BANK OF AMERICA CORP /DE/
Form 424B2
March 07, 2016
Table of Contents

The information in this preliminary prospectus supplement is not complete and may be changed. We may not sell the depositary shares until we deliver a final prospectus supplement. This preliminary prospectus supplement and the attached prospectus do not constitute an offer to sell these depositary shares or a solicitation of an offer to buy these depositary shares in any jurisdiction where the offer or sale is not permitted.

Filed Pursuant to Rule 424(b)(2)
Registration No. 333-202354

Subject to Completion

Preliminary Prospectus Supplement dated March 7, 2016

Depositary Shares, Each Representing a 1/25th Interest in a Share of Fixed-to-Floating Rate Non-Cumulative Preferred Stock, Series DD

Bank of America Corporation is offering depositary shares, each representing a 1/25th interest in a share of our perpetual Fixed-to-Floating Rate Non-Cumulative Preferred Stock, Series DD, $0.01 par value, with a liquidation preference of $25,000 per share (equivalent to $1,000 per depositary share) (the Preferred Stock). Each depositary share entitles the holder, through the depository, to a proportional fractional interest in all rights and preferences of the Preferred Stock represented by the depositary share.

We may at our option redeem the Preferred Stock at any time on or after March , 2026, in whole or in part, at a redemption price equal to $25,000 per share (equivalent to $1,000 per depositary share), plus any accrued and unpaid dividends for the then-current dividend period to but excluding the redemption date, without accumulation of any undeclared dividends. We also may redeem the Preferred Stock upon certain events involving capital treatment as described in this prospectus supplement. Redeeming the Preferred Stock will cause the corresponding depositary shares to be redeemed.

Holders of the Preferred Stock will be entitled to receive, only when, as, and if declared by our board of directors or a duly authorized committee of our board, and to the extent we have funds legally available for the payment of dividends, cash dividends at a rate equal to (1) % per annum (equivalent to $ per depositary share per annum) for each semi-annual dividend period from the original issue date of the Preferred Stock to, but excluding, March , 2026, and (2) three-month LIBOR plus a spread of % per annum for each quarterly dividend period beginning on March , 2026. When, as, and if declared by our board of directors or a duly authorized committee of our board, we will pay the semi-annual dividend payments, in arrears, on March and September of each year beginning on September , 2016, and quarterly dividend payments, in arrears, on March , June , September , and December of each year beginning on June , 2026. Dividends on the Preferred Stock will not be cumulative.

We do not intend to apply to list the depositary shares or the Preferred Stock on any securities exchange.

Investing in the depositary shares involves risks. See Risk Factors beginning on page S-8.

The depositary shares are unsecured and are not savings accounts, deposits, or other obligations of a bank. The depositary shares 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 securities or passed upon the adequacy or accuracy of this prospectus supplement or the attached prospectus. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense.

	Per Depositary Share	Total
Public offering price(1)	$	$
Underwriting commissions	$	$
Proceeds to Bank of America Corporation (before expenses)(1)	$	$

(1) Plus accrued cash dividends, if any, that may be declared from March , 2016 to the date of delivery.

The underwriters expect to deliver the depositary shares in book-entry only form through the facilities of The Depository Trust Company on or about March , 2016.

Sole Book-Runner

BofA Merrill Lynch

Goldman, Sachs & Co.

Prospectus Supplement to Prospectus dated May 1, 2015

March , 2016

Table of Contents

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Prospectus Supplement

	Page
About this Prospectus Supplement	S-3
Summary	S-4
Risk Factors	S-8
Description of the Preferred Stock	S-12
General	S-12
Dividends	S-12
Liquidation Rights	S-15
Optional Redemption	S-16
Voting Rights	S-17
Preemptive and Conversion Rights	S-19
Outstanding Preferred Stock	S-19
Authorized Classes of Preferred Stock	S-20
Additional Classes or Series of Stock	S-22
Depository, Transfer Agent, and Registrar	S-22
Calculation Agent	S-22
Description of the Depositary Shares	S-23
General	S-23
Dividends and Other Distributions	S-23
Redemption of Depositary Shares	S-24
Voting the Preferred Stock	S-24
Form and Notices	S-24
Registration and Settlement	S-25
Book-Entry System	S-25
Same Day Settlement	S-25
Payment of Dividends	S-25
Notices	S-26
U.S. Federal Income Tax Considerations	S-27
ERISA Considerations	S-28
Underwriting (Conflicts of Interest)	S-29
Selling Restrictions	S-30
Legal Matters	S-37

Prospectus

	Page
About this Prospectus	3
Prospectus Summary	4
Risk Factors	9
Currency Risks	9
Reform of LIBOR and EURIBOR and Proposed Regulation of These and Other Benchmarks	11
Risks Related to our Common Stock and Preferred Stock	13
Other Risks	14
Bank of America Corporation	16
Use of Proceeds	16
Description of Debt Securities	17
General	17
The Indentures	17
Form and Denomination of Debt Securities	18
Different Series of Debt Securities	19
Fixed-Rate Notes	20
Floating-Rate Notes	20
Indexed Notes	28
Floating-Rate/Fixed-Rate/Indexed Notes	29
Original Issue Discount Notes	29
Payment of Principal, Interest, and Other Amounts Due	30
No Sinking Fund	33
Redemption	33
Repayment	34
Repurchase	34
Conversion	34

Exchange, Registration, and Transfer 35
Subordination 35
Sale or Issuance of Capital Stock of Banks 36
Limitation on Mergers and Sales of Assets 37
Waiver of Covenants 37
Modification of the Indentures 37
Meetings and Action by Securityholders 38
Events of Default and Rights of Acceleration 38
Collection of Indebtedness 38
Payment of Additional Amounts 39
Redemption for Tax Reasons 42
Defeasance and Covenant Defeasance 43
Notices 44
Concerning the Trustees 44
Governing Law 44
Description of Warrants 44
General 44
Description of Debt Warrants 44

Page

Description of Universal Warrants 45
Modification 46
Enforceability of Rights of Warrantholders; No Trust Indenture Act Protection 47
Description of Purchase Contracts 47
General 47
Purchase Contract Property 47
Information in Supplement 48
Prepaid Purchase Contracts; Applicability of Indenture 49
Non-Prepaid Purchase Contracts; No Trust Indenture Act Protection 49
Pledge by Holders to Secure Performance 50
Settlement of Purchase Contracts That Are Part of Units 50
Failure of Holder to Perform Obligations 50
Description of Units 51
General 51
Unit Agreements; Prepaid, Non-Prepaid, and Other 51
Modification 52
Enforceability of Rights of Unitholders; No Trust Indenture Act Protection 52
Description of Preferred Stock 53
General 53
Dividends 54
Voting 54
Liquidation Preference 54
Preemptive Rights 55
Existing Preferred Stock 55
Additional Classes or Series of Stock 85
Description of Depositary Shares 85
General 85
Terms of the Depositary Shares 85
Withdrawal of Preferred Stock 86
Dividends and Other Distributions 86
Redemption of Depositary Shares 86
Voting the Deposited Preferred Stock 87
Amendment and Termination of the Deposit Agreement 87
Charges of Depository 87
Miscellaneous 88
Resignation and Removal of Depository 88
Description of Common Stock 88
General 88
Voting and Other Rights 88
Dividends 89
Certain Anti-Takeover Matters 89
Registration and Settlement 91
Book-Entry Only Issuance 91
Certificated Securities 91
Street Name Owners 92
Legal Holders 92
Special Considerations for Indirect Owners 92
Depositories for Global Securities 93
Special Considerations for Global Securities 97
Registration, Transfer, and Payment of Certificated Securities 98
U.S. Federal Income Tax Considerations 99

Taxation of Debt Securities	100
Taxation of Common Stock, Preferred Stock, and Depositary Shares	115
Taxation of Warrants	121
Taxation of Purchase Contracts	121
Taxation of Units	121
Reportable Transactions	121
Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act	122
EU Directive on the Taxation of Savings Income	123
Plan of Distribution (Conflicts of Interest)	124
Distribution Through Underwriters	124
Distribution Through Dealers	125
Distribution Through Agents	125
Direct Sales	125
General Information	125
Market-Making Transactions by Affiliates	126
Conflicts of Interest	126
ERISA Considerations	128
Where You Can Find More Information	130
Forward-Looking Statements	131
Legal Matters	132
Experts	132

Table of Contents

ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT

This prospectus supplement describes the specific terms of the Preferred Stock and the related depositary shares, and supplements the description of our preferred stock and depositary shares included in the attached prospectus. In considering an investment in the depositary shares, you should rely only on the information included or incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement and the attached prospectus. We have not authorized any other person to provide you with different information. If anyone provides you with different or inconsistent information, you should not rely on it. If information in this prospectus supplement is inconsistent with the attached prospectus, the information in this prospectus supplement supersedes the information in the attached prospectus. The delivery of this prospectus supplement, at any time, does not imply that there has been no change in our affairs since the date of this prospectus supplement or that the information in this prospectus supplement or the attached prospectus is correct as of any time after that date.

This prospectus supplement and the attached prospectus do not constitute an offer to sell or the solicitation of an offer to buy the depositary shares in any jurisdiction in which that offer or solicitation is unlawful. The distribution of this prospectus supplement and the attached prospectus and the offering of the depositary shares in some jurisdictions may be restricted by law. If you have received this prospectus supplement and the attached prospectus, you should find out about and observe these restrictions. See Underwriting.

This prospectus supplement has been prepared on the basis that any offer of the depositary shares in any Member State of the European Economic Area (each, a Relevant Member State) which has implemented the Prospectus Directive (2003/71/EC) and amendments thereto (the Prospectus Directive) will be made pursuant to an exemption under the Prospectus Directive, as implemented in that Relevant Member State, from the requirement to publish a prospectus for offers of the depositary shares. Accordingly, any person making or intending to make an offer in that Relevant Member State of the depositary shares which are the subject of the offering contemplated in this prospectus supplement and the attached prospectus may only do so in circumstances in which no obligation arises for us or any of the underwriters to publish a prospectus pursuant to Article 3 of the Prospectus Directive or supplement a prospectus pursuant to Article 16 of the Prospectus Directive, in each case, in relation to such offer. Neither we nor the underwriters have authorized, and neither we nor they authorize, the making of any offer of the depositary shares in circumstances in which an obligation arises for us or the underwriters to publish or supplement a prospectus for such offer.

Unless otherwise indicated or the context requires otherwise, all references in this prospectus supplement to Bank of America, the Corporation, we, us, and our are to Bank of America Corporation. Capitalized terms used, but not defined, in this prospectus supplement are defined in the attached prospectus.

Persons outside the United States who come into possession of this prospectus supplement and the attached prospectus must inform themselves about and observe any restrictions relating to the offering of the depositary shares and the distribution of this prospectus supplement and the attached prospectus outside of the United States.

Table of Contents

SUMMARY

The following information about the depositary shares and the Preferred Stock summarizes, and should be read in conjunction with, the information contained in this prospectus supplement and in the attached prospectus.

Securities Offered

We are offering depositary shares representing interests in our Preferred Stock, with each share of Preferred Stock having a liquidation preference of $25,000 per share (equivalent to $1,000 per depositary share). Each depositary share represents a 1/25th interest in a share of the Preferred Stock. Each depositary share entitles the holder to a proportional fractional interest in the Preferred Stock represented by that depositary share, including dividend, voting, redemption, and liquidation rights.

We may elect from time to time to issue additional depositary shares representing interests in the Preferred Stock, without notice to, or consent from, the existing holders of Preferred Stock, and all those additional depositary shares would be deemed to form a single series with the Preferred Stock, described by this prospectus supplement and the attached prospectus.

Dividends

We will pay cash dividends on the Preferred Stock only when, as, and if declared by our board of directors or a duly authorized committee of our board, and to the extent that we have funds legally available for the payment of such dividends, from the date of issuance to, but excluding, March , 2026, at a rate of % per annum (equivalent to $ per depositary share per annum), payable semi-annually, in arrears. Thereafter, we will pay cash dividends on the Preferred Stock when, as, and if declared by our board of directors or a duly authorized board committee at a floating rate equal to three-month LIBOR plus a spread of % per annum, payable quarterly, in arrears (each such rate, a dividend rate).

Dividends on the Preferred Stock will not be cumulative. Accordingly, if for any reason our board of directors or a duly authorized committee of our board does not declare a dividend on the Preferred Stock for a dividend period prior to the related dividend payment date, that dividend will not cumulate and will cease to accrue, and we will have no obligation to pay a dividend for that dividend period on the applicable dividend payment date or at any time in the future, whether or not our board of directors or a duly authorized committee of our board declares a dividend on the Preferred Stock or any other series of our preferred stock or common stock for any future dividend period. A dividend period is the period from, and including, a dividend payment date (as defined below) to, but excluding, the next dividend payment date, except that the initial dividend period will begin on and include the original issue date of the depositary shares and the Preferred Stock.

So long as any share of Preferred Stock remains outstanding, (1) no dividend will be declared and paid or set aside for payment and no distribution will be declared and made or set aside for payment on any junior stock (as defined below under Description of the Preferred Stock Dividends) (other than a dividend payable solely in shares of junior stock), (2) no shares of junior stock will be repurchased, redeemed, or otherwise acquired for consideration by us, directly or indirectly (other than as a result of a reclassification of junior stock for or into other junior stock, or the exchange or conversion of one share of junior stock for or into another share of junior stock, and other than through the use of the proceeds of a substantially contemporaneous sale of other shares of junior stock) nor will any monies be paid to or made

Table of Contents

available for a sinking fund for the redemption of any such securities by us, and (3) no shares of parity stock (as defined below under Description of the Preferred Stock Dividends) will be repurchased, redeemed, or otherwise acquired for consideration by us otherwise than pursuant to pro rata offers to purchase all, or a pro rata portion, of the Preferred Stock and such parity stock except by conversion into or exchange for shares of junior stock, during a dividend period, unless, in each case, the full dividends for the immediately preceding dividend period on all outstanding shares of the Preferred Stock have been declared and paid or declared and a sum sufficient for the payment of those dividends has been set aside. The foregoing limitations do not apply to purchases or acquisitions of our junior stock pursuant to any employee or director incentive or benefit plan or arrangement (including any of our employment, severance, or consulting agreements) of ours or of any of our subsidiaries adopted before or after the date of this prospectus supplement.

Except as provided below, for so long as any share of Preferred Stock remains outstanding, we will not declare, pay, or set aside for payment, dividends on any parity stock unless we have paid in full, or set aside payment in full, all dividends for the immediately preceding dividend period for outstanding shares of Preferred Stock. To the extent that we declare dividends on the Preferred Stock and on any parity stock but cannot make full payment of those declared dividends, we will allocate the dividend payments on a pro rata basis among the holders of shares of Preferred Stock and the holders of any parity stock. For purposes of calculating the pro rata allocation of partial dividend payments, we will allocate dividend payments based on the ratio between the dividend payments due on shares of Preferred Stock and the aggregate of the current and accrued dividends due on any parity stock.

Subject to the conditions described above, and not otherwise, dividends (payable in cash, stock, or otherwise), as may be determined by the board of directors or a duly authorized committee of our board, may be declared and paid on our common stock and any other securities junior to the Preferred Stock from time to time out of any funds legally available for such payment, and the holders of the Preferred Stock shall not be entitled to participate in those dividends.

See Description of the Preferred Stock Dividends beginning on page S-12 for more information about the payment of dividends.

Dividend Payment Dates

Cash dividends on the Preferred Stock will be payable when, as, and if declared by our board of directors or a duly authorized committee of our board, and to the extent that we have funds legally available for the payment of such dividends, semi-annually on March and September of each year, beginning on September , 2016 to March , 2026, and, thereafter, quarterly, in arrears, on March , June , September , and December of each year, beginning on June , 2026 (each a dividend payment date). If any date on which dividends otherwise would be payable is not a Business Day (as defined below under Description of the Preferred Stock Dividends), then the dividend payment date will be the next succeeding day that is a Business Day, unless for the Fixed Rate Period (as defined below under Description of the Preferred Stock Dividends), that day falls in the next calendar year, or, for the Floating Rate Period (as defined below under Description of the Preferred Stock Dividends), that day falls in the next calendar month, then in each case the dividend payment date will be the immediately preceding Business Day.

Optional Redemption

The Preferred Stock is perpetual and has no maturity date. We may redeem the Preferred Stock, in whole or in part, at any time on or after March , 2026, at a redemption price equal

Table of Contents

to $25,000 per share (equivalent to $1,000 per depositary share), plus any accrued and unpaid dividends for the then-current dividend period to but excluding the redemption date, without accumulation of any undeclared dividends. In addition, at any time within 90 days after a capital treatment event, as defined herein, we may provide notice to holders of the Preferred Stock that we will redeem the Preferred Stock and subsequently redeem, out of funds legally available therefor, the Preferred Stock, in whole but not in part, at a redemption price equal to $25,000 per share (equivalent to $1,000 per depositary share), plus any accrued and unpaid dividends for the then-current dividend period to but excluding the redemption date, without accumulation of any undeclared dividends. Redemption of the Preferred Stock is subject to our receipt of any required prior approval of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, or the Federal Reserve Board, or other appropriate federal banking agency. Our redemption of the Preferred Stock will cause the redemption of the corresponding depositary shares. Neither the holders of the Preferred Stock nor the holders of the related depositary shares will have the right to require redemption.

Liquidation Rights

In the event of our voluntary or involuntary liquidation, dissolution, or winding up, the holders of the Preferred Stock are entitled to receive out of our assets available for distribution to stockholders, before any distribution of assets is made to holders of our common stock or any of our other stock ranking junior to the Preferred Stock as to such distribution, a liquidating distribution of $25,000 per share (equivalent to $1,000 per depositary share), plus any declared and unpaid dividends, without accumulation of undeclared dividends. Distributions will be made only to the extent of our assets remaining available after satisfaction of all liabilities to creditors and subject to the rights of holders of any securities ranking senior to the Preferred Stock and pro rata as to the Preferred Stock and any other shares of our stock ranking equally as to such distribution.

Voting Rights

The holders of depositary shares of the Preferred Stock do not have voting rights, except as specifically required by Delaware law and except as provided below under Description of the Preferred Stock Voting Rights and Description of the Depositary Shares Voting the Preferred Stock in this prospectus supplement.

Ranking

The Preferred Stock will rank, as to payment of dividends and distribution of assets upon our liquidation, dissolution, or winding up, equally with our 7% Cumulative Redeemable Preferred Stock, Series B (the Series B Preferred Stock), 6.204% Non-Cumulative Preferred Stock, Series D (the Series D Preferred Stock), Floating Rate Non-Cumulative Preferred Stock, Series E (the Series E Preferred Stock), Floating Rate Non-Cumulative Preferred Stock, Series F (the Series F Preferred Stock), Adjustable Rate Non-Cumulative Preferred Stock, Series G (the Series G Preferred Stock), 6.625% Non-Cumulative Preferred Stock, Series I (the Series I Preferred Stock), Fixed-to-Floating Rate Non-Cumulative Preferred Stock, Series K (the Series K Preferred Stock), 7.25% Non-Cumulative Perpetual Convertible Preferred Stock, Series L (the Series L Preferred Stock), Fixed-to-Floating Rate Non-Cumulative Preferred Stock, Series M (the Series M Preferred Stock), 6% Non-Cumulative Perpetual Preferred Stock, Series T (the Series T Preferred Stock), Fixed-to-Floating Rate Non-Cumulative Preferred Stock, Series U (the Series U Preferred Stock), Fixed-to-Floating Rate Non-Cumulative Preferred Stock, Series V (the Series V Preferred Stock), 6.625% Non-Cumulative Preferred Stock, Series W (the Series W Preferred Stock), Fixed-to-Floating Rate Non-Cumulative Preferred Stock, Series X (the Series X Preferred Stock), 6.500% Non-Cumulative Preferred Stock, Series Y (the

Table of Contents

Series Y Preferred Stock), Fixed-to-Floating Rate Non-Cumulative Preferred Stock, Series Z (the Series Z Preferred Stock), Fixed-to-Floating Rate Non-Cumulative Preferred Stock, Series AA (the Series AA Preferred Stock), 6.200% Non-Cumulative Preferred Stock, Series CC (the Series CC Preferred Stock), Floating Rate Non-Cumulative Preferred Stock, Series 1 (the Series 1 Preferred Stock), Floating Rate Non-Cumulative Preferred Stock, Series 2 (the Series 2 Preferred Stock), 6.375% Non-Cumulative Preferred Stock, Series 3 (the Series 3 Preferred Stock), Floating Rate Non-Cumulative Preferred Stock, Series 4 (the Series 4 Preferred Stock), and Floating Rate Non-Cumulative Preferred Stock, Series 5 (the Series 5 Preferred Stock), and senior to our common stock.

Preemptive and Conversion Rights

The holders of the depositary shares do not have any preemptive or conversion rights.

Depository, Transfer Agent, and Registrar

Computershare Trust Company, N.A. will serve as depository, transfer agent, and registrar for the Preferred Stock and transfer agent and registrar for the depositary shares.

Calculation Agent

The Bank of New York Mellon Trust Company, N.A. will be the calculation agent for the Preferred Stock during the Floating Rate Period (as defined below).

Conflicts of Interest

Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Incorporated, the sole book-runner for this offering, is our affiliate. As such, Merrill Lynch, Pierce Fenner & Smith Incorporated has a conflict of interest in this offering within the meaning of Financial Industry Regulatory Authority (FINRA) Rule 5121. Consequently, this offering is being conducted in compliance with the provisions of FINRA Rule 5121. FINRA Rule 5121 requires that a qualified independent underwriter participate in the preparation of this prospectus supplement and exercise the usual standards of due diligence with respect thereto. Goldman, Sachs & Co. has agreed to act as the qualified independent underwriter for this offering. Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Incorporated is not permitted to sell depositary shares in this offering to an account over which it exercises discretionary authority without the prior specific written approval of the account holder. For more information, see Underwriting (Conflicts of Interest).

Table of Contents

RISK FACTORS

Your investment in the depositary shares involves risks. This prospectus supplement does not describe all of those risks.

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

You should review carefully the information in this prospectus supplement and the attached prospectus about the Preferred Stock, depositary shares, and other securities. For more information regarding risks that may materially affect our business and results, please refer to the information under the caption Item 1A. Risk Factors, in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2015, which is incorporated by reference herein.

You are making an investment decision about the depositary shares as well as our Preferred Stock.

As described in this prospectus supplement, we are issuing fractional interests in shares of our Preferred Stock. Those fractional interests take the form of depositary shares. The depository will rely solely on the dividend payments on the Preferred Stock it receives from us to fund all dividend payments on the depositary shares. You should review carefully the information in this prospectus supplement and the attached prospectus regarding our depositary shares and Preferred Stock.

The Preferred Stock does not restrict our ability to incur indebtedness.

The Preferred Stock places no restrictions on our business or operations or on our ability to

incur indebtedness or engage in any transactions, subject only to the limited voting rights referred to below under Risk Factors Holders of the Preferred Stock will have limited voting rights.

Our ability to pay dividends depends upon the results of operations of our subsidiaries.

We are a holding company and conduct substantially all of our operations through subsidiaries. Our ability to declare and pay cash dividends is primarily dependent on the receipt of dividends and other distributions from our subsidiaries. Various legal limitations restrict the extent to which our subsidiaries may pay dividends or other funds or otherwise engage in transactions with us or some of our other subsidiaries. Also, our right to participate in any distribution of assets of any of our subsidiaries upon such subsidiary s liquidation or otherwise, and thus your ability as a holder of the depositary shares to benefit indirectly from such distribution, will be subject to the prior claims of creditors of that subsidiary, except to the extent that any of our claims as a creditor of such subsidiary may be recognized. As a result, the depositary shares effectively will be subordinated to all existing and future liabilities and obligations of our subsidiaries.

Table of Contents

A resolution under our preferred single point of entry resolution strategy could adversely affect our liquidity and financial condition and our ability to pay the holders of our Preferred Stock.

We are required annually to submit a plan to our primary regulatory authorities describing our resolution strategy under the U.S. Bankruptcy Code in the event of material financial distress or failure. In our current plan, our preferred resolution strategy is a single point of entry strategy. Under this strategy, upon certain severely adverse capital and liquidity conditions, before filing for resolution with the U.S. Bankruptcy Court, we would recapitalize certain key operating subsidiaries by contributing substantially all of our assets (other than the stock of our direct subsidiaries and a reserve for expenses in resolution) with the goal of enabling these subsidiaries to continue operating. Following this recapitalization, only Bank of America would be resolved under the U.S. Bankruptcy Code. We have arrangements with these key subsidiaries that govern these recapitalizations, which restrict the ability of these subsidiaries to provide funds to us through distributions and advances upon the occurrence of such capital and liquidity conditions. Any such recapitalizations under our resolution plan and/or these arrangements, or restrictions on the ability of our subsidiaries to provide funds to us, could (i) materially and adversely affect our liquidity and our ability to pay our obligations and dividends on the Preferred Stock, and (ii) result in holders of Preferred Stock being in a worse position and suffering greater losses than would have been the case under bankruptcy, FDIC receivership or a different resolution plan.

The Preferred Stock may be junior in rights and preferences to our future preferred stock.

The Preferred Stock may be junior to preferred stock we issue in the future, which by its terms is expressly senior to the Preferred Stock. The terms of any of our future preferred stock expressly senior to the Preferred Stock may restrict dividend payments on the Preferred Stock. Unless full dividends for all of our outstanding preferred stock senior to the Preferred Stock have been declared and paid or set aside for payment, no dividends will be declared or paid and no distribution will be made on any shares of the Preferred Stock, and no shares of the Preferred Stock may be repurchased, redeemed, or otherwise acquired by us, directly or indirectly, for consideration. This could result in dividends on the Preferred Stock not being paid when due to you.

Cash dividends on the Preferred Stock are discretionary and non-cumulative.

Cash dividends on the Preferred Stock are discretionary and non-cumulative. Consequently, if our board of directors or a duly authorized committee of our board does not authorize and declare a dividend for any dividend period prior to the related dividend payment date, holders of the Preferred Stock would not be entitled to receive a dividend for that dividend period, and the unpaid dividend will cease to accrue and be payable. We will have no obligation to pay dividends accrued for a dividend period after the dividend payment date for that period if our board of directors or a duly authorized committee of the board has not declared a dividend before the related dividend payment date, whether or not dividends on the Preferred Stock or any other series of our preferred stock or our common stock are declared for any future dividend period. In addition, under the Federal Reserve Board s risk-based capital rules related to additional Tier 1 capital instruments, dividends on the Preferred Stock may only be paid out of our net income and retained earnings.

We may be able to redeem the Preferred Stock prior to March , 2026.

By its terms, the Preferred Stock may be redeemed by us prior to March , 2026 upon the occurrence of certain events involving the capital treatment of the Preferred Stock. In particular, upon our good faith determination that an event has occurred that would constitute a capital

Table of Contents

treatment event, we may, at our option, redeem in whole, but not in part, the shares of Preferred Stock, subject to any required prior approval of the Federal Reserve Board or other appropriate federal banking agency. See Description of the Preferred Stock Optional Redemption.

Although the terms of the Preferred Stock have been established to satisfy the criteria for additional Tier 1 capital instruments consistent with Basel 3 as set forth in the joint final rulemaking issued in July 2013 by the Federal Reserve Board, the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation and the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, it is possible that the Preferred Stock may not satisfy the criteria set forth in future rulemaking or interpretations. As a result, a capital treatment event could occur whereby we would have the right, subject to any required prior approval of the Federal Reserve Board or other appropriate federal banking agency, to redeem the Preferred Stock in accordance with its terms prior to March , 2026 at a redemption price equal to $25,000 per share (equivalent to $1,000 per depositary share), plus any accrued and unpaid cash dividends for the then-current dividend period to but excluding the redemption date, without accumulation of any undeclared cash dividends.

Investors should not expect us to redeem the Preferred Stock on the date it becomes redeemable or on any particular date after it becomes redeemable.

The Preferred Stock is a perpetual equity security. This means that it has no maturity or mandatory redemption date and is not redeemable at the option of investors, including the holders of the depositary shares offered by this prospectus supplement. The Preferred Stock may be redeemed by us at our option, either in whole or in part, at any time on or after March , 2026 or, in whole prior to that date, under certain circumstances after the occurrence of a capital treatment event. Any decision we may make at any time to redeem the Preferred Stock will depend upon, among other things, our evaluation of our capital position, the composition of our shareholders equity, and general market conditions at that time.

Our right to redeem the Preferred Stock is subject to limitations. Under the Federal Reserve Board s current risk-based capital rules applicable to bank holding companies, any redemption of the Preferred Stock is subject to prior approval of the Federal Reserve Board. We cannot assure you that the Federal Reserve Board will approve any redemption of the Preferred Stock. There also can be no assurance that, if we requested to redeem the Preferred Stock without issuing securities that qualify as common equity Tier 1 capital or additional Tier 1 capital instruments, the Federal Reserve Board will authorize the redemption. In such case, under such current guidelines, we must demonstrate that we will continue to hold capital commensurate with our risk to the satisfaction of the Federal Reserve Board. We currently understand that the factors that the Federal Reserve Board will consider in evaluating a requested redemption, or a request that we be permitted to redeem the Preferred Stock without replacing it with common equity Tier 1 capital or additional Tier 1 capital instruments, may include an evaluation of the overall level and quality of our then applicable capital components, considered in light of our then applicable risk exposures, earnings and growth strategy, and other supervisory considerations, although the Federal Reserve Board may change these factors at any time. The factors may also include, among other things, the capital plans and stress tests submitted by the bank holding company, the bank holding company s ability to meet and exceed minimum regulatory capital ratios under stressed scenarios, its expected sources and uses of capital over the planning horizon (generally a period of two years) under baseline and stressed scenarios, and any potential impact of changes to its business plan and activities on its capital adequacy and liquidity, although the Federal Reserve Board may change these factors at any time.

If the Preferred Stock is redeemed, the corresponding redemption of the depositary shares would be a taxable event to you. In addition, you might not be able to reinvest the money you receive upon redemption of the depositary shares in a similar security.

Table of Contents

An active trading market for the Preferred Stock and the related depositary shares does not exist and may not develop.

The Preferred Stock and the related depositary shares are new issues of securities with no established trading market. We do not intend to list the Preferred Stock or the depositary shares on any securities exchange. We cannot predict how the depositary shares will trade in the secondary market or whether that market will be liquid or illiquid. The number of potential buyers of the depositary shares in any secondary market may be limited. Although the underwriters may purchase and sell their depositary shares in the secondary market from time to time, the underwriters will not be obligated to do so and may discontinue making a market for the depositary shares at any time without giving us notice. We cannot assure you that a secondary market for the depositary shares will develop, or that if one develops, it will be maintained. If an active, liquid market does not develop for the depositary shares, the market price and liquidity of the depositary shares may adversely be affected.

Holders of the Preferred Stock will have limited voting rights.

Holders of the Preferred Stock have no voting rights with respect to matters that generally require the approval of voting stockholders. Holders of the Preferred Stock will have voting rights only as specifically required by Delaware law and as described below under Description of the Preferred Stock Voting Rights. Holders of depositary shares must act through the depository to exercise any voting rights of the Preferred Stock.

Holders of depositary shares may be unable to use the dividends received deduction and may not be eligible for the preferential tax rates applicable to qualified dividend income.

Distributions paid to corporate U.S. Holders of the depositary shares out of cash dividends on the Preferred Stock may be eligible for the dividends received deduction, and distributions paid to non-corporate U.S. Holders of the depositary shares out of those dividends may be subject to tax at the preferential tax rates applicable to qualified dividend income, if we have current or accumulated earnings and profits, as determined for U.S. federal income tax purposes. Although we presently have accumulated earnings and profits, we may not have sufficient current or accumulated earnings and profits during future fiscal years for the distributions on the Preferred Stock to qualify as dividends for U.S. federal income tax purposes. If the distributions fail to qualify as dividends, U.S. Holders would be unable to use the dividends received deduction and may not be eligible for the preferential tax rates applicable to qualified dividend income. If any distributions on the Preferred Stock with respect to any fiscal year are not eligible for the dividends received deduction or preferential tax rates applicable to qualified dividend income because of insufficient current or accumulated earnings and profits, the market value of the depositary shares may decline.

Table of Contents

DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED STOCK

You should read the following description of the Preferred Stock along with the Description of Preferred Stock beginning on page 53 of the attached prospectus. This description of the Preferred Stock is qualified by the Certificate of Designations relating to the Preferred Stock (Certificate of Designations), which will be filed in a Current Report on Form 8-K, and where this description is inconsistent with the description of the Preferred Stock in the Certificate of Designations, the Certificate of Designations will control.

General

Shares of the Preferred Stock represent a single series of our authorized preferred stock. We are offering depositary shares, representing shares of the Preferred Stock, by this prospectus supplement and the attached prospectus. Holders of the Preferred Stock have no preemptive rights. Shares of the Preferred Stock, upon issuance against full payment of the purchase price for the depositary shares, will be fully paid and nonassessable. The depository will be the sole holder of shares of the Preferred Stock. The holders of depositary shares will be required to exercise their proportional rights in the Preferred Stock through the depository, as described in Description of the Depositary Shares on page S-23.

On the date of original issuance, the Preferred Stock will rank equally with our Series B Preferred Stock, Series D Preferred Stock, Series E Preferred Stock, Series F Preferred Stock, Series G Preferred Stock, Series I Preferred Stock, Series K Preferred Stock, Series L Preferred Stock, Series M Preferred Stock, Series T Preferred Stock, Series U Preferred Stock, Series V Preferred Stock, Series W Preferred Stock, Series X Preferred Stock, Series Y Preferred Stock, Series Z Preferred Stock, Series AA Preferred Stock, Series CC Preferred Stock, Series 1 Preferred Stock, Series 2 Preferred Stock, Series 3 Preferred Stock, Series 4 Preferred Stock, and Series 5 Preferred Stock, as to payment of dividends and distribution of assets upon our liquidation, dissolution or winding up. The Preferred Stock, together with any other series of our preferred stock, will rank senior to our common stock, and any of our other stock that is expressly made junior to our preferred stock, as to payment of dividends and distribution of assets upon our liquidation, dissolution, or winding up. We may from time to time, without notice to or consent from the holders of the Preferred Stock, create and issue additional shares of preferred stock ranking equally with the Preferred Stock as to dividends and distribution of assets upon our liquidation, dissolution, or winding up.

The Preferred Stock will not be convertible into, or exchangeable for, shares of any other class or series of our stock or other securities and will not be subject to any sinking fund or our other obligation to redeem or repurchase the Preferred Stock. The Preferred Stock is not secured, is not guaranteed by us or any of our affiliates and is not subject to any other arrangement that legally or economically enhances the ranking of the Preferred Stock.

Dividends

Dividends on shares of the Preferred Stock will not be mandatory. Holders of the Preferred Stock will be entitled to receive, only when, as, and if declared by our board of directors or a duly authorized committee of our board, out of funds legally available under Delaware law for payment, non-cumulative cash dividends based on the liquidation preference of $25,000 per share of Preferred Stock, and no more, at a rate equal to (1) % per annum (equivalent to $ per depositary share per annum), for each semi-annual dividend period from the issue date of the Preferred Stock to, but excluding, March , 2026 (the Fixed Rate Period), and (2) thereafter, three-month LIBOR plus a spread of % per annum, for each quarterly dividend period beginning March , 2026 (the Floating Rate Period).

Table of Contents

When, as, and if declared by our board of directors or a duly authorized committee of our board, during the Fixed Rate Period, we will pay cash dividends on the Preferred Stock semi-annually, in arrears, on March and September of each year, beginning on September , 2016. When, as and if declared by our board of directors or a duly authorized committee of our board, during the Floating Rate Period, we will pay cash dividends on the Preferred Stock quarterly, in arrears, on March , June , September , and December of each year, beginning on June , 2026. We will pay cash dividends to the holders of record of shares of the Preferred Stock as they appear on our stock register on each record date, which shall be the fifteenth day of the calendar month preceding the month in which such dividend payment date falls or such other record date fixed by our board of directors (or a duly authorized committee of the board) that is not more than 60 nor less than 10 days prior to such dividend payment date. If any date on which dividends otherwise would be payable is not a Business Day, then the dividend payment date will be the next succeeding day that is a Business Day, unless, for the Fixed Rate Period, that day falls in the next calendar year, or, for the Floating Rate Period, that day falls in the next calendar month, then in each case the dividend payment date will be the immediately preceding Business Day. A Business Day for the Fixed Rate Period means any weekday in New York, New York or Charlotte, North Carolina that is not a day on which banking institutions in those cities are authorized or required by law, regulation, or executive order to be closed. A Business Day for the Floating Rate Period means any weekday in New York, New York or Charlotte, North Carolina that is not a day on which banking institutions in those cities are authorized or required by law, regulation, or executive order to be closed, and additionally, is a London banking day (as defined below).

Dividends on the Preferred Stock will not be cumulative. If our board of directors or a duly authorized committee of our board does not declare a dividend on the Preferred Stock for any dividend period prior to the related dividend payment date, that dividend will not cumulate and will cease to accrue, and we will have no obligation to pay a dividend for that dividend period on the related dividend payment date or at any future time, whether or not dividends on the Preferred Stock or any other series of our preferred stock or common stock are declared for any future dividend period. A dividend period means the period from, and including, each dividend payment date to, but excluding, the next succeeding dividend payment date, except for the initial dividend period, which will be the period from, and including, March , 2016 to, but excluding, the next succeeding dividend payment date.

Dividends on the Preferred Stock will accrue from the original issue date at the then-applicable dividend rate on the liquidation preference amount of $25,000 per share (equivalent to $1,000 per depositary share). If we issue additional shares of the Preferred Stock, dividends on those additional shares will accrue from the original issue date of those additional shares at the then-applicable dividend rate.

We will calculate dividends on the Preferred Stock for the Fixed Rate Period on the basis of a 360-day year of twelve 30-day months. We will calculate dividends on the Preferred Stock for the Floating Rate Period on the basis of the actual number of days in a dividend period and a 360-day year. Dollar amounts resulting from that calculation will be rounded to the nearest cent, with one-half cent being rounded upward. Dividends on the Preferred Stock will cease to accrue after the redemption date, as described below under Optional Redemption, unless we default in the payment of the redemption price of the shares of the Preferred Stock called for redemption.

The dividend rate for each dividend period in the Floating Rate Period will be determined by the calculation agent using three-month LIBOR as in effect on the second London banking day prior to the beginning of the dividend period, which date is the dividend determination date for the dividend period. The calculation agent then will add three-month LIBOR as determined on the dividend determination date and the applicable spread. Once the dividend rate for the

Table of Contents

Preferred Stock is determined, the calculation agent will deliver that information to us and the transfer agent. Absent manifest error, the calculation agent s determination of the dividend rate for a dividend period for the Preferred Stock will be final. A London banking day is any day on which commercial banks are open for general business (including dealings in deposits in U.S. dollars) in London, England.

The term three-month LIBOR means the London interbank offered rate for deposits in U.S. dollars for a three month period, as that rate appears on Reuters screen page LIBOR01 at approximately 11:00 a.m., London time, on the relevant dividend determination date.

If no offered rate appears on Reuters screen page LIBOR01 on the relevant dividend determination date at approximately 11:00 a.m., London time, then we will select and identify to the calculation agent four major banks in the London interbank market, and the calculation agent will request the principal London offices of each of such banks to provide a quotation of the rate at which three-month deposits in U.S. dollars in amounts of at least $1,000,000 are offered by it to prime banks in the London interbank market, on that date and at that time. If at least two quotations are provided, three-month LIBOR will be the arithmetic average (rounded upward if necessary to the nearest .00001 of 1%) of the quotations provided. Otherwise, we will select and identify to the calculation agent three major banks in New York City, and the calculation agent will request each of such banks to provide a quotation of the rate offered by it at approximately 11:00 a.m., New York City time, on the dividend determination date for loans in U.S. dollars to leading European banks for a three month period for the applicable dividend period in an amount of at least $1,000,000. If three quotations are provided, three-month LIBOR will be the arithmetic average of the quotations provided. Otherwise, three-month LIBOR for the next dividend period will be equal to three-month LIBOR in effect for the then-current dividend period or in the case of the first dividend period in the Floating Rate Period, the most recent rate that could have been determined in accordance with the first sentence of this paragraph had the dividend rate been a floating rate during the Fixed Rate Period.

So long as any share of Preferred Stock remains outstanding, (1) no dividend will be declared and paid or set aside for payment and no distribution will be declared and made or set aside for payment on any junior stock (other than a dividend payable solely in shares of junior stock), (2) no shares of junior stock will be repurchased, redeemed, or otherwise acquired for consideration by us, directly or indirectly (other than as a result of a reclassification of junior stock for or into other junior stock, or the exchange or conversion of one share of junior stock for or into another share of junior stock, and other than through the use of the proceeds of a substantially contemporaneous sale of other shares of junior stock), nor will any monies be paid to or made available for a sinking fund for the redemption of any such securities by us, and (3) no shares of parity stock will be repurchased, redeemed or otherwise acquired for consideration by us otherwise than pursuant to pro rata offers to purchase all, or a pro rata portion, of the Preferred Stock and such parity stock except by conversion into or exchange for junior stock, during a dividend period, unless, in each case, the full dividends for the immediately preceding dividend period on all outstanding shares of the Preferred Stock have been declared and paid in full or declared and a sum sufficient for the payment of those dividends has been set aside. The foregoing limitations do not apply to purchases or acquisitions of our junior stock pursuant to any employee or director incentive or benefit plan or arrangement (including any of our employment, severance, or consulting agreements) of ours or of any of our subsidiaries adopted before or after the date of this prospectus supplement.

Except as provided below, for so long as any share of Preferred Stock remains outstanding, we will not declare, pay, or set aside for payment dividends on any parity stock unless we have paid in full, or set aside payment in full, in respect of all dividends for the immediately preceding dividend period for outstanding shares of Preferred Stock. To the extent that we declare

Table of Contents

dividends on the Preferred Stock and on any parity stock but cannot make full payment of such declared dividends, we will allocate the dividend payments on a pro rata basis among the holders of the shares of Preferred Stock and the holders of any parity stock then outstanding. For purposes of calculating the pro rata allocation of partial dividend payments, we will allocate dividend payments based on the ratio between the then current dividend payments due on the shares of Preferred Stock and the aggregate of the current and accrued dividends due on any outstanding parity stock. No interest will be payable in respect of any dividend payment on Preferred Stock that may be in arrears.

As used in this prospectus supplement, junior stock means our common stock and any other class or series of our capital stock over which the Preferred Stock has preference or priority in the payment of dividends or in the distribution of assets on our liquidation, dissolution or winding up, and parity stock means any other class or series of our capital stock that ranks on a par with the Preferred Stock in the payment of dividends and in the distribution of assets on our liquidation, dissolution or winding up. Parity stock includes our Series B Preferred Stock, Series D Preferred Stock, Series E Preferred Stock, Series F Preferred Stock, Series G Preferred Stock, Series I Preferred Stock, Series K Preferred Stock, Series L Preferred Stock, Series M Preferred Stock, Series T Preferred Stock, Series U Preferred Stock, Series V Preferred Stock, Series W Preferred Stock, Series X Preferred Stock, Series Y Preferred Stock, Series Z Preferred Stock, Series AA Preferred Stock, Series CC Preferred Stock, Series 1 Preferred Stock, Series 2 Preferred Stock, Series 3 Preferred Stock, Series 4 Preferred Stock, and Series 5 Preferred Stock described under Description of the Preferred Stock Authorized Classes of Preferred Stock beginning on page S-20, and any other class or series of our stock hereafter authorized that ranks on a par with the Preferred Stock in the payment of dividends and in the distribution of assets on any liquidation, dissolution or winding up of the Corporation.

Subject to the conditions described above, and not otherwise, dividends (payable in cash, stock, or otherwise), as may be determined by our board of directors or a duly authorized committee of our board, may be declared and paid on our common stock and any junior stock from time to time out of any funds legally available for such payment, and the holders of the Preferred Stock will not be entitled to participate in those dividends.

Liquidation Rights

Upon our voluntary or involuntary liquidation, dissolution, or winding up, the holders of the Preferred Stock are entitled to receive, out of our assets available for distribution to stockholders, before any distribution of assets is made to holders of our common stock or any of our other shares of stock ranking junior to the Preferred Stock as to distributions upon our liquidation, dissolution, or winding up, a liquidating distribution in the amount of $25,000 per share (equivalent to $1,000 per depositary share), plus any declared and unpaid dividends, without accumulation of any undeclared dividends. After payment of this liquidating distribution, the holders of the Preferred Stock will not be entitled to any further participation in any distribution of our assets other than what is expressly provided for herein.

Our consolidation or merger with one or more other entities will not be deemed to be a voluntary or involuntary liquidation, dissolution, or winding up.

Because we are a holding company, our rights and the rights of our creditors and our stockholders, including the holders of the Preferred Stock, to participate in the distribution of assets of any of our subsidiaries upon that subsidiary s liquidation or recapitalization will be subject to the prior claims of that subsidiary s creditors, except to the extent that we are a creditor with recognized claims against the subsidiary. In addition, holders of the Preferred Stock

Table of Contents

may be fully subordinated to interests held by the U.S. Government in the event of a receivership, insolvency, liquidation or similar proceeding, including a proceeding under the orderly liquidation authority provisions of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act of 2010.

If our assets are not sufficient to pay in full the liquidation preference plus any dividends which have been declared but not yet paid to all holders of the Preferred Stock and all holders of any parity stock, the amounts paid to the holders of Preferred Stock and to the holders of all parity stock shall be *pro rata* in accordance with the respective aggregate liquidation preferences, plus any dividends which have been declared but not yet paid, of Preferred Stock and all such parity stock.

If the liquidation preference plus any dividends which have been declared but not yet paid has been paid in full to all holders of Preferred Stock and all holders of any parity stock, the holders of junior stock shall be entitled to receive all of our remaining assets according to their respective rights and preferences.

Optional Redemption

The Preferred Stock is not subject to any mandatory redemption, sinking fund, or other similar provisions. However, we may redeem shares of the Preferred Stock at any time on or after March , 2026, in whole or in part, at a redemption price equal to $25,000 per share (equivalent to $1,000 per depositary share) (except as otherwise provided below), plus any accrued and unpaid cash dividends for the then-current dividend period to but excluding the redemption date, without accumulation of any undeclared dividends. Dividends will cease to accrue on shares redeemed after the redemption date. Under the Federal Reserve Board s risk-based capital rules applicable to bank holding companies, any redemption of the Preferred Stock is subject to prior approval of the Federal Reserve Board.

At any time within 90 days after a capital treatment event, and at the option of our board of directors or any duly authorized committee of our board of directors, we may provide notice to holders of the Preferred Stock that we will redeem the Preferred Stock in accordance with the procedures described below, and subsequently redeem, out of funds legally available therefor, the Preferred Stock in whole, but not in part, at a redemption price equal to $25,000 per share (equivalent to $1,000 per depositary share) (except as otherwise provided below), plus any accrued and unpaid dividends on the shares of the Preferred Stock for the then-current dividend period to but excluding the redemption date, without accumulation of any undeclared dividends. Subject to irrevocably setting aside or depositing funds necessary for redemption, dividends will cease to accrue on the redemption date. Any declared but unpaid dividends payable on a redemption date that occurs subsequent to the record date for a dividend period shall not be paid to the holder entitled to receive the redemption price on the redemption date, but rather shall be paid to the holder of record of the redeemed shares on such record date relating to the dividend payment date as provided herein. For purposes of the above, capital treatment event means the good faith determination by us that, as a result of any:

amendment to, clarification of, or change in, the laws or regulations of the United States or any political subdivision of or in the United States that is enacted or becomes effective after the initial issuance of any shares of the Preferred Stock;

proposed changes in those laws or regulations that is announced or becomes effective after the initial issuance of any shares of the Preferred Stock; or

Table of Contents

official administrative decision or judicial decision or administrative action or other official pronouncement interpreting or applying those laws or regulations that is announced or becomes effective after the initial issuance of any shares of Preferred Stock,

there is more than an insubstantial risk that we will not be entitled to treat an amount equal to the full liquidation preference of all shares of Preferred Stock then outstanding as additional Tier 1 capital (or its equivalent) for purposes of the capital adequacy guidelines or regulations of the Federal Reserve Board or other appropriate federal banking agency, as then in effect and applicable, for as long as any share of Preferred Stock is outstanding.

Redemption of the Preferred Stock is subject to our receipt of any required prior approvals from the Federal Reserve Board or other appropriate federal banking agency.

If we redeem shares of the Preferred Stock, we will provide notice by first class, postage prepaid, mail to the holders of record of the shares of Preferred Stock to be redeemed. That notice will be mailed not less than 30 days and not more than 60 days prior to the date fixed for the redemption. Each notice of redemption will include a statement setting forth:

(i) the redemption date;

(ii) the number of shares of the Preferred Stock to be redeemed and, if less than all the shares held by the holder are to be redeemed, the number of shares of the Preferred Stock to be redeemed from the holder;

(iii) the redemption price;

(iv) the place or places where the certificates for those shares are to be surrendered for payment of the redemption price; and

(v) that cash dividends on the shares to be redeemed will cease to accrue on the redemption date.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, if the Preferred Stock is held in book-entry form through The Depository Trust Company, or DTC, we may give such notice in any manner permitted or required by DTC. Neither the holders of the Preferred Stock nor the holders of the related depositary shares have the right to require redemption of the Preferred Stock.

In the case of any redemption of only part of the shares of the Preferred Stock at the time outstanding, the shares of the Preferred Stock to be redeemed will be selected either pro rata from the holders of record of the Preferred Stock in proportion to the number of Preferred Stock held by such holders or by lot.

Voting Rights

The holders of the Preferred Stock do not have voting rights other than those described below, except as specifically required by Delaware law.

Whenever dividends payable on the Preferred Stock or any other class or series of preferred stock ranking equally with the Preferred Stock as to payment of dividends, and upon which voting rights equivalent to those described in this paragraph have been conferred and are exercisable, have not been declared and paid in an aggregate amount equal to, as to any class or series, the equivalent of at least three or more semi-annual or six or more quarterly dividend

Table of Contents

periods, as applicable, whether or not for consecutive dividend periods (a Nonpayment), the holders of outstanding shares of the Preferred Stock voting as a class with holders of shares of any other series of our preferred stock ranking equally with the Preferred Stock as to payment of dividends, and upon which like voting rights have been conferred and are exercisable (voting parity stock), will be entitled to vote for the election of two additional directors of our board of directors on the terms set forth below (and to fill any vacancies in the terms of such directorships) (the Preferred Stock Directors). Holders of all series of our preferred stock that are granted these voting rights and that rank equally with the Preferred Stock will vote as a single class. In the event that the holders of the shares of the Preferred Stock are entitled to vote as described in this paragraph, our board of directors will be increased by two directors, and the holders of the Preferred Stock will have the right, as members of that class, as outlined above, to elect two directors at the next annual meeting of our stockholders, provided that the election of any Preferred Stock Directors shall not cause us to violate the corporate governance requirements of the New York Stock Exchange (or any other exchange on which our securities may be listed) that listed companies must have a majority of independent directors, and provided further that at no time shall our board of directors include more than two Preferred Stock Directors.

When we have paid full dividends for the equivalent of at least two semi-annual or four quarterly dividend periods, as applicable, following a Nonpayment on the Preferred Stock and any other series of our preferred stock ranking equally with the Preferred Stock, the voting rights described above will terminate, except as expressly provided by law. The voting rights described above are subject to re-vesting upon each and every subsequent Nonpayment.

Upon termination of the right of the holders of the Preferred Stock to vote for Preferred Stock Directors as described above, the term of office of all Preferred Stock Directors then in office elected by only those holders will terminate immediately. Whenever the term of office of the Preferred Stock Directors ends and the related voting rights have expired, the number of directors automatically will be decreased to the number of directors as otherwise would prevail.

So long as any shares of Preferred Stock remain outstanding, we will not, without the affirmative vote or consent of holders of at least $66\,^{2}/_{3}\%$ in voting power of the Preferred Stock and any voting parity stock, voting together as a class, authorize, create or issue any capital stock ranking senior to the Preferred Stock as to dividends or the distribution of assets upon liquidation, dissolution or winding-up, or reclassify any authorized capital stock into any such shares of such capital stock or issue any obligation or security convertible into or evidencing the right to purchase any such shares of capital stock. So long as any shares of the Preferred Stock remain outstanding, we will not, without the affirmative vote of the holders of at least $66\,^{2}/_{3}\%$ in voting power of the Preferred Stock, amend, alter or repeal any provision of the Certificate of Designations or our certificate of incorporation, including by merger, consolidation or otherwise, so as to adversely affect the powers, preferences or special rights of the Preferred Stock.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, none of the following will be deemed to adversely affect the powers, preferences or special rights of the Preferred Stock:

- any increase in the amount of authorized common stock or authorized preferred stock, or any increase or decrease in the number of shares of any series of preferred stock, or the authorization, creation and issuance of other classes or series of capital stock, in each case ranking on parity with or junior to the Preferred Stock as to dividends or distribution of assets upon liquidation, dissolution or winding-up;

- a merger or consolidation of us with or into another entity in which the shares of the Preferred Stock remain outstanding; and

Table of Contents

a merger or consolidation of us with or into another entity in which the shares of the Preferred Stock are converted into or exchanged for preference securities of the surviving entity or any entity, directly or indirectly, controlling such surviving entity and such new preference securities have powers, preferences and special rights that are not materially less favorable than the Preferred Stock.

Preemptive and Conversion Rights

The holders of the Preferred Stock do not have any preemptive or conversion rights.

Outstanding Preferred Stock

Under our Certificate of Incorporation, we have authority to issue up to 100,000,000 shares of preferred stock, $0.01 par value per share. We may issue preferred stock in one or more series, each with the preferences, designations, limitations, conversion rights, and other rights as we may determine.

In addition to the Preferred Stock, we have authorized the following series of our preferred stock:

35,045 shares of Series B Preferred Stock, 7,571 shares of which were issued and outstanding at March 4, 2016;

34,500 shares of Series D Preferred Stock, 26,174 shares of which were issued and outstanding at March 4, 2016;

85,100 shares of Series E Preferred Stock, 12,691 shares of which were issued and outstanding at March 4, 2016;

7,001 shares of Series F Preferred Stock, 1,410 shares of which were issued and outstanding at March 4, 2016;

8,501 shares of Series G Preferred Stock, 4,926 shares of which were issued and outstanding at March 4, 2016;

25,300 shares of Series I Preferred Stock, 14,584 shares of which were issued and outstanding at March 4, 2016;

240,000 shares of Series K Preferred Stock, 61,773 shares of which were issued and outstanding as of March 4, 2016;

6,900,000 shares of Series L Preferred Stock, 3,080,182 shares of which were issued and outstanding as of March 4, 2016;

160,000 shares of Series M Preferred Stock, 52,399 shares of which were issued and outstanding as of March 4, 2016;

50,000 shares of Series T Preferred Stock, 50,000 shares of which were issued and outstanding as of March 4, 2016;

40,000 shares of Series U Preferred Stock, 40,000 shares of which were issued and outstanding as of March 4, 2016;

Table of Contents

60,000 shares of Series V Preferred Stock, 60,000 shares of which were issued and outstanding as of March 4, 2016;

46,000 shares of Series W Preferred Stock, 44,000 shares of which were issued and outstanding as of March 4, 2016;

80,000 shares of Series X Preferred Stock, 80,000 shares of which were issued and outstanding as of March 4, 2016;

44,000 shares of Series Y Preferred Stock, 44,000 shares of which were issued and outstanding as of March 4, 2016;

56,000 shares of Series Z Preferred Stock, 56,000 shares of which were issued and outstanding as of March 4, 2016;

76,000 shares of Series AA Preferred Stock, 76,000 shares of which were issued and outstanding as of March 4, 2016;

44,000 shares of Series CC Preferred Stock, 44,000 shares of which were issued and outstanding as of March 4, 2016;

21,000 shares of Series 1 Preferred Stock, 3,275 shares of which were issued and outstanding as of March 4, 2016;

37,000 shares of Series 2 Preferred Stock, 9,967 shares of which were issued and outstanding as of March 4, 2016;

27,000 shares of Series 3 Preferred Stock, 21,773 shares of which were issued and outstanding as of March 4, 2016;

20,000 shares of Series 4 Preferred Stock, 7,010 shares of which were issued and outstanding as of March 4, 2016; and

50,000 shares of Series 5 Preferred Stock, 14,056 shares of which were issued and outstanding as of March 4, 2016.

As of the date of this prospectus supplement, the aggregate liquidation preference of all of our outstanding preferred stock, excluding the Preferred Stock is $25,687,241,000.

Authorized Classes of Preferred Stock

For a summary of the general terms and provisions of our Series B Preferred Stock, Series D Preferred Stock, Series E Preferred Stock, Series F Preferred Stock, Series G Preferred Stock, Series I Preferred Stock, Series K Preferred Stock, Series L Preferred Stock, Series M Preferred Stock, Series T Preferred Stock, Series U Preferred Stock, Series V Preferred Stock, Series W Preferred Stock, Series X Preferred Stock, Series Y Preferred Stock, Series Z Preferred Stock, Series AA Preferred Stock, Series 1 Preferred Stock, Series 2 Preferred Stock, Series 3 Preferred Stock, Series 4 Preferred Stock, and Series 5 Preferred Stock, see Description of Preferred Stock Existing Preferred Stock in the attached prospectus beginning on page 55. Below is a summary of the general terms and provisions of our Series CC Preferred Stock. You also should refer to our Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation and the respective certificate of designations for each series.

Table of Contents

Series CC Preferred Stock

Preferential Rights. The Series CC Preferred Stock ranks senior to our common stock and equally with the Preferred Stock, Series B Preferred Stock, Series D Preferred Stock, Series E Preferred Stock, Series F Preferred Stock, Series G Preferred Stock, Series I Preferred Stock, Series K Preferred Stock, Series L Preferred Stock, Series M Preferred Stock, Series T Preferred Stock, Series U Preferred Stock, Series V Preferred Stock, Series W Preferred Stock, Series X Preferred Stock, Series Y Preferred Stock, Series Z Preferred Stock, Series AA Preferred Stock, Series 1 Preferred Stock, Series 2 Preferred Stock, Series 3 Preferred Stock, Series 4 Preferred Stock, and Series 5 Preferred Stock as to dividends and distributions on our liquidation, dissolution, or winding up. Series CC Preferred Stock is not convertible into or exchangeable for any shares of our common stock or any other class of our capital stock. Holders of the Series CC Preferred Stock do not have any preemptive rights. We may issue stock with preferences equal to the Series CC Preferred Stock without the consent of the holders of the Series CC Preferred Stock.

Dividends. Holders of the Series CC Preferred Stock are entitled to receive cash dividends, when, as, and if declared by our board of directors or a duly authorized committee of our board, at an annual dividend rate per share of 6.200% on the liquidation preference of $25,000 per share. Dividends on the Series CC Preferred Stock are non-cumulative and are payable quarterly in arrears. As long as shares of Series CC Preferred Stock remain outstanding, we cannot declare or pay cash dividends on any shares of our common stock or other capital stock ranking junior to the Series CC Preferred Stock unless full dividends on all outstanding shares of Series CC Preferred Stock for the immediately preceding dividend period have been paid in full or declared and a sum sufficient for the payment thereof set aside. We cannot declare or pay cash dividends on capital stock ranking equally with the Series CC Preferred Stock for any period unless full dividends on all outstanding shares of Series CC Preferred Stock for the immediately preceding dividend period have been paid in full or declared and a sum sufficient for the payment thereof set aside. If we declare dividends on the Series CC Preferred Stock and on any capital stock ranking equally with the Series CC Preferred Stock but cannot make full payment of those declared dividends, we will allocate the dividend payments on a pro rata basis among the holders of the shares of Series CC Preferred Stock and the holders of any capital stock ranking equally with the Series CC Preferred Stock.

Voting Rights. Holders of Series CC Preferred Stock do not have voting rights, except as described herein and as specifically required by Delaware law. If any dividend payable on the Series CC Preferred Stock is in arrears for six or more quarterly dividend periods, whether or not for consecutive dividend periods, the holders of the Series CC Preferred Stock will be entitled to vote as a class, together with the holders of all series of our preferred stock ranking equally with the Series CC Preferred Stock as to payment of dividends and upon which voting rights equivalent to those granted to the holders of Series CC Preferred Stock have been conferred and are exercisable, for the election of two Preferred Stock Directors. When we have paid full dividends on the Series CC Preferred Stock for at least four quarterly dividend periods following a dividend arrearage described above, these voting rights will terminate. As long as the Series CC Preferred Stock remains outstanding, the affirmative vote or consent of the holders of at least $66\,^{2}/_{3}\%$ of the voting power of the Series CC Preferred Stock and any voting parity stock shall be necessary to authorize, create or issue any capital stock ranking senior to the Series CC Preferred Stock as to dividends or the distribution of assets upon liquidation, dissolution or winding-up, or to reclassify any authorized capital stock into any such shares of such capital stock or issue any obligation or security convertible into or evidencing the right to purchase any such shares of capital stock. In addition, so long as any shares of the Series CC Preferred Stock remain outstanding, the affirmative vote of the holders of at least $66\,^{2}/_{3}\%$ of the voting power of the Series CC Preferred Stock shall be necessary to amend, alter or repeal any provision of the

Table of Contents

certificate of designations for the Series CC Preferred Stock or our certificate of incorporation so as to adversely affect the powers, preferences or special rights of the Series CC Preferred Stock.

Distributions. In the event of our voluntary or involuntary liquidation, dissolution, or winding up, holders of Series CC Preferred Stock will be entitled to receive out of assets legally available for distribution to stockholders, before any distribution or payment out of our assets may be made to or set aside for the holders of our capital stock ranking junior to the Series CC Preferred Stock as to distributions, a liquidating distribution in the amount of the liquidation preference of $25,000 per share, plus any declared and unpaid dividends, without accumulation of any undeclared dividends, to the date of liquidation. Shares of Series CC Preferred Stock will not be subject to a sinking fund.

Redemption. We may redeem the Series CC Preferred Stock, in whole or in part, at our option, at any time on or after January 29, 2021, at the redemption price equal to $25,000 per share, plus any accrued and unpaid dividends, for the then-current dividend period to but excluding the redemption date, without accumulation of any undeclared dividends. In addition, at any time within 90 days after a capital treatment event, as described in the certificate of designations for the Series CC Preferred Stock, we may redeem the Series CC Preferred Stock, in whole but not in part, at a redemption price equal to $25,000 per share, plus any accrued and unpaid dividends for the then-current dividend period to but excluding the redemption date, without accumulation of any undeclared dividends.

Additional Classes or Series of Stock

We will have the right to create and issue additional classes or series of stock ranking equally with or junior to the Preferred Stock as to dividends and distribution of assets upon our liquidation, dissolution, or winding up without the consent of the holders of the Preferred Stock, or the holders of the related depositary shares.

Depository, Transfer Agent, and Registrar

Computershare Trust Company, N.A. will be the depository, transfer agent, and registrar for the Preferred Stock.

Calculation Agent

The Bank of New York Mellon Trust Company, N.A. will be the calculation agent for the Preferred Stock during the Floating Rate Period.

Table of Contents

DESCRIPTION OF THE DEPOSITARY SHARES

The following description summarizes specific terms and provisions of the depositary shares relating to our Preferred Stock. You should read this description of the material terms of the depositary shares along with the terms that apply generally to all our preferred stock issued in the form of depositary shares under Description of Depositary Shares in the attached prospectus.

General

We are issuing proportional fractional interests in the Preferred Stock in the form of depositary shares. Each depositary share represents a 1/25th interest in a share of the Preferred Stock, and will be evidenced by depositary receipts, as described under Registration and Settlement Book-Entry System on page S-25. We will deposit the underlying shares of the Preferred Stock with a depository pursuant to a deposit agreement among us, Computershare Inc. and its wholly-owned subsidiary Computershare Trust Company, N.A., collectively acting as depository, and the holders from time to time of the depositary receipts. Subject to the terms of the deposit agreement, the depositary shares will be entitled to all the rights and preferences of the Preferred Stock, as applicable, in proportion to the applicable fraction of a share of Preferred Stock those depositary shares represent.

In this prospectus supplement, references to holders of depositary shares mean those who have depositary shares registered in their own names on the books maintained by the depository and not indirect holders who own beneficial interests in depositary shares registered in the street name of, or issued in book-entry form through, DTC. You should review the special considerations that apply to indirect holders described in Registration and Settlement Book-Entry System on page S-25.

Dividends and Other Distributions

Each dividend on a depositary share will be in an amount equal to 1/25th of the dividend declared on the related share of the Preferred Stock.

The depository will distribute all dividends and other cash distributions received on the Preferred Stock to the holders of record of the depositary receipts in proportion to the number of depositary shares held by each holder. In the event of a distribution other than in cash, the depository will distribute property received by it to the holders of record of the depositary receipts in proportion to the number of depositary shares held by each holder, unless the depository determines that this distribution is not feasible, in which case the depository may, with our approval, adopt a method of distribution that it deems practicable, including the sale of the property and distribution of the net proceeds of that sale to the holders of the depositary receipts.

If the calculation of a dividend or other cash distribution results in an amount that is a fraction of a cent and that fraction is equal to or greater than $0.005, the depository will round that amount up to the next highest whole cent and will request that we pay the resulting additional amount to the depository for the relevant dividend or other cash distribution. If the fractional amount is less than $0.005, the depository will disregard that fractional amount.

Record dates for the payment of dividends and other matters relating to the depositary shares will be the same as the corresponding record dates for the Preferred Stock.

The amount paid as dividends or otherwise distributable by the depository with respect to the depositary shares or the underlying Preferred Stock will be reduced by any amounts required

Table of Contents

to be withheld by us or the depository on account of taxes or other governmental charges. The depository may refuse to make any payment or distribution, or any transfer, exchange, or withdrawal of any depositary shares or the shares of the Preferred Stock until such taxes or other governmental charges are paid.

Redemption of Depositary Shares

If we redeem the Preferred Stock, in whole or in part, as described above under Description of the Preferred Stock Optional Redemption, depositary shares also will be redeemed with the proceeds received by the depository from the redemption of the Preferred Stock held by the depository. The redemption price per depositary share will be 1/25th of the redemption price per share payable with respect to the Preferred Stock, plus any accrued and unpaid dividends on the shares of the Preferred Stock called for redemption for the then-current dividend period to but excluding the redemption date, without accumulation of any undeclared dividends.

If we redeem shares of the Preferred Stock held by the depository, the depository will redeem, as of the same redemption date, the number of depositary shares representing those shares of the Preferred Stock so redeemed. If we redeem less than all of the outstanding depositary shares, the depositary shares to be redeemed will be selected either pro rata or by lot. In any case, the depository will redeem depositary shares only in increments of 25 depositary shares and multiples thereof. The depository will provide notice of redemption to record holders of the depositary receipts not less than 30 and not more than 60 days prior to the date fixed for redemption of the Preferred Stock and the related depositary shares.

Voting the Preferred Stock

Because each depositary share represents a 1/25th interest in a share of the Preferred Stock, holders of depositary receipts will be entitled to 1/25th of a vote per depositary share under those limited circumstances in which holders of the Preferred Stock are entitled to a vote, as described above in Description of the Preferred Stock Voting Rights.

When the depository receives notice of any meeting at which the holders of the Preferred Stock are entitled to vote, the depository will mail the information contained in the notice to the record holders of the depositary shares relating to the Preferred Stock. Each record holder of the depositary shares on the record date, which will be the same date as the record date for the Preferred Stock, may instruct the depository to vote the amount of the Preferred Stock represented by the holder s depositary shares. To the extent possible, the depository will vote the amount of the Preferred Stock represented by depositary shares in accordance with the instructions it receives. We will agree to take all reasonable actions that the depository determines are necessary to enable the depository to vote as instructed. If the depository does not receive specific instructions from the holders of any depositary shares representing the Preferred Stock, it will vote all depositary shares held by it proportionately with instructions received.

Form and Notices

The Preferred Stock will be issued in registered form to the depository, and the depositary shares will be issued in book-entry only form through DTC, as described below in Registration and Settlement Book-Entry System and in Registration and Settlement Book-Entry Only Issuance on page 91 of the attached prospectus. The depository will forward to the holders of depositary shares all reports, notices, and communications from us that are delivered to the depository and that we are required to furnish to the holders of the Preferred Stock.

Table of Contents

REGISTRATION AND SETTLEMENT

Book-Entry System

The depositary shares will be issued in book-entry only form through the facilities of The Depository Trust Company, or DTC. This means that we will not issue actual depositary receipts to each holder of depositary shares, except in limited circumstances. Instead, the depositary shares will be in the form of a single global depositary receipt deposited with and held in the name of DTC, or its nominee. In order to own a beneficial interest in a depositary receipt, you must be an organization that participates in DTC or have an account with an organization that participates in DTC, including Euroclear Bank S.A./N.V., as operator of the Euroclear System (Euroclear), and Clearstream Banking, société anonyme (Clearstream). For more information about Euroclear and Clearstream, see Registration and Settlement Depositories for Global Securities in the attached prospectus beginning on page 93.

Except as described in the attached prospectus, owners of beneficial interests in the global depositary receipt will not be entitled to have depositary shares registered in their names, will not receive or be entitled to receive physical delivery of the depositary shares in definitive form, and will not be considered the owners or holders of depositary shares under our amended and restated certificate of incorporation or the deposit agreement, including for purposes of receiving any reports or notices delivered by us. Accordingly, each person owning a beneficial interest in the depositary receipts must rely on the procedures of DTC and, if that person is not a participant, on the procedures of the participant through which that person owns its beneficial interest, in order to exercise any rights of a holder of depositary shares.

If we discontinue the book-entry only form system of registration, we will replace the global depositary receipt with depositary receipts in certificated form registered in the names of the beneficial owners. Once depositary receipts in certificated form are issued, the underlying shares of the Preferred Stock may be withdrawn from the depository arrangement upon surrender of depositary receipts at the corporate trust office of the depository and upon payment of the taxes, charges, and fees provided for in the deposit agreements. Subject to the deposit agreement, the holders of depositary receipts will receive the appropriate number of shares of Preferred Stock and any money or property represented by the depositary shares.

Only whole shares of the Preferred Stock may be withdrawn. If a holder holds an amount other than a whole multiple of 25 depositary shares, the depository will deliver, along with the withdrawn shares of the Preferred Stock, a new depositary receipt evidencing the excess number of depositary shares. Holders of withdrawn shares of the Preferred Stock will not be entitled to redeposit those shares or to receive depositary shares.

Same Day Settlement

As long as the depositary shares are represented by a global depositary receipt registered in the name of DTC, or its nominee, the depositary shares will trade in the DTC Same-Day Funds Settlement System. DTC requires secondary market trading activity in the depositary shares to settle in immediately available funds. This requirement may affect trading activity in the depositary shares.

Payment of Dividends

We will pay dividends, if any, on the Preferred Stock represented by depositary shares in book-entry form to the depository. In turn, the depository will deliver the dividends to DTC in accordance with the arrangements then in place between the depository and DTC. Generally,

Table of Contents

DTC will be responsible for crediting the dividend payments it receives from the depository to the accounts of DTC participants, and each participant will be responsible for disbursing the dividend payment for which it is credited to the holders that it represents. As long as the depositary shares are represented by a global depositary receipt, we will make all dividend payments in immediately available funds.

In the event depositary receipts are issued in certificated form, dividends generally will be paid by check mailed to the holders of the depositary receipts on the applicable record date at the address appearing on the security register.

Notices

Any notices required to be delivered to you will be given by the depository to DTC for communication to its participants.

If the depositary receipts are issued in certificated form, notices to you also will be given by mail to the addresses of the holders as they appear on the security register.

Table of Contents

U.S. FEDERAL INCOME TAX CONSIDERATIONS

For a brief description of the U.S. federal income tax considerations applicable to an investment in the Preferred Stock and the related depositary shares, see U.S. Federal Income Tax Considerations and U.S. Federal Income Tax Considerations Taxation of Common Stock, Preferred Stock, and Depositary Shares beginning on page 99 and page 115, respectively, of the attached prospectus.

The following paragraph supplements the discussion under U.S. Federal Income Considerations Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act beginning on page 122 of the attached prospectus:

The IRS has announced that withholding under the Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act on payments of gross proceeds from a sale or redemption of the Preferred Stock and the related depositary shares will only apply to payments made after December 31, 2018.

Table of Contents

ERISA CONSIDERATIONS

For a brief description of the considerations for employee benefit and other plans investing in the Preferred Stock through the depositary shares offered by this prospectus supplement and the attached prospectus, including a discussion of considerations if the securities are deemed to be plan assets for purposes of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, as amended (commonly referred to as ERISA), and Section 4975 of the Internal Revenue Code, see ERISA Considerations beginning on page 128 of the attached prospectus. As discussed in more detail in that section, purchasers or holders of the depositary shares or any interest in those securities will be deemed to have made certain representations regarding their status under ERISA and should carefully consider these representations before electing to acquire the depositary shares.

Fiduciaries of, or other persons acting on behalf of an employee benefit or other plan, considering purchasing the depositary shares should consult with their counsel regarding these matters before making any investment decision.

We expect that an investment in the Preferred Stock through the depositary shares will constitute an equity interest for purposes of the regulation adopted by the U.S. Department of Labor to address whether the underlying assets of an entity are considered plan assets (29 CFR Section 2510.3-101, as modified by Section 3(42) of ERISA) (the Plan Assets Regulation), but we do not anticipate that these securities will satisfy the publicly-offered securities exception described in the Plan Assets Regulation. However, the acquisition of an equity interest in an operating company by a plan (as such term is defined in the Plan Assets Regulation) is the subject of a separate exception described in the Plan Assets Regulation. For this purpose, an operating company is considered to be an entity that is primarily engaged, either directly or indirectly, in the production or sale of a product or service other than the investment of capital. We expect that we will be considered to be an operating company and, as a result, we expect that the acquisition of Preferred Stock through depositary shares by a plan will satisfy the exception referenced above such that the assets of the plan will include only its interest in the Preferred Stock and depositary shares but not an undivided interest in each of our underlying assets, although no assurance can be given in this regard. As discussed in the attached prospectus, other considerations implicated by ERISA (such as its prohibited transaction requirements) may impact the suitability of an investment in the Preferred Stock though the depositary shares by plans, and the fiduciaries of such plans should consult with their counsel regarding these matters before making any investment decision.

Table of Contents

UNDERWRITING (CONFLICTS OF INTEREST)

We have entered into an underwriting agreement dated March , 2016 with the underwriters named below. In the underwriting agreement, we agreed to sell to each of the underwriters, and each of the underwriters agreed to purchase from us, the number of depositary shares, each representing a 1/25th interest in a share of the Preferred Stock, shown opposite its name below, at the applicable public offering price on the cover page of this prospectus supplement.

Underwriter	Number of Depositary Shares
Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Incorporated	
Goldman, Sachs & Co.	
Total	

The obligations of the underwriters under the underwriting agreement, including their agreement to purchase depositary shares, are several and not joint. Those obligations also are subject to the satisfaction of conditions described in the underwriting agreement. The underwriters have agreed to purchase all of the depositary shares if any of them are purchased. In the event of a default by any underwriter, the underwriting agreement provides that, in certain circumstances, non-defaulting underwriters may increase their purchase commitments, or the underwriting agreement may be terminated.

The underwriters initially propose to offer the depositary shares, in part, directly to the public at the public offering price set forth on the cover page of this prospectus supplement. The underwriters may sell the depositary shares to certain dealers at a price that represents a concession not in excess of $ per depositary share. Any underwriter may allow, and dealers may reallow, a concession not in excess of $ per depositary share to certain other dealers. After the initial offering of the depositary shares, the offering price and these concessions may change.

Our offering expenses, not including underwriting commissions, are estimated to be $.

Prior to this offering, there has been no public market for the depositary shares. We do not currently intend to list the Preferred Stock or the depositary shares on any securities exchange. The underwriters have advised us that they presently intend to make a market in the depositary shares. However, the underwriters are not obligated to do so and may discontinue making a market in the depositary shares at any time without notice.

In connection with the offering of the depositary shares, the underwriters may engage in stabilizing transactions, and syndicate covering transactions in accordance with Regulation M under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the Exchange Act). The underwriters may enter bids for, and purchase, depositary shares in the open market in order to stabilize the price of the depositary shares. Syndicate covering transactions involve purchases of the depositary shares in the open market after the distribution has been completed in order to cover short positions. In addition, the underwriting syndicate may reclaim selling concessions allowed to an underwriter or a dealer for distributing the depositary shares in the offering if the syndicate repurchases previously distributed depositary shares in transactions to cover syndicate short positions, in stabilization transactions, or otherwise. These activities may cause the price of the depositary shares to be higher than it would otherwise be. Those activities, if commenced, may be discontinued at any time.

Table of Contents

Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Incorporated is our affiliate. As such, Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Incorporated has a conflict of interest in this offering within the meaning of FINRA Rule 5121. Consequently, the offering is being conducted in compliance with the provisions of FINRA Rule 5121. FINRA Rule 5121 requires that a qualified independent underwriter participate in the preparation of this prospectus supplement and exercise the usual standards of due diligence with respect thereto. Goldman, Sachs & Co. has agreed to act as the qualified independent underwriter, or QIU, for the offering and will not receive any additional fees for serving as a QIU in connection with this offering. We will indemnify Goldman, Sachs & Co. against liabilities incurred in connection with acting as the QIU, including liabilities under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the Securities Act). Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Incorporated is not permitted to sell depositary shares in this offering to an account over which it exercises discretionary authority without the prior specific written approval of the account holder.

We expect that delivery of the depositary shares will be made against payment on or about March , 2016, which is the Business Day following the date of this prospectus supplement.

Under the terms of the underwriting agreement, we have agreed to indemnify the underwriters and certain other persons against certain liabilities, including liabilities under the Securities Act, or to contribute in respect of those liabilities.

Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Incorporated is a broker-dealer and one of our subsidiaries and our affiliate. Following the initial distribution of depositary shares, our affiliates, including Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Incorporated, may buy and sell the depositary shares 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 supplement and attached prospectus may be used by one or more of our affiliates in connection with offers and sales related to secondary market transactions in the depositary shares to the extent permitted by applicable law. Our affiliates may act as principal or agent in such transactions.

Each of the underwriters or their affiliates provides or has provided investment or commercial banking services to us from time to time in the ordinary course of business.

Selling Restrictions

The underwriters have represented and agreed that they have not and will not offer, sell, or deliver the depositary shares, directly or indirectly, or distribute this prospectus supplement or the attached prospectus or any other offering material relating to the depositary shares, in any jurisdiction except under circumstances that will result in compliance with applicable laws and regulations and that will not impose any obligations on us except as set forth in the underwriting agreement.

Australia

This prospectus supplement and the attached prospectus have not been, and no prospectus or other disclosure document (as defined in the Corporations Act 2001 (Cth) (the Corporations Act)) in relation to the depositary shares has been, or will be, lodged with the Australian Securities and Investments Commission. Each underwriter has represented and agreed that it:

(a) has not made or invited, and will not make or invite, an offer of the depositary shares for issue or sale in Australia (including an offer or invitation which is received by a person in Australia); and

Table of Contents

(b) has not distributed or published, and will not distribute or publish, any draft, preliminary, or definitive information memorandum, prospectus or other offering material or advertisement relating to the depositary shares in Australia,

unless:

(i) the aggregate consideration payable by each offeree is at least A$500,000 (or its equivalent in an alternate currency, in either case, disregarding moneys lent by the offeror or its associates);

(ii) the offer or invitation does not otherwise require disclosure to investors under Parts 6D.2 or 7.9 of the Corporations Act;

(iii) the offer or invitation does not constitute an offer to a retail client as defined for the purposes of section 761G of the Corporations Act;

(iv) such action complies with:

(A) Banking (Exemption) Order No. 82 as if it applied to us mutatis mutandis (and which, as at the date of this prospectus supplement, requires all offers and transfers to be for a consideration of at least A$500,000); and

(B) any other applicable laws, regulations or directives in Australia; and

(v) such action does not require any document to be lodged with the Australian Securities and Investments Commission.

We are not authorized under the Banking Act 1959 of the Commonwealth of Australia (the Australian Banking Act) to carry on banking business and are not subject to prudential supervision by the Australian Prudential Regulation Authority. The depositary shares are not Deposit Liabilities under the Australian Banking Act.

Austria

The depositary shares may only be offered in the Republic of Austria in accordance with the Austrian Capital Market Act and any other laws and regulations applicable in the Republic of Austria governing the issue, offer and sale of securities in the Republic of Austria. The depositary shares are not registered or otherwise authorized for public offer under the Austrian Capital Market Act or any other applicable laws and regulations in Austria. The recipients of this prospectus supplement, the accompanying prospectus and any other selling materials in respect to the depositary shares are qualified investors within the meaning of the Austrian Capital Market Act and are targeted exclusively on the basis of a private placement. Accordingly, the depositary shares may not be, and are not being, issued, offered or advertised publicly or offered similarly under either the Austrian Capital Market Act or any other relevant securities legislation in Austria. We are a U.S. bank holding company and a financial holding company. We are not a bank under the Austrian Banking Act (*Bankwesengesetz*) and are not EU passported to perform banking business in Austria.

Table of Contents

Canada

The depositary shares may be sold in Canada solely to purchasers purchasing as principal that are both accredited investors as defined in National Instrument 45-106 *Prospectus and Registration Exemptions* and permitted clients as defined in National Instrument 31-103 *Registration Requirements, Exemptions and Ongoing Registrant Obligations.*

European Economic Area

In relation to each Relevant Member State which has implemented the Prospectus Directive, each underwriter has represented and agreed that with effect from and including the date on which the Prospectus Directive is implemented in that Relevant Member State (the Relevant Implementation Date) it has not made and will not make an offer of the depositary shares which are the subject of the offering contemplated by this prospectus supplement and the attached prospectus to the public in that Relevant Member State except that it may, with effect from and including the Relevant Implementation Date, make an offer of such depositary shares to the public in that Relevant Member State:

(a) at any time to any legal entity which is a qualified investor as defined in the Prospectus Directive;

(b) at any time to fewer than 150 natural or legal persons (other than qualified investors as defined in the Prospectus Directive), subject to obtaining the prior consent of the relevant underwriter nominated by us for any such offer; or

(c) at any time in any other circumstances falling within Article 3(2) of the Prospectus Directive,

provided that no such offer of the depositary shares referred to in (a) through (c) above shall require us or any underwriter to publish a prospectus pursuant to Article 3 of the Prospectus Directive, or supplement a prospectus pursuant to Article 16 of the Prospectus Directive.

For the purposes of this provision, the expression an offer of depositary shares to the public in relation to any depositary shares in any Relevant Member State means the communication in any form and by any means of sufficient information on the terms of the offer and the depositary shares to be offered so as to enable an investor to decide to purchase or subscribe the depositary shares, as the same may be varied in that Relevant Member State by any measure implementing the Prospectus Directive in that Relevant Member State, the expression Prospectus Directive means Directive 2003/71/EC (as amended by Directive 2010/73/EU), and includes any relevant implementing measure in the Relevant Member State.

France

Neither this prospectus supplement nor the attached prospectus have been prepared in connection with a public offering of securities (*titres financiers*) in France and no prospectus has been submitted for approval (*visa*) to the *Autorité des marchés financiers*.

Each of the underwriters has represented and agreed that it has not offered or sold and will not offer or sell, directly or indirectly, depositary shares to the public in France, and it has not distributed or caused to be distributed and will not distribute or cause to be distributed this prospectus supplement, the attached prospectus or any other offering material relating to the depositary shares to the public in France, and such offers, sales and distributions have been and will be made in France only to (i) providers of the investment service of portfolio management for

Table of Contents

the account of third parties, and/or (ii) qualified investors (*investisseurs qualifiés*) other than individuals, acting for their own account, all as defined in, and in accordance with, articles L.411-2, D.411-1 to D.411-3, D.744-1, D.754-1 and D.764-1 of the French *Code monétaire et financier*. The direct or indirect resale of depositary shares to the public in France may be made only as provided by, and in accordance with, articles L.411-1, L.411-2, L.412-1 and L.621-8 to L.621-8-3 of the French *Code monétaire et financier*.

Hong Kong

Each underwriter has represented and agreed that:

(a) it has not offered or sold and will not offer or sell in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People s Republic of China (Hong Kong), by means of any document, any depositary shares other than (i) to professional investors as defined in the Securities and Futures Ordinance (Cap. 571) of Hong Kong (the SFO) and any rules made under the SFO, or (ii) in other circumstances which do not result in the document being a prospectus as defined in the Companies (Winding Up and Miscellaneous Provisions) Ordinance (Cap. 32) of Hong Kong (the CO) or which do not constitute an offer to the public within the meaning of the CO; and

(b) it has not issued or had in its possession for the purposes of issue, and will not issue or have in its possession for the purposes of issue, whether in Hong Kong or elsewhere, any advertisement, invitation, or document relating to the depositary shares, which is directed at, or the contents of which are likely to be accessed or read by, the public in Hong Kong (except if permitted to do so under the securities laws of Hong Kong) other than with respect to the depositary shares that are or are intended to be disposed of (i) only to persons outside Hong Kong or (ii) only to professional investors as defined in the SFO and any rules made under the SFO.

Israel

This offer is intended solely for investors listed in the First Supplement of the Israeli Securities Law of 1968, as amended. A prospectus has not been prepared or filed, and will not be prepared or filed, in Israel relating to the depositary shares offered hereunder. The depositary shares cannot be resold in Israel other than to investors listed in the First Supplement of the Israeli Securities Law of 1968, as amended.

Subject to any applicable law, the depositary shares offered hereunder may not be offered or sold to more than 35 offerees, in the aggregate, who are resident in the State of Israel, and are not listed in the First Supplement of the Israeli Securities Law of 1968. No action will be taken in Israel that would permit an offering of the depositary shares or the distribution of any offering document or any other material to the public in Israel. In particular, no offering document or other material has been reviewed or approved by the Israel Securities Authority. Any material provided to an offeree in Israel may not be reproduced or used for any other purpose, nor be furnished to any other person other than those to whom copies have been provided directly by us or any underwriter.

Japan

The depositary shares have not been and will not be registered under the Financial Instruments and Exchange Law of Japan (Act No. 25 of 1948, as amended, the FIEL). Each underwriter has represented and agreed that it has not offered or sold and will not offer or sell

Table of Contents

any depositary shares, directly or indirectly, in Japan or to, or for the benefit of, any resident of Japan (which term as used herein means any person resident in Japan, including any corporation or other entity organized under the laws of Japan) or to others for re-offering or resale, directly or indirectly, in Japan or to, or for the benefit of, a resident of Japan, except pursuant to an exemption from the registration requirements of, and otherwise in compliance with, the FIEL and any other applicable laws, regulations, and ministerial guidelines of Japan.

If the offer is made by way of Qualified Institutional Investors Private Placement as set out in Article 2, Paragraph 3, Item 2(i) or Article 2, Paragraph 4, Item 2(i) of the FIEL (the QII Private Placement), the depositary shares are being offered to qualified institutional investors (the QIIs) as defined in Article 10 of the Cabinet Office Ordinance Concerning the Definition of Terms provided in Article 2 of the FIEL and the investor of any depositary shares is prohibited from transferring such depositary shares in Japan to any person in any way other than to QIIs. As the offering of the depositary shares satisfies the requirements provided in Article 2, Paragraph 3, Item 2(i) or Article 2, Paragraph 4, Item 2(i) of the FIEL, no securities registration statement has been or will be filed under Article 4, Paragraph 1 of the FIEL.

Except in the case the offering is made by way of QII Private Placement the depositary shares are being offered only to a small number of potential investors (i.e., less than 50 offerees, except QIIs who are offered the depositary shares pursuant to the QII Private Placement), and the investor of any depositary shares (other than the above-mentioned QII investors) is prohibited from transferring such depositary shares to another person in any way other than as a whole to one transferee. As the offering of the depositary shares satisfies the requirements provided in Article 2, Paragraph 3, Item 2(*ha*) or Article 2, Paragraph 4, Item 2(*ha*) of the FIEL, no securities registration statement has been or will be filed under Article 4, Paragraph 1 of the FIEL.

Singapore

This prospectus supplement and the attached prospectus have not been registered as a prospectus with the Monetary Authority of Singapore. Accordingly, this prospectus supplement and the attached prospectus and any other document or material in connection with the offer or sale, or invitation for subscription or purchase, of the depositary shares may not be circulated or distributed, nor may the depositary shares be offered or sold, or be made the subject of an invitation for subscription or purchase, whether directly or indirectly, to persons in Singapore other than (i) to an institutional investor under Section 274 of the Securities and Futures Act, Chapter 289 of Singapore (the SFA), (ii) to a relevant person pursuant to Section 275(1), or any person pursuant to Section 275(1A), and in accordance with the conditions specified in Section 275, of the SFA, or (iii) otherwise pursuant to, and in accordance with the conditions of, any other applicable provision of the SFA.

Where the depositary shares are subscribed or purchased under Section 275 of the SFA by a relevant person which is:

(a) a corporation (which is not an accredited investor (as defined in Section 4A of the SFA)) the sole business of which is to hold investments and the entire share capital of which is owned by one or more individuals, each of whom is an accredited investor; or

(b) a trust (where the trustee is not an accredited investor) whose sole purpose is to hold investments and each beneficiary of the trust is an individual who is an accredited investor,

Table of Contents

securities (as defined in Section 239(1) of the SFA) of that corporation or the beneficiaries rights and interest (howsoever described) in that trust shall not be transferred within six months after that corporation or that trust has acquired the depositary shares pursuant to an offer made under Section 275 of the SFA except:

(1) to an institutional investor or to a relevant person defined in Section 275(2) of the SFA, or to any person arising from an offer referred to in Section 275(1A) or Section 276(4)(i)(B) of the SFA;

(2) where no consideration is or will be given for the transfer;

(3) where the transfer is by operation of law;

(4) as specified in Section 276(7) of the SFA; or

(5) as specified in Regulation 32 of the Securities and Futures (Offers of Investments) (Shares and Debentures) Regulations 2005 of Singapore.

South Korea

The depositary shares have not been and will not be registered under the Financial Investments Services and Capital Markets Act of Korea and the decrees and regulations thereunder (the FSCMA), and the depositary shares have been and will be offered in Korea as a private placement under the FSCMA. None of the depositary shares may be offered, sold or delivered directly or indirectly, or offered or sold to any person for re-offering or resale, directly or indirectly, in Korea or to any resident of Korea except pursuant to the applicable laws and regulations of Korea, including the FSCMA and the Foreign Exchange Transaction Law of Korea and the decrees and regulations thereunder (the FETL). Furthermore, the purchaser of the depositary shares shall comply with all applicable regulatory requirements (including but not limited to requirements under the FETL) in connection with the purchase of the depositary shares.

Each underwriter has represented and agreed that it has not offered, sold or delivered the depositary shares, directly or indirectly, or offered or sold the depositary shares to any person for re-offering or resale, directly or indirectly, in Korea or to any resident of Korea and will not offer, sell or deliver the depositary shares, directly or indirectly, or offer or sell the depositary shares to any person for re-offering or resale, directly or indirectly, in Korea or to any resident of Korea, except pursuant to an exemption from the registration requirements of, and otherwise in compliance with, the FSCMA, the FETL and other relevant laws and regulations of Korea.

Sweden

The depositary shares have not been registered for sale with the Swedish Financial Supervisory Authority (Sw. *Finansinspektionen*). In addition, neither this prospectus supplement nor the attached prospectus has been approved by or registered with the Swedish Financial Supervisory Authority pursuant to the Swedish Financial Instruments Trading Act (Sw. *lag (1991:980) om handel med finansiella instrument*). Accordingly, the depositary shares may only be offered in Sweden in circumstances that will not result in a requirement to publish a prospectus pursuant to the Prospectus Directive as implemented through the Swedish Financial Instruments Trading Act.

Table of Contents

Switzerland

If the depositary shares are offered or distributed into or in Switzerland, (a) each underwriter has represented and agreed that it will not, directly or indirectly, (i) publicly offer, sell, or advertise the depositary shares into or in Switzerland, as such term is defined or interpreted under the Swiss Code of Obligations (CO), or (ii) distribute or otherwise make available the prospectus supplement, the attached prospectus or any other document related to the depositary shares in Switzerland in a way that would constitute a public offering of the depositary shares, and (b) each underwriter has acknowledged and agreed that none of the prospectus supplement, the attached prospectus or any other document related to the depositary shares constitutes a prospectus in the sense of Article 652a or 1156 CO.

Taiwan

The depositary shares may be made available for purchase outside Taiwan by investors residing in Taiwan (either directly or through properly licensed Taiwan intermediaries acting on behalf of such investors) but may not be offered or sold in Taiwan.

The People s Republic of China

This prospectus supplement and attached prospectus have not been filed with or approved by the People s Republic of China (for such purposes, not including the Hong Kong and Macau Special Administrative Regions or Taiwan) authorities, and is not an offer of securities (whether a public offering or private placement) within the meaning of the Securities Law or other pertinent laws and regulations of the People s Republic of China. This prospectus supplement and attached prospectus shall not be delivered to any party who is not an intended recipient and shall not be distributed to the general public if used within the People s Republic of China, and the depositary shares so offered herein cannot be sold to anyone that is not a qualified purchaser of the People s Republic of China. Each underwriter has represented, warranted and agreed that the depositary shares are not being offered and sold and may not be offered or sold, directly or indirectly, in the People s Republic of China, except under circumstances that will result in compliance with applicable laws and regulations.

United Kingdom

This prospectus supplement and the attached prospectus is only being distributed to, and is only directed at, persons in the United Kingdom that are qualified investors within the meaning of Article 2(1)(e) of the Prospectus Directive that are also (i) investment professionals falling within Article 19(5) of the Financial Services and Markets Act of 2000 (Financial Promotion) Order 2005 (the Order) or (ii) high net worth entities, and other persons to whom it may lawfully be communicated, falling within Article 49(2)(a) to (d) of the Order (all such persons together being referred to as relevant persons). This prospectus supplement and attached prospectus and its contents are confidential and should not be distributed, published or reproduced (in whole or in part) or disclosed by recipients to any other persons in the United Kingdom. Any person in the United Kingdom that is not a relevant person should not act or rely on this document or any of its contents.

United Arab Emirates

This prospectus supplement and the attached prospectus have not been approved or licensed by the Central Bank of the United Arab Emirates (the UAE), Securities and Commodities

Table of Contents

Authority of the UAE (the SCA), the Dubai Financial Services Authority (the DFSA) or any other relevant licensing authority in the UAE. The offer of the depositary shares does not constitute a public offer of securities in the UAE in accordance with relevant laws of the UAE, in particular, the Commercial Companies Law, Federal law No. 8 of 1984 (as amended), SCA Resolution No.(37) of 2012 or otherwise. Accordingly, the depositary shares may not be offered to the public in the UAE (including the Dubai International Financial Centre).

This prospectus supplement and the attached prospectus are strictly private and confidential and are being issued to a limited number of institutional and individual investors:

(a) who qualify as sophisticated investors;

(b) upon their request and confirmation that they understand that the depositary shares have not been approved or licensed by or registered with the UAE Central Bank, the SCA, DFSA or any other relevant licensing authorities or governmental agencies in the UAE; and

(c) must not be provided to any other person other than the original recipient, and may not be reproduced or used for any other purpose. Each underwriter has represented and agreed that it has not and will not offer, sell, transfer or deliver the depositary shares to the public in the UAE.

LEGAL MATTERS

The validity of the Preferred Stock and the related depositary shares will be passed upon for us by McGuireWoods LLP, Charlotte, North Carolina, and for the underwriters by Morrison & Foerster LLP, New York, New York. McGuireWoods LLP regularly performs legal services for Bank of America. Some members of McGuireWoods LLP performing those legal services own shares of the Corporation s common stock.

Table of Contents

PROSPECTUS

$109,857,980,881

Debt Securities, Warrants, Units, Purchase Contracts,

Preferred Stock, Depositary Shares, and Common Stock

We from time to time may offer to sell up to $109,857,980,881, or the equivalent thereof in any other currency, of debt securities, warrants, purchase contracts, preferred stock, depositary shares representing fractional interests in preferred stock, and common stock, as well as units comprised of one or more of these securities or debt or equity securities of third parties, in any combination. The debt securities, warrants, purchase contracts, and preferred stock may be convertible into or exercisable or exchangeable for our common or preferred stock or for debt or equity securities of one or more other entities. Our common stock is listed on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol BAC.

This prospectus describes all material terms of these securities that are known as of the date of this prospectus and the general manner in which we will offer the securities. When we sell a particular issue of securities, we will prepare one or more supplements to this prospectus describing the offering and the specific terms of that issue of securities. You should read this prospectus and any applicable supplement carefully before you invest.

We may use this prospectus in the initial sale of these securities. In addition, Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Incorporated, or any of our other affiliates, may use this prospectus in a market-making transaction in any of these securities after their initial sale. Unless you are informed otherwise in the confirmation of sale, this prospectus is being used in a market-making transaction.

Potential purchasers of our securities should consider the information set forth in the Risk Factors section beginning on page 9.

Our securities are unsecured and are not savings accounts, deposits, or other obligations of a bank, are not guaranteed by Bank of America, N.A. or any other bank, are not insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation or any other governmental agency, and may involve investment risks, including possible loss of principal.

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

Prospectus dated May 1, 2015

Table of Contents

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
About this Prospectus	3
Prospectus Summary	4
Risk Factors	9
Currency Risks	9
Reform of LIBOR and EURIBOR and Proposed Regulation of These and Other Benchmarks	11
Risks Related to our Common Stock and Preferred Stock	13
Other Risks	14
Bank of America Corporation	16
Use of Proceeds	16
Description of Debt Securities	17
General	17
The Indentures	17
Form and Denomination of Debt Securities	18
Different Series of Debt Securities	19
Fixed-Rate Notes	20
Floating-Rate Notes	20
Indexed Notes	28
Floating-Rate/Fixed-Rate/Indexed Notes	29
Original Issue Discount Notes	29
Payment of Principal, Interest, and Other Amounts Due	30
No Sinking Fund	33
Redemption	33
Repayment	34
Repurchase	34
Conversion	34
Exchange, Registration, and Transfer	35
Subordination	35
Sale or Issuance of Capital Stock of Banks	36
Limitation on Mergers and Sales of Assets	37
Waiver of Covenants	37
Modification of the Indentures	37
Meetings and Action by Securityholders	38
Events of Default and Rights of Acceleration	38
Collection of Indebtedness	38
Payment of Additional Amounts	39
Redemption for Tax Reasons	42
Defeasance and Covenant Defeasance	43
Notices	44
Concerning the Trustees	44
Governing Law	44
Description of Warrants	44
General	44
Description of Debt Warrants	44
Description of Universal Warrants	45
Modification	46
Enforceability of Rights of Warrantholders; No Trust Indenture Act Protection	47
Description of Purchase Contracts	47
General	47
Purchase Contract Property	47
Information in Supplement	48
Prepaid Purchase Contracts; Applicability of Indenture	49
Non-Prepaid Purchase Contracts; No Trust Indenture Act Protection	49
Pledge by Holders to Secure Performance	50
Settlement of Purchase Contracts That Are Part of Units	50
Failure of Holder to Perform Obligations	50
	Page
Description of Units	51
General	51
Unit Agreements: Prepaid, Non-Prepaid, and Other	51

Modification 52
Enforceability of Rights of Unitholders; No Trust Indenture Act Protection 52
Description of Preferred Stock 53
General 53
Dividends 54
Voting 54
Liquidation Preference 54
Preemptive Rights 55
Existing Preferred Stock 55
Additional Classes or Series of Stock 85
Description of Depositary Shares 85
General 85
Terms of the Depositary Shares 85
Withdrawal of Preferred Stock 86
Dividends and Other Distributions 86
Redemption of Depositary Shares 86
Voting the Deposited Preferred Stock 87
Amendment and Termination of the Deposit Agreement 87
Charges of Depository 87
Miscellaneous 88
Resignation and Removal of Depository 88
Description of Common Stock 88
General 88
Voting and Other Rights 88
Dividends 89
Certain Anti-Takeover Matters 89
Registration and Settlement 91
Book-Entry Only Issuance 91
Certificated Securities 91
Street Name Owners 92
Legal Holders 92
Special Considerations for Indirect Owners 92
Depositories for Global Securities 93
Special Considerations for Global Securities 97
Registration, Transfer, and Payment of Certificated Securities 98
U.S. Federal Income Tax Considerations 99
Taxation of Debt Securities 100
Taxation of Common Stock, Preferred Stock, and Depositary Shares 115
Taxation of Warrants 121
Taxation of Purchase Contracts 121
Taxation of Units 121
Reportable Transactions 121
Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act 122
EU Directive on the Taxation of Savings Income 123
Plan of Distribution (Conflicts of Interest) 124
Distribution Through Underwriters 124
Distribution Through Dealers 125
Distribution Through Agents 125
Direct Sales 125
General Information 125
Market-Making Transactions by Affiliates 126
Conflicts of Interest 126
ERISA Considerations 128
Where You Can Find More Information 130
Forward-Looking Statements 131
Legal Matters 132
Experts 132

Table of Contents

ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS

This prospectus is part of a registration statement that we filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission, or the SEC, utilizing a shelf registration process. Under this shelf process, we may, from time to time, sell any combination of the securities described in this prospectus or the registration statement in one or more offerings.

This prospectus provides you with all material terms of securities we may offer that are known as of the date of this prospectus and the general manner in which we will offer the securities. Each time we sell securities, we will provide one or more prospectus supplements, product supplements, pricing supplements (each of which we may refer to as a term sheet), and/or index supplements that describe the particular securities offering and the specific terms of the securities being offered. These documents also may add, update, or change information contained in this prospectus. In this prospectus, when we refer to the applicable supplement or the accompanying supplement, we mean the prospectus supplement or supplements, as well as any applicable pricing, product, or index supplements, that describe the particular securities being offered to you. 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.

The information in this prospectus is not complete and may be changed. You should rely only on the information provided in or incorporated by reference in this prospectus, the accompanying supplement, or documents to which we otherwise refer you. We are not making an offer of these securities in any jurisdiction where the offer or sale is not permitted. You should assume that the information appearing in this prospectus and the accompanying supplement, as well as information we have filed or will file with the SEC and incorporated by reference in this prospectus, is accurate as of the date of the applicable document or other date referred to in that document. Our business, financial condition, and results of operations may have changed since that date.

Unless we indicate otherwise or unless the context requires otherwise, all references in this prospectus to Bank of America, we, us, our, or similar references are to Bank of America Corporation excluding its consolidated subsidiaries.

References in this prospectus to $ and dollars are to the currency of the United States of America; and references in this prospectus to and euro are to the currency introduced at the start of the third stage of the European Economic and Monetary Union pursuant to Article 109g of the Treaty establishing the European Community, as amended from time to time.

Table of Contents

PROSPECTUS SUMMARY

This summary section provides a brief overview of all material terms of the securities we may offer that are known as of the date of this prospectus and highlights other selected information from this prospectus. This summary does not contain all the information that you should consider before investing in the securities we may offer using this prospectus. To fully understand the securities we may offer, you should read carefully:

- this prospectus, which explains the general terms of the securities we may offer;
- the applicable supplement, which explains the specific terms of the particular securities we are offering, and which may update or change the information in this prospectus; and
- the documents we refer to in Where You Can Find More Information below for information about us, including our financial statements.

Bank of America Corporation

Bank of America Corporation is a Delaware corporation, a bank holding company, and a financial holding company. Through our banking and various nonbank subsidiaries throughout the U.S. and in international markets, we provide a diversified range of banking and nonbank financial services and products. 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.

The Securities We May Offer

We may use this prospectus to offer up to $109,857,980,881, or the equivalent thereof in any other currency, of any of the following securities from time to time:

- debt securities;
- warrants;
- purchase contracts;
- preferred stock;
- depositary shares representing fractional interests in preferred stock;
- common stock; and
- units, comprised of one or more of any of the securities referred to above or debt or equity securities of third parties, in any combination.

When we use the term securities in this prospectus, we mean any of the securities we may offer with this prospectus, unless we specifically state otherwise. This prospectus, including this summary, describes the general terms of the securities we may offer. Each time we sell securities, we will provide you with the applicable supplement or supplements that will describe the offering and the specific terms of the securities being offered. A supplement may include a discussion of additional U.S. federal income tax consequences and any additional risk factors or other special considerations applicable to those particular securities.

Debt Securities

Our debt securities may be either senior or subordinated obligations in right of payment. Our senior and subordinated debt securities will be issued under separate indentures, or contracts, that

Table of Contents

we have with The Bank of New York Mellon Trust Company, N.A., as successor trustee. The particular terms of each series of debt securities will be described in the applicable supplement.

Warrants

We may offer warrants, including:

- warrants to purchase our debt securities; and
- warrants to purchase or sell, or whose cash value is determined by reference to the performance, level, or value of, one or more of the following:
  - securities of one or more issuers, including our common or preferred stock, other securities described in this prospectus, or the debt or equity securities of third parties;
  - one or more currencies, currency units, or composite currencies;
  - one or more commodities;
  - any other financial, economic, or other measure or instrument, including the occurrence or non-occurrence of any event or circumstance; and
  - one or more indices or baskets of the items described above.

For any warrants we may offer, we will describe in the applicable supplement the underlying property, the expiration date, the exercise price or the manner of determining the exercise price, the amount and kind, or the manner of determining the amount and kind, of property to be delivered by you or us upon exercise, and any other specific terms of the warrants. We will issue warrants under warrant agreements that we will enter into with one or more warrant agents.

Purchase Contracts

We may offer purchase contracts requiring holders to purchase or sell, or whose cash value is determined by reference to the performance, level, or value of, one or more of the following:

- securities of one or more issuers, including our common or preferred stock, other securities described in this prospectus, or the debt or equity securities of third parties;
- one or more currencies, currency units, or composite currencies;
- one or more commodities;

any other financial, economic, or other measure or instrument, including the occurrence or non-occurrence of any event or circumstance; and

one or more indices or baskets of the items described above.

For any purchase contracts we may offer, we will describe in the applicable supplement the underlying property, the settlement date, the purchase price, or manner of determining the purchase price, and whether it must be paid when the purchase contract is issued or at a later date, the amount and kind, or manner of determining the amount and kind, of property to be delivered at settlement, whether the holder will pledge property to secure the performance of any obligations the holder may have under the purchase contract, and any other specific terms of the purchase contracts.

Table of Contents

Units

We may offer units consisting of one or more securities described in this prospectus or debt or equity securities of third parties, in any combination. For any units we may offer, we will describe in the applicable supplement the particular securities that comprise each unit, whether or not the particular securities will be separable and, if they will be separable, the terms on which they will be separable, a description of the provisions for the payment, settlement, transfer, or exchange of the units, and any other specific terms of the units. We will issue units under unit agreements that we will enter into with one or more unit agents.

Preferred Stock and Depositary Shares

We may offer our preferred stock in one or more series. For any particular series we may offer, we will describe in the applicable supplement:

- the specific designation;
- the aggregate number of shares offered;
- the dividend rate and periods, or manner of calculating the dividend rate and periods, if any;
- the stated value and liquidation preference amount, if any;
- the voting rights, if any;
- the terms on which the series of preferred stock is convertible into shares of our common stock, preferred stock of another series, or other securities, if any;
- the redemption terms, if any; and
- any other specific terms of the series.

We also may offer depositary shares, each of which will represent a fractional interest in a share or multiple shares of our preferred stock. We will describe in the applicable supplement any specific terms of the depositary shares. We will issue the depositary shares under deposit agreements that we will enter into with one or more depositories.

Form of Securities

Unless we specify otherwise in the applicable supplement, we will issue the securities in book-entry only form through one or more depositories, such as The Depository Trust Company, Euroclear Bank SA/NV, or Clearstream Banking, société anonyme, Luxembourg, as identified in the applicable supplement. We will issue the securities only in registered form, without coupons, although we may issue the securities in bearer form if we so specify in the applicable supplement. The securities issued in book-entry only form will be uncertificated or will be represented by a global security registered in the name of the specified depository, rather than certificated securities in definitive form registered in the name of each individual investor. Unless we specify otherwise in the applicable supplement, each sale of securities in book-entry form will settle in immediately available funds through the specified depository.

A global security may be exchanged for certificated securities in definitive form registered in the names of the beneficial owners only under the limited circumstances described in this prospectus.

6

Table of Contents

Payment Currencies

All amounts payable in respect of the securities, including the purchase price, will be payable in U.S. dollars, unless we specify otherwise in the applicable supplement.

Listing

We will state in the applicable supplement whether the particular securities that we are offering will be listed or quoted on a securities exchange or quotation system.

Distribution

We may offer the securities under this prospectus:

through underwriters;

through dealers;

through agents; or

directly to purchasers.

The applicable supplement will include any required information about the firms we use and the discounts or commissions we may pay them for their services.

Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Incorporated, or any of our other affiliates, may be an underwriter, dealer, or agent for us.

Market-Making by Our Affiliates

Following the initial distribution of an offering of securities, Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Incorporated, and other affiliates of ours may offer and sell those securities in the course of their businesses as broker-dealers. Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Incorporated and any such other affiliates may act as a principal or agent in these transactions. This prospectus and the applicable supplement or supplements also will be used in connection with these market-making transactions. Sales in any of these market-making transactions will be made at varying prices related to prevailing market prices and other circumstances at the time of sale.

If you purchase securities in a market-making transaction, you will receive information about the purchase price and your trade and settlement dates in a separate confirmation of sale.

Table of Contents

Ratio of Earnings to Fixed Charges and Ratio of Earnings to Fixed Charges and Preferred Dividends

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

	Three Months Ended March 31, 2015	Year Ended December 31				
		2014	2013	2012	2011	2010
Ratio of earnings to fixed charges (excluding interest on deposits)[1]	2.86	1.61	2.29	1.21	1.02	.99
Ratio of earnings to fixed charges (including interest on deposits)[1]	2.71	1.55	2.16	1.18	1.02	1.00
Ratio of earnings to fixed charges and preferred dividends (excluding interest on deposits) [1]	2.36	1.42	2.01	1.13	1.02	.96
Ratio of earnings to fixed charges and preferred dividends (including interest on deposits) [1]	2.27	1.38	1.92	1.12	1.02	.96

[1] The earnings for 2010 were inadequate to cover fixed charges, and fixed charges and preferred dividends. 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 and the coverage deficiency for fixed charges and preferred dividends was $915 million for 2010.

Table of Contents

RISK FACTORS

This section summarizes some specific risks and investment considerations with respect to an investment in our securities. This summary does not describe all of the risks and investment considerations with respect to an investment in our securities, including risks and considerations relating to a prospective investor s particular circumstances. For information regarding 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 that are incorporated by reference in this prospectus. You should also review the risk factors that will be set forth in other documents that we will file after the date of this prospectus, together with the risk factors set forth in any applicable supplement. Prospective investors should consult their own financial, legal, tax, and other professional advisors as to the risks associated with an investment in our securities and the suitability of the investment for the investor.

Currency Risks

We may issue securities denominated in or whose principal and/or interest is payable in a currency other than U.S. dollars, which we refer to as Non-U.S. Dollar-Denominated Securities. If you intend to invest in any Non-U.S. Dollar-Denominated Securities, you should consult your own financial and legal advisors as to the currency risks related to your investment. The Non-U.S. Dollar-Denominated Securities are not an appropriate investment for you if you are not knowledgeable about the significant terms and conditions of the Non-U.S. Dollar-Denominated Securities, non-U.S. dollar currency transactions, or financial matters in general. The information in this prospectus is directed primarily to investors who are U.S. residents. Investors who are not U.S. residents should consult their own financial and legal advisors about currency-related risks arising from their investment.

An investment in a Non-U.S. Dollar-Denominated Security involves currency-related risks. An investment in a Non-U.S. Dollar-Denominated Security entails significant risks that are not associated with a similar investment in a security that is payable solely in U.S. dollars. These risks include possible significant changes in rates of exchange between the U.S. dollar and the relevant non-U.S. dollar currency or currencies and the imposition or modification of foreign exchange controls or other conditions by either the United States or non-U.S. governments. These risks generally depend on factors over which we have no control, such as economic and political events and the supply of and demand for the relevant currencies in the global markets.

Changes in currency exchange rates can be volatile and may adversely affect an investment in Non-U.S. Dollar-Denominated Securities. In recent years, exchange rates between the U.S. dollar and other currencies have been highly volatile. This volatility may continue and could spread to other currencies in the future. Fluctuations in currency exchange rates could affect adversely an investment in a Non-U.S. Dollar-Denominated Security, and such changes in exchange rates may vary considerably during the life of that security. Depreciation of the specified currency against the U.S. dollar could result in a decrease in the U.S. dollar-equivalent value of payments on the Non-U.S. Dollar-Denominated Securities, including the principal payable at maturity or the redemption amount payable upon those securities. That in turn could cause the market value of the Non-U.S. Dollar-Denominated Securities to fall.

We will not adjust Non-U.S. Dollar-Denominated Securities to compensate for changes in foreign currency exchange rates. Except as described below or in a supplement, we will not make any adjustment in or change to the terms of the Non-U.S. Dollar-Denominated

Table of Contents

Securities for changes in the foreign currency exchange rate for the relevant currency, including any devaluation, revaluation, or imposition of exchange or other regulatory controls or taxes, or for other developments affecting that currency, the U.S. dollar, or any other currency. Consequently, you will bear the risk that your investment may be affected adversely by these types of events.

Government policy can adversely affect foreign currency exchange rates and an investment in a Non-U.S. Dollar-Denominated Security. Foreign currency exchange rates either can float or be fixed by sovereign governments. Governments or governmental bodies, including the European Central Bank, may intervene from time to time in their economies to alter the exchange rate or exchange characteristics of their currencies. For example, a central bank may intervene to devalue or revalue a currency or to replace an existing currency. In addition, a government may impose regulatory controls or taxes to affect the exchange rate of its currency or may issue a new currency or replace an existing currency. As a result, the yield or payout of a Non-U.S. Dollar-Denominated Security could be affected significantly and unpredictably by governmental actions. Even in the absence of governmental action directly affecting currency exchange rates, political or economic developments in the country or region issuing the specified currency for a Non-U.S. Dollar-Denominated Security or elsewhere could result in significant and sudden changes in the exchange rate between the U.S. dollar and the specified currency. Changes in exchange rates could affect the value of the Non- U.S. Dollar-Denominated Securities as participants in the global currency markets move to buy or sell the specified currency or U.S. dollars in reaction to these developments.

If a governmental authority imposes exchange controls or other conditions, such as taxes on the exchange or transfer of the specified currency, there may be limited availability of the specified currency for payment on the Non-U.S. Dollar-Denominated Securities at their maturity or on any other payment date. In addition, the ability of a holder to move currency freely out of the country in which payment in the currency is received or to convert the currency at a freely determined market rate could be limited by governmental actions.

Non-U.S. Dollar-Denominated Securities may permit us to make payments in U.S. dollars if we are unable to obtain the specified currency. The terms of any Non-U.S. Dollar-Denominated Securities may provide that we may have the right to make a payment in U.S. dollars instead of the specified currency, if at or about the time when the payment on the Non-U.S. Dollar-Denominated Securities comes due, the specified currency is subject to convertibility, transferability, market disruption, or other conditions affecting its availability because of circumstances beyond our control. These circumstances could include the imposition of exchange controls, our inability to obtain the specified currency because of a disruption in the currency markets for the specified currency, or unavailability because the specified currency is no longer used by the government of the relevant country or for settlement of transactions by public institutions of or within the international banking community. The exchange rate used to make payment in U.S. dollars may be based on limited information and would involve significant discretion on the part of our exchange rate agent who may be one of our affiliates. As a result, the value of the payment in U.S. dollars may be less than the value of the payment you would have received in the specified currency if the specified currency had been available. The exchange rate agent will generally not have any liability for its determinations.

An investor may bear foreign currency exchange risk in a lawsuit for payment on Non-U.S. Dollar-Denominated Securities. Any Non-U.S. Dollar-Denominated Securities typically will be governed by New York law. Under Section 27 of the New York Judiciary Law, a state court in the State of New York rendering a judgment on the Non-U.S. Dollar-Denominated Debt Securities would be required to render the judgment in the specified currency. In turn, the judgment would be converted into U.S. dollars at the exchange rate prevailing on the date of entry

Table of Contents

of the judgment. Consequently, in a lawsuit for payment on the Non-U.S. Dollar-Denominated Securities, you would bear currency exchange risk until judgment is entered, which could be a long time.

In courts outside of New York, you may not be able to obtain judgment in a specified currency other than U.S. dollars. For example, a judgment for money in an action based on Non-U.S. Dollar-Denominated Securities in many other U.S. federal or state courts ordinarily would be enforced in the United States only in U.S. dollars. The date and method used to determine the rate of conversion of the specified currency into U.S. dollars will depend on various factors, including which court renders the judgment.

Information about foreign currency exchange rates may not be indicative of future performance. If we issue a Non-U.S. Dollar-Denominated Security, we may include in the applicable supplement information about historical exchange rates for the relevant non-U.S. dollar currency or currencies. Any information about exchange rates that we may provide will be furnished as a matter of information only, and you should not regard the information as indicative of the range of, or trends in, fluctuations in currency exchange rates that may occur in the future.

Reform of LIBOR and EURIBOR and Proposed Regulation of These and Other Benchmarks

The London Interbank Offered Rate (LIBOR), the Euro Interbank Offered Rate (EURIBOR), and other indices which are deemed benchmarks are the subject of recent national, international, and other regulatory guidance and proposals for reform. Some of these reforms are already effective while others are still to be implemented. These reforms may cause such benchmarks to perform differently than in the past, or have other consequences which cannot be predicted.

In September 2012, the U.K. government published the results of its review of LIBOR (commonly referred to as the Wheatley Review). The Wheatley Review made a number of recommendations for changes with respect to LIBOR including the introduction of statutory regulation of LIBOR, the transfer of responsibility for LIBOR from the British Bankers Association to an independent administrator, changes to the method of compilation of lending rates and new regulatory oversight and enforcement mechanisms for rate-setting. Based on the Wheatley Review, final rules for the regulation and supervision of LIBOR by the Financial Conduct Authority (the FCA) were published and came into effect on April 2, 2013 (the FCA Rules). In particular, the FCA Rules include requirements that (i) an independent LIBOR administrator monitor and survey LIBOR submissions to identify breaches of practice standards and/or potentially manipulative behavior, and (ii) firms submitting data to LIBOR establish and maintain a clear conflicts of interest policy and appropriate systems and controls. In response to the Wheatley Review recommendations, ICE Benchmark Administration Limited (the ICE Administration) has been appointed as the independent LIBOR administrator, effective February 1, 2014.

It is not possible to predict the effect of the FCA Rules, any changes in the methods pursuant to which the LIBOR rates are determined, and any other reforms to LIBOR that will be enacted in the U.K., which may adversely affect the trading market for LIBOR-based securities. In addition, any changes announced by the FCA, the ICE Administration, or any other successor governance or oversight body in the method pursuant to which the LIBOR rates are determined may result in a sudden or prolonged decrease (or increase) in the reported LIBOR rates. If that were to occur, the level of interest payments on and the trading value of LIBOR-based securities may be adversely affected. Further, uncertainty as to the extent and manner in which the Wheatley Review recommendations will continue to be adopted and the timing of such changes may adversely affect the current trading market for LIBOR-based securities.

Table of Contents

At an international level, proposals for the reform of benchmarks include (i) IOSCO s Principles for Financial Market Benchmarks (July 2013), (ii) ESMA-EBA s Principles for the benchmark-setting process (June 2013), and (iii) the European Commission s proposed regulation on indices used as benchmarks in certain financial instruments, financial contracts and investment funds (September 2013) (the Proposed Benchmark Regulation).

The Proposed Benchmark Regulation, if passed in its current form, would apply to contributors, administrators and users of benchmarks in the European Union, and would, among other things, (i) require benchmark administrators to be authorized (or, if non-European Union-based, to be subject to an equivalent regulatory regime) and to comply with extensive requirements in relation to the administration of benchmarks and (ii) ban the use of benchmarks of unauthorized administrators. The scope of the Proposed Benchmark Regulation is wide and, in addition to so-called critical benchmark indices such as LIBOR and EURIBOR, could also potentially apply to many interest rate and foreign exchange rate indices, equity indices, and other indices (including proprietary indices or strategies) where referenced in financial instruments, financial contracts, and investment funds.

It is presently unclear whether the Proposed Benchmark Regulation will be passed in its current form (and in particular, whether it will have the broad scope currently envisaged) and, if so, when it would become effective. However, if so enacted, it could potentially have a material impact on any securities based on or linked to a benchmark index in a range of circumstances including, without limitation, where:

- the administrator of an index which is a benchmark relating to a series of securities does not have or obtain or ceases to have the appropriate European Union authorizations in order to operate such a benchmark or is based in a non-European Union jurisdiction which does not have equivalent regulation. In such an event, depending on the particular benchmark and the applicable terms of the securities, the securities could be de-listed (if listed) or may otherwise be adversely affected; and

- the methodology or other terms of the benchmark relating to a series of securities is changed in order to comply with the terms of the Proposed Benchmark Regulation, and such changes have the effect of reducing or increasing the published rate or level of the benchmark or of affecting the volatility of such published rate or level, or otherwise result in an adverse effect on the trading market for, return on or the value of the relevant securities.

More broadly, the FCA Rules, the Proposed Benchmark Regulation, and any of the other international, national, or other proposals for reform or general increased regulatory scrutiny of benchmarks could have a material adverse effect on the costs and risks of administering or otherwise participating in the setting of a benchmark and complying with any such regulations or requirements. Such factors may have the effect of discouraging market participants from continuing to administer or participate in certain benchmarks, trigger changes in the rules or methodologies used in the determination of certain benchmarks, or may even lead to the disappearance of certain benchmarks. The disappearance of, or uncertainty relating to the continued existence of, a benchmark or changes in the manner of determination of or administration of a benchmark may adversely affect the trading market for, return on, or value of benchmark -based securities.

In addition to the international proposals for the reform of benchmarks described above, there are numerous other proposals, initiatives, and investigations which may impact the use and regulation of benchmarks. For example, there are ongoing global investigations into the setting of foreign exchange rate benchmarks, which may result in further regulation around the setting of foreign exchange rates.

Table of Contents

Any of the above changes or any other consequential changes to LIBOR, EURIBOR, or any other benchmark as a result of U.K., European Union, or other international, national, or other proposals for reform or other initiatives or investigations, or any further uncertainty in relation to the timing and manner of implementation of such changes could have a material adverse effect on the value of and return on any securities based on or linked to a benchmark.

Risks Related to Our Common Stock and Preferred Stock

You may not receive dividends on our common stock. Holders of our common stock are only entitled to receive such dividends as our board of directors may declare out of funds legally available for such payments. Furthermore, holders of our common stock are subject to the prior dividend rights of holders of our preferred stock or the depositary shares representing such preferred stock then outstanding. Although we have historically declared cash dividends on our common stock, we are not required to do so and may reduce or eliminate our common stock dividend in the future.

Our common stock is equity and is subordinate to our existing and future indebtedness and preferred stock. Shares of our common stock are equity interests in us and do not constitute indebtedness. This means that shares of our common stock will rank junior to all of our indebtedness and to other non-equity claims against us and our assets available to satisfy claims against us, including claims in our liquidation. Additionally, holders of our common stock are subject to the prior dividend and liquidation rights of holders of our outstanding preferred stock or depositary shares representing interests in such preferred stock then outstanding. Our board of directors is authorized to issue additional classes or series of preferred stock without any action on the part of the holders of our common stock. As of March 31, 2015, the aggregate liquidation preference of all our outstanding preferred stock was approximately $24.6 billion.

Our preferred stock is equity and is subordinate to our existing and future indebtedness. Shares of our preferred stock are equity interests in us and do not constitute indebtedness. This means that shares of our preferred stock and any depositary shares which represent interests in shares of our preferred stock will rank junior to all of our indebtedness and to other non-equity claims against us and our assets available to satisfy claims against us, including claims in our liquidation. Our existing and future indebtedness may restrict payment of dividends on our preferred stock. In addition, holders of our preferred stock or depositary shares representing interests in shares of our preferred stock 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.

Cash dividends on our preferred stock are subject to certain limitations. Unlike indebtedness, where principal and interest customarily are payable on specified due dates, in the case of our preferred stock (1) dividends are payable only when, as and if declared by our board of directors or a duly authorized committee of the board and (2) as a corporation, we are restricted to making dividend payments and redemption payments out of legally available funds. In addition, under the Federal Reserve Board s risk-based capital rules related to additional Tier 1 capital instruments, dividends on our preferred stock may only be paid out of our net income, retained earnings or surplus related to other additional Tier 1 capital instruments.

Our ability to pay dividends on our common stock and preferred stock may be limited by extensive and changing regulatory considerations. We and our broker-dealer, bank, and other subsidiaries are subject to extensive laws, regulations, and rules, both in the U.S. and internationally, that may limit directly or indirectly the payment of dividends on our common stock and preferred stock. U.S. federal banking regulators are authorized to determine,

Table of Contents

under certain circumstances relating to the financial condition of a bank or a bank holding company, like Bank of America Corporation, that the payment of dividends would be an unsafe or unsound practice and to prohibit payment of those dividends. For instance, Federal Reserve Board regulations require us to submit a capital plan as part of an annual Comprehensive Capital Analysis and Review in order to assess our capital planning process, including any planned capital actions, such as payment of dividends on common stock and common stock repurchases. Furthermore, many rules and regulations are in proposed form and subject to periods of significant comment and further revisions. As a result, there is considerable uncertainty about what the final versions of these proposed rules and regulations will be or the impact they may have on us and our subsidiaries. While we closely monitor various regulatory developments and intend to manage our assets and liabilities and our operations to comply with new laws, regulations, and rules at the time they become effective, there is no assurance that we will be compliant with all such laws, regulations, and rules at such times and a failure to be so compliant could adversely affect our ability to pay dividends on our common stock and preferred stock.

If we are deferring payments on our outstanding junior subordinated notes or are in default under the indentures governing those securities, we will be prohibited from making distributions on our common stock and preferred stock, or redeeming our preferred stock. The terms of our outstanding junior subordinated notes prohibit us from declaring or paying any dividends or distributions on our common stock and preferred stock, or redeeming, purchasing, acquiring, or making a liquidation payment on such stock, if we are aware of any event that would be an event of default under the indenture governing those junior subordinated notes or at any time when we have deferred payment of interest on those junior subordinated notes.

Other Risks

Our ability to pay dividends on our common stock and preferred stock and to make payments on our other securities 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 dividend payments on our common stock and preferred stock and to fund all payments on our other obligations, including debt obligations. 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 securities.

Our obligations on the securities 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 securities will be structurally subordinated to all existing and future liabilities of our subsidiaries, and claimants should look only to our assets for payments.

We cannot assure you that a trading market for your securities will ever develop or be maintained. We may not list our securities on any securities exchange. We cannot predict how these securities will trade in the secondary market or whether that market will be liquid or illiquid. The number of potential buyers of our securities in any secondary market may be limited. Although

Table of Contents

any underwriters or agents may purchase and sell our securities in the secondary market from time to time, these underwriters or agents will not be obligated to do so and may discontinue making a market for the securities at any time without giving us notice. We cannot assure you that a secondary market for any of our securities will develop, or that if one develops, it will be maintained.

Redemption of the securities prior to maturity may result in a reduced return on your investment. The terms of our securities may permit or require redemption of the securities prior to maturity. That redemption may occur at a time when prevailing interest rates are relatively low. As a result, in the case of debt or similar securities, a holder of the redeemed securities may not be able to invest the redemption proceeds in a new investment that yields a similar return.

Payments on the securities are subject to our credit risk, and actual or perceived changes in our creditworthiness may affect the 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 our securities. However, because the return on our securities generally 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 our securities.

Table of Contents

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 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 securities 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 reductions, redemptions, or repurchases of outstanding indebtedness;
- possible repayments on outstanding indebtedness;
- the possible acquisitions of, or investments in, other financial institutions or other businesses; 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 securities.

Table of Contents

DESCRIPTION OF DEBT SECURITIES

General

We may issue senior or subordinated debt securities. Neither the senior debt securities nor the subordinated debt securities will be secured by any of our property or assets. As a result, by owning a debt security, you are one of our unsecured creditors.

The senior debt securities will constitute part of our senior debt, will be issued under our senior debt indenture described below, and will rank equally with all of our other unsecured and unsubordinated debt.

The subordinated debt securities will constitute part of our subordinated debt, will be issued under our subordinated debt indenture described below, and will be subordinated in right of payment to all of our senior indebtedness, as defined in the subordinated debt indenture. Neither the senior debt indenture nor the subordinated debt indenture limits our ability to incur additional senior indebtedness.

The Indentures

The senior debt securities and the subordinated debt securities each are governed by a document called an indenture, which is a contract between us and the applicable trustee. Senior debt securities will be issued under the Indenture dated as of January 1, 1995 (as supplemented, the Senior Indenture) between us and The Bank of New York Mellon Trust Company, N.A., as successor trustee, and subordinated debt securities will be issued under the Indenture dated as of January 1, 1995 (as supplemented, the Subordinated Indenture) between us and The Bank of New York Mellon Trust Company, N.A., as successor trustee. The indentures are substantially identical, except for:

- the covenant described below under Sale or Issuance of Capital Stock of Banks, which is included only in the Senior Indenture;
- the provisions relating to subordination described below under Subordination, which are included only in the Subordinated Indenture; and
- the events of default described below under Events of Default and Rights of Acceleration, many of which are not included in the Subordinated Indenture.

In this prospectus, when we refer to debt securities, we mean both our senior debt securities and our subordinated debt securities, and when we refer to the indenture or the trustee with respect to any debt securities, we mean the indenture under which those debt securities are issued and the trustee under that indenture.

The trustee under each indenture has two principal functions:

First, the trustee can enforce your rights against us if we default. However, there are limitations on the extent to which the trustee may act on your behalf, which we describe below under Collection of Indebtedness.

Second, the trustee performs administrative duties for us, including the delivery of interest payments and notices.

Table of Contents

Neither indenture limits the aggregate amount of debt securities that we may issue or the number of series or the aggregate amount of any particular series. The indentures and the debt securities also do not limit our ability to incur other indebtedness or to issue other securities. This means that we may issue additional debt securities and other securities at any time without your consent and without notifying you. In addition, neither indenture contains provisions protecting holders against a decline in our credit quality resulting from takeovers, recapitalizations, the incurrence of additional indebtedness, or restructuring. If our credit quality declines as a result of an event of this type, or otherwise, any ratings of our debt securities then outstanding may be withdrawn or downgraded.

This section is a summary of the general terms and provisions of the indentures. We have filed the indentures with the SEC as exhibits to the registration statement of which this prospectus forms a part. See Where You Can Find More Information below for information on how to obtain copies of the indentures. Whenever we refer to the defined terms of the indentures in this prospectus or in a supplement without defining them, the terms have the meanings given to them in the indentures. You must look to the indentures for the most complete description of the information summarized in this prospectus.

Form and Denomination of Debt Securities

Unless we specify otherwise in the applicable supplement, we will issue each debt security in book-entry form. Debt securities in book-entry form will be represented by a global security registered in the name of a depository. Accordingly, the depository will be the holder of all the debt securities represented by the global security. Those who own beneficial interests in a global security will do so through participants in the depository s securities clearing system, and the rights of these indirect owners will be governed solely by the applicable procedures of the depository and its participants. We describe the procedures applicable to book-entry securities below under the heading Registration and Settlement.

Generally, all securities represented by the same global security will have the same terms. We may, however, issue a global security that represents multiple debt securities that have different terms and are issued at different times. We call this kind of global security a master global security. Your prospectus supplement will not indicate whether your debt securities are represented by a master global security.

Unless we specify otherwise in the applicable supplement, we will issue our debt securities in fully registered form, without coupons. If we issue a debt security in bearer form, we will describe the special considerations applicable to bearer securities in the applicable supplement. Some of the features that we describe in this prospectus may not apply to the bearer securities.

Our debt securities may be denominated, and cash payments with respect to the debt securities may be made, in U.S. dollars or in another currency, or in a composite currency, a basket of currencies, or a currency unit or units. Unless we specify otherwise in the applicable supplement, the debt securities will be denominated, and cash payments with respect to the debt securities will be made, in U.S. dollars, and the debt securities ordinarily will be issued in denominations of $1,000 and multiples of $1,000 in excess of $1,000. We may also issue debt securities that are denominated in units of $10. If any of the debt securities are denominated, or if principal, any premium, interest, and any other amounts payable on any of the debt securities is payable, in a foreign currency, or in a composite currency, a basket of currencies, or a currency unit or units, the specified currency, as well as any additional investment considerations, risk factors, restrictions, tax consequences, specific terms and other information relating to that issue of debt securities and

Table of Contents

the specified currency, composite currency, basket of currencies, or currency unit or units, may be described in the applicable supplement. We describe some of those investment considerations relating to securities denominated or payable in a currency other than U.S. dollars above under the heading Risk Factors.

Different Series of Debt Securities

We may issue our debt securities from time to time in one or more series with the same or different maturities. We also may reopen a series of our debt securities. This means that we can increase the principal amount of a series of our debt securities by selling additional debt securities with the same terms, provided that such additional notes shall be fungible for U.S. federal income tax purposes. We may do so without notice to the existing holders of securities of that series. However, any new securities of this kind may begin to bear interest at a different date.

This section of the prospectus summarizes the material terms of the debt securities that are common to all series. We will describe the financial and other specific terms of the series of debt securities being offered in the applicable supplement. The supplement also may describe any differences from the material terms described in this prospectus. If there are any differences between the applicable supplement and this prospectus, the applicable supplement will control.

The terms of your series of debt securities as described in the applicable supplement may include the following:

- the title and type of the debt securities;
- the principal amount of the debt securities;
- the minimum denominations, if other than $1,000 and multiples of $1,000 in excess of $1,000;
- the percentage of the stated principal amount at which the debt securities will be sold and, if applicable, the method of determining the price;
- the person to whom interest is payable, if other than the owner of the debt securities;
- the maturity date or dates;
- the interest rate or rates, which may be fixed or variable, and the method used to calculate that interest;
- any index or other reference asset or assets that will be used to determine the amounts of any payments on the debt securities and the manner in which those amounts will be determined;
- the interest payment dates, the regular record dates for the interest payment dates, the date interest will begin to accrue, and the applicable business day convention;
- the place or places where payments on the debt securities may be made and the place or places where the debt securities may be presented for registration of transfer or exchange;

any date or dates after which the debt securities may be redeemed, repurchased, or repaid in whole or in part at our option or the option of the holder, and the periods, prices, terms, and conditions of that redemption, repurchase, or repayment;

Table of Contents

if other than the full principal amount, the portion of the principal amount of the debt securities that will be payable if their maturity is accelerated;

the currency of principal, any premium, interest, and any other amounts payable on the debt securities, if other than U.S. dollars;

if the debt securities will be issued in other than book-entry form;

the identification of or method of selecting any calculation agents, exchange rate agents, or any other agents for the debt securities;

any provisions for the discharge of our obligations relating to the debt securities by the deposit of funds or U.S. government obligations;

any provisions relating to the extension or renewal of the maturity date of the debt securities;

whether the debt securities will be listed on any securities exchange; or

any other terms of the debt securities that are permitted under the applicable indenture.

Fixed-Rate Notes

General. We may issue debt securities that bear interest at one or more fixed rates of interest, as specified in the applicable supplement. We refer to these as fixed-rate notes. Unless we specify otherwise in the applicable supplement, each fixed-rate note will bear interest from its original issue date or from the most recent date to which interest on the note has been paid or made available for payment. Interest will accrue on the principal of a fixed-rate note at the fixed annual rate stated in the applicable supplement, until the principal is paid or made available for payment or the note is converted or exchanged.

Unless we specify otherwise in the applicable supplement, we will pay interest on any fixed-rate note quarterly, semi-annually, or annually, as applicable, in arrears, on the days set forth in the applicable supplement (each such day being an interest payment date for a fixed-rate note) and at maturity. 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. Unless we specify otherwise in the applicable supplement, interest on fixed-rate notes will be computed and paid on the basis of a 360-day year consisting of twelve 30-day months, which we may refer to as the 30/360 day count convention. We will make payments on fixed-rate notes as described below under the heading Payment of Principal, Interest, and Other Amounts Due.

Amortizing Notes. We also may issue amortizing notes, which are fixed-rate notes for which combined principal and interest payments are made in installments over the life of the debt security. Payments on amortizing notes are applied first to interest due and then to the reduction of the unpaid principal amount. The supplement for an amortizing note will include a table setting forth repayment information.

Floating-Rate Notes

General. We may issue debt securities that will 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

Table of Contents

rate formulae, referred to as the base rate. We refer to these debt securities as floating-rate notes. The base rate may be one or more of the following:

- the federal funds rate, in which case the debt security will be a federal funds rate note ;
- the London interbank offered rate, in which case the debt security will be a LIBOR note ;
- the euro interbank offered rate, in which case the debt security will be a EURIBOR note ;
- the prime rate, in which case the debt security will be a prime rate note ;
- the treasury rate, in which case the debt security will be a treasury rate note ; or
- any other interest rate formula as may be specified in the applicable supplement.

The interest rate for a floating-rate note will be determined by reference to:

- the specified base rate based on the index maturity;
- plus or minus the spread, if any; and/or
- multiplied by the spread multiplier, if any.

For any floating-rate note, the index maturity is the period to maturity of the instrument for which the interest rate basis is calculated and will be specified in the applicable supplement. 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 may 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, on the interest that may accrue during any interest period;
- a minimum interest rate limit, or floor, on the interest that may accrue during any interest period; or
- both.

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.

Unless we specify otherwise in the applicable supplement, each floating-rate note will bear interest from its original issue date or from the most recent date to which interest on the note has been paid or made available for payment. Interest will accrue on the principal of a floating-rate note at the annual rate determined according to the interest rate formula stated in the applicable supplement, until the principal is paid or made available for payment. Unless we specify otherwise

Table of Contents

in the applicable supplement, we will pay interest on any floating-rate note monthly, quarterly, semi-annually, or annually, as applicable, in arrears, on the days set forth in the applicable supplement (each such day being an interest payment date for a floating-rate note) and at maturity. 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). Interest payment dates and interest periods may be adjusted in accordance with the business day convention (as described below under Payment of Principal, Interest, and Other Amounts Due Business Day Conventions) specified in the applicable supplement. We will make payments on floating-rate notes as described below under the heading Payment of Principal, Interest, and Other Amounts Due.

How Interest Is Reset. The interest rate in effect from the date of issue to the first interest reset date for a floating-rate note will be the initial interest rate determined as described in the applicable supplement. 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. We refer to each date on which the interest rate for a floating-rate note will reset as an interest reset date.

The interest determination date for any interest reset date is the day the calculation agent will refer to when determining the new interest rate at which a floating rate will reset. Unless we specify otherwise 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 (as defined below) preceding the interest reset date unless the index currency is pounds sterling, in which case the interest determination date will be the interest reset date;
- for a EURIBOR note, the second TARGET Settlement Date (as defined below) 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 described below) of the applicable index maturity would normally be auctioned; and
- for a floating-rate note with 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 on which each applicable base rate is determinable.

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. If Treasury bills are sold at an auction that falls on a day that is an interest reset date, that interest reset date will be the next following business day unless we specify otherwise in the applicable supplement.

Table of Contents

We will specify the interest reset dates in the applicable supplement. Interest reset dates may be adjusted in accordance with the business day convention (as described below under Payment of Principal, Interest, and Other Amounts Due Business Day Conventions) specified in the applicable supplement.

Calculation of Interest. Calculations relating to floating-rate notes will be made by the calculation agent, which will be an institution that we appoint as our agent for this purpose. The calculation agent may be one of our affiliates, including Bank of America, N.A., Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Incorporated, Merrill Lynch Commodities, Inc., or Merrill Lynch Capital Services, Inc. and may also be The Bank of New York Mellon Trust Company, N.A. We will identify in the applicable supplement the calculation agent we have appointed for a particular series of debt securities as of its original issue date. We may appoint different calculation agents from time to time after the original issue date of a floating-rate note without your consent and without notifying you of the change. Absent manifest error, all determinations of the calculation agent will be final and binding on you, the trustee and us.

For each floating-rate note, the calculation agent will determine, on the corresponding calculation or interest determination date, the interest rate for the applicable interest period. In addition, the calculation agent will calculate the amount of interest that has accrued during each interest period. Unless we specify otherwise 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 we specify otherwise in the applicable supplement, the calculation date pertaining to an interest determination date will be the earlier of:

- the tenth calendar day after that interest determination date or, if that day is not a business day, the next succeeding business day; or
- the business day immediately preceding the applicable interest payment date, the maturity date, or the date of redemption or prepayment, as the case may be.

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 on the basis of:

- a 360-day year of twelve 30-day months if the day count convention specified in the applicable supplement is 30/360 ;
- the actual number of days in the relevant period divided by 360 if the day count convention specified in the applicable supplement is Actual/360 ; or
- the actual number of days in the relevant period divided by 365, or in the case of an interest payment date falling in a leap year, 366, if the day count convention specified in the applicable supplement is Actual/Actual.

If no day count convention is specified 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, EURIBOR notes, prime rate notes, or any other floating-rate notes other than treasury rate notes, on the basis of the actual number of days in the relevant period divided by 360; and

Table of Contents

for treasury rate notes, on the basis of the actual number of days in the relevant period divided by 365 or 366, as applicable.

All amounts used in or resulting from any calculation on floating-rate notes will be rounded to the nearest cent, in the case of U.S. dollars, or to the nearest corresponding hundredth of a unit, in the case of a currency other than U.S. dollars, with one-half cent or one-half of a corresponding hundredth of a unit or more 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 of the base rates 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 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 already determined, the interest rate that is to take effect on the next interest reset date.

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 or any index currency, as specified in the applicable supplement.

LIBOR for any interest determination date will be the arithmetic mean of the offered rates for deposits in the relevant index currency 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 LIBOR 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, to provide their offered quotations for deposits in the relevant index currency 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, or if the relevant index currency is not U.S. dollars, the principal financial center of the country issuing the index currency. On the

Table of Contents

interest reset date, those three banks will be requested by the calculation agent to provide their offered quotations for loans in the relevant index currency 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 time (or the time in the relevant principal financial center). The calculation agent will determine LIBOR as the arithmetic mean of those quotations.

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

Principal financial center means, unless we specify otherwise in the applicable supplement, the capital city of the country to which the index currency relates, except for U.S. dollars, Australian dollars, Canadian dollars, South African rand, and Swiss francs, for which the principal financial center is New York, Sydney and Melbourne, Toronto, Johannesburg, and Zurich, respectively.

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.

EURIBOR Notes. Each EURIBOR note will bear interest at the EURIBOR base rate, adjusted by any spread or spread multiplier, as specified in the applicable supplement.

EURIBOR, for any interest determination date, will mean the rate for deposits in euro as sponsored, calculated, and published jointly by the European Banking Federation and ACI The Financial Markets Association, or any company established by the joint sponsors for purposes of compiling and publishing those rates, having the index maturity specified in the applicable supplement, as that rate appears on Reuters page EURIBOR01, referred to as Reuters Page EURIBOR01, as of 11:00 A.M., Brussels time.

The following procedures will be followed if EURIBOR cannot be determined as described above:

If no offered rate appears on Reuters Page EURIBOR01 on an interest determination date at approximately 11:00 A.M., Brussels time, then the calculation agent will request four major banks in the Eurozone interbank market selected and identified by us to provide a quotation of the rate at which deposits in euro having the index maturity specified in the applicable supplement are offered to prime banks in the Eurozone interbank market, and in a principal amount not less than the equivalent of 1,000,000, that is representative of a single transaction in euro in that market at that time. If at least two quotations are provided, EURIBOR will be the average of those quotations.

If fewer than two quotations are provided, then the calculation agent will request four major banks in the Eurozone interbank market selected and identified by us to provide a quotation of the rate offered by them, at approximately 11:00 A.M., Brussels time, on the interest determination date, for loans in euro to prime banks in the Eurozone interbank market for a period of time equivalent to the index maturity specified in the applicable supplement commencing on that interest reset date and in a principal amount not less than the equivalent of 1,000,000, that is representative of a single transaction in euro in that market at that time. If at least three quotations are provided, EURIBOR will be the average of those quotations.

Table of Contents

If three quotations are not provided, EURIBOR for that interest determination date will be equal to EURIBOR for the immediately preceding interest period.

Eurozone means the region comprised of member states of the European Union that adopted the single currency in accordance with the Treaty establishing the European Community (signed in Rome on March 25, 1957), as amended by the Treaty on European Union (signed in Maastricht on February 7, 1992) and the Treaty of Amsterdam (signed in Amsterdam on October 2, 1997).

Treasury Rate Notes. Each treasury rate note will bear interest at the treasury rate, adjusted by any spread or spread multiplier, as specified in the applicable supplement.

The treasury rate for any interest determination date will be the rate set at the auction of direct obligations of the United States, referred to as Treasury bills, having the index maturity described in the applicable supplement, as specified under the caption INVEST RATE on Reuters page USAUCTION10 or page USAUCTION11.

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

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.

If the alternative rate described in the paragraph immediately 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).

If the alternative rate described in the paragraph immediately 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.

If the alternative rate described in the paragraph immediately 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 U.S. government securities dealers, selected by us, for the issue of Treasury bills with a remaining maturity closest to the particular index maturity.

If the dealers selected by us are not quoting as described in the paragraph immediately 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:

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

Table of Contents

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, or any successor site or publication.

Federal Funds Rate Notes. Each federal funds rate note will bear interest at the federal funds rate, adjusted by any spread or spread multiplier, as specified in the applicable supplement.

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 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 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

Table of Contents

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, as adjusted by any spread or spread multiplier, as specified in the applicable supplement.

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, 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 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 the Reuters 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 debt securities 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 or performance of one or more securities, currencies or composite currencies, commodities, interest rates, stock indices, commodity indices or other indices, formulae, or measure, in each case as specified in the applicable supplement. We refer to these as indexed notes.

Table of Contents

Holders of indexed notes may receive an amount at maturity that is greater than or less than the face amount of the notes, depending upon the formula used to determine the amount payable and the relative value at maturity of the reference asset or underlying obligation. The value of the applicable index will fluctuate over time.

An indexed note may provide either for cash settlement or for physical settlement by delivery of the indexed note 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 convertible, exercisable, or exchangeable prior to maturity, at our option or the holder s option, for the related securities.

We will specify in the applicable supplement the method for determining the principal, premium (if any), interest, or other amounts payable (if any) in respect of particular indexed notes, as well as certain historical information with respect to the specified index or indexed items, specific risk factors relating to that particular type of indexed note, and tax considerations associated with an investment in the indexed notes.

The applicable supplement for any particular indexed notes also will identify the calculation agent that will calculate the amounts payable with respect to the indexed note. The calculation agent may be one of our affiliates, including Bank of America, N.A., Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Incorporated, Merrill Lynch Commodities, Inc., or Merrill Lynch Capital Services, Inc. We may appoint different calculation agents from time to time after the original issue date of an indexed note without your consent and without notifying you of the change. Absent manifest error, all determinations of the calculation agent will be final and binding on you, the trustee and us. Upon request of the holder of an indexed note, the calculation agent will provide, if applicable, information relating to the current principal, premium (if any), rate of interest, interest payable, or other amounts payable (if any) in connection with the indexed note.

We also may offer indexed amortizing notes, the rate of amortization and final maturity of which are subject to periodic adjustment based upon the degree to which an objective base or index rate such as LIBOR, called a reference rate, coincides with a specified target rate. Indexed amortizing notes may provide for adjustment of the amortization rate either on every interest payment date, or only on interest payment dates that occur after a specified lockout date. Each indexed amortizing note will include an amortization table, specifying the rate at which the principal of the note is to be amortized following any applicable interest payment date, based upon the difference between the reference rate and the target rate. The specific terms of, and any additional considerations relating to, indexed amortizing notes will be set forth in the applicable supplement.

Floating-Rate/Fixed-Rate/Indexed Notes

We may issue a debt security with elements of each of the fixed-rate, floating-rate, and indexed notes described above. For example, a debt security may bear interest at a fixed rate for some periods and at a floating rate in others. Similarly, a debt security may provide for a payment of principal at maturity linked to an index and also may bear interest at a fixed or floating rate. We will describe the determination of interest for any of these debt securities in the applicable supplement.

Original Issue Discount Notes

A fixed-rate note, a floating-rate note, or an indexed note may be an original issue discount note. Original issue discount notes are debt securities that are issued at a price lower than their

Table of Contents

stated principal amount or lower than their minimum guaranteed repayment amount at maturity. Original issue discount notes may bear no interest (zero coupon rate notes) or may bear interest at a rate that is below market rates at the time of issuance. Upon an acceleration of the maturity of an original issue discount note, the amount of interest payable will be determined in accordance with the terms of the note, as described in the applicable supplement. That amount normally is less than the amount payable at the maturity date. A note issued at a discount to its principal may, for U.S. federal income tax purposes, be considered an original issue discount note, regardless of the amount payable upon redemption or acceleration of maturity. See U.S. Federal Income Tax Considerations Taxation of Debt Securities below for a summary of the U.S. federal income tax consequences of owning an original issue discount note.

Payment of Principal, Interest, and Other Amounts Due

Paying Agents. We may appoint one or more financial institutions to act as our paying agents. Unless we specify otherwise in the applicable supplement, the trustee will act as our sole paying agent, security registrar, and transfer agent with respect to the debt securities through the trustee s office. That office is currently located at 101 Barclay Street, New York, New York 10286. In addition, in the case of some of our debt securities, such as debt securities denominated in euro, that office is expected to be 48th Floor, One Canada Square, London, E14 5AL. At any time, we may rescind the designation of a paying agent, appoint a successor or an additional paying agent, or approve a change in the office through which any paying agent acts in accordance with the applicable indenture. In addition, we may decide to act as our own paying agent with respect to some or all of the debt securities, and the paying agent may resign.

Payments to Holders and Record Dates for Interest. We refer to each date on which interest is payable on a debt security as an interest payment date. Unless we specify otherwise in the applicable supplement, the provisions described in this section will apply to payments on the debt securities.

Subject to any applicable business day convention as described below, interest payments on the debt securities will be made on each interest payment date applicable to, and at the maturity date of, the debt securities. Interest payable at any interest payment date other than the maturity date will be paid to the registered holder of the debt security on the regular record date for that interest payment date, as described below. However, unless we specify otherwise in the applicable supplement, the initial interest payment on a debt security issued between a regular record date and the interest payment date immediately following the regular record date will be made on the second interest payment date following the original issue date to the holder of record on the regular record date preceding the second interest payment date. The principal and interest payable at maturity will be paid to the holder of the debt security at the time of payment by the paying agent.

Unless we specify otherwise in the applicable supplement, the record date for any interest payment for a debt security in book-entry only form generally will be the business day prior to the payment date. If the debt security is in a form that is other than book-entry only, and unless we specify otherwise in the applicable supplement, the regular record date for an interest payment date will be the last day of the calendar month preceding the interest payment date or the fifteenth day of the calendar month in which the interest payment date occurs, as specified in the supplement, whether or not that date is a business day.

Business Day Conventions. If the applicable supplement specifies that one of the following business day conventions is applicable to a debt security, the interest payment dates, interest reset dates, and interest periods for that debt security will be affected and, consequently, may be adjusted

Table of Contents

as described below. Unless we specify otherwise in the applicable supplement, any interest payment due at maturity or on a redemption date or repayment date will not be affected as described below.

Following business day convention (adjusted) means, if an interest payment date would otherwise fall on a day that is not a business day (as described below), then such interest payment date will be postponed to the next day that is a business day. Unless we specify otherwise in the applicable supplement, the related interest reset dates and interest periods also will be adjusted for non-business days.

Modified following business day convention (adjusted) means, if an interest payment date would otherwise fall on a day that is not a business day, then such interest payment date will be postponed to the next day that is a business day, except that, if the next succeeding business day falls in the next calendar month, then such interest payment date will be advanced to the immediately preceding day that is a business day. In each case, unless we specify otherwise in the applicable supplement, the related interest reset dates and interest periods also will be adjusted for non-business days.

Following unadjusted business day convention means, if an interest payment date falls on a day that is not a business day, any payment due on such interest payment date will be postponed to the next day that is a business day; *provided* that interest due with respect to such interest payment date will not accrue from and including such interest payment date to and including the date of payment of such interest as so postponed. Interest reset dates and interest periods also are not adjusted for non-business days under the following unadjusted business day convention.

Modified following unadjusted business day convention means, if an interest payment date falls on a day that is not a business day, any payment due on such interest payment date will be postponed to the next day that is a business day; *provided* that interest due with respect to such interest payment date will not accrue from and including such interest payment date to and including the date of payment of such interest as so postponed, and, *provided further* that, if such next succeeding business day would fall in the next succeeding calendar month, the date of payment with respect to such interest payment date will be advanced to the business day immediately preceding such interest payment date. Interest reset dates and interest periods also are not adjusted for non-business days under the modified following unadjusted business day convention.

Preceding business day convention means, if an interest payment date would otherwise fall on a day that is not a business day, then such interest payment date will be advanced to the immediately preceding day that is a business day. If the preceding business day convention is specified in the applicable supplement to be adjusted, then the related interest reset dates and interest periods also will be adjusted for non-business days; however, if the preceding business day convention is specified in the applicable supplement to be unadjusted, then the related interest reset dates and interest periods will not be adjusted for non-business days.

In all cases, unless we specify otherwise in the applicable supplement, if the maturity date or any earlier redemption date or repayment date with respect to any debt security falls on a day that is not a business day, any payment of principal, premium, if any, interest and any other amounts otherwise due on such day will be made on the next succeeding business day, and no interest on such payment will accrue for the period from and after such maturity date, redemption date or repayment date, as the case may be.

Table of Contents

If no business day convention is specified in the applicable supplement, then the following unadjusted business day convention will apply to the debt security. We also may specify and describe a different business day convention from those described above in the applicable supplement.

Unless we specify otherwise in the applicable supplement, the term business day means, for any debt security, a day that meets all the following applicable requirements:

- for all debt securities, is any weekday that is not a legal holiday in New York, New York, Charlotte, North Carolina, or any other place of payment of the debt security, and is not a date on which banking institutions in those cities are authorized or required by law or regulation to be closed;

- for any LIBOR note, also is a day on which commercial banks are open for business (including dealings in the index currency specified in the applicable supplement) in London, England (a London Banking Day);

- for any debt security denominated in euro or any EURIBOR note, also is a day on which the TransEuropean Automated Real-Time Gross Settlement Express Transfer, or TARGET, System or any successor is operating (a TARGET Settlement Date); and

- for any debt security that has a specified currency other than U.S. dollars or euro, also is not a day on which banking institutions generally are authorized or obligated by law, regulation, or executive order to close in the principal financial center of the country of the specified currency.

Unless we specify otherwise in the applicable supplement, for purposes of this determination, the principal financial center is:

- the capital city of the country issuing the specified currency, except for U.S. dollars, Australian dollars, Canadian dollars, South African rand, and Swiss francs, for which the principal financial center is New York, Sydney and Melbourne, Toronto, Johannesburg, and Zurich, respectively; or

- the capital city of the country to which the index currency relates, except for U.S. dollars, Australian dollars, Canadian dollars, South African rand, and Swiss francs, for which the principal financial center is New York, Sydney, Toronto, Johannesburg, and Zurich, respectively.

Payments Due in U.S. Dollars. Unless we specify otherwise in the applicable supplement, we will follow the practices described in this subsection when we pay amounts that are due in U.S. dollars.

We will make payments on debt securities in book-entry form in accordance with arrangements then in place between the paying agent and the depository or its nominee, as holder. An indirect owner s right to receive those payments will be governed by the rules and practices of the depository and its participants, as described below under the heading Registration and Settlement.

We will pay any interest on debt securities in certificated form on each interest payment date other than the maturity date by, in our discretion, wire transfer of immediately available funds or check mailed to holders of the debt securities on the applicable record date at the address

Table of Contents

appearing on our or the security registrar s records. We will pay any principal, premium (if any), interest, and other amounts payable (if any) at the maturity date of a debt security in certificated form by wire transfer of immediately available funds upon surrender of the debt security at the corporate trust office of the applicable trustee or paying agent.

Book-entry and other indirect owners should contact their banks or brokers for information on how they will receive payments on their debt securities.

Payments Due in Other Currencies. Unless we specify otherwise in the applicable supplement, we will follow the practices described in this subsection when we pay amounts that are due on a debt security in a currency other than U.S. dollars. Unless we specify otherwise in the applicable supplement, holders are not entitled to receive payments in U.S. dollars of an amount due in another currency, either on a global debt security or a debt security in certificated form.

We will make payments on non-U.S. dollar-denominated debt securities in book-entry form in the applicable specified currency in accordance with arrangements then in place between the paying agent and the depository or its nominee, as holder. An indirect owner s right to receive those payments will be governed by the rules and practices of the depository and its participants, as described below under the heading Registration and Settlement.

We will pay any interest on non-U.S. dollar-denominated debt securities in certificated form by, in our discretion, wire transfer of immediately available funds or check mailed to holders of the debt securities on the applicable record date at the address appearing on our or the security registrar s records. We will pay any principal, premium (if any), interest, and other amounts payable (if any) at the maturity date of a non-U.S. dollar-denominated debt security in certificated form by wire transfer of immediately available funds upon surrender of the debt security at the corporate trust office of the applicable trustee or paying agent.

If we issue a debt security in a specified currency other than U.S. dollars, unless we specify otherwise in the applicable supplement, we will appoint a financial institution to act as the exchange rate agent. The exchange rate agent will determine the applicable rate of exchange that would apply to a payment made in U.S. dollars, if the currency in which we otherwise would be required to make the applicable payment is not available. The exchange rate agent may be one of our affiliates. We will identify in the applicable supplement the exchange rate agent that we have appointed for a particular debt security as of its original issue date. We may appoint different exchange rate agents from time to time after the original issue date of the debt security without your consent and without notifying you of the change. All determinations made by the exchange rate agent will be in its sole discretion unless we state in the applicable supplement that any determination requires our approval. Absent manifest error, those determinations will be final and binding on you and us.

Book-entry and other indirect owners of a debt security with a specified currency other than U.S. dollars should contact their banks or brokers for information about how to receive payments in the specified currency or in U.S. dollars.

No Sinking Fund

Unless we specify otherwise in the applicable supplement, our debt securities will not be entitled to the benefit of any sinking fund. This means that we will not deposit money on a regular basis into any separate custodial account to repay the debt securities.

Redemption

The applicable supplement will indicate whether we may redeem the debt securities prior to their maturity date. If we may redeem the debt securities prior to maturity, the applicable

Table of Contents

supplement will indicate the redemption price, the method for redemption, and the date or dates upon which we may redeem the debt securities. Unless we specify otherwise in the applicable supplement, we may redeem debt securities only on an interest payment date, and the redemption price will be 100% of the principal amount of the debt securities to be redeemed, plus any accrued and unpaid interest.

Unless we specify otherwise in the applicable supplement, we may exercise our right to redeem debt securities by giving notice to the trustee under the applicable indenture at least 10 business days but not more than 60 calendar days before the specified redemption date. The notice will take the form of a certificate signed by us specifying:

the date fixed for redemption;

the redemption price;

the CUSIP number of the debt securities to be redeemed;

the amount to be redeemed, if less than all of a series of debt securities is to be redeemed;

the place of payment for the debt securities to be redeemed; and

that on and after the date fixed for redemption, interest will cease to accrue on the debt securities to be redeemed.

So long as a depository is the record holder of the applicable debt securities to be redeemed, we will deliver any notice of our election to exercise our redemption right only to that depository.

Repayment

The applicable supplement will indicate whether the debt securities can be repaid at the holder s option prior to their maturity date. If the debt securities may be repaid prior to maturity, the applicable supplement will indicate the applicable repayment price or prices, the procedures for repayment and the date or dates on or after which the holder can request repayment.

Repurchase

We may purchase at any time and from time to time, including through a subsidiary or affiliate of ours, outstanding debt securities by tender, in the open market, or by private agreement. We, or our affiliates, have the discretion to hold or resell any repurchased debt securities. We also have the discretion to cancel any repurchased debt securities.

Conversion

We may issue debt securities that are convertible into, or exercisable or exchangeable for, at either our option or the holder s option or otherwise as provided in the applicable supplement, our preferred stock, depositary shares, common stock, or other debt securities, or debt or equity securities of one or more third parties. The applicable supplement will describe the terms of any conversion, exercise, or exchange features, including:

the periods during which conversion, exercise, or exchange, as applicable, may be elected;

the conversion, exercise, or exchange price payable and the number of shares or amount of our preferred stock, depositary shares, common stock, or other debt securities, or debt or equity securities of a third party, that may be issued upon conversion, exercise, or exchange, and any adjustment provisions; and

Table of Contents

the procedures for electing conversion, exercise, or exchange, as applicable.

Exchange, Registration, and Transfer

Subject to the terms of the applicable indenture, debt securities of any series in certificated form may be exchanged at the option of the holder for other debt securities of the same series and of an equal aggregate principal amount and type in any authorized denominations.

Debt securities in certificated form may be presented for registration of transfer at the office of the security registrar or at the office of any transfer agent that we designate and maintain. The security registrar or the 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 debt securities, 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. Unless we specify otherwise in the applicable supplement, The Bank of New York Mellon Trust Company, N.A. will be the authenticating agent, registrar, and transfer agent for the debt securities issued under the respective indentures. We may change the security registrar or the transfer agent or approve a change in the location through which any security registrar or transfer agent acts at any time, except that we will be required to maintain a security registrar and transfer agent in each place of payment for each series of debt securities. At any time, we may designate additional transfer agents for any series of debt securities.

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

For a discussion of restrictions on the exchange, registration, and transfer of book-entry securities, see Registration and Settlement below.

Subordination

Our subordinated debt securities are subordinated and junior in right of payment to all of our senior indebtedness. The Subordinated Indenture 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 was outstanding on the date we executed the Subordinated Indenture, or was created, incurred, or assumed after that date, for which we are responsible or liable as obligor, guarantor, or otherwise, and all deferrals, renewals, extensions, and refundings of that indebtedness or obligations, other than the debt securities issued under the Subordinated Indenture or any other indebtedness that by its terms is subordinate in right of payment to any of our other indebtedness. Each supplement for a series of subordinated debt securities will indicate the aggregate amount of our senior indebtedness outstanding, as of the most recent practicable date, and any limitation on the issuance of additional 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 debt securities 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.

Table of Contents

If there is a default or event of default under any senior indebtedness that would allow acceleration of maturity of the senior indebtedness and that default or event of default is not remedied, and we and the trustee of the Subordinated Indenture receive notice of this default from the holders of at least 10% in principal amount of any kind or category of any senior indebtedness or if the trustee of the Subordinated Indenture receives notice from us, then we will not be able to make any principal, premium, interest, or other payments on the subordinated debt securities or repurchase our subordinated debt securities.

If any subordinated debt security is declared due and payable before the required date or upon a payment or distribution of our assets to creditors pursuant to a dissolution, winding up, liquidation, or reorganization, we are required to pay all principal, premium, interest, or other payments to holders of senior indebtedness before any holders of subordinated debt are paid. In addition, if any amounts previously were paid to the holders of subordinated debt or the trustee of the Subordinated Indenture, the holders of senior indebtedness will have first rights to the amounts previously paid.

Subject to the payment in full of all our senior indebtedness, the holders of our subordinated debt securities will be subrogated to the rights of the holders of our senior indebtedness to receive payments or distributions of our assets applicable to the senior indebtedness until our subordinated debt securities are paid in full. For purposes of this subrogation, the subordinated debt securities will be subrogated equally and ratably with all our other indebtedness that by its terms ranks equally with our subordinated debt securities and is entitled to like rights of subrogation.

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

Sale or Issuance of Capital Stock of Banks

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 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 stockholders at any price, so long as before that 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 the Principal Subsidiary Bank as we owned before the sale of additional securities; and

Table of Contents

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 bank with total assets equal to more than 10% of our total consolidated assets. As of the date of this prospectus, Bank of America, N.A. is our only Principal Subsidiary Bank.

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

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.

Waiver of Covenants

The holders of a majority in principal amount of the debt securities of all affected series then outstanding under the indenture may waive compliance with some of the covenants or conditions of that indenture.

Modification of the Indentures

We and the trustee may modify the applicable indenture and the rights of the holders of the debt securities with the consent of the holders of at least 66 2/3% of the aggregate principal amount of all series of debt securities under that indenture affected by the modification. However, no modification may 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 debt security without the consent of each holder affected by the modification. No modification may reduce the percentage of debt securities that is required to consent to modification of an indenture without the consent of all holders of the debt securities outstanding under that indenture.

In addition, we and the trustee may execute supplemental indentures in some circumstances without the consent of any holders of outstanding debt securities.

For purposes of determining the aggregate principal amount of the debt securities outstanding at any time in connection with any request, demand, authorization, direction, notice, consent, or waiver under the applicable indenture, (1) the principal amount of any debt security issued with original issue discount is that amount that would be due and payable at that time upon an event of

Table of Contents

default, and (2) the principal amount of a debt security denominated in a foreign currency or currency unit is the U.S. dollar equivalent on the date of original issuance of the debt security.

Meetings and Action by Securityholders

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 a series of outstanding debt securities, by giving notice. If a meeting of holders is duly held, any resolution raised or decision taken in accordance with the indenture will be binding on all holders of debt securities of that series.

Events of Default and Rights of Acceleration

The Senior Indenture defines an event of default for a series of senior debt securities as any one of the following events:

- our failure to pay principal or any premium when due on any securities of that series;
- our failure to pay interest on any securities of that series, within 30 calendar days after the interest becomes due;
- our breach of any of our other covenants contained in the senior debt securities of that series or in the Senior Indenture, that is not cured within 90 calendar days after written notice to us by the trustee of the Senior Indenture, or to us and the trustee of the Senior Indenture by the holders of at least 25% in principal amount of all senior debt securities then outstanding under the Senior Indenture and affected by the breach; and
- specified events involving our bankruptcy, insolvency, or liquidation.

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

If an event of default occurs and is continuing, either the trustee or the holders of 25% in principal amount of the debt securities outstanding under the applicable indenture (or, in the case of an event of default under the Senior Indenture with respect to a series of senior debt securities, the holders of 25% in principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of all series affected) may declare the principal amount, or, if the debt securities are issued with original issue discount, a specified portion of the principal amount, of all debt securities (or the debt securities of all series affected, as the case may be) to be due and payable immediately. The holders of a majority in principal amount of the debt securities then outstanding (or of the series affected, as the case may be), in some circumstances, may annul the declaration of acceleration and waive past defaults.

Payment of principal of the subordinated debt securities may not be accelerated in the case of a default in the payment of principal, any premium, interest, or any other amounts or the performance of any of our other covenants.

Collection of Indebtedness

If we fail to pay the principal of (or, under the Senior Indenture, any premium on) any debt securities, or if we are over 30 calendar days late on an interest payment on the debt securities, the applicable trustee can demand that we pay to it, for the benefit of the holders of those debt securities,

Table of Contents

the amount which is due and payable on those debt securities, including any interest incurred because of our failure to make that payment. If we fail to pay the required amount on demand, the trustee may take appropriate action, including instituting judicial proceedings against us.

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 each series of the debt securities 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, but the trustee will be entitled to receive from the holders a reasonable indemnity against expenses and liabilities.

We are required periodically to file with the trustees a certificate stating that we are not in default under any of the terms of the indentures.

Payment of Additional Amounts

If we so specify in the applicable supplement, and subject to the exceptions and limitations set forth below, we will pay to the beneficial owner of any debt security that is a non-U.S. person additional amounts to ensure that every net payment on that debt security will not be less, due to the payment of U.S. withholding tax, than the amount then otherwise due and payable. For this purpose, a net payment on a debt security means a payment by us or any paying agent, including payment of principal and interest, after deduction for any present or future tax, assessment, or other governmental charge of the United States (other than a territory or possession). These additional amounts will constitute additional interest on the debt security. For this purpose, U.S. withholding tax means a withholding tax of the United States, other than a territory or possession.

However, notwithstanding our obligation, if so specified, to pay additional amounts, we will not be required to pay additional amounts in any of the circumstances described in items (1) through (15) below, unless we specify otherwise in the applicable supplement.

(1) Additional amounts will not be payable if a payment on a debt security is reduced as a result of any tax, assessment, or other governmental charge that is imposed or withheld solely by reason of the beneficial owner of the debt security:

having a relationship with the United States as a citizen, resident, or otherwise;

having had such a relationship in the past; or

being considered as having had such a relationship.

(2) Additional amounts will not be payable if a payment on a debt security is reduced as a result of any tax, assessment, or other governmental charge that is imposed or withheld solely by reason of the beneficial owner of the debt security:

being treated as present in or engaged in a trade or business in the United States;

being treated as having been present in or engaged in a trade or business in the United States in the past;

Table of Contents

having or having had a permanent establishment in the United States; or

having or having had a qualified business unit which has the U.S. dollar as its functional currency.

(3) Additional amounts will not be payable if a payment on a debt security is reduced as a result of any tax, assessment, or other governmental charge that is imposed or withheld solely by reason of the beneficial owner of the debt security being or having been a:

personal holding company;

foreign personal holding company;

private foundation or other tax-exempt organization;

passive foreign investment company;

controlled foreign corporation; or

corporation which has accumulated earnings to avoid U.S. federal income tax.

(4) Additional amounts will not be payable if a payment on a debt security is reduced as a result of any tax, assessment, or other governmental charge that is imposed or withheld solely by reason of the beneficial owner of the debt security owning or having owned, actually or constructively, 10% or more of the total combined voting power of all classes of our stock entitled to vote.

(5) Additional amounts will not be payable if a payment on a debt security is reduced as a result of any tax, assessment, or other governmental charge that is imposed or withheld solely by reason of the beneficial owner of the debt security being a bank extending credit under a loan agreement entered into in the ordinary course of business.

For purposes of items (1) through (5) above, beneficial owner includes, without limitation, a holder and a fiduciary, settlor, partner, member, shareholder, or beneficiary of the holder if the holder is an estate, trust, partnership, limited liability company, corporation, or other entity, or a person holding a power over an estate or trust administered by a fiduciary holder.

(6) Additional amounts will not be payable to any beneficial owner of a debt security that is:

A fiduciary;

A partnership;

A limited liability company;

Another fiscally transparent entity; or

Not the sole beneficial owner of the debt security, or any portion of the debt security.

However, this exception to the obligation to pay additional amounts will apply only to the extent that a beneficiary or settlor in relation to the fiduciary, or a beneficial owner, partner, or member of the partnership, limited liability company, or other fiscally transparent entity, would not have been entitled to the payment of an additional amount had the beneficiary, settlor, beneficial owner, partner, or member received directly its beneficial or distributive share of the payment.

Table of Contents

(7) Additional amounts will not be payable if a payment on a debt security is reduced as a result of any tax, assessment, or other governmental charge that is imposed or withheld solely by reason of the failure of the beneficial owner of the debt security or any other person to comply with applicable certification, identification, documentation, or other information reporting requirements. This exception to the obligation to pay additional amounts will apply only if compliance with such requirements is required as a precondition to exemption from such tax, assessment, or other governmental charge by statute or regulation of the United States or by an applicable income tax treaty to which the United States is a party.

(8) Additional amounts will not be payable if a payment on a debt security is reduced as a result of any tax, assessment, or other governmental charge that is collected or imposed by any method other than by withholding from a payment on a debt security by us or any paying agent.

(9) Additional amounts will not be payable if a payment on a debt security is reduced as a result of any tax, assessment, or other governmental charge that is imposed or withheld by reason of a change in law, regulation, or administrative or judicial interpretation that becomes effective more than 15 days after the payment becomes due or is duly provided for, whichever occurs later.

(10) Additional amounts will not be payable if a payment on a debt security is reduced as a result of any tax, assessment, or other governmental charge that is imposed or withheld by reason of the presentation by the beneficial owner of a debt security for payment more than 30 days after the date on which such payment becomes due or is duly provided for, whichever occurs later.

(11) Additional amounts will not be payable if a payment on a debt security is reduced as a result of any:

estate tax;

inheritance tax;

gift tax;

sales tax;

excise tax;

transfer tax;

wealth tax;

personal property tax; or

any similar tax, assessment, or other governmental charge.

(12) Additional amounts will not be payable if a payment on a debt security is reduced as a result of any tax, assessment, or other governmental charge required to be withheld by any paying agent from a payment of principal or interest on the applicable security if such payment can be made without such withholding by any other paying agent.

Table of Contents

(13) Additional amounts will not be payable if a payment on a debt security is reduced as a result of any tax, assessment, or other governmental charge that is imposed or withheld by reason of the application of Section 1471 through Section 1474 of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, (or any successor provision), any regulation, pronouncement, or agreement thereunder, official interpretations thereof, or any law implementing an intergovernmental approach thereto, whether currently in effect or as published and amended from time to time.

(14) Additional amounts will not be payable if a payment on a debt security is reduced as a result of any tax, assessment, or other governmental charge that is imposed or withheld by reason of the payment being treated as a dividend or dividend equivalent for U.S. tax purposes.

(15) Additional amounts will not be payable if a payment on a debt security is reduced as a result of any combination of items (1) through (14) above.

Except as specifically provided in this section, we will not be required to make any payment of any tax, assessment, or other governmental charge imposed by any government, political subdivision, or taxing authority of that government.

For purposes of determining whether the payment of additional amounts is required, the term U.S. person means any individual who is a citizen or resident of the United States; any corporation, partnership, or other entity created or organized in or under the laws of the United States; any estate if the income of such estate falls within the federal income tax jurisdiction of the United States regardless of the source of that income; and any trust if a U.S. court is able to exercise primary supervision over its administration and one or more U.S. persons have the authority to control all of the substantial decisions of the trust. Additionally, for this purpose, non-U.S. person means a person who is not a U.S. person, and United States means the United States of America, including each state of the United States and the District of Columbia, its territories, its possessions, and other areas within its jurisdiction.

Redemption for Tax Reasons

If we so specify in the applicable supplement, we may redeem the debt securities in whole, but not in part, at any time before maturity, after giving not less than 30 nor more than 60 calendar days notice to the trustee under the applicable indenture and to the holders of the debt securities, if we have or will become obligated to pay additional amounts, as described above under Payment of Additional Amounts, as a result of any change in, or amendment to, the laws or regulations of the United States or any political subdivision or any authority of the United States having power to tax, or any change in the application or official interpretation of such laws or regulations, which change or amendment becomes effective on or after the date of the applicable supplement for the issuance of those debt securities.

In connection with any notice of redemption for tax reasons, we will deliver to the trustee under the indenture any required certificate, request, or order.

Unless we specify otherwise in the applicable supplement, any debt securities redeemed for tax reasons will be redeemed at 100% of their principal amount together with interest accrued up to, but excluding, the redemption date.

Table of Contents

Defeasance and Covenant Defeasance

If we so specify in the applicable supplement, the provisions for full defeasance and covenant defeasance described below will apply to the debt securities if certain conditions are satisfied.

Full Defeasance. If there is a change in the U.S. federal tax law, as described below, we can legally release ourselves from all payment and other obligations on any debt securities. This is called full defeasance. For us to do so, each of the following must occur:

We must deposit in trust for the benefit of the holders of those debt securities a combination of money and U.S. government or U.S. government agency notes or bonds that will generate enough cash to make interest, principal, and any other payments on those debt securities at their due dates;

There must be a change in current U.S. federal tax law or an Internal Revenue Service ruling that lets us make the above deposit without causing the holders to be taxed on the debt securities any differently than if we did not make the deposit and repaid the debt securities ourselves. Under current U.S. federal tax law, the deposit, and our legal release from your debt security, would be treated as though we took back your debt security and gave you your share of the cash and notes or bonds deposited in trust. In that event, you could recognize gain or loss on your debt security; and

We must deliver to the trustee under the indenture a legal opinion of our counsel confirming the tax law treatment described above.

If we ever fully defeased your debt security, you would have to rely solely on the trust deposit for payments on your debt security. You would not be able to look to us for payment in the event of any shortfall.

Covenant Defeasance. Under current U.S. federal tax law, we can make the same type of deposit described above and be released from any restrictive covenants relating to your debt security. This is called covenant defeasance. In that event, you would lose the protection of those restrictive covenants. In order to achieve covenant defeasance for the debt securities, we must do both of the following:

We must deposit in trust for the benefit of the holders of those debt securities a combination of money and U.S. government or U.S. government agency notes or bonds that will generate enough cash to make interest, principal, and any other payments on those debt securities on their due dates; and

We must deliver to the trustee under the indenture a legal opinion of our counsel confirming that under current U.S. federal income tax law we may make the above deposit without causing the holders to be taxed on the debt securities any differently than if we did not make the deposit and repaid the debt securities ourselves.

If we achieve covenant defeasance with respect to your debt security, you can still look to us for repayment of your debt security in the event of any shortfall in the trust deposit. You should note, however, that if one of the remaining events of default occurred, such as our bankruptcy, and your debt security became immediately due and payable, there may be a shortfall. Depending on the event causing the default, you may not be able to obtain payment of the shortfall.

Table of Contents

Notices

We or the trustee on our behalf, if so requested, will provide the holders with any required notices by first-class mail to the addresses of the holders as they appear in the security register. So long as a depository is the record holder of a series of debt securities with respect to which a notice is given, we or the trustee, if so requested, will deliver the notice only to that depository.

Concerning the Trustees

We and certain of our affiliates 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 affiliates in the ordinary course of business. We expect to continue these business transactions. The Bank of New York Mellon Trust Company, N.A. and its affiliates also serve as trustee for a number of series of outstanding indebtedness of us and our affiliates under other indentures.

Governing Law

The indentures and the debt securities will be governed by New York law.

DESCRIPTION OF WARRANTS

General

We may issue warrants, including debt warrants and universal warrants. We may offer warrants separately or as part of a unit, as described below under the heading Description of Units.

We may issue warrants in any amounts or in as many distinct series as we determine. We will issue each series of debt warrants and universal warrants under a separate warrant agreement to be entered into between us and a warrant agent to be designated in the applicable supplement. When we refer to a series of warrants, we mean all warrants issued as part of the same series under the applicable warrant agreement.

This section describes some of the general terms and provisions of warrants. We will describe the specific terms of a series of warrants and the applicable warrant agreement in the applicable supplement. The following description and any description of the warrants in the applicable supplement may not be complete and is subject to and qualified in its entirety by reference to the terms and provisions of the applicable warrant agreement. A warrant agreement reflecting the particular terms and provisions of a series of offered warrants will be filed with the SEC in connection with the offering and incorporated by reference in the registration statement and this prospectus. See Where You Can Find More Information below for information on how to obtain copies of any warrant agreements.

Description of Debt Warrants

We may issue warrants for the purchase of our debt securities. We refer to this type of warrant as a debt warrant. If debt warrants are offered, the supplement will describe the terms of the debt warrants and the warrant agreement relating to the debt warrants, including the following:

the offering price;

Table of Contents

the designation, aggregate stated principal amount, and terms of the debt securities purchasable upon exercise of the debt warrants;

the currency, currency unit, or composite currency in which the price for the debt warrants is payable;

if applicable, the designation and terms of the debt securities with which the debt warrants are issued, and the number of debt warrants issued with each security;

if applicable, the date on and after which the debt warrants and the related debt securities will be separately transferable;

the principal amount of debt securities purchasable upon exercise of a debt warrant and the price at which, and the currency, currency units, or composite currency based on or relating to currencies in which, the principal amount of debt securities may be purchased upon exercise;

the dates the right to exercise the debt warrants will commence and expire and, if the debt warrants are not continuously exercisable, any dates on which the debt warrants are not exercisable;

any circumstances that will cause the debt warrants to be deemed to be automatically exercised;

if applicable, a discussion of the U.S. federal income tax consequences;

whether the debt warrants or related securities will be listed on any securities exchange;

whether the debt warrants will be issued in global or certificated form;

the name of the warrant agent;

a description of the terms of any warrant agreement to be entered into between us and a bank or trust company, as warrant agent, governing the debt warrants; and

any other terms of the debt warrants which are permitted under the warrant agreement.

Description of Universal Warrants

We may also issue warrants for the purchase or sale of, or whose cash value is determined by reference to the performance, level, or value of, one or more of the following:

securities of one or more issuers, including our common or preferred stock or other securities described in this prospectus, or the debt or equity securities of third parties;

one or more currencies, currency units, or composite currencies;

one or more commodities;

any other financial, economic, or other measure or instrument, including the occurrence or non-occurrence of any event or circumstance; and

one or more indices or baskets of the items described above.

Table of Contents

We refer to each type of property described above as warrant property. We refer to this type of warrant as a universal warrant.

We may satisfy our obligations, if any, and the holder of a universal warrant may satisfy its obligations, if any, with respect to any universal warrants by delivering the assets described in the applicable supplement, and in some cases, cash.

If universal warrants are offered, the applicable supplement will describe the terms of the universal warrants and the warrant agreement, including the following:

- the offering price;
- the title and aggregate number of the universal warrants;
- the nature and amount of the warrant property that the universal warrants represent the right to buy or sell;
- whether the universal warrants are put warrants or call warrants, including in either case, the method by which the warrants may be settled;
- the price at which the warrant property may be purchased or sold, the currency, and the procedures and conditions relating to exercise;
- the method of exercising the universal warrants, the method of paying the exercise price, and the method of settling the warrant;
- the dates on which the right to exercise the universal warrants will commence and expire;
- if applicable, a discussion of the U.S. federal income tax consequences;
- whether the universal warrants or underlying securities will be listed on any securities exchange;
- whether the universal warrants will be issued in global or certificated form;
- the name of the warrant agent;
- a description of the terms of any warrant agreement to be entered into between us and a bank or trust company, as warrant agent, governing the universal warrants; and
- any other terms of the universal warrants which are permitted under the warrant agreement.

Modification

We and the warrant agent may amend the terms of any warrant agreement and the warrants without the consent of the holders of the warrants to cure any ambiguity, to correct any inconsistent provision, or in any other manner we deem necessary or desirable and which will not affect adversely the interests of the holders. In addition, we may amend the warrant agreement and the terms of the warrants with the consent of the holders of a majority of the outstanding unexercised warrants affected. However, any modification to the warrants cannot change the exercise price, reduce the amounts receivable upon exercise, cancellation, or expiration, shorten the time period during which the warrants may be exercised, or otherwise materially and adversely

Table of Contents

affect the rights of the holders of the warrants or reduce the percentage of outstanding warrants required to modify or amend the warrant agreement or the terms of the warrants, without the consent of the affected holders.

Enforceability of Rights of Warrantholders; No Trust Indenture Act Protection

The warrant agent will act solely as our agent and will not assume any obligation or relationship of agency or trust with the holders of the warrants. Any record holder or beneficial owner of a warrant, without anyone else s consent, may enforce by appropriate legal action, on his or her own behalf, his or her right to exercise the warrant in accordance with its terms. A holder of a warrant will not be entitled to any of the rights of a holder of the debt securities or other securities or warrant property purchasable upon the exercise of the warrant, including any right to receive payments on those securities or warrant property or to enforce any covenants or rights in the relevant indenture or any other agreement, before exercising the warrant.

No warrant agreement will be qualified as an indenture, and no warrant agent under any warrant agreement will be required to qualify as a trustee, under the Trust Indenture Act of 1939. Therefore, holders of warrants issued under a warrant agreement will not have the protection of the Trust Indenture Act of 1939 with respect to their warrants.

DESCRIPTION OF PURCHASE CONTRACTS

General

We may issue purchase contracts in any amounts and in as many distinct series as we determine. We may offer purchase contracts separately or as part of a unit, as described below under the heading Description of Units. When we refer to a series of purchase contracts, we mean all purchase contracts issued as part of the same series under the applicable purchase contract.

This section describes some of the general terms and provisions applicable to all purchase contracts. We will describe the specific terms of a series of purchase contracts in the applicable supplement. The following description and any description of the purchase contracts in the applicable supplement may not be complete and is subject to and qualified in its entirety by reference to the terms and provisions of the applicable purchase contract. A purchase contract reflecting the particular terms and provisions of a series of offered purchase contracts will be filed with the SEC in connection with the offering and incorporated by reference in the registration statement and this prospectus. See Where You Can Find More Information below for information on how to obtain copies of any purchase contracts.

Purchase Contract Property

We may issue purchase contracts for the purchase or sale of, or whose cash value is determined by reference or linked to the performance, level, or value of, one or more of the following:

- securities of one or more issuers, including our common or preferred stock, other securities described in this prospectus, or the debt or equity securities of third parties;
- one or more currencies, currency units, or composite currencies;
- one or more commodities;
- any other financial, economic, or other measure or instrument, including the occurrence or non-occurrence of any event or circumstance; and

Table of Contents

one or more indices or baskets of the items described above.

We refer to each type of property described above as a purchase contract property.

Each purchase contract will obligate:

- the holder to purchase or sell, and us to sell or purchase, on specified dates, one or more purchase contract properties at a specified price or prices; or
- the holder or us to settle the purchase contract with a cash payment determined by reference to the value, performance, or level of one or more purchase contract properties, on specified dates and at a specified price or prices.

No holder of a purchase contract will, as such, have any rights of a holder of the purchase contract property purchasable under or referenced in the contract, including any rights to receive payments on that property.

Information in Supplement

If we offer purchase contracts, the applicable supplement will describe the terms of the purchase contracts, including the following:

- the purchase date or dates;
- if other than U.S. dollars, the currency or currency unit in which payment will be made;
- the specific designation and aggregate number of, and the price at which we will issue, the purchase contracts;
- whether the purchase contract obligates the holder to purchase or sell, or both purchase and sell, one or more purchase contract properties, and the nature and amount of each of those properties, or the method of determining those amounts;
- the purchase contract property or cash value, and the amount or method for determining the amount of purchase contract property or cash value, deliverable under each purchase contract;
- whether the purchase contract is to be prepaid or not and the governing document for the contract;
- the price at which the purchase contract is settled, and whether the purchase contract is to be settled by delivery of, or by reference or linkage to the value, performance, or level of, the purchase contract properties;
- any acceleration, cancellation, termination, or other provisions relating to the settlement of the purchase contract;
- if the purchase contract property is an index, the method of providing for a substitute index or indices or otherwise determining the amount payable;

if the purchase contract property is an index or a basket of securities, a description of the index or basket of securities;

Table of Contents

whether, following the occurrence of a market disruption event or force majeure event (as defined in the applicable supplement), the settlement delivery obligation or cash settlement value of a purchase contract will be determined on a different basis than under normal circumstances;

whether the purchase contract will be issued as part of a unit and, if so, the other securities comprising the unit and whether any unit securities will be subject to a security interest in our favor as described below;

if applicable, a discussion of the U.S. federal income tax consequences;

the identities of any depositories and any paying, transfer, calculation, or other agents for the purchase contracts;

whether the purchase contract will be issued in global or certificated form;

any securities exchange or quotation system on which the purchase contracts or any securities deliverable in settlement of the purchase contracts may be listed; and

any other terms of the purchase contracts and any terms required by or advisable under applicable laws and regulations.

Prepaid Purchase Contracts; Applicability of Indenture

Purchase contracts may require holders to satisfy their obligations under the purchase contracts at the time they are issued. We refer to these contracts as prepaid purchase contracts.

In certain circumstances, our obligation to settle a prepaid purchase contract on the relevant settlement date may constitute our senior debt securities or our subordinated debt securities. Accordingly, prepaid purchase contracts may be issued under the Senior Indenture or the Subordinated Indenture, which are described above under the heading Description of Debt Securities.

Non-Prepaid Purchase Contracts; No Trust Indenture Act Protection

Some purchase contracts do not require holders to satisfy their obligations under the purchase contracts until settlement. We refer to these contracts as non-prepaid purchase contracts. The holder of a non-prepaid purchase contract may remain obligated to perform under the contract for a substantial period of time.

Non-prepaid purchase contracts will be issued under a unit agreement, if they are issued in units, or under some other document, if they are not. We describe unit agreements generally under the heading Description of Units below. We will describe the particular governing document that applies to your non-prepaid purchase contracts in the applicable supplement.

Non-prepaid purchase contracts will not be our senior debt securities or subordinated debt securities and will not be issued under one of our indentures, unless we specify otherwise in the applicable supplement. Consequently, no governing documents for non-prepaid purchase contracts will be qualified as indentures, and no third party will be required to qualify as a trustee with regard to those contracts, under the Trust Indenture Act of 1939. Therefore, holders of non-prepaid purchase contracts will not have the protection of the Trust Indenture Act of 1939.

Table of Contents

Pledge by Holders to Secure Performance

If we so specify in the applicable supplement, the holder s obligations under the purchase contract and governing document will be secured by collateral. In that case, the holder, acting through the unit agent as its attorney-in-fact, if applicable, will pledge the items described below to a collateral agent that we will identify in the applicable supplement, which will hold them, for our benefit, as collateral to secure the holder s obligations. We refer to this as the pledge and all the items described below as the pledged items. Unless we specify otherwise in the applicable supplement, the pledge will create a security interest in the holder s entire interest in and to:

- any other securities included in the unit, if the purchase contract is part of a unit, and/or any other property specified in the applicable supplement;
- all additions to and substitutions for the pledged items;
- all income, proceeds, and collections received in respect of the pledged items; and
- all powers and rights owned or acquired later with respect to the pledged items.

The collateral agent will forward all payments and proceeds from the pledged items to us, unless the payments and proceeds have been released from the pledge in accordance with the purchase contract and the governing document. We will use the payments and proceeds from the pledged items to satisfy the holder s obligations under the purchase contract.

Settlement of Purchase Contracts that Are Part of Units

Unless we specify otherwise in the applicable supplement, where purchase contracts issued together with debt securities as part of a unit require the holders to buy purchase contract property, the unit agent may apply principal payments from the debt securities in satisfaction of the holders obligations under the related purchase contract as specified in the applicable supplement. The unit agent will not so apply the principal payments if the holder has delivered cash to meet its obligations under the purchase contract. If the holder is permitted to settle its obligations by cash payment, the holder may be permitted to do so by delivering the debt securities in the unit to the unit agent as provided in the governing document. If the holder settles its obligations in cash rather than by delivering the debt security that is part of the unit, that debt security will remain outstanding, if the maturity extends beyond the relevant settlement date and, as more fully described in the applicable supplement, the holder will receive that debt security or an interest in the relevant global debt security.

Book-entry and other indirect owners should consult their banks or brokers for information on how to settle their purchase contracts.

Failure of Holder to Perform Obligations

If the holder fails to settle its obligations under a non-prepaid purchase contract as required, the holder will not receive the purchase contract property or other consideration to be delivered at settlement. Holders that fail to make timely settlement also may be obligated to pay interest or other amounts.

Table of Contents

DESCRIPTION OF UNITS

General

We may issue units from time to time in such amounts and in as many distinct series as we determine.

We will issue each series of units under a unit agreement to be entered into between us and a unit agent to be designated in the applicable supplement. When we refer to a series of units, we mean all units issued as part of the same series under the applicable unit agreement.

This section describes some of the general terms and provisions applicable to all the units. We will describe the specific terms of a series of units and the applicable unit agreement in the applicable supplement. The following description and any description of the units in the applicable supplement may not be complete and is subject to and qualified in its entirety by reference to the terms and provisions of the applicable unit agreement. A unit agreement reflecting the particular terms and provisions of a series of offered units will be filed with the SEC in connection with the offering and incorporated by reference in the registration statement and this prospectus. See Where You Can Find More Information below for information on how to obtain copies of any unit agreements.

We may issue units consisting of one or more securities described in this prospectus or debt or equity securities of third parties, in any combination. Each unit will be issued so that the holder of the unit is also the holder of each security included in the unit. Thus, the holder of a unit will have the rights and obligations of a holder of each included security. The unit agreement under which a unit is issued may provide that the securities included in the unit may not be held or transferred separately, at any time or at any time before a specified date.

If units are offered, the applicable supplement will describe the terms of the units, including the following:

- the designation and aggregate number of, and the price at which we will issue, the units;
- the terms of the units and of the securities comprising the units, including whether and under what circumstances the securities comprising the units may or may not be held or transferred separately;
- the name of the unit agent;
- a description of the terms of any unit agreement to be entered into between us and a bank or trust company, as unit agent, governing the units;
- if applicable, a discussion of the U.S. federal income tax consequences;
- whether the units will be listed on any securities exchange; and
- a description of the provisions for the payment, settlement, transfer, or exchange of the units.

Unit Agreements: Prepaid, Non-Prepaid, and Other

If a unit includes one or more purchase contracts, and all those purchase contracts are prepaid purchase contracts, we will issue the unit under a prepaid unit agreement. Prepaid unit agreements will reflect the fact that the holders of the related units have no further obligations

51

Table of Contents

under the purchase contracts included in their units. If a unit includes one or more non-prepaid purchase contracts, we will issue the unit under a non-prepaid unit agreement. Non-prepaid unit agreements will reflect the fact that the holders have payment or other obligations under one or more of the purchase contracts comprising their units. We may also issue units under other kinds of unit agreements, which will be described in the applicable supplement, if applicable.

Each holder of units issued under a non-prepaid unit agreement will:

- be bound by the terms of each non-prepaid purchase contract included in the holder s units and by the terms of the unit agreement with respect to those contracts; and
- appoint the unit agent as its authorized agent to execute, deliver, and perform on the holder s behalf each non-prepaid purchase contract included in the holder s units.

Any unit agreement for a unit that includes a non-prepaid purchase contract also will include provisions regarding the holder s pledge of collateral and special settlement provisions. These are described above under the heading Description of Purchase Contracts.

A unit agreement also may serve as the governing document for a security included in a unit. For example, a non-prepaid purchase contract that is part of a unit may be issued under and governed by the relevant unit agreement.

Modification

We and the unit agent may amend the terms of any unit agreement and the units without the consent of the holders to cure any ambiguity, to correct any inconsistent provision, or in any other manner we deem necessary or desirable and which will not affect adversely the interests of the holders. In addition, we may amend the unit agreement and the terms of the units with the consent of the holders of a majority of the outstanding unexpired units affected. However, any modification to the units that materially and adversely affects the rights of the holders of the units, or reduces the percentage of outstanding units required to modify or amend the unit agreement or the terms of the units, requires the consent of the affected holders.

Enforceability of Rights of Unitholders; No Trust Indenture Act Protection

The unit agent will act solely as our agent and will not assume any obligation or relationship of agency or trust with the holders of the units. Except as described below, any record holder of a unit, without anyone else s consent, may enforce his or her rights as holder under any security included in the unit, in accordance with the terms of the included security and the indenture, warrant agreement, unit agreement, or purchase contract under which that security is issued. We describe these terms in other sections of this prospectus relating to debt securities, warrants, and purchase contracts.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, a unit agreement may limit or otherwise affect the ability of a holder of units issued under that agreement to enforce his or her rights, including any right to bring legal action, with respect to those units or any included securities, other than debt securities. We will describe any limitations of this kind in the applicable supplement.

No unit agreement will be qualified as an indenture, and no unit agent will be required to qualify as a trustee under the Trust Indenture Act of 1939. Therefore, holders of units issued under a unit agreement will not have the protection of the Trust Indenture Act of 1939 with respect to their units.

Table of Contents

DESCRIPTION OF PREFERRED STOCK

General

We may issue preferred stock in one or more series, each with the preferences, designations, limitations, conversion rights, and other rights as we may determine. As of the date of this prospectus, under our Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation, we have authority to issue 100,000,000 shares of preferred stock, par value $.01 per share. As of March 31, 2015, we had approximately 3.77 million issued and outstanding shares of preferred stock and the aggregate liquidation preference of all of our outstanding preferred stock was approximately $24.6 billion.

Any preferred stock sold under this prospectus will have the general dividend, voting, and liquidation preference rights stated below unless we specify otherwise in the applicable supplement. The applicable supplement for a series of preferred stock will describe the specific terms of those shares, including, where applicable:

- the title and stated value of the preferred stock;
- the aggregate number of shares of preferred stock offered;
- the offering price or prices of the preferred stock;
- the dividend rate or rates or method of calculation, the dividend period, and the dates dividends will be payable;
- whether dividends are cumulative or noncumulative, and, if cumulative, the date the dividends will begin to cumulate;
- the dividend and liquidation preference rights of the preferred stock relative to any existing or future series of our preferred stock;
- the dates the preferred stock become subject to redemption at our option, and any redemption terms;
- any redemption or sinking fund provisions, including any restriction on the repurchase or redemption of the preferred stock while there is an arrearage in the payment of dividends;
- whether the preferred stock will be issued in other than book-entry form;
- whether the preferred stock will be listed on any securities exchange;
- any rights on the part of the stockholder or us to convert the preferred stock into shares of our common stock or any other security; and
- any additional voting, liquidation, preemptive, and other rights, preferences, privileges, limitations, and restrictions.

Shares of our preferred stock will be uncertificated unless our board of directors by resolution determines otherwise. Shares represented by an existing certificate will remain certificated until such certificate is surrendered to us.

This section summarizes the general terms and provisions of our preferred stock. You also should refer to our Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation and the respective

Table of Contents

certificates of designations for each series of our preferred stock. We have filed our Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation as an exhibit to the registration statement of which this prospectus forms a part, and we will file with the SEC the certificate of designations with respect to the particular series of preferred stock being offered promptly after the offering of that series of preferred stock.

Dividends

The holders of our preferred stock will be entitled to receive when, as, and if declared by our board of directors, cash dividends at those rates as will be fixed by our board of directors, subject to the terms of our Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation. All dividends will be paid out of funds that are legally available for this purpose. Unless we specify otherwise in the applicable supplement, whenever dividends on any non-voting preferred stock are in arrears for three or more semi-annual dividend periods or six quarterly dividend periods, as applicable (whether or not consecutive), holders of the non-voting preferred stock will have the right to elect two additional directors to serve on our board of directors, and these two additional directors will continue to serve until full dividends on such non-voting preferred stock have been paid regularly for at least four quarterly dividend periods.

Voting

The holders of our preferred stock will have no voting rights except:

- as required by applicable law; or
- as specifically approved by us for that particular series.

Under regulations adopted by the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System (the Federal Reserve Board), if the holders of any series of our preferred stock become entitled to vote for the election of directors because dividends on that series are in arrears, that series may then be deemed a class of voting securities. In such a case, a holder of 25% or more of the series, or a holder of 5% or more if that holder would also be considered to exercise a controlling influence over us, may then be subject to regulation as a bank holding company in accordance with the The Bank Holding Company Act of 1956. In addition, (1) any other bank holding company may be required to obtain the prior approval of the Federal Reserve Board to acquire or retain 5% or more of that series, and (2) any person other than a bank holding company may be required to obtain the approval of the Federal Reserve Board to acquire or retain 10% or more of that series.

Liquidation Preference

In the event of our voluntary or involuntary dissolution, liquidation, or winding up, the holders of any series of our preferred stock will be entitled to receive, after distributions to holders of any series or class of our capital stock ranking superior, an amount equal to the stated or liquidation value of the shares of the series plus an amount equal to accrued and unpaid dividends. If the assets and funds to be distributed among the holders of our preferred stock will be insufficient to permit full payment to the holders, then the holders of our preferred stock will share ratably in any distribution of our assets in proportion to the amounts that they otherwise would receive on their shares of our preferred stock if the shares were paid in full. In addition, holders of our preferred stock, or depositary shares representing interests in our preferred stock, 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.

Table of Contents

Preemptive Rights

Unless we specify otherwise in the applicable supplement, holders of our preferred stock will not have any preemptive rights.

Existing Preferred Stock

As of the date of this prospectus, under our Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation, we have authority to issue 100,000,000 shares of preferred stock, par value $.01 per share. As of March 31, 2015, we had approximately 3.77 million issued and outstanding shares of preferred stock and the aggregate liquidation preference of all of our outstanding preferred stock was approximately $24.6 billion. Of our authorized and outstanding preferred stock, as of March 31, 2015:

35,045 shares were designated as 7% Cumulative Redeemable Preferred Stock, Series B (the Series B Preferred Stock), having a liquidation preference of $100 per share, 7,571 shares of which were issued and outstanding;

34,500 shares were designated as 6.204% Non-Cumulative Preferred Stock, Series D (the Series D Preferred Stock), having a liquidation preference of $25,000 per share, 26,174 shares of which were issued and outstanding;

85,100 shares were designated as Floating Rate Non-Cumulative Preferred Stock, Series E (the Series E Preferred Stock), having a liquidation preference of $25,000 per share, 12,691 shares of which were issued and outstanding;

7,001 shares were designated as Floating Rate Non-Cumulative Preferred Stock, Series F (the Series F Preferred Stock), having a liquidation preference of $100,000 per share, 1,410 shares of which were issued and outstanding;

8,501 shares were designated as Adjustable Rate Non-Cumulative Preferred Stock, Series G (the Series G Preferred Stock), having a liquidation preference of $100,000 per share, 4,926 shares of which were issued and outstanding;

25,300 shares were designated as 6.625% Non-Cumulative Preferred Stock, Series I (the Series I Preferred Stock), having a liquidation preference of $25,000 per share, 14,584 shares of which were issued and outstanding;

240,000 shares were designated as Fixed-to-Floating Rate Non-Cumulative Preferred Stock, Series K (the Series K Preferred Stock), having a liquidation preference of $25,000 per share, 61,773 shares of which were issued and outstanding;

6,900,000 shares were designated as 7.25% Non-Cumulative Perpetual Convertible Preferred Stock, Series L (the Series L Preferred Stock), having a liquidation preference of $1,000 per share, 3,080,182 shares of which were issued and outstanding;

160,000 shares were designated as Fixed-to-Floating Rate Non-Cumulative Preferred Stock, Series M (the Series M Preferred Stock), having a liquidation preference of $25,000 per share, 52,399 shares of which were issued and outstanding;

50,000 shares were designated as 6% Non-Cumulative Perpetual Preferred Stock, Series T (the Series T Preferred Stock), having a liquidation preference of $100,000 per share, 50,000 shares of which were issued and outstanding;

55

Table of Contents

40,000 shares were designated as Fixed-to-Floating Rate Non-Cumulative Preferred Stock, Series U (the Series U Preferred Stock), having a liquidation preference of $25,000 per share, 40,000 shares of which were issued and outstanding;

60,000 shares were designated as Fixed-to-Floating Rate Non-Cumulative Preferred Stock, Series V (the Series V Preferred Stock), having a liquidation preference of $25,000 per share, 60,000 shares of which were issued and outstanding;

46,000 shares were designated as 6.625% Non-Cumulative Preferred Stock, Series W (the Series W Preferred Stock), having a liquidation preference of $25,000 per share, 44,000 shares of which were issued and outstanding;

80,000 shares were designated as Fixed-to-Floating Rate Non-Cumulative Preferred Stock, Series X (the Series X Preferred Stock), having a liquidation preference of $25,000 per share, 80,000 shares of which were issued and outstanding;

44,000 shares were designated as 6.500% Non-Cumulative Preferred Stock, Series Y (the Series Y Preferred Stock), having a liquidation preference of $25,000 per share, 44,000 shares of which were issued and outstanding;

56,000 shares were designated as Fixed-to-Floating Rate Non-Cumulative Preferred Stock, Series Z (the Series Z Preferred Stock), having a liquidation preference of $25,000 per share, 56,000 shares of which were issued and outstanding;

76,000 shares were designated as Fixed-to-Floating Rate Non-Cumulative Preferred Stock, Series AA (the Series AA Preferred Stock), having a liquidation preference of $25,000 per share, 76,000 shares of which were issued and outstanding;

21,000 shares were designated as Floating Rate Non-Cumulative Preferred Stock, Series 1 (the Series 1 Preferred Stock), having a liquidation preference of $30,000 per share, 3,275 shares of which were issued and outstanding;

37,000 shares were designated as Floating Rate Non-Cumulative Preferred Stock, Series 2 (the Series 2 Preferred Stock), having a liquidation preference of $30,000 per share, 9,967 shares of which were issued and outstanding;

27,000 shares were designated as 6.375% Non-Cumulative Preferred Stock, Series 3 (the Series 3 Preferred Stock), having a liquidation preference of $30,000 per share, 21,773 shares of which were issued and outstanding;

20,000 shares were designated as Floating Rate Non-Cumulative Preferred Stock, Series 4 (the Series 4 Preferred Stock), having a liquidation preference of $30,000 per share, 7,010 shares of which were issued and outstanding; and

50,000 shares were designated as Floating Rate Non-Cumulative Preferred Stock, Series 5 (the Series 5 Preferred Stock), having a liquidation preference of $30,000 per share, 14,056 shares of which were issued and outstanding.

In addition, as of the date of this prospectus, the following series of preferred stock were designated, but no shares of any of these series were outstanding:

3 million shares of ESOP Convertible Preferred Stock, Series C;

20 million shares of $2.50 Cumulative Convertible Preferred Stock, Series BB;

Table of Contents

124,200 shares of 8.20% Non-Cumulative Preferred Stock, Series H;

41,400 shares of 7.25% Non-Cumulative Preferred Stock, Series J;

600,000 shares of Fixed Rate Cumulative Perpetual Preferred Stock, Series N;

400,000 shares of Fixed Rate Cumulative Perpetual Preferred Stock, Series Q;

800,000 shares of Fixed Rate Cumulative Perpetual Preferred Stock, Series R;

1,286,000 shares of Common Equivalent Junior Preferred Stock, Series S;

65,000 shares of 6.70% Noncumulative Perpetual Preferred Stock, Series 6;

50,000 shares of 6.25% Noncumulative Perpetual Preferred Stock, Series 7; and

89,100 shares of 8.625% Non-Cumulative Preferred Stock, Series 8.

The following summarizes the general terms and provisions of our Series B Preferred Stock, Series D Preferred Stock, Series E Preferred Stock, Series F Preferred Stock, Series G Preferred Stock, Series I Preferred Stock, Series K Preferred Stock, Series L Preferred Stock, Series M Preferred Stock, Series T Preferred Stock, Series U Preferred Stock, Series V Preferred Stock, Series W Preferred Stock, Series X Preferred Stock, Series Y Preferred Stock, Series Z Preferred Stock, Series AA Preferred Stock, Series 1 Preferred Stock, Series 2 Preferred Stock, Series 3 Preferred Stock, Series 4 Preferred Stock and Series 5 Preferred Stock. You also should refer to our Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation and the respective certificate of designations for each series, which are on file with the SEC.

Series B Preferred Stock

Preferential Rights. The Series B Preferred Stock ranks senior to the common stock and ranks equally with the Series D Preferred Stock, Series E Preferred Stock, Series F Preferred Stock, Series G Preferred Stock, Series I Preferred Stock, Series K Preferred Stock, Series L Preferred Stock, Series M Preferred Stock, Series T Preferred Stock, Series U Preferred Stock, Series V Preferred Stock, Series W Preferred Stock, Series X Preferred Stock, Series Y Preferred Stock, Series Z Preferred Stock, Series AA Preferred Stock, Series 1 Preferred Stock, Series 2 Preferred Stock, Series 3 Preferred Stock, Series 4 Preferred Stock, and Series 5 Preferred Stock as to dividends and distributions on liquidation. Shares of the Series B Preferred Stock are not convertible into or exchangeable for any shares of common stock or any other class of our capital stock. We may issue stock with preferences senior or equal to the Series B Preferred Stock without the consent of holders of Series B Preferred Stock.

Dividends. Holders of shares of Series B Preferred Stock are entitled to receive, when and as declared by our board of directors, cumulative cash dividends at an annual dividend rate per share of 7.00% of the stated value per share of Series B Preferred Stock. The stated value per share of the Series B Preferred Stock is $100. Dividends are payable quarterly. We cannot declare or pay cash dividends on any shares of common stock unless full cumulative dividends on the Series B Preferred Stock have been paid or declared and funds sufficient for the payment have been set apart.

Voting Rights. Each share of Series B Preferred Stock has equal voting rights, share for share, with each share of common stock.

Distributions. In the event of our voluntary or involuntary dissolution, liquidation, or winding up, the holders of Series B Preferred Stock are entitled to receive, after payment of the full

57

Table of Contents

liquidation preference on shares of any class of preferred stock ranking senior to Series B Preferred Stock, but before any distribution on shares of common stock, liquidating distributions in the amount of the liquidation preference of $100 per share plus accumulated dividends.

Redemption. Shares of Series B Preferred Stock are redeemable, in whole or in part, at the option of the holders, at the redemption price of $100 per share plus accumulated dividends, provided that (1) full cumulative dividends have been paid, or declared, and funds sufficient for payment set apart, upon any class or series of preferred stock ranking senior to the Series B Preferred Stock; and (2) we are not then in default or in arrears on any sinking fund or analogous fund or call for tenders obligation or agreement for the purchase of any class or series of preferred stock ranking senior to Series B Preferred Stock.

Series D Preferred Stock

Preferential Rights. The Series D Preferred Stock ranks senior to our common stock and ranks equally with Series B Preferred Stock, Series E Preferred Stock, Series F Preferred Stock, Series G Preferred Stock, Series I Preferred Stock, Series K Preferred Stock, Series L Preferred Stock, Series M Preferred Stock, Series T Preferred Stock, Series U Preferred Stock, Series V Preferred Stock, Series W Preferred Stock, Series X Preferred Stock, Series Y Preferred Stock, Series Z Preferred Stock, Series AA Preferred Stock, Series 1 Preferred Stock, Series 2 Preferred Stock, Series 3 Preferred Stock, Series 4 Preferred Stock, and Series 5 Preferred Stock as to dividends and distributions on our liquidation, dissolution, or winding up. Series D Preferred Stock is not convertible into or exchangeable for any shares of our common stock or any other class of our capital stock. Holders of the Series D Preferred Stock do not have any preemptive rights. We may issue stock with preferences superior or equal to the Series D Preferred Stock without the consent of the holders of the Series D Preferred Stock.

Dividends. Holders of the Series D Preferred Stock are entitled to receive cash dividends, when, as, and if declared by our board of directors or a duly authorized committee of our board, at an annual dividend rate per share of 6.204% on the liquidation preference of $25,000 per share. Dividends on the Series D Preferred Stock are non-cumulative and are payable quarterly in arrears. As long as shares of Series D Preferred Stock remain outstanding, we cannot declare or pay cash dividends on any shares of our common stock or other capital stock ranking junior to the Series D Preferred Stock unless full dividends on all outstanding shares of Series D Preferred Stock for the then-current dividend period have been paid in full or declared and a sum sufficient for the payment thereof set aside. We cannot declare or pay cash dividends on capital stock ranking equally with the Series D Preferred Stock for any period unless full dividends on all outstanding shares of Series D Preferred Stock for the then-current dividend period have been paid in full or declared and a sum sufficient for the payment thereof set aside. If we declare dividends on the Series D Preferred Stock and on any capital stock ranking equally with the Series D Preferred Stock but cannot make full payment of those declared dividends, we will allocate the dividend payments on a pro rata basis among the holders of the shares of Series D Preferred Stock and the holders of any capital stock ranking equally with the Series D Preferred Stock.

Voting Rights. Holders of Series D Preferred Stock do not have voting rights, except as specifically required by Delaware law and in the case of certain dividend arrearages in relation to the Series D Preferred Stock. If any quarterly dividend payable on the Series D Preferred Stock is in arrears for six or more quarterly dividend periods, whether or not for consecutive dividend periods, the holders of the Series D Preferred Stock will be entitled to vote as a class, together with the holders of all series of our preferred stock ranking equally with the Series D Preferred Stock as to payment of dividends and upon which voting rights equivalent to those granted to the holders of Series D Preferred Stock have been conferred and are exercisable, for the election of two Preferred Stock Directors. When we have paid full dividends on the Series D Preferred Stock for at least four

Table of Contents

quarterly dividend periods following a dividend arrearage described above, these voting rights will terminate.

Distributions. In the event of our voluntary or involuntary liquidation, dissolution, or winding up, holders of Series D Preferred Stock are entitled to receive out of assets legally available for distribution to stockholders, before any distribution or payment out of our assets may be made to or set aside for the holders of our capital stock ranking junior to the Series D Preferred Stock as to distributions, a liquidating distribution in the amount of the liquidation preference of $25,000 per share, plus any declared and unpaid dividends, without accumulation of any undeclared dividends, to the date of liquidation. Shares of Series D Preferred Stock are not subject to a sinking fund.

Redemption. We may redeem the Series D Preferred Stock, in whole or in part, at our option, on any dividend payment date for the Series D Preferred Stock, at the redemption price equal to $25,000 per share, plus any declared and unpaid dividends.

Series E Preferred Stock

Preferential Rights. The Series E Preferred Stock ranks senior to our common stock and ranks equally with the Series B Preferred Stock, Series D Preferred Stock, Series F Preferred Stock, Series G Preferred Stock, Series I Preferred Stock, Series K Preferred Stock, Series L Preferred Stock, Series M Preferred Stock, Series T Preferred Stock, Series U Preferred Stock, Series V Preferred Stock, Series W Preferred Stock, Series X Preferred Stock, Series Y Preferred Stock, Series Z Preferred Stock, Series AA Preferred Stock, Series 1 Preferred Stock, Series 2 Preferred Stock, Series 3 Preferred Stock, Series 4 Preferred Stock, and Series 5 Preferred Stock as to dividends and distributions on our liquidation, dissolution, or winding up. Series E Preferred Stock is not convertible into or exchangeable for any shares of our common stock or any other class of our capital stock. Holders of the Series E Preferred Stock do not have any preemptive rights. We may issue stock with preferences superior or equal to the Series E Preferred Stock without the consent of the holders of the Series E Preferred Stock.

Dividends. Holders of the Series E Preferred Stock are entitled to receive cash dividends when, as, and if declared by our board of directors or a duly authorized committee of our board, on the liquidation preference of $25,000 per share at an annual rate per share equal to the greater of (a) three-month LIBOR plus a spread of 0.35%, and (b) 4.00%. Dividends on the Series E Preferred Stock are non-cumulative and are payable quarterly in arrears. As long as shares of Series E Preferred Stock remain outstanding, we cannot declare or pay cash dividends on any shares of our common stock or other capital stock ranking junior to the Series E Preferred Stock unless full dividends on all outstanding shares of Series E Preferred Stock for the then-current dividend period have been paid in full or declared and a sum sufficient for the payment thereof set aside. We cannot declare or pay cash dividends on capital stock ranking equally with the Series E Preferred Stock for any period unless full dividends on all outstanding shares of Series E Preferred Stock for the then-current dividend period have been paid in full or declared and a sum sufficient for the payment thereof set aside. If we declare dividends on the Series E Preferred Stock and on any capital stock ranking equally with the Series E Preferred Stock but cannot make full payment of those declared dividends, we will allocate the dividend payments on a pro rata basis among the holders of the shares of Series E Preferred Stock and the holders of any capital stock ranking equally with the Series E Preferred Stock.

Voting Rights. Holders of Series E Preferred Stock do not have voting rights, except as specifically required by Delaware law and in the case of certain dividend arrearages in relation to the Series E Preferred Stock. If any quarterly dividend payable on the Series E Preferred Stock is in arrears for six or more quarterly dividend periods, whether or not for consecutive dividend periods, the holders of the Series E Preferred Stock will be entitled to vote as a class, together with

Table of Contents

the holders of all series of our preferred stock ranking equally with the Series E Preferred Stock as to payment of dividends and upon which voting rights equivalent to those granted to the holders of Series E Preferred Stock have been conferred and are exercisable, for the election of two Preferred Stock Directors. When we have paid full dividends on the Series E Preferred Stock for at least four quarterly dividend periods following a dividend arrearage described above, these voting rights will terminate.

Distributions. In the event of our voluntary or involuntary liquidation, dissolution, or winding up, holders of Series E Preferred Stock are entitled to receive out of assets legally available for distribution to stockholders, before any distribution or payment out of our assets may be made to or set aside for the holders of our capital stock ranking junior to the Series E Preferred Stock as to distributions, a liquidating distribution in the amount of the liquidation preference of $25,000 per share, plus any declared and unpaid dividends, without accumulation of any undeclared dividends, to the date of liquidation. Shares of Series E Preferred Stock are not subject to a sinking fund.

Redemption. We may redeem the Series E Preferred Stock in whole or in part, at our option, on any dividend payment date for the Series E Preferred Stock, at the redemption price equal to $25,000 per share, plus any declared and unpaid dividends.

Series F Preferred Stock

Preferential Rights. The Series F Preferred Stock ranks senior to our common stock and ranks equally with the Series B Preferred Stock, Series D Preferred Stock, Series E Preferred Stock, Series G Preferred Stock, Series I Preferred Stock, Series K Preferred Stock, Series L Preferred Stock, Series M Preferred Stock, Series T Preferred Stock, Series U Preferred Stock, Series V Preferred Stock, Series W Preferred Stock, Series X Preferred Stock, Series Y Preferred Stock, Series Z Preferred Stock, Series AA Preferred Stock, Series 1 Preferred Stock, Series 2 Preferred Stock, Series 3 Preferred Stock, Series 4 Preferred Stock, and Series 5 Preferred Stock as to dividends and distributions on our liquidation, dissolution, or winding up. The Series F Preferred Stock is not convertible into or exchangeable for any shares of our common stock or any other class of our capital stock. Holders of the Series F Preferred Stock do not have any preemptive rights. We may issue stock with preferences superior or equal to the Series F Preferred Stock without the consent of the holders of the Series F Preferred Stock.

Dividends. Holders of the Series F Preferred Stock are entitled to receive cash dividends, when, as, and if declared by our board of directors or a duly authorized committee of our board out of funds legally available for payment, on the liquidation preference of $100,000 per share of Series F Preferred Stock. Dividends on each share of Series F Preferred Stock will accrue on the liquidation preference of $100,000 per share at a rate per year equal to the greater of (a) three-month LIBOR plus a spread of 0.40%, and (b) 4.00%. Dividends on the Series F Preferred Stock are non-cumulative and are payable quarterly in arrears. As long as shares of Series F preferred Stock remain outstanding, we cannot declare or pay cash dividends on any shares of our common stock or other capital stock ranking junior to the Series F Preferred Stock unless full dividends on all outstanding shares of Series F Preferred Stock for the then-current dividend period have been paid in full or declared and a sum sufficient for the payment thereof set aside. We cannot declare or pay cash dividends on capital stock ranking equally with the Series F Preferred Stock unless full dividends on all outstanding shares of Series F Preferred Stock for the then-current dividend period have been paid in full or declared and a sum sufficient for the payment thereof set aside. If we declare dividends on the Series F Preferred Stock and on any capital stock ranking equally with the Series F Preferred Stock but cannot make full payment of those declared dividends, we will allocate the dividend payments on a pro rata basis among the holders of the shares of Series F Preferred Stock and the holders of any capital stock ranking equally with the Series F Preferred Stock.

Table of Contents

Voting Rights. Holders of Series F Preferred Stock do not have voting rights, except as specifically required by Delaware law.

Distributions. In the event of our voluntary of involuntary liquidation, dissolution, or winding up, holders of Series F Preferred Stock are entitled to receive out of assets legally available for distribution to stockholders, before any distribution or payment out of our assets may be made to or set aside for the holders of our capital stock ranking junior to the Series F Preferred Stock as to distributions, a liquidating distribution in the amount of the liquidation preference of $100,000 per share, plus any declared and unpaid dividends, without accumulation of any undeclared dividends, to the date of liquidation. Shares of Series F Preferred Stock are not subject to a sinking fund.

Redemption. We may redeem the Series F Preferred Stock, in whole or in part, at our option, on any dividend payment date for the Series F Preferred Stock at the redemption price equal to $100,000 per share, plus dividends that have been declared but not paid plus any accrued and unpaid dividends for the then-current dividend period to the redemption date.

Series G Preferred Stock

Preferential Rights. The Series G Preferred Stock ranks senior to our common stock and ranks equally with the Series B Preferred Stock, Series D Preferred Stock, Series E Preferred Stock, Series F Preferred Stock, Series I Preferred Stock, Series K Preferred Stock, Series L Preferred Stock, Series M Preferred Stock, Series T Preferred Stock, Series U Preferred Stock, Series V Preferred Stock, Series W Preferred Stock, Series X Preferred Stock, Series Y Preferred Stock, Series Z Preferred Stock, Series AA Preferred Stock, Series 1 Preferred Stock, Series 2 Preferred Stock, Series 3 Preferred Stock, Series 4 Preferred Stock, and Series 5 Preferred Stock as to dividends and distributions on our liquidation, dissolution, or winding up. The Series G Preferred Stock is not convertible into or exchangeable for any shares of our common stock or any other class of our capital stock. Holders of the Series G Preferred Stock do not have any preemptive rights. We may issue stock with preferences superior or equal to the Series G Preferred Stock without the consent of the holders of the Series G Preferred Stock.

Dividends. Holders of the Series G Preferred Stock are entitled to receive cash dividends when, as, and if declared by our board of directors or a duly authorized committee thereof out of funds legally available for payment, on the liquidation preference of $100,000 per share of Series G Preferred Stock, payable quarterly in arrears. Dividends on each share of Series G Preferred Stock will accrue on the liquidation preference of $100,000 per share at a rate per year equal to the greater of (a) three-month LIBOR plus a spread of 0.40%, and (b) 4.00%. Dividends on the Series G Preferred Stock are non-cumulative. As long as shares of Series G Preferred Stock remain outstanding, we cannot declare or pay cash dividends on any shares of our common stock or other capital stock ranking junior to the Series G Preferred Stock unless full dividends on all outstanding shares of Series G Preferred Stock for the then-current dividend period have been paid in full or declared and a sum sufficient for the payment thereof set aside. We cannot declare or pay cash dividends on capital stock ranking equally with the Series G Preferred Stock unless full dividends on all outstanding shares of Series G Preferred Stock for the then-current dividend period have been paid in full or declared and a sum sufficient for the payment thereof set aside. If we declare dividends on the Series G Preferred Stock and on any capital stock ranking equally with the Series G Preferred Stock but cannot make full payment of those declared dividends, we will allocate the dividend payments on a pro rata basis among the holders of the shares of Series G Preferred Stock and the holders of any capital stock ranking equally with the Series G Preferred Stock.

Voting Rights. Holders of Series G Preferred Stock do not have voting rights, except as specifically required by Delaware law.

Table of Contents

Distributions. In the event of our voluntary or involuntary liquidation, dissolution, or winding up, holders of Series G Preferred Stock are entitled to receive out of assets legally available for distribution to stockholders, before any distribution or payment out of our assets may be made to or set aside for the holders of capital stock ranking junior to the Series G Preferred Stock as to distributions, a liquidating distribution in the amount of the liquidation preference of $100,000 per share, plus any declared and unpaid dividends, without accumulation of any undeclared dividends, to the date of liquidation. Shares of Series G Preferred Stock are not subject to a sinking fund.

Redemption. We may redeem the Series G Preferred Stock, in whole or in part, at our option, on any dividend payment date for the Series G Preferred Stock at the redemption price equal to $100,000 per share, plus dividends that have been declared but not paid plus any accrued and unpaid dividends for the then-current dividend period to the redemption date.

Series I Preferred Stock

Preferential Rights. The Series I Preferred Stock ranks senior to our common stock and ranks equally with the Series B Preferred Stock, Series D Preferred Stock, Series E Preferred Stock, Series F Preferred Stock, Series G Preferred Stock, Series K Preferred Stock, Series L Preferred Stock, Series M Preferred Stock, Series T Preferred Stock, Series U Preferred Stock, Series V Preferred Stock, Series W Preferred Stock, Series X Preferred Stock, Series Y Preferred Stock, Series Z Preferred Stock, Series AA Preferred Stock, Series 1 Preferred Stock, Series 2 Preferred Stock, Series 3 Preferred Stock, Series 4 Preferred Stock, and Series 5 Preferred Stock as to dividends and distributions on our liquidation, dissolution, or winding up. Series I Preferred Stock is not convertible into or exchangeable for any shares of our common stock or any other class of our capital stock. Holders of the Series I Preferred Stock do not have any preemptive rights. We may issue stock with preferences superior or equal to the Series I Preferred Stock without the consent of the holders of the Series I Preferred Stock.

Dividends. Holders of the Series I Preferred Stock are entitled to receive cash dividends, when, as, and if declared by our board of directors or a duly authorized committee of our board, at an annual dividend rate per share of 6.625% on the liquidation preference of $25,000 per share. Dividends on the Series I Preferred Stock are non-cumulative and are payable quarterly in arrears. As long as shares of Series I Preferred Stock remain outstanding, we cannot declare or pay cash dividends on any shares of our common stock or other capital stock ranking junior to the Series I Preferred Stock unless full dividends on all outstanding shares of Series I Preferred Stock for the then-current dividend period have been paid in full or declared and a sum sufficient for the payment thereof set aside. We cannot declare or pay cash dividends on capital stock ranking equally with the Series I Preferred Stock for any period unless full dividends on all outstanding shares of Series I Preferred Stock for the then-current dividend period have been paid in full or declared and a sum sufficient for the payment thereof set aside. If we declare dividends on the Series I Preferred Stock and on any capital stock ranking equally with the Series I Preferred Stock but cannot make full payment of those declared dividends, we will allocate the dividend payments on a pro rata basis among the holders of the shares of Series I Preferred Stock and the holders of any capital stock ranking equally with the Series I Preferred Stock.

Voting Rights. Holders of Series I Preferred Stock do not have voting rights, except as specifically required by Delaware law and in the case of certain dividend arrearages in relation to the Series I Preferred Stock. If any quarterly dividend payable on the Series I Preferred Stock is in arrears for six or more quarterly dividend periods, whether or not for consecutive dividend periods, the holders of the Series I Preferred Stock will be entitled to vote as a class, together with the holders of all series of our preferred stock ranking equally with the Series I Preferred Stock as to payment of dividends and upon which voting rights equivalent to those granted to the holders of Series I Preferred Stock have been conferred and are exercisable, for the election of two Preferred

Table of Contents

Stock Directors. When we have paid full dividends on the Series I Preferred Stock for at least four quarterly dividend periods following a dividend arrearage described above, these voting rights will terminate.

Distributions. In the event of our voluntary or involuntary liquidation, dissolution, or winding up, holders of Series I Preferred Stock are entitled to receive out of assets legally available for distribution to stockholders, before any distribution or payment out of our assets may be made to or set aside for the holders of our capital stock ranking junior to the Series I Preferred Stock as to distributions, a liquidating distribution in the amount of the liquidation preference of $25,000 per share, plus any declared and unpaid dividends, without accumulation of any undeclared dividends, to the date of liquidation. Shares of Series I Preferred Stock are not subject to a sinking fund.

Redemption. We may redeem the Series I Preferred Stock, in whole or in part, at our option, on any dividend payment date for the Series I Preferred Stock on or after October 1, 2017, at the redemption price equal to $25,000 per share, plus any declared and unpaid dividends.

Series K Preferred Stock

Preferential Rights. The Series K Preferred Stock ranks senior to our common stock and equally with the Series B Preferred Stock, Series D Preferred Stock, Series E Preferred Stock, Series F Preferred Stock, Series G Preferred Stock, Series I Preferred Stock, Series L Preferred Stock, Series M Preferred Stock, Series T Preferred Stock, Series U Preferred Stock, Series V Preferred Stock, Series W Preferred Stock, Series X Preferred Stock, Series Y Preferred Stock, Series Z Preferred Stock, Series AA Preferred Stock, Series 1 Preferred Stock, Series 2 Preferred Stock, Series 3 Preferred Stock, Series 4 Preferred Stock, and Series 5 Preferred Stock as to dividends and distributions on our liquidation, dissolution, or winding up. Series K Preferred Stock is not convertible into or exchangeable for any shares of our common stock or any other class of our capital stock. Holders of the Series K Preferred Stock do not have any preemptive rights. We may issue stock with preferences superior or equal to the Series K Preferred Stock without the consent of the holders of the Series K Preferred Stock.

Dividends. Holders of the Series K Preferred Stock are entitled to receive cash dividends, when, as, and if declared by our board of directors or a duly authorized committee of our board, for each semi-annual dividend period from the issue date to, but excluding, January 30, 2018, at a rate of 8.00% per annum on the liquidation preference of $25,000 per share, payable semi-annually in arrears, and, for each quarterly dividend period from January 30, 2018 through the redemption date of the Series K Preferred Stock, at a floating rate equal to three-month LIBOR plus a spread of 3.63% per annum on the liquidation preference of $25,000 per share, payable quarterly in arrears. Dividends on the Series K Preferred Stock are non-cumulative. As long as shares of Series K Preferred Stock remain outstanding, we cannot declare or pay cash dividends on any shares of our common stock or other capital stock ranking junior to the Series K Preferred Stock unless full dividends on all outstanding shares of Series K Preferred Stock for the then-current dividend period have been paid in full or declared and a sum sufficient for the payment thereof set aside. We cannot declare or pay cash dividends on capital stock ranking equally with the Series K Preferred Stock for any period unless full dividends on all outstanding shares of Series K Preferred Stock for the then-current dividend period have been paid in full or declared and a sum sufficient for the payment thereof set aside. If we declare dividends on the Series K Preferred Stock and on any capital stock ranking equally with the Series K Preferred Stock but cannot make full payment of those declared dividends, we will allocate the dividend payments on a pro rata basis among the holders of the shares of Series K Preferred Stock and the holders of any capital stock ranking equally with the Series K Preferred Stock.

Table of Contents

Voting Rights. Holders of Series K Preferred Stock do not have voting rights, except as specifically required by Delaware law and in the case of certain dividend arrearages in relation to the Series K Preferred Stock. If any dividend payable on the Series K Preferred Stock is in arrears for three or more semi-annual dividend periods or six or more quarterly dividend periods, as applicable, whether or not for consecutive dividend periods, the holders of the Series K Preferred Stock will be entitled to vote as a class, together with the holders of all series of our preferred stock ranking equally with the Series K Preferred Stock as to payment of dividends and upon which voting rights equivalent to those granted to the holders of Series K Preferred Stock have been conferred and are exercisable, for the election of two Preferred Stock Directors. When we have paid full dividends on the Series K Preferred Stock for at least two semi-annual or four quarterly dividend periods following a dividend arrearage described above, these voting rights will terminate.

Distributions. In the event of our voluntary or involuntary liquidation, dissolution, or winding up, holders of Series K Preferred Stock will be entitled to receive out of assets legally available for distribution to stockholders, before any distribution or payment out of our assets may be made to or set aside for the holders of our capital stock ranking junior to the Series K Preferred Stock as to distributions, a liquidating distribution in the amount of the liquidation preference of $25,000 per share, plus any declared and unpaid dividends, without accumulation of any undeclared dividends, to the date of liquidation. Shares of Series K Preferred Stock will not be subject to a sinking fund.

Redemption. We may redeem the Series K Preferred Stock, in whole or in part, at our option, on any dividend payment date for the Series K Preferred Stock on or after January 30, 2018, at the redemption price equal to $25,000 per share, plus any declared and unpaid dividends.

Series L Preferred Stock

Preferential Rights. The Series L Preferred Stock ranks senior to our common stock and equally with the Series B Preferred Stock, Series D Preferred Stock, Series E Preferred Stock, Series F Preferred Stock, Series G Preferred Stock, Series I Preferred Stock, Series K Preferred Stock, Series M Preferred Stock, Series T Preferred Stock, Series U Preferred Stock, Series V Preferred Stock, Series W Preferred Stock, Series X Preferred Stock, Series Y Preferred Stock, Series Z Preferred Stock, Series AA Preferred Stock, Series 1 Preferred Stock, Series 2 Preferred Stock, Series 3 Preferred Stock, Series 4 Preferred Stock, and Series 5 Preferred Stock as to dividends and distributions on our liquidation, dissolution, or winding up. Holders of the Series L Preferred Stock do not have any preemptive rights. We may issue stock with preferences superior or equal to the Series L Preferred Stock without the consent of the holders of the Series L Preferred Stock.

Dividends. Holders of the Series L Preferred Stock are entitled to receive cash dividends, when, as, and if declared by our board of directors or a duly authorized committee of our board, at an annual dividend rate per share of 7.25% on the liquidation preference of $1,000 per share. Dividends on the Series L Preferred Stock are non-cumulative and are payable quarterly in arrears. As long as shares of Series L Preferred Stock remain outstanding, we cannot declare or pay cash dividends on any shares of common stock or other capital stock ranking junior to the Series L Preferred Stock unless full dividends on all outstanding shares of Series L Preferred Stock for the then-current dividend period have been paid in full or declared and a sum sufficient for the payment thereof set aside. We cannot declare or pay cash dividends on capital stock ranking equally with the Series L Preferred Stock for any period unless full dividends on all outstanding shares of Series L Preferred Stock for the then-current dividend period have been paid in full or declared and a sum sufficient for the payment thereof set aside. If we declare dividends on the Series L Preferred Stock and on any capital stock ranking equally with the Series L Preferred Stock but cannot make full payment of those declared dividends, we will allocate the dividend payments on a pro rata basis among the holders of the shares of Series L Preferred Stock and the holders of any capital stock ranking equally with the Series L Preferred Stock.

Table of Contents

Conversion Right. Each share of the Series L Preferred Stock may be converted at any time, at the option of the holder, into 20 shares of our common stock (which reflects an initial conversion price of $50.00 per share of common stock) plus cash in lieu of fractional shares, subject to anti-dilution adjustments.

Conversion at Our Option. We may, at our option, at any time or from time to time, cause some or all of the Series L Preferred Stock to be converted into shares of our common stock at the then-applicable conversion rate if, for 20 trading days during any period of 30 consecutive trading days, the closing price of our common stock exceeds 130% of the then-applicable conversion price of the Series L Preferred Stock.

Conversion Upon Certain Acquisitions. If a make-whole acquisition occurs, holders of Series L Preferred Stock may cause this Series L Preferred Stock held by such holder to be converted into shares of our common stock, and we will, under certain circumstances, increase the conversion rate in respect of such conversions of the Series L Preferred Stock that occur during the period beginning on the effective date of the make-whole acquisition and ending on the date that is 30 days after the effective date by a number of additional shares of common stock. The amount of the make-whole adjustment, if any, will be based upon the price per share of our common stock and the effective date of the make-whole acquisition. Subject to certain exceptions, a make-whole acquisition occurs in the event of (1) the acquisition by a person or group of more than 50% of the voting power of our common stock, or (2) our consolidation or merger where we are not the surviving entity.

Conversion Upon Fundamental Change. In lieu of receiving the make-whole shares described above, if the reference price (as defined below) in connection with a make-whole acquisition is less than the applicable conversion price (a fundamental change), a holder may elect to convert each share of the Series L Preferred Stock during the period beginning on the effective date of the fundamental change and ending on the date that is 30 days after the effective date of such fundamental change at an adjusted conversion price equal to the greater of (1) the reference price, which is the price per share of our common stock paid in the event of a fundamental change, and (2) $19.95, which is 50% of the closing price of our common stock on January 24, 2008, the date of the initial offering of the Series L Preferred Stock, subject to adjustment (the base price). If the reference price is less than the base price, holders of the Series L Preferred Stock will receive a maximum of 50.1253 shares of our common stock per share of Series L Preferred Stock, subject to adjustment, which may result in a holder receiving value that is less than the liquidation preference of the Series L Preferred Stock.

Anti-Dilution Adjustments. The conversion rate may be adjusted in the event of, among other things, (1) stock dividend distributions, (2) subdivisions, splits, and combinations of our common stock, (3) issuance of stock purchase rights, (4) debt or asset distributions, (5) increases in cash dividends, and (6) tender or exchange offers for our common stock.

Voting Rights. Holders of Series L Preferred Stock do not have voting rights, except as specifically required by Delaware law and in the case of certain dividend arrearages in relation to the Series L Preferred Stock. If any quarterly dividend payable on the Series L Preferred Stock is in arrears for six or more quarterly dividend periods, whether or not for consecutive dividend periods, the holders of the Series L Preferred Stock will be entitled to vote as a class, together with the holders of all series of our preferred stock ranking equally with the Series L Preferred Stock as to payment of dividends and upon which voting rights equivalent to those granted to the holders of Series L Preferred Stock have been conferred and are exercisable, for the election of two Preferred Stock Directors. When we have paid full dividends on the Series L Preferred Stock for at least four quarterly dividend periods following a dividend arrearage described above, these voting rights will terminate.

Table of Contents

Liquidation Rights. In the event of our voluntary or involuntary liquidation, dissolution, or winding up, holders of Series L Preferred Stock will be entitled to receive out of assets legally available for distribution to stockholders, before any distribution or payment out of our assets may be made to or set aside for the holders of our capital stock ranking junior to the Series L Preferred Stock as to distributions, a liquidating distribution in the amount of the liquidation preference of $1,000 per share, plus any declared and unpaid dividends, without accumulation of any undeclared dividends, to the date of liquidation. Shares of Series L Preferred Stock will not be subject to a sinking fund.

Redemption. We do not have any rights to redeem the Series L Preferred Stock.

Series M Preferred Stock

Preferential Rights. The Series M Preferred Stock ranks senior to common stock and equally with the Series B Preferred Stock, Series D Preferred Stock, Series E Preferred Stock, Series F Preferred Stock, Series G Preferred Stock, Series I Preferred Stock, Series K Preferred Stock, Series L Preferred Stock, Series T Preferred Stock, Series U Preferred Stock, Series V Preferred Stock, Series W Preferred Stock, Series X Preferred Stock, Series Y Preferred Stock, Series Z Preferred Stock, Series AA Preferred Stock, Series 1 Preferred Stock, Series 2 Preferred Stock, Series 3 Preferred Stock, Series 4 Preferred Stock, and Series 5 Preferred Stock as to dividends and distributions on our liquidation, dissolution, or winding up. Shares of the Series M Preferred Stock are not convertible into or exchangeable for any shares of common stock or any other class of our capital stock. Holders of the Series M Preferred Stock do not have any preemptive rights. Bank of America may issue stock with preferences senior or equal to the Series M Preferred Stock without the consent of the holders of the Series M Preferred Stock.

Dividends. Holders of the Series M Preferred Stock are entitled to receive cash dividends, when, as, and if declared by our board of directors or a duly authorized committee thereof, for each semi-annual dividend period from the issue date through May 15, 2018, at an annual rate of 8.125% on the liquidation preference of $25,000 per share, payable semi-annually in arrears, and, for each quarterly dividend period from May 15, 2018 through the redemption date of the Series M Preferred Stock, at an annual floating rate equal to three-month LIBOR plus a spread of 3.64% on the liquidation preference of $25,000 per share, payable quarterly in arrears. Dividends on the Series M Preferred Stock are non-cumulative. As long as shares of Series M Preferred Stock remain outstanding, we cannot declare or pay cash dividends on any shares of common stock or other capital stock ranking junior to the Series M Preferred Stock unless full dividends on all outstanding shares of Series M Preferred Stock for the then-current dividend period have been paid in full or declared and a sum sufficient for the payment thereof set aside. We cannot declare or pay cash dividends on capital stock ranking equally with the Series M Preferred Stock for any period unless full dividends on all outstanding shares of Series M Preferred Stock for the then-current dividend period have been paid in full or declared and a sum sufficient for the payment thereof set aside. If we declare dividends on the Series M Preferred Stock and on any capital stock ranking equally with the Series M Preferred Stock but cannot make full payment of those declared dividends, we will allocate the dividend payments on a pro rata basis among the holders of the shares of Series M Preferred Stock and the holders of any capital stock ranking equally with the Series M Preferred Stock.

Voting Rights. Holders of Series M Preferred Stock do not have voting rights, except as specifically required by Delaware law and in the case of certain dividend arrearages in relation to the Series M Preferred Stock. If any dividend payable on the Series M Preferred Stock is in arrears for three or more semi-annual dividend periods or six or more quarterly dividend periods, as applicable, whether or not for consecutive dividend periods, the holders of the Series M Preferred Stock will be entitled to vote as a class, together with the holders of all series of preferred stock ranking equally with the Series M Preferred Stock as to payment of dividends and upon which

Table of Contents

voting rights equivalent to those granted to the holders of Series M Preferred Stock have been conferred and are exercisable, for the election of two Preferred Stock Directors. When we have paid full dividends on the Series M Preferred Stock for at least two semi-annual or four quarterly dividend periods following a dividend arrearage described above, these voting rights will terminate.

Distributions. In the event of our voluntary or involuntary liquidation, dissolution, or winding up, holders of Series M Preferred Stock will be entitled to receive out of assets legally available for distribution to stockholders, before any distribution or payment out of our assets may be made to or set aside for the holders of capital stock ranking junior to the Series M Preferred Stock as to distributions, a liquidating distribution in the amount of the liquidation preference of $25,000 per share, plus any declared and unpaid dividends, without accumulation of any undeclared dividends, to the date of liquidation. Shares of Series M Preferred Stock will not be subject to a sinking fund.

Redemption. We may redeem the Series M Preferred Stock, in whole or in part, at our option, on any dividend payment date for the Series M Preferred Stock on or after May 15, 2018, at the redemption price equal to $25,000 per share, plus any declared and unpaid dividends.

Series T Preferred Stock

Preferential Rights. The Series T Preferred Stock ranks senior to the common stock and ranks equally with the Series B Preferred Stock, Series D Preferred Stock, Series E Preferred Stock, Series F Preferred Stock, Series G Preferred Stock, Series I Preferred Stock, Series K Preferred Stock, Series L Preferred Stock, Series M Preferred Stock, Series U Preferred Stock, Series V Preferred Stock, Series W Preferred Stock, Series X Preferred Stock, Series Y Preferred Stock, Series Z Preferred Stock, Series AA Preferred Stock, Series 1 Preferred Stock, Series 2 Preferred Stock, Series 3 Preferred Stock, Series 4 Preferred Stock, and Series 5 Preferred Stock as to dividends and distributions on our liquidation, dissolution or winding up. Shares of the Series T Preferred Stock are not convertible into or exchangeable for any shares of common stock or any other class of our capital stock. We may issue stock with preferences equal to the Series T Preferred Stock without the consent of holders of Series T Preferred Stock.

Dividends. Holders of shares of Series T Preferred Stock are entitled to receive, when, as, and if declared by our board of directors, cash dividends at an annual dividend rate per share of 6.00% of the stated value per share of Series T Preferred Stock. The stated value per share of the Series T Preferred Stock is $100,000. Dividends are payable quarterly. We cannot declare or pay cash dividends on any shares of common stock for any period unless dividends on all outstanding shares of the Series T Preferred Stock for such period have been paid or are contemporaneously declared and paid in full (or declared and funds sufficient for the payment have been set aside for the benefit of the holders of shares of Series T Preferred Stock). When dividends are not paid (or declared and set aside for payment) on any applicable dividend payment date in full on the Series T Preferred Stock and on any stock ranking equally with the Series T Preferred Stock, all dividends declared on the Series T Preferred Stock and on any stock ranking equally with the Series T Preferred Stock and payable on such payment date will be declared pro rata.

Voting Rights. Holders of Series T Preferred Stock do not have voting rights, except as provided herein and as specifically required by law. As long as the Series T Preferred Stock remains outstanding, the affirmative vote or consent of the holders of at least 66 2/3% of the shares of Series T Preferred Stock, outstanding at the time (voting as a class with all other series of preferred stock ranking equally with the Series T Preferred Stock), and for so long as 10,000 shares of Series T Preferred Stock are outstanding, the affirmative vote of 50.1% of the shares of Series T outstanding, shall be necessary to permit, effect or validate (i) the authorization, creation, or issuance, or any increase in the authorized or issued amount, of any class or series of stock ranking prior to the Series T Preferred Stock or (ii) the amendment, alteration, or repeal, whether by

Table of Contents

merger, consolidation, or otherwise, of any of the provisions of the Certificate of Incorporation or of the resolutions set forth in a certificate of designations for the Series T Preferred Stock, which would adversely affect any right, preference, or privilege or voting power of the Series T Preferred Stock, or of the holders thereof.

Distributions. In the event of our voluntary or involuntary liquidation, dissolution, or winding up, holders of Series T Preferred Stock will be entitled to receive out of assets legally available for distribution to stockholders, before any distribution or payment out of Bank of America s assets may be made to or set aside for the holders of our capital stock ranking junior to the Series T Preferred Stock, a liquidating distribution in the amount of the liquidation preference of $100,000 per share, plus any declared and unpaid dividends, without cumulation of any undeclared dividends, to but excluding the date of liquidation, dissolution or winding up. Shares of Series T Preferred Stock will not be subject to a sinking fund. The Series T Preferred Stock may be fully subordinated to interests held by the U.S. government in the event that Bank of America Corporation enters into a receivership, insolvency, liquidation or similar proceeding.

Redemption. Subject to any required prior approval of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System and to the satisfaction of any conditions set forth in the capital adequacy guidelines or regulations of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System applicable to redemption of shares of the Series T Preferred Stock, we may redeem the Series T Preferred Stock, at our option, in whole at any time or in part from time to time, but in any case no earlier than May 7, 2019, at the redemption price of $105,000 per share plus any declared and unpaid dividends thereon, without cumulation for any undeclared dividends, to the redemption date.

Series U Preferred Stock

Preferential Rights. The Series U Preferred Stock ranks senior to our common stock and equally with the Series B Preferred Stock, Series D Preferred Stock, Series E Preferred Stock, Series F Preferred Stock, Series G Preferred Stock, Series I Preferred Stock, Series K Preferred Stock, Series L Preferred Stock, Series M Preferred Stock, Series T Preferred Stock, Series V Preferred Stock, Series W Preferred Stock, Series X Preferred Stock, Series Y Preferred Stock, Series Z Preferred Stock, Series AA Preferred Stock, Series 1 Preferred Stock, Series 2 Preferred Stock, Series 3 Preferred Stock, Series 4 Preferred Stock, and Series 5 Preferred Stock as to dividends and distributions on our liquidation, dissolution, or winding up. Series U Preferred Stock is not convertible into or exchangeable for any shares of our common stock or any other class of our capital stock. Holders of the Series U Preferred Stock do not have any preemptive rights. We may issue stock with preferences equal to the Series U Preferred Stock without the consent of the holders of the Series U Preferred Stock.

Dividends. Holders of the Series U Preferred Stock are entitled to receive cash dividends, when, as, and if declared by our board of directors or a duly authorized committee of our board, for each semi-annual dividend period from the issue date to, but excluding, June 1, 2023, at a rate of 5.20% per annum on the liquidation preference of $25,000 per share, payable semi-annually in arrears, and, for each quarterly dividend period from June 1, 2023 through the redemption date of the Series U Preferred Stock, at a floating rate equal to three-month LIBOR plus a spread of 3.135% per annum on the liquidation preference of $25,000 per share, payable quarterly in arrears. Dividends on the Series U Preferred Stock are non-cumulative. As long as shares of Series U Preferred Stock remain outstanding, we cannot declare or pay cash dividends on any shares of our common stock or other capital stock ranking junior to the Series U Preferred Stock unless full dividends on all outstanding shares of Series U Preferred Stock for the immediately preceding dividend period have been paid in full or declared and a sum sufficient for the payment thereof set aside. We cannot declare or pay cash dividends on capital stock ranking equally with the Series U Preferred Stock for any period unless full dividends on all outstanding shares of Series U Preferred

Table of Contents

Stock for the immediately preceding dividend period have been paid in full or declared and a sum sufficient for the payment thereof set aside. If we declare dividends on the Series U Preferred Stock and on any capital stock ranking equally with the Series U Preferred Stock but cannot make full payment of those declared dividends, we will allocate the dividend payments on a pro rata basis among the holders of the shares of Series U Preferred Stock and the holders of any capital stock ranking equally with the Series U Preferred Stock.

Voting Rights. Holders of Series U Preferred Stock do not have voting rights, except as described herein and as specifically required by Delaware law. If any dividend payable on the Series U Preferred Stock is in arrears for three or more semi-annual dividend periods or six or more quarterly dividend periods, as applicable, whether or not for consecutive dividend periods, the holders of the Series U Preferred Stock will be entitled to vote as a class, together with the holders of all series of our preferred stock ranking equally with the Series U Preferred Stock as to payment of dividends and upon which voting rights equivalent to those granted to the holders of Series U Preferred Stock have been conferred and are exercisable, for the election of two Preferred Stock Directors. When we have paid full dividends on the Series U Preferred Stock for at least two semi-annual or four quarterly dividend periods following a dividend arrearage described above, these voting rights will terminate. As long as the Series U Preferred Stock remains outstanding, the affirmative vote or consent of the holders of at least 66 2/3% of the voting power of the Series U Preferred Stock and any voting parity stock shall be necessary to authorize, create or issue any capital stock ranking senior to the Series U Preferred Stock as to dividends or the distribution of assets upon liquidation, dissolution or winding-up, or to reclassify any authorized capital stock into any such shares of such capital stock or issue any obligation or security convertible into or evidencing the right to purchase any such shares of capital stock. In addition, so long as any shares of the Series U Preferred Stock remain outstanding, the affirmative vote of the holders of at least 66 2/3% of the voting power of the Series U Preferred Stock shall be necessary to amend, alter or repeal any provision of the certificate of designations for the Series U Preferred Stock or our certificate of incorporation so as to adversely affect the powers, preferences or special rights of the Series U Preferred Stock.

Distributions. In the event of our voluntary or involuntary liquidation, dissolution, or winding up, holders of Series U Preferred Stock will be entitled to receive out of assets legally available for distribution to stockholders, before any distribution or payment out of our assets may be made to or set aside for the holders of our capital stock ranking junior to the Series U Preferred Stock as to distributions, a liquidating distribution in the amount of the liquidation preference of $25,000 per share, plus any declared and unpaid dividends, without accumulation of any undeclared dividends, to the date of liquidation. Shares of Series U Preferred Stock will not be subject to a sinking fund.

Redemption. We may redeem the Series U Preferred Stock, in whole or in part, at our option, at any time on or after June 1, 2023, at the redemption price equal to $25,000 per share, plus any accrued and unpaid dividends, for the then-current dividend period to but excluding the redemption date, without accumulation of any undeclared dividends. In addition, at any time within 90 days after a capital treatment event, as described in the certificate of designations for the Series U Preferred Stock, we may redeem the Series U Preferred Stock, in whole but not in part, at a redemption price equal to $25,000 per share, plus any accrued and unpaid dividends for the then-current dividend period to but excluding the redemption date, without accumulation of any undeclared dividends.

Series V Preferred Stock

Preferential Rights. The Series V Preferred Stock ranks senior to our common stock and equally with the Series B Preferred Stock, Series D Preferred Stock, Series E Preferred Stock, Series F Preferred Stock, Series G Preferred Stock, Series I Preferred Stock, Series K Preferred

Table of Contents

Stock, Series L Preferred Stock, Series M Preferred Stock, Series T Preferred Stock, Series U Preferred Stock, Series W Preferred Stock, Series X Preferred Stock, Series Y Preferred Stock, Series Z Preferred Stock, Series AA Preferred Stock, Series 1 Preferred Stock, Series 2 Preferred Stock, Series 3 Preferred Stock, Series 4 Preferred Stock, and Series 5 Preferred Stock as to dividends and distributions on our liquidation, dissolution, or winding up. Series V Preferred Stock is not convertible into or exchangeable for any shares of our common stock or any other class of our capital stock. Holders of the Series V Preferred Stock do not have any preemptive rights. We may issue stock with preferences equal to the Series V Preferred Stock without the consent of the holders of the Series V Preferred Stock.

Dividends. Holders of the Series V Preferred Stock are entitled to receive cash dividends, when, as, and if declared by our board of directors or a duly authorized committee of our board, for each semi-annual dividend period from the issue date to, but excluding, June 17, 2019, at a rate of 5.125% per annum on the liquidation preference of $25,000 per share, payable semi-annually in arrears, and, for each quarterly dividend period from June 17, 2019 through the redemption date of the Series V Preferred Stock, at a floating rate equal to three-month LIBOR plus a spread of 3.387% per annum on the liquidation preference of $25,000 per share, payable quarterly in arrears. Dividends on the Series V Preferred Stock are non-cumulative. As long as shares of Series V Preferred Stock remain outstanding, we cannot declare or pay cash dividends on any shares of our common stock or other capital stock ranking junior to the Series V Preferred Stock unless full dividends on all outstanding shares of Series V Preferred Stock for the immediately preceding dividend period have been paid in full or declared and a sum sufficient for the payment thereof set aside. We cannot declare or pay cash dividends on capital stock ranking equally with the Series V Preferred Stock for any period unless full dividends on all outstanding shares of Series V Preferred Stock for the immediately preceding dividend period have been paid in full or declared and a sum sufficient for the payment thereof set aside. If we declare dividends on the Series V Preferred Stock and on any capital stock ranking equally with the Series V Preferred Stock but cannot make full payment of those declared dividends, we will allocate the dividend payments on a pro rata basis among the holders of the shares of Series V Preferred Stock and the holders of any capital stock ranking equally with the Series V Preferred Stock.

Voting Rights. Holders of Series V Preferred Stock do not have voting rights, except as provided herein and as specifically required by Delaware law and in the case of certain dividend arrearages in relation to the Series V Preferred Stock. If any dividend payable on the Series V Preferred Stock is in arrears for three or more semi-annual dividend periods or six or more quarterly dividend periods, as applicable, whether or not for consecutive dividend periods, the holders of the Series V Preferred Stock will be entitled to vote as a class, together with the holders of all series of our preferred stock ranking equally with the Series V Preferred Stock as to payment of dividends and upon which voting rights equivalent to those granted to the holders of Series V Preferred Stock have been conferred and are exercisable, for the election of two Preferred Stock Directors. When we have paid full dividends on the Series V Preferred Stock for at least two semi-annual or four quarterly dividend periods following a dividend arrearage described above, these voting rights will terminate. As long as the Series V Preferred Stock remains outstanding, the affirmative vote or consent of the holders of at least 66 2/3% of the voting power of the Series V Preferred Stock and any voting parity stock shall be necessary to authorize, create or issue any capital stock ranking senior to the Series V Preferred Stock as to dividends or the distribution of assets upon liquidation, dissolution or winding-up, or to reclassify any authorized capital stock into any such shares of such capital stock or issue any obligation or security convertible into or evidencing the right to purchase any such shares of capital stock. In addition, so long as any shares of the Series V Preferred Stock remain outstanding, the affirmative vote of the holders of at least 66 2/3% of the voting power of the Series V Preferred Stock shall be necessary to amend, alter or repeal any provision of the certificate of designations for the Series V Preferred Stock or our

Table of Contents

certificate of incorporation so as to adversely affect the powers, preferences or special rights of the Series V Preferred Stock.

Distributions. In the event of our voluntary or involuntary liquidation, dissolution, or winding up, holders of Series V Preferred Stock will be entitled to receive out of assets legally available for distribution to stockholders, before any distribution or payment out of our assets may be made to or set aside for the holders of our capital stock ranking junior to the Series V Preferred Stock as to distributions, a liquidating distribution in the amount of the liquidation preference of $25,000 per share, plus any declared and unpaid dividends, without accumulation of any undeclared dividends, to the date of liquidation. Shares of Series V Preferred Stock will not be subject to a sinking fund.

Redemption. We may redeem the Series V Preferred Stock, in whole or in part, at our option, at any time on or after June 17, 2019, at the redemption price equal to $25,000 per share, plus any accrued and unpaid dividends, for the then-current dividend period to but excluding the redemption date, without accumulation of any undeclared dividends. In addition, at any time within 90 days after a capital treatment event, as described in the certificate of designations for the Series V Preferred Stock, we may redeem the Series V Preferred Stock, in whole but not in part, at a redemption price equal to $25,000 per share, plus any accrued and unpaid dividends for the then-current dividend period to but excluding the redemption date, without accumulation of any undeclared dividends.

Series W Preferred Stock

Preferential Rights. The Series W Preferred Stock ranks senior to our common stock and equally with the Series B Preferred Stock, Series D Preferred Stock, Series E Preferred Stock, Series F Preferred Stock, Series G Preferred Stock, Series I Preferred Stock, Series K Preferred Stock, Series L Preferred Stock, Series M Preferred Stock, Series T Preferred Stock, Series U Preferred Stock, Series V Preferred Stock, Series X Preferred Stock, Series Y Preferred Stock, Series Z Preferred Stock, Series AA Preferred Stock, Series 1 Preferred Stock, Series 2 Preferred Stock, Series 3 Preferred Stock, Series 4 Preferred Stock, and Series 5 Preferred Stock as to dividends and distributions on our liquidation, dissolution, or winding up. Series W Preferred Stock is not convertible into or exchangeable for any shares of our common stock or any other class of our capital stock. Holders of the Series W Preferred Stock do not have any preemptive rights. We may issue stock with preferences equal to the Series W Preferred Stock without the consent of the holders of the Series W Preferred Stock.

Dividends. Holders of the Series W Preferred Stock are entitled to receive cash dividends, when, as, and if declared by our board of directors or a duly authorized committee of our board, at an annual dividend rate per share of 6.625% on the liquidation preference of $25,000 per share. Dividends on the Series W Preferred Stock are non-cumulative and are payable quarterly in arrears. As long as shares of Series W Preferred Stock remain outstanding, we cannot declare or pay cash dividends on any shares of our common stock or other capital stock ranking junior to the Series W Preferred Stock unless full dividends on all outstanding shares of Series W Preferred Stock for the immediately preceding dividend period have been paid in full or declared and a sum sufficient for the payment thereof set aside. We cannot declare or pay cash dividends on capital stock ranking equally with the Series W Preferred Stock for any period unless full dividends on all outstanding shares of Series W Preferred Stock for the immediately preceding dividend period have been paid in full or declared and a sum sufficient for the payment thereof set aside. If we declare dividends on the Series W Preferred Stock and on any capital stock ranking equally with the Series W Preferred Stock but cannot make full payment of those declared dividends, we will allocate the dividend payments on a pro rata basis among the holders of the shares of Series W Preferred Stock and the holders of any capital stock ranking equally with the Series W Preferred Stock.

Table of Contents

Voting Rights. Holders of Series W Preferred Stock do not have voting rights, except as described herein and as specifically required by Delaware law. If any dividend payable on the Series W Preferred Stock is in arrears for six or more quarterly dividend periods, whether or not for consecutive dividend periods, the holders of the Series W Preferred Stock will be entitled to vote as a class, together with the holders of all series of our preferred stock ranking equally with the Series W Preferred Stock as to payment of dividends and upon which voting rights equivalent to those granted to the holders of Series W Preferred Stock have been conferred and are exercisable, for the election of two Preferred Stock Directors. When we have paid full dividends on the Series W Preferred Stock for at least four quarterly dividend periods following a dividend arrearage described above, these voting rights will terminate. As long as the Series W Preferred Stock remains outstanding, the affirmative vote or consent of the holders of at least 66 2/3% of the voting power of the Series W Preferred Stock and any voting parity stock shall be necessary to authorize, create or issue any capital stock ranking senior to the Series W Preferred Stock as to dividends or the distribution of assets upon liquidation, dissolution or winding-up, or to reclassify any authorized capital stock into any such shares of such capital stock or issue any obligation or security convertible into or evidencing the right to purchase any such shares of capital stock. In addition, so long as any shares of the Series W Preferred Stock remain outstanding, the affirmative vote of the holders of at least 66 2/3% of the voting power of the Series W Preferred Stock shall be necessary to amend, alter or repeal any provision of the certificate of designations for the Series W Preferred Stock or our certificate of incorporation so as to adversely affect the powers, preferences or special rights of the Series W Preferred Stock.

Distributions. In the event of our voluntary or involuntary liquidation, dissolution, or winding up, holders of Series W Preferred Stock will be entitled to receive out of assets legally available for distribution to stockholders, before any distribution or payment out of our assets may be made to or set aside for the holders of our capital stock ranking junior to the Series W Preferred Stock as to distributions, a liquidating distribution in the amount of the liquidation preference of $25,000 per share, plus any declared and unpaid dividends, without accumulation of any undeclared dividends, to the date of liquidation. Shares of Series W Preferred Stock will not be subject to a sinking fund.

Redemption. We may redeem the Series W Preferred Stock, in whole or in part, at our option, at any time on or after September 9, 2019, at the redemption price equal to $25,000 per share, plus any accrued and unpaid dividends, for the then-current dividend period to but excluding the redemption date, without accumulation of any undeclared dividends. In addition, at any time within 90 days after a capital treatment event, as described in the certificate of designations for the Series W Preferred Stock, we may redeem the Series W Preferred Stock, in whole but not in part, at a redemption price equal to $25,000 per share, plus any accrued and unpaid dividends for the then-current dividend period to but excluding the redemption date, without accumulation of any undeclared dividends.

Series X Preferred Stock

Preferential Rights. The Series X Preferred Stock ranks senior to our common stock and equally with the Series B Preferred Stock, Series D Preferred Stock, Series E Preferred Stock, Series F Preferred Stock, Series G Preferred Stock, Series I Preferred Stock, Series K Preferred Stock, Series L Preferred Stock, Series M Preferred Stock, Series T Preferred Stock, Series U Preferred Stock, Series V Preferred Stock, Series W Preferred Stock, Series Y Preferred Stock, Series Z Preferred Stock, Series AA Preferred Stock, Series 1 Preferred Stock, Series 2 Preferred Stock, Series 3 Preferred Stock, Series 4 Preferred Stock, and Series 5 Preferred Stock as to dividends and distributions on our liquidation, dissolution, or winding up. Series X Preferred Stock is not convertible into or exchangeable for any shares of our common stock or any other class of our capital stock. Holders of the Series X Preferred Stock do not have any preemptive rights. We may

Table of Contents

issue stock with preferences equal to the Series X Preferred Stock without the consent of the holders of the Series X Preferred Stock.

Dividends. Holders of the Series X Preferred Stock are entitled to receive cash dividends, when, as, and if declared by our board of directors or a duly authorized committee of our board, for each semi-annual dividend period from the issue date to, but excluding, September 5, 2024, at a rate of 6.250% per annum on the liquidation preference of $25,000 per share, payable semiannually in arrears, and, for each quarterly dividend period from September 5, 2024 through the redemption date of the Series X Preferred Stock, at a floating rate equal to three-month LIBOR plus a spread of 3.705% per annum on the liquidation preference of $25,000 per share, payable quarterly in arrears. Dividends on the Series X Preferred Stock are non-cumulative. As long as shares of Series X Preferred Stock remain outstanding, we cannot declare or pay cash dividends on any shares of our common stock or other capital stock ranking junior to the Series X Preferred Stock unless full dividends on all outstanding shares of Series X Preferred Stock for the immediately preceding dividend period have been paid in full or declared and a sum sufficient for the payment thereof set aside. We cannot declare or pay cash dividends on capital stock ranking equally with the Series X Preferred Stock for any period unless full dividends on all outstanding shares of Series X Preferred Stock for the immediately preceding dividend period have been paid in full or declared and a sum sufficient for the payment thereof set aside. If we declare dividends on the Series X Preferred Stock and on any capital stock ranking equally with the Series X Preferred Stock but cannot make full payment of those declared dividends, we will allocate the dividend payments on a pro rata basis among the holders of the shares of Series X Preferred Stock and the holders of any capital stock ranking equally with the Series X Preferred Stock.

Voting Rights. Holders of Series X Preferred Stock do not have voting rights, except as described herein and as specifically required by Delaware law. If any dividend payable on the Series X Preferred Stock is in arrears for three or more semi-annual dividend periods or six or more quarterly dividend periods, as applicable, whether or not for consecutive dividend periods, the holders of the Series X Preferred Stock will be entitled to vote as a class, together with the holders of all series of our preferred stock ranking equally with the Series X Preferred Stock as to payment of dividends and upon which voting rights equivalent to those granted to the holders of Series X Preferred Stock have been conferred and are exercisable, for the election of two Preferred Stock Directors. When we have paid full dividends on the Series X Preferred Stock for at least two semi-annual or four quarterly dividend periods following a dividend arrearage described above, these voting rights will terminate. As long as the Series X Preferred Stock remains outstanding, the affirmative vote or consent of the holders of at least 66 2/3% of the voting power of the Series X Preferred Stock and any voting parity stock shall be necessary to authorize, create or issue any capital stock ranking senior to the Series X Preferred Stock as to dividends or the distribution of assets upon liquidation, dissolution or winding-up, or to reclassify any authorized capital stock into any such shares of such capital stock or issue any obligation or security convertible into or evidencing the right to purchase any such shares of capital stock. In addition, so long as any shares of the Series X Preferred Stock remain outstanding, the affirmative vote of the holders of at least 66 2/3% of the voting power of the Series X Preferred Stock shall be necessary to amend, alter or repeal any provision of the certificate of designations for the Series X Preferred Stock or our certificate of incorporation so as to adversely affect the powers, preferences or special rights of the Series X Preferred Stock.

Distributions. In the event of our voluntary or involuntary liquidation, dissolution, or winding up, holders of Series X Preferred Stock will be entitled to receive out of assets legally available for distribution to stockholders, before any distribution or payment out of our assets may be made to or set aside for the holders of our capital stock ranking junior to the Series X Preferred Stock as to distributions, a liquidating distribution in the amount of the liquidation preference of $25,000 per

Table of Contents

share, plus any declared and unpaid dividends, without accumulation of any undeclared dividends, to the date of liquidation. Shares of Series X Preferred Stock will not be subject to a sinking fund.

Redemption. We may redeem the Series X Preferred Stock, in whole or in part, at our option, at any time on or after September 5, 2024, at the redemption price equal to $25,000 per share, plus any accrued and unpaid dividends, for the then-current dividend period to but excluding the redemption date, without accumulation of any undeclared dividends. In addition, at any time within 90 days after a capital treatment event, as described in the certificate of designations for the Series X Preferred Stock, we may redeem the Series X Preferred Stock, in whole but not in part, at a redemption price equal to $25,000 per share, plus any accrued and unpaid dividends for the then-current dividend period to but excluding the redemption date, without accumulation of any undeclared dividends.

Series Y Preferred Stock

Preferential Rights. The Series Y Preferred Stock ranks senior to our common stock and equally with the Series B Preferred Stock, Series D Preferred Stock, Series E Preferred Stock, Series F Preferred Stock, Series G Preferred Stock, Series I Preferred Stock, Series K Preferred Stock, Series L Preferred Stock, Series M Preferred Stock, Series T Preferred Stock, Series U Preferred Stock, Series V Preferred Stock, Series W Preferred Stock, Series X Preferred Stock, Series Z Preferred Stock, Series AA Preferred Stock, Series 1 Preferred Stock, Series 2 Preferred Stock, Series 3 Preferred Stock, Series 4 Preferred Stock, and Series 5 Preferred Stock as to dividends and distributions on our liquidation, dissolution, or winding up. Series Y Preferred Stock is not convertible into or exchangeable for any shares of our common stock or any other class of our capital stock. Holders of the Series Y Preferred Stock do not have any preemptive rights. We may issue stock with preferences equal to the Series Y Preferred Stock without the consent of the holders of the Series Y Preferred Stock.

Dividends. Holders of the Series Y Preferred Stock are entitled to receive cash dividends, when, as, and if declared by our board of directors or a duly authorized committee of our board, at an annual dividend rate per share of 6.500% on the liquidation preference of $25,000 per share. Dividends on the Series Y Preferred Stock are non-cumulative and are payable quarterly in arrears. As long as shares of Series Y Preferred Stock remain outstanding, we cannot declare or pay cash dividends on any shares of our common stock or other capital stock ranking junior to the Series Y Preferred Stock unless full dividends on all outstanding shares of Series Y Preferred Stock for the immediately preceding dividend period have been paid in full or declared and a sum sufficient for the payment thereof set aside. We cannot declare or pay cash dividends on capital stock ranking equally with the Series Y Preferred Stock for any period unless full dividends on all outstanding shares of Series Y Preferred Stock for the immediately preceding dividend period have been paid in full or declared and a sum sufficient for the payment thereof set aside. If we declare dividends on the Series Y Preferred Stock and on any capital stock ranking equally with the Series Y Preferred Stock but cannot make full payment of those declared dividends, we will allocate the dividend payments on a pro rata basis among the holders of the shares of Series Y Preferred Stock and the holders of any capital stock ranking equally with the Series Y Preferred Stock.

Voting Rights. Holders of Series Y Preferred Stock do not have voting rights, except as described herein and as specifically required by Delaware law. If any dividend payable on the Series Y Preferred Stock is in arrears for six or more quarterly dividend periods, whether or not for consecutive dividend periods, the holders of the Series Y Preferred Stock will be entitled to vote as a class, together with the holders of all series of our preferred stock ranking equally with the Series Y Preferred Stock as to payment of dividends and upon which voting rights equivalent to those granted to the holders of Series Y Preferred Stock have been conferred and are exercisable, for the election of two Preferred Stock Directors. When we have paid full dividends on the Series Y

Table of Contents

Preferred Stock for at least four quarterly dividend periods following a dividend arrearage described above, these voting rights will terminate. As long as the Series Y Preferred Stock remains outstanding, the affirmative vote or consent of the holders of at least 66 2/3% of the voting power of the Series Y Preferred Stock and any voting parity stock shall be necessary to authorize, create or issue any capital stock ranking senior to the Series Y Preferred Stock as to dividends or the distribution of assets upon liquidation, dissolution or winding-up, or to reclassify any authorized capital stock into any such shares of such capital stock or issue any obligation or security convertible into or evidencing the right to purchase any such shares of capital stock. In addition, so long as any shares of the Series Y Preferred Stock remain outstanding, the affirmative vote of the holders of at least 66 2/3% of the voting power of the Series Y Preferred Stock shall be necessary to amend, alter or repeal any provision of the certificate of designations for the Series Y Preferred Stock or our certificate of incorporation so as to adversely affect the powers, preferences or special rights of the Series Y Preferred Stock.

Distributions. In the event of our voluntary or involuntary liquidation, dissolution, or winding up, holders of Series Y Preferred Stock will be entitled to receive out of assets legally available for distribution to stockholders, before any distribution or payment out of our assets may be made to or set aside for the holders of our capital stock ranking junior to the Series Y Preferred Stock as to distributions, a liquidating distribution in the amount of the liquidation preference of $25,000 per share, plus any declared and unpaid dividends, without accumulation of any undeclared dividends, to the date of liquidation. Shares of Series Y Preferred Stock will not be subject to a sinking fund.

Redemption. We may redeem the Series Y Preferred Stock, in whole or in part, at our option, at any time on or after January 27, 2020, at the redemption price equal to $25,000 per share, plus any accrued and unpaid dividends, for the then-current dividend period to but excluding the redemption date, without accumulation of any undeclared dividends. In addition, at any time within 90 days after a capital treatment event, as described in the certificate of designations for the Series Y Preferred Stock, we may redeem the Series Y Preferred Stock, in whole but not in part, at a redemption price equal to $25,000 per share, plus any accrued and unpaid dividends for the then-current dividend period to but excluding the redemption date, without accumulation of any undeclared dividends.

Series Z Preferred Stock

Preferential Rights. The Series Z Preferred Stock ranks senior to our common stock and equally with the Series B Preferred Stock, Series D Preferred Stock, Series E Preferred Stock, Series F Preferred Stock, Series G Preferred Stock, Series I Preferred Stock, Series K Preferred Stock, Series L Preferred Stock, Series M Preferred Stock, Series T Preferred Stock, Series U Preferred Stock, Series V Preferred Stock, Series W Preferred Stock, Series X Preferred Stock, Series Y Preferred Stock, Series AA Preferred Stock, Series 1 Preferred Stock, Series 2 Preferred Stock, Series 3 Preferred Stock, Series 4 Preferred Stock, and Series 5 Preferred Stock as to dividends and distributions on our liquidation, dissolution, or winding up. Series Z Preferred Stock is not convertible into or exchangeable for any shares of our common stock or any other class of our capital stock. Holders of the Series Z Preferred Stock do not have any preemptive rights. We may issue stock with preferences equal to the Series Z Preferred Stock without the consent of the holders of the Series Z Preferred Stock.

Dividends. Holders of the Series Z Preferred Stock are entitled to receive cash dividends, when, as, and if declared by our board of directors or a duly authorized committee of our board, for each semi-annual dividend period from the issue date to, but excluding, October 23, 2024, at a rate of 6.500% per annum on the liquidation preference of $25,000 per share, payable semiannually in arrears, and, for each quarterly dividend period from October 23, 2024 through the redemption date of the Series Z Preferred Stock, at a floating rate equal to three-month LIBOR plus a spread of

4.174% per annum on the liquidation preference of $25,000 per share, payable quarterly in arrears. Dividends on the Series Z Preferred Stock are non-cumulative. As long as shares of Series Z Preferred Stock remain outstanding, we cannot declare or pay cash dividends on any shares of our common stock or other capital stock ranking junior to the Series Z Preferred Stock unless full dividends on all outstanding shares of Series Z Preferred Stock for the immediately preceding dividend period have been paid in full or declared and a sum sufficient for the payment thereof set aside. We cannot declare or pay cash dividends on capital stock ranking equally with the Series Z Preferred Stock for any period unless full dividends on all outstanding shares of Series Z Preferred Stock for the immediately preceding dividend period have been paid in full or declared and a sum sufficient for the payment thereof set aside. If we declare dividends on the Series Z Preferred Stock and on any capital stock ranking equally with the Series Z Preferred Stock but cannot make full payment of those declared dividends, we will allocate the dividend payments on a pro rata basis among the holders of the shares of Series Z Preferred Stock and the holders of any capital stock ranking equally with the Series Z Preferred Stock.

Voting Rights. Holders of Series Z Preferred Stock do not have voting rights, except as described herein and as specifically required by Delaware law. If any dividend payable on the Series Z Preferred Stock is in arrears for three or more semi-annual dividend periods or six or more quarterly dividend periods, as applicable, whether or not for consecutive dividend periods, the holders of the Series Z Preferred Stock will be entitled to vote as a class, together with the holders of all series of our preferred stock ranking equally with the Series Z Preferred Stock as to payment of dividends and upon which voting rights equivalent to those granted to the holders of Series Z Preferred Stock have been conferred and are exercisable, for the election of two Preferred Stock Directors. When we have paid full dividends on the Series Z Preferred Stock for at least two semi-annual or four quarterly dividend periods following a dividend arrearage described above, these voting rights will terminate. As long as the Series Z Preferred Stock remains outstanding, the affirmative vote or consent of the holders of at least 66 2/3% of the voting power of the Series Z Preferred Stock and any voting parity stock shall be necessary to authorize, create or issue any capital stock ranking senior to the Series Z Preferred Stock as to dividends or the distribution of assets upon liquidation, dissolution or winding-up, or to reclassify any authorized capital stock into any such shares of such capital stock or issue any obligation or security convertible into or evidencing the right to purchase any such shares of capital stock. In addition, so long as any shares of the Series Z Preferred Stock remain outstanding, the affirmative vote of the holders of at least 66 2/3% of the voting power of the Series Z Preferred Stock shall be necessary to amend, alter or repeal any provision of the certificate of designations for the Series Z Preferred Stock or our certificate of incorporation so as to adversely affect the powers, preferences or special rights of the Series Z Preferred Stock.

Distributions. In the event of our voluntary or involuntary liquidation, dissolution, or winding up, holders of Series Z Preferred Stock will be entitled to receive out of assets legally available for distribution to stockholders, before any distribution or payment out of our assets may be made to or set aside for the holders of our capital stock ranking junior to the Series Z Preferred Stock as to distributions, a liquidating distribution in the amount of the liquidation preference of $25,000 per share, plus any declared and unpaid dividends, without accumulation of any undeclared dividends, to the date of liquidation. Shares of Series Z Preferred Stock will not be subject to a sinking fund.

Redemption. We may redeem the Series Z Preferred Stock, in whole or in part, at our option, at any time on or after October 23, 2024, at the redemption price equal to $25,000 per share, plus any accrued and unpaid dividends, for the then-current dividend period to but excluding the redemption date, without accumulation of any undeclared dividends. In addition, at any time within 90 days after a capital treatment event, as described in the certificate of designations for the Series Z Preferred Stock, we may redeem the Series Z Preferred Stock, in whole but not in part, at a redemption price equal to $25,000 per share, plus any accrued and unpaid dividends for the

Table of Contents

then-current dividend period to but excluding the redemption date, without accumulation of any undeclared dividends.

Series AA Preferred Stock

Preferential Rights. The Series AA Preferred Stock ranks senior to our common stock and equally with the Series B Preferred Stock, Series D Preferred Stock, Series E Preferred Stock, Series F Preferred Stock, Series G Preferred Stock, Series I Preferred Stock, Series K Preferred Stock, Series L Preferred Stock, Series M Preferred Stock, Series T Preferred Stock, Series U Preferred Stock, Series V Preferred Stock, Series W Preferred Stock, Series X Preferred Stock, Series Y Preferred Stock, Series Z Preferred Stock, Series 1 Preferred Stock, Series 2 Preferred Stock, Series 3 Preferred Stock, Series 4 Preferred Stock, and Series 5 Preferred Stock as to dividends and distributions on our liquidation, dissolution, or winding up. Series AA Preferred Stock is not convertible into or exchangeable for any shares of our common stock or any other class of our capital stock. Holders of the Series AA Preferred Stock do not have any preemptive rights. We may issue stock with preferences equal to the Series AA Preferred Stock without the consent of the holders of the Series AA Preferred Stock.

Dividends. Holders of the Series AA Preferred Stock are entitled to receive cash dividends, when, as, and if declared by our board of directors or a duly authorized committee of our board, for each semi-annual dividend period from the issue date to, but excluding, March 17, 2025, at a rate of 6.100% per annum on the liquidation preference of $25,000 per share, payable semiannually in arrears, and, for each quarterly dividend period from March 17, 2025 through the redemption date of the Series AA Preferred Stock, at a floating rate equal to three-month LIBOR plus a spread of 3.898% per annum on the liquidation preference of $25,000 per share, payable quarterly in arrears. Dividends on the Series AA Preferred Stock are non-cumulative. As long as shares of Series AA Preferred Stock remain outstanding, we cannot declare or pay cash dividends on any shares of our common stock or other capital stock ranking junior to the Series AA Preferred Stock unless full dividends on all outstanding shares of Series AA Preferred Stock for the immediately preceding dividend period have been paid in full or declared and a sum sufficient for the payment thereof set aside. We cannot declare or pay cash dividends on capital stock ranking equally with the Series AA Preferred Stock for any period unless full dividends on all outstanding shares of Series AA Preferred Stock for the immediately preceding dividend period have been paid in full or declared and a sum sufficient for the payment thereof set aside. If we declare dividends on the Series AA Preferred Stock and on any capital stock ranking equally with the Series AA Preferred Stock but cannot make full payment of those declared dividends, we will allocate the dividend payments on a pro rata basis among the holders of the shares of Series AA Preferred Stock and the holders of any capital stock ranking equally with the Series AA Preferred Stock.

Voting Rights. Holders of Series AA Preferred Stock do not have voting rights, except as described herein and as specifically required by Delaware law. If any dividend payable on the Series AA Preferred Stock is in arrears for three or more semi-annual dividend periods or six or more quarterly dividend periods, as applicable, whether or not for consecutive dividend periods, the holders of the Series AA Preferred Stock will be entitled to vote as a class, together with the holders of all series of our preferred stock ranking equally with the Series AA Preferred Stock as to payment of dividends and upon which voting rights equivalent to those granted to the holders of Series AA Preferred Stock have been conferred and are exercisable, for the election of two Preferred Stock Directors. When we have paid full dividends on the Series AA Preferred Stock for at least two semi-annual or four quarterly dividend periods following a dividend arrearage described above, these voting rights will terminate. As long as the Series AA Preferred Stock remains outstanding, the affirmative vote or consent of the holders of at least 66 2/3% of the voting power of the Series AA Preferred Stock and any voting parity stock shall be necessary to authorize, create or issue any capital stock ranking senior to the Series AA Preferred Stock as to dividends or the distribution of

assets upon liquidation, dissolution or winding-up, or to reclassify any authorized capital stock into any such shares of such capital stock or issue any obligation or security convertible into or evidencing the right to purchase any such shares of capital stock. In addition, so long as any shares of the Series AA Preferred Stock remain outstanding, the affirmative vote of the holders of at least 66 2/3% of the voting power of the Series AA Preferred Stock shall be necessary to amend, alter or repeal any provision of the certificate of designations for the Series AA Preferred Stock or our certificate of incorporation so as to adversely affect the powers, preferences or special rights of the Series AA Preferred Stock.

Distributions. In the event of our voluntary or involuntary liquidation, dissolution, or winding up, holders of Series AA Preferred Stock will be entitled to receive out of assets legally available for distribution to stockholders, before any distribution or payment out of our assets may be made to or set aside for the holders of our capital stock ranking junior to the Series AA Preferred Stock as to distributions, a liquidating distribution in the amount of the liquidation preference of $25,000 per share, plus any declared and unpaid dividends, without accumulation of any undeclared dividends, to the date of liquidation. Shares of Series AA Preferred Stock will not be subject to a sinking fund.

Redemption. We may redeem the Series AA Preferred Stock, in whole or in part, at our option, at any time on or after March 17, 2025, at the redemption price equal to $25,000 per share, plus any accrued and unpaid dividends, for the then-current dividend period to but excluding the redemption date, without accumulation of any undeclared dividends. In addition, at any time within 90 days after a capital treatment event, as described in the certificate of designations for the Series AA Preferred Stock, we may redeem the Series AA Preferred Stock, in whole but not in part, at a redemption price equal to $25,000 per share, plus any accrued and unpaid dividends for the then-current dividend period to but excluding the redemption date, without accumulation of any undeclared dividends.

Series 1 Preferred Stock

Preferential Rights. The Series 1 Preferred Stock ranks senior to common stock and equally with the Series B Preferred Stock, Series D Preferred Stock, Series E Preferred Stock, Series F Preferred Stock, Series G Preferred Stock, Series I Preferred Stock, Series K Preferred Stock, Series L Preferred Stock, Series M Preferred Stock, Series T Preferred Stock, Series U Preferred Stock, Series V Preferred Stock, Series W Preferred Stock, Series X Preferred Stock, Series Y Preferred Stock, Series Z Preferred Stock, Series AA Preferred Stock, Series 2 Preferred Stock, Series 3 Preferred Stock, Series 4 Preferred Stock, and Series 5 Preferred Stock as to dividends and distributions on our liquidation, dissolution, or winding up. Shares of the Series 1 Preferred Stock are not convertible into or exchangeable for any shares of common stock or any other class of our capital stock. Holders of the Series 1 Preferred Stock do not have any preemptive rights. We may issue stock with preferences equal to the Series 1 Preferred Stock without the consent of the holders of the Series 1 Preferred Stock.

Dividends. Holders of the Series 1 Preferred Stock are entitled to receive cash dividends, when, as, and if declared by our board of directors or a duly authorized committee thereof, on the liquidation preference of $30,000 per share at an annual floating rate per share equal to the greater of (a) three-month LIBOR, plus a spread of 0.75% and (b) 3.00%. Dividends on the Series 1 Preferred Stock are non-cumulative and are payable quarterly, if declared. As long as shares of Series 1 Preferred Stock remain outstanding, we cannot declare or pay cash dividends on any shares of common stock or other capital stock ranking junior to the Series 1 Preferred Stock unless full dividends on all outstanding shares of Series 1 Preferred Stock have been declared, paid or set aside for payment for the immediately preceding dividend period. We cannot declare or pay cash dividends on capital stock ranking equally with the Series 1 Preferred Stock for any period unless

Table of Contents

for such dividend period full dividends on all outstanding shares of Series 1 Preferred Stock for the immediately preceding dividend period have been declared, paid or set aside for payment. When dividends are not paid in full upon the shares of the Series 1 Preferred Stock and any capital stock ranking equally with the Series 1 Preferred Stock, all dividends declared upon shares of the Series 1 Preferred Stock and all shares of capital stock ranking equally with the Series 1 Preferred Stock shall be declared pro rata so that the amount of dividends declared per share on the Series 1 Preferred Stock, and all such other of our stock shall in all cases bear to each other the same ratio that accrued dividends per share on the shares of the Series 1 Preferred Stock and all such other stock bear to each other.

Voting Rights. Holders of Series 1 Preferred Stock do not have voting rights, except as provided herein and as specifically required by law. Holders of Series 1 Preferred Stock shall be entitled to vote on all matters submitted to a vote of the holders of common stock, voting together with the holders of common stock as one class, and each share of Series 1 Preferred Stock shall be entitled to 150 votes. If any quarterly dividend payable on the Series 1 Preferred Stock is in arrears for six or more quarterly dividend periods, whether or not for consecutive dividend periods, the holders of the Series 1 Preferred Stock will be entitled to vote as a class, together with the holders of all series of preferred stock ranking equally with the Series 1 Preferred Stock as to payment of dividends and upon which voting rights equivalent to those granted to the holders of Series 1 Preferred Stock have been conferred and are exercisable, for the election of two Preferred Stock Directors; each share of Series 1 Preferred Stock shall be entitled to three votes for the election of such Preferred Stock Directors. When we have paid full dividends on the Series 1 Preferred Stock for at least four quarterly dividend periods following a dividend arrearage described above, these voting rights will terminate.

As long as the Series 1 Preferred Stock remains outstanding, the affirmative vote or consent of the holders of at least two-thirds of the shares of Series 1 Preferred Stock, outstanding at the time (voting as a class with all other series of preferred stock ranking equally with the Series 1 Preferred Stock), shall be necessary to permit, effect or validate (i) the authorization, creation, or issuance, or any increase in the authorized or issued amount, of any class or series of stock ranking prior to the Series 1 Preferred Stock or (ii) the amendment, alteration, or repeal, whether by merger, consolidation, or otherwise, of any of the provisions of the Certificate of Incorporation or of the resolutions set forth in a certificate of designations for the Series 1 Preferred Stock, which would adversely affect any right, preference, or privilege or voting power of the Series 1 Preferred Stock, or of the holders thereof.

Distributions. In the event of our voluntary or involuntary liquidation, dissolution, or winding up, holders of Series 1 Preferred Stock will be entitled to receive out of assets legally available for distribution to stockholders, before any distribution or payment out of our assets may be made to or set aside for the holders of Bank of America capital stock ranking junior to the Series 1 Preferred Stock, a liquidating distribution in the amount of the liquidation preference of $30,000 per share, plus any declared and unpaid dividends, without accumulation of any undeclared dividends, to the date of liquidation. Shares of Series 1 Preferred Stock will not be subject to a sinking fund.

Redemption. We may redeem the Series 1 Preferred Stock, in whole or in part, at our option, at the redemption price equal to $30,000 per share, plus any declared and unpaid dividends, without accumulation of any undeclared dividends.

Series 2 Preferred Stock

Preferential Rights. The Series 2 Preferred Stock ranks senior to common stock and equally with the Series B Preferred Stock, Series D Preferred Stock, Series E Preferred Stock, Series F Preferred Stock, Series G Preferred Stock, Series I Preferred Stock, Series K Preferred Stock, Series L

Table of Contents

Preferred Stock, Series M Preferred Stock, Series T Preferred Stock, Series U Preferred Stock, Series V Preferred Stock, Series W Preferred Stock, Series X Preferred Stock, Series Y Preferred Stock, Series Z Preferred Stock, Series AA Preferred Stock, Series 1 Preferred Stock, Series 3 Preferred Stock, Series 4 Preferred Stock, and Series 5 Preferred Stock as to dividends and distributions on our liquidation, dissolution, or winding up. Shares of the Series 2 Preferred Stock are not convertible into or exchangeable for any shares of common stock or any other class of our capital stock. Holders of the Series 2 Preferred Stock do not have any preemptive rights. We may issue stock with preferences equal to the Series 2 Preferred Stock without the consent of the holders of the Series 2 Preferred Stock.

Dividends. Holders of the Series 2 Preferred Stock are entitled to receive cash dividends, when, as, and if declared by our board of directors or a duly authorized committee thereof, on the liquidation preference of $30,000 per share at an annual floating rate per share equal to the greater of (a) three-month LIBOR, plus a spread of 0.65% and (b) 3.00%. Dividends on the Series 2 Preferred Stock are non-cumulative and are payable quarterly in arrears, if declared. As long as shares of Series 2 Preferred Stock remain outstanding, we cannot declare or pay cash dividends on any shares of common stock or other capital stock ranking junior to the Series 2 Preferred Stock unless full dividends on all outstanding shares of Series 2 Preferred Stock have been declared, paid or set aside for payment for the immediately preceding dividend period. We cannot declare or pay cash dividends on capital stock ranking equally with the Series 2 Preferred Stock for any period unless for such dividend period full dividends on all outstanding shares of Series 2 Preferred Stock for the immediately preceding dividend period have been declared, paid or set aside for payment. When dividends are not paid in full upon the shares of the Series 2 Preferred Stock and any capital stock ranking equally with the Series 2 Preferred Stock, all dividends declared upon shares of the Series 2 Preferred Stock and all shares of capital stock ranking equally with the Series 2 Preferred Stock shall be declared pro rata so that the amount of dividends declared per share on the Series 2 Preferred Stock, and all such other stock of ours shall in all cases bear to each other the same ratio that accrued dividends per share on the shares of the Series 2 Preferred Stock and all such other stock bear to each other.

Voting Rights. Holders of Series 2 Preferred Stock do not have voting rights, except as provided herein and as specifically required by law. Holders of Series 2 Preferred Stock shall be entitled to vote on all matters submitted to a vote of the holders of common stock, voting together with the holders of common stock as one class, and each share of Series 2 Preferred Stock shall be entitled to 150 votes. If any quarterly dividend payable on the Series 2 Preferred Stock is in arrears for six or more quarterly dividend periods, whether or not for consecutive dividend periods, the holders of the Series 2 Preferred Stock will be entitled to vote as a class, together with the holders of all series of preferred stock ranking equally with the Series 2 Preferred Stock as to payment of dividends and upon which voting rights equivalent to those granted to the holders of Series 2 Preferred Stock have been conferred and are exercisable, for the election of two Preferred Stock Directors; each share of Series 2 Preferred Stock shall be entitled to three votes for the election of such Preferred Stock Directors. When we have paid full dividends on the Series 2 Preferred Stock for at least four quarterly dividend periods following a dividend arrearage described above, these voting rights will terminate.

As long as the Series 2 Preferred Stock remains outstanding, the affirmative vote or consent of the holders of at least two-thirds of the shares of Series 2 Preferred Stock, outstanding at the time (voting as a class with all other series of preferred stock ranking equally with the Series 2 Preferred Stock), shall be necessary to permit, effect, or validate (i) the authorization, creation, or issuance, or any increase in the authorized or issued amount, of any class or series of stock ranking prior to the Series 2 Preferred Stock or (ii) the amendment, alteration, or repeal, whether by merger, consolidation, or otherwise, of any of the provisions of the Certificate of Incorporation or of the resolutions set forth in a certificate of designations for the Series 2 Preferred Stock, which

Table of Contents

would adversely affect any right, preference, or privilege or voting power of the Series 2 Preferred Stock, or of the holders thereof.

Distributions. In the event of our voluntary or involuntary liquidation, dissolution, or winding up, holders of Series 2 Preferred Stock will be entitled to receive out of assets legally available for distribution to stockholders, before any distribution or payment out of our assets may be made to or set aside for the holders of our capital stock ranking junior to the Series 2 Preferred Stock, a liquidating distribution in the amount of the liquidation preference of $30,000 per share, plus any declared and unpaid dividends, without accumulation of any undeclared dividends, to the date of liquidation. Shares of Series 2 Preferred Stock will not be subject to a sinking fund.

Redemption. We may redeem the Series 2 Preferred Stock, in whole or in part, at our option, at the redemption price equal to $30,000 per share, plus any declared and unpaid dividends, without accumulation of any undeclared dividends.

Series 3 Preferred Stock

Preferential Rights. The Series 3 Preferred Stock ranks senior to common stock and equally with the Series B Preferred Stock, Series D Preferred Stock, Series E Preferred Stock, Series F Preferred Stock, Series G Preferred Stock, Series I Preferred Stock, Series K Preferred Stock, Series L Preferred Stock, Series M Preferred Stock, Series T Preferred Stock, Series U Preferred Stock, Series V Preferred Stock, Series W Preferred Stock, Series X Preferred Stock, Series Y Preferred Stock, Series Z Preferred Stock, Series AA Preferred Stock, Series 1 Preferred Stock, Series 2 Preferred Stock, Series 4 Preferred Stock, and Series 5 Preferred Stock as to dividends and distributions on our liquidation, dissolution, or winding up. Shares of the Series 3 Preferred Stock are not convertible into or exchangeable for any shares of common stock or any other class of our capital stock. Holders of the Series 3 Preferred Stock do not have any preemptive rights. We may issue stock with preferences equal to the Series 3 Preferred Stock without the consent of the holders of the Series 3 Preferred Stock.

Dividends. Holders of the Series 3 Preferred Stock are entitled to receive cash dividends, when, as, and if declared by our board of directors or a duly authorized committee thereof, at an annual dividend rate per share of 6.375% on the liquidation preference of $30,000 per share. Dividends on the Series 3 Preferred Stock are non-cumulative and are payable quarterly in arrears, if declared. As long as shares of Series 3 Preferred Stock remain outstanding, we cannot declare or pay cash dividends on any shares of common stock or other capital stock ranking junior to the Series 3 Preferred Stock unless full dividends on all outstanding shares of Series 3 Preferred Stock have been declared, paid or set aside for payment for the immediately preceding dividend period. We cannot declare or pay cash dividends on capital stock ranking equally with the Series 3 Preferred Stock for any period unless for such dividend period full dividends on all outstanding shares of Series 3 Preferred Stock for the immediately preceding dividend period have been declared, paid or set aside for payment. When dividends are not paid in full upon the shares of the Series 3 Preferred Stock and any capital stock ranking equally with the Series 3 Preferred Stock, all dividends declared upon shares of the Series 3 Preferred Stock and all shares of capital stock ranking equally with the Series 3 Preferred Stock shall be declared pro rata so that the amount of dividends declared per share on the Series 3 Preferred Stock, and all such other of our stock shall in all cases bear to each other the same ratio that accrued dividends per share on the shares of the Series 3 Preferred Stock and all such other stock bear to each other.

Voting Rights. Holders of Series 3 Preferred Stock do not have voting rights, except as provided herein and as specifically required by law. Holders of Series 3 Preferred Stock shall be entitled to vote on all matters submitted to a vote of the holders of common stock, voting together with the holders of common stock as one class, and each share of Series 3 Preferred Stock shall be

Table of Contents

entitled to 150 votes. If any quarterly dividend payable on the Series 3 Preferred Stock is in arrears for six or more quarterly dividend periods, whether or not for consecutive dividend periods, the holders of the Series 3 Preferred Stock will be entitled to vote as a class, together with the holders of all series of preferred stock ranking equally with the Series 3 Preferred Stock as to payment of dividends and upon which voting rights equivalent to those granted to the holders of Series 3 Preferred Stock have been conferred and are exercisable, for the election of two Preferred Stock Directors; each share of Series 3 Preferred Stock shall be entitled to three votes for the election of such Preferred Stock Directors. When we have paid full dividends on the Series 3 Preferred Stock for at least four quarterly dividend periods following a dividend arrearage described above, these voting rights will terminate.

As long as the Series 3 Preferred Stock remains outstanding, the affirmative vote or consent of the holders of at least two-thirds of the shares of Series 3 Preferred Stock, outstanding at the time (voting as a class with all other series of preferred stock ranking equally with the Series 3 Preferred Stock), shall be necessary to permit, effect, or validate (i) the authorization, creation, or issuance, or any increase in the authorized or issued amount, of any class or series of stock ranking prior to the Series 3 Preferred Stock or (ii) the amendment, alteration, or repeal, whether by merger, consolidation, or otherwise, of any of the provisions of the Certificate of Incorporation or of the resolutions set forth in a certificate of designations for the Series 3 Preferred Stock, which would adversely affect any right, preference, or privilege or voting power of the Series 3 Preferred Stock, or of the holders thereof.

Distributions. In the event of our voluntary or involuntary liquidation, dissolution, or winding up, holders of Series 3 Preferred Stock will be entitled to receive out of assets legally available for distribution to stockholders, before any distribution or payment out of our assets may be made to or set aside for the holders of our capital stock ranking junior to the Series 3 Preferred Stock, a liquidating distribution in the amount of the liquidation preference of $30,000 per share, plus any declared and unpaid dividends, without accumulation of any undeclared dividends, to the date of liquidation. Shares of Series 3 Preferred Stock will not be subject to a sinking fund.

Redemption. We may redeem the Series 3 Preferred Stock, in whole or in part, at our option, at the redemption price equal to $30,000 per share, plus any declared and unpaid dividends, without accumulation of any undeclared dividends.

Series 4 Preferred Stock

Preferential Rights. The Series 4 Preferred Stock ranks senior to common stock and equally with the Series B Preferred Stock, Series D Preferred Stock, Series E Preferred Stock, Series F Preferred Stock, Series G Preferred Stock, Series I Preferred Stock, Series K Preferred Stock, Series L Preferred Stock, Series M Preferred Stock, Series T Preferred Stock, Series U Preferred Stock, Series V Preferred Stock, Series W Preferred Stock, Series X Preferred Stock, Series Y Preferred Stock, Series Z Preferred Stock, Series AA Preferred Stock, Series 1 Preferred Stock, Series 2 Preferred Stock, Series 3 Preferred Stock, and Series 5 Preferred Stock as to dividends and distributions on Bank of America s liquidation, dissolution, or winding up. Shares of the Series 4 Preferred Stock are not convertible into or exchangeable for any shares of common stock or any other class of our capital stock. Holders of the Series 4 Preferred Stock do not have any preemptive rights. We may issue stock with preferences equal to the Series 4 Preferred Stock without the consent of the holders of the Series 4 Preferred Stock.

Dividends. Holders of the Series 4 Preferred Stock are entitled to receive cash dividends, when, as, and if declared by our board of directors or a duly authorized committee thereof, on the liquidation preference of $30,000 per share at an annual floating rate per share equal to the greater of (a) three-month LIBOR, plus a spread of 0.75% and (b) 4.00%. Dividends on the Series 4

Table of Contents

Preferred Stock are non-cumulative and are payable quarterly in arrears, if declared. As long as shares of Series 4 Preferred Stock remain outstanding, we cannot declare or pay cash dividends on any shares of common stock or other capital stock ranking junior to the Series 4 Preferred Stock unless full dividends on all outstanding shares of Series 4 Preferred Stock have been declared, paid or set aside for payment for the immediately preceding dividend period. We cannot declare or pay cash dividends on capital stock ranking equally with the Series 4 Preferred Stock for any period unless for such dividend period full dividends on all outstanding shares of Series 4 Preferred Stock for the immediately preceding dividend period have been declared, paid or set aside for payment. When dividends are not paid in full upon the shares of the Series 4 Preferred Stock and any capital stock ranking equally with the Series 4 Preferred Stock, all dividends declared upon shares of the Series 4 Preferred Stock and all shares of capital stock ranking equally with the Series 4 Preferred Stock shall be declared pro rata so that the amount of dividends declared per share on the Series 4 Preferred Stock, and all such other of our stock shall in all cases bear to each other the same ratio that accrued dividends per share on the shares of the Series 4 Preferred Stock and all such other stock bear to each other.

Voting Rights. Holders of Series 4 Preferred Stock do not have voting rights, except as provided herein and as specifically required by law. Holders of Series 4 Preferred Stock shall be entitled to vote on all matters submitted to a vote of the holders of common stock, voting together with the holders of common stock as one class, and each share of Series 4 Preferred Stock shall be entitled to 150 votes. If any quarterly dividend payable on the Series 4 Preferred Stock is in arrears for six or more quarterly dividend periods, whether or not for consecutive dividend periods, the holders of the Series 4 Preferred Stock will be entitled to vote as a class, together with the holders of all series of preferred stock ranking equally with the Series 4 Preferred Stock as to payment of dividends and upon which voting rights equivalent to those granted to the holders of Series 4 Preferred Stock have been conferred and are exercisable, for the election of two Preferred Stock Directors; each share of Series 4 Preferred Stock shall be entitled to three votes for the election of such Preferred Stock Directors. When we have paid full dividends on the Series 4 Preferred Stock for at least four quarterly dividend periods following a dividend arrearage described above, these voting rights will terminate.

As long as the Series 4 Preferred Stock remains outstanding, the affirmative vote or consent of the holders of at least two-thirds of the shares of Series 4 Preferred Stock, outstanding at the time (voting as a class with all other series of preferred stock ranking equally with the Series 4 Preferred Stock), shall be necessary to permit, effect, or validate (i) the authorization, creation, or issuance, or any increase in the authorized or issued amount, of any class or series of stock ranking prior to the Series 4 Preferred Stock or (ii) the amendment, alteration, or repeal, whether by merger, consolidation, or otherwise, of any of the provisions of the Certificate of Incorporation or of the resolutions set forth in a certificate of designations for the Series 4 Preferred Stock, which would adversely affect any right, preference, or privilege or voting power of the Series 4 Preferred Stock, or of the holders thereof.

Distributions. In the event of our voluntary or involuntary liquidation, dissolution, or winding up, holders of Series 4 Preferred Stock will be entitled to receive out of assets legally available for distribution to stockholders, before any distribution or payment out of our assets may be made to or set aside for the holders of our capital stock ranking junior to the Series 4 Preferred Stock, a liquidating distribution in the amount of the liquidation preference of $30,000 per share, plus any declared and unpaid dividends, without accumulation of any undeclared dividends, to the date of liquidation. Shares of Series 4 Preferred Stock will not be subject to a sinking fund.

Redemption. We may redeem the Series 4 Preferred Stock, in whole or in part, at our option, at the redemption price equal to $30,000 per share, plus any declared and unpaid dividends, without accumulation of any undeclared dividends.

Table of Contents

Series 5 Preferred Stock

Preferential Rights. The Series 5 Preferred Stock ranks senior to common stock and equally with the Series B Preferred Stock, Series D Preferred Stock, Series E Preferred Stock, Series F Preferred Stock, Series G Preferred Stock, Series I Preferred Stock, Series K Preferred Stock, Series L Preferred Stock, Series M Preferred Stock, Series T Preferred Stock, Series U Preferred Stock, Series V Preferred Stock, Series W Preferred Stock, Series X Preferred Stock, Series Y Preferred Stock, Series Z Preferred Stock, Series AA Preferred Stock, Series 1 Preferred Stock, Series 2 Preferred Stock, Series 3 Preferred Stock, and Series 4 Preferred Stock as to dividends and distributions on our liquidation, dissolution, or winding up. Shares of the Series 5 Preferred Stock are not convertible into or exchangeable for any shares of common stock or any other class of our capital stock. Holders of the Series 5 Preferred Stock do not have any preemptive rights. We may issue stock with preferences equal to the Series 5 Preferred Stock without the consent of the holders of the Series 5 Preferred Stock.

Dividends. Holders of the Series 5 Preferred Stock are entitled to receive cash dividends, when, as, and if declared by the our board of directors or a duly authorized committee thereof, on the liquidation preference of $30,000 per share at an annual floating rate per share equal to the greater of (a) three-month LIBOR, plus a spread of 0.50% and (b) 4.00%. Dividends on the Series 5 Preferred Stock are non-cumulative and are payable quarterly in arrears, if declared. As long as shares of Series 5 Preferred Stock remain outstanding, we cannot declare or pay cash dividends on any shares of common stock or other capital stock ranking junior to the Series 5 Preferred Stock unless full dividends on all outstanding shares of Series 5 Preferred Stock have been declared, paid or set aside for payment for the immediately preceding dividend period. We cannot declare or pay cash dividends on capital stock ranking equally with the Series 5 Preferred Stock for any period unless for such dividend period full dividends on all outstanding shares of Series 5 Preferred Stock for the immediately preceding dividend period have been declared, paid or set aside for payment. When dividends are not paid in full upon the shares of the Series 5 Preferred Stock and any capital stock ranking equally with the Series 5 Preferred Stock, all dividends declared upon shares of the Series 5 Preferred Stock and all shares of capital stock ranking equally with the Series 5 Preferred Stock shall be declared pro rata so that the amount of dividends declared per share on the Series 5 Preferred Stock, and all such other of our stock shall in all cases bear to each other the same ratio that accrued dividends per share on the shares of the Series 5 Preferred Stock and all such other stock bear to each other.

Voting Rights. Holders of Series 5 Preferred Stock do not have voting rights, except as provided herein and as specifically required by law. Holders of Series 5 Preferred Stock shall be entitled to vote on all matters submitted to a vote of the holders of common stock, voting together with the holders of common stock as one class, and each share of Series 5 Preferred Stock shall be entitled to 150 votes. If any quarterly dividend payable on the Series 5 Preferred Stock is in arrears for six or more quarterly dividend periods, whether or not for consecutive dividend periods, the holders of the Series 5 Preferred Stock will be entitled to vote as a class, together with the holders of all series of preferred stock ranking equally with the Series 5 Preferred Stock as to payment of dividends and upon which voting rights equivalent to those granted to the holders of Series 5 Preferred Stock have been conferred and are exercisable, for the election of two Preferred Stock Directors; each share of Series 5 Preferred Stock shall be entitled to three votes for the election of such Preferred Stock Directors. When we have paid full dividends on the Series 5 Preferred Stock for at least four quarterly dividend periods following a dividend arrearage described above, these voting rights will terminate.

As long as the Series 5 Preferred Stock remains outstanding, the affirmative vote or consent of the holders of at least two-thirds of the shares of Series 5 Preferred Stock, outstanding at the time (voting as a class with all other series of preferred stock ranking equally with the Series 5

Table of Contents

Preferred Stock), shall be necessary to permit, effect, or validate (i) the authorization, creation, or issuance, or any increase in the authorized or issued amount, of any class or series of stock ranking prior to the Series 5 Preferred Stock or (ii) the amendment, alteration, or repeal, whether by merger, consolidation, or otherwise, of any of the provisions of the Certificate of Incorporation or of the resolutions set forth in a certificate of designations for the Series 5 Preferred Stock, which would adversely affect any right, preference, or privilege or voting power of the Series 5 Preferred Stock, or of the holders thereof.

Distributions. In the event of our voluntary or involuntary liquidation, dissolution, or winding up, holders of Series 5 Preferred Stock will be entitled to receive out of assets legally available for distribution to stockholders, before any distribution or payment out of our assets may be made to or set aside for the holders of our capital stock ranking junior to the Series 5 Preferred Stock, a liquidating distribution in the amount of the liquidation preference of $30,000 per share, plus any declared and unpaid dividends, without accumulation of any undeclared dividends, to the date of liquidation. Shares of Series 5 Preferred Stock will not be subject to a sinking fund.

Redemption. We may redeem the Series 5 Preferred Stock, in whole or in part, at our option, at the redemption price equal to $30,000 per share, plus any declared and unpaid dividends, without accumulation of any undeclared dividends.

Additional Classes or Series of Stock

We will have the right to create and issue additional classes or series of stock ranking equally with or junior to our preferred stock as to dividends and distribution of assets upon any liquidation, dissolution, or winding up without the consent of the holders of such preferred stock, or the holders of the related depositary shares.

DESCRIPTION OF DEPOSITARY SHARES

General

We may offer depositary receipts evidencing depositary shares, each of which will represent a fractional interest in shares of preferred stock, rather than full shares of these securities. We will deposit shares of preferred stock of each series represented by depositary shares under a deposit agreement between us and a U.S. bank or trust company that we will select (the depository).

This section describes some of the general terms and provisions applicable to all depositary shares. We will describe the specific terms of a series of depositary shares and the deposit agreement in the applicable supplement. A form of deposit agreement, including the form of depositary receipt, has been filed as an exhibit to the registration statement of which this prospectus forms a part. The deposit agreement and depositary receipts reflecting the particular terms and provisions of a series of offered depositary shares will be filed with the SEC in connection with the offering and incorporated by reference in the registration statement and this prospectus. See Where You Can Find More Information below for information on how to obtain copies of any deposit agreements and depositary receipts.

Terms of the Depositary Shares

Depositary receipts issued under the deposit agreement will evidence the depositary shares. Depositary receipts will be distributed to those persons purchasing depositary shares representing fractional shares of preferred stock in accordance with the terms of the offering. Subject to the

Table of Contents

terms of the deposit agreement, each holder of a depositary share will be entitled, in proportion to the fractional interest of a share of preferred stock represented by the applicable depositary share, to all the rights and preferences of the preferred stock being represented, including dividend, voting, redemption, conversion, and liquidation rights, all as will be set forth in the applicable supplement relating to the depositary shares being offered.

Pending the preparation of definitive depositary receipts, the depository, upon our written order, may issue temporary depositary receipts. The temporary depositary receipts will be substantially identical to, and will have all the rights of, the definitive depositary receipts, but will not be in definitive form. Definitive depositary receipts will be prepared thereafter and temporary depositary receipts will be exchanged for definitive depositary receipts at our expense.

Withdrawal of Preferred Stock

Unless the depositary shares have been called for redemption, a holder of depositary shares may surrender his or her depositary receipts at the principal office of the depository, pay any charges, and comply with any other terms as provided in the deposit agreement for the number of shares of preferred stock underlying the depositary shares. A holder of depositary shares who withdraws shares of preferred stock will be entitled to receive whole shares of preferred stock on the basis set forth in the applicable supplement relating to the depositary shares being offered.

However, unless we specify otherwise in the applicable supplement, holders of whole shares of preferred stock will not be entitled to deposit those shares under the deposit agreement or to receive depositary receipts for those shares after the withdrawal. If the depositary shares surrendered by the holder in connection with the withdrawal exceed the number of depositary shares that represent the number of whole shares of preferred stock to be withdrawn, the depository will deliver to the holder at the same time a new depositary receipt evidencing the excess number of depositary shares.

Dividends and Other Distributions

The depository will distribute all cash dividends or other cash distributions received in respect of the preferred stock to the record holders of depositary shares relating to that preferred stock in proportion to the number of depositary shares owned by those holders. However, the depository will distribute only the amount that can be distributed without attributing to any holder of depositary shares a fraction of one cent. Any balance that is not distributed will be added to and treated as part of the next sum received by the depository for distribution to record holders.

If there is a distribution other than in cash, the depository will distribute property it receives to the record holders of depositary shares who are entitled to that property. However, if the depository determines that it is not feasible to make this distribution of property, the depository, with our approval, may sell that property and distribute the net proceeds to the holders of the depositary shares.

Redemption of Depositary Shares

If a series of preferred stock which relates to depositary shares is redeemed, the depositary shares will be redeemed from the proceeds received by the depository from the redemption, in whole or in part, of that series of preferred stock. Unless we specify otherwise in the applicable supplement, the depository will mail notice of redemption at least 30 and not more than 60 calendar days before the date fixed for redemption to the record holders of the depositary shares to be redeemed at their addresses appearing in the depository s books. The redemption price per

Table of Contents

depositary share will be equal to the applicable fraction of the redemption price per share payable on that series of the preferred stock.

Whenever we redeem preferred stock held by the depository, the depository will redeem as of the same redemption date the number of depositary shares representing the preferred stock redeemed. If less than all of the depositary shares are redeemed, the depositary shares redeemed will be selected by lot or pro rata.

After the date fixed for redemption, the depositary shares called for redemption will no longer be deemed to be outstanding. At that time, all rights of the holder of the depositary shares will cease, except the right to receive any money or other property they become entitled to receive upon surrender to the depository of the depositary receipts.

Voting the Deposited Preferred Stock

Any voting rights of holders of the depositary shares are directly dependent on the voting rights of the underlying preferred stock, which customarily have limited voting rights. Upon receipt of notice of any meeting at which the holders of the preferred stock held by the depository are entitled to vote, the depository will mail the information contained in the notice of meeting to the record holders of the depositary shares relating to the preferred stock. Each record holder of depositary shares on the record date, which will be the same date as the record date for the preferred stock, will be entitled to instruct the depository as to the exercise of the voting rights pertaining to the amount of preferred stock underlying the holder s depositary shares. The depository will endeavor, insofar as practicable, to vote the amount of preferred stock underlying the depositary shares in accordance with these instructions. We will agree to take all action which may be deemed necessary by the depository to enable the depository to do so. The depository will not vote any shares of preferred stock except to the extent it receives specific instructions from the holders of depositary shares representing that number of shares of preferred stock.

Amendment and Termination of the Deposit Agreement

The form of depositary receipt evidencing the depositary shares and any provision of the deposit agreement may be amended by agreement between us and the depository. However, any amendment which materially and adversely alters the rights of the existing holders of depositary shares will not be effective unless the amendment has been approved by the record holders of at least a majority of the depositary shares then outstanding. Either we or the depository may terminate a deposit agreement if all of the outstanding depositary shares have been redeemed or if there has been a final distribution in respect of our preferred stock in connection with our liquidation, dissolution, or winding up.

Charges of Depository

We will pay all transfer and other taxes, assessments, and governmental charges arising solely from the existence of the depository arrangements. We will pay the fees of the depository in connection with the initial deposit of the preferred stock and any redemption of the preferred stock. Holders of depositary receipts will pay transfer and other taxes, assessments, and governmental charges and any other charges as are expressly provided in the deposit agreement to be for their accounts. The depository may refuse to effect any transfer of a depositary receipt or any withdrawals of preferred stock evidenced by a depositary receipt until all taxes, assessments, and governmental charges with respect to the depositary receipt or preferred stock are paid by their holders.

Table of Contents

Miscellaneous

The depository will forward to the holders of depositary shares all of our reports and communications which are delivered to the depository and which we are required to furnish to the holders of our preferred stock.

Neither we nor the depository will be liable if we are prevented or delayed by law or any circumstance beyond our control in performing our obligations under the deposit agreement. All of our obligations as well as the depository s obligations under the deposit agreement are limited to performance in good faith of our respective duties set forth in the deposit agreement, and neither of us will be obligated to prosecute or defend any legal proceeding relating to any depositary shares or preferred stock unless provided with satisfactory indemnity. We, and the depository, may rely upon written advice of counsel or accountants, or information provided by persons presenting preferred stock for deposit, holders of depositary shares, or other persons believed to be competent and on documents believed to be genuine.

Resignation and Removal of Depository

The depository may resign at any time by delivering to us notice of its election to do so, and we may remove the depository at any time. Any resignation or removal will take effect only upon the appointment of a successor depository and the successor depository s acceptance of the appointment. Any successor depository must be a U.S. bank or trust company.

DESCRIPTION OF COMMON STOCK

This section describes the general terms and provisions of the shares of our common stock. We also have filed our Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation and our by-laws as exhibits to the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part. You should read our Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation and our by-laws for additional information about our common stock.

General

As of the date of this prospectus, under our Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation, we are authorized to issue twelve billion eight hundred million (12,800,000,000) shares of common stock, par value $.01 per share, of which approximately 10.52 billion shares were outstanding on March 31, 2015. Our common stock trades on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol BAC. Our common stock also is listed on the London Stock Exchange, and certain shares are listed on the Tokyo Stock Exchange. As of March 31, 2015, approximately 1.79 billion shares were reserved for issuance in connection with our various employee and director benefit plans, the conversion of outstanding securities convertible into shares of our common stock, and for other purposes. After taking into account the reserved shares, there were approximately 491 million authorized shares of our common stock available for issuance as of March 31, 2015.

Shares of our common stock will be uncertificated unless our board of directors by resolution determines otherwise. Shares represented by an existing certificate will remain certificated until such certificate is surrendered to us.

Voting and Other Rights

Holders of our common stock are entitled to one vote per share. There are no cumulative voting rights. In general, a majority of votes cast on a matter is sufficient to take action upon routine

Table of Contents

matters, including the election of directors in an uncontested election. However, (1) amendments to our Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation generally must be approved by the affirmative vote of the holders of a majority of the voting power of the outstanding stock, and (2) a merger, dissolution, or the sale of all or substantially all of our assets generally must be approved by the affirmative vote of the holders of a majority of the voting power of the outstanding stock.

In the event of our liquidation, holders of our common stock will be entitled to receive pro rata any assets legally available for distribution to stockholders, subject to any prior rights of any preferred stock then outstanding.

Our common stock does not have any preemptive rights, redemption privileges, sinking fund privileges, or conversion rights. All the outstanding shares of our common stock are, and upon proper conversion of any convertible securities, all of the shares of our common stock into which those securities are converted will be, validly issued, fully paid, and nonassessable.

Computershare Trust Company, N.A. is the transfer agent and registrar for our common stock.

Dividends

Subject to the preferential rights of any holders of any outstanding series of preferred stock, the holders of our common stock are entitled to receive dividends or distributions, whether payable in cash or otherwise, as our board of directors may declare out of funds legally available for payments. Stock dividends, if any are declared, may be paid from our authorized but unissued shares of common stock.

Certain Anti-Takeover Matters

Certain provisions of Delaware law and of our Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation and by-laws could make it more difficult for a third party to acquire control of us or have the effect of discouraging a third party from attempting to acquire control of us. For example, we are subject to Section 203 of the Delaware General Corporation Law, which would make it more difficult for another party to acquire us without the approval of our board of directors. Certain provisions of our Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation and by-laws may make it less likely that our management would be changed or that someone would acquire voting control of our company without our board s consent. These provisions could make it more difficult for a third party to acquire us even if an acquisition might be in the best interest of our stockholders.

Preferred Stock. Our board of directors can, at any time, under our Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation and without stockholder approval, issue one or more new series of preferred stock. In some cases, the issuance of preferred stock without stockholder approval could discourage or make more difficult attempts to take control of our company through a merger, tender offer, proxy contest or otherwise. Preferred stock with special voting rights or other features issued to persons favoring our management could stop a takeover by preventing the person trying to take control of our company from acquiring enough voting shares necessary to take control.

Advance Notice Requirements. Our by-laws establish advance notice procedures with regard to stockholder proposals relating to nominations for the election of directors or other business to be brought before meetings of our stockholders. These procedures provide that notice of such stockholder proposals must be timely given to our corporate secretary prior to the meeting at which the action is to be taken. The notice must contain certain information specified in the by-laws and must otherwise comply with the by-laws.

Table of Contents

Vacancies. Under our by-laws, a majority vote of our board of directors may increase or decrease the number of directors. Any director may be removed at any time with or without cause by the affirmative vote of the holders of a majority of the voting power of the outstanding shares then entitled to vote at an election of directors. Any vacancy on our board of directors or newly created directorship will be filled by a majority vote of the remaining directors then in office, and those newly elected directors will serve for a term expiring at the next annual meeting of stockholders, and until such directors successor has been duly elected and qualified.

Amendment of By-laws. Our by-laws may be adopted, amended or repealed by a majority of our board of directors, subject to certain limitations in our by-laws. Our stockholders also have the power to adopt, amend or repeal our by-laws.

Table of Contents

REGISTRATION AND SETTLEMENT

Unless we specify otherwise in the applicable supplement, we will issue the securities in registered, and not bearer, form. This means that our obligation runs to the holder of the security named on the face of the security. Each debt security, warrant, purchase contract, unit, share of preferred stock, and depositary share issued in registered form will be represented either by a certificate issued in definitive form to a particular investor or by one or more global securities representing the entire issuance of securities.

We refer to those persons who have securities registered in their own names, on the books that we or the trustee, warrant agent, or other agent maintain for this purpose, as the holders of those securities. These persons are the legal holders of the securities. We refer to those who, indirectly through others, own beneficial interests in securities that are not registered in their own names as indirect owners of those securities. As we discuss below, indirect owners are not legal holders, and investors in securities issued in global, or book-entry, form or in street name will be indirect owners.

Book-Entry Only Issuance

Unless we specify otherwise in the applicable supplement, we will issue each security in global, or book-entry, form. This means that we will not issue certificated securities in definitive form to investors. Instead, we will issue global securities in registered form representing the entire issuance of securities. Each global security will be registered in the name of a financial institution or clearing system that holds the global security as depository on behalf of other financial institutions that participate in that depository s book-entry system. These participating institutions, in turn, hold beneficial interests in the global securities on behalf of themselves or their customers.

Because securities issued in global form are registered in the name of the depository, we will recognize only the depository as the holder of the securities. This means that we will make all payments on the securities, including deliveries of any property other than cash, to the depository. The depository passes along the payments it receives from us to its participants, which in turn pass the payments along to their customers who are the beneficial owners. The depository and its participants are not obligated to pass these payments along under the terms of the securities. Instead, they do so under agreements they have made with one another or with their customers.

As a result, investors will not own securities issued in book-entry form directly. Instead, they will own beneficial interests in a global security, through a bank, broker, or other financial institution that participates in the depository s book-entry system or holds an interest through a participant in the depository s book-entry system. As long as the securities are issued in global form, investors will be indirect owners, and not holders, of the securities. The depository will not have knowledge of the actual beneficial owners of the securities.

Certificated Securities

In the future, we may cancel a global security or we may issue securities initially in non-global, or certificated, form. We do not expect to exchange global securities for certificated securities in definitive form registered in the names of the beneficial owners of the global securities representing the securities except in the limited circumstances described in the relevant securities or in the indenture, agreement or other instrument governing the relevant securities.

Table of Contents

Street Name Owners

If we issue certificated securities in definitive form registered in the names of the beneficial owners, investors may choose to hold their securities in their own names or in street name. Securities held by an investor in street name would be registered in the name of a bank, broker, or other financial institution that the investor chooses, and the investor would hold only a beneficial interest in those securities through an account that he or she maintains at that institution.

For securities held in street name, we will recognize only the intermediary banks, brokers, and other financial institutions in whose names the securities are registered as the holders of those securities, and we will make all payments on those securities, including deliveries of any property other than cash, to them. These institutions pass along the payments they receive to their customers who are the beneficial owners, but only because they agree to do so in their customer agreements or because they are legally required to do so. Investors who hold securities in street name will be indirect owners, not holders, of those securities.

Legal Holders

Our obligations, as well as the obligations of the trustee under any indenture and the obligations, if any, of any warrant agents, unit agents, depository for depositary shares, and any other third parties employed by us, the trustee, or any of those agents, run only to the holders of the securities. We do not have obligations to investors who hold beneficial interests in global securities, who hold the securities in street name, or who hold the securities by any other indirect means. This will be the case whether an investor chooses to be an indirect owner of a security or has no choice because we are issuing the securities only in global form. For example, once we make a payment or give a notice to the holder, we have no further responsibility for that payment or notice even if that holder is required, under agreements with depository participants or customers or by law, to pass it along to the indirect owners, but does not do so. Similarly, if we want to obtain the approval of the holders for any purpose, such as to amend the indenture for a series of debt securities or the warrant agreement for a series of warrants or the unit agreement for a series of units or to relieve us of the consequences of a default or of our obligation to comply with a particular provision of an indenture, we would seek the approval only from the holders, and not the indirect owners, of the relevant securities. Whether and how the holders contact the indirect owners is up to the holders.

When we refer to you in this prospectus, we mean those who invest in the securities being offered by this prospectus, whether they are the holders or only indirect owners of those securities. When we refer to your securities in this prospectus, we mean the securities in which you will hold a direct or indirect interest.

Special Considerations for Indirect Owners

If you hold securities through a bank, broker, or other financial institution, either in book-entry form or in street name, you should check with your own institution to find out:

- how it handles payments on your securities and notices;
- whether it imposes fees or charges;
- whether and how you can instruct it to exercise any rights to purchase or sell warrant property under a warrant or purchase contract property under a purchase contract or to exchange or convert a security for or into other property;

Table of Contents

how it would handle a request for the holders consent, if required;

whether and how you can instruct it to send you the securities registered in your own name so you can be a holder, if that is permitted in the future;

how it would exercise rights under the securities if there were a default or other event triggering the need for holders to act to protect their interests; and

if the securities are in book-entry form, how the depository s rules and procedures will affect these matters.

Depositories for Global Securities

Each security issued in book-entry form will be represented by a global security that we deposit with and register in the name of one or more financial institutions or clearing systems, or their nominees, which we will select. A financial institution or clearing system that we select for this purpose is called the depository for that security. A security usually will have only one depository, but it may have more.

Each series of securities will have one or more of the following as the depositories:

The Depository Trust Company, New York, New York, which is known as DTC ;

a financial institution holding the securities on behalf of Euroclear Bank SA/NV, which is known as Euroclear ;

a financial institution holding the securities on behalf of Clearstream Banking, société anonyme, Luxembourg, which is known as Clearstream, Luxembourg ; and

any other clearing system or financial institution that we identify in the applicable supplement.

The depositories named above also may be participants in one another s clearing systems. For example, if DTC is the depository for a global security, investors may hold beneficial interests in that security through Euroclear or Clearstream, Luxembourg as DTC participants.

We will name the depository or depositories for your securities in the applicable supplement. If no depository is named, the depository will be DTC.

The Depository Trust Company

The following is based on information furnished to us by DTC:

Unless we specify otherwise in the applicable supplement, DTC will act as securities depository for the securities. The securities will be issued as fully-registered securities registered in the name of Cede & Co. (DTC s partnership nominee) or any other name as may be requested by an authorized representative of DTC. One fully-registered security certificate will be issued for each issue of the securities, 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

Table of Contents

principal amount of the issue. We may also issue one or more global securities that represent multiple series of debt securities.

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 under 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 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 or indirectly (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. Information on that website is not included or incorporated by reference herein.

Purchases of the securities under the DTC system must be made by or through direct participants, which will receive a credit for the securities on DTC s records. The ownership interest of each actual purchaser of each security (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 securities 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 securities, except in the event that use of the book-entry system for the securities is discontinued.

To facilitate subsequent transfers, all securities 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 securities 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 securities; DTC s records reflect only the identity of the direct participants to whose accounts such securities 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 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 securities may wish to

Table of Contents

take certain steps to augment the transmission to them of notices of significant events with respect to the securities, such as redemptions, tenders, defaults, and proposed amendments to the security documents. For example, beneficial owners of securities may wish to ascertain that the nominee holding the securities for its 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.

Neither DTC nor Cede & Co. (nor any other DTC nominee) will consent or vote with respect to securities unless authorized by a direct participant in accordance with DTC s Money Market Instrument (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 securities are credited on the record date (identified in a listing attached to the omnibus proxy).

We will make dividend payments or any payments of principal, any premium, interest, or other amounts on the securities in immediately available funds directly to Cede & Co., or any 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, 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 these participants and not of DTC or its nominee, us, the trustee, or any other agent or party, subject to any statutory or regulatory requirements that may be in effect from time to time. Payment of dividends or principal and any premium or interest to Cede & Co. (or any other nominee as may be requested by an authorized representative of DTC) is our responsibility. Disbursement of the payments to direct participants is the responsibility of DTC, and disbursement of the payments to the beneficial owners is the responsibility of the direct or indirect participants.

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

A beneficial owner shall give notice to elect to have its securities repurchased through the participant through which it holds its beneficial interest in the security to the applicable trustee or tender agent. The beneficial owner shall effect delivery of its securities by causing the direct participant to transfer its interest in the securities on DTC s records. The requirement for physical delivery of securities in connection with an optional tender or a mandatory purchase will be deemed satisfied when the ownership rights in the securities are transferred by the direct participant on DTC s records and followed by a book-entry credit of tendered securities to the applicable trustee or agent s DTC account.

DTC may discontinue providing its services as depository for the securities at any time by giving us reasonable notice. If this occurs, and if a successor securities depository is not obtained, we will print and deliver certificated securities.

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 securities to DTC.

Table of Contents

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 we take no responsibility for its accuracy.

Euroclear and Clearstream, Luxembourg

Euroclear and Clearstream, Luxembourg each hold securities for their customers and facilitate the clearance and settlement of securities transactions by electronic book-entry transfer between their respective account holders (each such account holder, a participant and collectively, the participants). Euroclear and Clearstream, Luxembourg provide various services including safekeeping, administration, clearance and settlement of internationally traded securities and securities lending and borrowing. Euroclear and Clearstream, Luxembourg also deal with domestic securities markets in several countries through established depository and custodial relationships. Euroclear and Clearstream, Luxembourg have established an electronic bridge between their two systems across which their respective participants may settle trades with each other. Euroclear is incorporated under the laws of Belgium and Clearstream, Luxembourg is incorporated under the laws of Luxembourg.

Euroclear and Clearstream, Luxembourg customers are world-wide financial institutions, including underwriters, securities brokers and dealers, banks, trust companies, and clearing corporations. Indirect access to Euroclear and Clearstream, Luxembourg is available to other institutions that clear through or maintain a custodial relationship with a participant of either system.

The address of Euroclear is Euroclear Bank SA/NV, 1 Boulevard du Roi Albert II, B-1210 Brussels and the address of Clearstream, Luxembourg is Clearstream Banking, 42 Avenue JF Kennedy, L-1855, Luxembourg.

Euroclear and Clearstream, Luxembourg may be depositories for a global security sold or traded outside the United States. In addition, if DTC is the depository for a global security, Euroclear and Clearstream, Luxembourg may hold interests in the global security as participants in DTC. As long as any global security is held by Euroclear or Clearstream, Luxembourg as depository, you may hold an interest in the global security only through an organization that participates, directly or indirectly, in Euroclear or Clearstream, Luxembourg. If Euroclear or Clearstream, Luxembourg is the depository for a global security and there is no depository in the United States, you will not be able to hold interests in that global security through any securities clearing system in the United States.

Payments, deliveries, transfers, exchanges, notices, and other matters relating to the securities made through Euroclear or Clearstream, Luxembourg must comply with the rules and procedures of those clearing systems. Those clearing systems could change their rules and procedures at any time. We have no control over those clearing systems or their participants, and we take no responsibility for their activities. Transactions between participants in Euroclear or Clearstream, Luxembourg, on one hand, and participants in DTC, on the other hand, when DTC is the depository, also would be subject to DTC s rules and procedures.

Investors will be able to make and receive through Euroclear and Clearstream, Luxembourg payments, deliveries, transfers, exchanges, notices, and other transactions involving any securities held through those clearing systems only on days when those clearing systems are open for business. Those clearing systems may not be open for business on days when banks, brokers, and other institutions are open for business in the United States. In addition, because of time-zone differences, U.S. investors who hold their interests in the

Table of Contents

securities through these clearing systems and wish to transfer their interests, or to receive or make a payment or delivery or exercise any other right with respect to their interests, on a particular day may find that the transaction will not be effected until the next business day in Brussels or Luxembourg, as applicable. Thus, investors who wish to exercise rights that expire on a particular day may need to act before the expiration date. In addition, investors who hold their interests through both DTC and Euroclear or Clearstream, Luxembourg may need to make special arrangements to finance any purchases or sales of their interests between the United States and European clearing systems, and those transactions may settle later than would be the case for transactions within one clearing system.

Special Considerations for Global Securities

As an indirect owner, an investor s rights relating to a global security will be governed by the account rules of the depository and those of the investor s financial institution or other intermediary through which it holds its interest (e.g., Euroclear or Clearstream, Luxembourg, if DTC is the depository), as well as general laws relating to securities transfers. We do not recognize this type of investor or any intermediary as a holder of securities. Instead, we deal only with the depository that holds the global security.

If securities are issued only in the form of a global security, an investor should be aware of the following:

an investor cannot cause the securities to be registered in his or her own name, and cannot obtain physical certificates for his or her interest in the securities, except in the special situations described above;

an investor will be an indirect holder and must look to his or her own bank or broker for payments on the securities and protection of his or her legal rights relating to the securities, as we describe above under Legal Holders ;

under existing industry practices, if we or the applicable trustee request any action of owners of beneficial interests in any global security or if an owner of a beneficial interest in any global security desires to give instructions or take any action that a holder of an interest in a global security is entitled to give or take under the applicable indenture, Euroclear or Clearstream, Luxembourg, as the case may be, would authorize the participants owning the relevant beneficial interests to give instructions or take such action, and such participants would authorize indirect holders to give or take such action or would otherwise act upon the instructions of such indirect holders;

an investor may not be able to sell interests in the securities to some insurance companies and other institutions that are required by law to own their securities in certificated form;

an investor may not be able to pledge his or her interest in a global security in circumstances where certificates representing the securities must be delivered to the lender or other beneficiary of the pledge in order for the pledge to be effective; furthermore, as Euroclear and Clearstream, Luxembourg act on behalf of their respective participants only, who in turn may act on behalf of their respective clients, the ability of beneficial owners who are not participants with Euroclear or Clearstream, Luxembourg to pledge interests in any global security to persons or entities that are not participants with Euroclear or Clearstream, Luxembourg or otherwise take action in respect of interests in any global security, may be limited;

Table of Contents

the depository s policies will govern payments, deliveries, transfers, exchanges, notices, and other matters relating to an investor s interest in a global security, and those policies may change from time to time;

we, the trustee, any warrant agents, and any unit or other agents will not be responsible for any aspect of the depository s policies, actions, or records of ownership interests in a global security;

we, the trustee, any warrant agents, and any unit or other agents do not supervise the depository in any way;

the depository will require that those who purchase and sell interests in a global security within its book-entry system use immediately available funds, and your broker or bank may require you to do so as well; and

financial institutions that participate in the depository s book-entry system and through which an investor holds its interest in the global securities, directly or indirectly, also may have their own policies affecting payments, deliveries, transfers, exchanges, notices, and other matters relating to the securities. Those policies may change from time to time. For example, if you hold an interest in a global security through Euroclear or Clearstream, Luxembourg when DTC is the depository, Euroclear or Clearstream, Luxembourg, as applicable, will require those who purchase and sell interests in that security through them to use immediately available funds and comply with other policies and procedures, including deadlines for giving instructions as to transactions that are to be effected on a particular day. There may be more than one financial intermediary in the chain of ownership for an investor. We do not monitor and are not responsible for the policies or actions or records of ownership interests of any of those intermediaries.

Registration, Transfer, and Payment of Certificated Securities

If we ever issue certificated securities in definitive form, those securities may be presented for registration of transfer at the office of the registrar or at the office of any transfer agent we designate and maintain. 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 securities, 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 securities at any time.

We will not be required to issue, exchange, or register the transfer of any security to be redeemed for a period of 15 calendar days before the selection of the securities to be redeemed. In addition, we will not be required to exchange or register the transfer of any security that was selected, called, or is being called for redemption, except the unredeemed portion of any security being redeemed in part.

We will pay amounts payable on any certificated securities in definitive form at the offices of the paying agents we may designate from time to time.

Table of Contents

U.S. FEDERAL INCOME TAX CONSIDERATIONS

The following summary of the material U.S. federal income tax considerations of the acquisition, ownership, and disposition of certain of the debt securities, preferred stock, depositary shares representing fractional interests in preferred stock, and common stock that we are offering, is based upon the advice of Morrison & Foerster LLP, our tax counsel. The following discussion is not exhaustive of all possible tax considerations. This summary is based upon the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the Code), regulations promulgated under the Code by the U.S. Treasury Department (Treasury) (including proposed and temporary regulations), rulings, current administrative interpretations and official pronouncements of the Internal Revenue Service (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 debt securities, preferred stock, depositary shares, or common stock as part of an integrated investment, including a straddle, hedge, constructive sale, or conversion transaction, persons (other than Non-U.S. Holders) 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 debt securities, preferred stock, depositary shares, or common stock that we may issue. If the tax consequences associated with a particular form of debt security, preferred stock, depositary shares or common stock are different than those described below, they will be described in the applicable supplement.

This summary is directed solely to holders that, except as otherwise specifically noted, will purchase the debt securities, preferred stock, depositary shares, or common stock offered in this prospectus upon original issuance and will hold such securities 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 tax consequences to you of acquiring, owning, and disposing of these securities, 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 the debt securities, preferred stock, depositary shares, or common stock offered in this prospectus 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;

Table of Contents

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. As used in this prospectus, the term Non-U.S. Holder is a holder that is not a U.S. Holder.

If an entity or arrangement treated as a partnership for U.S. federal income tax purposes holds the debt securities, preferred stock, depositary shares, or common stock offered in this prospectus, 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 debt securities, preferred stock, depositary shares, or common stock 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 debt securities, preferred stock, depositary shares, or common stock.

Taxation of Debt Securities

This subsection describes the material U.S. federal income tax consequences of the acquisition, ownership, and disposition of the debt securities offered in this prospectus, other than the debt securities described below under Convertible, Renewable, Extendible, Indexed, and Other Debt Securities, which will be described in the applicable supplement. This subsection is directed solely to holders that, except as otherwise specifically noted, will purchase the debt securities offered in this prospectus upon original issuance at the issue price, as defined below.

Consequences to U.S. Holders

The following is a summary of the material U.S. federal income tax consequences that will apply to U.S. Holders of debt securities.

Payment of Interest. Except as described below in the case of interest on a debt security issued with original issue discount, as defined below under Consequences to U.S. Holders Original Issue Discount, interest on a debt security 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 debt securities may be issued with original issue discount (OID). U.S. Holders of debt securities issued with OID, other than short-term debt securities with a maturity of one year or less from its date of issue, will be subject to special tax accounting rules, as described in greater detail below. For tax purposes, OID is the excess of the stated redemption price at maturity of a debt instrument over its issue price. The stated redemption price at maturity of a debt security is the sum of all payments required to be made on the debt security other than qualified stated interest payments, as defined below. The issue price of a debt security 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

Table of Contents

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 debt security bears interest during any accrual period at a rate below the rate applicable for the remaining term of the debt security (for example, debt securities 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 debt security with a maturity of more than one year from its date of issue that has been issued with OID (an OID debt security) is generally required to include any qualified stated interest payments in income as interest at the time such interest is accrued or is received in accordance with the U.S. Holder s regular accounting method for tax purposes, as described above under Consequences to U.S. Holders Payment of Interest. A U.S. Holder of an OID debt security is generally required to include in income the sum of the daily accruals of the OID for the debt security for each day during the taxable year (or portion of the taxable year) in which the U.S. Holder held the OID debt security, regardless of such holder s regular method of accounting. Thus, 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 debt security, 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 debt security 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 debt security at the beginning of any accrual period is the sum of the issue price of the OID debt security plus the amount of OID allocable to all prior accrual periods reduced by any payments received on the OID debt security 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 debt security over its issue price is less than 1/4 of 1% of the debt instrument 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 debt securities with more than one principal payment (de minimis OID), the debt security 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 debt securities are made in proportion to the amount paid (unless the U.S. Holder makes the election described below under Consequences to U.S. Holders 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.

Additional rules applicable to debt securities with OID that are denominated in or determined by reference to a currency other than the U.S. dollar are described under Consequences to U.S. Holders Non-U.S. Dollar Denominated Debt Securities below.

Variable Rate Debt Securities. In the case of a debt security that is a variable rate debt security, special rules apply. A debt security will qualify as a variable rate debt instrument under

Table of Contents

Treasury regulations if (i) the debt security 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 debt security 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 debt security 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 debt security 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 debt security 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 debt security, the qualified floating rates together constitute a single qualified floating rate. A debt security 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 debt security or is not reasonably expected as of the issue date to significantly affect the yield on the debt security.

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 debt security 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 debt security 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 debt security, then the debt security 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 debt security will also have a variable rate that is a single qualified floating rate or an objective rate if interest on the debt security 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 debt security 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 debt security 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 debt security is treated as qualified stated interest. In that case, both the debt security 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 debt security 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 value of the rate on the issue date or, in the case of an objective rate (other than a qualified

Table of Contents

inverse floating rate), the rate that reflects the yield to maturity that is reasonably expected for the debt security (the fixed rate substitute). A U.S. holder should then recognize OID, if any, that is calculated based on the debt security 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 debt security 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 debt security must be determined by (i) determining a fixed rate substitute for each variable rate provided under the debt security (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 debt security 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 debt security must be determined by using the method described above. However, the debt security will be treated, for purposes of the first three steps of the determination, as if the debt security 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 debt security 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 debt security 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 debt security 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 debt security for any taxable year (or any portion of a taxable year in which the debt security 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 debt security and the denominator of which is the excess of the OID debt security s stated redemption price at maturity over its adjusted issue price.

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

Amortizable Bond Premium. If a U.S. Holder purchases a debt security (including an OID debt security) for an amount in excess of the sum of all amounts payable on the debt security after the purchase date, other than qualified stated interest, such holder will be considered to have purchased such debt security 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 debt security based on the U.S. Holder s yield to maturity with respect to the debt security.

Table of Contents

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 debt security 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 debt security that have not been offset previously by bond premium. Any excess is generally carried forward and allocable to the next accrual period.

If a debt security 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 debt securities.

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 holder may make an election to include in income its entire return on a debt security (i.e., the excess of all remaining payments to be received on the debt security over the amount paid for the debt security by such holder) in accordance with a constant yield method based on the compounding of interest, as discussed below under Consequences to U.S. Holders Election to Treat All Interest as Original Issue Discount. If a holder makes such an election for a debt security with amortizable bond premium, such election will result in a deemed election to amortize bond premium for all of the 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 debt security by the amount of the premium amortized during its holding period. OID debt securities 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 debt security. Therefore, if a U.S. Holder does not elect to amortize bond premium and it holds the debt security to maturity, the premium generally will be treated as capital loss when the debt security matures.

Market Discount. If a U.S. Holder purchases a debt security for an amount that is less than its stated redemption price at maturity, or, in the case of an OID debt security, its adjusted issue price, such holder will be considered to have purchased the debt security with market discount. Any payment, other than qualified stated interest, or any gain on the sale, exchange, retirement, or other disposition of a debt security 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 debt security during such holder s holding period. In general, market discount is treated as accruing on a straight-line basis over the term of the debt security 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 debt security 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 debt security in an amount not exceeding the accrued market discount on the debt security.

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 debt security as ordinary income. If an election is

Table of Contents

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

Generally, a holder may make an election to include in income its entire return on a debt security (i.e., the excess of all remaining payments to be received on the debt security over the amount paid for the debt security by such holder) in accordance with a constant yield method based on the compounding of interest, as discussed below under Consequences to U.S. Holders Election to Treat All Interest as Original Issue Discount. If a holder makes such an election for a debt security with market discount, the 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 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 debt security 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 debt security, then, to apply the constant-yield method: (i) the issue price of the debt security will equal its cost, (ii) the issue date of the debt security will be the date it was acquired, and (iii) no payments on the debt security will be treated as payments of qualified stated interest. A U.S. Holder must make this election for the taxable year in which the debt security 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.

Debt Securities That Trade Flat. We expect that certain debt securities will trade in the secondary market with accrued interest. However, we may issue debt securities with terms and conditions that would make it likely that such debt securities would trade flat in the secondary market, which means that upon a sale of a debt security a U.S. Holder would not be paid an amount that reflects the accrued but unpaid interest with respect to such debt security. Nevertheless, for U.S. federal income tax purposes, a portion of the sales proceeds equal to the interest accrued with respect to such debt security 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 debt security 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 debt security. Concurrently, a U.S. Holder that purchases such a debt security 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 debt security. 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 debt securities between interest

Table of Contents

payment dates should consult their own tax advisors concerning such holder s adjusted tax basis in the debt security and whether such debt securities should be treated as having been purchased with market discount, as described above.

Short-Term Debt Securities. Some of our debt securities may be issued with maturities of one year or less from the date of issue, which we refer to as short-term debt securities. Treasury regulations provide that no payments of interest on a short-term debt security are treated as qualified stated interest. Accordingly, in determining the amount of discount on a short-term debt security, all interest payments, including stated interest, are included in the short-term debt security 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 debt securities 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 debt security as ordinary income to the extent such gain does not exceed the discount accrued with respect to the short- term debt security, 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 not be allowed to deduct any of the interest paid or accrued on any indebtedness incurred or maintained to purchase or carry a short-term debt security (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 debt security or its earlier disposition in a taxable transaction. Notwithstanding the foregoing, a cash- basis U.S. Holder of a short-term debt security 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 debt security 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 debt security may elect to include accrued acquisition discount with respect to the short-term debt security in income on a current basis. Acquisition discount is the excess of the remaining redemption amount of the short-term debt security 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 debt securities.

Sale, Exchange, or Retirement of Debt Securities. Upon the sale, exchange, retirement, or other disposition of a debt security, 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 debt security 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 debt security. 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 debt security. A U.S. Holder s adjusted tax basis in a debt security generally will be the cost of the debt security 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

Table of Contents

short-term debt security previously included in income with respect to the debt security, and decreased by the amount of any premium previously amortized to reduce interest on the debt security and the amount of any payment (other than a payment of qualified stated interest) received in respect of the debt security.

Except as discussed above with respect to market discount, or as described below with respect to debt securities subject to contingencies and Non-U.S. Dollar Denominated Debt Securities, gain or loss realized on the sale, exchange, retirement, or other disposition of a debt security generally will be capital gain or loss and will be long-term capital gain or loss if the debt security 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.

Reopenings. Treasury regulations provide specific rules regarding whether additional debt instruments issued in a reopening will be considered part of the same issue, with the same issue price and yield to maturity, as the original debt instruments for U.S. federal income tax purposes. Except as provided otherwise in an applicable supplement, we expect that additional debt securities issued by us in any reopening will be issued such that they will be considered part of the original issuance to which they relate.

Debt Securities Subject to Contingencies. Certain of the debt securities 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 such contingency relates to payments of interest or of principal. In addition, certain of the debt securities may contain provisions permitting them to be redeemed prior to their stated maturity at our option and/or at the option of the holder. Debt securities containing these features may be characterized as contingent payment debt instruments for U.S. federal income tax purposes.

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

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

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

Based on the comparable yield and the projected payment schedule of the debt securities, a U.S. Holder of a note (regardless of accounting method) generally will be required to accrue as OID the sum of the daily portions of interest on the debt security for each day in the taxable year on

Table of Contents

which the holder held the debt security, adjusted upward or downward to reflect the difference, if any, between the actual and projected amount of any contingent payments on the debt security, as set forth below. The daily portions of interest for a debt security are determined by allocating to each day in an accrual period the ratable portion of interest on the debt security that accrues in the accrual period. The amount of interest on the debt security that accrues in an accrual period is the product of the comparable yield on the debt security (adjusted to reflect the length of the accrual period) and the adjusted issue price of the debt security at the beginning of the accrual period. The adjusted issue price of a debt security at the beginning of the first accrual period will equal its issue price (as described above). For any subsequent accrual period, the adjusted issue price will be (i) the sum of the issue price of the debt security and any interest previously accrued on the debt security by a holder (without regard to any positive or negative adjustments, described below) minus (ii) the amount of any projected payments on the debt security for previous accrual periods.

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

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

We expect that the applicable supplement will include a table that sets forth the following information with respect to the principal amount of the debt securities for each of the applicable accrual periods through the maturity date of the debt securities: (i) the amount of interest deemed to have accrued during the accrual period, and (ii) the total amount of interest deemed to have

Table of Contents

accrued from the original issue date through the end of the accrual period. The table will be based upon a projected payment schedule and a comparable yield. The comparable yield will be determined based upon market conditions as of the date of the applicable supplement. The comparable yield is likely to change between the date of any preliminary supplement and the date of the related final supplement. Therefore, the projected payment schedule included in any preliminary supplement will be subject to change. We will determine the actual projected payment schedule and the actual comparable yield on the pricing date. Any tax accrual table included in a preliminary supplement will be revised, and the revised table will be set forth in the final supplement prepared in connection with the initial sale of the debt securities.

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

U.S. Holders considering the purchase of debt securities with these features 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 purchase, ownership and disposition of such debt securities.

Non-U.S. Dollar Denominated Debt Securities. Additional considerations apply to a U.S. Holder of a debt security payable in a currency other than U.S. dollars (foreign currency).

We refer to these securities as Non-U.S. Dollar Denominated Debt Securities. In the case of payments of interest, U.S. Holders using the cash method of accounting for U.S. federal income tax purposes will be required to include in income the U.S. dollar value of the foreign currency payment on a Non-U.S. Dollar Denominated Debt Security (other than OID or market discount) when the payment of interest is received. The U.S. dollar value of the foreign currency payment is determined by translating the foreign currency received at the spot rate for such foreign currency on the date the payment is received, regardless of whether the payment is in fact converted to U.S. dollars at that time. The U.S. dollar value will be the U.S. Holder s tax basis in the foreign currency received. A U.S. Holder will not recognize foreign currency exchange gain or loss with respect to the receipt of such payment.

U.S. Holders using the accrual method of accounting for U.S. federal income tax purposes will be required to include in income the U.S. dollar value of the amount of interest income that has accrued and is otherwise required to be taken into account with respect to a Non-U.S. Dollar Denominated Debt Security during an accrual period. The U.S. dollar value of the accrued income will be determined by translating the income at the average rate of exchange for the accrual period or, with respect to an accrual period that spans two taxable years, at the average rate for the partial period within the taxable year. A U.S. Holder may elect, however, to translate the accrued interest income using the exchange rate on the last day of the accrual period or, with respect to an accrual period that spans two taxable years, using the exchange rate on the last day of the taxable

Table of Contents

year. If the last day of an accrual period is within five business days of the date of receipt of the accrued interest, a U.S. Holder may translate the interest using the exchange rate on the date of receipt. The above election will apply to all other debt obligations held by the U.S. Holder and may not be changed without the consent of the IRS. U.S. Holders should consult their own tax advisors before making the above election. Upon receipt of an interest payment (including, upon the sale of the debt security, the receipt of proceeds which include amounts attributable to accrued interest previously included in income), the holder will recognize foreign currency exchange gain or loss in an amount equal to the difference between the U.S. dollar value of such payment (determined by translating the foreign currency received at the spot rate for such foreign currency on the date such payment is received) and the U.S. dollar value of the interest income previously included in income with respect to such payment. This gain or loss will be treated as ordinary income or loss.

OID on a debt security that is also a Non-U.S. Dollar Denominated Debt Security will be determined for any accrual period in the applicable foreign currency and then translated into U.S. dollars, in the same manner as interest income accrued by a holder on the accrual basis, as described above (regardless of such holder s regular method of accounting). A U.S. Holder will recognize foreign currency exchange gain or loss when OID is paid (including, upon the sale of such debt security, the receipt of proceeds which include amounts attributable to OID previously included in income) to the extent of the difference between the U.S. dollar value of such payment (determined by translating the foreign currency received at the spot rate for such foreign currency on the date such payment is received) and the U.S. dollar value of the accrued OID (determined in the same manner as for accrued interest). For these purposes, all receipts on a debt security will be viewed: (i) first, as the receipt of any stated interest payment called for under the terms of the debt security, (ii) second, as receipts of previously accrued OID (to the extent thereof), with payments considered made for the earliest accrual periods first, and (iii) third, as the receipt of principal.

The amount of market discount on Non-U.S. Dollar Denominated Debt Securities includible in income generally will be determined by translating the market discount determined in the foreign currency into U.S. dollars at the spot rate on the date the Non-U.S. Dollar Denominated Debt Security is retired or otherwise disposed of. If a U.S. Holder elected to accrue market discount currently, then the amount which accrues is determined in the foreign currency and then translated into U.S. dollars on the basis of the average exchange rate in effect during such accrual period. A U.S. Holder will recognize foreign currency exchange gain or loss with respect to market discount which is accrued currently using the approach applicable to the accrual of interest income as described above.

Amortizable bond premium on a Non-U.S. Dollar Denominated Debt Security will be computed in the applicable foreign currency. If a U.S. Holder elected to amortize the premium, the amortizable bond premium will reduce interest income in the applicable foreign currency. At the time bond premium is amortized, foreign currency exchange gain or loss will be realized based on the difference between spot rates at such time and the time of acquisition of the Non-U.S. Dollar Denominated Debt Security. If a U.S. Holder does not elect to amortize bond premium, the bond premium computed in the foreign currency must be translated into U.S. dollars at the spot rate on the maturity date and such bond premium will constitute a capital loss which may be offset or eliminated by foreign currency exchange gain.

If a U.S. Holder purchases a Non-U.S. Dollar Denominated Debt Security with previously owned foreign currency, foreign currency exchange gain or loss (which will be treated as ordinary income or loss) will be recognized in an amount equal to the difference, if any, between the tax basis in the foreign currency and the U.S. dollar fair market value of the foreign currency used to purchase the Non-U.S. Dollar Denominated Debt Security, determined on the date of purchase.

Table of Contents

Upon the sale, exchange, retirement, or other taxable disposition of a Non-U.S. Dollar Denominated Debt Security, 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 and unpaid interest not previously included in income, which will be treated as a payment of interest for U.S. federal income tax purposes) and the adjusted tax basis in the Non-U.S. Dollar Denominated Debt Security. The adjusted tax basis in a Non-U.S. Dollar Denominated Debt Security will equal the amount paid for the Non-U.S. Dollar Denominated Debt Security, increased by the amounts of any market discount or OID previously included in income with respect to the Non-U.S. Dollar Denominated Debt Security and reduced by any amortized acquisition or other premium and any principal payments received in respect of the Non-U.S. Dollar Denominated Debt Security. The amount of any payment in or adjustments measured by foreign currency will be equal to the U.S. dollar value of the foreign currency on the date of the purchase or adjustment. The amount realized will be based on the U.S. dollar value of the foreign currency on the date the payment is received or the Non-U.S. Dollar Denominated Debt Security is disposed of (or deemed disposed of as a result of a material change in the terms of the debt security). If, however, a Non-U.S. Dollar Denominated Debt Security is traded on an established securities market and the U.S. Holder uses the cash basis method of tax accounting, the U.S. dollar value of the amount realized will be determined by translating the foreign currency payment at the spot rate of exchange on the settlement date of the purchase or sale. A U.S. Holder that uses the accrual basis method of tax accounting may elect the same treatment with respect to the purchase and sale of Non-U.S. Dollar Denominated Debt Securities traded on an established securities market, provided that the election is applied consistently.

Except with respect to market discount as discussed above, and the foreign currency rules discussed below, gain or loss recognized upon the sale, exchange, retirement, or other taxable disposition of a Non-U.S. Dollar Denominated Debt Security will be capital gain or loss and will be long-term capital gain or loss if at the time of sale, exchange, retirement, or other disposition, the Non-U.S. Dollar Denominated Debt Security 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.

A portion of the gain or loss with respect to the principal amount of a Non-U.S. Dollar Denominated Debt Security may be treated as foreign currency exchange gain or loss. Foreign currency exchange gain or loss will be treated as ordinary income or loss. For these purposes, the principal amount of the Non-U.S. Dollar Denominated Debt Security is the purchase price for the Non-U.S. Dollar Denominated Debt Security calculated in the foreign currency on the date of purchase, and the amount of exchange gain or loss recognized is equal to the difference between (i) the U.S. dollar value of the principal amount determined on the date of the sale, exchange, retirement or other disposition of the Non-U.S. Dollar Denominated Debt Security and (ii) the U.S. dollar value of the principal amount determined on the date the Non-U.S. Dollar Denominated Debt Security was purchased. The amount of foreign currency exchange gain or loss will be limited to the amount of overall gain or loss realized on the disposition of the Non-U.S. Dollar Denominated Debt Security.

The tax basis in foreign currency received as interest on a Non-U.S. Dollar Denominated Debt Security will be the U.S. dollar value of the foreign currency determined at the spot rate in effect on the date the foreign currency is received. The tax basis in foreign currency received on the sale, exchange, retirement, or other disposition of a Non-U.S. Dollar Denominated Debt Security will be equal to the U.S. dollar value of the foreign currency, determined at the time of the sale, exchange, retirement or other disposition. As discussed above, if the Non-U.S. Dollar Denominated Debt Securities are traded on an established securities market, a cash basis U.S. Holder (or, upon election, an accrual basis U.S. Holder) will determine the U.S. dollar value of the foreign currency

Table of Contents

by translating the foreign currency received at the spot rate of exchange on the settlement date of the sale, exchange, retirement, or other disposition. Accordingly, in such case, no foreign currency exchange gain or loss will result from currency fluctuations between the trade date and settlement date of a sale, exchange, retirement, or other disposition. Any gain or loss recognized on a sale, exchange, retirement, or other disposition of foreign currency (including its exchange for U.S. dollars or its use to purchase debt securities) will be ordinary income or loss.

Special rules may apply to Non-U.S. Dollar Denominated Debt Securities that are also treated as contingent payment debt instruments. For the special treatment, if any, of Non-U.S. Dollar Denominated Debt Securities that are also contingent payment debt securities, see the applicable supplement.

Additional Medicare Tax on Unearned Income. Certain U.S. Holders, including individuals, estates and trusts, are 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 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 debt securities.

Consequences to Non-U.S. Holders

The following is a summary of the material U.S. federal income tax consequences that will apply to Non-U.S. Holders of debt securities. Non-U.S. Holders should consult their own tax advisers regarding the U.S. and non-U.S. tax considerations of acquiring, holding, and disposing of debt securities.

Payments of Interest. Under current U.S. federal income tax law and subject to the discussion below concerning backup withholding, principal (and premium, if any) and interest payments, including any OID, that are received from us or our agent and that are not effectively connected with the conduct by the Non-U.S. Holder of a trade or business within the United States, or a permanent establishment maintained in the United States if certain tax treaties apply, generally will not be subject to U.S. federal income or withholding tax except as provided below. Interest, including any OID, may be subject to a 30% withholding tax (or less under an applicable treaty, if any) if:

a Non-U.S. Holder actually or constructively owns 10% or more of the total combined voting power of all classes of our stock entitled to vote;

a Non-U.S. Holder is a controlled foreign corporation for U.S. federal income tax purposes that is related to us (directly or indirectly) through stock ownership;

a Non-U.S. Holder is a bank extending credit under a loan agreement in the ordinary course of its trade or business;

the interest payments on the debt security are determined by reference to the income, profits, changes in the value of property or other attributes of the debtor or a related party (other than payments that are based on the value of a security or index of securities that are, and will continue to be, actively traded within the meaning of Section 1092(d) of the Code, and that are not nor will be a United States real property interest as described in Section 897(c)(1) or 897(g) of the Code); or

the Non-U.S. Holder does not satisfy the certification requirements described below.

Table of Contents

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

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

Additional Payments. If the amount or timing of any payments on a debt security is contingent, the interest payments on the debt security may be treated as contingent interest under Section 871(h)(4) of the Code, in which case such interest may not be eligible for the exemption from U.S. federal income and withholding tax, as described above (other than for a holder that otherwise claims an exemption from, or reduction in, withholding under the benefit of an income tax treaty). In certain circumstances, if specified in the applicable supplement, we will pay to a Non-U.S. Holder of any debt security additional amounts to ensure that every net payment on that debt security will not be less, due to the payment of U.S. federal withholding tax, than the amount then otherwise due and payable. See Description of Debt Securities Payment of Additional Amounts above. However, because the likelihood that such payments will be made is remote, we do not believe that, because of these potential additional payments, the interest on the debt securities should be treated as contingent interest.

Sale, Exchange, or Retirement of Debt Securities. A Non-U.S. Holder generally will not be subject to U.S. federal income or withholding tax on any capital gain or market discount realized on the sale, exchange, retirement, or other disposition of debt securities, provided that: (a) the gain is not effectively connected with the conduct of a trade or business within the United States, or a permanent establishment maintained in the United States if certain tax treaties apply, (b) in the case of a Non-U.S. Holder that is an individual, the Non-U.S. Holder is not present in the United States for 183 days or more in the taxable year of the sale, exchange, or other disposition of the debt security, and (c) the Non-U.S. Holder is not subject to tax pursuant to certain provisions of U.S. federal income tax law applicable to certain expatriates. An individual Non-U.S. Holder who is present in the United States for 183 days or more in the taxable year of sale, exchange, or other disposition of a debt security, and if certain other conditions are met, will be subject to U.S. federal income tax at a rate of 30% on the gain realized on the sale, exchange, or other disposition of such debt security.

Income Effectively Connected with a Trade or Business within the United States. If a Non-U.S. Holder of a debt security is engaged in the conduct of a trade or business within the United States

Table of Contents

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

Convertible, Renewable, Extendible, Indexed, and Other Debt Securities

Special U.S. federal income tax rules are applicable to certain other debt securities, including contingent Non-U.S. Dollar Denominated Debt Securities, debt securities that may be convertible into or exercisable or exchangeable for our common or preferred stock or other securities or debt or equity securities of one or more third parties, debt securities the payments on which are determined or partially determined by reference to any index and other debt securities that are subject to the rules governing contingent payment obligations which are not subject to the rules governing variable rate debt securities, any renewable and extendible debt securities and any debt securities providing for the periodic payment of principal over the life of the debt security. The material U.S. federal income tax considerations with respect to these debt securities will be discussed in the applicable supplement.

Backup Withholding and Information Reporting

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

In the case of a Non-U.S. Holder, backup withholding and information reporting will not apply to payments made if the Non-U.S. Holder provides the required certification that it is not a United States person, or the Non-U.S. Holder otherwise establishes an exemption, provided that the payor or withholding agent does not have actual knowledge or reason to know that the holder is a United States person, or that the conditions of any exemption are not satisfied. However, we and other payors are required to report payments of interest on the debt securities on IRS Form 1042-S even if the payments are not otherwise subject to information reporting requirements.

In addition, payments of the proceeds from the sale of a debt security to or through a foreign office of a broker or the foreign office of a custodian, nominee, or other dealer acting on behalf of a holder generally will not be subject to information reporting or backup withholding. However, if the

Table of Contents

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

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

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

Taxation of Common Stock, Preferred Stock, and Depositary Shares

This subsection describes the material U.S. federal income tax consequences of the acquisition, ownership and disposition of the common stock, preferred stock and depositary shares offered in this prospectus.

Taxation of Holders of Depositary Shares

For U.S. federal income tax purposes, holders of depositary shares generally will be treated as if they were the holders of the preferred stock represented by such depositary shares. Accordingly, such holders will be entitled to take into account, for U.S. federal income tax purposes, income, and deductions to which they would be entitled if they were holders of such preferred stock, as described more fully below. Exchanges of preferred stock for depositary shares and depositary shares for preferred stock generally will not be subject to U.S. federal income taxation.

Consequences to U.S. Holders

The following is a summary of the material U.S. federal income tax consequences that will apply to U.S. Holders of our common stock, preferred stock, and depositary shares.

Distributions on Common Stock, Preferred Stock, and Depositary Shares. Distributions made to U.S. Holders out of our current or accumulated earnings and profits, as determined for U.S. federal income tax purposes, will be included in the income of a U.S. Holder as dividend income and will be subject to tax as ordinary income. Dividends received by an individual U.S. Holder that constitute qualified dividend income are generally subject to tax at a maximum rate of 20% applicable to net long-term capital gains, provided that certain holding period and other requirements are met. Dividends received by a corporate U.S. Holder, except as described in the next subsection, generally will be eligible for the 70% dividends-received deduction.

Table of Contents

Distributions in excess of our current and accumulated earnings and profits will not be taxable to a U.S. Holder to the extent that the distributions do not exceed the U.S. Holder s adjusted tax basis in the shares, but rather will reduce the adjusted tax basis of such shares. To the extent that distributions in excess of our current and accumulated earnings and profits exceed the U.S. Holder s adjusted tax basis in the shares, such distributions will be included in income as capital gain. In addition, a corporate U.S. Holder will not be entitled to the dividends- received deduction on this portion of a distribution.

We will notify holders of our shares after the close of our taxable year as to the portions of the distributions attributable to that year that constitute ordinary income, qualified dividend income and nondividend distributions, if any.

Limitations on Dividends-Received Deduction. A corporate U.S. Holder may not be entitled to take the 70% dividends-received deduction in all circumstances. Prospective corporate investors in our common stock, preferred stock, or depositary shares should consider the effect of:

- Section 246A of the Code, which reduces the dividends-received deduction allowed to a corporate U.S. Holder that has incurred indebtedness that is directly attributable to an investment in portfolio stock, which may include our common stock, preferred stock, and depositary shares;

- Section 246(c) of the Code, which, among other things, disallows the dividends-received deduction in respect of any dividend on a share of stock that is held for less than the minimum holding period (generally, for common stock, at least 46 days during the 90 day period beginning on the date which is 45 days before the date on which such share becomes ex-dividend with respect to such dividend); and

- Section 1059 of the Code, which, under certain circumstances, reduces the basis of stock for purposes of calculating gain or loss in a subsequent disposition by the portion of any extraordinary dividend (as defined below) that is eligible for the dividends-received deduction.

Extraordinary Dividends. A corporate U.S. Holder will be required to reduce its tax basis (but not below zero) in our common stock, preferred stock, or depositary shares by the nontaxed portion of any extraordinary dividend if the stock was not held for more than two years before the earliest of the date such dividend is declared, announced, or agreed. Generally, the nontaxed portion of an extraordinary dividend is the amount excluded from income by operation of the dividends-received deduction. An extraordinary dividend generally would be a dividend that:

- in the case of common stock, equals or exceeds 10% of the corporate U.S. Holder s adjusted tax basis in the common stock, treating all dividends having ex-dividend dates within an 85 day period as one dividend; or

- in the case of preferred stock, equals or exceeds 5% of the corporate U.S. Holder s adjusted tax basis in the preferred stock, treating all dividends having ex-dividend dates within an 85 day period as one dividend; or

- exceeds 20% of the corporate U.S. Holder s adjusted tax basis in the stock, treating all dividends having ex-dividend dates within a 365 day period as one dividend.

In determining whether a dividend paid on stock is an extraordinary dividend, a corporate U.S. Holder may elect to substitute the fair market value of the stock for its tax basis for purposes of

Table of Contents

applying these tests if the fair market value as of the day before the ex-dividend date is established to the satisfaction of the Secretary of the Treasury. An extraordinary dividend also includes any amount treated as a dividend in the case of a redemption that is either non-pro rata as to all stockholders or in partial liquidation of the corporation, regardless of the stockholder s holding period and regardless of the size of the dividend. Any part of the nontaxed portion of an extraordinary dividend that is not applied to reduce the corporate U.S. Holder s tax basis as a result of the limitation on reducing its basis below zero would be treated as capital gain and would be recognized in the taxable year in which the extraordinary dividend is received.

Corporate U.S. Holders should consult with their own tax advisors with respect to the possible application of the extraordinary dividend provisions of the Code to the ownership or disposition of common stock, preferred stock, or depositary shares in their particular circumstances.

Sale, Exchange, or other Taxable Disposition. Upon the sale, exchange, or other taxable disposition of our common stock, preferred stock, or depositary shares (other than by redemption or repurchase by us), a U.S. Holder generally will recognize gain or loss equal to the difference between the amount realized upon the sale, exchange, or other taxable disposition and the U.S. Holder s adjusted tax basis in the shares. 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 upon the sale, exchange, or other taxable disposition of the shares. A U.S. Holder s tax basis in a share generally will be equal to the cost of the share to such U.S. Holder, which may be adjusted for certain subsequent events (for example, if the U.S. Holder receives a nondividend distribution, as described above). Gain or loss realized on the sale, exchange, or other taxable disposition of our common stock, preferred stock, or depositary shares generally will be capital gain or loss and will be long-term capital gain or loss if the shares have 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.

Redemption or Repurchase of Common Stock, Preferred Stock, or Depositary Shares. If we are permitted to and redeem or repurchase a U.S. Holder s common stock, preferred stock, or depositary shares, the redemption or repurchase generally would be a taxable event for U.S. federal income tax purposes. A U.S. Holder would be treated as if it had sold its shares if the redemption or repurchase:

results in a complete termination of the U.S. holder s stock interest in us;

is substantially disproportionate with respect to the U.S. Holder; or

is not essentially equivalent to a dividend with respect to the U.S. Holder, in each case as determined under the Code.

In determining whether any of these tests has been met, shares of stock considered to be owned by a U.S. Holder by reason of certain constructive ownership rules set forth in Section 318 of the Code, as well as shares actually owned, must be taken into account.

If we redeem or repurchase a U.S. Holder s shares in a redemption or repurchase that meets one of the tests described above, the U.S. Holder generally would recognize taxable gain or loss equal to the sum of the amount of cash and fair market value of property (other than our stock or the stock of a successor to us) received less the U.S. Holder s tax basis in the shares redeemed or repurchased. This gain or loss generally would be long-term capital gain or capital loss if the shares have been held for more than one year.

Table of Contents

If a redemption or repurchase does not meet any of the tests described above, a U.S. Holder generally will be taxed on the cash and fair market value of the property received as a dividend to the extent paid out of our current and accumulated earnings and profits. Any amount in excess of our current or accumulated earnings and profits would first reduce the U.S. holder s tax basis in the shares and thereafter would be treated as capital gain. If a redemption or repurchase is treated as a distribution that is taxable as a dividend, the U.S. Holder s tax basis in the redeemed or repurchased shares would be transferred to the remaining shares of our stock that the U.S. Holder owns, if any.

Special rules apply if we redeem our common stock, preferred stock, or depositary shares for our debt securities. We will discuss any special U.S. federal income tax considerations in the applicable supplement if we have the option to redeem our common stock, preferred stock, or depositary shares for our debt securities.

Additional Medicare Tax on Unearned Income. Certain U.S. Holders, including individuals, estates and trusts, are 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 dividends 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 preferred stock, common stock, or depositary shares.

Consequences to Non-U.S. Holders

The following is a summary of the material U.S. federal income tax consequences that will apply to Non-U.S. Holders of our common stock, preferred stock, and depositary shares.

Distributions on Common Stock, Preferred Stock, and Depositary Shares. Distributions made to Non-U.S. Holders out of our current or accumulated earnings and profits, as determined for U.S. federal income tax purposes, and that is not effectively connected with the conduct by the Non-U.S. Holder of a trade or business within the United States, or a permanent establishment maintained in the United States if certain tax treaties apply, generally will be subject to U.S. federal income and withholding tax at a rate of 30% (or lower rate under an applicable treaty, if any). Payments subject to withholding of U.S. federal income tax may nevertheless be exempt from withholding (or subject to withholding at a reduced rate) if the Non-U.S. Holder provides us with a properly executed IRS Form W-8BEN or W-8BEN-E (or successor form) claiming an exemption from, or reduction in, withholding under the benefit of a tax treaty, or IRS Form W-8ECI (or other applicable form) stating that a dividend paid on our shares is not subject to withholding tax because it is effectively connected with the conduct of a trade or business within the United States, as discussed below.

To claim benefits under an income tax treaty, a Non-U.S. Holder must certify to us or our agent, under penalties of perjury, that it is a non-United States person and provide its name and address (which certification may generally be made on an IRS Form W-8BEN or W-8BEN-E, or a successor form), obtain and provide a taxpayer identification number, and certify as to its eligibility under the appropriate treaty s limitations on benefits article. In addition, special rules may apply to claims for treaty benefits made by Non-U.S. Holders that are entities rather than individuals. A Non-U.S. Holder that is eligible for a reduced rate of U.S. federal withholding tax under an income tax treaty may obtain a refund of any excess amounts withheld by filing an appropriate claim for refund with the IRS.

Table of Contents

Sale, Exchange, or other Taxable Disposition. A Non-U.S. Holder generally will not be subject to U.S. federal income or withholding tax on any capital gain realized on the sale, exchange, or other taxable disposition of our common stock, preferred stock, or depositary shares, provided that: (a) the gain is not effectively connected with the conduct of a trade or business within the United States, or a permanent establishment maintained in the United States if certain tax treaties apply, (b) in the case of a Non-U.S. Holder that is an individual, the Non-U.S. Holder is not present in the United States for 183 days or more in the taxable year of the sale, exchange, or other disposition of the shares, (c) the Non-U.S. Holder is not subject to tax pursuant to certain provisions of U.S. federal income tax law applicable to certain expatriates, and (d) we are not nor have we been a United States real property holding corporation for U.S. federal income tax purposes. An individual Non-U.S. Holder who is present in the United States for 183 days or more in the taxable year of sale, exchange, or other disposition of our common stock, preferred stock, or depositary shares and if certain other conditions are met, will be subject to U.S. federal income tax at a rate of 30% on the gains realized on the sale, exchange, or other disposition of such shares.

We would not be treated as a United States real property holding corporation if less than 50% of our assets throughout a prescribed testing period consist of interests in real property located within the United States, excluding, for this purpose, interests in real property solely in a capacity as a creditor. Even if we are treated as a United States real property holding corporation, a Non-U.S. Holder s sale of our common stock, preferred stock, or depositary shares nonetheless generally will not be subject to U.S. federal income or withholding tax, provided that (a) our stock owned is of a class that is regularly traded, as defined by applicable Treasury regulations, on an established securities market, and (b) the selling Non-U.S. Holder held, actually or constructively, 5% or less of our outstanding stock of that class at all times during the five-year period ending on the date of disposition.

To the extent we are or have been a United States real property holding corporation for U.S. federal income tax purposes and a Non-U.S. Holder held, directly or indirectly, at any time during the five-year period ending on the date of disposition, more than 5% of the class of stock and the non-U.S. Holder was not eligible for any treaty exemption, any gain on the sale of our common stock, preferred stock, or depositary shares would be treated as effectively connected with a trade or business within the United States, the treatment of which is described below, and the purchaser of the stock could be required to withhold 10% of the purchase price and remit such amount to the IRS.

We believe that we are not currently, and do not anticipate becoming, a United States real property holding corporation for U.S. federal income tax purposes.

Income Effectively Connected with a Trade or Business within the United States. If a Non-U.S. Holder of our common stock, preferred stock, or depositary shares is engaged in the conduct of a trade or business within the United States and if dividends on the shares, or gain realized on the sale, exchange, or other disposition of the shares, are effectively connected with the conduct of such trade or business (and, if certain tax treaties apply, is attributable to a permanent establishment maintained by the Non-U.S. Holder in the United States), the Non-U.S. Holder, although exempt from U.S. federal withholding tax (provided that the certification requirements discussed above are satisfied), generally will be subject to U.S. federal income tax on such dividends or gain on a net income basis in the same manner as if it were a U.S. Holder. Non-U.S. Holders should read the material under the heading Consequences to U.S. Holders above for a description of the U.S. federal income tax consequences of acquiring, owning, and disposing of our common stock, preferred stock, or depositary shares. In addition, if such Non-U.S. Holder is a foreign corporation, it may also be subject to a branch profits tax equal to 30% (or such lower rate provided by an applicable U.S. income tax treaty) of a portion of its earnings and profits for the taxable year that

Table of Contents

are effectively connected with its conduct of a trade or business in the United States, subject to certain adjustments.

Backup Withholding and Information Reporting

In general, in the case of a U.S. Holder, other than certain exempt holders, we and other payors are required to report to the IRS all payments of dividends on our common stock, preferred stock, or depositary shares. In addition, we and other payors generally are required to report to the IRS any payment of proceeds of the sale of common stock, preferred stock, or depositary shares. Additionally, backup withholding generally will apply to any dividend payment and to proceeds received on a sale or exchange 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 dividends required to be shown on its U.S. federal income tax returns, or the U.S. Holder does not certify that it has not underreported its interest and dividend income.

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

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

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

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

Convertible Preferred Stock and Other Equity Securities

Special U.S. federal income tax rules are applicable to certain other of our equity securities, including preferred stock convertible into or exercisable or exchangeable for our common stock or

Table of Contents

other securities. The material U.S. federal income tax considerations with respect to these securities will be discussed in the applicable supplement. Investors should consult with their own tax advisors regarding the specific U.S. federal income tax considerations with respect to these securities.

Taxation of Warrants

The applicable supplement will contain a discussion of any special U.S. federal income tax considerations with respect to the acquisition, ownership and disposition of warrants offered in this prospectus, including any tax considerations relating to the specific terms of the warrants. Investors considering the purchase of warrants we are offering should carefully examine the applicable supplement regarding the special U.S. federal income tax considerations, if any, of the acquisition, ownership and disposition of the warrants.

Investors should consult with their own tax advisors regarding the U.S. federal income tax consequences and the tax consequences of any other taxing jurisdiction relating to the ownership and disposition of warrants we are offering in light of their investment or tax circumstances.

Taxation of Purchase Contracts

The applicable supplement will contain a discussion of any special U.S. federal income tax considerations with respect to the acquisition, ownership and disposition of purchase contracts offered in this prospectus, including any tax considerations relating to the specific terms of the purchase contracts. Investors considering the purchase of purchase contracts we are offering should carefully examine the applicable supplement regarding the special U.S. federal income tax considerations, if any, of the acquisition, ownership and disposition of the purchase contracts.

Investors should consult with their own tax advisors regarding the U.S. federal income tax consequences and the tax consequences of any other taxing jurisdiction relating to the ownership and disposition of the purchase contracts in light of their investment or tax circumstances.

Taxation of Units

The applicable supplement will contain a discussion of any special U.S. federal income tax considerations with respect to the acquisition, ownership and disposition of units that we are offering, including any tax considerations relating to the specific terms of the units. Investors considering the purchase of units that we are offering should carefully examine the applicable supplement regarding the special U.S. federal income tax consequences, if any, of the acquisition, ownership and disposition of the units.

Investors should consult with their own tax advisors regarding the U.S. federal income tax consequences and the tax consequences of any other taxing jurisdiction relating to the ownership and disposition of units comprised of one or more of the securities we are offering in light of their investment or tax circumstances.

Reportable Transactions

Applicable Treasury regulations require taxpayers that participate in reportable transactions to disclose their participation to the IRS by attaching Form 8886 to their U.S. federal tax returns and to retain a copy of all documents and records related to the transaction. In addition, material

Table of Contents

advisors with respect to such a transaction may be required to file returns and maintain records, including lists identifying investors in the transactions, and to furnish those records to the IRS upon demand. A transaction may be a reportable transaction based on any of several criteria, one or more of which may be present with respect to an investment in the securities that we are offering. Whether an investment in these securities constitutes a reportable transaction for any investor depends on the investor s particular circumstances. The Treasury regulations provide that, in addition to certain other transactions, a loss transaction constitutes a reportable transaction. A loss transaction is any transaction resulting in the taxpayer claiming a loss under Section 165 of the Code, in an amount equal to or in excess of certain threshold amounts, subject to certain exceptions. The Treasury regulations specifically provide that a loss resulting from a Section 988 transaction will constitute a Section 165 loss, and certain exceptions will not be available if the loss from sale or exchange is treated as ordinary under Section 988. In general, certain securities issued in a foreign currency will be subject to the rules governing foreign currency exchange gain or loss. Therefore, losses realized with respect to such a security may constitute a Section 988 transaction, and a holder of such a security that recognizes exchange loss in an amount that exceeds the loss threshold amount applicable to that holder may be required to file Form 8886. Investors should consult their own tax advisors concerning any possible disclosure obligation they may have with respect to their investment in the securities that we are offering and should be aware that, should any material advisor determine that the return filing or investor list maintenance requirements apply to such a transaction, they would be required to comply with these requirements.

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, 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 debt securities, preferred stock, depositary shares, or common stock.

Table of Contents

EU DIRECTIVE ON THE TAXATION OF SAVINGS INCOME

Under Council Directive 2003/48/EC on the taxation of savings income, a member state of the European Union (EU) is required to provide to the tax authorities of another EU member state details of payments of interest or other similar income payments or deemed payments made by a person (such as an issuer or paying agent) within its jurisdiction for the immediate benefit of an individual in that other EU member state (including certain payments secured for their benefit) or to certain other persons. However, Austria has opted out of the above reporting requirements and instead is applying a special withholding tax for a transitional period in relation to such payments of interest. The withholding tax is currently imposed at the rate of 35%. Withholding tax is not applied if the individual presents a certificate in the required form from the tax authority of his or her EU member state of residence that confirms that the applicable tax authority is aware of the investment made abroad. This transitional period will terminate at the end of the first fiscal year following agreement by certain non-EU countries to the exchange of information relating to such payments.

A number of non-EU countries and certain dependent or associated territories of EU member states have adopted similar measures (either provision of information or transitional withholding) in relation to payments of interest or other similar income payments made by a person in that jurisdiction for the immediate benefit of an individual or to certain non-corporate entities in any EU member state. The EU member states have entered into reciprocal provision of information or transactional special withholding tax arrangements with certain of those dependent or associated territories. These apply in the same way as payments by persons in any EU member state to individuals of another EU member state.

Table of Contents

PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION (CONFLICTS OF INTEREST)

We may sell the securities offered under this prospectus:

- through underwriters;
- through dealers;
- through agents; or
- directly to purchasers.

In addition, we may issue the securities as a dividend or distribution or in a subscription rights offering to our existing security holders.

The underwriters, dealers, or agents may include Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Incorporated (MLPF&S), or any of our other affiliates.

Each supplement relating to an offering of securities will state the terms of the offering, including:

- the names of any underwriters, dealers, or agents;
- the public offering or purchase price of the offered securities and the net proceeds that we will receive from the sale;
- any underwriting discounts and commissions or other items constituting underwriters compensation;
- any discounts, commissions, or fees allowed or paid to dealers or agents; and
- any securities exchange on which the offered securities may be listed.

Distribution Through Underwriters

We may offer and sell securities from time to time to one or more underwriters who would purchase the securities as principal for resale to the public, either on a firm commitment or best efforts basis. If we sell securities to underwriters, we will execute an underwriting agreement with them at the time of the sale and will name them in the applicable supplement. In connection with these sales, the underwriters may be deemed to have received compensation from us in the form of underwriting discounts and commissions. The underwriters also may receive commissions from purchasers of securities for whom they may act as agent. Unless we specify otherwise in the applicable supplement, the underwriters will not be obligated to purchase the securities unless the conditions set forth in the underwriting agreement are satisfied, and if the underwriters purchase any of the securities, they will be required to purchase all of the offered securities. The underwriters may acquire the securities for their own account and may resell the securities from time to time in one or more transactions, including negotiated transactions, at a fixed public offering price or varying prices determined at the time of sale. The underwriters may sell the offered securities to or through dealers, and those dealers may receive discounts, concessions, or commissions from the underwriters as well as from the purchasers for whom they may act as agent. Any initial public offering price and any discounts or concessions allowed or reallowed or paid to dealers may be changed from time to time.

Table of Contents

Distribution Through Dealers

We may offer and sell securities from time to time to one or more dealers who would purchase the securities as principal. The dealers then may resell the offered securities to the public at fixed or varying prices to be determined by those dealers at the time of resale. We will set forth the names of the dealers and the terms of the transaction in the applicable supplement.

Distribution Through Agents

We may offer and sell securities on a continuous basis through agents that become parties to an underwriting or distribution agreement. We will name any agent involved in the offer and sale, and describe any commissions payable by us in the applicable supplement. Unless we specify otherwise in the applicable supplement, the agent will be acting on a best efforts basis during the appointment period.

Direct Sales

We may sell directly to, and solicit offers from, institutional investors or others who may be deemed to be underwriters, as defined in the Securities Act of 1933, for any resale of the securities. We will describe the terms of any sales of this kind in the applicable supplement.

General Information

Underwriters, dealers, or agents participating in an offering of securities may be deemed to be underwriters, and any discounts and commissions received by them and any profit realized by them on resale of the offered securities for whom they act as agent, may be deemed to be underwriting discounts and commissions under the Securities Act of 1933.

We may offer to sell securities either at a fixed price or at prices that may vary, at market prices prevailing at the time of sale, at prices related to prevailing market prices, or at negotiated prices. Securities may be sold in connection with a remarketing after their purchase by one or more firms including our affiliates, acting as principal for their own accounts or as our agent.

In connection with an underwritten offering of the securities, the underwriters may engage in over-allotment, stabilizing transactions and syndicate covering transactions in accordance with Regulation M under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934. Over-allotment involves sales in excess of the offering size, which creates a short position for the underwriters. The underwriters may enter bids for, and purchase, securities in the open market in order to stabilize the price of the securities. Syndicate covering transactions involve purchases of the securities in the open market after the distribution has been completed in order to cover short positions. In addition, the underwriting syndicate may reclaim selling concessions allowed to an underwriter or a dealer for distributing the securities in the offering if the syndicate repurchases previously distributed securities in transactions to cover syndicate short positions, in stabilization transactions, or otherwise. These activities may cause the price of the securities to be higher than it would otherwise be. Those activities, if commenced, may be discontinued at any time.

Ordinarily, each issue of securities will be a new issue, and there will be no established trading market for any security other than our common stock prior to its original issue date. We may not list any particular series of securities on a securities exchange or quotation system. Any underwriters to whom or agents through whom the offered securities are sold for offering and sale may make a market in the offered securities. However, any underwriters or agents that make a

Table of Contents

market will not be obligated to do so and may stop doing so at any time without notice. We cannot assure you that there will be a liquid trading market for the offered securities.

If we offer securities in a subscription rights offering to our existing security holders, we may enter into a standby underwriting agreement with dealers, acting as standby underwriters. We may pay the standby underwriters a commitment fee for the securities they commit to purchase on a standby basis. If we do not enter into a standby underwriting arrangement, we may retain a dealer-manager to manage a subscription rights offering for us.

Under agreements entered into with us, underwriters and agents may be entitled to indemnification by us against certain civil liabilities, including liabilities under the Securities Act of 1933, or to contribution for payments the underwriters or agents may be required to make.

Although we expect that delivery of securities generally will be made against payment on or about the third business day following the date of any contract for sale, we may specify a shorter or longer settlement cycle in the applicable supplement. Under Rule 15c6-1 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, trades in the secondary market generally are required to settle in three business days, unless the parties to a trade expressly agree otherwise. Accordingly, if we have specified a longer settlement cycle in the applicable supplement for an offering of securities, purchasers who wish to trade those securities on the date of the contract for sale, or on one or more of the next succeeding business days as we will specify in the applicable supplement, will be required, by virtue of the fact that those securities will settle in more than T+3, to specify an alternative settlement cycle at the time of the trade to prevent a failed settlement and should consult their own advisors in connection with that election.

Market-Making Transactions by Affiliates

Following the initial distribution of securities, our affiliates, including MLPF&S, may buy and sell the securities in secondary market transactions as part of their business as broker-dealers. Resales of this kind may occur in the open market or may be privately negotiated, at prevailing market prices at the time of resale or at related or negotiated prices. This prospectus and any related supplements may be used by one or more of our affiliates in connection with these market-making transactions to the extent permitted by applicable law. Our affiliates may act as principal or agent in these transactions.

The aggregate initial offering price specified on the cover of the applicable supplement will relate to the initial offering of securities not yet issued as of the date of this prospectus. This amount does not include any securities to be sold in market-making transactions. The securities to be sold in market-making transactions include securities issued after the date of this prospectus.

Information about the trade and settlement dates, as well as the purchase price, for a market-making transaction will be provided to the purchaser in a separate confirmation of sale.

Unless we or our agent inform you in your confirmation of sale that the security is being purchased in its original offering and sale, you may assume that you are purchasing the security in a market-making transaction.

Conflicts of Interest

MLPF&S is our wholly-owned subsidiary, and unless otherwise set forth in the applicable supplement, we will receive the net proceeds of any offering in which MLPF&S participates as an

Table of Contents

underwriter, dealer or agent. The offer and sale of any securities by MLPF&S, or any of our other affiliates that is a member of the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority, Inc., or FINRA, will comply with the requirements of FINRA Rule 5121 regarding a FINRA member firm s offer and sale of securities of an affiliate. As required by FINRA Rule 5121, any such offer and sale will not be made to any discretionary account without the prior approval of the customer.

The maximum commission or discount to be received by any FINRA member or independent broker-dealer will not be greater than 8% of the initial gross proceeds from the sale of any security being sold.

The underwriters, agents and their affiliates may engage in financial or other business transactions with us and our subsidiaries in the ordinary course of business.

In addition, in the ordinary course of their business activities, one or more of the underwriters, dealers or agents and/or their respective 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. These investments and securities activities may involve securities and/or instruments of ours or our affiliates. These underwriters, dealers, 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, these parties would hedge such exposure to us 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 securities offered hereby. Any such short positions could adversely affect future trading prices of the securities offered hereby. These broker-dealers or 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.

Table of Contents

ERISA CONSIDERATIONS

A fiduciary of a pension, profit-sharing or other employee benefit plan subject to the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, as amended (ERISA), should consider the fiduciary standards of ERISA in the context of the ERISA plan s particular circumstances before authorizing an investment in the offered securities of Bank of America. Among other factors, the fiduciary should consider whether such an investment is in accordance with the documents governing the ERISA plan and whether the investment is appropriate for the ERISA plan in view of its overall investment policy and diversification of its portfolio. A fiduciary should also consider whether an investment in the offered securities may constitute a prohibited transaction, as described below.

Certain provisions of ERISA and the Code, prohibit employee benefit plans (as defined in Section 3(3) of ERISA) that are subject to Title I of ERISA, plans described in Section 4975(e)(1) of the Code (including, without limitation, individual retirement accounts and retirement plans covering self-employed persons), and entities whose underlying assets include plan assets by reason of a plan s investment in such entities (including, without limitation, as applicable, insurance company general accounts) (collectively, plans), from engaging in certain transactions involving plan assets with parties that are parties in interest under ERISA or disqualified persons under the Code with respect to the plan or entity (referred to as prohibited transactions). Governmental and other plans that are not subject to ERISA or to the Code may be subject to similar restrictions under state, federal or local law.

Each of Bank of America Corporation and certain of its affiliates may be considered a party in interest or a disqualified person with respect to many plans on account of being a service provider. As a result, a prohibited transaction may arise if the securities are acquired by or on behalf of a plan unless those securities are acquired and held pursuant to an available exemption.

In addition, certain regulatory requirements applicable under ERISA could cause investments in certain offered securities by a plan (whether directly or indirectly) to be deemed to include not only the purchased securities 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 offered securities would be considered to be the assets of any employee benefit plan investor will depend on the specific terms of such security, and a plan investor should look to the prospectus supplement for that particular security in order to make that determination.

The U.S. Department of Labor has issued five prohibited transaction class exemptions (PTCEs) that may provide exemptive relief for direct or indirect prohibited transactions resulting from or occurring in connection with the purchase or holding of these securities. Those class exemptions are PTCE 96-23 (for certain transactions determined by in-house asset managers), PTCE 95-60 (for certain transactions involving insurance company general accounts), PTCE 91-38 (for certain transactions involving bank collective investment funds), PTCE 90-1 (for certain transactions involving insurance company separate accounts) and PTCE 84-14 (for certain transactions determined by independent qualified professional asset managers). In addition, ERISA Section 408(b)(17) and Section 4975(d)(20) of the Code provide an exemption for the

Table of Contents

purchase and sale of securities and related lending transactions, provided that neither the issuer of the securities nor any of its affiliates has or exercises any discretionary authority or control or renders any investment advice with respect to the assets of any plan involved in the transaction and provided further that the plan receives no less, nor pays no more, than adequate consideration in connection with the transaction (the so-called Service Provider Exemption). There can be no assurance that any of these class or statutory exemptions will be available with respect to transactions involving these securities.

Accordingly, unless otherwise provided in connection with a particular offering of securities, offered securities may not be purchased, held or disposed of by any plan or any other person investing plan assets of any plan that is subject to the prohibited transaction rules of ERISA or Section 4975 of the Code or other similar law, unless one of the following exemptions (or a similar exemption or exception acceptable to us) applies to such purchase, holding, and disposition: the Service Provider Exemption, PTCE 96-23, PTCE 95-60, PTCE 91-38, PTCE 90-1, or PTCE 84-14. Therefore, unless otherwise provided in connection with a particular offering of securities, any purchaser of the offered securities or any interest therein will be deemed to have represented and warranted to us on each day including the date of its purchase of the offered securities through and including the date of disposition of such offered securities that:

(a) it is not a plan subject to Title I of ERISA or Section 4975 of the Code and is not purchasing such securities or interest therein on behalf of, or with plan assets of, any such plan;

(b) if it is a plan subject to Title I of ERISA or Section 4975 of the Code, its purchase, holding, and disposition of such securities are not and will not be prohibited because Bank of America is not a service provider as to it or such securities are exempted by the Service Provider Exemption or one or more of the following prohibited transaction exemptions: PTCE 96-23, 95-60, 91-38, 90-1 or 84-14; or

(c) it is a governmental plan (as defined in section 3(32) of ERISA) or other plan that is not subject to the provisions of Title I of ERISA or Section 4975 of the Code and its purchase, holding, and disposition of such securities are not otherwise prohibited.

Moreover, any purchaser that is a plan or is acquiring the offered securities 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 offered securities 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 offered securities, or as a result of any exercise by the Seller of any rights in connection with the offered securities, (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 offered securities and the transactions contemplated with respect to the securities, and (c) such purchaser recognizes and agrees that any communication from the Seller to the purchaser with respect to the offered securities is not intended by the Seller to be impartial investment advice and is rendered in its capacity as a seller of such offered securities and not a fiduciary to such purchaser.

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.

Table of Contents

This summary does not describe all of the rules or other considerations that may be relevant to the investment in the offered securities 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 offered securities 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 offered securities and the availability of exemptive relief under the class exemptions listed above. The sale of the securities of Bank of America 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.

WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION

We have filed a registration statement on Form S-3 with the SEC covering the securities 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 of the 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. The reports and other information we file with the SEC also are available at our website, 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;

Table of Contents

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); and

the description of our common stock which is contained in our registration statement filed under Section 12 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as updated by our current report on Form 8-K filed April 20, 2009 and any other amendment or report filed for the purpose of updating such description.

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 and the applicable supplements 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, 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 by reference in this prospectus, 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.

Table of Contents

LEGAL MATTERS

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

Table of Contents

You should rely only on the information incorporated by reference or provided in this prospectus supplement and the attached prospectus. We have not authorized anyone to provide you with different information. We are not offering the securities in any jurisdiction where the offer is not permitted. You should not assume that the information in this prospectus supplement and the attached prospectus is accurate as of any date other than the date on the front of this document.

Our affiliates, including Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Incorporated, will deliver this prospectus supplement and the attached prospectus for offers and sales in the secondary market.

Depositary Shares,

Each Representing a 1/25th Interest in a Share of Fixed-to-Floating Rate Non-Cumulative Preferred Stock, Series DD

PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT

Sole Book-Runner

BofA Merrill Lynch

Goldman, Sachs & Co.

March , 2016