OF AMERICA CORP /DE/  
Form 424B3  
May 04, 2015

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Registration No. 333-202354

**PROSPECTUS**

**\$6,975,551,000**

**Bank of America Corporation InterNotes®**

We may offer to sell up to \$6,975,551,000 of our Bank of America Corporation InterNotes®, or the notes, from time to time. The specific terms of our InterNotes® will be determined prior to the time of sale and will be described in a separate supplement. You should read this prospectus and the applicable supplement carefully before you invest.

We may offer the notes to or through agents for resale. The applicable supplement will specify the purchase price, agent discounts and net proceeds for any particular offering of notes. The agents are not required to sell any specific amount of notes but will use their best efforts to sell the notes. We also may offer the notes directly. We have not set a date for termination of our offering of the notes.

The agents have advised us that from time to time they may purchase and sell notes in the secondary market, but they are not obligated to make a market in the notes and may suspend or completely stop that activity at any time. Unless otherwise indicated in the applicable supplement, the notes will not be listed on any stock exchange.

**Investing in the notes involves risks, including those described in the Risk Factors section beginning on page 7 of this prospectus.**

*Our notes are unsecured and are not savings accounts, deposits or other obligations of a bank. Our 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.*

*Neither the Securities and Exchange Commission nor any state securities commission has approved or disapproved of these notes or passed on the adequacy or accuracy of this prospectus. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense.*

*Joint Lead Managers and Lead Agents*

**BofA Merrill Lynch**

**Incapital LLC**

*Agents*

**Citigroup**

**Morgan Stanley**

**Wells Fargo Advisors, LLC**

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Prospectus dated May 1, 2015

InterNotes® is a registered servicemark of Incapital Holdings LLC.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<b>Page</b>
<u>ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS</u>	3
<u>SUMMARY</u>	4
<u>RISK FACTORS</u>	7
<u>BANK OF AMERICA CORPORATION</u>	10
<u>USE OF PROCEEDS</u>	11
<u>DESCRIPTION OF NOTES</u>	11
<u>Payment of Principal and Interest</u>	13
<u>Interest and Interest Rates</u>	14
<u>Redemption and Repayment</u>	21
<u>Survivor's Option</u>	22
<u>Subordination</u>	24
<u>Sale or Issuance of Capital Stock of a Principal Subsidiary Bank</u>	25
<u>Waiver of Covenants</u>	25
<u>Limitation on Mergers and Sales of Assets</u>	25
<u>Modification of the Indentures</u>	26
<u>Meetings and Action by Noteholders</u>	26
<u>Defaults and Rights of Acceleration</u>	26
<u>Collection of Indebtedness</u>	26
<u>Reopening</u>	<b>Page</b> 27
<u>Notices</u>	27
<u>Concerning the Trustees</u>	27
<u>REGISTRATION AND SETTLEMENT</u>	27
<u>Book-Entry System</u>	27
<u>The Depository Trust Company</u>	28
<u>Registration, Transfer and Payment of Certificated Notes</u>	30
<u>TAX CONSEQUENCES TO U.S. HOLDERS</u>	30
<u>ERISA CONSIDERATIONS</u>	39
<u>PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION AND CONFLICTS OF INTEREST</u>	41
<u>Conflicts of Interest</u>	43
<u>WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION</u>	43
<u>FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS</u>	44
<u>LEGAL MATTERS</u>	44
<u>EXPERTS</u>	45

## ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS

This document is a prospectus and is part of a registration statement that we filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission, or the SEC.

This prospectus describes all material terms of the notes we may offer in connection with the Bank of America Corporation InterNotes® program that are known as of the date of this prospectus. We may offer to sell up to \$6,975,551,000 of these InterNotes® from time to time in various offerings. While we have various notes and other evidence of indebtedness outstanding, references in this prospectus to notes are to the Bank of America Corporation InterNotes® only.

The specific terms and conditions of the notes being offered will be described in a pricing supplement or a prospectus supplement, each of which we refer to in this prospectus as a supplement. A copy of that supplement will be provided to you along with a copy of this prospectus. That supplement may add to, update or change information in this prospectus. If there is any inconsistency between the information in this prospectus and the applicable supplement, you should rely on the information in the applicable supplement. You should read both this prospectus and the applicable supplement together with the additional information that is incorporated by reference in this prospectus. That additional information is described under the heading Where You Can Find More Information beginning on page 43 of this prospectus.

You should rely only on the information provided in this prospectus and the applicable supplement, including the information incorporated by reference. Neither we,

nor any agents or dealers, have authorized anyone to provide you with different information. We are not offering the notes in any jurisdiction where the offer or sale is not permitted. You should not assume that the information in this prospectus or any supplement is accurate as of any date other than the date indicated on the cover page of that document.

The agents will receive a gross selling concession in the form of a discount based on the non-discounted price for each note sold. In this capacity, none of the agents is your fiduciary or advisor, and you should not rely upon any communication from any of the agents in connection with the notes as investment advice or as a recommendation to purchase the notes. You should make your own investment decision regarding the notes after consulting with your legal, tax and other advisors.

Unless otherwise indicated or unless the context requires otherwise, all references in this prospectus to we, us, our or similar references are to Bank of America Corporation excluding its consolidated subsidiaries. References in this prospectus to U.S. dollars, U.S.\$ or \$ are to the currency of the United States of America.

Affiliates of Bank of America Corporation, including Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Incorporated, may use this prospectus in connection with offers and sales in the secondary market of Bank of America Corporation InterNotes®. These affiliates may act as principal or agent in those transactions. Secondary market sales made by them will be made at prices related to market prices at the time of sale.

**SUMMARY**

*This section highlights some of the legal and financial terms of the notes that are described in more detail in the section entitled "Description of Notes" beginning on page 11 and elsewhere in this prospectus. Final terms of any particular notes will be determined at the time of sale and will be contained in the supplement relating to those notes. The terms in that supplement may vary from and supersede the terms contained in this prospectus. Before you decide to purchase any notes, you should read the more detailed information appearing elsewhere in this prospectus and in the applicable supplement.*

Issuer Bank of America Corporation  
 Bank of America Corporate Center, 100 North Tryon Street, Charlotte,  
 North Carolina 28255; telephone: (704) 386-5681

Purchasing Agent Incapital LLC

Joint Lead Managers and Lead Agents Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Incorporated and Incapital LLC

Agents Citigroup Global Markets Inc.  
 Morgan Stanley & Co. LLC  
 Wells Fargo Advisors, LLC

Title of Notes Bank of America Corporation InterNotes®

Affiliates and Conflicts of Interest Bank of America Corporation is the indirect parent of Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Incorporated, one of two Joint Lead Managers and a Lead Agent. Additional details of this relationship are disclosed in the section entitled "Plan of Distribution and Conflicts of Interest" beginning on page 41.

Amount We may offer to sell from time to time in various offerings up to \$6,975,551,000 of notes.

Denominations The notes will be issued and sold in denominations of \$1,000 and multiples of \$1,000 or in any other denomination provided in the applicable supplement.

Status The notes will be our direct unsecured obligations. Each supplement will state whether the notes will be senior or subordinated debt. Senior notes will rank equally with our other unsecured and unsubordinated debt, other than unsecured and unsubordinated debt subject to priorities or preferences by law, and subordinated notes will rank equally with our other unsecured and subordinated debt, other than unsecured and subordinated debt that by its terms is subordinated to the subordinated notes. Subordinated notes will be subordinate and junior in right of payment to our existing and future senior debt to the extent and in the manner provided in the Subordinated Indenture (as defined below). See "Description of Notes" Subordination beginning

on page 24. As of March 31, 2015, on a non-consolidated basis we had approximately \$142 billion of senior long-term debt and certain short-term borrowings. Senior indebtedness also includes our obligations under letters of credit, guarantees, foreign exchange contracts and interest rate swap contracts, none of which are included in such amount. In addition, holders of subordinated notes may be fully subordinated to interests held by the U.S. government in the event that we enter into a receivership, insolvency, liquidation or similar proceeding. Although we are a bank holding company, the notes are not savings accounts or deposits in our subsidiary, Bank of America, N.A., are not guaranteed by Bank of America, N.A. or any other bank and are not insured or guaranteed by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation or any other government agency.

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Holders of Subordinated Notes Have Limited Acceleration Rights	Payment of principal of our subordinated notes may not be accelerated if there is a default in the payment of principal, any premium, interest or other amounts or in the performance of any of our other indenture covenants.
Maturities	Each note will mature nine months or more from its issue date.
Interest	<p> Each interest-bearing note will accrue interest from its issue date at a fixed rate or a floating rate. We also may issue notes with a rate of return, including principal, premium, if any, interest or other amounts payable, if any, that is determined by reference, either directly or indirectly, to the price, performance or levels of one or more securities, currencies or composite currencies, commodities, interest rates, inflation rates, stock or other indices, or other financial or market measures, formulae or reference assets, or any combination of the above, as specified in the applicable supplement.</p> <p> Interest on each interest-bearing note will be payable either monthly, quarterly, semi-annually or annually on each interest payment date and on the maturity date, as specified in the applicable supplement. If a note is redeemed or repurchased prior to maturity, interest also will be paid on the date of redemption or repayment.</p>
Principal	The principal amount of each note will be payable on its maturity date at the corporate trust office of the paying agent or at any other place we may designate. If, however, a note is redeemed or repurchased prior to maturity, the principal amount of the note will be paid on the date of redemption or repayment.
Redemption and Repayment	Unless we provide otherwise in the applicable supplement, the notes will not be redeemable at our option or repayable at the option of the holder prior to the maturity date. The notes will be unsecured and will not be subject to any sinking fund.
Survivor's Option	Specific notes may contain a provision that requires us, upon request by the authorized representative of the beneficial owner of the notes, to repay those notes prior to maturity following the death of the beneficial owner of the notes, so long as the notes were acquired by the deceased beneficial owner at least six months prior to the request. This feature is referred to as the Survivor's Option. Your notes may not be repaid in this manner unless the supplement for your notes provides for the Survivor's Option. The right to exercise the Survivor's Option will be subject to limits set by us on (1) the permitted dollar amount of total exercises by all holders of all notes in any calendar year and (2) the permitted dollar amount of an individual exercise by a holder of a note in any calendar year. Additional details relating to this right are described in the section entitled "Description of Notes - Survivor's Option" beginning on page 22.
Sale and Clearance	We will sell notes in the United States only. Notes will be issued in book-entry only form and clear through the facilities of The Depository Trust Company. We do not intend to issue notes in certificated or definitive form.
Trustee	The trustee for the notes is The Bank of New York Mellon Trust Company, N.A., 10161 Centurion Parkway, Jacksonville, Florida 32256, under separate amended and restated indentures, each dated as of July 1, 2001, as amended or supplemented from time to time. The trustee also is the initial paying agent and calculation agent for the notes.





Selling Group

The agents and dealers comprising the selling group are broker-dealers and securities firms. The agents, including the Purchasing Agent, will enter into an Amended and Restated Selling Agent Agreement with us. Dealers who are members of the selling group have executed a Master Selected Dealer Agreement with the Purchasing Agent. You may contact the Purchasing Agent by telephone at 1-800-289-6689 or by email at info@incapital.com for a list of selling group members.

Ratio of Earnings to Fixed Charges

The following table sets forth our consolidated ratios of earnings to fixed charges for the periods indicated.

	Three Months Ended		Year Ended December 31			
	March 31, 2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010
Ratio of earnings to fixed charges (excluding interest on deposits) <sup>1</sup>	2.86	1.61	2.29	1.21	1.02	.99
Ratio of earnings to fixed charges (including interest on deposits) <sup>1</sup>	2.71	1.55	2.16	1.18	1.02	1.00

<sup>1</sup> The earnings for 2010 were inadequate to cover fixed charges. The earnings deficiency is a result of \$12.4 billion of goodwill impairment charges during 2010. The coverage deficiency for fixed charges was \$113 million for 2010.

## RISK FACTORS

Your investment in the notes will involve risks. This section summarizes some specific risks and investment considerations with respect to an investment in the notes. This prospectus does not describe all of those risks and investment considerations, including risks and considerations relating to your particular circumstances. Neither we nor the agents are responsible for advising you of these risks now or as they may change in the future.

In consultation with your own financial, tax and legal advisors, you should consider carefully the following discussion of risks, among other matters, before deciding whether an investment in the notes is suitable for you. The notes are not an appropriate investment for you if you are not knowledgeable about significant features of the notes or financial matters in general. You should not purchase notes unless you understand and know you can bear these investment risks.

For information about risks and uncertainties that may materially affect our business and results, please refer to the information under the captions Item 1A. Risk Factors and Item 7. Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations in our annual report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2014, which is incorporated by reference in this prospectus, as well as those risks and uncertainties discussed in our subsequent filings with the SEC that are incorporated by reference in this prospectus.

*We may choose to redeem notes when prevailing interest rates are relatively low.*

If your notes are redeemable at our option, we may choose to redeem your notes from time to time. Prevailing interest rates at the time we redeem your notes likely would be lower than the interest rate borne by your notes. If prevailing interest rates are lower when we elect to redeem your notes, you may not be able to reinvest the redemption proceeds in a comparable security at an effective interest rate as high as the interest

rate on the notes being redeemed. Our redemption right also may adversely impact your ability to sell your notes as our redemption date approaches.

*We cannot assure you that a trading market for your notes will ever develop or be maintained.*

Unless otherwise specified in the applicable supplement, the notes will not be listed on any securities exchange. We cannot predict how the notes will trade in the secondary market or whether that market will be liquid or illiquid. We cannot assure you that a trading market for your notes will ever develop or be maintained, which may limit your ability to sell your notes prior to maturity.

To the extent that the agents engage in any market-making activities, they may bid for or offer notes. Any price at which the agents may bid for, offer, purchase or sell any notes may differ from the values determined by pricing models that may be used by any agent, 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 the agents were to cease acting as a market maker, it is likely that there would be significantly less liquidity in the secondary market, in which case the price at which the notes could be sold likely would be lower than if an active market existed.

*If you attempt to sell your notes prior to maturity, the market value of the notes, if any, may be less than the principal amount of the notes.*

Unlike savings accounts, certificates of deposit and other similar investment products, your right to redeem the notes prior to maturity may be limited to a valid exercise of the Survivor's Option. If you wish to liquidate your investment in the notes prior to maturity, selling your notes may be your only option. At that time, there may be a very illiquid market for the 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 the market value of the notes, some of these fac-

tors, but not all, are stated below. Some of these factors are interrelated in complex ways and, as a result, the effect of any one factor may be offset or magnified by the effect of another factor. Those factors include, without limitation:

the method of calculating the principal, premium, if any, interest or other amounts payable, if any, on the notes;

the time remaining to the maturity of the notes;

the aggregate outstanding amount of the notes;

the redemption or repayment features of the notes;

the level, direction and volatility of interest rates generally;

general economic conditions of the capital markets in the United States;

geopolitical conditions and other financial, political, regulatory and judicial events that affect the stock markets generally; and

any market-making activities with respect to the notes.

There may be a limited number of buyers when you decide to sell your notes. This may affect the price you receive for your notes or your ability to sell your notes at all.

For indexed notes that have very specific investment objectives or strategies, the applicable trading market may be more limited, and the price may be more volatile, than for other notes. The market value of indexed notes may be adversely affected by the complexity of the payout formula and volatility of the applicable reference asset or market measure, including any dividend rates or yields of other securities, financial instruments or indices that relate to the indexed notes. Moreover, the market value of indexed notes could be adversely affected by changes in the amount of outstanding debt, equity or other securities linked to the underlying reference asset, market measure or formula applicable to the indexed notes.

*Floating-rate notes bear additional risks.*

If your notes bear interest at a floating rate, there will be additional significant risks not associated with a conventional fixed-rate debt security. These risks include fluctuation of the interest rates and the possibility that you will receive an amount of interest that is lower than expected. We have no control over a number of matters, including economic, financial and political events, that are important in determining the existence, magnitude and longevity of market volatility and other risks and their impact on the value of, or payments made on, your floating-rate notes. In recent years, interest rates have been volatile, and that volatility may be expected in the future.

*Any Survivor's Option may be limited in amount.*

We will have the discretionary right to limit the aggregate principal amount of notes subject to any Survivor's Option that may be exercised in any calendar year to an amount equal to the greater of \$2,000,000 or 2% of the principal amount of all notes outstanding as of the end of the most recent calendar year. We also have the discretionary right to limit to \$250,000 in any calendar year the aggregate principal amount of notes subject to the Survivor's Option that may be exercised in such calendar year on behalf of any individual deceased beneficial owner of the notes. Accordingly, no assurance can be given that the Survivor's Option for a desired amount will be permitted in any single calendar year.

*Our obligations under subordinated notes will be subordinated.*

Holders of subordinated notes should recognize that contractual provisions in the Subordinated Indenture may prohibit us from making payments on the subordinated notes. The subordinated notes are unsecured and subordinate and junior in right of payment to all of our senior indebtedness (as defined in the Subordinated Indenture), to the extent and in the manner provided in the Subordinated Indenture. In addition, the subordinated notes may be fully subordinated to interests held by the U.S. government in the event we enter into a

receivership, insolvency, liquidation or similar proceedings. For additional information regarding the subordination provisions applicable to the subordinated notes, see [Description of Debt Securities Subordination](#) on page 24.

*Subordinated notes have limited acceleration rights.*

Holders of subordinated notes may accelerate payment of their notes only upon our voluntary or involuntary bankruptcy. If you purchase the subordinated notes, you will have no right to accelerate the payment of the notes if we fail to pay interest on the notes or if we fail in the performance of any of our other obligations under the subordinated notes.

*Our hedging activities may affect your return at maturity and the market value of the notes.*

At any time, we or our affiliates may engage in hedging activities relating to the notes. This hedging activity, in turn, may increase or decrease the market value of the notes. In addition, we or our affiliates may acquire a long or short position in the notes from time to time. All or a portion of these positions may be liquidated at or about the time of maturity of the notes. The aggregate amount and the composition of these positions are likely to vary over time. We have no reason to believe that any of our hedging activities will have a material effect on the notes, either directly or indirectly, by impacting the value of the notes. However, we cannot assure you that our activities or affiliates' activities will not affect these values.

*Our hedging and trading activities may create conflicts of interest with you.*

From time to time during the term of each series of notes and in connection with the determination of the yield on the notes, we or our affiliates may enter into additional hedging transactions or adjust or close out existing hedging transactions. We or our affiliates also may enter into hedging transactions relating to other notes or instruments that we issue, some of which may have returns calculated in a manner related to that of a particular series of notes. We or our affiliates will price

these hedging transactions with the intent to realize a profit, considering the risks inherent in these hedging activities, whether the value of the notes increases or decreases. However, these hedging activities may result in a profit that is more or less than initially expected, or could result in a loss.

We or one or more of our affiliates, including Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Incorporated, may engage in trading activities that are not for your account or on your behalf. These trading activities may present a conflict of interest between your interest in the notes and the interests we and our affiliates may have in our proprietary accounts, in facilitating transactions, including block trades, for our other customers, and in accounts under our management. These trading activities, if they influence the market measure or other reference asset (if any) for the notes or secondary trading (if any) in the notes, could be adverse to your interests as a beneficial owner of the notes.

*Changes in our credit ratings may affect the market value of the notes.*

Our credit ratings are an assessment of our ability to pay our obligations. Consequently, our perceived creditworthiness and actual or anticipated changes in our credit ratings may affect the market value of the notes. However, because your return on the notes depends upon factors in addition to our ability to pay our obligations, an improvement in our credit ratings will not reduce the other investment risks, if any, related to the notes.

*The market value of the notes may be affected by factors in addition to credit ratings.*

The notes could trade at prices that may be lower than their initial offering price. In addition to credit ratings that are assigned to the notes, whether or not the notes will trade at lower prices depends on various factors, including prevailing interest rates and markets for similar securities, our financial condition and future prospects and general economic conditions. Further, any credit ratings that are assigned to the notes may not

reflect the potential impact of all risks on their market value.

*Holders of indexed notes are subject to important risks that are not associated with more conventional debt securities.*

If you invest in indexed notes, you will be subject to significant additional risks not associated with conventional fixed-rate or floating-rate debt securities. These risks include the possibility that the applicable reference asset or market measure may be subject to fluctuations, and the possibility that you will receive a lower, or no, amount of principal, premium or interest, and at different times, than expected. In recent years, many securities, currencies, commodities, interest rates, inflation rates, indices and other market measures have experienced volatility, and this volatility may be expected in the future. However, past experience is not necessarily indicative of what may occur in the future. We have no control over a number of matters, including economic, financial and political events, that are important in determining the existence, magnitude and longevity of market volatility and other risks and their impact on the value of, or payments made on, your indexed notes. Further, you should assume that there is no statutory, judicial, or administrative authority that addresses the characterization of some types of indexed notes for U.S. federal or other income tax purposes. As a result, the income tax consequences of an investment in indexed notes are not certain.

In considering whether to purchase indexed notes, you should be aware that the calculation of amounts payable on indexed notes may involve reference to a market measure determined by one or our affiliates or prices or values that are published solely by third parties or entities which are not regulated by the laws of the United States. Additional risks that you should consider in connection with an investment in indexed notes will be set forth in the applicable supplement for those indexed notes.

*Our ability to make payments on the notes depends upon the results of operations of our subsidiaries.*

As a holding company, we conduct substantially all of our operations through our subsidiaries and depend on

dividends, distributions and other payments from our banking and nonbank subsidiaries to fund payments on our obligations, including the notes. Many of our subsidiaries, including our bank and broker-dealer subsidiaries, are subject to laws that restrict dividend payments or authorize regulatory bodies to block or reduce the flow of funds from those subsidiaries to us or to our other subsidiaries. In addition, our bank and broker-dealer subsidiaries are subject to restrictions on their ability to lend or transact with affiliates and to minimum regulatory capital and liquidity requirements. These restrictions could prevent those subsidiaries from making distributions to us or otherwise providing cash to us that we need in order to make payments on the notes.

*The notes will be structurally subordinated to liabilities of our subsidiaries.*

Because we are a holding company, our right to participate in any distribution of assets of any subsidiary upon such subsidiary's liquidation or reorganization or otherwise is subject to the prior claims of creditors of that subsidiary, except to the extent we may ourselves be recognized as a creditor of that subsidiary. As a result, our obligations under the notes will be structurally subordinated to all existing and future liabilities of our subsidiaries, and claimants should look only to our assets for payments.

## **BANK OF AMERICA CORPORATION**

Bank of America Corporation is a Delaware corporation, a bank holding company and a financial holding company. Our principal executive offices are located in the Bank of America Corporate Center, 100 North Tryon Street, Charlotte, North Carolina 28255, and our telephone number is (704) 386-5681. Through our banking and various nonbank subsidiaries throughout the United States and in certain international markets, we provide a diversified range of banking and nonbank financial services and products.

## USE OF PROCEEDS

Unless we describe a different use in the applicable supplement, we will use the net proceeds from the sale of the notes for general corporate purposes. General corporate purposes include, but are not limited to, the following:

our working capital needs;

the funding of investments in, or extensions of credit to, our subsidiaries;

possible investments in, or acquisitions of assets and liabilities of, other financial institutions or other businesses;

possible reduction, redemptions, or repurchases of outstanding indebtedness;

possible repayments on outstanding indebtedness; and

other uses in the ordinary course of conducting our business.

Until we designate the use of these net proceeds, we will invest them temporarily. From time to time, we may engage in additional financings as we determine appropriate based on our needs and prevailing market conditions. These additional financings may include the sale of other notes and securities.

## DESCRIPTION OF NOTES

Our senior notes will be issued under an amended and restated indenture dated as of July 1, 2001, as amended or supplemented from time to time (the Senior Indenture), between us and The Bank of New York Mellon Trust Company, N.A. (formerly The Bank of New York Trust Company, N.A.), as successor trustee to The Bank of New York. Our subordinated notes will be issued under an amended and restated indenture dated as of July 1, 2001, as amended or supplemented from time to time (the Subordinated Indenture, and together with the Senior Indenture, the Indentures), between us and The Bank of New York Mellon Trust

Company, N.A. (formerly The Bank of New York Trust Company, N.A.), as successor trustee to The Bank of New York. The Indentures are subject to, and governed by, the Trust Indenture Act of 1939. General terms and provisions of the Indentures and the notes are summarized below. For additional information about the terms and provisions of the notes and the Indentures, you should review the actual notes and the Indentures, which are on file with the SEC. You also may review the Indentures at the offices of The Bank of New York Mellon Trust Company, N.A. at the address indicated in the section entitled Summary beginning on page 4. Whenever we refer to particular provisions of the Indentures or the defined terms contained in the Indentures, those provisions and defined terms are incorporated by reference in this prospectus and any applicable supplement.

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The Indentures do not limit the amount of additional indebtedness that we may incur. Accordingly, without the consent of the holders of the notes, we may issue indebtedness under the Indentures in addition to the notes offered by this prospectus.

We may issue notes that bear interest at a fixed rate described in the applicable supplement. We refer to these notes as fixed-rate notes. We may issue notes that bear interest at a floating rate of interest determined by reference to one or more interest rate bases, or by reference to one or more interest rate formulae, described in the applicable supplement. We refer to these notes as floating-rate notes. In some cases, the interest rate of a floating-rate note also may be adjusted by adding or subtracting a spread or by multiplying the interest rate by a spread multiplier. A floating-rate note also may be subject to a maximum interest rate limit, or ceiling, and/or a minimum interest rate limit, or floor, on the rate of interest and/or the interest that may accrue during any interest period.

We also may issue notes that provide that the rate of return, including the principal, premium, if any, interest or other amounts payable, if any, is determined by reference, either directly or indirectly, to the price, per-



formance or levels of one or more securities, currencies or composite currencies, commodities, interest rates, inflation rates, stock or other indices, or other financial or market measures, formulae or reference assets, or any combination of the above, in each case as specified in the applicable supplement. We refer to these notes as indexed notes.

We will identify the calculation agent for any floating-rate notes or indexed notes in the applicable supplement. The calculation agent will be responsible for calculating the interest rate, reference rates, principal, premium, if any, interest or other amounts payable, if any, applicable to the floating-rate notes or indexed notes, as the case may be, and for certain other related matters. The calculation agent, at the request of the holder of any floating-rate note, will provide the interest rate then in effect and, if already determined, the interest rate that is to take effect on the next interest reset date, as described below, for the floating-rate note. We may replace any calculation agent or elect to act as the calculation agent for some or all of the notes, and the calculation agent also may resign.

Notes issued in accordance with this prospectus supplement and the applicable supplement will have the following general characteristics:

The notes will be our direct unsecured obligations. Each supplement will state whether the notes are senior or subordinated debt. Senior notes will rank equally with all of our other unsecured and unsubordinated debt, other than unsecured and unsubordinated debt subject to priorities or preferences by law, and subordinated notes will rank equally with all of our other unsecured and subordinated debt, other than unsecured and subordinated debt that by its terms is subordinated to the subordinated notes. Subordinated notes will be subordinate and junior in right of payment to our existing and future senior debt to the extent and in the manner provided in the Subordinated Indenture. Unless otherwise specified in the applicable supplement, the subordinated notes will not be guaranteed by us or any of our affiliates and will not be subject to any other arrangement that legally or economically enhances the ranking of the subordinated notes.

The notes may be offered from time to time by us through the Purchasing Agent and each note will mature on a day that is nine months or more from its issue date. We also may offer the notes directly.

The notes will bear interest from their respective issue dates at a fixed or a floating rate, or the notes will have a rate of return, including principal, premium, if any, interest or other amounts payable, if any, that is determined by reference, either directly or indirectly, to the price, performance or levels of one or more securities, currencies or composite currencies, commodities, interest rates, inflation rates, stock or other indices, or other formulae, financial or market measures or reference assets, or any combination of the above, as specified in the applicable supplement.

The notes will not be subject to any sinking fund.

The notes will be issued in minimum denominations of \$1,000, and in multiples of \$1,000, unless another denomination is stated in the applicable supplement.

In addition, the supplement relating to each offering of notes will describe specific terms of the notes, including:

the principal amount of the notes offered;

the price, which may be expressed as a percentage of the aggregate initial public offering price of the notes, at which the notes will be issued to the public;

the Purchasing Agent's concession;

the net proceeds to us;

the date on which the notes will be issued to the public;

the stated maturity date of the notes;

whether the notes are fixed-rate notes, floating-rate notes or indexed notes;

whether the notes are senior or subordinated;

the method of determining and paying interest, including any interest rate basis or bases, any initial

interest rate or method for determining any initial interest rate, any interest reset dates, any interest payment dates, any index maturity, and any maximum or minimum interest rate, as applicable;

any spread or spread multiplier applicable to floating-rate notes or indexed notes;

the method for the calculation and payment of principal, premium, if any, interest or other amounts payable, if any;

the interest payment frequency;

whether the Survivor's Option described on page 22 will be applicable;

if we decide to list any notes on a stock exchange, we will specify the exchange;

if the notes may be redeemed at our option or repaid at the option of the holder prior to their maturity date and the provisions relating to such redemption or repayment;

any special U.S. federal income tax consequences of the purchase, ownership and disposition of the notes; and

any other material terms of the notes that are different from those described in this prospectus and that are not inconsistent with the provisions of the applicable Indenture.

Because we are a holding company, our right to participate in any distribution of assets of any subsidiary upon such subsidiary's liquidation or reorganization or otherwise is subject to the prior claims of creditors of that subsidiary, except to the extent we may ourselves be recognized as a creditor of that subsidiary. As a result, our obligations under the notes will be structurally subordinated to all existing and future liabilities of our subsidiaries, and claimants should look only to our assets for payments.

### **Payment of Principal and Interest**

Principal, premium, if any, interest or other amounts payable, if any, on the notes will be paid to owners of a beneficial interest in the notes in accordance with the arrangements then in place between the paying agent

and The Depository Trust Company (referred to as "DTC"), as the depository, and its participants as described under the section entitled "Registration and Settlement" beginning on page 27. Interest on each note will be payable either monthly, quarterly, semi-annually or annually on each interest payment date and at maturity, or on the date of redemption or repayment if a note is redeemed or repaid prior to maturity. Unless otherwise specified in the applicable supplement, if the interest payment date or maturity date for a fixed-rate note falls on a day that is not a Business Day (as defined below), the payment will be made on the next succeeding Business Day, and no additional interest will accrue in respect of the amount payable on that next Business Day for the period from and after the interest payment date or the maturity date, as the case may be. Unless otherwise specified in the applicable supplement, if the interest payment date for a floating-rate note falls on a day that is not a Business Day, the payment will be made on the next succeeding Business Day. However, unless otherwise specified in the applicable supplement, if an interest payment date for a LIBOR note (as described below) falls on a day that is not a Business Day, and the next Business Day is in the next calendar month, then the interest payment date will be the immediately preceding Business Day. In each case, except for an interest payment date falling on the maturity date, the interest periods and the interest reset dates for the floating-rate note will be adjusted accordingly to calculate the amount of interest payable on that floating-rate note. Unless otherwise specified in the applicable supplement, if the maturity date for a floating-rate note falls on a day that is not a Business Day, the payment will be made on the next succeeding Business Day, and no additional interest will accrue in respect of the amount payable on the next succeeding Business Day for the period from and after the maturity date.

Unless we specify otherwise in the applicable supplement, "Business Day" means any weekday that is (1) not a legal holiday in New York, New York or Charlotte, North Carolina, (2) not a day on which banking



institutions in those cities are authorized or required by law or regulation to be closed and (3) for LIBOR notes, also is a London Banking Day. A London Banking Day means any day on which commercial banks are open for business (including dealings in U.S. dollars) in London, England.

Unless otherwise indicated in the applicable supplement, interest payments will include interest accrued from the most recent interest payment date to which interest has been paid or, if no interest has been paid, from the issue date, to, but excluding, the next interest payment date or the maturity date, as the case may be.

Interest will be payable to the person in whose name a note is registered at the close of business on the regular record date before each interest payment date. Interest payable at maturity, on a date of redemption or repayment or in connection with the exercise of a Survivor's Option will be payable to the person to whom principal is payable. Unless otherwise specified in the applicable supplement, the regular record date for an interest payment date will be the first day of the calendar month in which the interest payment date occurs, whether or not that day is a Business Day. The principal and interest payable at maturity will be paid to the person in whose name the note is registered at the time of payment.

We will pay any administrative costs imposed by banks in connection with making payments in immediately available funds, but any tax, assessment or governmental charge imposed upon any payments, including, without limitation, any withholding tax, will be the responsibility of the holders of beneficial interests in the notes in respect of which such payments are made.

### Interest and Interest Rates

#### *Fixed-Rate Notes*

Each fixed-rate note will begin to accrue interest on its issue date and continue to accrue interest until its stated maturity date or earlier redemption or repayment. The applicable supplement will specify a fixed interest

rate per year payable monthly, quarterly, semi-annually or annually. Unless otherwise specified in the applicable supplement, interest on the fixed-rate notes will be computed on the basis of a 360-day year consisting of twelve 30-day months.

Interest on the fixed-rate notes will be paid as follows:

#### *Interest Payment*

##### *Frequency*

Monthly

Quarterly

Semi-annually

Annually

##### *Interest Payment Dates*

Fifteenth day of each calendar month, beginning in the first calendar month following the month in which the note was issued.

Fifteenth day of every third month, beginning in the third calendar month following the month in which the note was issued.

Fifteenth day of every sixth month, beginning in the sixth calendar month following the month in which the note was issued.

Fifteenth day of every twelfth month, beginning in the twelfth calendar month following the month in which the note was issued.

#### *Floating-Rate Notes*

*Interest Rate Bases.* Each floating-rate note will have an interest rate basis or formula, which may be based on:

the federal funds rate, in which case the note will be a federal funds rate note;

the London interbank offered rate, in which case the note will be a LIBOR note;

the prime rate, in which case the note will be a prime rate note;

the treasury rate, in which case the note will be a treasury rate note; or

any other interest rate formula as may be specified in the applicable supplement.

The specific terms of each floating-rate note, including the initial interest rate, or the method for determining the initial interest rate, in effect until the first interest reset date, will be specified in the applicable supplement. Thereafter, the interest rate will be determined by reference to the specified interest rate basis or formula, plus or minus the spread, if any, and/or multiplied by the spread multiplier, if any. The spread is the number of basis points we specify on the floating-rate note to be added to or subtracted from the base rate. The spread multiplier is the percentage we specify on the floating-rate note by which the base rate is multiplied in order to calculate the applicable interest rate. A floating-rate note also may be subject to a maximum interest rate limit, or ceiling, and/or a minimum interest rate limit, or floor, on the rate of interest and/or the interest that may accrue during any interest period.

In addition, the interest rate on a floating-rate note may not be higher than the maximum rate permitted by New York law, as that rate may be modified by United States law of general application. Under current New York law, the maximum rate of interest, subject to some exceptions, for any loan in an amount less than \$250,000 is 16% and for any loan in the amount of \$250,000 or more but less than \$2,500,000 is 25% per annum on a simple interest basis. These limits do not apply to loans of \$2,500,000 or more.

*Interest Reset Dates.* The interest rate of each floating-rate note may be reset daily, weekly, monthly, quarterly, semi-annually or annually, as we specify in the applicable supplement. The interest rate in effect from the issue date to the first interest reset date for a floating-rate note will be the initial interest rate, as specified in the applicable supplement or determined in accordance with the method specified in the applicable supplement. The dates on which the interest rate for a floating-rate note will be reset will be specified in the applicable supplement. We refer to each of these dates as an interest reset date.

Unless otherwise specified in the applicable supplement, if any interest reset date for any floating-rate note

falls on a day that is not a Business Day for the floating-rate note, the interest reset date for the floating-rate note will be postponed to the next day that is a Business Day for the floating-rate note. However, in the case of a LIBOR note, if the next Business Day is in the next succeeding calendar month, the interest reset date will be the immediately preceding Business Day.

*Interest Determination Dates.* Unless otherwise specified in the applicable supplement, the interest determination date for an interest reset date will be:

for a federal funds rate note or a prime rate note, the Business Day immediately preceding the interest reset date;

for a LIBOR note, the second London Banking Day immediately preceding the interest reset date;

for a treasury rate note, the day of the week in which the interest reset date falls on which Treasury bills, as defined below, of the applicable index maturity would normally be auctioned; and

for a floating-rate note for which the interest rate is determined by reference to two or more base rates, the interest determination date will be the most recent Business Day that is at least two Business Days prior to the applicable interest reset date for the floating-rate note on which each applicable base rate is determinable.

The index maturity is the period to maturity of the instrument for which the interest rate basis is calculated.

Treasury bills usually are sold at auction on Monday of each week, unless that day is a legal holiday, in which case the auction usually is held on the following Tuesday, except that the auction may be held on the preceding Friday. If, as a result of a legal holiday, an auction is held on the preceding Friday, that preceding Friday will be the interest determination date pertaining to the interest reset date occurring in the next succeeding week. The treasury rate will be determined as of that date, and the applicable interest rate will take effect on the applicable interest reset date.

*Calculation Date.* Unless otherwise specified in the applicable supplement, the calculation date for any interest determination date will be the date by which the calculation agent computes the amount of interest owed on a floating-rate note for the related interest period. Unless otherwise specified in the applicable supplement, the calculation date will be the earlier of:

- (1) the tenth calendar day after the related interest determination date or, if that day is not a Business Day, the next succeeding Business Day, or
- (2) the Business Day immediately preceding the applicable interest payment date, the maturity date or the redemption or prepayment date, as the case may be.

*Interest Payments.* Except as provided below and unless otherwise provided in the applicable supplement, interest on floating-rate notes will be payable, in the case of floating-rate notes with an interest reset date that resets:

daily, weekly or monthly on a date that occurs in each month, as specified in the applicable supplement;

quarterly on a date that occurs in each third month, as specified in the applicable supplement;

semi-annually on a date that occurs in each of two months of each year, as specified in the applicable supplement; and

annually on a date that occurs in a single month of each year, as specified in the applicable supplement.

We refer to each date on which interest is paid on a floating-rate note as an interest payment date. Unless we specify otherwise in the applicable supplement, each interest payment due on an interest payment date or the maturity date will include interest accrued from and including the most recent interest payment date to which interest has been paid, or, if no interest has been paid, from the original issue date, to but excluding the next interest payment date or the maturity date, as the case may be (each such period, an interest period).

For each floating-rate note, the calculation agent will determine the interest rate for the applicable interest period and will calculate the amount of interest accrued during each interest period. Accrued interest on a floating-rate note is calculated by multiplying the principal amount of a note by an accrued interest factor. This accrued interest factor is the sum of the interest factors calculated for each day in the period for which accrued interest is being calculated. Unless we specify otherwise in the applicable supplement, the daily interest factor will be computed and interest will be paid (including payments for partial periods) as follows:

for federal funds rate notes, LIBOR notes, prime rate notes or any other floating-rate notes other than treasury rate notes, the daily interest factor will be computed on the basis of the actual number of days in the relevant period divided by 360; and

for treasury rate notes, the daily interest factor will be computed on the basis of the actual number of days in the relevant period divided by 365 or 366, as applicable.

All dollar amounts used in or resulting from any calculation on floating-rate notes will be rounded to the nearest cent, with one-half cent being rounded upward. Unless we specify otherwise in the applicable supplement, all percentages resulting from any calculation with respect to a floating-rate note will be rounded, if necessary, to the nearest one hundred-thousandth of a percent, with five one-millionths of a percentage point rounded upwards, e.g., 9.876545% (or .09876545) being rounded to 9.87655% (or .0987655).

In determining the base rate that applies to a floating-rate note during a particular interest period, the calculation agent may obtain rate quotes from various banks or dealers active in the relevant market, as described in the descriptions below and/or in the applicable supplement. Those reference banks and dealers may include the calculation agent itself and its affiliates, as well as any underwriter, dealer or agent participating in the distribution of the relevant floating-rate notes and its affiliates, and they may also include our affiliates.





At the request of the holder of any floating-rate note, the calculation agent will provide the interest rate then in effect for that floating-rate note and, if different, the interest rate that will become effective on the next interest reset date as a result of a determination made on the most recent interest determination date with respect to the floating-rate note.

*LIBOR Notes.* Each LIBOR note will bear interest at the LIBOR base rate, adjusted by any spread or spread multiplier, as specified in the applicable supplement. The LIBOR base rate will be the London interbank offered rate for deposits in U.S. dollars, as specified in the applicable supplement. Except as provided below, LIBOR for each interest period will be calculated on the interest determination date for the related interest reset date.

As determined by the calculation agent, LIBOR for any interest determination date will be the arithmetic mean of the offered rates for deposits in U.S. dollars having the index maturity described in the applicable supplement, commencing on the related interest reset date, as the rates appear on the Reuters LIBOR screen page designated in the applicable supplement as of 11:00 A.M., London time, on that interest determination date, if at least two offered rates appear on the designated Reuters LIBOR screen page, except that, if the designated Reuters LIBOR screen page only provides for a single rate, that single rate will be used.

If fewer than two of the rates described above appear on that page or no rate appears on any page on which only one rate normally appears, then the calculation agent will determine LIBOR as follows:

The calculation agent will request on the interest determination date four major banks in the London interbank market, as selected and identified by us, which may include us, our affiliates, or affiliates of the agents to provide their offered quotations for deposits in U.S. dollars having an index maturity specified in the applicable supplement commencing on the interest reset date and in a representative amount to prime banks in the London interbank market at approximately 11:00 A.M., London time.

If at least two quotations are provided, the calculation agent will determine LIBOR as the arithmetic mean of those quotations.

If fewer than two quotations are provided, we will select and identify to the calculation agent three major banks in New York City, which may include us, our affiliates, or affiliates of the agents. On the interest reset date, those three banks will be requested by the calculation agent to provide their offered quotations for loans in U.S. dollars having an index maturity specified in the applicable supplement commencing on the interest reset date and in a representative amount to leading European banks at approximately 11:00 A.M., New York City time. The calculation agent will determine LIBOR as the arithmetic mean of those quotations.

If fewer than three New York City banks selected by us are quoting rates, LIBOR for that interest period will remain LIBOR then in effect on the interest determination date.

Representative amount means an amount that, in our judgment, is representative of a single transaction in the relevant market at the relevant time.

Reuters page means the display on the Thomson Reuters service, or any successor or replacement service ( Reuters ), on the page or pages specified in this prospectus or the applicable supplement, or any successor or replacement page or pages on that service.

*Treasury Rate Notes.* Each treasury rate note will bear interest at the treasury rate plus or minus any spread or multiplied by any spread multiplier described in the applicable supplement. Except as provided below, the treasury rate for each interest period will be calculated on the interest determination date for the related interest reset date.

The treasury rate for any interest determination date will be the rate set at the auction of direct obligations of the United States ( Treasury bills ) having the index

maturity described in the applicable supplement, as specified under the caption **INVEST RATE** on the display on Reuters on screen page USAUCTION10 or USAUCTION11.

If the rate cannot be determined as described above, the treasury rate will be determined as follows:

- (1) If the rate is not displayed on Reuters by 3:00 P.M., New York City time, on the related calculation date, the treasury rate will be the bond equivalent yield, as defined below, of the auction rate of the applicable Treasury bills as announced by the U.S. Department of the Treasury.
- (2) If the alternative rate described in paragraph (1) above is not announced by the U.S. Department of the Treasury, or if the auction is not held, the treasury rate will be the bond equivalent yield of the rate on the particular interest determination date of the applicable Treasury bills as published in H.15(519) under the caption **U.S. government securities/Treasury bills (Secondary Market)**.
- (3) If the alternative rate referred to in (2) above is not announced by the U.S. Department of the Treasury, the treasury rate will be the bond equivalent yield of the rate on the particular interest determination date of the applicable Treasury bills as published in H.15 Daily Update, or another recognized electronic source used for the purpose of displaying the applicable rate, under the caption **U.S. Government Securities/Treasury Bills (secondary market)**.
- (4) If the alternative rate referred to in (3) above is not published by 3:00 P.M., New York City time, on the related calculation date, the treasury rate will be the rate on the particular interest determination date calculated by the calculation agent as the bond equivalent yield of the arithmetic mean of the secondary market bid rates, as of approximately 3:30 P.M., New York City time, on that interest determination date, of three primary United States government securities dealers, which may include the agent or its affiliates, selected by us, for the issue of Treasury bills with a remaining maturity closest to the particular index maturity.
- (5) If the dealers selected by us are not quoting as mentioned in (4) above, the treasury rate will be the treasury rate in effect on the particular interest determination date.

The bond equivalent yield will be calculated using the following formula:

$$\text{Bond equivalent yield} = \frac{D \times N}{360 - (D \times M)} \times 100$$

where **D** refers to the applicable annual rate for Treasury bills quoted on a bank discount basis and expressed as a decimal, **N** refers to 365 or 366, as the case may be, and **M** refers to the actual number of days in the applicable interest period.

**H.15(519)** means the weekly statistical release designated as H.15(519), or any successor publication, published by the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System at <http://www.federalreserve.gov/releases/h15/current/>, or any successor site or publication.

**H.15 Daily Update** means the daily update of H.15(519), available through the website of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System at [www.federalreserve.gov/releases/h15/update](http://www.federalreserve.gov/releases/h15/update/), or any successor site or publication.

**Federal Funds Rate Notes.** Each federal funds rate note will bear interest at the federal funds rate plus or minus any spread or multiplied by any spread multiplier described in the applicable supplement. Except as provided below, the federal funds rate for each interest period will be calculated on the interest determination date for the related interest reset date.

If **Federal Funds (Effective) Rate** is specified in the applicable supplement, the federal funds rate for any interest determination date will be the rate on that date for U.S. dollar federal funds, as published in H.15(519) under the heading **Federal funds (effective)** and displayed on Reuters on page FEDFUNDS1 under the

heading **EFFECT**, referred to as **Reuters Page FedFunds1**. If this rate is not published in H.15 Daily Update by 3:00 P.M., New York City time, on the related calculation date, or does not appear on Reuters Page FedFunds1, the federal funds rate will be the rate on that interest determination date as published in H.15 Daily Update, or any other recognized electronic source for the purposes of displaying the applicable rate, under the caption **Federal funds (effective)**. If this alternate rate is not published in H.15 Daily Update, or other recognized electronic source for the purpose of displaying the applicable rate, by 3:00 P.M., New York City time, on the related calculation date, then the calculation agent will determine the federal funds rate to be the average of the rates for the last transaction in overnight U.S. dollar federal funds quoted prior to 9:00 A.M., New York City time, on the business day following that interest determination date, by each of three leading brokers of U.S. dollar federal funds transactions in New York City, selected by us. If fewer than three brokers selected by us are so quoting, the federal funds rate will be the federal funds rate in effect on that interest determination date.

If **Federal Funds Open Rate** is specified in the applicable supplement, the federal funds rate will be the rate on that interest determination date set forth under the heading **Federal Funds** opposite the caption **Open** and displayed on Reuters on Page 5, referred to as **Reuters Page 5**, or if that rate does not appear on Reuters Page 5 by 3:00 P.M., New York City time, on the related calculation date, the federal funds rate will be the rate on that interest determination date displayed on the FFPREBON Index page on Bloomberg L.P. ( **Bloomberg** ), which is the Fed Funds Opening Rate as reported by Prebon Yamane (or a successor) on Bloomberg. If the alternate rate described in the preceding sentence is not displayed on the FFPREBON Index page on Bloomberg, or any other recognized electronic source for the purpose of displaying the applicable rate, by 3:00 P.M., New York City time, on the related calculation date, then the calculation agent will determine the

federal funds rate to be the average of the rates for the last transaction in overnight U.S. dollar federal funds, quoted prior to 9:00 A.M., New York City time, on that interest determination date, by each of three leading brokers of U.S. dollar federal funds transactions in New York City, selected by us. If fewer than three brokers selected by us are quoting as described above, the federal funds rate will be the federal funds rate in effect on that interest determination date.

If **Federal Funds Target Rate** is specified in the applicable supplement, the federal funds rate will be the rate on that interest determination date for U.S. dollar federal funds displayed on the FDTR Index page on Bloomberg. If that rate does not appear on the FDTR Index page on Bloomberg by 3:00 P.M., New York City time, on the calculation date, the federal funds rate for the applicable interest determination date will be the rate for that day appearing on Reuters on page USFFTARGET=, referred to as **Reuters Page USFFTARGET=**. If that rate does not appear on the FDTR Index page on Bloomberg or is not displayed on Reuters Page USFFTARGET= by 3:00 P.M., New York City time, on the related calculation date, then the calculation agent will determine the federal funds rate to be the average of the rates for the last transaction in overnight U.S. dollar federal funds, quoted prior to 9:00 A.M., New York City time, on that interest determination date, by each of three leading brokers of U.S. dollar federal funds transactions in New York City, selected by us. If fewer than three brokers selected by us are quoting as described above, the federal funds rate will be the federal funds rate in effect on that interest determination date.

*Prime Rate Notes.* Each prime rate note will bear interest at the prime rate plus or minus any spread or multiplied by any spread multiplier described in the applicable supplement. Except as provided below, the prime rate for each interest period will be calculated on the interest determination date for the related interest reset date.

The prime rate for any interest determination date will be the prime rate or base lending rate on that date, as published in H.15(519) prior to 3:00 P.M., New York City time, on the related calculation date for that interest determination date under the heading Bank prime loan.

The following procedures will be followed if the prime rate cannot be determined as described above:

If the rate is not published in H.15(519) by 3:00 P.M., New York City time, on the related calculation date, then the prime rate will be the rate as published in H.15 Daily Update, or any other recognized electronic source used for the purpose of displaying the applicable rate, under the caption Bank prime loan.

If the alternative rate described above is not published in H.15 Daily Update or another recognized electronic source by 3:00 P.M., New York City time, on the related calculation date, then the calculation agent will determine the prime rate to be the arithmetic mean of the rates of interest publicly announced by each bank that appears on Reuters on page USPRIME1, as defined below, as that bank's prime rate or base lending rate as in effect as of 11:00 A.M., New York City time, on that interest determination date.

If fewer than four rates appear on Reuters on page USPRIME1 for that interest determination date, by 3:00 P.M., New York City time, then the calculation agent will determine the prime rate to be the average of the prime rates or base lending rates furnished in New York City by three substitute banks or trust companies (all organized under the laws of the United States or any of its states and having total equity capital of at least \$500,000,000) selected by us.

If the banks selected by us are not quoting as described above, the prime rate will remain the prime rate then in effect on the interest determination date.

Reuters page USPRIME1 means the display designated as page USPRIME1 on Reuters for the purpose of displaying prime rates or base lending rates of major U.S. banks.

#### *Indexed Notes*

We may issue indexed notes, in which the amount of principal, premium, if any, interest, or other amounts payable, if any, is determined by reference, either directly or indirectly, to the price, performance or levels of one or more, or any combination of:

securities;

currencies or composite currencies;

commodities;

interest rates;

inflation rates;

stock or other indices;

other formulae, financial or market measures or reference assets;  
in each case as specified in the applicable supplement. In this prospectus, we may refer to these as reference assets.

Holders of some types of indexed notes may receive a principal amount at maturity that is greater than or less than the face amount of the notes, depending upon the relative value at maturity of the reference asset or underlying obligation. The value of the applicable index will fluctuate over time.

We will provide the method for determining the principal, premium, if any, interest, or other amounts payable, if any, in respect of that indexed note, certain historical information with respect to the specified index or indexed items and specific risk factors relating to that particular type of indexed note in the applicable supplement. The applicable supplement also will describe the tax considerations associated with an investment in the indexed notes if they differ from those described in the section entitled Tax Consequences to U.S. Holders beginning on page 30.

The applicable supplement for indexed notes also will identify the calculation agent that will calculate the amounts payable with respect to the indexed notes, which calculation agent may be one of our affiliates, including Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Incorporated. Upon the request of the holder of an indexed note, the calculation agent will provide, if applicable, the current index, principal, premium, if any, rate of interest, interest payable, or other amounts payable, if any, in connection with the indexed note.

An indexed note may provide either for cash settlement or for physical settlement by delivery of the indexed security or securities, or other securities of the types listed above. An indexed note also may provide that the form of settlement may be determined at our option or the holder's option. Some indexed notes may be exchangeable prior to maturity, at our option or the holder's option, for the related securities.

### **Redemption and Repayment**

Unless we otherwise provide in the applicable supplement, the notes will not be redeemable or repayable prior to their stated maturity dates.

If the applicable supplement states that the note is redeemable at our option prior to its stated maturity date, then on the date or dates specified in the supplement, we may redeem any of those notes, either in whole or from time to time in part, by giving written notice to the holder of the note being redeemed at least 30 but not more than 60 days before the redemption date or dates specified in that supplement.

If the applicable supplement states that your note is repayable at your option prior to its stated maturity date, we will require receipt of notice of the request for repayment at least 30 but not more than 60 days prior to the date or dates specified in that supplement. We also must receive the completed form entitled "Option to Elect Repayment." Exercise of the repayment option by the holder of a note will be irrevocable.

Since the notes will be represented by a global note, DTC (as the depository) or its nominee will be treated as

the holder of the notes; therefore DTC or its nominee will be the only entity that receives notices of redemption of notes from us, in the case of our redemption of notes, and will be the only entity that can exercise the right to repayment of notes, in the case of optional repayment. See the section entitled "Registration and Settlement" beginning on page 27.

To ensure that DTC or its nominee will timely exercise a right to repayment with respect to a particular beneficial interest in a note, the beneficial owner of such interest must instruct the broker or other direct or indirect participant through which it holds a beneficial interest in the note to notify DTC or its nominee of its desire to exercise a right to repayment. Because different firms have different cut-off times for accepting instructions from their customers, each beneficial owner should consult the broker or other direct or indirect participant through which it holds the beneficial interest in a note to determine the cut-off time by which the instruction must be given for timely notice to be delivered to DTC or its nominee. Conveyance of notices and other communications by DTC or its nominee to participants, by participants to indirect participants and by participants and indirect participants to beneficial owners of the notes will be governed by agreements among them and any applicable statutory or regulatory requirements.

The actual redemption or repayment of a note normally will occur on the interest payment date or dates following receipt of a valid notice. Unless otherwise specified in the applicable supplement, the redemption or repayment price will equal 100% of the principal amount of the note plus accrued and unpaid interest to the date or dates of redemption or repayment. Notes will not be redeemed in part in increments less than their minimum denominations.

We may at any time purchase notes, including those otherwise tendered for repayment by a holder, or a holder's duly authorized representative through the exercise of the Survivor's Option described below, at any price or prices in the open market or otherwise. If

we purchase notes in this manner, we will have the discretion to either hold or resell these notes or surrender these notes to the trustee for cancellation.

To the extent then required by applicable laws or regulations, subordinated notes may not be redeemed or repaid prior to maturity without the requisite prior approvals, if any, from applicable regulators.

### **Survivor's Option**

The Survivor's Option is a provision in a note in which we agree to repay that note, if requested by the authorized representative of the beneficial owner of that note, following the death of the beneficial owner of the note, so long as the note was acquired by the beneficial owner at least six months prior to the request. The supplement relating to any note will state whether the Survivor's Option applies to that note.

If the Survivor's Option is applicable to a note, upon the valid exercise of the Survivor's Option and the proper tender of the note for repayment, we will repay that note, in whole or in part, at a price equal to 100% of the principal amount of the deceased beneficial owner's beneficial interest in the note plus any accrued and unpaid interest to the date of repayment.

To be valid, the Survivor's Option must be exercised by or on behalf of the person who has authority to act on behalf of the deceased beneficial owner of the note under the laws of the applicable jurisdiction (including, without limitation, the personal representative of or the executor of the estate of the deceased beneficial owner or the surviving joint owner with the deceased beneficial owner).

A beneficial owner of a note is a person who has the right, immediately prior to such person's death, to receive the proceeds from the disposition of that note, as well as the right to receive payment of the principal of the note.

The death of a person holding a beneficial ownership interest in a note as a joint tenant or tenant by the entirety with another person, or as a tenant in common with the deceased holder's spouse, will be deemed the

death of a beneficial owner of that note, and the entire principal amount of the note held in this manner will be subject to repayment by us upon exercise of the Survivor's Option. However, the death of a person holding a beneficial ownership interest in a note as tenant in common with a person other than such deceased holder's spouse will be deemed the death of a beneficial owner only with respect to such deceased person's interest in the note, and only the deceased beneficial owner's percentage interest in the principal amount of the note will be subject to repayment.

The death of a person who, during his or her lifetime, was entitled to substantially all of the beneficial ownership interests in a note will be deemed the death of the beneficial owner of that note for purposes of the Survivor's Option, regardless of whether that beneficial owner was the registered holder of the note, if the beneficial ownership interest can be established to the satisfaction of the trustee. A beneficial ownership interest will be deemed to exist in typical cases of nominee ownership, ownership under the Uniform Transfers to Minors Act or Uniform Gifts to Minors Act, community property or other joint ownership arrangements between a husband and wife. In addition, the beneficial ownership interest in a note will be deemed to exist in custodial and trust arrangements where one person has all of the beneficial ownership interest in that note during his or her lifetime.

We have the discretionary right to limit the aggregate principal amount of notes as to which exercises of the Survivor's Option will be accepted by us from all authorized representatives of deceased beneficial owners in any calendar year to an amount equal to the greater of \$2,000,000 or 2% of the principal amount of all notes outstanding as of the end of the most recent calendar year. We also have the discretionary right to limit the aggregate principal amount of notes as to which exercises of the Survivor's Option will be accepted by us from the authorized representative for any individual deceased beneficial owner of notes in any calendar year to \$250,000. In addition, we will not permit the exercise



of the Survivor's Option for a principal amount less than \$1,000, and we will not permit the exercise of the Survivor's Option if such exercise will result in a note with a principal amount of less than \$1,000 outstanding. If, however, the original principal amount of a note was less than \$1,000, the authorized representative of the deceased beneficial owner of the note may exercise the Survivor's Option, but only for the full principal amount of the note.

An otherwise valid election to exercise the Survivor's Option may not be withdrawn. An election to exercise the Survivor's Option will be accepted in the order that it was received by the trustee, except for any note the acceptance of which would contravene any of the limitations described above. Notes accepted for repayment through the exercise of the Survivor's Option normally will be repaid on the first interest payment date that occurs 20 or more calendar days after the date of the acceptance. For example, if the acceptance date of a note tendered pursuant to a valid exercise of the Survivor's Option is May 1, 2015, and interest on that note is paid monthly, we would normally, at our option, repay or repurchase that note on the interest payment date occurring on June 15, 2015, because the May 15, 2015 interest payment date would occur less than 20 days from the date of acceptance. Each tendered note that is not accepted in a calendar year due to the application of any of the limitations described in the preceding paragraph will be deemed to be tendered in the following calendar year in the order in which all such notes were originally tendered. If a note tendered through a valid exercise of the Survivor's Option is not accepted, the trustee will deliver a notice by first-class mail to the registered holder, at that holder's last known address as indicated in the note register, that states the reason that note has not been accepted for repayment.

Since the notes will be represented by a global note, DTC, as depository, or its nominee will be treated as the holder of the notes and will be the only entity that can exercise the Survivor's Option for such notes. To obtain repayment of a note pursuant to exercise of the

Survivor's Option, the deceased beneficial owner's authorized representative must provide the following items to the broker or other entity through which the beneficial interest in the note is held by the deceased beneficial owner:

appropriate evidence satisfactory to the trustee that:

- (a) the deceased was the beneficial owner of the note at the time of death and his or her interest in the note was acquired by the deceased beneficial owner at least six months prior to the request for repayment,
- (b) the death of the beneficial owner has occurred and the date of death, and
- (c) the representative has authority to act on behalf of the deceased beneficial owner;

if the beneficial interest in the note is held by a nominee of the deceased beneficial owner, a certificate satisfactory to the trustee from the nominee attesting to the deceased's beneficial ownership of that note;

a written request for repayment signed by the authorized representative of the deceased beneficial owner with the signature guaranteed by a member firm of a registered national securities exchange or of the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority, Inc., or FINRA, or a commercial bank or trust company having an office or correspondent in the United States;

if applicable, a properly executed assignment or endorsement;

tax waivers and any other instruments or documents that the trustee reasonably requires in order to establish the validity of the beneficial ownership of the note and the claimant's entitlement to payment; and

any additional information the trustee requires to evidence satisfaction of any conditions to the exercise of the Survivor's Option or to document beneficial ownership or authority to make the election and to cause the repayment of the note.



In turn, the broker or other entity will deliver each of these items to the trustee and will certify to the trustee that the broker or other entity represents the deceased beneficial owner.

We retain the right to limit the aggregate principal amount of notes for which exercises of the Survivor's Option will be accepted in any one calendar year as described above. All other questions regarding the eligibility or validity of any exercise of the Survivor's Option will be determined by the trustee, in its sole discretion, which determination will be final and binding on all parties.

The broker or other entity will be responsible for disbursing payments received from the trustee to the authorized representative. See the section entitled "Registration and Settlement" beginning on page 27.

Forms for the exercise of the Survivor's Option may be obtained from The Bank of New York Mellon Trust Company, N.A., 2001 Bryan Street, 10th Floor, Dallas, Texas 75201, Attention: Survivor Option Department, 1-800-275-2048.

### **Subordination**

The subordinated notes will be subordinated in right of payment to our Senior Indebtedness to the extent and in the manner set forth in the Subordinated Indenture, as described below. The Subordinated Indenture generally defines Senior Indebtedness as any indebtedness for money borrowed, including all of our indebtedness for borrowed and purchased money, all of our obligations arising from off-balance sheet guarantees and direct credit substitutes and our obligations associated with derivative products such as interest and foreign exchange rate contracts and commodity contracts, that were outstanding on the date we executed the Subordinated Indenture, or were created, incurred or assumed after that date, and all deferrals, renewals, extensions and refundings of that indebtedness or obligations, unless the instrument creating or evidencing the indebtedness provides that the indebtedness is subordinate in right of payment to any of our other

indebtedness. Our senior notes will be Senior Indebtedness. As of March 31, 2015, on a non-consolidated basis, we had approximately \$142 billion of senior long-term debt and certain short-term borrowings. Senior Indebtedness also includes our obligations under letters of credit, guarantees, foreign exchange contracts and interest rate swap contracts, none of which are included in such amount. In addition, holders of subordinated notes may be fully subordinated to interests held by the U.S. government in the event that we enter into a receivership, insolvency, liquidation or similar proceeding.

We will not be able to make any principal, premium or interest payments on the subordinated notes or repurchase our subordinated notes if there is a default or event of default on any Senior Indebtedness that would allow acceleration of the maturity thereof and that is not remedied and we and the trustee for the Subordinated Indenture (the Subordinated Trustee) receive notice of this from the holders of at least 10% in principal amount of any kind or category of any Senior Indebtedness or the Subordinated Trustee receives notice from us.

If any subordinated note is declared due and payable before the stated maturity date or in connection with a distribution of our assets to creditors pursuant to a dissolution, winding up, liquidation or reorganization, any principal, premium or interest owing to holders of our Senior Indebtedness will be paid to those holders before any holders of subordinated notes will be paid. In addition, if such amounts were previously paid to the holder of a subordinated note or the Subordinated Trustee, the holders of our Senior Indebtedness will have first rights to such amounts previously paid.

Until all Senior Indebtedness is repaid in full, the holders of subordinated notes will be subrogated to the rights of the holders of Senior Indebtedness to receive payments or distributions of our assets.

Due to differing subordination provisions in various series of subordinated debt securities issued by us and our predecessors, in the event of a dissolution, winding up, liquidation, reorganization, insolvency, receivership

or other proceeding, holders of the subordinated notes may receive more or less, ratably, than holders of some of our other series of our outstanding subordinated debt securities.

#### **Sale or Issuance of Capital Stock of a Principal Subsidiary Bank**

The Senior Indenture prohibits the issuance, sale or other disposition of capital stock, or securities convertible into, or options, warrants or rights to acquire, capital stock, of any Principal Subsidiary Bank (as defined below) or of any subsidiary which owns shares of capital stock, or securities convertible into, or options, warrants or rights to acquire capital stock, of any Principal Subsidiary Bank, with the following exceptions:

sales of directors' qualifying shares;

sales or other dispositions for fair market value, if, after giving effect to the disposition and to the conversion of any shares or securities convertible into capital stock of a Principal Subsidiary Bank, we would own at least 80% of each class of the capital stock of that Principal Subsidiary Bank;

sales or other dispositions made in compliance with an order of a court or regulatory authority of competent jurisdiction;

any sale by a Principal Subsidiary Bank of additional shares of its capital stock, securities convertible into shares of its capital stock, or options, warrants or rights to subscribe for or purchase shares of its capital stock, to its shareholders at any price, so long as before the sale we owned, directly or indirectly, securities of the same class and immediately after the sale we owned, directly or indirectly, at least as great a percentage of each class of securities of that Principal Subsidiary Bank as we owned before such sale of additional securities; and

any issuance of shares of capital stock, or securities convertible into or options, warrants or rights to subscribe for or purchase shares of capital stock, of a Principal Subsidiary Bank or any subsidiary which owns shares of capital stock, or securities convertible into or options, warrants or rights to acquire capital stock, of any Principal Subsidiary Bank, to us or our wholly owned subsidiary.

A Principal Subsidiary Bank is defined in the Senior Indenture as any of our banking subsidiaries (other than any credit card bank) with total assets equal to more than 10% of our total consolidated assets. At present, Bank of America, N.A. is our only Principal Subsidiary Bank.

There is no comparable covenant in the Subordinated Indenture.

#### **Waiver of Covenants**

The holders of a majority in principal amount of the notes affected that are outstanding under each of the Indentures may waive compliance with certain covenants or conditions of such Indentures.

#### **Limitation on Mergers and Sales of Assets**

Each indenture generally permits a consolidation or merger between us and another entity. It also permits the sale or transfer by us of all or substantially all of our assets. These transactions are permitted if:

the resulting or acquiring entity, if other than us, is organized and existing under the laws of the United States or any state or the District of Columbia and expressly assumes all of our obligations under that indenture; and

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immediately after the transaction, we (or any successor company) are not in default in the performance of any covenant or condition under that indenture.

Upon any consolidation, merger, sale, or transfer of this kind, the resulting or acquiring entity will be substituted for us in the applicable indenture with the same effect as if it had been an original party to that indenture. As a result, the successor entity may exercise our rights and powers under the indenture.

### **Modification of the Indentures**

We and the trustee may modify each of the Senior Indenture and the Subordinated Indenture with the consent of the holders of at least  $66\frac{2}{3}\%$  of the aggregate principal amount of the notes at the time outstanding under the applicable Indenture, voting as one class. However, we cannot modify either Indenture to extend the fixed maturity of, reduce the principal amount or redemption premium of, or reduce the rate of or extend the time of payment of interest on, any note without the consent of each noteholder. Furthermore, we cannot modify either Indenture to reduce the percentage of notes required to consent to modification without the consent of all holders of the notes outstanding under that Indenture.

In addition, we and the applicable trustee may execute supplemental indentures in limited circumstances without the consent of any holders of outstanding notes.

### **Meetings and Action by Noteholders**

The trustee may call a meeting in its discretion or upon request by us or the holders of at least 10% in principal amount of the notes outstanding under the applicable Indenture upon the giving of notice. If a meeting of noteholders is duly held, any resolution raised or decision taken will be binding on all holders of notes outstanding under that Indenture. The holders of a majority in principal amount of each series of notes outstanding under the applicable Indenture may direct the time, method and place for conducting any proceeding for any remedy available to the trustee or exercising any trust or power conferred on the trustee under that Indenture, subject to certain limitations described in the applicable Indenture.

### **Defaults and Rights of Acceleration**

The Senior Indenture defines an event of default as any one of the following events:

our failure to pay principal or premium when due on any notes;  
our failure to pay interest on any notes within 30 days after the interest becomes due;

our breach of any of our other covenants contained in the senior notes or the Senior Indenture that is not cured within 90 days after written notice to us by the trustee for the Senior Indenture (the Senior Trustee), or to us and the Senior Trustee by the holders of at least 25% in principal amount of all senior notes then outstanding under the Senior Indenture and affected thereby; and

certain events involving our bankruptcy, insolvency or liquidation.

The Subordinated Indenture defines an event of default solely as our bankruptcy under federal bankruptcy laws, whether voluntary or involuntary (and, in the case of our involuntary bankruptcy, continuing for a period of 60 consecutive days).

If an event of default occurs and is continuing, either the trustee or the holders of 25% in principal amount of the notes outstanding under the applicable Indenture may declare the principal amount of all such notes to be due and payable immediately. The holders of a majority in principal amount of the notes then outstanding under the applicable Indenture may annul the declaration of an event of default and waive past defaults.

Payment of principal of the subordinated notes may not be accelerated in the case of a default in the payment of principal or any premium or interest or the performance of any other covenants.

### **Collection of Indebtedness**

If we fail to pay principal or premium on the notes or if we are over 30 days late on an interest payment on the notes, the trustee can demand that we pay to it, for the benefit of the noteholders under the applicable Indenture, the amount which is due and payable on those notes. If we fail to pay the required amount on demand, the trustee may take appropriate action, including instituting judicial proceedings.



In addition, a holder of a debt security also may file suit to enforce our obligation to make payment of principal, any premium, interest, or other amounts due on that debt security regardless of the actions taken by the trustee.

The holders of a majority in principal amount of the notes then outstanding under an Indenture may direct the time, method and place of conducting any proceeding for any remedy available to the trustee under that Indenture. The trustee, however, will be entitled to receive from the holders reasonable indemnity against expenses and liabilities.

At least annually, we are required to file with the trustee a certificate stating that we are not in default with any of the terms of the respective Indentures.

### **Reopening**

We have the ability to reopen, or increase after the issuance date, the principal amount of a particular series of our notes without notice to the holders of existing notes by selling additional notes having the same terms provided that such additional notes shall be fungible for U.S. federal income tax purposes. However, any new notes of this kind may have a different offering price and may begin to bear interest on a different date.

### **Notices**

We will provide to noteholders any required notices by first-class mail to the addresses of the holders as they appear in the note register.

### **Concerning the Trustees**

We and our subsidiaries have from time to time maintained deposit accounts and conducted other banking transactions with The Bank of New York Mellon Trust Company, N.A. and its affiliated entities in the ordinary course of business. The Bank of New York Mellon Trust Company, N.A. also serves as trustee for a number of series of our outstanding indebtedness under other indentures.

## **REGISTRATION AND SETTLEMENT**

### **Book-Entry System**

All of the notes we offer will be issued in book-entry only form. This means that we will not issue certificated notes in definitive form, which we refer to as definitive notes, except in the limited case described below. Instead, we will issue global notes in registered form (each, a Global Note). Each Global Note is held through DTC, as depository, and is registered in the name of Cede & Co., as nominee of DTC. Accordingly, Cede & Co. will be the holder of record of all of the notes. Each note represents a beneficial interest in that Global Note.

Beneficial interests in a Global Note are shown on, and transfers are effected through, records maintained by DTC or its participants. In order to own a beneficial interest in a note, you must be an institution that has an account with DTC, which we refer to as a participant in DTC, or have a direct or indirect account with such an institution. Transfers of ownership interests in the notes will be accomplished by making entries in DTC participants' books acting on behalf of beneficial owners. Beneficial owners of these notes will not receive definitive notes representing their ownership interest, except in the limited circumstances described below.

So long as DTC or its nominee is the registered owner of a Global Note, DTC or its nominee, as the case may be, will be the sole holder of the notes represented thereby for all purposes, including payment of principal and interest, under the applicable Indenture. Except as otherwise provided below, the beneficial owners of the notes are not entitled to receive physical delivery of definitive notes and will not be considered the holders of the notes for any purpose under the applicable Indenture. Accordingly, each beneficial owner must rely on the procedures of DTC and, if such beneficial owner is not a DTC participant, on the procedures of the DTC participant through which such beneficial owner owns its interest in order to exercise any rights of a holder of a note under the applicable Indenture. The laws of some



jurisdictions require that certain purchasers of notes take physical delivery of such notes in certificated or definitive form. Those limits and laws may impair the ability to transfer beneficial interests in the notes.

Unless otherwise specified in the relevant Global Note or the applicable Indenture, each Global Note representing notes will be exchangeable for definitive notes of like tenor and terms and of differing authorized denominations in a like aggregate principal amount, only if (1) DTC notifies us that it is unwilling or unable to continue as depository for the Global Notes or we become aware that DTC has ceased to be a clearing agency registered under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and, in any such case, we fail to appoint a successor to DTC within 90 calendar days or (2) we, in our sole discretion, determine that the Global Notes shall be exchangeable for definitive notes. DTC's current rules provide that it would notify its participants of a request by us to terminate a Global Note, but will only withdraw beneficial interests from the Global Note at the request of each DTC participant. Upon any such exchange, the definitive notes will be registered in the names of the beneficial owners of the Global Note representing the notes.

### **The Depository Trust Company**

The following is based on information furnished by DTC:

DTC will act as securities depository for the notes. The notes will be issued as fully-registered securities registered in the name of Cede & Co. (DTC's partnership nominee) or such other name as may be requested by an authorized representative of DTC. One fully-registered Global Note will be issued for each issue of notes, each in the aggregate principal amount of the issue, and will be deposited with DTC. If, however, the aggregate principal amount of any issue exceeds \$500 million, one certificate will be issued with respect to each \$500 million of principal amount and an additional certificate will be issued with respect to any remaining principal amount of such issue. We also may issue one or more Global Notes that represent multiple issues of the notes.

DTC, the world's largest securities depository, is a limited-purpose trust company organized under the New York Banking Law, a banking organization within the meaning of the New York Banking Law, a member of the Federal Reserve System, a clearing corporation within the meaning of the New York Uniform Commercial Code, and a clearing agency registered pursuant to the provisions of Section 17A of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934. DTC holds and provides asset servicing for over 3.5 million issues of U.S. and non-U.S. equity issues, corporate and municipal debt issues, and money market instruments (from over 100 countries) that DTC's participants (direct participants) deposit with DTC. DTC also facilitates the post-trade settlement among direct participants of sales and other securities transactions in deposited securities, through electronic computerized book-entry transfers and pledges between direct participants' accounts. This eliminates the need for physical movement of securities certificates. Direct participants include both U.S. and non-U.S. securities brokers and dealers, banks, trust companies, clearing corporations, and certain other organizations. DTC is a wholly-owned subsidiary of The Depository Trust & Clearing Corporation (DTCC). DTCC is the holding company for DTC, National Securities Clearing Corporation and Fixed Income Clearing Corporation, all of which are registered clearing agencies. DTCC is owned by the users of its regulated subsidiaries. Access to the DTC system is also available to others such as both U.S. and non-U.S. securities brokers and dealers, banks, trust companies, and clearing corporations that clear through or maintain a custodial relationship with a direct participant, either directly (indirect participants). The DTC Rules applicable to its participants are on file with the SEC. More information about DTC can be found at [www.dtcc.com](http://www.dtcc.com). Information on that website is not included or incorporated by reference herein.

Purchases of the notes under the DTC system must be made by or through direct participants, which will receive a credit for the notes on DTC's records. The ownership interest of each actual purchaser of each note,

or beneficial owner, is in turn to be recorded on the direct and indirect participants' records. Beneficial owners will not receive written confirmation from DTC of their purchase. Beneficial owners are, however, expected to receive written confirmations providing details of the transaction, as well as periodic statements of their holdings, from the direct or indirect participant through which the beneficial owner entered into the transaction. Transfers of ownership interests in the notes are to be accomplished by entries made on the books of direct and indirect participants acting on behalf of beneficial owners. Beneficial owners will not receive certificates representing their ownership interests in the notes, except in the event that use of the book-entry system for the notes is discontinued.

To facilitate subsequent transfers, all notes deposited by direct participants with DTC are registered in the name of DTC's partnership nominee, Cede & Co., or such other name as may be requested by an authorized representative of DTC. The deposit of the notes with DTC and their registration in the name of Cede & Co. or such other DTC nominee do not effect any change in beneficial ownership. DTC has no knowledge of the actual beneficial owners of the notes; DTC's records reflect only the identity of the direct participants to whose accounts such notes are credited, which may or may not be the beneficial owners. The direct and indirect participants will remain responsible for keeping account of their holdings on behalf of their customers.

Conveyance of notices and other communications by DTC to direct participants, by direct participants to indirect participants, and by direct participants and indirect participants to beneficial owners will be governed by arrangements among them, subject to any statutory or regulatory requirements as may be in effect from time to time. Beneficial owners of the notes may wish to take certain steps to augment the transmission to them of notices of significant events with respect to the notes, such as redemptions, tenders, defaults and proposed amendments to the note documents. For example, beneficial owners of the notes may wish to ascertain that

the nominee holding the notes for their benefit has agreed to obtain and transmit notices to beneficial owners. In the alternative, beneficial owners may wish to provide their names and addresses to the registrar and request that copies of notices be provided directly to them.

None of DTC, Cede & Co. or any other DTC nominee will consent or vote with respect to the notes unless authorized by a direct participant in accordance with DTC's Money Market Instrument, or MMI, procedures. Under its usual procedures, DTC mails an omnibus proxy to us as soon as possible after the record date. The omnibus proxy assigns Cede & Co.'s consenting or voting rights to those direct participants to whose accounts the notes are credited on the regular record date (identified in a listing attached to the omnibus proxy).

We will pay principal and any premium, interest payments or other amounts payable on the notes in immediately available funds directly to Cede & Co., or such other nominee as may be requested by an authorized representative of DTC. DTC's practice is to credit direct participants' accounts, upon DTC's receipt of funds and corresponding detail information from us or the trustee, on the applicable payment date in accordance with their respective holdings shown on DTC's records. Payments by participants to beneficial owners will be governed by standing instructions and customary practices, as is the case with securities held for the accounts of customers in bearer form or registered in street name, and will be the responsibility of such participant and not our responsibility or the responsibility of DTC or the trustee, subject to any statutory or regulatory requirements that may be in effect from time to time. Payment of principal, any premium, interest or other amounts payable to Cede & Co., or any other nominee as may be requested by an authorized representative of DTC, is our responsibility or the responsibility of the trustee, disbursement of such payments to direct participants will be the responsibility of DTC, and disbursement of such payments to the beneficial owners

will be the responsibility of the direct or indirect participants.

We will send any redemption notices to DTC. If less than all of the notes of an issue are being redeemed, DTC's practice is to determine by lot the amount of the interest of each direct participant in such issue to be redeemed.

DTC may discontinue providing its services as depository for the notes at any time by giving us reasonable notice. Under such circumstances, if a successor securities depository is not obtained, we will print and deliver certificated notes in definitive registered form.

We may decide to discontinue use of the system of book-entry only transfers through DTC (or a successor securities depository). In that event, we will print and deliver certificated notes to DTC.

The information in this section concerning DTC and DTC's book-entry system has been obtained from sources that we believe to be reliable, but neither we nor any agent takes responsibility for its accuracy.

### **Registration, Transfer and Payment of Certificated Notes**

If we ever issue certificated notes in definitive form, those notes may be presented for registration, transfer and payment at the office of the registrar or at the office of any transfer agent designated and maintained by us. We have originally designated The Bank of New York Mellon Trust Company, N.A., Global Corporate Trust, 111 Sanders Creek Parkway, East Syracuse, New York 13057 to act in those capacities for both senior and subordinated notes. The registrar or transfer agent will make the transfer or registration only if it is satisfied with the documents of title and identity of the person making the request. There will not be a service charge for any exchange or registration of transfer of the notes, but we may require payment of a sum sufficient to cover any tax or other governmental charge that may be imposed in connection with the exchange. At any time we may change transfer agents or approve a change in the location through which any transfer agent acts. We

also may designate additional transfer agents for any notes at any time.

We will not be required to (1) issue, exchange or register the transfer of any note to be redeemed for a period of 15 days before the selection of the notes to be redeemed or (2) exchange or register the transfer of any note that was selected, called or is being called for redemption, except the unredeemed portion of any note being redeemed in part.

We will pay principal, any premium, if any, interest and other amounts payable, if any, on any certificated notes in definitive form at the offices of the paying agents we may designate from time to time. Generally, we will pay interest on a note on any interest payment date to the person in whose name the note is registered at the close of business on the regular record date for that payment.

### **TAX CONSEQUENCES TO U.S. HOLDERS**

The following is a summary of the material U.S. federal income tax considerations of the acquisition, ownership and disposition of the notes. The following discussion 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 (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 is for general information only, and does not purport to discuss all aspects of U.S. federal income taxation that may be important to a particular holder in light of its investment or tax circumstances or to holders subject to special tax rules, such as: partnerships, subchapter S corporations or other pass-through



entities, any government (or instrumentality or agency thereof), banks, financial institutions, tax-exempt entities, insurance companies, regulated investment companies, real estate investment trusts, trusts and estates, dealers in securities or currencies, traders in securities that have elected to use the mark-to-market method of accounting for their securities, persons holding the notes as part of an integrated investment, including a straddle, hedge, constructive sale or conversion transaction, persons whose functional currency for tax purposes is not the U.S. dollar and persons subject to the alternative minimum tax provisions of the Code.

This summary does not include any description of the tax laws of any state or local governments, or of any foreign government, that may be applicable to a particular holder. This summary also may not apply to all forms of notes. If the tax consequences associated with a particular form of note are different than those described in this section, they will be described in the applicable supplement.

This summary is directed solely to holders that, except as otherwise specifically noted, will purchase the notes offered in this prospectus upon original issuance at the issue price (as defined below) and will hold such notes as capital assets within the meaning of Section 1221 of the Code, which generally means as property held for investment.

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

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

a citizen or resident of the United States;

a corporation (including an entity treated as a corporation for U.S. federal income tax purposes) created or organized in or under the laws of the United States or of any state of the United States or the District of Columbia;

an estate the income of which is subject to U.S. federal income taxation regardless of its source; or

any trust if a court within the United States is able to exercise primary supervision over the administration of the trust and one or more United States persons have the authority to control all substantial decisions of the trust.

Notwithstanding the preceding paragraph, to the extent provided in Treasury regulations, some trusts in existence on August 20, 1996, and treated as United States persons prior to that date, that elect to continue to be treated as United States persons also will be U.S. Holders.

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

**Payment of Interest.** Except as described below in the case of interest on a note issued with original issue discount, as defined below under **Original Issue Discount**, interest on a note generally will be included in the income of a U.S. Holder as interest income at the time it is accrued or is received in accordance with the U.S. Holder's regular method of accounting for U.S. federal income tax purposes and will be ordinary income.

**Original Issue Discount.** Some of our notes may be issued with original issue discount ( **OID** ). U.S. Holders of notes issued with **OID**, other than short-term notes with a maturity of one year or less from the date of issue, will be subject to special tax accounting

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rules, as described in greater detail below. For tax purposes, OID is the excess of the stated redemption price at maturity of a note over its issue price. The stated redemption price at maturity of a note is the sum of all payments required to be made on the note other than qualified stated interest payments, as defined below. The issue price of a note is generally the first offering price to the public at which a substantial amount of the issue was sold (ignoring sales to bond houses, brokers or similar persons or organizations acting in the capacity of underwriters, placement agents or wholesalers). The term qualified stated interest generally means stated interest that is unconditionally payable in cash or property (other than debt instruments of the issuer), or that is treated as constructively received, at least annually at a single fixed rate or, under certain circumstances, at a variable rate. If a note bears interest during any accrual period at a rate below the rate applicable for the remaining term of the note (for example, notes with teaser rates or interest holidays), then some or all of the stated interest may not be treated as qualified stated interest.

A U.S. Holder of a note with a maturity of more than one year from its date of issue that has been issued with OID (an OID note) is generally required to include any qualified stated interest payments in income as interest at the time it is accrued or is received in accordance with the U.S. Holder's regular accounting method for tax purposes, as described above under Payment of Interest. A U.S. Holder of an OID note is generally required to include in income the sum of the daily accruals of the OID for the note for each day during the taxable year (or portion of the taxable year) in which the U.S. Holder held the OID note, regardless of such holder's regular method of accounting. Accordingly, a U.S. Holder may be required to include OID in income in advance of the receipt of some or all of the related cash payments. The daily portion is determined by allocating the OID for each day of the accrual period. An accrual period may be of any length and the accrual periods may even vary in length over the term of the OID note, provided that each accrual period is no longer

than one year and each scheduled payment of principal or interest occurs either on the first day of an accrual period or on the final day of an accrual period. The amount of OID allocable to an accrual period is equal to the excess of: (1) the product of the adjusted issue price of the OID note at the beginning of the accrual period and its yield to maturity (computed generally on a constant yield method and compounded at the end of each accrual period, taking into account the length of the particular accrual period) over (2) the amount of any qualified stated interest allocable to the accrual period. OID allocable to a final accrual period is the difference between the amount payable at maturity, other than a payment of qualified stated interest, and the adjusted issue price at the beginning of the final accrual period. Special rules will apply for calculating OID for an initial short accrual period. The adjusted issue price of an OID note at the beginning of any accrual period is the sum of the issue price of the OID note plus the amount of OID allocable to all prior accrual periods reduced by any payments received on the OID note that were not qualified stated interest. Under these rules, a U.S. Holder generally will have to include in income increasingly greater amounts of OID in successive accrual periods.

If the excess of the stated redemption price at maturity of a note over its issue price is less than 1/4 of 1% of the note's stated redemption price at maturity multiplied by the number of complete years from its issue date to its maturity, or weighted average maturity in the case of notes with more than one principal payment (*de minimis* OID), the note is not treated as issued with OID. A U.S. Holder generally must include the *de minimis* OID in income at the time payments, other than qualified stated interest, on the notes are made in proportion to the amount paid (unless the U.S. Holder makes the election described below under Election to Treat All Interest as Original Issue Discount). Any amount of *de minimis* OID that is included in income in this manner will be treated as capital gain.

*Variable Rate Notes.* In the case of a note that is a variable rate note, special rules apply. A note will qualify as a variable rate debt instrument under U.S. Treasury regulations if (i) the note's issue price does not exceed the total noncontingent principal payments by more than the lesser of: (a) 0.015 multiplied by the product of the total noncontingent principal payments and the number of complete years to maturity from the issue date, or (b) 15% of the total noncontingent principal payments; and (ii) the note provides for stated interest, compounded or paid at least annually, only at one or more qualified floating rates, a single fixed rate and one or more qualified floating rates, a single objective rate, or a single fixed rate and a single objective rate that is a qualified inverse floating rate.

Generally, a rate is a qualified floating rate if: (i) (a) variations in the value of the rate can reasonably be expected to measure contemporaneous variations in the cost of newly borrowed funds in the currency in which the note is denominated; or (b) the rate is equal to such a rate multiplied by either a fixed multiple that is greater than 0.65 but not more than 1.35 or a fixed multiple greater than 0.65 but not more than 1.35, increased or decreased by a fixed rate, and (ii) the value of the rate on any date during the term of the note is set no earlier than three months prior to the first day on which that value is in effect and no later than one year following that first day. If a note provides for two or more qualified floating rates that are within 0.25 percentage points of each other on the issue date or can reasonably be expected to have approximately the same values throughout the term of the note, the qualified floating rates together constitute a single qualified floating rate. A note will not have a variable rate that is a qualified floating rate, however, if the variable rate of interest is subject to one or more minimum or maximum rate floors or ceilings or one or more governors limiting the amount of increase or decrease unless such floor, ceiling, or governor is fixed throughout the term of the note or is not reasonably expected as of the issue date to significantly affect the yield on the note.

Generally, an objective rate is a rate that is (i) not a qualified floating rate, (ii) is determined using a single fixed formula that is based on objective financial or economic information that is not within the control of the issuer or a related party, and (iii) the value of the rate on any date during the term of the note is set no earlier than three months prior to the first day on which that value is in effect and no later than one year following that first day. If it is reasonably expected that the average value of the variable rate during the first half of the term of a note will be either significantly less than or significantly greater than the average value of the rate during the final half of the term of the note, then the note will not have a variable rate that is an objective rate. An objective rate is a qualified inverse floating rate if that rate is equal to a fixed rate minus a qualified floating rate and variations in the rate can reasonably be expected to inversely reflect contemporaneous variations in the qualified floating rate.

A note will also have a variable rate that is a single qualified floating rate or an objective rate if interest on the note is stated at a fixed rate for an initial period of one year or less followed by either a qualified floating rate or an objective rate for a subsequent period, and either: (i) the fixed rate and the qualified floating rate or objective rate have values on the issue date of the note that do not differ by more than 0.25 percentage points, or (ii) the value of the qualified floating rate or objective rate is intended to approximate the fixed rate.

In the case of a note that provides for stated interest that is unconditionally payable at least annually at a variable rate that is a single qualified floating rate or objective rate, or one of those rates after a single fixed rate for an initial period, all stated interest on the note is treated as qualified stated interest. In that case, both the note's yield to maturity and qualified stated interest will be determined, solely for purposes of calculating the accrual of OID, if any, as though the note will bear interest in all periods throughout its term (in the case of a single qualified floating rate or qualified inverse floating rate) at a fixed rate generally equal to the rate that

would be applicable to interest payments on the note on its date of issue or, in the case of an objective rate (other than a qualified inverse floating rate), the rate that reflects the yield to maturity that is reasonably expected for the note (the fixed rate substitute). A U.S. holder should then recognize OID, if any, that is calculated based on the note's assumed yield to maturity. If the interest actually accrued or paid during an accrual period exceeds or is less than the assumed fixed interest, the qualified stated interest allocable to that period is increased or decreased, as applicable.

If a note does not provide for stated interest at a single qualified floating rate or a single objective rate, and also does not provide for interest payable at a fixed rate other than a single fixed rate for an initial period, the interest and OID accruals on the note must be determined by (i) determining a fixed rate substitute for each variable rate provided under the note (as described above), (ii) constructing the equivalent fixed rate debt instrument, using the fixed rate substitutes, (iii) determining the amount of qualified stated interest and OID with respect to the equivalent fixed rate debt instrument, and (iv) making appropriate adjustments to qualified stated interest or OID for actual variable rates during the applicable accrual period.

In the case of a note that provides for stated interest either at one or more qualified floating rates or at a qualified inverse floating rate and also provides for stated interest at a single fixed rate other than at a single fixed rate for an initial period (as described above), the interest and OID accruals on the note must be determined by using the method described above. However, the note will be treated, for purposes of the first three steps of the determination, as if the note had provided for a qualified floating rate, or a qualified inverse floating rate, rather than the fixed rate. The qualified floating rate, or qualified inverse floating rate, that replaces the fixed rate must be such that the fair market value of the note as of the issue date approximates the fair market value of an otherwise identical debt instrument that provides for the qualified floating

rate, or qualified inverse floating rate, rather than the fixed rate.

*Acquisition Premium.* If a U.S. Holder purchases an OID note for an amount greater than its adjusted issue price (as determined above) at the purchase date and less than or equal to the sum of all amounts, other than qualified stated interest, payable on the OID note after the purchase date, the excess is acquisition premium. Under these rules, in general, the amount of OID which must be included in income for the note for any taxable year (or any portion of a taxable year in which the note is held) will be reduced (but not below zero) by the portion of the acquisition premium allocated to the period. The amount of acquisition premium allocated to each period is determined by multiplying the OID that otherwise would have been included in income by a fraction, the numerator of which is the excess of the cost over the adjusted issue price of the OID note and the denominator of which is the excess of the OID note's stated redemption price at maturity over its adjusted issue price.

If a U.S. Holder purchases an OID note for an amount less than its adjusted issue price (as determined above) at the purchase date, any OID accruing with respect to that OID note will be required to be included in income and, to the extent of the difference between the purchase amount and the OID note's adjusted issue price, the OID note will be treated as having market discount. See Market Discount below.

*Amortizable Bond Premium.* If a U.S. Holder purchases a note (including an OID note) for an amount in excess of the sum of all amounts payable on the note after the purchase date, other than qualified stated interest, such holder will be considered to have purchased such note with amortizable bond premium equal in amount to such excess. A U.S. Holder may elect to amortize such premium as an offset to interest income using a constant yield method over the remaining term of the note based on the U.S. Holder's yield to maturity with respect to the note.



A U.S. Holder generally may use the amortizable bond premium allocable to an accrual period to offset interest required to be included in the U.S. Holder's income under its regular method of accounting with respect to the note in that accrual period. If the amortizable bond premium allocable to an accrual period exceeds the amount of interest allocable to such accrual period, such excess would be allowed as a deduction for such accrual period, but only to the extent of the U.S. Holder's prior interest inclusions on the note that have not been offset previously by bond premium. Any excess is generally carried forward and allocable to the next accrual period.

If a note may be redeemed by us prior to its maturity date, the amount of amortizable bond premium will be based on the amount payable at the applicable redemption date, but only if use of the redemption date (in lieu of the stated maturity date) results in a smaller amortizable bond premium for the period ending on the redemption date. In addition, special rules limit the amortization of bond premium in the case of convertible notes.

An election to amortize bond premium applies to all taxable debt obligations held by the U.S. Holder at the beginning of the first taxable year to which the election applies and thereafter acquired by the U.S. Holder and may be revoked only with the consent of the IRS. Generally, a U.S. Holder may make an election to include in income its entire return on a note (*i.e.*, the excess of all remaining payments to be received on the note over the amount paid for the note by such U.S. Holder) in accordance with a constant yield method based on the compounding of interest, as discussed below under *Election to Treat All Interest as Original Issue Discount*. If a U.S. Holder makes such an election for a note with amortizable bond premium, such election will result in a deemed election to amortize bond premium for all of the U.S. Holder's debt instruments with amortizable bond premium and may be revoked only with the permission of the IRS.

A U.S. Holder that elects to amortize bond premium will be required to reduce its tax basis in the note by the amount of the premium amortized during its holding period. OID notes purchased at a premium will not be subject to the OID rules described above.

If a U.S. Holder does not elect to amortize bond premium, the amount of bond premium will be included in its tax basis in the note. Therefore, if a U.S. Holder does not elect to amortize bond premium and it holds the note to maturity, the premium generally will be treated as capital loss when the note matures.

*Market Discount.* If a U.S. Holder purchases a note for an amount that is less than its stated redemption price at maturity, or, in the case of an OID note, its adjusted issue price, that holder will be considered to have purchased the note with market discount. Any payment, other than qualified stated interest, or any gain on the sale, exchange, retirement or other disposition of a note with market discount generally will be treated as ordinary interest income to the extent of the market discount not previously included in income that accrued on the note during such holder's holding period. In general, market discount is treated as accruing on a straight-line basis over the term of the note unless an election is made to accrue the market discount under a constant yield method. In addition, a U.S. Holder may be required to defer, until the maturity of the note or its earlier disposition in a taxable transaction, the deduction of a portion of the interest paid on any indebtedness incurred or maintained to purchase or carry the note in an amount not exceeding the accrued market discount on the note.

A U.S. Holder may elect to include market discount in income currently as it accrues (on either a straight-line or constant yield basis), in lieu of treating a portion of any gain realized on a sale, exchange, retirement or other disposition of the note as ordinary income. If an election is made to include market discount on a current basis, the interest deduction deferral rule described above will not apply. If a U.S. Holder makes such an election, it will apply to all market discount debt.

instruments acquired by such holder on or after the first day of the first taxable year to which the election applies. The election may not be revoked without the consent of the IRS. U.S. Holders should consult with their own tax advisors before making this election.

If the difference between the stated redemption price at maturity of a note or, in the case of an OID note, its adjusted issue price, and the amount paid for the note is less than 1/4 of 1% of the note's stated redemption price at maturity or, in the case of an OID note, its adjusted issue price, multiplied by the number of remaining complete years to the note's maturity ( *de minimis* market discount ), the note is not treated as issued with market discount.

Generally, a U.S. Holder may make an election to include in income its entire return on a note (i.e., the excess of all remaining payments to be received on the note over the amount paid for the note by that U.S. Holder) in accordance with a constant yield method based on the compounding of interest, as discussed below under Election to Treat All Interest as Original Issue Discount. If a U.S. Holder makes such an election for a note with market discount, the U.S. Holder will be required to include market discount in income currently as it accrues on a constant yield basis for all market discount debt instruments acquired by such U.S. Holder on or after the first day of the first taxable year to which the election applies, and such election may be revoked only with the permission of the IRS.

*Election to Treat All Interest as Original Issue Discount.* A U.S. Holder may elect to include in income all interest that accrues on a note using the constant-yield method applicable to OID described above, subject to certain limitations and exceptions. For purposes of this election, interest includes stated interest, acquisition discount, OID, *de minimis* OID, market discount, *de minimis* market discount and unstated interest, as adjusted by any amortizable bond premium or acquisition premium, each as described herein. If this election is made for a note, then, to apply the constant-yield method: (i) the issue price of the note will equal its cost,

(ii) the issue date of the note will be the date it was acquired and (iii) no payments on the note will be treated as payments of qualified stated interest. A U.S. Holder must make this election for the taxable year in which the note was acquired, and may not revoke the election without the consent of the IRS. U.S. Holders should consult with their own tax advisors before making this election.

*Notes That Trade Flat.* We expect that some notes will trade in the secondary market with accrued interest. However, we may issue notes with terms and conditions that would make it likely that such notes would trade flat in the secondary market, which means that upon a sale of a note a U.S. Holder would not be paid an amount that reflects the accrued but unpaid interest with respect to such note. Nevertheless, for U.S. federal income tax purposes, a portion of the sales proceeds equal to the interest accrued with respect to such note from the last interest payment date to the sale date must be treated as interest income rather than as an amount realized upon the sale. Accordingly, a U.S. Holder that sells such a note between interest payment dates would be required to recognize interest income and, in certain circumstances, would recognize a capital loss (the deductibility of which is subject to limitations) on the sale of the note. Concurrently, a U.S. Holder that purchases such a note between interest payment dates would not be required to include in income that portion of any interest payment received that is attributable to interest that accrued prior to the purchase. Such payment is treated as a return of capital which reduces the U.S. Holder's remaining cost basis in the note. However, interest that accrues after the purchase date is included in income in the year received or accrued (depending on the U.S. Holder's accounting method). U.S. Holders that purchase such notes between interest payment dates should consult their own tax advisors concerning such holder's adjusted tax basis in the note and whether such notes should be treated as having been purchased with market discount, as described above.

*Short-Term Notes.* Some of our notes may be issued with maturities of one year or less from the date of

issue, which we refer to as short-term notes. Treasury regulations provide that no payments of interest on a short-term note are treated as qualified stated interest. Accordingly, in determining the amount of discount on a short-term note, all interest payments, including stated interest, are included in the short-term note's stated redemption price at maturity.

In general, individual and certain other U.S. Holders using the cash basis method of tax accounting are not required to include accrued discount on short-term notes in income currently unless they elect to do so, but they may be required to include any stated interest in income as the interest is received. However, a cash basis U.S. Holder will be required to treat any gain realized on a sale, exchange or retirement of the short-term note as ordinary income to the extent such gain does not exceed the discount accrued with respect to the short-term note, which will be determined on a straight-line basis unless the holder makes an election to accrue the discount under the constant-yield method, through the date of sale or retirement. In addition, a cash basis U.S. Holder that does not elect to currently include accrued discount in income will be not allowed to deduct any of the interest paid or accrued on any indebtedness incurred or maintained to purchase or carry a short-term note (in an amount not exceeding the deferred income), but instead will be required to defer deductions for such interest until the deferred income is realized upon the maturity of the short-term note or its earlier disposition in a taxable transaction. However, a cash-basis U.S. Holder of a short-term note may elect to include accrued discount in income on a current basis. If this election is made, the limitation on the deductibility of interest described above will not apply.

A U.S. Holder using the accrual method of tax accounting and some cash basis holders (including banks, securities dealers, regulated investment companies and certain trust funds) generally will be required to include accrued discount on a short-term note in income on a current basis, on either a straight-line basis or, at

the election of the holder, under the constant-yield method based on daily compounding.

Regardless of whether a U.S. Holder is a cash-basis or accrual-basis holder, the holder of a short-term note may elect to include accrued acquisition discount with respect to the short-term note in income on a current basis. Acquisition discount is the excess of the remaining redemption amount of the short-term note at the time of acquisition over the purchase price. Acquisition discount will be treated as accruing on a straight-line basis or, at the election of the holder, under a constant yield method based on daily compounding. If a U.S. Holder elects to include accrued acquisition discount in income, the rules for including OID will not apply. In addition, the market discount rules described above will not apply to short-term notes.

*Sale, Exchange or Retirement of Notes.* Upon the sale, exchange, retirement or other disposition of a note, a U.S. Holder will recognize gain or loss equal to the difference between the amount realized upon the sale, exchange, retirement or other disposition (less an amount equal to any accrued interest not previously included in income if the note is disposed of between interest payment dates, which will be included in income as interest income for U.S. federal income tax purposes) and the U.S. Holder's adjusted tax basis in the note. The amount realized by the U.S. Holder will include the amount of any cash and the fair market value of any other property received for the note. A U.S. Holder's adjusted tax basis in a note generally will be the cost of the note to such U.S. Holder, increased by any OID, market discount, *de minimis* OID, *de minimis* market discount or any discount with respect to a short-term note previously included in income with respect to the note, and decreased by the amount of any premium previously amortized to reduce interest on the note and the amount of any payment (other than a payment of qualified stated interest) received in respect of the note.

Except as discussed above with respect to market discount, gain or loss realized on the sale, exchange, retirement or other disposition of a note generally will

be capital gain or loss and will be long-term capital gain or loss if the note has been held for more than one year. Net long-term capital gain recognized by an individual U.S. Holder is generally taxed at preferential rates. The ability of U.S. Holders to deduct capital losses is subject to limitations under the Code.

*Indexed Notes and Notes Subject to Contingencies Including Optional Redemption.* The notes may provide for payments which are determined or partially determined by reference to the price, performance or levels of one or more securities, currencies or composite currencies, commodities, interest rates, inflation rates, stock or other indices or other formulae, financial or market measures or reference assets. Also, the notes may provide for an alternative payment schedule or schedules applicable upon the occurrence of a contingency or contingencies, other than a remote or incidental contingency, whether that contingency relates to payments of interest or of principal. In addition, the notes may contain provisions permitting them to be redeemed prior to their stated maturity at our option and/or at the option of the holder. Notes containing these features may be subject to rules that differ from the general rules discussed herein.

U.S. Holders considering the purchase of indexed notes and notes with the other features described above should carefully examine the applicable supplement and should consult their own tax advisors regarding the U.S. federal income tax consequences to a U.S. Holder of the ownership and disposition of those notes since the U.S. federal income tax consequences depend on the particular terms and features of the notes.

#### *Additional Medicare Tax on Unearned Income*

Certain U.S. Holders, including individuals, estates and trusts, will be subject to an additional 3.8% Medicare tax on unearned income. For individual U.S. Holders, the additional Medicare tax applies to the lesser of (i) net investment income or (ii) the excess of modified adjusted gross income over \$200,000 (\$250,000 if married and filing jointly or \$125,000 if married and filing separately). Net investment income

generally equals the taxpayer's gross investment income reduced by the deductions that are allocable to such income. Investment income generally includes passive income such as interest, dividends, annuities, royalties, rents, and capital gains. U.S. Holders are urged to consult their own tax advisors regarding the implications of the additional Medicare tax resulting from an investment in the notes.

#### *Backup Withholding and Information Reporting*

In general, other than in the case of certain exempt holders, we and other payors are required to report to the IRS all payments of principal, any premium and interest on a note, and the accrual of OID on an OID note. In addition, we and other payors generally are required to report to the IRS any payment of proceeds of the sale of a note before maturity. Additionally, backup withholding generally will apply to any payments, including payments of OID, if a U.S. Holder fails to provide an accurate taxpayer identification number and certify that the taxpayer identification number is correct, the U.S. Holder is notified by the IRS that it has failed to report all interest and dividends required to be shown on its U.S. federal income tax returns or a U.S. Holder does not certify that it has not underreported its interest and dividend income. If applicable, backup withholding will be imposed at a rate of 28%.

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

#### *Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act*

The Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act ( FATCA ) (sections 1471 through 1474 of the Code) imposes a 30% U.S. withholding tax on certain U.S. source payments, including interest (and OID), dividends, other fixed or determinable annual or periodical gain, profits, and income, and on the gross proceeds from a disposition of property of a type which can produce U.S. source interest or dividends ( Withholdable Payments ), if paid to a foreign financial institution

(including amounts paid to a foreign financial institution on behalf of a holder), unless such institution enters into an agreement with the Treasury to collect and provide to the Treasury certain information regarding U.S. financial account holders, including certain account holders that are foreign entities with U.S. owners, with such institution or otherwise complies with FATCA. FATCA also generally imposes a withholding tax of 30% on Withholdable Payments made to a non-financial foreign entity unless such entity provides the withholding agent with a certification that it does not have any substantial U.S. owners or a certification identifying the direct and indirect substantial U.S. owners of the entity. Under certain circumstances, a holder may be eligible for refunds or credits of such taxes.

These withholding and reporting requirements generally apply to U.S. source periodic payments made after June 30, 2014 and to payments of gross proceeds from a sale or redemption made after December 31, 2016. If we (or an applicable withholding agent) determine withholding under FATCA is appropriate with respect to the notes, we (or such agent) will withhold tax at the applicable statutory rate, without being required to pay any additional amounts in respect of such withholding. Foreign financial institutions and non-financial foreign entities located in jurisdictions that have an intergovernmental agreement with the United States governing FATCA may be subject to different rules. Holders are urged to consult with their own tax advisors regarding the possible implications of FATCA on their investment in the notes.

## ERISA CONSIDERATIONS

*ERISA Fiduciary Considerations.* A fiduciary of a pension plan or other employee benefit plan subject to the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, as amended ( ERISA ), should consider fiduciary standards under ERISA in the context of the particular circumstances of that plan before authorizing an investment in the notes. Among other factors, the fidu-

ciary should consider whether an investment in the notes is authorized by, and in accordance with, the documents and instruments governing the plan and whether the investment is appropriate for the plan in view of its overall investment policy and diversification of its portfolio. A fiduciary should also consider whether an investment in the notes may constitute a prohibited transaction, as described below.

*Prohibited Transaction Avoidance.* ERISA and the Code prohibit certain transactions (referred to as prohibited transactions ) involving the assets of a plan subject to Title I of ERISA or the assets of an individual retirement account or other plan subject to Section 4975 of the Code (including any underlying assets of an entity which are plan assets because of benefit plan investors' investments in the entity) (collectively referred to as ERISA plans ), on the one hand, and persons who have certain specified relationships to the plan ( parties in interest within the meaning of ERISA or disqualified persons within the meaning of the Code), on the other. Governmental plans (as defined in Section 3(32) of ERISA) and other types of plans which are not subject to the prohibited transaction requirements of ERISA or Section 4975 of the Code ( non-ERISA arrangements ) may be subject to similar provisions under applicable federal, state, local, foreign or other regulations, rules, or laws ( similar laws ).

We and our affiliates provide services to many ERISA plans and non-ERISA arrangements. If we are considered, or one of our affiliates is considered, to be a party in interest or disqualified person with respect to an ERISA plan, or to have a similar relationship with respect to a non-ERISA arrangement for purposes of similar laws, then the investment in notes by the ERISA plan or non-ERISA arrangement may give rise to a prohibited transaction. A violation of the prohibited transaction rules may result in civil penalties or other liabilities under ERISA and excise taxes under Section 4975 of the Code for any disqualified persons or parties in interest participating in the transaction, and penalties or liabilities under similar laws, unless an

applicable statutory, regulatory or administrative exemption is available.

Accordingly, unless otherwise provided in the applicable supplement for a particular note offering, the notes may not be purchased, held or disposed of by any ERISA plan, non-ERISA arrangement or any person investing plan assets of any such plans, unless the purchase, holding or disposition is eligible for exemptive relief or that purchase, holding or disposition is not otherwise prohibited. Therefore, any purchaser (other than an individual purchasing for his or her own account), including any fiduciary purchasing on behalf of an ERISA plan or non-ERISA arrangement, transferee or holder of the notes will be deemed to have represented and warranted to us, in its corporate and its fiduciary capacity, by its purchase and holding, on each day from the date of its purchase of the notes, and including, the date of disposition of the notes, that either:

- (a) it is not an ERISA plan or non-ERISA arrangement and is not purchasing the notes on behalf of or with plan assets of any such plan or arrangement; or
- (b) its purchase, holding and disposition are eligible for exemptive relief or the purchase, holding or disposition are not prohibited by ERISA or Section 4975 of the Code (or, in the case of a non-ERISA arrangement, any similar laws).

Moreover, any purchaser that is a plan or is acquiring the notes on behalf of a plan, including any fiduciary purchasing on behalf of a plan, will be deemed to have represented, in its corporate and its fiduciary capacity, by its purchase and holding of the notes that:

- (a) neither we, the underwriter nor any of our respective affiliates (collectively, the Seller) is a fiduciary (under Section 3(21) of ERISA, or under any final or proposed regulations thereunder, or with respect to a governmental, church, or foreign plan under any similar laws) with respect to the acquisition, holding or disposition of the notes, or as a result of any exercise by the Seller of any rights in connection with the notes;
- (b) no advice provided by the Seller has formed a primary basis for any investment decision by or on behalf of such purchaser in connection with the notes and the transactions contemplated with respect to the notes; and

(c) such purchaser recognizes and agrees that any communication from the Seller to the purchaser with respect to the notes is not intended by the Seller to be impartial investment advice and is rendered in its capacity as a seller of such notes and not a fiduciary to such purchaser.

*Limitation on Investment by Benefit Plan Investors.* In addition, certain regulatory requirements applicable under ERISA could cause investments in the notes by a plan (whether directly or indirectly) to be deemed to include not only the purchased notes but also an undivided interest in certain of the underlying assets of the relevant issuer. In the absence of an applicable exception to this general rule, the relevant issuer could be considered to hold a portion of the assets of the investing plan such that persons providing services in connection with such assets might be considered parties in interest or disqualified persons with respect to the investing plan. Moreover, any person exercising control or authority over such assets would be a fiduciary of such plan and therefore subject to the fiduciary responsibility provisions of Title I of ERISA and the prohibited transaction provisions referenced above. Additionally, transactions involving those assets undertaken by such service providers or fiduciaries could be deemed prohibited transactions under ERISA or the Code. Whether the underlying assets of an issuer of any note would be considered to be the assets of any employee benefit plan investor will depend on the specific terms of such note, and a plan investor should look to the prospectus supplement for that particular note in order to make that determination.

*This discussion is a general summary of some of the rules which apply to ERISA plans and non-ERISA*

*arrangements and their related investment vehicles as of the date of this prospectus. The rules governing investments by ERISA plans and non-ERISA arrangements change frequently, and we have no duty to, nor will we, inform you about any changes to such rules if and when they occur. This summary does not describe all of the rules or other considerations that may be relevant to the investment in the notes by such plans or arrangements. The description above is not, and should not be construed as, legal advice or a legal opinion.*

*Due to the complexity of these rules and the penalties imposed upon persons involved in prohibited transactions, it is important that any person considering the purchase of the notes with plan assets consult with its counsel regarding the consequences under ERISA and the Code, or other similar law, of the acquisition and ownership of the notes and the availability of exemptive relief. The sale of the notes to a plan is in no respect a representation by Bank of America or the underwriters that such an investment meets all relevant legal requirements with respect to investments by plans generally or any particular plan, or that such an investment is appropriate for plans generally or any particular plan.*

## **PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION AND CONFLICTS OF INTEREST**

We will enter into an Amended and Restated Selling Agent Agreement with the agents, including the Purchasing Agent, pursuant to which the notes will be offered from time to time by us to the Purchasing Agent for subsequent resale to the agents and other dealers. A form of the Amended and Restated Selling Agency Agreement has been filed as an exhibit to the registration statement of which this prospectus forms a part. The notes will be offered for sale in the United States only. Dealers who are members of the selling group have executed a Master Selected Dealer Agreement with the Purchasing Agent. The agents will not be required to sell any specific amount of notes but will agree to use their reasonable best efforts to solicit offers from

investors to purchase the notes. We also may appoint additional agents to solicit offers to purchase the notes. Any solicitation and sale of the notes through those additional agents, however, will be on the same terms and conditions to which the original agents have agreed.

We will pay the Purchasing Agent a gross selling concession to be divided among the Purchasing Agent and the other agents as they agree. The concession will be payable to the Purchasing Agent in the form of a discount ranging from 0.30% to 3.15% of the non-discounted price for each note sold. However, we also may pay the Purchasing Agent a concession greater than or less than the range specified above. The gross selling concession that we will pay to the Purchasing Agent will be set forth in the applicable supplement. The Purchasing Agent also may sell notes to dealers at a discount not in excess of the concession it received from us. In certain cases, the Purchasing Agent and the other agents and dealers may agree that the Purchasing Agent will retain the entire gross selling concession. It is anticipated that in these circumstances the other agents and dealers will be compensated by their clients based on a percentage of assets under management. We will disclose any of these arrangements in the applicable supplement.

Following the solicitation of orders, each of the agents, severally and not jointly, may purchase notes as principal for its own account from the Purchasing Agent. Unless otherwise set forth in the applicable supplement, these notes will be purchased by the agents and resold by them to one or more investors at a fixed public offering price. After the initial public offering of notes to be resold by an agent to investors, the public offering price (in the case of notes to be resold at a fixed public offering price), concession and discount may be changed.

We will have the sole right to accept offers to purchase notes and may reject any proposed offer to purchase notes in whole or in part. Each agent also has the right, in its discretion reasonably exercised, to reject any proposed offer to purchase notes in whole or in part. We

reserve the right to withdraw, cancel or modify any offer without notice. We also may change the terms, including the interest rate we will pay on the notes, at any time prior to our acceptance of an offer to purchase.

Each agent, including the Purchasing Agent, may be deemed to be an underwriter within the meaning of the Securities Act of 1933. We will agree to indemnify the agents against certain liabilities, including liabilities under the Securities Act of 1933, or to contribute to payments the agents may be required to make with respect to those liabilities. We also have agreed to reimburse the agents for certain expenses.

If any notes are to be distributed by means other than those to be set forth in the Amended and Restated Selling Agent Agreement, prior to commencement of that distribution, copies of the proposed distribution agreements will be submitted to FINRA for review along with an estimate of the maximum compensation to be received by any FINRA member or related person participating in the distribution.

If we decide to list any note on a stock exchange, we will specify the exchange in the supplement relating to those notes. No note will have an established trading market when issued. However, we have been advised by the agents that they may purchase and sell notes in the secondary market as permitted by applicable laws and regulations. The agents are not obligated to make a market in the notes, and they may discontinue making a market in the notes at any time without notice. Neither we nor the agents can provide any assurance regarding the development, liquidity or maintenance of any trading market for any notes. All secondary trading in the notes will settle in immediately available funds. See the section entitled *Registration and Settlement* beginning on page 27.

In connection with certain offerings of notes, the rules of the SEC permit the Purchasing Agent to engage in transactions that may stabilize the price of the notes. The Purchasing Agent will conduct these activities for the agents. These transactions may consist of short sales, stabilizing transactions and purchases to cover positions

created by short sales. A short sale is the sale by the Purchasing Agent of a greater amount of notes than the amount the Purchasing Agent has agreed to purchase in connection with a specific offering of notes. Stabilizing transactions consist of certain bids or purchases made by the Purchasing Agent to prevent or retard a decline in the price of the notes while an offering of notes is in process. In general, these purchases or bids for the notes for the purpose of stabilization or to reduce a syndicate short position could cause the price of the notes to be higher than it might otherwise be in the absence of those purchases or bids. Neither we nor the Purchasing Agent makes any representation or prediction as to the direction or magnitude of any effect that these transactions may have on the price of any notes. In addition, neither we nor the Purchasing Agent makes any representation that, once commenced, these transactions will not be discontinued without notice. The Purchasing Agent is not required to engage in these activities and may end any of these activities at any time.

Following the initial distribution of notes, our affiliated entities, including Merrill Lynch, Pierce Fenner & Smith Incorporated, may buy and sell the notes in secondary market transactions as part of their business as broker-dealers. Any sale will be at negotiated prices relating to prevailing prices at the time of sale. This prospectus and any related supplements may be used by one or more of our affiliated entities in connection with offers and sales related to secondary market transactions in the notes to the extent permitted by applicable law. Any of our affiliated entities may act as principal or agent in these transactions. None of Merrill Lynch, Pierce Fenner & Smith Incorporated or any other member of FINRA participating in the distribution of the notes will execute a transaction in our InterNotes<sup>®</sup> in a discretionary account without specific prior written approval of that customer.

The agents or dealers to or through which we may sell notes may engage in transactions with us and perform services for us in the ordinary course of business.



The maximum underwriting concession or discount to be received by any member of FINRA or independent broker-dealer will not be greater than 8.0% of the initial gross proceeds of the notes sold.

### **Conflicts of Interest**

Merrill Lynch, Pierce Fenner & Smith Incorporated, one of two Joint Lead Managers and a Lead Agent, is a broker-dealer and one of our subsidiaries. Because of the relationship between us and Merrill Lynch, Pierce Fenner & Smith Incorporated, each offering and any remarketing of notes will be conducted in compliance with the requirements of FINRA Rule 5121 regarding the offer and sale of securities of an affiliated entity.

In addition, in the ordinary course of their business activities, the agents and their affiliates may make or hold a broad array of investments and actively trade debt and equity securities (or related derivative securities) and financial instruments (including bank loans) for their own account and for the accounts of their customers. Such investments and securities activities may involve securities and/or instruments of ours or our affiliates. Certain of the agents or their affiliates that have a lending relationship with us routinely hedge their credit exposure to us consistent with their customary risk management policies. Typically, such agents and their affiliates would hedge such exposure by entering into transactions which consist of either the purchase of credit default swaps or the creation of short positions in our securities, including potentially the notes offered by this prospectus and the applicable supplement. Any such short positions could adversely affect future trading prices of the notes offered by this prospectus and the applicable supplement. The agents and their affiliates may also make investment recommendations and/or publish or express independent research views in respect of such securities or financial instruments and may hold, or recommend to clients that they acquire, long and/or short positions in such securities and instruments.

### **WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION**

We have filed a registration statement on Form S-3 with the SEC covering the notes to be offered and sold using this prospectus. You should refer to this registration statement and its exhibits for additional information about us. This prospectus summarizes material provisions of contracts and other documents that we refer you to. Because the prospectus may not contain all information that you may find important, you should review the full text of these documents, which we have included as exhibits to the registration statement.

We file annual, quarterly and special reports, proxy statements and other information with the SEC. You may read and copy any document that we file with the SEC at the Public Reference Room of the SEC at 100 F Street, N.E., Room 1580, Washington, D.C. 20549. You may obtain information on the operation of the Public Reference Room by calling the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330. You also may inspect our filings over the Internet at the SEC's website, [www.sec.gov](http://www.sec.gov). The reports and other information we file with the SEC also are available at our website, [www.bankofamerica.com](http://www.bankofamerica.com).

We have included the SEC's web address and our web address as inactive textual references only. Except as specifically incorporated by reference into this prospectus, information on those websites is not part of this prospectus.

You also can inspect reports and other information we file at the offices of The New York Stock Exchange LLC, 20 Broad Street, 17th Floor, New York, New York 10005.

The SEC allows us to incorporate by reference the information we file with it. This means that:

incorporated documents are considered part of this prospectus;

we can disclose important information to you by referring you to those documents; and

information that we file with the SEC automatically will update and supersede this incorporated information and information in this prospectus.



We incorporate by reference the documents listed below which were filed with the SEC under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934:

our annual report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2014;

our quarterly report on Form 10-Q for the period ended March 31, 2015; and

our current reports on Form 8-K filed January 15, 2015, January 27, 2015, February 26, 2015, March 11, 2015, March 17, 2015, March 20, 2015, April 8, 2015, April 15, 2015, and April 29, 2015 (in each case, other than documents or information that is furnished but deemed not to have been filed).

We also incorporate by reference reports that we will file under Sections 13(a), 13(c), 14, and 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, on or after the date of this prospectus, but not any information that we may furnish but that is not deemed to be filed.

You should assume that the information appearing in this prospectus is accurate only as of the date of this prospectus. Our business, financial position and results of operations may have changed since that date.

You may request a copy of any filings referred to above, at no cost, by contacting us at the following address or telephone number:

Bank of America Corporation  
Fixed Income Investor Relations  
100 North Tryon Street  
Charlotte, North Carolina 28255-0065  
1-866-607-1234

## **FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS**

We have included or incorporated by reference in this prospectus statements that may constitute forward-looking statements within the meaning of Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933 and Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934. You may find these statements by looking for words such as plan, believe, expect, intend, anticipate, estimate, project, potential, possible, or other similar

expressions, or future or conditional verbs such as will, should, would, and could.

All forward-looking statements, by their nature, are subject to risks and uncertainties. Our actual results may differ materially from those set forth in our forward-looking statements. As a large, international financial services company, we face risks that are inherent in the businesses and market places in which we operate. Information regarding important factors that could cause our future financial performance to vary from that described in our forward-looking statements is contained in our annual report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2014, which is incorporated in this prospectus by reference, under the captions Item 1A. Risk Factors, and Item 7. Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations, as well as those discussed in our subsequent filings that are incorporated in this prospectus by reference. See Where You Can Find More Information above for information about how to obtain a copy of our annual report.

You should not place undue reliance on any forward-looking statements, which speak only as of the dates they are made.

All subsequent written and oral forward-looking statements attributable to us or any person on our behalf are expressly qualified in their entirety by the cautionary statements contained or referred to in this section. Except to the extent required by applicable law or regulation, we undertake no obligation to update these forward-looking statements to reflect events or circumstances after the date of this prospectus or to reflect the occurrence of unanticipated events.

## **LEGAL MATTERS**

The legality of the notes will be passed upon for us by McGuireWoods LLP, Charlotte, North Carolina, and for the agents by Morrison & Foerster LLP, New York, New York. Certain U.S. federal income tax matters will be passed upon for us by Morrison & Foerster LLP, New York, New York, special tax counsel to Bank of

America Corporation. McGuireWoods LLP regularly performs legal services for us. Some members of McGuireWoods LLP performing those legal services own shares of our common stock.

## **EXPERTS**

The consolidated financial statements and management's assessment of the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting (which is included in the

Report of Management on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting) incorporated in this prospectus by reference to our current report on Form 8-K filed with the SEC on April 29, 2015 have been so incorporated in reliance on the report of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP, an independent registered public accounting firm, given on the authority of said firm as experts in auditing and accounting.

