

CALAMOS STRATEGIC TOTAL RETURN FUND
Form N-Q
September 18, 2012

UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

FORM N-Q

**QUARTERLY SCHEDULE OF PORTFOLIO HOLDINGS OF REGISTERED
MANAGEMENT INVESTMENT COMPANIES**

INVESTMENT COMPANY ACT FILE NUMBER: 811-21484

EXACT NAME OF REGISTRANT AS SPECIFIED IN CHARTER: **Calamos Strategic Total Return
Fund**

ADDRESS OF PRINCIPAL EXECUTIVE OFFICES: 2020 Calamos Court, Naperville
Illinois 60563-2787

NAME AND ADDRESS OF AGENT FOR SERVICE: John P. Calamos, Sr., Chairman,
CEO and Co-CIO
Calamos Advisors LLC,
2020 Calamos Court,
Naperville, Illinois
60563-2787

REGISTRANT'S TELEPHONE NUMBER, INCLUDING AREA CODE: (630) 245-7200

DATE OF FISCAL YEAR END: October 31, 2012

DATE OF REPORTING PERIOD: July 31, 2012

ITEM 1. SCHEDULE OF INVESTMENTS JULY 31, 2012 (UNAUDITED)

Calamos Strategic Total Return Fund

| PRINCIPAL AMOUNT | | VALUE |
|--------------------------------|---|--------------|
| CORPORATE BONDS (45.4%) | | |
| | <i>Consumer Discretionary (7.7%)</i> | |
| 2,733,000 | American Axle & Manufacturing, Inc.µ 7.750%, 11/15/19 | \$ 2,934,559 |
| | DISH Network Corp. | |
| 8,253,000 | 5.875%, 07/15/22* | 8,541,855 |
| 7,335,000 | 7.125%, 02/01/16 | 8,132,681 |
| 5,718,000 | Gap, Inc.µ | |
| | 5.950%, 04/12/21 | 6,054,910 |
| | Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company | |
| 9,022,000 | 8.250%, 08/15/20 | 9,879,090 |
| 4,372,000 | 7.000%, 05/15/22µ | 4,486,765 |
| | Icahn Enterprises, LP | |
| 8,136,000 | 8.000%, 01/15/18 | 8,685,180 |
| 2,429,000 | 8.000%, 01/15/18* | 2,592,958 |
| 9,759,000 | J.C. Penney Company, Inc. | |
| | 7.125%, 11/15/23 | 8,624,516 |
| | Jaguar Land Rover, PLC* | |
| 9,715,000 | 8.125%, 05/15/21 | 10,370,762 |
| 2,186,000 | 7.750%, 05/15/18 | 2,339,020 |
| 6,995,000 | Jarden Corp.µ | |
| | 7.500%, 05/01/17 | 7,939,325 |
| 4,858,000 | Liberty Media Corp.µ | |
| | 8.250%, 02/01/30 | 5,052,320 |
| 2,920,000 | Limited Brands, Inc.µ | |
| | 5.625%, 02/15/22 | 3,073,300 |
| | Meritage Homes Corp. | |
| 4,226,000 | 7.000%, 04/01/22* | 4,416,170 |
| 2,429,000 | 7.150%, 04/15/20 | 2,574,740 |
| 4,746,000 | MGM Resorts Internationalµ | |
| | 7.500%, 06/01/16 | 4,929,908 |
| 12,630,000 | Royal Caribbean Cruises, Ltd.µ | |
| | 7.500%, 10/15/27 | 12,866,812 |
| 1,525,000 | Sally Holdings, LLCµ | |
| | 5.750%, 06/01/22 | 1,637,469 |
| 3,886,000 | Service Corp. International | |
| | 7.000%, 05/15/19 | 4,245,455 |
| 1,943,000 | Toll Brothers Finance Corp. | |
| | 5.875%, 02/15/22 | 2,078,379 |
| 1,700,000 | Wynn Las Vegas, LLC | 1,895,500 |

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| | | | | |
|------------|-----|------------------------------------|--|---------------|
| | | 7.750%, 08/15/20 | | |
| | | | | 123,351,674 |
| | | Consumer Staples (2.3%) | | |
| 5,489,000 | | Darling International, Inc.µ | | |
| | | 8.500%, 12/15/18 | | 6,188,848 |
| 14,209,000 | | Post Holdings, Inc.µ* | | |
| | | 7.375%, 02/15/22 | | 14,883,927 |
| 11,658,000 | | Smithfield Foods, Inc. | | |
| 2,915,000 | | 7.750%, 07/01/17 | | 12,998,670 |
| | | 6.625%, 08/15/22 | | 3,031,600 |
| | | | | 37,103,045 |
| | | Energy (11.5%) | | |
| 24,288,000 | NOK | Aker Solutions, ASA | | |
| | | 6.660%, 06/06/17 | | 4,029,498 |
| 4,245,000 | | Atwood Oceanics, Inc.µ | | |
| | | 6.500%, 02/01/20 | | 4,542,150 |
| | | | | |
| | | | | VALUE |
| | | | | |
| 10,687,000 | | Berry Petroleum Company | | |
| | | 6.375%, 09/15/22 | | \$ 11,354,938 |
| 12,144,000 | | Calfrac Holdings, LP* | | |
| | | 7.500%, 12/01/20 | | 11,658,240 |
| | | Calumet Specialty Products, LP | | |
| 4,858,000 | | 9.375%, 05/01/19µ | | 5,052,320 |
| 3,886,000 | | 9.625%, 08/01/20* | | 4,119,160 |
| 2,720,000 | | Carrizo Oil & Gas, Inc.µ | | |
| | | 8.625%, 10/15/18 | | 2,958,000 |
| 10,687,000 | | Cimarex Energy Company | | |
| | | 5.875%, 05/01/22 | | 11,408,372 |
| 3,886,000 | | Clayton Williams Energy, Inc.µ | | |
| | | 7.750%, 04/01/19 | | 3,866,570 |
| | | Frontier Oil Corp. | | |
| 4,352,000 | | 6.875%, 11/15/18 | | 4,634,880 |
| 972,000 | | 8.500%, 09/15/16 | | 1,023,030 |
| 10,687,000 | | GulfMark Offshore, Inc.* | | |
| | | 6.375%, 03/15/22 | | 10,954,175 |
| 7,772,000 | | Holly Energy Partners, LP* | | |
| | | 6.500%, 03/01/20 | | 8,141,170 |
| 2,468,000 | | HollyFrontier Corp.µ | | |
| | | 9.875%, 06/15/17 | | 2,745,650 |
| 4,663,000 | | Hornbeck Offshore Services, Inc.µ* | | |
| | | 5.875%, 04/01/20 | | 4,686,315 |
| 12,630,000 | | Linn Energy, LLC* | | |
| | | 6.250%, 11/01/19 | | 12,519,487 |

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| | | |
|------------|---|-------------|
| | Oasis Petroleum, Inc. | |
| 4,824,000 | 6.500%, 11/01/21 μ | 4,884,300 |
| 1,457,000 | 6.875%, 01/15/23 | 1,478,855 |
| 5,829,000 | Parker Drilling Company* | |
| | 9.125%, 04/01/18 | 6,280,748 |
| 2,915,000 | Pioneer Drilling Company | |
| | 9.875%, 03/15/18 | 3,148,200 |
| | Plains Exploration & Production Company | |
| 5,343,000 | 6.750%, 02/01/22 μ | 5,743,725 |
| 5,343,000 | 6.125%, 06/15/19 | 5,556,720 |
| 10,687,000 | Samson Investment Company* | |
| | 9.750%, 02/15/20 | 11,101,121 |
| 6,315,000 | SEACOR Holdings, Inc. μ | |
| | 7.375%, 10/01/19 | 6,944,517 |
| | SESI, LLC | |
| 4,858,000 | 6.875%, 06/01/14~ | 4,859,579 |
| 3,886,000 | 7.125%, 12/15/21* | 4,323,175 |
| 2,915,000 | SM Energy Company | |
| | 6.500%, 11/15/21 | 3,031,600 |
| 6,315,000 | Swift Energy Company μ | |
| | 8.875%, 01/15/20 | 6,788,625 |
| 3,245,000 | Trinidad Drilling, Ltd. μ * | |
| | 7.875%, 01/15/19 | 3,480,263 |
| 12,290,000 | W&T Offshore, Inc. | |
| | 8.500%, 06/15/19 | 12,965,950 |
| | | 184,281,333 |
| | Financials (3.5%) | |
| 4,955,000 | AON Corp. | |
| | 8.205%, 01/01/27 | 5,862,642 |
| 2,303,000 | Legg Mason, Inc. μ * | |
| | 5.500%, 05/21/19 | 2,450,051 |
| 16,166,000 | Leucadia National Corp. μ | |
| | 8.125%, 09/15/15 | 18,247,372 |
| 10,687,000 | Neuberger Berman Group LLC* | |
| | 5.875%, 03/15/22 | 11,354,938 |

See accompanying Notes to Schedule of Investments

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Calamos Strategic Total Return Fund

| PRINCIPAL AMOUNT | | VALUE |
|------------------|--|--------------|
| 9,715,000 | Nuveen Investments, Inc. | |
| | 10.500%, 11/15/15 | \$ 9,909,300 |
| 5,907,000 | Omega Healthcare Investors, Inc. | 6,350,025 |
| 1,904,000 | 5.875%, 03/15/24*~ | 2,142,000 |
| | 7.500%, 02/15/20 | |
| | | 56,316,328 |
| | Health Care (6.0%) | |
| 356,000 | AMERIGROUP Corp. | |
| | 7.500%, 11/15/19 | 419,190 |
| 12,849,000 | Community Health Systems, Inc. | |
| | 7.125%, 07/15/20 | 13,475,389 |
| 5,343,000 | Endo Pharmaceuticals Holdings, Inc. | 5,930,730 |
| 1,700,000 | 7.000%, 07/15/19 | |
| | Fresenius Medµ* | |
| | 5.875%, 01/31/22 | 1,821,125 |
| 18,459,000 | Grifols, SA | |
| | 8.250%, 02/01/18 | 20,304,900 |
| 7,695,000 | Hologic, Inc.* | |
| | 6.250%, 08/01/20 | 8,156,700 |
| | Mylan, Inc.* | |
| 4,858,000 | 7.875%, 07/15/20µ | 5,550,265 |
| 4,046,000 | 7.625%, 07/15/17 | 4,534,049 |
| | Valeant Pharmaceuticals International, Inc.* | |
| 9,715,000 | 7.250%, 07/15/22 | 10,079,312 |
| 8,744,000 | 7.000%, 10/01/20 | 9,071,900 |
| 1,457,000 | 6.750%, 10/01/17 | 1,558,990 |
| 14,573,000 | Warner Chilcott Company, LLC | |
| | 7.750%, 09/15/18 | 15,829,921 |
| | | 96,732,471 |
| | Industrials (4.6%) | |
| 3,032,000 | Abengoa, SA* | |
| | 8.875%, 11/01/17 | 2,577,200 |
| | Belden, Inc. | |
| 1,700,000 | 7.000%, 03/15/17 | 1,770,125 |
| 607,000 | 9.250%, 06/15/19 | 670,735 |
| 3,886,000 | Boart Longyear Management Pty., Ltd.* | 4,070,585 |
| 4,401,000 | 7.000%, 04/01/21 | |
| | H&E Equipment Services, Inc.µ | |
| | 8.375%, 07/15/16 | 4,549,534 |

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| | | |
|------------|-----------------------------------|------------|
| 5,897,000 | Monaco SpinCo, Inc.* | |
| | 6.750%, 04/30/20 | 6,368,760 |
| 10,687,000 | Rexel, SAμ* | |
| | 6.125%, 12/15/19 | 10,967,534 |
| 4,858,000 | Spirit AeroSystems Holdings, Inc. | |
| | 7.500%, 10/01/17 | 5,295,220 |
| | Terex Corp. | |
| 7,772,000 | 6.500%, 04/01/20 | 8,063,450 |
| 1,943,000 | 8.000%, 11/15/17 | 2,054,722 |
| 1,355,000 | TransDigm Group, Inc. | |
| | 7.750%, 12/15/18 | 1,517,600 |
| | Triumph Group, Inc. | |
| 6,043,000 | 8.625%, 07/15/18 | 6,768,160 |
| 1,962,000 | 8.000%, 11/15/17 | 2,153,295 |
| 11,173,000 | UR Financing Escrow Corp.* | |
| | 7.625%, 04/15/22 | 11,913,211 |
| 4,858,000 | WESCO Distribution, Inc. | |
| | 7.500%, 10/15/17 | 4,979,450 |
| | | 73,719,581 |

**PRINCIPAL
AMOUNT**

VALUE

| | | |
|------------|--|--------------|
| | Information Technology (3.6%) | |
| | Amkor Technology, Inc.μ | |
| 4,372,000 | 6.625%, 06/01/21 | \$ 4,361,070 |
| 2,915,000 | 7.375%, 05/01/18 | 3,024,313 |
| 9,846,000 | Audatex North America, Inc.* | |
| | 6.750%, 06/15/18 | 10,559,835 |
| | Equinix, Inc.μ | |
| 4,372,000 | 7.000%, 07/15/21 | 4,880,245 |
| 4,080,000 | 8.125%, 03/01/18 | 4,539,000 |
| 874,000 | Fidelity National Information Services, Inc.μ 7.875%, 07/15/20 | 989,805 |
| 14,602,000 | iGATE Corp. | |
| | 9.000%, 05/01/16 | 15,551,130 |
| 2,179,000 | Sanmina-SCI Corp.μ* | |
| | 7.000%, 05/15/19 | 2,179,000 |
| | Seagate Technology | |
| 3,400,000 | 6.875%, 05/01/20 | 3,684,750 |
| 972,000 | 7.000%, 11/01/21 | 1,060,695 |
| 6,801,000 | ViaSat, Inc.* | |
| | 6.875%, 06/15/20 | 7,056,037 |
| | | 57,885,880 |
| | Materials (3.0%) | |
| 1,622,000 | Allegheny Ludlum Corp.μ | |
| | 6.950%, 12/15/25 | 1,944,987 |
| | FMG Resources* | |
| 16,516,000 | 8.250%, 11/01/19 | 17,465,670 |
| 6,801,000 | 6.875%, 04/01/22 | 6,809,501 |
| 7,772,000 | New Gold, Inc.* | 8,141,170 |

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| | | |
|------------|--|-------------|
| 5,081,000 | 7.000%, 04/15/20 Sealed Air Corp.* | |
| | 8.125%, 09/15/19 | 5,728,828 |
| 5,994,000 | Steel Dynamics, Inc. 7.750%, 04/15/16μ | 6,256,237 |
| 1,360,000 | 7.625%, 03/15/20 | 1,472,200 |
| | | 47,818,593 |
| | Telecommunication Services (0.9%) | |
| 14,116,000 | Qwest Communications International, Inc.μ 7.750%, 02/15/31 | 14,639,817 |
| | Utilities (2.3%) | |
| 2,817,000 | AES Corp.* | |
| | 7.375%, 07/01/21 | 3,236,029 |
| 15,545,000 | AmeriGas Finance Corp. | |
| | 7.000%, 05/20/22 | 16,555,425 |
| | Calpine Corp.* | |
| 12,630,000 | 7.875%, 01/15/23 | 14,429,775 |
| 2,652,000 | 7.500%, 02/15/21μ | 2,963,610 |
| | | 37,184,839 |
| | TOTAL CORPORATE BONDS (Cost \$701,508,663) | 729,033,561 |
| | CONVERTIBLE BONDS (9.5%) | |
| | Consumer Discretionary (2.7%) | |
| 15,000,000 | Liberty Media Corp. (Time Warner, Inc.)§ 3.125%, 03/30/23 | 18,731,250 |
| 13,164,000 | Liberty Media Corp. (Viacom, CBS Corp. - Class B)§ 3.250%, 03/15/31 | 11,633,685 |

See accompanying Notes to Schedule of Investments

| PRINCIPAL AMOUNT | | VALUE |
|------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------|
| 11,531,000 | Priceline.com, Inc.* | |
| | 1.000%, 03/15/18 | \$ 12,366,997 |
| | | 42,731,932 |
| | Financials (1.3%) | |
| 20,020,000 | Affiliated Managers Group, Inc. | |
| | 3.950%, 08/15/38 | 21,721,700 |
| | Industrials (0.6%) | |
| 9,500,000 | Trinity Industries, Inc. | |
| | 3.875%, 06/01/36 | 9,678,125 |
| | Information Technology (4.3%) | |
| 29,848,000 | Intel Corp.µ | |
| | 2.950%, 12/15/35 | 34,026,720 |
| 8,755,000 | Lam Research Corp.µ | |
| | 1.250%, 05/15/18 | 8,568,956 |
| 9,900,000 | Linear Technology Corp.µ | |
| | 3.000%, 05/01/27 | 10,395,000 |
| 15,000,000 | Nuance Communications, Inc.µ* | |
| | 2.750%, 11/01/31 | 15,843,750 |
| | | 68,834,426 |
| | Materials (0.6%) | |
| 9,000,000 | AngloGold Ashanti, Ltd. | |
| | 3.500%, 05/22/14 | 9,663,750 |
| 329,000 | Steel Dynamics, Inc.µ | |
| | 5.125%, 06/15/14 | 356,143 |
| | | 10,019,893 |
| | TOTAL CONVERTIBLE BONDS | |
| | (Cost \$146,862,243) | 152,986,076 |

**U.S. GOVERNMENT AND AGENCY
SECURITY (0.9%)**

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| | | | |
|------------|--|---|------------|
| 14,573,000 | | United States Treasury Note~ | |
| | | 1.375%, 02/15/13 (Cost \$14,664,441) | 14,670,348 |

SOVEREIGN BONDS (1.7%)

| | | | |
|-----------|-----|-------------------------------|------------|
| | | Federative Republic of Brazil | |
| 4,336,100 | BRL | 10.000%, 01/01/14 | 21,909,387 |
| 972,000 | BRL | 10.000%, 01/01/13 | 4,832,854 |

TOTAL SOVEREIGN BONDS

(Cost \$29,292,731) 26,742,241

SYNTHETIC CONVERTIBLE SECURITIES (1.7%)

Corporate Bonds (1.3%)

| | | | |
|---------|--|---|---------|
| | | <i>Consumer Discretionary (0.2%)</i> | |
| 80,000 | | American Axle & Manufacturing, Inc.µ 7.750%, 11/15/19 | 85,900 |
| | | DISH Network Corp. | |
| 242,000 | | 5.875%, 07/15/22* | 250,470 |
| 215,000 | | 7.125%, 02/01/16 | 238,381 |
| 168,000 | | Gap, Inc.µ | |
| | | 5.950%, 04/12/21 | 177,899 |
| | | Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company | |
| 264,000 | | 8.250%, 08/15/20 | 289,080 |
| 128,000 | | 7.000%, 05/15/22µ | 131,360 |
| | | Icahn Enterprises, LP | |
| 238,000 | | 8.000%, 01/15/18 | 254,065 |

PRINCIPAL AMOUNT

VALUE

| | | | |
|---------|--|--------------------------------|-----------|
| 71,000 | | 8.000%, 01/15/18* | \$ 75,793 |
| 286,000 | | J.C. Penney Company, Inc. | |
| | | 7.125%, 11/15/23 | 252,753 |
| | | Jaguar Land Rover, PLC* | |
| 285,000 | | 8.125%, 05/15/21 | 304,237 |
| 64,000 | | 7.750%, 05/15/18 | 68,480 |
| 205,000 | | Jarden Corp.µ | |
| | | 7.500%, 05/01/17 | 232,675 |
| 142,000 | | Liberty Media Corp.µ | |
| | | 8.250%, 02/01/30 | 147,680 |
| 86,000 | | Limited Brands, Inc.µ | |
| | | 5.625%, 02/15/22 | 90,515 |
| | | Meritage Homes Corp. | |
| 124,000 | | 7.000%, 04/01/22* | 129,580 |
| 71,000 | | 7.150%, 04/15/20 | 75,260 |
| 139,000 | | MGM Resorts Internationalµ | |
| | | 7.500%, 06/01/16 | 144,386 |
| 370,000 | | Royal Caribbean Cruises, Ltd.µ | |
| | | 7.500%, 10/15/27 | 376,937 |
| 45,000 | | Sally Holdings, LLCµ | |
| | | 5.750%, 06/01/22 | 48,319 |
| 114,000 | | Service Corp. International | |
| | | 7.000%, 05/15/19 | 124,545 |
| 57,000 | | Toll Brothers Finance Corp. | 60,971 |

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|--------------------------------|-----|---|-----------|
| 50,000 | | 5.875%, 02/15/22 Wynn Las Vegas, LLC | |
| | | 7.750%, 08/15/20 | 55,750 |
| | | | 3,615,036 |
| Consumer Staples (0.1%) | | | |
| 161,000 | | Darling International, Inc.µ | |
| | | 8.500%, 12/15/18 | 181,528 |
| 416,000 | | Post Holdings, Inc.µ* | |
| | | 7.375%, 02/15/22 | 435,760 |
| 342,000 | | Smithfield Foods, Inc. | |
| | | 7.750%, 07/01/17 | 381,330 |
| 85,000 | | 6.625%, 08/15/22 | 88,400 |
| | | | 1,087,018 |
| Energy (0.3%) | | | |
| 712,000 | NOK | Aker Solutions, ASA | |
| | | 6.660%, 06/06/17 | 118,124 |
| 124,000 | | Atwood Oceanics, Inc.µ | |
| | | 6.500%, 02/01/20 | 132,680 |
| 313,000 | | Berry Petroleum Company | |
| | | 6.375%, 09/15/22 | 332,562 |
| 356,000 | | Calfrac Holdings, LP* | |
| | | 7.500%, 12/01/20 | 341,760 |
| | | Calumet Specialty Products, LP | |
| 142,000 | | 9.375%, 05/01/19µ | 147,680 |
| 114,000 | | 9.625%, 08/01/20* | 120,840 |
| 80,000 | | Carrizo Oil & Gas, Inc.µ | |
| | | 8.625%, 10/15/18 | 87,000 |
| 313,000 | | Cimarex Energy Company | |
| | | 5.875%, 05/01/22 | 334,127 |
| 114,000 | | Clayton Williams Energy, Inc.µ | |
| | | 7.750%, 04/01/19 | 113,430 |
| | | Frontier Oil Corp. | |
| 128,000 | | 6.875%, 11/15/18 | 136,320 |
| 28,000 | | 8.500%, 09/15/16 | 29,470 |
| 313,000 | | GulfMark Offshore, Inc.* | |
| | | 6.375%, 03/15/22 | 320,825 |
| 228,000 | | Holly Energy Partners, LP* | |
| | | 6.500%, 03/01/20 | 238,830 |

See accompanying Notes to Schedule of Investments

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Calamos Strategic Total Return Fund

| PRINCIPAL AMOUNT | | VALUE |
|------------------|---|-----------|
| 72,000 | HollyFrontier Corp.μ | |
| | 9.875%, 06/15/17 | \$ 80,100 |
| 137,000 | Hornbeck Offshore Services, Inc.μ* | |
| | 5.875%, 04/01/20 | 137,685 |
| 370,000 | Linn Energy, LLC* | |
| | 6.250%, 11/01/19 | 366,762 |
| 141,000 | Oasis Petroleum, Inc. | 142,763 |
| 43,000 | 6.500%, 11/01/21μ | 43,645 |
| 171,000 | 6.875%, 01/15/23 | |
| | Parker Drilling Company* | |
| | 9.125%, 04/01/18 | 184,253 |
| 85,000 | Pioneer Drilling Company | |
| | 9.875%, 03/15/18 | 91,800 |
| | Plains Exploration & Production Company | |
| 157,000 | 6.750%, 02/01/22μ | 168,775 |
| 157,000 | 6.125%, 06/15/19 | 163,280 |
| 313,000 | Samson Investment Company* | |
| | 9.750%, 02/15/20 | 325,129 |
| 185,000 | SEACOR Holdings, Inc.μ | |
| | 7.375%, 10/01/19 | 203,442 |
| | SESI, LLC | |
| 142,000 | 6.875%, 06/01/14~ | 142,046 |
| 114,000 | 7.125%, 12/15/21* | 126,825 |
| 85,000 | SM Energy Company | |
| | 6.500%, 11/15/21 | 88,400 |
| 185,000 | Swift Energy Companyμ | |
| | 8.875%, 01/15/20 | 198,875 |
| 95,000 | Trinidad Drilling, Ltd.μ* | |
| | 7.875%, 01/15/19 | 101,888 |
| 360,000 | W&T Offshore, Inc. | |
| | 8.500%, 06/15/19 | 379,800 |
| | | 5,399,116 |
| | Financials (0.1%) | |
| 145,000 | AON Corp. | |
| | 8.205%, 01/01/27 | 171,561 |
| 67,000 | Legg Mason, Inc.μ* | 71,278 |

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| | | |
|-------------------------|--|--------------|
| 474,000 | 5.500%, 05/21/19 Leucadia National Corp.μ | |
| 313,000 | 8.125%, 09/15/15 Neuberger Berman Group LLC* | 535,027 |
| 285,000 | 5.875%, 03/15/22 Nuveen Investments, Inc. | 332,563 |
| | 10.500%, 11/15/15 Omega Healthcare Investors, Inc. | 290,700 |
| 173,000 | 5.875%, 03/15/24*~ | 185,975 |
| 56,000 | 7.500%, 02/15/20 | 63,000 |
| | | 1,650,104 |
| | Health Care (0.2%) | |
| 10,000 | AMERIGROUP Corp. | |
| | 7.500%, 11/15/19 | 11,775 |
| 376,000 | Community Health Systems, Inc. | |
| | 7.125%, 07/15/20 | 394,330 |
| 157,000 | Endo Pharmaceuticals Holdings, Inc. 7.000%, 07/15/19 | 174,270 |
| 50,000 | Fresenius Medμ* | |
| | 5.875%, 01/31/22 | 53,563 |
| 541,000 | Grifols, SA | |
| | 8.250%, 02/01/18 | 595,100 |
| 225,000 | Hologic, Inc.* | |
| | 6.250%, 08/01/20 | 238,500 |
| PRINCIPAL AMOUNT | | VALUE |
| | Mylan, Inc.* | |
| 142,000 | 7.875%, 07/15/20μ | \$ 162,235 |
| 119,000 | 7.625%, 07/15/17 | 133,354 |
| | Valeant Pharmaceuticals International, Inc.* | |
| 285,000 | 7.250%, 07/15/22 | 295,687 |
| 256,000 | 7.000%, 10/01/20 | 265,600 |
| 43,000 | 6.750%, 10/01/17 | 46,010 |
| 427,000 | Warner Chilcott Company, LLC | |
| | 7.750%, 09/15/18 | 463,829 |
| | | 2,834,253 |
| | Industrials (0.1%) | |
| 89,000 | Abengoa, SA* | |
| | 8.875%, 11/01/17 | 75,650 |
| | Belden, Inc. | |
| 50,000 | 7.000%, 03/15/17 | 52,063 |
| 18,000 | 9.250%, 06/15/19 | 19,890 |
| 114,000 | Boart Longyear Management Pty., Ltd.* 7.000%, 04/01/21 | 119,415 |
| 129,000 | H&E Equipment Services, Inc.μ | |
| | 8.375%, 07/15/16 | 133,354 |
| 173,000 | Monaco SpinCo, Inc.* | |
| | 6.750%, 04/30/20 | 186,840 |
| 313,000 | Rexel, SAμ* | 321,216 |

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| | | |
|---------|--|-----------|
| 142,000 | 6.125%, 12/15/19 Spirit AeroSystems Holdings, Inc. | |
| | 7.500%, 10/01/17 Terex Corp. | 154,780 |
| 228,000 | 6.500%, 04/01/20 | 236,550 |
| 57,000 | 8.000%, 11/15/17 | 60,277 |
| 40,000 | TransDigm Group, Inc. | |
| | 7.750%, 12/15/18 Triumph Group, Inc. | 44,800 |
| 177,000 | 8.625%, 07/15/18 | 198,240 |
| 58,000 | 8.000%, 11/15/17 | 63,655 |
| 327,000 | UR Financing Escrow Corp.* | |
| | 7.625%, 04/15/22 WESCO Distribution, Inc. | 348,664 |
| 142,000 | 7.500%, 10/15/17 | 145,550 |
| | | 2,160,944 |
| | Information Technology (0.1%) | |
| | Amkor Technology, Inc.µ | |
| 128,000 | 6.625%, 06/01/21 | 127,680 |
| 85,000 | 7.375%, 05/01/18 | 88,188 |
| 289,000 | Audatex North America, Inc.* | |
| | 6.750%, 06/15/18 Equinix, Inc.µ | 309,952 |
| 128,000 | 7.000%, 07/15/21 | 142,880 |
| 120,000 | 8.125%, 03/01/18 | 133,500 |
| 26,000 | Fidelity National Information Services, Inc.µ 7.875%, 07/15/20 | 29,445 |
| 428,000 | iGATE Corp. | |
| | 9.000%, 05/01/16 Sanmina-SCI Corp.µ* | 455,820 |
| 64,000 | 7.000%, 05/15/19 Seagate Technology | 64,000 |
| 100,000 | 6.875%, 05/01/20 | 108,375 |
| 28,000 | 7.000%, 11/01/21 | 30,555 |
| 199,000 | ViaSat, Inc.* | |
| | 6.875%, 06/15/20 | 206,463 |
| | | 1,696,858 |

See accompanying Notes to Schedule of Investments

| PRINCIPAL AMOUNT | | VALUE |
|---------------------|---|-------------------|
| | Materials (0.1%) | |
| 48,000 | Allegheny Ludlum Corp.µ 6.950%, 12/15/25 | \$ 57,558 |
| | FMG Resources* | |
| 484,000 | 8.250%, 11/01/19 | 511,830 |
| 199,000 | 6.875%, 04/01/22 | 199,249 |
| 228,000 | New Gold, Inc.* | |
| | 7.000%, 04/15/20 | 238,830 |
| 149,000 | Sealed Air Corp.* | |
| | 8.125%, 09/15/19 | 167,997 |
| 176,000 | Steel Dynamics, Inc. | |
| | 7.750%, 04/15/16µ | 183,700 |
| 40,000 | 7.625%, 03/15/20 | 43,300 |
| | | 1,402,464 |
| | Telecommunication Services (0.0%) | |
| 414,000 | Qwest Communications International, Inc.µ 7.750%, 02/15/31 | 429,363 |
| | Utilities (0.1%) | |
| 83,000 | AES Corp.* | |
| | 7.375%, 07/01/21 | 95,346 |
| 455,000 | AmeriGas Finance Corp. | |
| | 7.000%, 05/20/22 | 484,575 |
| 370,000 | Calpine Corp.* | |
| | 7.875%, 01/15/23 | 422,725 |
| 78,000 | 7.500%, 02/15/21µ | 87,165 |
| | | 1,089,811 |
| | TOTAL CORPORATE BONDS | 21,364,967 |
| | U.S. Government and Agency Security (0.0%) | |
| 427,000 | United States Treasury Note~ 1.375%, 02/15/13 | 429,852 |
| | Sovereign Bonds (0.1%) | |
| | Federative Republic of Brazil | |
| 127,000 | BRL 10.000%, 01/01/14 | 641,704 |
| 28,000 | BRL 10.000%, 01/01/13 | 139,218 |
| | TOTAL SOVEREIGN BONDS | 780,922 |
| | NUMBER OF CONTRACTS | VALUE |
| | Purchased Options (0.3%) # | |
| | Consumer Discretionary (0.2%) | |
| 275 | Priceline.com, Inc. | 2,327,875 |

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| | | |
|-------|--|------------|
| | Call, 01/19/13, Strike \$630.00 | |
| | Information Technology (0.1%) | |
| 5,800 | EMC Corp. Call, 01/19/13, Strike \$25.00 | 1,655,900 |
| | TOTAL PURCHASED OPTIONS | 3,983,775 |
| | TOTAL SYNTHETIC CONVERTIBLE SECURITIES (Cost \$26,457,825) | 26,559,516 |

| NUMBER OF SHARES | | VALUE |
|--|---|---------------|
| CONVERTIBLE PREFERRED STOCKS (6.3%) | | |
| | Consumer Staples (0.7%) | |
| 111,900 | Bunge, Ltd. 4.875% | \$ 10,840,313 |
| | Energy (3.6%) | |
| 560,000 | Apache Corp.µ 6.000% | 27,199,200 |
| 30,862 | Chesapeake Energy Corp.* 5.750% | 27,158,560 |
| 4,250 | 5.750% | 3,772,937 |
| | | 58,130,697 |
| | Financials (0.6%) | |
| 165,000 | MetLife, Inc.µ 5.000% | 10,343,850 |
| | Industrials (0.8%) | |
| 230,000 | United Technologies Corp. 7.500% | 12,132,500 |
| | Utilities (0.6%) | |
| 200,000 | NextEra Energy, Inc. 5.599% | 10,380,000 |
| | TOTAL CONVERTIBLE PREFERRED STOCKS (Cost \$119,929,174) | 101,827,360 |
| COMMON STOCKS (67.3%) | | |
| | Consumer Discretionary (1.0%) | |
| 400,000 | Carnival Corp.µ | 13,312,000 |
| 89,912 | General Motors Companyµ# | 1,772,166 |
| 22,573 | Motors Liquidation Company# | 319,182 |
| | | 15,403,348 |
| | Consumer Staples (6.9%) | |
| 403,776 | Archer-Daniels-Midland Companyµ | 10,534,516 |
| 800,000 | Coca-Cola Companyµ | 64,640,000 |
| 365,000 | Companhia de Bebidas das Americas | 14,070,750 |
| 250,000 | Kimberly-Clark Corp.µ | 21,727,500 |
| | | 110,972,766 |
| | Energy (6.7%) | |
| 800,000 | BP, PLCµ | 31,920,000 |
| 325,000 | Chevron Corp.µ | 35,613,500 |

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| | | | |
|---------------------------------|-----|--------------------------------------|-------------|
| 65,000 | | CNOOC, Ltd. | 13,019,500 |
| 60,000 | | Diamond Offshore Drilling, Inc.µ | 3,925,200 |
| 165,000 | | Schlumberger, Ltd. | 11,757,900 |
| 50,000 | EUR | Technip, SAµ | 5,248,732 |
| 150,000 | EUR | TOTAL, SA | 6,911,438 |
| | | | 108,396,270 |
| <i>Financials (2.3%)</i> | | | |
| 42,000 | | American International Group, Inc.µ# | 1,313,340 |
| 500,000 | | Bank of America Corp.µ | 3,670,000 |
| 172,745 | | Citigroup, Inc.µ | 4,686,572 |
| 600,000 | | JPMorgan Chase & Companyµ | 21,600,000 |
| 158,074 | | Lincoln National Corp.µ | 3,169,384 |

See accompanying Notes to Schedule of Investments

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Calamos Strategic Total Return Fund

| NUMBER OF SHARES | | | VALUE |
|---------------------|-----|--|--------------|
| 71,676 | | Wells Fargo & Companyµ | \$ 2,423,365 |
| | | | 36,862,661 |
| | | Health Care (15.8%) | |
| 300,000 | | Eli Lilly and Companyµ | 13,209,000 |
| 835,000 | | Johnson & Johnsonµ | 57,798,700 |
| 2,362,707 | | Merck & Company, Inc.µ | 104,360,768 |
| 3,300,000 | | Pfizer, Inc.µ | 79,332,000 |
| | | | 254,700,468 |
| | | Industrials (7.3%) | |
| 230,000 | | Boeing Companyµ | 16,999,300 |
| 440,000 | | Eaton Corp.µ | 19,289,600 |
| 3,135,000 | | General Electric Companyµ | 65,051,250 |
| 450,000 | | Masco Corp.µ | 5,413,500 |
| 135,000 | EUR | Siemens, AGµ | 11,439,765 |
| | | | 118,193,415 |
| | | Information Technology (18.2%) | |
| 175,000 | | Accenture, PLC - Class A | 10,552,500 |
| 28,000 | | Apple, Inc.# | 17,101,280 |
| 1,550,000 | | Applied Materials, Inc.µ | 16,879,500 |
| 425,000 | | CA, Inc.µ | 10,229,750 |
| 250,000 | | Canon, Inc.µ | 8,362,500 |
| 575,000 | | Cisco Systems, Inc.µ | 9,171,250 |
| 415,000 | | eBay, Inc.µ# | 18,384,500 |
| 430,000 | | EMC Corp.µ# | 11,270,300 |
| 1,136,000 | | Intel Corp.µ | 29,195,200 |
| 1,625,000 | | Microsoft Corp.µ | 47,888,750 |
| 300,000 | | Nintendo Company, Ltd.µ | 4,201,350 |
| 2,200,000 | | Nokia Corp.µ | 5,302,000 |
| 875,000 | | QUALCOMM, Inc.µ | 52,220,000 |
| 630,000 | | SAP, AGµ | 39,916,800 |
| 4,200,000 | TWD | Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Company, Ltd. | 11,368,531 |
| | | | 292,044,211 |
| | | Materials (4.0%) | |
| 572,800 | | Barrick Gold Corp. | 18,833,664 |
| 400,000 | | Dow Chemical Companyµ | 11,512,000 |
| 300,000 | | Goldcorp, Inc.µ | 10,812,000 |
| 100,904 | | Mosaic Company | 5,863,531 |
| 175,000 | | Newmont Mining Corp.µ | 7,782,250 |
| 210,000 | | Rio Tinto, PLCµ | 9,704,100 |
| | | | 64,507,545 |
| | | Telecommunication Services (5.1%) | |

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| | | | |
|-----------|-----|-------------------------------|------------|
| 1,225,000 | | AT&T, Inc.μ | 46,452,000 |
| 450,000 | EUR | France Telecom, SAμ | 6,025,996 |
| 639,000 | | Verizon Communications, Inc.μ | 28,844,460 |
| | | | 81,322,456 |

TOTAL COMMON STOCKS

(Cost \$1,329,880,364)

1,082,403,140

RIGHTS (0.0%)#

| | | | |
|--------------------------------------|--|------------------------------------|-----|
| <i>Consumer Discretionary (0.0%)</i> | | | |
| 280,000 | | Escrow General Motors Corp. Rights | 280 |
| 150,000 | | Escrow General Motors Corp. Rights | 150 |

**NUMBER OF
SHARES**

VALUE

| | | | |
|---------------------|--|----|-----|
| TOTAL RIGHTS | | | |
| (Cost \$386,745) | | \$ | 430 |

WARRANTS (0.1%)#

| | | | |
|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------|---------|
| <i>Consumer Discretionary (0.1%)</i> | | | |
| 81,739 | | General Motors Company | |
| | | 07/10/16, Strike \$10.00 | 902,398 |
| 81,739 | | General Motors Company | |
| | | 07/10/19, Strike \$18.33 | 550,921 |

TOTAL WARRANTS

(Cost \$12,672,791)

1,453,319

SHORT TERM INVESTMENT (3.4%)

| | | | |
|------------|--|--|------------|
| 54,661,282 | | Fidelity Prime Money Market Fund - Institutional Class | |
| | | (Cost \$54,661,282) | 54,661,282 |

TOTAL INVESTMENTS (136.3%)

(Cost \$2,436,316,259)

2,190,337,273

LIABILITIES, LESS OTHER ASSETS

(-36.3%)

(582,815,637)

NET ASSETS APPLICABLE TO

COMMON SHAREHOLDERS (100.0%)

\$ 1,607,521,636

NOTES TO SCHEDULE OF INVESTMENTS

- μ Security, or portion of security, is held in a segregated account as collateral for note payable aggregating a total value of \$1,106,334,140. \$563,953,214 of the collateral has been re-registered by the counterparty.
- * Securities issued and sold pursuant to a Rule 144A transaction are excepted from the registration requirement of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended. These securities may only be sold to qualified institutional buyers (QIBs), such as the fund. Any resale of these securities must generally be effected through a sale that is registered under the Act or otherwise exempted from such registration requirements. At July 31, 2012, the value of 144A securities that could not be exchanged to the registered form is \$221,477,223 or 13.8% of net assets applicable to common shareholders.
Security or a portion of the security purchased on a delayed delivery or when-issued basis.
Variable rate or step bond security. The rate shown is the rate in effect at July 31, 2012.
- ~ Security, or portion of security, is segregated as collateral (or potential collateral for future transactions) for written options and swaps. The aggregate value of such securities is \$17,031,771.
- § Securities exchangeable or convertible into securities of one or more entities that are different than the issuer. Each entity is identified in the parenthetical.
- # Non-income producing security.

FOREIGN CURRENCY ABBREVIATIONS

| | |
|------------|------------------------|
| BRL | Brazilian Real |
| EUR | European Monetary Unit |

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NOK Norwegian Krone

TWD New Taiwanese Dollar

Note: Value for securities denominated in foreign currencies is shown in U.S. dollars. The principal amount for such securities is shown in the respective foreign currency. The date on options represents the expiration date of the option contract. The option contract may be exercised at any date on or before the date shown.

See accompanying Notes to Schedule of Investments

INTEREST RATE SWAPS

| COUNTERPARTY | FIXED RATE (FUND PAYS) | FLOATING RATE (FUND RECEIVES) | TERMINATION DATE | NOTIONAL AMOUNT | UNREALIZED APPRECIATION/ (DEPRECIATION) |
|---------------------|-----------------------------------|--|-----------------------------|----------------------------|--|
| BNP Paribas, SA | 1.8525% quarterly | 3 month LIBOR | 09/14/12 | \$ 108,100,000 | \$ (386,436) |
| BNP Paribas, SA | 2.5350% quarterly | 3 month LIBOR | 03/09/14 | 90,000,000 | (3,389,657) |
| BNP Paribas, SA | 2.9700% quarterly | 3 month LIBOR | 07/03/14 | 75,000,000 | (3,882,792) |
| BNP Paribas, SA | 3.3550% quarterly | 3 month LIBOR | 06/09/14 | 60,000,000 | (3,565,544) |
| BNP Paribas, SA | 0.9340% quarterly | 3 month LIBOR | 07/05/17 | 52,000,000 | (451,435) |
| BNP Paribas, SA | 1.0088% quarterly | 3 month LIBOR | 06/12/17 | 47,000,000 | (585,007) |
| | | | | | \$ (12,260,871) |

See accompanying Notes to Schedule of Investments

NOTE 1 ORGANIZATION AND SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (UNAUDITED)

Organization. Calamos Strategic Total Return Fund (the Fund) was organized as a Delaware statutory trust on December 31, 2003 and is registered under the Investment Company Act of 1940 (the 1940 Act) as a diversified, closed-end management investment company. The Fund commenced operations on March 26, 2004. The Fund's investment objective is to provide total return through a combination of capital appreciation and current income. Under normal circumstances, the Fund invests primarily in common and preferred stocks and income producing securities such as investment grade and below investment grade debt securities.

Fund Valuation. The valuation of the Fund's investments is in accordance with policies and procedures adopted by and under the ultimate supervision of the board of trustees.

Fund securities that are traded on U.S. securities exchanges, except option securities, are valued at the last current reported sales price at the time a Fund determines its net asset value (NAV). Securities traded in the over-the-counter market and quoted on The NASDAQ Stock Market are valued at the NASDAQ Official Closing Price, as determined by NASDAQ, or lacking a NASDAQ Official Closing Price, the last current reported sale price on NASDAQ at the time the Fund determines its NAV.

When a last sale or closing price is not available, equity securities, other than option securities, that are traded on a U.S. securities exchange and other equity securities traded in the over-the-counter market are valued at the mean between the most recent bid and asked quotations in accordance with guidelines adopted by the board of trustees. Each option security traded on a U.S. securities exchange is valued at the mid-point of the consolidated bid/ask quote for the option security, also in accordance with guidelines adopted by the board of trustees. Each over-the-counter option that is not traded through the Options Clearing Corporation is valued based on a quotation provided by the counterparty to such option under the ultimate supervision of the board of trustees.

Fixed income securities, certain convertible preferred securities, and non-exchange traded derivatives are normally valued by independent pricing services or by dealers or brokers who make markets in such securities. Valuations of such fixed income securities, certain convertible preferred securities, and non-exchange traded derivatives consider yield or price of equivalent securities of comparable quality, coupon rate, maturity, type of issue, trading characteristics and other market data and do not rely exclusively upon exchange or over-the-counter prices.

Trading on European and Far Eastern exchanges and over-the-counter markets is typically completed at various times before the close of business on each day on which the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE) is open. Each security trading on these exchanges or over-the-counter markets may be valued utilizing a systematic fair valuation model provided by an independent pricing service approved by the board of trustees. The valuation of each security that meets certain criteria in relation to the valuation model is systematically adjusted to reflect the impact of movement in the U.S. market after the foreign markets close. Securities that do not meet the criteria, or that are principally traded in other foreign markets, are valued as of the last reported sale price at the time the Fund determines its NAV, or when reliable market prices or quotations are not readily available, at the mean between the most recent bid and asked quotations as of the close of the appropriate exchange or other designated time. Trading of foreign securities may not take place on every NYSE business day. In addition, trading may take place in various foreign markets on Saturdays or on other days when the NYSE is not open and on which the Fund's NAV is not calculated.

If the pricing committee determines that the valuation of a security in accordance with the methods described above is not reflective of a fair value for such security, the security is valued at a fair value by the pricing committee, under the ultimate supervision of the board of trustees, following the guidelines and/or procedures adopted by the board of trustees.

The Fund also may use fair value pricing, pursuant to guidelines adopted by the board of trustees and under the ultimate supervision of the board of trustees, if trading in the security is halted or if the value of a security it holds is materially affected by events occurring before the Fund's pricing time but after the close of the primary market or exchange on which the security is listed. Those procedures may utilize valuations furnished by pricing services approved by the board of trustees, which may be based on market transactions for comparable securities and various relationships between securities that are generally recognized by institutional traders, a computerized matrix system, or appraisals derived from information concerning the securities or similar securities received from recognized dealers in those securities.

When fair value pricing of securities is employed, the prices of securities used by a Fund to calculate its NAV may differ from market quotations or official closing prices. In light of the judgment involved in fair valuations, there can be no assurance that a fair value assigned to a particular security is accurate.

Investment Transactions. Investment transactions are recorded on a trade date basis as of July 31, 2012.

Foreign Currency Translation. Values of investments and other assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies are translated into U.S. dollars using a rate quoted by a major bank or dealer in the particular currency market, as reported by a recognized quotation dissemination service.

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Option Transactions. For hedging and investment purposes, the Fund may purchase or write (sell) put and call options. One of the risks associated with purchasing an option is that the Fund pays a premium whether or not the option is exercised. Additionally, the Fund bears the risk of loss of premium and change in value should the counterparty not perform under the contract. The Fund as writer of an option bears the market risk of an unfavorable change in the price of the security underlying the written option.

Forward Foreign Currency Contracts. The Fund may engage in portfolio hedging with respect to changes in currency exchange rates by entering into forward foreign currency contracts to purchase or sell currencies. A forward foreign currency contract is a commitment to purchase or sell a foreign currency at a future date at a negotiated forward rate. Risks associated with such contracts include, among other things, movement in the value of the foreign currency relative to the U.S. dollar and the ability of the counterparty to perform. The net unrealized gain, if any, represents the credit risk to the Fund on a forward foreign currency contract. The contracts are valued daily at forward foreign exchange rates. There were no open forward foreign currency contracts at July 31, 2012.

NOTE 2 INVESTMENTS

The following information is presented on a federal income tax basis as of July 31, 2012. Differences between the cost basis under U.S. generally accepted accounting principles and federal income tax purposes are primarily due to temporary differences.

The cost basis of investments for federal income tax purposes at July 31, 2012 was as follows:

| | |
|--|------------------|
| Cost basis of investments | \$ 2,553,830,548 |
| Gross unrealized appreciation | 85,438,783 |
| Gross unrealized depreciation | (448,932,058) |
| Net unrealized appreciation (depreciation) | \$ (363,493,275) |

NOTE 3 BORROWINGS

The Fund, with the approval of its board of trustees, including its independent trustees, has entered into a financing package that includes a Committed Facility Agreement (the Agreement) with BNP Paribas Prime Brokerage, Inc. (BNP) that allows the Fund to borrow up to \$735,000,000 and a Lending Agreement, as defined below. Borrowings under the Agreement are secured by assets of the Fund that are held with the Fund's custodian in a separate account (the pledged collateral). Interest is charged at the quarterly LIBOR (London Inter-bank Offered Rate) plus .65% on the amount borrowed and .55% on the undrawn balance. For the period ended July 31, 2012, the average borrowings under the Agreement and the average interest rate on the amount borrowed were \$576,000,000 and 1.16%, respectively. As of July 31, 2012, the amount of such outstanding borrowings was \$576,000,000. The interest rate applicable to the borrowings on July 31, 2012 was 1.09%.

The Lending Agreement is a separate side-agreement between the Fund and BNP pursuant to which BNP may borrow a portion of the pledged collateral (the Lent Securities) in an amount not to exceed the outstanding borrowings owed by the Fund to BNP under the Agreement. The Lending Agreement is intended to permit the Fund to significantly reduce the cost of its borrowings under the Agreement. BNP may re-register the Lent Securities in its own name or in another name other than the Fund, and may pledge, re-pledge, sell, lend or otherwise transfer or use the Lent Securities with all attendant rights of ownership. (It is the Fund's understanding that BNP will perform due diligence to determine the creditworthiness of any party that borrows Lent Securities from BNP.) The Fund may designate any security within the pledged collateral as ineligible to be a Lent Security, provided there are eligible securities within the pledged collateral in an amount equal to the outstanding borrowing owed by the Fund. During the period in which the Lent Securities are outstanding, BNP must remit payment to the Fund equal to the amount of all dividends, interest or other distributions earned or made by the Lent Securities.

Under the terms of the Lending Agreement, the Lent Securities are marked to market daily, and if the value of the Lent Securities exceeds the value of the then-outstanding borrowings owed by the Fund to BNP under the Agreement (the Current Borrowings), BNP must, on that day, either (1) return Lent Securities to the Fund's custodian in an amount sufficient to cause the value of the outstanding Lent Securities to equal the Current Borrowings; or (2) post cash collateral with the Fund's custodian equal to the difference between the value of the Lent Securities and the value of the Current Borrowings. If BNP fails to perform either of these actions as required, the Fund will recall securities, as discussed below, in an amount sufficient to cause the value of the outstanding Lent Securities to equal the Current Borrowings. The Fund can recall any of the Lent Securities and BNP shall, to the extent commercially possible, return such security or equivalent security to the Fund's custodian no later than three business days after such request. If the Fund recalls a Lent Security pursuant to the Lending Agreement, and BNP fails to return the Lent Securities or equivalent securities in a timely fashion, BNP shall remain liable to the Fund's custodian for the ultimate delivery of such Lent Securities, or equivalent securities, and for any buy-in costs that the executing broker for the sales transaction may impose with respect to the failure to deliver. The Fund shall also have the right to apply and set-off an amount equal to one hundred percent (100%) of the then-current fair market value of such Lent Securities against the Current Borrowings.

NOTE 4 INTEREST RATE SWAPS

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The Fund engages in interest rate swaps primarily to hedge the interest rate risk on the Fund's borrowings (see Note 3 Borrowings). An interest rate swap is a contract that involves the exchange of one type of interest rate for another type of interest rate. If interest rates rise, resulting in a diminution in the value of the Fund's portfolio, the Fund would receive payments under the swap that would offset, in whole or in part, such diminution in value; if interest rates fall, the Fund would likely lose money on the swap transaction. Swap agreements are stated at fair value. Notional principal amounts are used to express the extent of involvement in these transactions, but the amounts potentially subject to credit risk are much smaller. In connection with these contracts, securities may be identified as collateral in accordance with the terms of the respective swap contracts in the event of default or bankruptcy of the Fund.

NOTE 5 SYNTHETIC CONVERTIBLE SECURITIES

The Fund may establish a synthetic convertible instrument by combining separate securities that possess the economic characteristics similar to a convertible security, i.e., fixed-income securities (fixed-income component), which may be a convertible or non-convertible security and the right to acquire equity securities (convertible component). The fixed-income component is achieved by investing in fixed income securities such as bonds, preferred stocks, and money market instruments. The convertible component is achieved by investing in warrants or purchased options to buy common stock at a certain exercise price, or options on a stock index. In establishing a synthetic instrument, the Fund may pool a basket of fixed-income securities and a basket of warrants or purchased options that produce the economic characteristics similar to a convertible security. Within each basket of fixed-income securities and warrants or options, different companies may issue the fixed-income and convertible components, which may be purchased separately and at different times.

The Fund may also purchase synthetic securities created by other parties, typically investment banks, including convertible structured notes. Convertible structured notes are fixed-income debentures linked to equity. Convertible structured notes have the attributes of a convertible security; however, the investment bank that issued the convertible note assumes the credit risk associated with the investment, rather than the issuer of the underlying common stock into which the note is convertible. Purchasing synthetic convertible securities may offer more flexibility than purchasing a convertible security.

NOTE 6 WHEN-ISSUED AND DELAYED DELIVERY SECURITIES

The Fund may purchase securities on a when-issued or delayed-delivery basis. Although the payment and interest terms of these securities are established at the time the Fund enters into the commitment, the securities may be delivered and paid for a month or more after the date of purchase, when their value may have changed. The Fund makes such commitments only with the intention of actually acquiring the securities, but may sell the securities before the settlement date if Calamos Advisors deems it advisable for investment reasons. The Fund may utilize spot and forward foreign currency exchange transactions to reduce the risk inherent in fluctuations in the exchange rate between one currency and another when securities are purchased or sold on a when-issued or delayed-delivery basis.

At the time when the Fund enters into a binding obligation to purchase securities on a when-issued basis, liquid assets (cash, U.S. Government securities or other high-grade debt obligations) of the Fund having a value at least as great as the purchase price of the securities to be purchased will be segregated on the books of the Fund and held by the custodian throughout the period of the obligation. The use of this investment strategy may increase net asset value fluctuation.

NOTE 7 FAIR VALUE MEASUREMENTS

Various inputs are used to determine the value of the Fund's investments. These inputs are categorized into three broad levels as follows:

Level 1 Prices are determined using inputs from unadjusted quoted prices from active markets (including securities actively traded on a securities exchange) for identical assets.

Level 2 Prices are determined using significant observable market inputs other than unadjusted quoted prices, including quoted prices of similar securities, fair value adjustments to quoted foreign securities, interest rates, credit risk, prepayment speeds, and other relevant data.

Level 3 Prices reflect unobservable market inputs (including the Fund's own judgments about assumptions market participants would use in determining fair value) when observable inputs are unavailable.

Debt securities are valued based upon evaluated prices received from an independent pricing service or from a dealer or broker who makes markets in such securities. Pricing services utilize various observable market data and as such, debt securities are generally categorized as Level 2. The levels are not necessarily an indication of the risk or liquidity of the Funds' investments. Transfers between the levels for investment securities or other financial instruments are measured at the end of the reporting period.

The following is a summary of the inputs used in valuing the Fund's holdings at fair value:

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| | LEVEL 1 | LEVEL 2 | LEVEL 3 | TOTAL |
|--|------------------|------------------|---------|------------------|
| Assets: | | | | |
| Corporate Bonds | \$ | \$ 729,033,561 | \$ | \$ 729,033,561 |
| Convertible Bonds | | 152,986,076 | | 152,986,076 |
| U.S. Government and Agency Securities | | 14,670,348 | | 14,670,348 |
| Sovereign Bonds | | 26,742,241 | | 26,742,241 |
| Synthetic Convertible Securities (Corporate Bonds) | | 21,364,967 | | 21,364,967 |
| Synthetic Convertible Securities (U.S. Government and Agency Securities) | | 429,852 | | 429,852 |
| Synthetic Convertible Securities (Sovereign Bonds) | | 780,922 | | 780,922 |
| Synthetic Convertible Securities (Purchased Options) | 3,983,775 | | | 3,983,775 |
| Convertible Preferred Stocks | 49,675,550 | 52,151,810 | | 101,827,360 |
| Common Stocks | 1,041,408,678 | 40,994,462 | | 1,082,403,140 |
| Rights | | 430 | | 430 |
| Warrants | 1,453,319 | | | 1,453,319 |
| Short Term Investment | 54,661,282 | | | 54,661,282 |
| Total | \$ 1,151,182,604 | \$ 1,039,154,669 | \$ | \$ 2,190,337,273 |
| Liabilities: | | | | |
| Interest Rate Swaps | \$ | \$ 12,260,871 | \$ | \$ 12,260,871 |
| Total | \$ | \$ 12,260,871 | \$ | \$ 12,260,871 |

ITEM 2. CONTROLS AND PROCEDURES.

a) The registrant's principal executive officer and principal financial officer have evaluated the registrant's disclosure controls and procedures within 90 days of this filing and have concluded that the registrant's disclosure controls and procedures were effective, as of that date, in ensuring that information required to be disclosed by the registrant in this Form N-Q was recorded, processed, summarized, and reported timely.

b) There were no changes in the registrant's internal controls over financial reporting (as defined in Rule 30a-3(d) under the Investment Company Act of 1940) that occurred during the registrant's last fiscal quarter that has materially affected, or is reasonably likely to materially affect, the registrant's internal control over financial reporting.

ITEM 3. EXHIBITS.

(a) Certification of Principal Executive Officer.

(b) Certification of Principal Financial Officer.

SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and the Investment Company Act of 1940, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized.

Calamos Strategic Total Return Fund

By: /s/ John P. Calamos, Sr.
Name: John P. Calamos, Sr.
Title: Principal Executive Officer
Date: September 18, 2012

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and the Investment Company Act of 1940, this report has been signed by the following persons on behalf of the registrant and in the capacities and on the dates indicated.

Calamos Strategic Total Return Fund

By: /s/ John P. Calamos, Sr.
Name: John P. Calamos, Sr.
Title: Principal Executive Officer
Date: September 18, 2012

By: /s/ Nimish S. Bhatt
Name: Nimish S. Bhatt
Title: Principal Financial Officer
Date: September 18, 2012