

CAPITAL ONE FINANCIAL CORP

Form 424B7

September 05, 2012

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Registration No. 333-181047

The information in this preliminary pricing supplement is not complete and may be changed. Neither this preliminary pricing supplement nor the accompanying prospectus supplement or prospectus is an offer to sell nor does it seek an offer to buy these securities in any jurisdiction where the offer or sale is not permitted.

Subject to completion, dated September 4, 2012

PRELIMINARY PRICING SUPPLEMENT

(To prospectus supplement dated May 17, 2012 and prospectus dated April 30, 2012)

Shares

Capital One Financial Corporation

Common Stock

ING Bank N.V., as the selling stockholder identified in this pricing supplement, is offering _____ shares of common stock hereby. We will not receive any of the proceeds from the sale by the selling stockholder of our common stock.

The underwriters have agreed to purchase our common stock from the selling stockholder at a price of \$ _____ per share, which will result in approximately \$ _____ billion of total net proceeds to the selling stockholder. The underwriters may offer the shares of common stock from time to time for sale in one or more transactions on the New York Stock Exchange, in the over-the-counter market, through negotiated transactions or otherwise at market prices prevailing at the time of sale, at prices related to prevailing market prices or at negotiated prices. See Underwriting.

Our common stock is listed on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol COF. The last reported sale price of our common stock on August 31, 2012 was \$56.53 per share.

The common stock is not a deposit, savings account or other obligation of a bank and is not insured or guaranteed by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation or any other governmental agency or instrumentality.

Investing in our common stock involves risk. Before buying any shares, you should read this pricing supplement and the related prospectus supplement and prospectus and all information incorporated by reference herein, including the discussion of material risks of investing in our common stock in Risk Factors beginning on page S-10 of this pricing supplement.

Neither the Securities and Exchange Commission nor any state securities commission has approved or disapproved of these securities or determined if this pricing supplement or the accompanying prospectus supplement or prospectus is truthful or complete. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense.

The underwriters expect to deliver the shares on or about September _____, 2012.

BofA Merrill Lynch

Morgan Stanley
Pricing Supplement dated , 2012

Citigroup

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You should rely only on the information contained in or incorporated by reference in this pricing supplement and the accompanying prospectus supplement and prospectus. No one is authorized to provide you with different information. If anyone provides you with different or inconsistent information, you should not rely on it. We are not, and the selling stockholder and underwriters are not, making an offer to sell the common stock in any jurisdiction where the offer or sale is not permitted. You should assume that the information appearing in this pricing supplement and the accompanying prospectus supplement and prospectus and the documents incorporated by reference herein and therein, is accurate only as of their respective dates. Our business, financial condition, results of operations, and prospects may have changed since those dates.

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ABOUT THIS PRICING SUPPLEMENT

We provide information to you about the common stock in three separate documents: (1) this pricing supplement, which describes the specific terms of the common stock eligible for sale hereby and also adds to and updates information contained in the accompanying prospectus supplement and prospectus and the documents incorporated by reference in those documents, (2) the accompanying prospectus supplement which described the general terms of the common stock offered by the selling stockholder, and (3) the accompanying prospectus, which provides general information about securities we may offer from time to time, including securities other than the common stock being offered by this pricing supplement.

If information in this pricing supplement is inconsistent with the accompanying prospectus supplement or prospectus, you should rely on this pricing supplement.

It is important for you to read and consider all of the information contained in this pricing supplement and the accompanying prospectus supplement and prospectus in making your investment decision. You also should read and consider the information in the documents we have referred you to in the section entitled "Where You Can Find More Information" on page P-23 of this pricing supplement and page 3 of the accompanying prospectus.

We include cross-references in this pricing supplement and the accompanying prospectus supplement and prospectus to captions in these materials where you can find additional related discussions. The table of contents in this pricing supplement provides the pages on which these captions are located.

Unless the context requires otherwise, references to Capital One, issuer, we, our, or us in this pricing supplement refer to Capital One Financial Corporation, a Delaware corporation.

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FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

This pricing supplement and the accompanying prospectus supplement and prospectus and the documents incorporated by reference herein and therein contain forward-looking statements. Statements that are not historical facts, including statements about our beliefs and expectations, are forward-looking statements within the meaning of Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the Securities Act), and Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the Exchange Act). Forward-looking statements include, among other things, information relating to our strategies, goals, outlook or other non-historical matters; projections, revenues, income, expenses, capital measures, returns, accruals for claims in litigation and for other claims against us; earnings per share or other financial measures for us; future financial and operating results; our plans, objectives, expectations and intentions; the projected impact and benefits of the acquisition of substantially all of the ING Direct business in the United States from ING Groep N.V., ING Bank N.V., ING Direct N.V. and ING Direct Bancorp (the ING Direct Acquisition) and our acquisition of substantially all of the U.S. credit card business of HSBC Finance Corporation, HSBC USA Inc. and HSBC Technology and Services (USA) Inc. (other than the HSBC Bank USA, National Association consumer credit card program and certain other retained assets and liabilities) (the HSBC Acquisition and, with the ING Direct Acquisition, the Transactions); and the assumptions that underlie these matters. Forward-looking statements also include statements using words such as expect, anticipate, hope, intend, plan, believe, will or similar expressions. We have based these forward-looking statements on our current plans, estimates and projections, and you should not unduly rely on them.

Numerous factors could cause our actual results to differ materially from those described in forward-looking statements, including, among other things:

general economic and business conditions in the U.S., the U.K., Canada and our local markets, including conditions affecting employment levels, interest rates, consumer income and confidence, spending and savings that may affect consumer bankruptcies, defaults, charge-offs and deposit activity;

an increase or decrease in credit losses (including increases due to a worsening of general economic conditions in the credit environment);

the possibility that we may not fully realize the projected cost savings and other projected benefits of the Transactions;

difficulties and delays in integrating the assets and businesses acquired in the Transactions;

business disruption following the Transactions;

diversion of management time on issues related to the Transactions, including integration of the assets and businesses acquired;

reputational risks and the reaction of customers and counterparties to the Transactions;

disruptions relating to the Transactions negatively impacting our ability to maintain relationships with customers, employees and suppliers;

changes in asset quality and credit risk as a result of the Transactions;

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the accuracy of estimates and assumptions we use to determine the fair value of assets acquired and liabilities assumed in the Transactions, and the potential for our estimates or assumptions to change as additional information becomes available and we complete the accounting analysis of the Transactions;

financial, legal, regulatory, tax or accounting changes or actions, including the impact of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act (the Dodd-Frank Act) and the regulations promulgated thereunder;

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developments, changes or actions relating to any litigation matter involving us;

the inability to sustain revenue and earnings growth;

increases or decreases in interest rates;

our ability to access the capital markets at attractive rates and terms to capitalize and fund our operations and future growth;

the success of our marketing efforts in attracting and retaining customers;

increases or decreases in our aggregate loan balances or the number of customers and the growth rate and composition thereof, including increases or decreases resulting from factors such as shifting product mix, amount of actual marketing expenses we incur and attrition of loan balances;

the level of future repurchase or indemnification requests we may receive, the actual future performance of mortgage loans relating to such requests, the success rates of claimants against us, any developments in litigation and the actual recoveries we may make on any collateral relating to claims against us;

the amount and rate of deposit growth;

changes in the reputation of or expectations regarding the financial services industry or us with respect to practices, products or financial condition;

any significant disruption in our operations or technology platform;

our ability to maintain a compliance infrastructure suitable for the nature of our business;

our ability to control costs;

the amount of, and rate of growth in, our expenses as our business develops or changes or as it expands into new market areas;

our ability to execute on our strategic and operational plans;

any significant disruption of, or loss of public confidence in, the United States Mail service affecting our response rates and consumer payments;

our ability to recruit and retain experienced personnel to assist in the management and operations of new products and services;

changes in the labor and employment markets;

fraud or misconduct by our customers, employees or business partners;

competition from providers of products and services that compete with our businesses; and

other risk factors listed from time to time in reports that we file with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the SEC). You should carefully consider the factors referred to above in evaluating these forward-looking statements.

When considering these forward-looking statements, you should keep in mind these risks, uncertainties and other cautionary statements made in this pricing supplement, the accompanying prospectus supplement and

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prospectus and in the documents incorporated by reference. See the factors set forth under the Risk Factors section beginning on page P-6 below and in any other documents incorporated or deemed to be incorporated by reference herein, including our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2011, for additional information that you should consider carefully in evaluating these forward-looking statements.

Forward-looking statements are not guarantees of future performance. They involve risks, uncertainties and assumptions, including the risk factors referred to above. Our future performance and actual results may differ materially from those expressed in forward-looking statements. Many of the factors that will determine these results and values are beyond our ability to control or predict. Any forward-looking statements made by us or on our behalf speak only as of the date that they are made or as of the date indicated, and we undertake no obligation to update forward-looking statements as a result of new information, future events or otherwise.

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SUMMARY OF THE OFFERING

The following summary should be read together with the information contained in other parts of this pricing supplement and the accompanying prospectus supplement and prospectus. This summary highlights selected information from this pricing supplement and the accompanying prospectus supplement and prospectus to help you understand the offering of the shares of common stock. You should read this pricing supplement and the accompanying prospectus supplement and prospectus, including the documents we incorporate by reference, carefully to understand fully the terms of the shares as well as other considerations that are important to you in making a decision to invest in the shares. You should pay special attention to the Risk Factors section beginning on page P-6 of this pricing supplement, and the Risk Factors in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2011, to determine whether an investment in the shares is appropriate for you. This pricing supplement includes forward-looking statements that involve risks and uncertainties.

Issuer	Capital One Financial Corporation
Selling stockholder	ING Bank N.V.
Common stock offered	shares of common stock, par value \$0.01 per share.
Common stock outstanding after the offering	580,999,459 shares of our common stock are outstanding as of August 27, 2012. As shares held by the selling stockholder are already outstanding, the sale of such shares will not increase the amount of outstanding common stock.
Use of proceeds	All shares of common stock sold pursuant to this pricing supplement and the accompanying prospectus supplement and prospectus will be sold by the selling stockholder. We will not receive any of the proceeds from such sales.
NYSE symbol	COF
Unless otherwise indicated, the number of shares of our common stock presented in this pricing supplement:	

excludes 49,585,851 shares held in treasury;

excludes 19,203,273 shares issuable upon the exercise of outstanding stock options and other stock settled awards;

excludes 12,657,960 shares issuable upon the exercise of outstanding warrants; and

excludes an estimated 10,676,107 shares reserved for issuance pursuant to future grants of awards under our stock compensation plans.

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RISK FACTORS

Investing in our common stock involves risks, including the risks described below that are specific to the shares of common stock and those that could affect us and our business. You should not purchase shares of our common stock unless you understand these investment risks. Please be aware that other risks may prove to be important in the future. New risks may emerge at any time, and we cannot predict such risks or estimate the extent to which they may affect our financial performance. Before purchasing any shares of our common stock, you should consider carefully the risks and other information in this pricing supplement, the accompanying prospectus supplement and prospectus and carefully read the risks described in the documents incorporated by reference in this pricing supplement, the accompanying prospectus supplement and prospectus, including the discussion under Item 1A Risk Factors in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2011, as such discussion may be amended or updated in other reports filed by us with the SEC.

The price of our common stock may fluctuate significantly, and this may make it difficult for you to resell shares of common stock owned by you at times or at prices you find attractive.

The trading price of our common stock may fluctuate widely as a result of a number of factors, many of which are outside our control. In addition, the stock market is subject to fluctuations in the share prices and trading volumes that affect the market prices of the shares of many companies. These broad market fluctuations have adversely affected and may continue to adversely affect the market price of our common stock. Among the factors that could affect our stock price are:

actual or anticipated quarterly fluctuations in our operating results and financial condition;

changes in revenue or earnings estimates or publication of research reports and recommendations by financial analysts or actions taken by rating agencies with respect to our securities or those of other financial institutions;

failure to meet analysts' revenue or earnings estimates;

speculation in the press or investment community generally or relating to our reputation or the financial services industry;

strategic actions by us or our competitors, such as acquisitions or restructurings;

failure to realize the anticipated benefits of the Transactions;

actions by institutional or other significant shareholders;

fluctuations in the stock price and operating results of our competitors;

future sales of our equity or equity-related securities or the perception that such sales could occur;

changes in the frequency or amount of dividends;

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proposed or adopted regulatory changes or developments;

actual or anticipated changes in interest rates;

anticipated or pending investigations, proceedings, or litigation that involve or affect us;

domestic and international economic factors unrelated to our performance; or

general market conditions and, in particular, developments related to market conditions for the financial services industry.

A significant decline in our stock price could result in substantial losses for individual shareholders and could lead to costly and disruptive securities litigation.

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There may be future sales or other dilution of our equity, which may adversely affect the market price of our common stock.

Except as described under **Underwriting**, we are not restricted from issuing additional shares of common stock, including any securities that are convertible into or exchangeable for, or that represent the right to receive, common stock. The issuance of any additional shares of common or preferred stock or of convertible securities could be substantially dilutive to shareholders of our common stock. Moreover, to the extent that we issue restricted stock units, stock appreciation rights, options or warrants to purchase our common stock in the future and those stock appreciation rights, options or warrants are exercised or as the restricted stock units vest, our shareholders may experience further dilution. Holders of our shares of common stock have no preemptive rights that entitle holders to purchase their pro rata share of any offering of shares of any class or series and, therefore, such sales or offerings could result in increased dilution to our shareholders. The market price of our common stock could decline as a result of sales or resales of shares of our common stock made after this offering or the perception that such sales or resales could occur.

You may not receive dividends on the 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. Although we have in the past 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. This could adversely affect the market price of our common stock.

Our ability to receive dividends from our subsidiaries could affect our liquidity and ability to pay dividends.

We are a separate and distinct legal entity from our subsidiaries. Dividends to us from our direct and indirect subsidiaries, including our bank subsidiaries, have represented a major source of funds for us to pay dividends on our common stock, make payments on corporate debt securities and meet other obligations. There are various federal law limitations on the extent to which our bank subsidiaries can finance or otherwise supply funds to us through dividends and loans. These limitations include minimum regulatory capital requirements, federal banking law requirements concerning the payment of dividends out of net profits or surplus, Sections 23A and 23B of the Federal Reserve Act and Regulation W governing transactions between an insured depository institution and its affiliates, as well as general federal regulatory oversight to prevent unsafe or unsound practices. If our subsidiaries' earnings are not sufficient to make dividend payments to us while maintaining adequate capital levels, our liquidity may be affected and we may not be able to make dividend payments to our common stockholders, to make payments on outstanding corporate debt securities or meet other obligations, each and any of which could have a material adverse impact on our results of operations, financial position or perception of financial health.

The common stock is equity and is subordinate to our existing and future indebtedness and preferred stock.

Shares of the common stock are equity interests in Capital One and do not constitute indebtedness. As such, shares of the common stock will rank junior to all indebtedness and other non-equity claims on Capital One with respect to assets available to satisfy claims on Capital One, including in a liquidation of Capital One. Additionally, holders of our common stock are subject to the prior dividend and liquidation rights of any holders of our preferred stock or depository shares representing such preferred stock then outstanding.

Dividends on the common stock are payable only if declared by our board of directors and are subject to restrictions on payments of dividends out of lawfully available funds. Also, as a consolidated supervisory entity, our ability to declare and pay dividends is dependent on certain federal regulatory considerations. Capital One has issued and outstanding debt securities under which we may defer interest payments from time to time, but in that case we would not be permitted to pay dividends on, or redeem, purchase, acquire or make a liquidation payment with respect to, any of our capital stock, including the common stock, during the deferral period. In addition, Capital One has issued and outstanding debt securities under which, if we are aware of any event that would be an event of default under the indenture governing those debt securities, we would not be permitted to pay dividends on, or redeem, purchase, acquire or make a liquidation payment with respect to, any of our capital stock, including the common stock.

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Anti-takeover provisions could adversely affect our stockholders.

Provisions of Delaware law and of our certificate of incorporation and bylaws 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. Additionally, our certificate of incorporation authorizes our board of directors to issue preferred stock, which could be issued as a defensive measure in response to a takeover proposal. 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.

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USE OF PROCEEDS

All shares of common stock sold pursuant to this pricing supplement, the accompanying prospectus supplement and prospectus will be sold by the selling stockholder. We will not receive any of the proceeds from such sales.

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When we refer to the selling stockholder in this pricing supplement, we mean ING Bank N.V.

On February 17, 2012, we issued to ING Bank N.V. (ING Bank) 54,028,086 shares (the Registrable Securities) of our common stock pursuant to the Purchase and Sale Agreement, dated as of June 16, 2011 (the Purchase Agreement), by and among ING Groep N.V. (ING Groep), ING Bank, ING Direct N.V., ING DIRECT Bancorp and us as a portion of the consideration paid to ING DIRECT Bancorp for the sale of its ING Direct business in the United States.

In connection with the Purchase Agreement, we entered into the Shareholders Agreement, dated as of February 17, 2012 (the Shareholders Agreement), between ING Groep and us. Under the Shareholders Agreement, we were required on or prior to May 17, 2012 to take certain actions to allow the resale of the Registrable Securities (as defined in the Shareholders Agreement) under the Securities Act and we did so by filing a shelf registration statement with the SEC on April 30, 2012 and a prospectus supplement to the shelf registration statement with the SEC on May 17, 2012. Under the Shareholders Agreement, ING Groep is entitled to demand that we, under certain circumstances, cooperate with ING Groep and ING Bank in effecting a registered offering of the Registrable Securities, provided that the estimated gross proceeds from such offering are not less than \$200 million. We may suspend a registered offering of the Registrable Securities during customary suspension periods and the resale of the Registrable Securities is subject to customary black-out periods. Additionally, ING Groep has customary piggyback registration rights. We have agreed to pay all fees and expenses incident to the registration and listing of the Registrable Securities.

ING Groep, together with its subsidiaries, is a global financial institution of Dutch origin, currently offering banking, investment, life insurance and retirement services to meet the needs of a broad customer base.

The following table sets forth the aggregate number of shares of common stock beneficially owned by the selling stockholder as of August 27, 2012, and the number of shares offered by the selling stockholder pursuant to this pricing supplement and accompanying prospectus supplement and prospectus and information with respect to shares of common stock to be beneficially owned by ING Bank assuming all the common shares offered by this pricing supplement are sold. Beneficial ownership is determined in accordance with the rules of the SEC, and includes voting or investment power with respect to shares of our common stock.

The information provided in the table below with respect to the selling stockholder has been obtained from the selling stockholder.

Name of Selling Stockholder	Shares Beneficially Owned Prior to the Offering		Number of Shares Being Offered	Shares Beneficially Owned After the Offering	
	Number	Percent ⁽¹⁾		Number	Percent ⁽¹⁾
ING Bank N.V. ⁽²⁾	54,028,086	9.3%			%

(1) Based on 580,999,459 shares outstanding as of August 27, 2012.

(2) The shares held by the selling stockholder may be deemed to be beneficially owned by ING Groep N.V., as described in the Schedule 13D filed by ING Groep N.V. on February 27, 2012. ING Groep N.V. may also be deemed to beneficially own 802,639 shares held by indirect subsidiaries of ING Groep N.V. in those subsidiaries role as a discretionary manager of client portfolios. Certain of those shares may be managed by third-party sub-managers over which ING Groep N.V. and its subsidiaries do not have the ability to direct the vote or the disposition of such shares. ING Groep N.V. disclaims beneficial ownership of such shares. Pursuant to the Shareholders Agreement, ING Groep N.V. has certain registration rights and the right to designate one nominee to serve on our board of directors. ING Groep N.V. has nominated, and on May 8, 2012, our board of directors appointed, C.P.A.J. Leenaars as a director for a term expiring at the 2013 annual meeting of stockholders. Pursuant to the Shareholders Agreement, Mr. Leenaars must promptly submit his resignation upon the earlier of (i) February 17, 2013 (the one-year anniversary of the closing of the ING Direct Acquisition) or (ii) ING Groep N.V.'s sale of more than 33% of its shares of our common stock acquired in the transaction to third parties.

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Other than the Purchase Agreement and Shareholders Agreement described above and other related agreements, and the appointment of Mr. Leenaars to our board of directors, there have been no material relationships between ING Groep N.V. and its affiliates, on the one hand, and us and our affiliates, on the other hand (except that there were material relationships between ING Groep N.V. and its affiliates and the ING Direct business, which is now affiliated with us). The ability of ING Groep N.V. and its subsidiaries to engage in commercial arrangements with us or our subsidiaries or affiliates is restricted by certain passivity commitments (the Passivity Commitments) that ING Groep N.V. entered into with the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System (the FRB) to support a determination by the FRB that ING Groep N.V. would not be deemed to control us for purposes of the Bank Holding Company Act of 1956, as amended. Under the Passivity Commitments, subject to certain exceptions, ING Groep N.V. may not, without the prior approval of the FRB or its staff, directly or indirectly engage in certain activities with respect to us and our securities.

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UNITED STATES FEDERAL INCOME TAX CONSEQUENCES

The following is a summary of the material U.S. federal income tax considerations relating to the purchase, ownership and disposition of common stock, as of the date hereof. This summary deals only with common stock purchased for cash and held as a capital asset. This summary does not describe all of the U.S. federal income tax consequences that may be relevant to a holder in light of its particular circumstances or to holders subject to special rules, such as:

tax consequences to holders who may be subject to special tax treatment, such as dealers in securities or currencies, financial institutions, regulated investment companies, real estate investment trusts, expatriates, tax-exempt entities, traders in securities that elect to use a mark-to-market method of accounting for their securities or insurance companies;

tax consequences to persons holding common stock as part of a hedging, integrated, or conversion transaction or a straddle or persons deemed to sell common stock under the constructive sale provisions of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the Code);

tax consequences to U.S. holders of common stock whose functional currency is not the U.S. dollar;

tax consequences to partnerships or other pass-through entities and investors in such entities; or

alternative minimum tax consequences, if any.

Finally, this summary does not address U.S. federal tax consequences other than income taxes (such as estate and gift tax consequences) or any state, local or foreign tax consequences.

The discussion below is based upon the provisions of the Code, and U.S. Treasury regulations, rulings and judicial decisions as of the date hereof. Those authorities may be changed, perhaps retroactively, so as to result in U.S. federal income tax consequences different from those discussed below. This summary does not address all aspects of U.S. federal income taxation and does not deal with all tax consequences that may be relevant to holders in light of their personal circumstances.

If a partnership holds common stock, the tax treatment of a partner in the partnership will generally depend upon the status of the partner and the activities of the partnership. If you are a partner of a partnership holding common stock, you should consult your tax advisor.

If you are considering the purchase of common stock, you should consult your own tax advisors concerning the U.S. federal income tax consequences to you in light of your particular facts and circumstances and any consequences arising under the laws of any state, local, foreign or other taxing jurisdiction.

Consequences to U.S. Holders

The following is a summary of the U.S. federal income tax consequences that will apply to a U.S. holder of common stock. U.S. holder means a beneficial owner of common stock for U.S. federal income tax purposes that is

an individual citizen or resident of the United States;

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

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

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a trust if (1) it is subject to the primary supervision of a court within the United States and one or more U.S. persons have the authority to control all substantial decisions of the trust, or (2) it has a valid election in effect under applicable U.S. Treasury regulations to be treated as a U.S. person.

Distributions

A distribution in respect of common stock generally will be treated as a dividend to the extent it is paid from current or accumulated earnings and profits. If the distribution exceeds current and accumulated earnings and profits, the excess will be treated as a nontaxable return of capital reducing the U.S. holder's tax basis in the common stock to the extent of the U.S. holder's tax basis in that stock. Any remaining excess will be treated as capital gain. Subject to certain holding period requirements and exceptions, dividends received by individual holders generally will be subject to a reduced maximum tax rate of 15% for qualified dividend income through December 31, 2012, after which the rate applicable to dividends is scheduled to return to the tax rate generally applicable to ordinary income. Subject to certain restrictions, dividends received by a U.S. holder that is a corporation may be eligible for a dividends-received deduction.

Sale, Exchange, Redemption or Certain Other Taxable Dispositions of Common Stock

A U.S. holder will generally recognize capital gain or loss on a sale, exchange, or other taxable disposition of common stock. The U.S. holder's gain or loss will equal the difference between the amount realized by the U.S. holder and the U.S. holder's tax basis in the stock. 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 stock. Gain or loss recognized by a U.S. holder on a sale or exchange of stock will be long-term capital gain or loss if the holder held the stock for more than one year. Long-term capital gains of non-corporate taxpayers are generally taxed at lower rates than those applicable to ordinary income. The deductibility of capital losses is subject to certain limitations.

Information Reporting and Backup Withholding

In general, a holder of common stock will be subject to backup withholding (currently at the rate of 28%) with respect to dividends paid on the common stock unless such holder (i) is an entity that is exempt from backup withholding (generally including certain corporations, tax-exempt organizations and certain qualified nominees) and, when required, provides appropriate documentation to that effect, or (ii) provides us or our paying agent with such holder's social security number or other taxpayer identification number ("TIN") within a reasonable time after a request therefor, certifies that the TIN provided is correct and that such holder has not been notified by the Internal Revenue Service ("IRS") that such holder is subject to backup withholding due to underreporting of interest or dividends, and otherwise complies with applicable requirements of the backup withholding rules. In addition, such payments or proceeds received by a holder of common stock if such holder is not a corporation or tax-exempt organization will generally be subject to information reporting requirements. Backup withholding is not an additional tax. The amount of any backup withholding from a payment to a holder of common stock will be allowed as a credit against such holder's U.S. federal income tax liability and may entitle such holder to a refund, provided that the holder timely furnishes the required information to the IRS.

Consequences to Non-U.S. Holders

The following is a summary of the U.S. federal income tax consequences that will apply to a non-U.S. holder of common stock. The term "non-U.S. holder" means a beneficial owner of shares of common stock that is, for U.S. federal income tax purposes, an individual, corporation, trust or estate that is not a U.S. holder. Special rules may apply to certain non-U.S. holders such as controlled foreign corporations or passive foreign investment companies. Such entities should consult their own tax advisors to determine the U.S. federal, state, local and other tax consequences that may be relevant to them.

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Distributions

Any dividends paid in respect of common stock held by a non-U.S. holder will be subject to withholding tax at a 30% rate or such lower rate as specified by an applicable income tax treaty. However, dividends that are effectively connected with the conduct of a trade or business within the United States and, where an applicable tax treaty so provides, are attributable to a U.S. permanent establishment, are not subject to the withholding tax, but instead are subject to U.S. federal income tax on a net income basis at applicable graduated individual or corporate rates. Certain certification and disclosure requirements must be complied with in order for effectively connected income to be exempt from withholding. Any such effectively connected dividends received by a foreign corporation may, under certain circumstances, be subject to an additional branch profits tax at a 30% rate or such lower rate as specified by an applicable income tax treaty.

A non-U.S. holder of common stock who wishes to claim the benefit of a treaty rate is required to satisfy applicable certification and other requirements. If a non-U.S. holder is eligible for a reduced rate of U.S. withholding tax pursuant to an income tax treaty, the holder may obtain a refund of any excess amounts withheld by timely filing an appropriate claim for refund with the IRS.

Sale, Exchange, Redemption or Other Taxable Disposition of Common Stock

Any gain realized by a non-U.S. holder upon the sale, exchange, redemption or other taxable disposition of common stock will not be subject to U.S. federal income tax with respect to such gain unless

that gain is effectively connected with the conduct of a trade or business in the United States (and, if required by an applicable income tax treaty, is attributable to a U.S. permanent establishment);

the non-U.S. holder is an individual who is present in the United States for 183 days or more in the taxable year of that disposition, and certain other conditions are met; or

the common stock constitutes a U.S. real property interest by reason of our status as a U.S. real property holding corporation (a USRPHC) for U.S. federal income tax purposes at any time within the shorter of the five-year period preceding the disposition or the period that the non-U.S. holder held the common stock.

A non-U.S. holder described in the first bullet point above will be subject to U.S. federal income tax on the net gain derived from the sale in the same manner as a U.S. holder. If a non-U.S. holder is eligible for the benefits of a tax treaty between the United States and its country of residence, any such gain will be subject to U.S. federal income tax in the manner specified by the treaty. To claim the benefit of a treaty, a non-U.S. holder must properly submit an IRS Form W-8BEN (or suitable successor or substitute form). A non-U.S. holder that is a foreign corporation and is described in the first bullet point above will be subject to tax on gain under regular graduated U.S. federal income tax rates and, in addition, may be subject to a branch profits tax at a 30% rate or a lower rate if so specified by an applicable income tax treaty. An individual non-U.S. holder described in the second bullet point above will be subject to a flat 30% U.S. federal income tax on the gain derived from the sale, which may be offset by U.S. source capital losses.

With respect to the final bullet, we are not and do not expect to become a USRPHC for U.S. federal income tax purposes. Non-U.S. holders should consult their own advisors about the consequences that could result if we are, or become, a USRPHC.

Information Reporting and Backup Withholding

Generally, we must report to the IRS and to non-U.S. holders the amount of dividends treated as paid to a non-U.S. holder of common stock and the amount of tax, if any, withheld with respect to those payments. Copies of the information returns reporting such dividend payments and any withholding may also be made available to the tax authorities in the country in which the holder resides under the provisions of an applicable income tax treaty.

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In general, a non-U.S. holder will not be subject to backup withholding with respect to payments of dividends that we make in respect of common stock by the holder if the non-U.S. holder certifies under penalty of perjury that it is a non-U.S. holder or otherwise establishes an exemption. A non-U.S. holder will be subject to information reporting and, depending on the circumstances, backup withholding with respect to the proceeds of the sale or other disposition of common stock within the United States or conducted through certain U.S.-related payors, unless the payor of the proceeds receives the statement described above or the holder otherwise establishes an exemption.

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

Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act

The Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act was enacted on March 18, 2010 and will impose a 30% U.S. withholding tax on withholdable payments as defined in Section 1473(1) of the Code (Withholdable Payments), which include certain U.S. source payments, including interest (and OID), dividends, other fixed or determinable annual or periodical gain, profits, and income, and gross proceeds from a disposition of property of a type which can produce U.S. source interest or dividends, if paid to a foreign financial institution, unless such institution enters into an agreement with the Treasury to collect and provide to the Treasury substantial information regarding U.S. account holders with such institution, including certain account holders that are foreign entities with U.S. owners, and to withhold 30% on certain passthru payments (as discussed in more detail below). The legislation 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 or indirect substantial U.S. owners of the entity.

In addition, under the Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act, passthru payments made by a foreign financial institution to recalcitrant holders or non-compliant foreign financial institutions (and all or a portion of passthru payments made by a foreign financial institution to certain other foreign financial institutions) are subject to a 30% U.S. withholding tax. A recalcitrant holder generally is a holder of an account with a foreign financial institution that fails to comply with reasonable requests for information that will help enable the relevant foreign financial institution to comply with its reporting requirements. A passthru payment is defined under the Code as any Withholdable Payment or other payment (including non-U.S. source payments) to the extent attributable to any Withholdable Payment.

Although the Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act currently applies to applicable payments made after December 31, 2012, the IRS has recently issued proposed Treasury Regulations providing that the withholding provisions described above will generally apply to certain Withholdable Payments, and certain passthru payments that are Withholdable Payments (including dividends), made on or after January 1, 2014, to Withholdable Payments, and passthru payments that are Withholdable Payments, that constitute gross proceeds from the disposition of property to the extent such payments are made with respect to a disposition occurring on or after January 1, 2015 and to foreign passthru payments (which has yet to be defined) made on or after January 1, 2017. Holders are urged to consult with their own tax advisors regarding the possible implications of this recently enacted legislation on their investment in common stock.

Health Care Education and Reconciliation Act of 2010

The Health Care Education and Reconciliation Act of 2010 requires certain United States persons who are individuals, estates or trusts to pay a 3.8% tax on, among other things, dividends and capital gains from the sale, exchange, redemption or other taxable disposition of stock, for taxable years beginning after December 31, 2012. Prospective investors should consult their tax advisors regarding the effect, if any, of this legislation on their ownership and disposition of the common stock.

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Our common stock is publicly traded on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol COF. The table below sets forth for the periods indicated the quarterly high and low closing sales prices for our common stock on the New York Stock Exchange and the amount of dividends per share declared on our common stock.

	High	Low	Dividends
2010			
First Quarter	43.02	34.63	0.05
Second Quarter	46.73	38.02	0.05
Third Quarter	45.00	37.12	0.05
Fourth Quarter	42.78	36.55	0.05
2011			
First Quarter	52.76	43.68	0.05
Second Quarter	56.21	47.87	0.05
Third Quarter	54.31	37.63	0.05
Fourth Quarter	47.07	37.75	0.05
2012			
First Quarter	57.15	43.75	0.05
Second Quarter	56.36	48.40	0.05
Third Quarter (as of August 31, 2012)	57.60	53.36	0.05

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UNDERWRITING

Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Incorporated, Morgan Stanley & Co. LLC and Citigroup Global Markets Inc. are acting as joint book-running managers of the offering and are acting as representatives of the underwriters. Under the terms and subject to the conditions of an underwriting agreement by and among the selling stockholder, the underwriters and us, dated the date of this pricing supplement, the selling stockholder has agreed to sell to each of the underwriters named below, and each of the underwriters has agreed, severally and not jointly, to purchase, the number of common shares set forth opposite its name:

Underwriter	Number of Shares
Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Incorporated	
Morgan Stanley & Co. LLC	
Citigroup Global Markets Inc.	
Total	

The underwriting agreement provides that the obligations of the underwriters to pay for and accept delivery of the common shares offered by this pricing supplement are subject to the approval of certain legal matters by their counsel and to certain other conditions. The underwriters are obligated to take and pay for all of the common shares offered by this pricing supplement if any such common shares are taken.

We and the selling stockholder have agreed to indemnify the underwriters against certain liabilities, including liabilities under the Securities Act.

Our common shares are traded on the New York Stock Exchange under the trading symbol COF.

Commissions and Expenses

The underwriters are purchasing the shares of common stock from the selling stockholder at \$ per share (representing approximately \$ aggregate proceeds to the selling stockholder). The underwriters may offer the shares of common stock from time to time for sale in one or more transactions on the New York Stock Exchange, in the over-the-counter market, through negotiated transactions or otherwise at market prices prevailing at the time of sale, at prices related to prevailing market prices or at negotiated prices. In connection with the sale of the shares of common stock offered hereby, the underwriters may be deemed to have received compensation in the form of underwriting discounts. The underwriters may effect such transactions by selling shares of common stock to or through dealers, and such dealers may receive compensation in the form of discounts, concessions or commissions from the underwriters and / or purchasers of shares of common stock for whom they may act as agents or to whom they may sell as principal.

The expenses of the offering are estimated at \$ and are payable by us.

Stabilization, Short Positions and Penalty Bids

The underwriters may engage in stabilizing transactions, short sales and purchases to cover positions created by short sales, and penalty bids or purchases for the purpose of pegging, fixing or maintaining the price of the common stock, in accordance with Regulation M under the Exchange Act:

Stabilizing transactions permit bids to purchase the underlying security so long as the stabilizing bids do not exceed a specified maximum.

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Covering transactions involve purchases of the common stock in the open market after the distribution has been completed in order to cover short positions.

These stabilizing transactions and covering transactions may have the effect of raising or maintaining the market price of our common stock or preventing or retarding a decline in the market price of the common stock. As a result, the price of the common stock may be higher than the price that might otherwise exist in the open market. These transactions may be effected on The New York Stock Exchange or otherwise and, if commenced, may be discontinued at any time.

Neither we, the selling stockholder nor the underwriters make any representation or prediction as to the direction or magnitude of any effect that the transactions described above may have on the price of the common stock. In addition, neither we, the selling stockholder nor the underwriters make any representation that the underwriters will engage in these stabilizing transactions or that any transaction, once commenced, will not be discontinued without notice.

No Sales of Similar Securities

We, each of our directors and executive officers who owns shares of our common stock and the selling stockholder have agreed that, for a period of 60 days from the date of this pricing supplement, and subject to certain exceptions, we and they will not, without the prior written consent of Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Incorporated, on behalf of the underwriters, offer, pledge, announce the intention to sell, sell, contract to sell, sell any option or contract to purchase, purchase any option or contract to sell, grant any option, right or warrant to purchase, or otherwise transfer or dispose of, directly or indirectly, any shares of common stock of the Company or any securities convertible into or exercisable or exchangeable for such common stock (including without limitation, common stock which may be deemed to be beneficially owned by our directors or executive officers in accordance with the rules and regulations of the SEC and securities which may be issued upon exercise of a stock option or warrant) or (2) enter into any swap or other agreement that transfers, in whole or in part, any of the economic consequences of ownership of the common stock, whether any such transaction described in clause (1) or (2) above is to be settled by delivery of common stock or such other securities, in cash or otherwise. In addition, our directors or executive officers agree that, without the prior written consent of Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Incorporated, on behalf of the underwriters, they will not, during the period ending 60 days after the date of this pricing supplement, make any demand for or exercise any right with respect to, the registration of any shares of common stock or any security convertible into or exercisable or exchangeable for common stock.

Relationship with Underwriters

The underwriters and their respective affiliates are full service financial institutions engaged in various activities, which may include securities trading, commercial and investment banking, financial advisory, investment management, investment research, principal investment, hedging, financing and brokerage activities. The underwriters and their respective affiliates have from time to time provided, and expect to provide in the future, investment banking, commercial banking and other financial services to us and our affiliates, for which they have received and may continue to receive customary fees and commissions. In the ordinary course of their various business activities, the underwriters and 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, and such investment and securities activities may involve securities and/or instruments of ours. The underwriters and their respective affiliates may also make investment recommendations and/or publish or express independent research views in respect of such securities or instruments and may at any time hold, or recommend to clients that they acquire, long and/or short positions in such securities and instruments.

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Timing and delivery

It is expected that delivery of the common stock will be made upon the instructions of the underwriters against payment on or about September 10, 2012, which may be later than the third business day following the date of this pricing supplement. Under Rule 15c6-1 of the Securities and Exchange Commission under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, trades in the secondary market generally are required to settle in three business days, unless the parties to any such trade expressly agree otherwise. Accordingly, if any purchaser of common stock offered hereby wishes to trade such shares on the date of this pricing supplement, it may be required, by virtue of the fact that the common stock will settle later than the third business day following such date, to specify an alternative settlement cycle at the time of any such trade to prevent a failed settlement. Purchasers of the common stock who wish to trade the common stock on any day for which settlement within three business days would not be possible should consult their own advisors.

Selling Restrictions

Australia

No prospectus or other disclosure document (as defined in the Corporations Act 2001 (Cth) of Australia ("Corporations Act")) in relation to the common shares has been or will be lodged with the Australian Securities & Investments Commission ("ASIC"). This document has not been lodged with ASIC and is only directed to certain categories of exempt persons. Accordingly, if you receive this document in Australia:

(a) you confirm and warrant that you are either:

(i) a sophisticated investor under section 708(8)(a) or (b) of the Corporations Act;

(ii) a sophisticated investor under section 708(8)(c) or (d) of the Corporations Act and that you have provided an accountant's certificate to us which complies with the requirements of section 708(8)(c)(i) or (ii) of the Corporations Act and related regulations before the offer has been made;

(iii) a person associated with the company under section 708(12) of the Corporations Act; or

(iv) a professional investor within the meaning of section 708(11)(a) or (b) of the Corporations Act, and to the extent that you are unable to confirm or warrant that you are an exempt sophisticated investor, associated person or professional investor under the Corporations Act any offer made to you under this document is void and incapable of acceptance; and

(b) you warrant and agree that you will not offer any of the common shares for resale in Australia within 12 months of that common shares being issued unless any such resale offer is exempt from the requirement to issue a disclosure document under section 708 of the Corporations Act.

Chile

The shares are not registered in the Securities Registry (Registro de Valores) or subject to the control of the Chilean Securities and Exchange Commission (Superintendencia de Valores y Seguros de Chile). This pricing supplement and other offering materials relating to the offer of the shares do not constitute a public offer of, or an invitation to subscribe for or purchase, the shares in the Republic of Chile, other than to individually identified purchasers pursuant to a private offering within the meaning of Article 4 of the Chilean Securities Market Act (Ley de Mercado de Valores) (an offer that is not addressed to the public at large or to a certain sector or specific group of the public).

Dubai International Financial Centre

This pricing supplement relates to an Exempt Offer in accordance with the Offered Securities Rules of the Dubai Financial Services Authority ("DFSA"). This pricing supplement is intended for distribution only to persons of a type specified in the Offered Securities Rules of the DFSA. It must not be delivered to, or relied on

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by, any other person. The DFSA has no responsibility for reviewing or verifying any documents in connection with Exempt Offers. The DFSA has not approved this pricing supplement nor taken steps to verify the information set forth herein and has no responsibility for the pricing supplement. The shares to which this pricing supplement relates may be illiquid and/or subject to restrictions on their resale. Prospective purchasers of the shares offered should conduct their own due diligence on the shares. If you do not understand the contents of this pricing supplement you should consult an authorized financial advisor.

European Economic Area

In relation to each Member State of the European Economic Area which has implemented the Prospectus Directive (each, a Relevant Member State), with effect from and including the date on which the Prospectus Directive is implemented in that Relevant Member State no offer of depositary shares may be made to the public in that Relevant Member State other than:

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

to fewer than 150, natural or legal persons (other than qualified investors as defined in the Prospectus Directive), as permitted under the Prospectus Directive, subject to obtaining the prior consent of the underwriters; or

in any other circumstances falling within Article 3(2) of the Prospectus Directive, provided that no such offer of depositary shares shall require the Company or 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.

This pricing supplement has been prepared on the basis that any offer of depositary shares in any Relevant Member State will be made pursuant to an exemption under the Prospectus Directive from the requirement to publish a prospectus for offers of depositary shares. Accordingly any person making or intending to make an offer in that Relevant Member State of depositary shares which are the subject of the offering contemplated in this pricing supplement may only do so in circumstances in which no obligation arises for the Company or any of the underwriters to publish a prospectus pursuant to Article 3 of the Prospectus Directive in relation to such offer. Neither the Company nor the underwriters have authorized, nor do they authorize, the making of any offer of depositary shares in circumstances in which an obligation arises for the Company or the underwriters to publish a prospectus for such offer.

For the purpose of the above provisions, the expression "an offer 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 the Relevant Member State by any measure implementing the Prospectus Directive in the Relevant Member State and the expression "Prospectus Directive" means Directive 2003/71/EC (and amendments thereto, including the 2010 PD Amending Directive) and includes any relevant implementing measure in the Relevant Member State and the expression "2010 PD Amending Directive" means Directive 2010/73/EU.

Hong Kong

The shares may not be offered or sold in Hong Kong, by means of any document, other than (a) to professional investors as defined in the Securities and Futures Ordinance (Cap. 571, Laws of Hong Kong) and any rules made under that Ordinance or (b) in other circumstances which do not result in the document being a prospectus as defined in the Companies Ordinance (Cap. 32, Laws of Hong Kong) or which do not constitute an offer to the public within the meaning of that Ordinance. No advertisement, invitation or document relating to the shares may be issued or may be in the possession of any person for the purpose of the issue, whether in Hong

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Kong or elsewhere, which is directed at, or the contents of which are likely to be read by, the public in Hong Kong (except if permitted to do so under the laws of Hong Kong) other than with respect to the shares which are intended to be disposed of only to persons outside Hong Kong or only to professional investors as defined in the Securities and Futures Ordinance (Cap. 571, Laws of Hong Kong) or any rules made under that Ordinance.

Japan

No securities registration statement has been filed under Article 4, Paragraph 1 of the Financial Instruments and Exchange Law of Japan (Law No. 25 of 1948, as amended) (FIEL) in relation to the shares. The shares are being offered in a private placement to qualified institutional investors (tekikaku-kan-toshika) under Article 10 of the Cabinet Office Ordinance concerning Definitions provided in Article 2 of the FIEL (the Ministry of Finance Ordinance No. 14, as amended) (QIIs), under Article 2, Paragraph 3, Item 2 i of the FIEL. Any QII acquiring the shares in this offer may not transfer or resell those shares except to other QIIs.

Korea

The shares may not be offered, sold and delivered directly or indirectly, or offered or sold to any person for reoffering 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 Korea Securities and Exchange Act and the Foreign Exchange Transaction Law and the decrees and regulations thereunder. The shares have not been registered with the Financial Services Commission of Korea for public offering in Korea. Furthermore, the shares may not be resold to Korean residents unless the purchaser of the shares complies with all applicable regulatory requirements (including but not limited to government approval requirements under the Foreign Exchange Transaction Law and its subordinate decrees and regulations) in connection with the purchase of the shares.

Singapore

This pricing supplement has not been registered as a prospectus with the Monetary Authority of Singapore. Accordingly, this pricing supplement and any other document or material in connection with the offer or sale, or invitation for subscription or purchase, of the shares may not be circulated or distributed, nor may the 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 Future Act, Chapter 289 of Singapore (the SFA), (ii) to a relevant person as defined in Section 275(2) of the SFA, 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 shares are subscribed and 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 (as defined in Section 4A of the SFA)) whose sole whole purpose is to hold investments and each beneficiary is an accredited investor, shares, debentures and units of shares and debentures of that corporation or the beneficiaries rights and interest (howsoever described) in that trust shall not be transferable within six months after that corporation or that trust has acquired the shares under Section 275 of the SFA except:
 - (i) to an institutional investor under Section 274 of the SFA or to a relevant person (as defined in Section 275(2) of the SFA) and in accordance with the conditions, specified in Section 275 of the SFA;
 - (ii) (in the case of a corporation) where the transfer arises from an offer referred to in Section 275(1A) of the SFA, or (in the case of a trust) where the transfer arises from an offer that is made on terms that

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such rights or interests are acquired at a consideration of not less than S\$200,000 (or its equivalent in a foreign currency) for each transaction, whether such amount is to be paid for in cash or by exchange of securities or other assets;

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

(iv) where the transfer is by operation of law.

By accepting this pricing supplement, the recipient hereof represents and warrants that he is entitled to receive it in accordance with the restrictions set forth above and agrees to be bound by limitations contained herein. Any failure to comply with these limitations may constitute a violation of law.

Switzerland

This document, as well as any other material relating to the shares which are the subject of the offering contemplated by this pricing supplement, do not constitute an issue prospectus pursuant to Article 652a and/or 1156 of the Swiss Code of Obligations. The shares will not be listed on the SIX Swiss Exchange and, therefore, the documents relating to the shares, including, but not limited to, this document, do not claim to comply with the disclosure standards of the listing rules of the SIX Swiss Exchange. The shares are being offered in Switzerland by way of a private placement, i.e., to a small number of selected investors only, without any public offer and only to investors who do not purchase the shares with the intention to distribute them to the public. The investors will be individually approached by the issuer from time to time. This document, as well as any other material relating to the shares, is personal and confidential and do not constitute an offer to any other person. This document may only be used by those investors to whom it has been handed out in connection with the offering described herein and may neither directly nor indirectly be distributed or made available to other persons without express consent of the issuer. It may not be used in connection with any other offer and shall in particular not be copied and/or distributed to the public in (or from) Switzerland.

United Kingdom

This pricing supplement is being distributed only to, and is directed only at, and any offer subsequently made may only be directed at persons who are qualified investors (as defined in the Prospectus Directive) (i) who have professional experience in matters relating to investments falling within Article 19(5) of the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 (Financial Promotion) Order 2005, as amended (the Order) and/or (ii) who are high net worth companies falling within Article 49(2)(a) to (d) of the Order or persons to whom it may otherwise be lawfully communicated (all such persons together being referred to as relevant persons). This document must not be acted on or relied on in the United Kingdom by persons who are not relevant persons. In the United Kingdom, any investment or investment activity to which this document relates is only available to, and will be engaged in with, relevant persons.

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VALIDITY OF THE COMMON STOCK

The validity of the common stock will be passed upon for us by Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP, New York, New York. Morrison & Foerster LLP, New York, New York, will pass upon certain matters for the underwriters. Stibbe N.V., Amsterdam, The Netherlands, is representing the selling stockholder as to matters of Dutch law and Sullivan & Cromwell LLP, New York, New York, is representing the selling stockholder as to matters of United States and New York law.

EXPERTS

Ernst & Young LLP, an independent registered public accounting firm, has audited our consolidated financial statements included in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2011, and the effectiveness of our internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2011, as set forth in their reports, which are incorporated by reference in this pricing supplement and elsewhere in the registration statement. Our financial statements are incorporated by reference in reliance on Ernst & Young LLP's report, given on their authority as experts in accounting and auditing.

Ernst & Young LLP, an independent registered public accounting firm, has audited the consolidated financial statements of ING Bank, fsb included in our Current Report on Form 8-K filed with the SEC on March 14, 2012, as set forth in their report, which is incorporated by reference in this pricing supplement and elsewhere in the registration statement. The ING Bank, fsb financial statements are incorporated by reference in reliance on Ernst & Young LLP's report, given on their authority as experts in accounting and auditing.

KPMG LLP, an independent registered public accounting firm, has audited the financial statements of HSBC Card and Retail Services, included in our Current Report on Form 8-K filed with the SEC on March 14, 2012, as set forth in their report, which is incorporated by reference in this pricing supplement and elsewhere in the registration statement. The HSBC Card and Retail Services financial statements are incorporated by reference in reliance on KPMG LLP's report, given on their authority as experts in accounting and auditing.

WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION

This pricing supplement is part of a registration statement (File No. 333-181047) we have filed with the SEC under the Securities Act. The registration statement, including the attached exhibits and schedules, contains additional relevant information about us and the securities described in this pricing supplement. The SEC's rules and regulations allow us to omit certain information included in the registration statement from this pricing supplement. The registration statement may be inspected by anyone without charge at the SEC's principal office at 100 F Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20549.

In addition, we file annual, quarterly and special reports, proxy statements and other information with the SEC under the Exchange Act. You may read and copy this information at the following SEC location:

Public Reference Room

100 F Street, N.E.

Washington, D.C. 20549

You may also obtain copies of this information by mail from the SEC's Public Reference Room, 100 F Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20549, at rates determined by the SEC. You may obtain information on the operation of the Public Reference Room by calling the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330. You may also inspect reports, proxy statements and other information that we have filed electronically with the SEC at the SEC's website at <http://www.sec.gov>. These documents can also be inspected at the offices of the New York Stock Exchange, 20 Broad Street, New York, New York 10005.

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The SEC's rules allow us to incorporate by reference information into this pricing supplement. This means that we can disclose important information to you by referring you to another document filed separately with the SEC. The information incorporated by reference is considered to be a part of this pricing supplement. Any information incorporated by reference in this pricing supplement that we file with the SEC after the date of this pricing supplement will automatically update and supersede information contained in this pricing supplement. Our SEC file number is 001-13300.

We are incorporating by reference in this pricing supplement the documents listed below and any future filings that we make with the SEC under Section 13(a), 13(c), 14 or 15(d) of the Exchange Act prior to the termination of this offering, provided, however, that we are not incorporating by reference any information furnished (but not filed) under Item 2.02 or Item 7.01 of any Current Report on Form 8-K, except as specified below:

our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2011, filed on February 29, 2012 (including the portions of our proxy statement for our 2012 annual meeting of stockholders incorporated by reference therein);

our Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q for the quarterly period ended March 31, 2012, filed on May 8, 2012 and for the quarterly period ended June 30, 2012, filed on August 9, 2012;

our Current Reports on Form 8-K filed on January 19, 2012 (Item 8.01 information only), February 2, 2012, February 17, 2012 (Item 2.01, Item 3.02 and Item 8.01 information only), March 14, 2012 (with respect to the financial statements of ING Bank, fsb and HSBC Card and Retail Services), March 19, 2012 (Item 1.01 and related information furnished under Item 9.01), March 20, 2012, March 23, 2012, April 19, 2012 (Item 8.01 information only), May 1, 2012, May 8, 2012, May 17, 2012, July 18, 2012 (Item 8.01 information only) and August 20, 2012, and our amended Current Reports on Form 8-K/A filed on March 15, 2012 (including all information furnished under Item 9.01), April 27, 2012 (including all information furnished under Item 9.01) and July 16, 2012 (including all information furnished under Item 9.01); and

the description of our common stock on Amendment No. 1 to Form 8-A, dated October 17, 1994.

You can obtain copies of documents incorporated by reference in this pricing supplement, without charge, by requesting them in writing or by telephone from us at Capital One Financial Corporation, Investor Relations Department, 1680 Capital One Drive, McLean, Virginia 22102, telephone (703) 720-2455. You should rely only on the information incorporated by reference or provided in this pricing supplement or the accompanying prospectus. We have not authorized anyone else to provide you with different information. We are not making an offer of these securities in any state where the offer is not permitted. You should not assume that the information in this pricing supplement, the accompanying prospectus supplement or prospectus or any document incorporated by reference is accurate as of any date other than the date of the applicable document.

Our principal executive office is located at 1680 Capital One Drive, McLean, Virginia 22102 (telephone number (703) 720-1000). We maintain a website at www.capitalone.com. The information on our website is not part of this pricing supplement nor is it incorporated by reference. Documents available on our website include our (i) Code of Business Conduct and Ethics; (ii) Corporate Governance Principles; and (iii) charters for the Audit and Risk, Compensation, Finance and Trust Oversight, and Governance and Nominating Committees.

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PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT

(To prospectus dated April 30, 2012)

54,028,086 Shares

Capital One Financial Corporation

Common Stock

This prospectus supplement relates to the offer and sale of 54,028,086 shares of common stock of Capital One Financial Corporation by the selling stockholder listed under the heading **Selling Stockholder**. These shares were delivered to the selling stockholder on February 17, 2012 in connection with the ING Direct Acquisition as described herein under the heading **Summary of the Underlying Transaction**.

Our common stock is listed on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol **COF**. The last reported sales price on May 16, 2012 was \$50.30 per share.

We will not receive any proceeds from the sale by the selling stockholder of shares of our common stock.

The selling stockholder identified in this prospectus supplement, including its transferees, pledgees or donees or other successors-in-interest, may offer the shares from time to time through public or private transactions at market prices prevailing at the time of sale, at a fixed or fixed prices, at negotiated prices, at various prices determined at the time of sale or at prices related to prevailing market prices. The timing and amount of any sale is within the sole discretion of the selling stockholder, subject to certain restrictions. See **Plan of Distribution** on page S-12 of this prospectus supplement.

Investing in the shares involves a high degree of risk. See **Risk Factors on page S-4 of this prospectus supplement.**

These securities are not deposits or savings accounts or other obligations of a bank. These securities are not insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation or any other governmental agency or instrumentality.

Neither the Securities and Exchange Commission nor any state securities commission has approved or disapproved of these securities or determined if this prospectus supplement or the accompanying prospectus is truthful or complete. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense.

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You should rely only on the information contained or incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus. No one is authorized to provide you with different information. If anyone provides you with different or inconsistent information, you should not rely on it. The selling stockholder is not making an offer of the shares of common stock covered by this prospectus supplement in any jurisdiction where the offer is not permitted. You should assume that the information in this prospectus supplement, the accompanying prospectus and the documents incorporated by reference herein and therein is accurate as of their respective dates. Our business, financial condition, results of operations and prospects may have changed since those dates.

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ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT

We provide information to you about the common stock in two separate documents: (1) this prospectus supplement, which describes the specific terms of this offering and also adds to and updates information contained in the accompanying prospectus and the documents incorporated by reference in that prospectus and (2) the accompanying prospectus, which provides general information about securities we may offer from time to time, including securities other than the common stock being offered by this prospectus supplement. If information in this prospectus supplement is inconsistent with the accompanying prospectus, you should rely on this prospectus supplement.

It is important for you to read and consider all of the information contained in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus in making your investment decision. You also should read and consider the information in the documents we have referred you to in *Where You Can Find More Information* on page S-15 of this prospectus supplement and page 3 of the accompanying prospectus.

We include cross-references in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus to captions in these materials where you can find additional related discussions. The table of contents in this prospectus supplement provides the pages on which these captions are located.

Unless the context requires otherwise, references to *Capital One*, *we*, *our*, or *us* in this prospectus supplement refer to Capital One Financial Corporation, a Delaware corporation.

FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

This prospectus supplement and the documents incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement contain forward-looking statements. Statements that are not historical facts, including statements about our beliefs and expectations, are forward-looking statements within the meaning of Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the *Securities Act*), and Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the *Exchange Act*). Forward-looking statements include, among other things, information relating to our strategies, goals, outlook or other non-historical matters; projections, revenues, income, expenses, capital measures, returns, accruals for claims in litigation and for other claims against us; earnings per share or other financial measures for us; future financial and operating results; our plans, objectives, expectations and intentions; the projected impact and benefits of the ING Direct Acquisition (as defined below) and our acquisition of substantially all of the U.S. credit card business of HSBC Finance Corporation, HSBC USA Inc. and HSBC Technology and Services (USA) Inc. (other than the HSBC Bank USA, National Association consumer credit card program and certain other retained assets and liabilities) (the *HSBC Transaction* and, with the ING Direct Acquisition, the *Transactions*); and the assumptions that underlie these matters. Forward-looking statements also include statements using words such as *expect*, *anticipate*, *hope*, *intend*, *plan*, *believe*, *estimate*, *will* or similar expressions. We have based forward-looking statements on our current plans, estimates and projections, and you should not unduly rely on them.

Numerous factors could cause our actual results to differ materially from those described in forward-looking statements, including, among other things:

general economic and business conditions in the U.S., the U.K., Canada and our local markets, including conditions affecting employment levels, interest rates, consumer income and confidence, spending and savings that may affect consumer bankruptcies, defaults, charge-offs and deposit activity;

an increase or decrease in credit losses (including increases due to a worsening of general economic conditions in the credit environment);

the possibility that we may not fully realize the projected cost savings and other projected benefits of the *Transactions*;

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difficulties and delays in integrating the assets and businesses acquired in the Transactions;

business disruption following the Transactions;

diversion of management time on issues related to the Transactions, including integration of the assets and businesses acquired;

reputational risks and the reaction of customers and counterparties to the Transactions;

disruptions relating to the Transactions negatively impacting our ability to maintain relationships with customers, employees and suppliers;

changes in asset quality and credit risk as a result of the Transactions;

the accuracy of estimates and assumptions we use to determine the fair value of assets acquired and liabilities assumed in the Transactions, and the potential for our estimates or assumptions to change as additional information becomes available and we complete the accounting analysis of the Transactions;

financial, legal, regulatory, tax or accounting changes or actions, including the impact of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act and the regulations promulgated thereunder;

developments, changes or actions relating to any litigation matter involving us;

the inability to sustain revenue and earnings growth;

increases or decreases in interest rates;

our ability to access the capital markets at attractive rates and terms to capitalize and fund our operations and future growth;

the success of our marketing efforts in attracting and retaining customers;

increases or decreases in our aggregate loan balances or the number of customers and the growth rate and composition thereof, including increases or decreases resulting from factors such as shifting product mix, amount of actual marketing expenses we incur and attrition of loan balances;

the level of future repurchase or indemnification requests we may receive, the actual future performance of mortgage loans relating to such requests, the success rates of claimants against us, any developments in litigation and the actual recoveries we may make on any collateral relating to claims against us;

the amount and rate of deposit growth;

changes in the reputation of or expectations regarding the financial services industry or us with respect to practices, products or financial condition;

any significant disruption in our operations or technology platform;

our ability to maintain a compliance infrastructure suitable for our size and complexity;

our ability to control costs;

the amount of, and rate of growth in, our expenses as our business develops or changes or as it expands into new market areas;

our ability to execute on our strategic and operational plans;

any significant disruption of, or loss of public confidence in, the United States Mail service affecting our response rates and consumer payments;

our ability to recruit and retain experienced personnel to assist in the management and operations of new products and services;

changes in the labor and employment markets;

fraud or misconduct by our customers, employees or business partners;

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competition from providers of products and services that compete with our businesses; and

other risk factors listed from time to time in reports that we file with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the SEC). You should carefully consider the factors referred to above in evaluating these forward-looking statements.

When considering these forward-looking statements, you should keep in mind these risks, uncertainties and other cautionary statements made in this prospectus supplement, the accompanying prospectus and in the documents incorporated by reference. See the factors set forth under the caption Risk Factors beginning on page S-5 below and in any other documents incorporated or deemed to be incorporated by reference therein or herein, including our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2011, for additional information that you should consider carefully in evaluating these forward-looking statements.

Forward-looking statements are not guarantees of future performance. They involve risks, uncertainties and assumptions, including the risk factors referred to above. Our future performance and actual results may differ materially from those expressed in forward-looking statements. Many of the factors that will determine these results and values are beyond our ability to control or predict. Forward-looking statements speak only as of the date that they are made, and except as required by law we undertake no obligation to publicly update or revise any forward-looking statements, whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise.

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RISK FACTORS

Investing in our common stock involves risks, including the risks described below that are specific to the shares of common stock and those that could affect us and our business. You should not purchase shares of our common stock unless you understand these investment risks. Please be aware that other risks may prove to be important in the future. New risks may emerge at any time, and we cannot predict such risks or estimate the extent to which they may affect our financial performance. Before purchasing any shares of our common stock, you should consider carefully the risks and other information in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus and carefully read the risks described in the documents incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus, including the discussion under Item 1A Risk Factors in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2011, as such discussion may be amended or updated in other reports filed by us with the SEC.

The price of our common stock may fluctuate significantly, and this may make it difficult for you to resell shares of common stock owned by you at times or at prices you find attractive.

The trading price of our common stock may fluctuate widely as a result of a number of factors, many of which are outside our control. In addition, the stock market is subject to fluctuations in the share prices and trading volumes that affect the market prices of the shares of many companies. These broad market fluctuations have adversely affected and may continue to adversely affect the market price of our common stock. Among the factors that could affect our stock price are:

actual or anticipated quarterly fluctuations in our operating results and financial condition;

changes in revenue or earnings estimates or publication of research reports and recommendations by financial analysts or actions taken by rating agencies with respect to our securities or those of other financial institutions;

failure to meet analysts' revenue or earnings estimates;

speculation in the press or investment community generally or relating to our reputation or the financial services industry;

strategic actions by us or our competitors, such as acquisitions or restructurings;

failure to realize the anticipated benefits of the Transactions;

actions by institutional or other significant shareholders;

fluctuations in the stock price and operating results of our competitors;

future sales of our equity or equity-related securities or the perception that such sales could occur;

changes in the frequency or amount of dividends;

proposed or adopted regulatory changes or developments;

actual or anticipated changes in interest rates;

anticipated or pending investigations, proceedings, or litigation that involve or affect us;

domestic and international economic factors unrelated to our performance; or

general market conditions and, in particular, developments related to market conditions for the financial services industry.

A significant decline in our stock price could result in substantial losses for individual shareholders and could lead to costly and disruptive securities litigation.

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There may be future sales or other dilution of our equity, which may adversely affect the market price of our common stock.

We are not restricted from issuing additional shares of common stock, including any securities that are convertible into or exchangeable for, or that represent the right to receive, common stock. The issuance of any additional shares of common or preferred stock or of convertible securities could be substantially dilutive to shareholders of our common stock. Moreover, to the extent that we issue restricted stock units, stock appreciation rights, options or warrants to purchase our common stock in the future and those stock appreciation rights, options or warrants are exercised or as the restricted stock units vest, our shareholders may experience further dilution. Holders of our shares of common stock have no preemptive rights that entitle holders to purchase their pro rata share of any offering of shares of any class or series and, therefore, such sales or offerings could result in increased dilution to our shareholders. The market price of our common stock could decline as a result of sales or resales of shares of our common stock made after this offering or the perception that such sales or resales could occur.

You may not receive dividends on the 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. Although we have in the past 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. This could adversely affect the market price of our common stock.

Our ability to receive dividends from our subsidiaries could affect our liquidity and ability to pay dividends.

We are a separate and distinct legal entity from our subsidiaries. Dividends to us from our direct and indirect subsidiaries, including our bank subsidiaries, have represented a major source of funds for us to pay dividends on our common stock, make payments on corporate debt securities and meet other obligations. There are various federal law limitations on the extent to which our bank subsidiaries can finance or otherwise supply funds to us through dividends and loans. These limitations include minimum regulatory capital requirements, federal banking law requirements concerning the payment of dividends out of net profits or surplus, Sections 23A and 23B of the Federal Reserve Act and Regulation W governing transactions between an insured depository institution and its affiliates, as well as general federal regulatory oversight to prevent unsafe or unsound practices. If our subsidiaries' earnings are not sufficient to make dividend payments to us while maintaining adequate capital levels, our liquidity may be affected and we may not be able to make dividend payments to our common stockholders, to make payments on outstanding corporate debt securities or meet other obligations, each and any of which could have a material adverse impact on our results of operations, financial position or perception of financial health.

The common stock is equity and is subordinate to our existing and future indebtedness and preferred stock.

Shares of the common stock are equity interests in Capital One and do not constitute indebtedness. As such, shares of the common stock will rank junior to all indebtedness and other non-equity claims on Capital One with respect to assets available to satisfy claims on Capital One, including in a liquidation of Capital One. Additionally, holders of our common stock are subject to the prior dividend and liquidation rights of any holders of our preferred stock or depository shares representing such preferred stock then outstanding.

Dividends on the common stock are payable only if declared by our board of directors and are subject to restrictions on payments of dividends out of lawfully available funds. Also, as a consolidated supervisory entity, our ability to declare and pay dividends is dependent on certain federal regulatory considerations. Capital One has issued and outstanding debt securities under which we may defer interest payments from time to time, but in that case we would not be permitted to pay dividends on, or redeem, purchase, acquire or make a liquidation payment with respect to, any of our capital stock, including the common stock, during the deferral period. In

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addition, Capital One has issued and outstanding debt securities under which, if we are aware of any event that would be an event of default under the indenture governing those debt securities, we would not be permitted to pay dividends on, or redeem, purchase, acquire or make a liquidation payment with respect to, any of our capital stock, including the common stock.

Anti-takeover provisions could adversely affect our stockholders.

Provisions of Delaware law and of our certificate of incorporation and bylaws 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. Additionally, our certificate of incorporation authorizes our board of directors to issue preferred stock, which could be issued as a defensive measure in response to a takeover proposal. 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.

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SUMMARY OF THE UNDERLYING TRANSACTION

On February 17, 2012, we completed the acquisition (the "ING Direct Acquisition") of substantially all of the ING Direct business in the United States from ING Groep N.V., ING Bank N.V., ING Direct N.V. and ING Direct Bancorp (collectively, the "Sellers"), pursuant to the Purchase and Sale Agreement, dated as of June 16, 2011, by and among each of the Sellers and us (the "Purchase Agreement"). The aggregate consideration paid by us in the ING Direct Acquisition was 54,028,086 shares of our common stock and approximately \$6.3 billion in cash.

We are registering the shares of common stock covered by this prospectus supplement in order to fulfill our obligation under the Shareholders Agreement, dated as of February 17, 2012, by and between ING Groep N.V. and us (the "Shareholders Agreement"), to file a prospectus supplement that shall be deemed to be part of an existing "shelf" registration statement covering resales of the shares of our common stock issued to the selling stockholder upon the closing of the ING Direct Acquisition.

USE OF PROCEEDS

All shares of common stock sold pursuant to this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus will be sold by the selling stockholder. We will not receive any of the proceeds from such sales.

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Table of Contents**SELLING STOCKHOLDER**

The selling stockholder may from time to time offer and sell any or all of the shares of our common stock set forth below pursuant to this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus. We have agreed to pay all fees and expenses incident to the registration and listing of the shares of common stock owned by the selling stockholder.

When we refer to the selling stockholder in this prospectus supplement, we mean ING Bank N.V. and its subsidiaries, donees, pledgees, transferees and other successors-in-interest. ING Groep N.V., together with its subsidiaries (including ING Bank N.V.), is a global financial institution of Dutch origin, currently offering banking, investment, life insurance and retirement services to meet the needs of a broad customer base. The selling stockholder initially acquired the shares covered by this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus on February 17, 2012, at the closing of the Purchase Agreement as described above under Summary of the Underlying Transaction. The selling stockholder may at any time and from time to time offer and sell pursuant to this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus any or all of the 54,028,086 shares of our common stock in any type of transaction as more fully described under Plan of Distribution in this prospectus supplement.

The following table sets forth the aggregate number of shares of common stock beneficially owned by the selling stockholder as of May 16, 2012, and the maximum number of shares offered by the selling stockholder pursuant to this prospectus supplement and accompanying prospectus. Beneficial ownership is determined in accordance with the rules of the SEC, and includes voting or investment power with respect to shares of our common stock. The following table may be expanded or supplemented in additional prospectus supplements if and when necessary.

The information provided in the table below with respect to the selling stockholder has been obtained from the selling stockholder.

Name of Selling Stockholder	Shares Beneficially Owned Prior to the Offering		Number of Shares Being Offered Up to	Shares Beneficially Owned After the Offering	
	Number	Percent ⁽¹⁾		Number	Percent ⁽¹⁾
ING Bank N.V. ⁽²⁾	54,028,086	9.3%	54,028,086	0	0%

(1) Based on 580,342,796 shares outstanding as of April 30, 2012.

(2) The shares held by the selling stockholder may be deemed to be beneficially owned by ING Groep N.V., as described in the Schedule 13D filed by ING Groep N.V. on February 27, 2012. ING Groep N.V. may also be deemed to beneficially own 762,691 shares held by indirect subsidiaries of ING Groep N.V. in those subsidiaries' role as a discretionary manager of client portfolios. Certain of those shares may be managed by third-party sub-managers over which ING Groep N.V. and its subsidiaries do not have the ability to direct the vote or the disposition of such shares. ING Groep N.V. disclaims beneficial ownership of such shares. Pursuant to the Shareholders Agreement, ING Groep N.V. has certain registration rights and the right to designate one nominee to serve on our board of directors. ING Groep N.V. has nominated, and on May 8, 2012, the Board appointed, C.P.A.J. Leenaars as a director for a term expiring at the 2013 annual meeting of stockholders. Pursuant to the Shareholders Agreement, Mr. Leenaars must promptly submit his resignation upon the earlier of (i) February 17, 2013 (the one-year anniversary of closing) or (ii) ING Groep N.V.'s sale of more than 33% of its shares of our common stock acquired in the transaction to third parties.

We do not know when or in what amounts the selling stockholder may offer shares for sale. It is possible that the selling stockholder will not sell any or all of the shares of common stock offered under this prospectus supplement. Because the selling stockholder may offer all or some of the shares of common stock pursuant to this prospectus supplement, and because there are currently no arrangements or understandings with respect to the sale of any such shares, we cannot estimate the number of shares that will be held by the selling stockholder

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after completion of the offering. However, for purposes of this table, we have assumed that, after completion of the offering, none of the shares of common stock covered by this prospectus supplement will be held by the selling stockholder.

Other than the Purchase Agreement and Shareholders Agreement described above and other related agreements, and the appointment of Mr. Leenaars to our board of directors, there have been no material relationships between ING Groep N.V. and its affiliates, on the one hand, and us and our affiliates, on the other hand (except that there were material relationships between ING Groep N.V. and its affiliates and the ING Direct business, which is now affiliated with us). The ability of ING Groep N.V. and its subsidiaries to engage in commercial arrangements with us or our subsidiaries or affiliates is restricted by certain passivity commitments (the Passivity Commitments) that ING Groep N.V. entered into with the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System (the FRB) to support a determination by the FRB that ING Groep N.V. would not be deemed to control us for purposes of the Bank Holding Company Act of 1956, as amended. Under the Passivity Commitments, subject to certain exceptions, ING Groep N.V. may not, without the prior approval of the FRB or its staff, directly or indirectly engage in certain activities with respect to us and our securities.

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Table of Contents**PRICE RANGE OF COMMON STOCK AND DIVIDENDS**

Our common stock is publicly traded on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol COF. The table below sets forth for the periods indicated the quarterly high and low closing sales prices for our common stock on the New York Stock Exchange and the amount of dividends per share declared on our common stock.

	High	Low	Dividends
2010			
First Quarter	43.02	34.63	0.05
Second Quarter	46.73	38.02	0.05
Third Quarter	45.00	37.12	0.05
Fourth Quarter	42.78	36.55	0.05
2011			
First Quarter	52.76	43.68	0.05
Second Quarter	56.21	47.87	0.05
Third Quarter	54.31	37.63	0.05
Fourth Quarter	47.07	37.75	0.05
2012			
First Quarter	57.15	43.75	0.05
Second Quarter (as of May 16, 2012)	56.36	50.30	0.05

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PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION

The selling stockholder, which as used herein includes donees, pledgees, transferees or other successors-in-interest selling shares of our common stock received after the date of this prospectus supplement from the selling stockholder as a gift, pledge, partnership distribution or other transfer, may offer, sell, transfer or otherwise dispose of the shares of common stock covered by this prospectus supplement from time to time on any stock exchange or quotation service on which the shares are listed or quoted at the time of the sale, in the over-the-counter market, in privately negotiated transactions or otherwise. The selling stockholder may offer, sell, transfer or otherwise dispose of these shares at fixed prices that may be changed, at market prices prevailing at the time of sale, at prices related to prevailing market prices or at prices otherwise negotiated. The selling stockholder will act independently of us in making decisions with respect to the timing, manner and size of each sale, and we cannot assure you that the selling stockholder will sell all or any portion of the shares offered hereby by it. We will not receive any proceeds from the sales by the selling stockholder of shares of common stock covered by this prospectus supplement.

The selling stockholder may offer and sell the shares of common stock covered by this prospectus supplement by one or more of the following methods at various times:

block trades in which a broker or dealer will be engaged to attempt to sell the shares as agent, but may position and resell a portion of the block as principal to facilitate the transaction;

purchases by a broker or dealer as principal and resale by the broker or dealer for its own account pursuant to this prospectus supplement;

ordinary brokerage transactions and transactions in which the broker solicits purchases;

at the market transactions to or through market makers or into an existing market for our common stock;

privately negotiated transactions;

short sales;

options, swaps or other derivative transactions that may or may not be listed on an exchange;

distributions to its partners, members, managers, directors, employees, consultants or affiliates; or

any combination of the above methods or by any other legally available means.

The selling stockholder may engage brokers and dealers, and any brokers or dealers may arrange for other brokers or dealers to participate in effecting sales of the shares. These brokers or dealers may act as principals, or as agents of the selling stockholder. Broker-dealers may agree with the selling stockholder to sell a specified number of shares of common stock at a stipulated price per share. If a broker-dealer is unable to sell shares acting as agent for the selling stockholder, it may purchase as principal any unsold shares at the stipulated price. Broker-dealers who acquire shares of common stock as principals may thereafter resell the shares from time to time in transactions on any stock exchange on which the shares are then listed, at prices and on terms then prevailing at the time of sale, at prices related to the then-current market price or in negotiated transactions. Broker-dealers may use block transactions and sales to and through broker-dealers, including transactions of the nature described above.

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To the extent required under the Securities Act, the names of any agents, underwriters, brokers or dealers and any applicable commission with respect to a particular offering will be set forth in an additional prospectus supplement. Any underwriters, dealers, brokers or agents participating in the distribution of the shares may receive compensation in the form of discounts, concessions, commissions or fees from the selling stockholder and/or purchasers of the selling stockholder's shares, for which they may act, which compensation as to a particular broker-dealer might be in excess of customary commissions.

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Any brokers, dealers or agents that participate in the distribution of shares of common stock may be deemed to be underwriters within the meaning of the Securities Act, and any discounts, concessions, commissions or fees received by them and any profit on the resale of shares sold by them may be deemed to be underwriting discounts and commissions.

We will make copies of this prospectus supplement available to the selling stockholder and any of its successors in interest for purposes of satisfying the prospectus delivery requirements of the Securities Act, if applicable.

The selling stockholder may enter into hedging transactions with broker-dealers and the broker-dealers may engage in short sales of shares of common stock in the course of hedging the positions they assume with the selling stockholder, including, without limitation, in connection with distributions of shares by those broker-dealers. The selling stockholder may enter into option or other transactions with broker-dealers that involve the delivery of shares of common stock offered hereby to the broker-dealers, who may then resell or otherwise transfer those securities.

The selling stockholder and other persons participating in the sale or distribution of shares of common stock will be subject to applicable provisions of the Exchange Act, and the rules and regulations thereunder, including Regulation M; and we have advised the selling stockholder that Regulation M may apply. This regulation may limit the timing of purchases and sales of any shares of common stock by the selling stockholder and any other person. The anti-manipulation rules under the Exchange Act may apply to sales of shares of common stock in the market and to the activities of the selling stockholder and its affiliates. Furthermore, Regulation M may restrict the ability of any person engaged in the distribution of shares of common stock to engage in market-making activities with respect to the particular shares being distributed for a period of up to five business days before the distribution. These restrictions may affect the marketability of the common stock and the ability of any person or entity to engage in market-making activities with respect to the securities.

The selling stockholder also may sell shares of common stock in accordance with Rule 144 under the Securities Act, rather than pursuant to this prospectus supplement, regardless of whether the shares are covered by this prospectus supplement.

Pursuant to the Shareholders Agreement, ING Groep N.V. and ING Bank N.V. have agreed to indemnify, defend and hold harmless us, our directors and each person, if any, who controls us against certain liabilities, including certain liabilities that may arise under the Securities Act and Exchange Act. Pursuant to the Shareholders Agreement, we have agreed to indemnify, defend and hold harmless ING Groep N.V., ING Bank N.V., their affiliates, directors, officers and shareholders and each person who controls ING Groep N.V. or ING Bank N.V. against certain liabilities, including certain liabilities that may arise under the Securities Act and the Exchange Act.

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VALIDITY OF THE COMMON STOCK

The validity of the common stock will be passed upon for us by Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP, New York, New York.

EXPERTS

Ernst & Young LLP, an independent registered public accounting firm, has audited our consolidated financial statements included in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2011, and the effectiveness of our internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2011, as set forth in their reports, which are incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement and elsewhere in the registration statement. Our financial statements are incorporated by reference in reliance on Ernst & Young LLP's report, given on their authority as experts in accounting and auditing.

Ernst & Young LLP, an independent registered public accounting firm, has audited the consolidated financial statements of ING Bank, fsb included in our Current Report on Form 8-K filed with the SEC on March 14, 2012, as set forth in their report, which is incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement and elsewhere in the registration statement. The ING Bank, fsb financial statements are incorporated by reference in reliance on Ernst & Young LLP's report, given on their authority as experts in accounting and auditing.

KPMG LLP, an independent registered public accounting firm, has audited the financial statements of HSBC Card and Retail Services, included in our Current Report on Form 8-K filed with the SEC on March 14, 2012, as set forth in their report, which is incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement and elsewhere in the registration statement. The HSBC Card and Retail Services financial statements are incorporated by reference in reliance on KPMG LLP's report, given on their authority as experts in accounting and auditing.

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WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION

This prospectus supplement is part of a registration statement (File No. 333-181047) we have filed with the SEC under the Securities Act. The registration statement, including the attached exhibits and schedules, contains additional relevant information about us and the securities described in this prospectus supplement. The SEC's rules and regulations allow us to omit certain information included in the registration statement from this prospectus supplement. The registration statement may be inspected by anyone without charge at the SEC's principal office at 100 F Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20549.

In addition, we file annual, quarterly and special reports, proxy statements and other information with the SEC under the Exchange Act. You may read and copy this information at the following SEC location:

Public Reference Room

100 F Street, N.E.

Washington, D.C. 20549

You may also obtain copies of this information by mail from the SEC's Public Reference Room, 100 F Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20549, at rates determined by the SEC. You may obtain information on the operation of the Public Reference Room by calling the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330. You may also inspect reports, proxy statements and other information that we have filed electronically with the SEC at the SEC's website at <http://www.sec.gov>. These documents can also be inspected at the offices of the New York Stock Exchange, 20 Broad Street, New York, New York 10005.

The SEC's rules allow us to incorporate by reference information into this prospectus supplement. This means that we can disclose important information to you by referring you to another document filed separately with the SEC. The information incorporated by reference is considered to be a part of this prospectus supplement. Any information incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement that we file with the SEC after the date of this prospectus supplement will automatically update and supersede information contained in this prospectus supplement. Our SEC file number is 001-13300.

We are incorporating by reference in this prospectus supplement the documents listed below and any future filings that we make with the SEC under Section 13(a), 13(c), 14 or 15(d) of the Exchange Act prior to the termination of this offering, provided, however, that we are not incorporating by reference any information furnished (but not filed) under Item 2.02 or Item 7.01 of any Current Report on Form 8-K, except as specified below:

our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2011, filed on February 29, 2012 (including the portions of our proxy statement for our 2012 annual meeting of stockholders incorporated by reference therein);

our Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarterly period ended March 31, 2012, filed on May 8, 2012; and

our Current Reports on Form 8-K filed on January 19, 2012 (Item 8.01 information only), February 2, 2012, February 17, 2012 (Item 2.01, Item 3.02 and Item 8.01 information only), March 14, 2012 (with respect to the financial statements of ING Bank, fsb and HSBC Card and Retail Services), March 19, 2012 (Item 1.01 and related information furnished under Item 9.01), March 20, 2012, March 23, 2012, April 19, 2012 (Item 8.01 information only), May 1, 2012 and May 8, 2012, and our amended Current Reports on Form 8-K/A filed on March 15, 2012 (including all information furnished under Item 9.01) and April 27, 2012; and

the description of our common stock on Amendment No. 1 to Form 8-A, dated October 17, 1994.

You can obtain copies of documents incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement, without charge, by requesting them in writing or by telephone from us at Capital One Financial Corporation, Investor

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Relations Department, 1680 Capital One Drive, McLean, Virginia 22102, telephone (703) 720-2455. You should rely only on the information incorporated by reference or provided in this prospectus supplement or the accompanying prospectus. We have not authorized anyone else to provide you with different information. We are not making an offer of these securities in any state where the offer is not permitted. You should not assume that the information in this prospectus supplement, the accompanying prospectus or any document incorporated by reference is accurate as of any date other than the date of the applicable document.

Our principal executive office is located at 1680 Capital One Drive, McLean, Virginia 22102 (telephone number (703) 720-1000). We maintain a website at www.capitalone.com. The information on our website is not part of this prospectus supplement nor is it incorporated by reference. Documents available on our website include our (i) Code of Business Conduct and Ethics; (ii) Corporate Governance Principles; and (iii) charters for the Audit and Risk, Compensation, Finance and Trust Oversight, and Governance and Nominating Committees.

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PROSPECTUS

Capital One Financial Corporation

Senior Debt Securities

Subordinated Debt Securities

Preferred Stock

Depositary Shares

Common Stock

Purchase Contracts

Warrants

Units

Capital One Financial Corporation from time to time may issue and offer to sell, and selling securityholders may offer to resell, the senior or subordinated debt securities, preferred stock, either separately or represented by depositary shares, common stock, purchase contracts, warrants or units described in this prospectus, which we refer to collectively as our securities.

We will provide specific terms of these securities in supplements to this prospectus. You should read this prospectus and the accompanying prospectus supplement carefully before you make your investment decision.

Our common stock is listed on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol COF.

Investing in our securities involves a high degree of risk. See the Risk Factors section of our filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission and the applicable prospectus supplement.

This prospectus may not be used to sell any of the securities unless it is accompanied by a prospectus supplement.

These securities are not deposits or savings accounts or other obligations of a bank. These securities are not insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation or any other governmental agency or instrumentality.

Neither the Securities and Exchange Commission nor any state securities commission has approved or disapproved of these securities or determined if this prospectus is truthful or complete. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense.

The date of this prospectus is April 30, 2012.

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ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS

In this prospectus, we, our, us, or the Corporation, each refer to Capital One Financial Corporation.

This prospectus is part of a registration statement (No. 333-181047) that we have filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission, or the SEC, utilizing a shelf registration process. This prospectus provides you with a general description of the securities that we may issue and sell, and that selling securityholders may resell, from time to time. Each time we issue and sell securities, we will provide a prospectus supplement that will contain specific information about the terms of that offering. The prospectus supplement may add, update or change information in this prospectus. If there is any inconsistency between the information in this prospectus and the prospectus supplement, you should rely on the information in the prospectus supplement. You should read both this prospectus and the prospectus supplement applicable to any offering, together with the additional information described under the heading **Where You Can Find More Information** below.

FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

This prospectus and the documents incorporated by reference in this prospectus contain forward-looking statements. Statements that are not historical facts, including statements about our beliefs and expectations, are forward-looking statements within the meaning of Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the Securities Act), and Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the Exchange Act). Forward-looking statements include, among other things, information relating to our strategies, goals, outlook or other non-historical matters; projections, revenues, income, expenses, capital measures, returns, accruals for claims in litigation and for other claims against us; earnings per share or other financial measures for us; future financial and operating results; our plans, objectives, expectations and intentions; the projected impact and benefits of our acquisition of substantially all of the U.S. ING Direct business of ING Groep N.V., ING Bank N.V., ING Direct N.V., and ING Direct Bancorp (the ING Direct Transaction) and our pending acquisition of substantially all of the U.S. credit card business of HSBC Finance Corporation, HSBC USA Inc. and HSBC Technology and Services (USA) Inc. (other than the HSBC Bank USA, National Association consumer credit card program and certain other retained assets and liabilities) (the HSBC Transaction and, with the ING Direct Transaction, the Transactions); and the assumptions that underlie these matters. Forward-looking statements also include statements using words such as expect, anticipate, hope, intend, plan, believe, estimate, will or similar expressions. We have based these forward-looking statements on our current plans, estimates and projections, and you should not unduly rely on them.

Numerous factors could cause our actual results to differ materially from those described in forward-looking statements, including, among other things:

general economic and business conditions in the U.S., the U.K., Canada and our local markets, including conditions affecting employment levels, interest rates, consumer income and confidence, spending and savings that may affect consumer bankruptcies, defaults, charge-offs and deposit activity;

an increase or decrease in credit losses (including increases due to a worsening of general economic conditions in the credit environment);

the possibility that we will not receive third-party consents necessary to fully realize the anticipated benefits of the HSBC Transaction;

the possibility that we may not fully realize the projected cost savings and other projected benefits of the Transactions;

changes in the anticipated timing for closing the HSBC Transaction;

difficulties and delays in integrating the assets and businesses acquired in the Transactions;

business disruption during the pendency of or following the Transactions;

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diversion of management time on issues related to the Transactions, including integration of the assets and businesses acquired;

reputational risks and the reaction of customers and counterparties to the Transactions;

disruptions relating to the Transactions negatively impacting our ability to maintain relationships with customers, employees and suppliers;

changes in asset quality and credit risk as a result of the Transactions;

the accuracy of estimates and assumptions we use to determine the fair value of assets acquired and liabilities assumed in the Transactions, and the potential for our estimates or assumptions to change as additional information becomes available and we complete the accounting analysis of the Transactions;

financial, legal, regulatory, tax or accounting changes or actions, including the impact of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act and the regulations promulgated thereunder;

developments, changes or actions relating to any litigation matter involving us;

the inability to sustain revenue and earnings growth;

increases or decreases in interest rates;

our ability to access the capital markets at attractive rates and terms to capitalize and fund our operations and future growth;

the success of our marketing efforts in attracting and retaining customers;

increases or decreases in our aggregate loan balances or the number of customers and the growth rate and composition thereof, including increases or decreases resulting from factors such as shifting product mix, amount of actual marketing expenses we incur and attrition of loan balances;

the level of future repurchase or indemnification requests we may receive, the actual future performance of mortgage loans relating to such requests, the success rates of claimants against us, any developments in litigation and the actual recoveries we may make on any collateral relating to claims against us;

the amount and rate of deposit growth;

changes in the reputation of or expectations regarding the financial services industry or us with respect to practices, products or financial condition;

any significant disruption in our operations or technology platform;

our ability to maintain a compliance infrastructure suitable for our size and complexity;

our ability to control costs;

the amount of, and rate of growth in, our expenses as our business develops or changes or as it expands into new market areas;

our ability to execute on our strategic and operational plans;

any significant disruption of, or loss of public confidence in, the United States Mail service affecting our response rates and consumer payments;

our ability to recruit and retain experienced personnel to assist in the management and operations of new products and services;

changes in the labor and employment markets;

fraud or misconduct by our customers, employees or business partners;

competition from providers of products and services that compete with our businesses; and

other risk factors listed from time to time in reports that we file with the SEC.

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You should carefully consider the factors referred to above in evaluating these forward-looking statements.

When considering these forward-looking statements, you should keep in mind these risks, uncertainties and other cautionary statements made in this prospectus, any accompanying prospectus supplement and in the documents incorporated by reference. See the factors set forth under the caption "Risk Factors" in any prospectus supplement and in any other documents incorporated or deemed to be incorporated by reference therein or herein, including our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2011, for additional information that you should consider carefully in evaluating these forward-looking statements.

Forward-looking statements are not guarantees of future performance. They involve risks, uncertainties and assumptions, including the risk factors referred to above. Our future performance and actual results may differ materially from those expressed in forward-looking statements. Many of the factors that will determine these results and values are beyond our ability to control or predict. Forward-looking statements speak only as of the date that they are made, and except as required by law we undertake no obligation to publicly update or revise any forward-looking statements, whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise.

WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION

This prospectus is part of a registration statement we have filed with the SEC under the Securities Act. The registration statement, including the attached exhibits and schedules, contains additional relevant information about us and the securities described in this prospectus. The SEC's rules and regulations allow us to omit certain information included in the registration statement from this prospectus. The registration statement may be inspected by anyone without charge at the SEC's principal office at 100 F Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20549.

In addition, we file annual, quarterly and special reports, proxy statements and other information with the SEC under the Exchange Act. You may read and copy this information at the following SEC location:

Public Reference Room

100 F Street, N.E.

Washington, D.C. 20549

You may also obtain copies of this information by mail from the SEC's Public Reference Room, 100 F Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20549, at rates determined by the SEC. You may obtain information on the operation of the Public Reference Room by calling the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330. You may also inspect reports, proxy statements and other information that we have filed electronically with the SEC at the SEC's web site at <http://www.sec.gov/>.

The SEC's rules allow us to incorporate by reference information into this prospectus and any prospectus supplement. This means that we can disclose important information to you by referring you to another document filed separately with the SEC. The information incorporated by reference is considered to be a part of this prospectus and any prospectus supplement. Any information incorporated by reference in this prospectus that we file with the SEC after the date of this prospectus and any information incorporated by reference in any prospectus supplement will automatically update and supersede information contained in this prospectus and any prospectus supplement. Our SEC file number is 001-13300.

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We are incorporating by reference in this prospectus the documents listed below and any future filings that we make with the SEC under Section 13(a), 13(c), 14 or 15(d) of the Exchange Act prior to the termination of this offering, provided, however, that we are not incorporating by reference any information furnished (but not filed) under Item 2.02 or Item 7.01 of any Current Report on Form 8-K:

our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2011, filed on February 29, 2012 (including the portions of our proxy statement for our 2012 annual meeting of stockholders incorporated by reference therein);

our Current Reports on Form 8-K filed on January 19, 2012 (Item 8.01 information only), February 2, 2012, February 17, 2012 (Item 2.01, Item 3.02 and Item 8.01 information only), March 14, 2012 (with respect to the financial statements of ING Bank, fsb and HSBC Card and Retail Services), March 19, 2012 (Item 1.01 and related information furnished under Item 9.01), March 20, 2012, March 23, 2012 and April 19, 2012 (Item 8.01 information only), and our amended Current Reports on Form 8-K/A filed on March 15, 2012 (including all information furnished under Item 9.01) and April 27, 2012; and

the description of our common stock on Amendment No. 1 to Form 8-A, dated October 17, 1994.

You can obtain copies of documents incorporated by reference in this prospectus, without charge, by requesting them in writing or by telephone from us at Capital One Financial Corporation, Investor Relations Department, 1680 Capital One Drive, McLean, Virginia 22102, telephone (703) 720-2455.

You should rely only on the information incorporated by reference or provided in this prospectus or any prospectus supplement. We have not authorized anyone else to provide you with different information. We are not making an offer of these securities in any state where the offer is not permitted. You should not assume that the information in this prospectus, any prospectus supplement or any document incorporated by reference is accurate as of any date other than the date of the applicable document.

Our principal executive office is located at 1680 Capital One Drive, McLean, Virginia 22102 (telephone number (703) 720-1000). We maintain a website at <http://www.capitalone.com>. The information on our website is not part of this prospectus nor is it incorporated by reference. Documents available on our website include our (i) Code of Business Conduct and Ethics, (ii) Corporate Governance Principles; and (iii) charters for each of the Audit and Risk, Compensation, Finance and Trust Oversight, and Governance and Nominating Committees.

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**RATIO OF EARNINGS TO FIXED CHARGES AND RATIO OF EARNINGS TO COMBINED FIXED
CHARGES AND PREFERRED STOCK DIVIDENDS**

The following table sets forth our ratios of (1) earnings to fixed charges and (2) earnings to combined fixed charges and preferred stock dividends for each of the periods indicated. We do not currently have any preferred stock outstanding.

Ratio of Earnings to Fixed Charges:	Years Ended December 31,				
	2011	2010	2009⁽¹⁾	2008	2007
Including Interest on Deposits	3.09	2.51	1.47	1.16	1.85
Excluding Interest on Deposits	5.42	4.05	2.58	1.43	3.33

Ratio of Earnings to Combined Fixed Charges and Preferred Stock Dividends:	Years Ended December 31,				
	2011	2010	2009⁽¹⁾	2008	2007
Including Interest on Deposits ⁽²⁾	3.09	2.51	1.38	1.16	1.85
Excluding Interest on Deposits ⁽²⁾	5.42	4.05	2.13	1.42	3.33

(1) On February 27, 2009, we acquired Chevy Chase Bank, fsb. The transaction was accounted for as a purchase, and the related results of operations are included in our consolidated results from the date of the transaction.

(2) Preferred stock dividends in 2009 and 2008 were attributable to preferred stock issued in connection with our participation in the U.S. Department of Treasury's Troubled Asset Relief Program. Such preferred stock was issued to the United States Department of the Treasury on November 14, 2008 and was subsequently repurchased in full on June 17, 2009.

We compute the ratio of earnings to fixed charges by dividing earnings by the sum of fixed charges. The term "fixed charges" includes the sum of the following: (a) interest expense on debts (including or excluding deposits, as applicable) and (b) interest factor in rent expense. The term "earnings" is the amount resulting from adding (a) income from continuing operations before income taxes, (b) fixed charges, and (c) equity in undistributed loss of unconsolidated subsidiaries.

We compute the ratio of earnings to combined fixed charges and preferred stock dividends by dividing earnings by the sum of fixed charges and preferred stock dividends.

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USE OF PROCEEDS

Except as otherwise described in the applicable prospectus supplement, we intend to use the net proceeds from the sale of our securities for general corporate purposes in the ordinary course of our business, including but not limited to the reduction of short-term debt, acquisitions, investments in, or extensions of credit to, our subsidiaries and investments in securities.

We may temporarily invest any funds not required immediately for purposes described above in short-term marketable securities.

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DESCRIPTION OF DEBT SECURITIES

We may from time to time issue debt securities which will be our direct unsecured general obligations. These debt securities are described below and will be senior debt securities or subordinated debt securities and any senior or subordinated debt securities that may be part of a unit, all of which are called debt securities. The senior debt securities will be issued under an indenture between us and The Bank of New York Mellon Trust Company, N.A., formerly known as The Bank of New York Trust Company, N.A. (as successor to Harris Trust and Savings Bank), as trustee, dated as of November 1, 1996, and the subordinated debt securities will be issued under an indenture dated as of August 29, 2006 between us and The Bank of New York Mellon Trust Company, N.A., as trustee, subject in each case to such amendments or supplemental indentures as may be adopted from time to time. Together, the senior indenture and the subordinated indenture are called the indentures, and the senior indenture trustee and the subordinated indenture trustee are called the indenture trustees.

We have summarized selected provisions of the indentures below. The summary is not complete and does not describe every aspect of the indentures. A copy of each of the senior indenture and the subordinated indenture has been filed as an exhibit to the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part and has been qualified as an indenture under the Trust Indenture Act of 1939, as amended, or the Trust Indenture Act. You should read the more detailed provisions of the applicable indenture, including the defined terms, for provisions that may be important to you. You should also consider applicable provisions of the Trust Indenture Act. In the summary below, we have included references to section numbers so that you can easily locate these provisions. The particular terms of any debt securities we offer will be described in the related prospectus supplement, along with any applicable modifications of or additions to the general terms of the debt securities described below and in the indentures. For a description of the terms of any series of debt securities, you should also review both the prospectus supplement relating to that series and the description of the debt securities set forth in this prospectus before making an investment decision. Capitalized terms used in the summary have the meanings specified in the applicable indenture.

As of March 31, 2012, we had \$11.1 billion in senior and subordinated notes outstanding that mature in varying amounts from 2012 to 2021, of which \$7.7 billion in aggregate principal amount was senior debt securities and \$3.45 billion in aggregate principal was subordinated debt securities. A portion of both our senior and subordinated debt securities were issued by predecessor entities pursuant to indentures not described herein, and \$2.27 billion in senior and subordinated debt securities were issued by our consolidated subsidiary, Capital One Bank (USA), National Association (COBNA).

General

The debt securities will be our direct unsecured obligations. The indentures do not significantly limit our operations. In particular, they do not:

limit the amount of debt securities that we can issue under the indentures;

limit the number of series of debt securities that we can issue from time to time;

limit or otherwise restrict the total amount of debt that we or our subsidiaries may incur or the amount of other securities that we may issue;

require us or an acquiror to repurchase debt securities in the event of a change in control; or

contain any covenant or other provision that is specifically intended to afford any holder of the debt securities any protection in the event of highly leveraged transactions or similar transactions involving us or our subsidiaries.

The senior debt securities will rank equally with all of our other unsecured unsubordinated indebtedness. The subordinated debt securities will have a position junior to all of our senior indebtedness.

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Because we are a holding company, dividends and fees from our subsidiaries are our principal source of revenues from which to repay the debt securities. Our subsidiaries engaged in the banking or credit card business can only pay dividends if they are in compliance with applicable United States federal and state regulatory requirements. Our right to participate in any asset distribution of any of our subsidiaries, including COBNA, Capital One, National Association (CONA) and ING Bank, fsb, on liquidation, reorganization or otherwise, will rank junior to the rights of all creditors of that subsidiary (except to the extent that we may ourselves be an unsubordinated creditor of that subsidiary). As a result, the rights of holders of debt securities to benefit from those distributions will also be junior to the rights of all creditors of our subsidiaries. Consequently, the debt securities will be effectively subordinated to all liabilities of our subsidiaries. COBNA, CONA and ING Bank, fsb are subject to claims by creditors for long-term and short-term debt obligations, including deposit liabilities, obligations for federal funds purchased and securities sold under repurchase agreements. There are also various legal limitations on the extent to which COBNA, CONA and ING Bank, fsb may pay dividends or otherwise supply funds to us or our other affiliates.

Terms

A prospectus supplement relating to the offering of any series of debt securities will include specific terms relating to the offering. These terms will include some or all of the following (unless specified otherwise or in context, section references are to sections of both the senior indenture and subordinated indenture):

the title, series, form and type of the offered debt securities;

whether the offered debt securities will be senior or subordinated debt;

the indenture under which the offered debt securities are being issued;

whether the offered debt securities are to be issued in registered form, bearer form or both;

the aggregate principal amount of the offered debt securities and any limit upon the aggregate principal amount of the debt securities of such title or series;

the date or dates (including the maturity date) or method, if any, for determining such dates, on which the principal of the offered debt securities will be payable (and any provisions relating to extending or shortening the date on which the principal of the offered debt securities is payable);

the interest rate, or method, if any, for determining the interest rate, the date or dates from which interest will accrue, or method, if any, for determining such dates, the interest payment dates, if any, on which interest will be payable, and whether and under what circumstances additional amounts on the offered debt securities will be payable; the manner in which payments with respect to the offered debt securities will be made; and the place or places where principal of, premium, if any, interest on and additional amount, if any, will be payable;

whether the offered debt securities are redeemable at our option, and if so, the periods, prices, and other terms regarding such optional redemption;

whether we are obligated to redeem or repurchase the offered debt securities pursuant to any sinking fund or at the option of any holder thereof and, if so, the periods, prices, and other terms regarding such repurchase or redemption;

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the denominations in which the offered debt securities will be issuable;

if other than the principal amount, the portion of the principal amount of the offered debt securities payable upon the acceleration of the maturity date or the method by which such portion is to be determined;

the currency for payment of principal, premium, interest and any additional amount with respect to the offered debt securities, whether the principal of, premium, if any, interest on or additional amount, if any, with respect to the offered debt securities are to be payable, at our election or any holder's

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election, in a currency other than that in which the offered debt securities are denominated, the period in which that election may be made and the time and manner of determining the applicable exchange rate;

the percentage of the principal amount or price at which the offered debt securities will be issued;

whether the amount of payments of principal of, premium, if any, interest on, or additional amount, if any, with respect to the offered debt securities may be determined by reference to an index, formula or other method, and if so, the terms and conditions and the manner in which such amounts will be determined and paid or payable;

any changes to the covenants or additional events of default or covenants;

whether and upon what terms the offered debt securities may be defeased (which means that we would be discharged from our obligations by depositing sufficient cash or government securities to pay the principal of, premium, if any, interest on, or additional amount, if any, due to the stated maturity date or a redemption date of the offered debt securities);

whether the offered debt securities will be convertible into our common stock and, if so, the initial conversion price, the periods and terms of the conversion or exchange; and

any other terms not inconsistent with the provisions of the indentures. (Section 301)

Form of the Debt Securities

The indentures provide that we may issue senior and subordinated debt securities in registered form, in bearer form or in both registered and bearer form. Unless we indicate otherwise in the applicable prospectus supplement, each series of senior and subordinated debt securities will be issued in registered form, without coupons. Holders of registered form securities will be listed on the applicable indenture trustee's register for the applicable debt securities. (Sections 201 and 305)

Unless we indicate otherwise in the applicable prospectus supplement, we will issue senior and subordinated debt securities in registered form, without coupons, in denominations of \$1,000 or any integral multiple of \$1,000. Unless we indicate otherwise in the applicable prospectus supplement, we will issue senior and subordinated debt securities in bearer form in denominations of \$5,000 or any integral multiple of \$5,000. There will be no service charge for any registration of transfer, exchange, redemption, or conversion of senior and subordinated debt securities, but we or the applicable indenture trustee may require the holder to pay any tax or other governmental charge that may be imposed in connection with any registration of a transfer or exchange of the senior or subordinated debt securities, other than certain exchanges not involving any transfer. (Sections 302 and 305)

If we issue the debt securities in bearer form, the debt securities will have interest coupons attached. Bearer form securities are payable to whomever physically holds them from time to time. Debt securities in bearer form will not be offered, sold, resold or delivered in connection with their original issuance in the United States or to any United States person other than through offices of certain United States financial institutions located outside the United States. Purchasers of debt securities in bearer form will be subject to certification procedures and may be affected by United States tax law limitations. These procedures and limitations will be described in the applicable prospectus supplement.

Registration, Transfer, Payment and Paying Agent

Unless we indicate otherwise in the applicable prospectus supplement, payments on the debt securities will be made at our office or agency maintained for that purpose. We have appointed an agency in New York, New York to make payments on the debt securities; however, we may change our agent from time to time. Any transfer of the debt securities will be registerable at the same place. In addition, we may choose to pay interest by

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check mailed to the address in the security register of the person in whose name the debt security is registered at the close of business on the applicable record date. (Sections 1002 and 307) Unless we indicate otherwise in the applicable prospectus supplement, any interest and any additional amounts with respect to any debt securities which is payable, but not punctually paid or duly provided for, may be paid to the holders as of a special record date fixed by the trustee or in any other lawful manner. (Section 307)

Unless we indicate otherwise in the applicable prospectus supplement, payments of principal of, premium, if any, and interest on debt securities in bearer form will be made at the office outside the United States specified in the applicable prospectus supplement and as we may designate from time to time. Payment can also be made by check or by transfer to an account maintained by the payee with a bank located outside the United States. Unless we indicate otherwise in the applicable prospectus supplement, payment on debt securities in bearer form will be made only if the holder surrenders the coupon relating to the interest payment date. We will not make any payments on any debt security in bearer form at any office or agency in the United States, by check mailed to any address in the United States or by transfer to any account maintained with a bank located in the United States. (Sections 1001 and 1002)

Global Debt Securities

Unless we indicate otherwise in the applicable prospectus supplement for a series of debt securities, each series of debt securities will be issued in global form, which means that we will deposit with the depository identified in the applicable prospectus supplement (or its custodian) one or more certificates representing the entire series, as described below under **Book-Entry Procedures and Settlement**. Global debt securities may be issued in either temporary or permanent form. (Sections 201 and 203)

The applicable prospectus supplement will describe any limitations and restrictions relating to a series of global senior or subordinated debt securities.

Covenants

Under the senior indenture, we agree to the following:

Except as permitted as described in this prospectus under **Description of Debt Securities Consolidation, Merger and Sale of Assets**, we will preserve and keep in full force and effect our corporate existence and the corporate existence of each of our significant subsidiaries (as defined below) and our rights (charter and statutory) and franchises and those of each of our significant subsidiaries. However, neither we nor any of our significant subsidiaries will be required to preserve any of these rights or franchises if we or the significant subsidiary, as the case may be, determine that the preservation of these rights or franchises is no longer desirable in the conduct of our or its business, as applicable, and that the loss of these rights or franchises is not disadvantageous in any material respect to the holders of the senior debt securities. (Section 1007)

The senior indenture contains a covenant by us limiting our ability to dispose of the voting stock of a significant subsidiary. A significant subsidiary is any of our majority-owned subsidiaries the consolidated assets of which (as reflected on our consolidated balance sheet) constitute 20% or more of our consolidated assets. This covenant generally provides that, except as permitted as described in this prospectus under **Description of Debt Securities Consolidation, Merger and Sale of Assets**, as long as any of the senior debt securities are outstanding:

neither we nor any of our significant subsidiaries will sell, assign, transfer or otherwise dispose of the voting stock of a significant subsidiary or securities convertible into or options, warrants or rights to subscribe for or purchase such voting stock, and we will not permit a significant subsidiary to issue voting stock, or securities convertible into or options, warrants or rights to subscribe for or purchase such voting stock, in each case if, after giving effect to such transaction

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and to the issuance of the maximum number of shares of voting stock of the significant subsidiary issuable upon the exercise of all such convertibles securities, options, warrants or rights, such significant subsidiary would cease to be a controlled subsidiary (as defined below); and

we will not permit a significant subsidiary to merge or consolidate with or into any corporation unless the survivor is us or is, or upon consummation of the merger or consolidation will become, a controlled subsidiary, or to lease, sell or transfer all or substantially all of its properties and assets except to us or a controlled subsidiary or a person that upon such lease, sale or transfer will become a controlled subsidiary. (Section 1005)

A controlled subsidiary is a significant subsidiary at least 80% of the voting stock of which is owned by us and/or one or more of our controlled subsidiaries.

The limitations described above do not apply to certain transactions required by law, rule, regulation or governmental order (including as a condition to an acquisition of another entity by us) or to any sale or transfer of assets in a securitization transaction.

Under the subordinated indenture, we agree to the following:

Except as permitted as described in this prospectus under Description of Debt Securities Consolidation, Merger and Sale of Assets, we will preserve and keep in full force and effect our corporate existence and our rights (charter and statutory) and franchises. However, we will not be required to preserve any of these rights or franchises if we determine that the preservation of these rights or franchises is no longer desirable in the conduct of our business and that the loss of these rights or franchises is not disadvantageous in any material respect to the holders of the subordinated debt securities. (Section 1007)

In addition, the senior indenture contains a covenant by us limiting our ability to create liens on the voting stock of a significant subsidiary. This covenant generally provides that, as long as any of the senior debt securities are outstanding, neither we nor any of our subsidiaries will create, assume or incur any pledge, encumbrance or lien upon a significant subsidiary's voting stock, or upon securities convertible into or options, warrants or rights to subscribe for or purchase, a significant subsidiary's voting stock, directly or indirectly, to secure indebtedness for borrowed money, if, treating such pledge, encumbrance or lien as a transfer of the significant subsidiary's voting stock or securities convertible into or options, warrants or rights to subscribe for or purchase the significant subsidiary's voting stock to the secured party (in each case after giving effect to such transaction and to the issuance of the maximum number of shares of voting stock of the significant subsidiary issuable upon the exercise of all such convertible securities, options, warrants or rights), the significant subsidiary would not continue to be a controlled subsidiary, unless the senior debt securities are equally and ratably secured with any and all such indebtedness by this pledge, encumbrance or lien. (Section 1006)

Subordination of Subordinated Debt Securities

Unless we indicate otherwise in the applicable prospectus supplement, the following provisions will apply to subordinated debt securities. Section references are to sections of the subordinated indenture.

Subordinated debt securities will be subordinated in right of payment to all senior indebtedness, as defined below. Payments on subordinated debt securities also will be effectively subordinated if:

we are involved in insolvency, bankruptcy or similar proceedings;

the maturity of any series of our subordinated debt securities is accelerated because of certain events of bankruptcy, insolvency or reorganization of us or a major depository institution subsidiary; or

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we fail to pay the principal of, premium, if any, or interest on any senior indebtedness when due, or an event of default occurs and is continuing with respect to any senior indebtedness permitting the holders of such senior indebtedness to declare the senior indebtedness due and payable prior to the date on which it would otherwise have become due and payable. (Section 1601)

Because of this subordination, some of our creditors may receive more, ratably, than holders of subordinated debt securities if we are insolvent.

After all payments have been made to the holders of senior indebtedness, any holders of subordinated debt securities will be subrogated to the rights of holders of senior indebtedness to receive payments or distributions of cash, property or securities from us applicable to such senior indebtedness until all amounts owing on the subordinated debt securities have been paid in full. (Section 1602)

Senior indebtedness includes: (1) the principal of, premium, if any, and interest on, whether outstanding now or incurred later, (a) all indebtedness for money borrowed by us, including indebtedness of others that we guarantee, other than the subordinated debt securities and the junior subordinated debt securities and other indebtedness that is expressly stated as not senior, and (b) any amendments, renewals, extensions, modifications and refundings of any indebtedness, unless in either case the instrument evidencing the indebtedness provides that it is not senior in right of payment to the subordinated debt securities; (2) all our capital lease obligations and any synthetic lease or tax retention operating lease; (3) all our obligations issued or assumed as the deferred purchase price of property, and all conditional sale or title retention agreements, but excluding trade accounts payable in the ordinary course of business; (4) all our obligations, contingent or otherwise, in respect of any letters of credit, bankers acceptances, security purchase facilities and similar credit transactions; (5) all our obligations in respect of interest rate swap, cap or similar agreements, interest rate future or options contracts, currency swap agreements, currency future or option contracts, commodity contracts and other similar agreements; (6) all obligations of the type referred to in clauses (1) through (5) of other persons for the payment of which we are responsible or liable as obligor, guarantor or otherwise; and (7) all obligations of the type referred to in clauses (1) through (6) of other persons secured by any lien on any of our property or assets whether or not such obligation is assumed by us.

Senior indebtedness does not include: (1) subordinated debt securities; (2) any indebtedness that by its terms is subordinated to, or ranks on an equal basis with, subordinated debt securities; and (3) any indebtedness between or among us and our affiliates, including (a) any junior subordinated debt securities, (b) trust preferred securities guarantees and (c) all other debt securities and guarantees in respect of those debt securities, issued to any trust, or a trustee of such trust, partnership or other entity affiliated with us which is our financing vehicle in connection with the issuance by such financing vehicle of trust preferred securities or other securities guaranteed by us pursuant to an instrument that ranks on an equal basis with, or junior to, the trust preferred securities guarantees.

Consolidation, Merger and Sale of Assets

Each indenture generally permits a consolidation or merger between us and another corporation and the conveyance, transfer or lease by us of all or substantially all of our property or assets, in each case without the consent of the holders of any outstanding debt securities. However, each indenture requires that:

the successor or purchaser is a corporation organized under the laws of the United States of America, any state thereof or the District of Columbia and expressly assumes our obligations on the debt securities under the applicable indenture;

immediately after giving effect to the transaction, no event which, after notice or lapse of time, would become an event of default, will have occurred and be continuing pursuant to the applicable indenture; and

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either we or the successor person has delivered to the applicable indenture trustee an officer's certificate and an opinion of counsel stating the consolidation, merger, transfer or lease, as applicable, complied with these provisions and all conditions precedent of the applicable indenture. (Section 801)

The successor shall be substituted for us as if it had been an original party to the indentures and the debt securities. Thereafter, the successor may exercise our rights and powers under the indentures and the debt securities and, except in the case of a lease, we will be released from all of our obligations and covenants under those documents. (Section 802)

Exchange of Debt Securities

Registered debt securities may be exchanged for an equal aggregate principal amount of registered debt securities of the same series containing identical terms and provisions in authorized denominations requested by the holders upon surrender of the registered debt securities at an office or agency that we maintain for that purpose and upon fulfillment of all other requirements set forth in the indentures. (Section 305)

Conversion and Exchangeability

The holders of debt securities that are convertible into our common stock or exchangeable into other securities will be entitled to convert or exchange the debt securities under some circumstances. The terms of any conversion or exchange will be described in the applicable prospectus supplement.

Events of Default

Unless we indicate otherwise in the applicable prospectus supplement for any series of debt securities, events of default with respect to any series of debt securities are:

failure to pay the interest or any additional amount payable on any debt security of such series when due and continuance of that default for 30 days;

failure to pay the principal of or any premium on any debt security of such series when due and payable;

failure to deposit any sinking fund payment when and as due by the terms of any debt security of such series;

failure to perform or the breach of any covenant or warranty in the applicable indenture or the debt securities (other than a covenant or warranty included solely for the benefit of a series of debt securities other than such series) that continues for 60 days after we are given written notice by the trustee or we and the trustee are given written notice by the holders of at least 25% of the outstanding debt securities of such series;

in the case of the senior debt securities, any event of default under any mortgage, indenture or other instrument securing or evidencing any indebtedness of us or any significant subsidiary for money borrowed, resulting in such indebtedness in principal amount exceeding \$10,000,000 becoming or being declared due and payable prior to the date on which it would otherwise become due and payable, if the acceleration is not rescinded or annulled within 30 days after written notice;

in the case of the senior debt securities, certain events of bankruptcy, insolvency or reorganization of us or any of our significant subsidiaries and in the case of the subordinated debt securities, certain events of bankruptcy, insolvency or reorganization of us or a major depository institution subsidiary; or

any other event of default included in any indenture or supplemental indenture. (Section 501)

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If a default occurs with respect to any series of senior or subordinated debt securities, the applicable indenture trustee will give the holders of those debt securities notice of the default as and to the extent provided by the Trust Indenture Act. (Section 501)

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If an event of default with respect to any series of senior debt securities occurs and continues, either the senior indenture trustee or the holders of not less than 25% of the aggregate principal amount of the outstanding senior debt securities of that series may declare the principal amount (or such lesser amount as may be provided for the senior debt securities of such series) of all the senior debt securities of that series to be due and payable immediately. Payment of the principal of subordinated debt securities may be accelerated only in the case of certain events of bankruptcy, insolvency or reorganization of us or one of our major depository institution subsidiaries. Subordinated debt securities cannot be accelerated if we default in our performance of any other covenant, including payment of principal or interest. (Section 502)

Any time after a declaration of acceleration has been made and before a judgment or decree for payment of the money due has been obtained the majority holders may, under certain circumstances, void the declaration. Majority holders are the holders of a majority of the aggregate principal amount of outstanding senior or subordinated debt securities of that series. (Section 502)

The majority holders may direct the time, method and place of conducting any proceeding for any remedy available to the applicable indenture trustee, or exercising any trust or power conferred on the applicable indenture trustee, for the senior or subordinated debt securities of that series. (Section 512). The applicable indenture trustee generally is not obligated to exercise any of its rights or powers under any senior or subordinated indenture at the request or direction of any of the holders, unless those holders offer the applicable indenture trustee reasonable indemnity. (Section 601)

A holder does not have the right to institute a proceeding with respect to the indenture, for the appointment of a receiver or a trustee, or for any other remedy, unless:

the holder has previously given written notice to the applicable indenture trustee of a continuing event of default;

the holders of not less than 25% of the aggregate principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of the applicable series have made a written request to the applicable indenture trustee to institute proceedings in respect of such event of default in its own name as trustee under the applicable indenture, and such holders have offered to the applicable indenture trustee reasonable indemnity against the costs, expenses and liabilities to be incurred in compliance with such request;

the applicable indenture trustee has failed to institute a proceeding within 60 days after receipt of such notice, request and offer of indemnity; and

the applicable indenture trustee has not received an inconsistent direction from the majority holders within such 60-day period. (Section 507)

However, these limitations do not apply to a suit for the enforcement of payment or conversion rights instituted on or after the respective due dates of the senior and subordinated debt securities of the applicable series. (Section 508)

Waivers of Certain Covenants and Past Defaults

The holders of not less than a majority of the aggregate principal amount of the outstanding senior and subordinated debt securities of each series may, on behalf of all holders of that series, waive our compliance with certain restrictive provisions of the applicable indenture. They also may waive any past default with respect to that series under the applicable indenture, except (1) a default in the payment of principal of, premium, if any, interest on or any additional amount, or (2) a default in the performance of certain covenants which cannot be modified without the consent of all of the holders of the applicable series. (Sections 513 and 1008)

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Amendments to the Indentures

Supplemental Indentures with Consent of Holders

Unless we indicate otherwise in the applicable prospectus supplement, we and the applicable trustee may modify or amend an indenture, with the consent of the holders of at least 66-2/3% in principal amount of each series of the senior or subordinated debt securities affected by the modification or amendment. However, no modification or amendment may, without the consent of each holder affected by the modification or amendment:

change the due date of the principal of, or any premium or installment of interest on, or any additional amounts with respect to any debt security;

reduce the principal amount of, or the rate of interest on, or any additional amounts or premium, if any, payable with respect to any debt security, or, except as otherwise permitted, change an obligation to pay additional amounts with respect to any debt security, or adversely affect the right of repayment at the option of any holder, if any;

change the place of payment, the currency in which the principal of, any premium, if any, or interest on, or any additional amounts with respect to any debt security is payable or impair the right to institute suit for the enforcement of any such payment on or after the due date thereof (or, in the case of redemption, on or after the redemption date or, in the case of repayment at the option of the holder, on or after the date for repayment);

reduce the percentage in principal amount of outstanding debt securities of any series the consent of whose holders is required for any supplemental indenture, or the consent of whose holders is required for any waiver (of compliance with certain provisions of the applicable indenture or certain defaults thereunder and their consequences) under the applicable indenture or reduce requirements for quorum or voting;

modify any of the provisions in the applicable indenture provisions described above under *Waivers of Certain Covenants and Past Defaults* and in this section *Amendments to the Indentures Supplemental Indentures with Consent of Holders*, except to increase any percentage in principal amount of outstanding debt securities of any series the consent of whose holders is required for a supplemental indenture or waiver, or to provide that certain other provisions of the applicable indenture cannot be modified or waived without the consent of the holders of each outstanding debt security affected thereby;

adversely affect the right of any holder to convert any convertible debt securities; or

in the case of the subordinated indenture, modify the subordination provisions in a manner adverse to the holders of the subordinated debt securities. (Section 902)

Supplemental Indentures without Consent of Holders

Except as otherwise provided in the applicable prospectus supplement, we and the applicable indenture trustee may modify and amend an indenture without the consent of any holder for any of the following purposes:

to evidence the succession of another person to us, and the assumption by the successor of our covenants in the applicable indenture and in the debt securities;

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to add to our covenants for the benefit of the holders of all or any series of debt securities or to surrender any right or power conferred upon us in the applicable indenture;

to add or change any provisions of the applicable indenture to provide that bearer debt securities may be registrable as to principal, to change or eliminate restrictions on payments with respect to debt securities, to permit registered securities to be exchanged for bearer securities, to permit bearer securities to be exchanged for bearer securities of other authorized denominations or to permit or facilitate the issuance of securities in uncertificated form, provided any such action does not adversely affect the interests of the holders of any debt securities or related coupons in any material respect;

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to establish the form or terms of debt securities of any series and any related coupons;

to evidence and provide for the acceptance of appointment by a successor trustee and to add to or change any provisions of the applicable indenture as necessary to provide for or facilitate the administration of the trusts under the applicable indenture by more than one trustee;

to cure any ambiguity or to correct or supplement any provision in the applicable indenture that may be defective or inconsistent with any other provision of the applicable indenture, or to make any other provisions with respect to matters or questions arising under the applicable indenture which do not adversely affect the interests of the holders of any debt securities or related coupons in any material respect;

to modify the conditions, limitations and restrictions on the authorized amount, terms or purposes of issue, authentication and delivery of debt securities;

to add additional events of default with respect to all or any series of debt securities;

to supplement any of the provisions of the applicable indenture to the extent necessary to permit or facilitate the defeasance and discharge of any series of debt securities, provided the action does not adversely affect the interests of the holders of any debt securities of that series or related coupons or any other debt securities or related coupons in any material respect;

to secure the debt securities;

to amend or supplement any provision of the applicable indenture or any supplemental indenture, provided that the amendment or supplement does not materially adversely affect the interests of the holders of outstanding debt securities; and

to make certain provisions with respect to conversion rights. (Section 901)

Legal Defeasance and Covenant Defeasance

If the applicable prospectus supplement provides for defeasance, we may at any time elect to defease and will be deemed to have paid and discharged our obligations on the applicable debt securities if:

no event of default has occurred and is continuing, or would occur upon the giving of notice or lapse of time, at the time of the satisfaction and discharge;

either (1) we have irrevocably deposited with the applicable indenture trustee sufficient cash or government securities to pay when due all the principal of, premium, if any, interest on and additional amounts, if any, with respect to the applicable debt securities, through the stated maturity or redemption date of the applicable debt securities (or, in the case of debt securities which have become due and payable, through the date of such deposit), or (2) we have properly fulfilled such other means of satisfaction and discharge as is provided in or pursuant to the applicable indenture for the applicable debt securities;

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we have paid all other sums payable under the applicable indenture with respect to the applicable debt securities and any related coupons;

we have delivered to the applicable trustee a certificate of our independent public accountants certifying as to the sufficiency of the amounts deposited by us, and an officers certificate and opinion of counsel as required by the applicable indenture; and

we have delivered to the applicable trustee an opinion of counsel to the effect that the holders will have no federal income tax consequences as a result of the deposit or termination and if the applicable debt securities are listed on the New York Stock Exchange, an opinion of counsel that the applicable debt securities will not be delisted.

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In the case of a defeasance, the holders of the applicable debt securities of the series will not be entitled to the benefits of the applicable indenture, except for the registration of transfer or exchange and the replacement of stolen, lost or mutilated applicable debt securities and the requirements regarding the maintenance of an office or agency where the applicable debt securities can be surrendered for payment or registration of transfer or exchange and the right of the holders of the applicable debt securities to receive from the deposited funds payment of the principal of, premium, if any, interest on, and any additional amounts, if any, with respect to the applicable debt securities when due. (Section 402)

Determining the Outstanding Debt Securities

Unless otherwise provided in or pursuant to the applicable indenture, we will consider the following factors in determining whether the holders of the requisite principal amount of outstanding debt securities have given any request, demand, authorization, direction, notice, consent or waiver under the applicable indenture or are present at a meeting of holders of debt securities for quorum purposes:

in the case of any debt security that by its terms provides for declaration of a principal amount less than the principal face amount of the debt security to be due and payable upon acceleration, the principal amount that will be deemed to be outstanding will be the principal amount that would be declared to be due and payable upon a declaration of acceleration thereof at the time of such determination;

in the case of any indexed security, the principal amount that will be deemed to be outstanding will be the principal face amount of the indexed security at original issuance;

in the case of any debt security denominated in one or more foreign currency units, the principal amount that will be deemed to be outstanding will be the U.S. dollar equivalent based on the applicable exchange rate or rates at the time of sale; and

any debt securities owned by us or any other obligor upon the debt securities or any of our or such other obligor's affiliates, will be disregarded and deemed not to be outstanding. (Section 101)

Governing Law

The indentures will be governed by, and construed in accordance with, the laws of the State of New York.

Regarding the Indenture Trustees

In the normal course of business, we and our subsidiaries conduct banking transactions with the indenture trustees, and the indenture trustees conduct banking transactions with us and our subsidiaries.

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DESCRIPTION OF PREFERRED STOCK

Our Restated Certificate of Incorporation authorizes our Board of Directors, or the Board, to create and provide for the issuance of one or more series of preferred stock, par value \$.01 per share, without the approval of our stockholders. The Board can also determine the terms, including the designations, powers, preferences and rights (including conversion, voting and other rights) and the qualifications, limitations or restrictions, of any preferred stock. Currently, 50,000,000 shares of our capital stock are classified as preferred stock under our Restated Certificate of Incorporation. As of March 31, 2012, no shares of preferred stock were issued or outstanding.

General

The following description summarizes the general terms and provisions of our authorized preferred stock. The particular terms of any series of preferred stock we offer will be described in the related prospectus supplement. You should read the particular terms of any series of preferred stock we offer described in the related prospectus supplement, together with the more detailed provisions of our Restated Certificate of Incorporation and the certificate of designation relating to the particular series of preferred stock, for provisions that may be important to you. Our Restated Certificate of Incorporation has been filed as an exhibit to the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part. The certificate of designation relating to the particular series of preferred stock will be filed as an exhibit to a document incorporated by reference in the registration statement. The prospectus supplement will also state whether any of the terms summarized below do not apply to the series of preferred stock being offered. Terms which could be included in a prospectus supplement include:

the designation of the preferred stock and the number of shares offered;

the amount of liquidation preference per share;

the price at which the preferred stock will be issued;

the dividend rate, or its method of calculation, and the dates on which dividends will be payable;

whether the dividends will be cumulative or noncumulative, and, if cumulative, the dates from which dividends will commence to cumulate;

any redemption or sinking fund provisions of the preferred stock;

whether we have elected to offer depositary shares, as described below;

the terms and conditions, if any, upon which the preferred stock will be convertible into or exchangeable for common stock or other securities; and

any additional voting, dividend, liquidation, redemption, sinking fund and other rights, preferences, privileges, limitations and restrictions of the preferred stock.

The preferred stock will, when issued, be fully paid and nonassessable and have no preemptive rights. Preferred stock will have the dividend, liquidation, and voting rights described below, unless we indicate otherwise in the applicable prospectus supplement relating to a particular series of preferred stock. You should read the prospectus supplement relating to any series of preferred stock for the series specific terms.

Dividend Rights

Holders of preferred stock will receive, when, as and if declared by the Board, dividends at rates and on the dates described in the applicable prospectus supplement. Each dividend will be payable to the holders of record as they appear on our stock record books of the Corporation or, if applicable, the records of the depositary referred to under Description of Depositary Shares, on the record dates fixed by the Board or its committee. Dividends on any series of preferred stock may be cumulative or noncumulative. The Corporation's ability to pay dividends on the preferred stock depends on the ability of COBNA, CONA and ING Bank, fsb to pay dividends

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to the Corporation. The ability of the Corporation, COBNA, CONA and ING Bank, fsb to pay dividends in the future is subject to bank regulatory requirements and capital guidelines and policies established by the Federal Reserve Board.

We will not declare or pay or set apart funds for the payment of dividends on any securities which rank equally with the preferred stock unless we have paid or set apart funds for the payment of dividends on the preferred stock. If full dividends are not paid, the preferred stock will share dividends pro rata with any equally ranked securities.

Voting Rights

Unless we indicate otherwise in the applicable prospectus supplement relating to a particular series of preferred stock or expressly required by law, the holders of the preferred stock will not have any voting rights.

Rights upon Liquidation

If we liquidate, dissolve or wind up our affairs, either voluntarily or involuntarily, the holders of each series of preferred stock will be entitled to receive liquidation distributions. These will be in the amounts set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement, plus accrued and unpaid dividends and, if the series of the preferred stock is cumulative, accrued and unpaid dividends for all prior dividend periods. If we do not pay in full all amounts payable on any series of preferred stock, the holders of the preferred stock will share proportionately with any equally ranked securities in any distribution of our assets. After the holders of any series of preferred stock are paid in full, they will not have any further claim to any of our remaining assets.

Because the Corporation is a holding company, the rights of its stockholders to participate in the assets of any subsidiary, including COBNA, CONA and ING Bank, fsb, upon the subsidiary's liquidation or recapitalization may be subject to the prior claims of the subsidiary's creditors, except to the extent that the Corporation may itself be a creditor with recognized claims against the subsidiary.

Redemption

A series of preferred stock may be redeemable, in whole or in part, at our option or at the option of the holder of the stock, and may be subject to mandatory redemption pursuant to a sinking fund, under the terms described in any applicable prospectus supplement.

In the event of partial redemptions of preferred stock, the Board or its committee will determine the method for selecting the shares to be redeemed, which may be by lot or pro rata or by any other method the Board or its committee determines to be equitable.

On and after a redemption date, unless we default in the payment of the redemption price, dividends will cease to accrue on shares of preferred stock which were called for redemption. In addition, all rights of holders of the preferred shares will terminate except for the right to receive the redemption price.

Conversion and Exchange

The applicable prospectus supplement for any series of preferred stock will state the terms and conditions, if any, on which shares of that series are convertible into or exchangeable for our common stock or other securities, including:

the number of shares of common stock or other securities into which the shares of preferred stock are convertible or for which the shares of preferred stock may be exchanged;

the conversion price or exchange price or manner of calculation;

the conversion period or exchange period;

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provisions as to whether conversion or exchange will be at the option of the holders of the preferred stock or at our option, if applicable;

any events requiring an adjustment of the conversion price or exchange price; and

provisions affecting conversion or exchange in the event of the redemption of the series of preferred stock.

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DESCRIPTION OF DEPOSITARY SHARES

The following description summarizes the general terms and provisions of depositary shares and depositary receipts. The particular terms of any depositary shares and any depositary receipts we offer will be described in the related prospectus supplement. You should read the particular terms of any depositary shares and depositary receipts we offer described in the related prospectus supplement, together with any deposit agreement relating to a particular series of preferred stock for provisions that may be important to you. The prospectus supplement will also state whether any of the generalized provisions summarized below do not apply to the depositary shares or depositary receipts being offered.

General

We may, at our option, elect to offer fractional shares of preferred stock, rather than full shares of preferred stock. In that event, we will issue receipts for depositary shares, each of which will represent a fraction of a share of a particular series of preferred stock as described in the applicable prospectus supplement. The terms of any depositary shares will be set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement and the provisions of the deposit agreement, which we will file with the SEC.

The shares of any series of preferred stock represented by depositary shares will be deposited under a deposit agreement between us and the depositary named in the applicable prospectus supplement. Subject to the terms of the deposit agreement, each owner of a depositary share will be entitled to all the rights and preferences of the preferred stock, including dividend, voting, redemption, conversion and liquidation rights, in proportion to the applicable fraction of a share of preferred stock represented by such depositary share.

The depositary shares will be evidenced by depositary receipts issued pursuant to the applicable deposit agreement. Depositary receipts will be distributed to those persons purchasing the fractional shares of preferred stock as described in the applicable prospectus supplements.

Dividends and Other Distributions

The depositary will distribute all cash dividends or other cash distributions received in respect of the deposited preferred stock to the record holders of depositary shares relating to such preferred stock in proportion to the number of such depositary shares owned by such holders.

The depositary will distribute any property received by it other than cash to the record holders of depositary shares entitled thereto. If the depositary determines that it is not feasible to make such distribution, it may, with our approval, sell such property and distribute the net proceeds from such sale to such holders.

Redemption of Preferred Stock

If a series of preferred stock represented by depositary shares is to be redeemed, the depositary shares will be redeemed from the proceeds received by the depositary resulting from the redemption, in whole or in part, of such series of preferred stock. The depositary shares will be redeemed by the depositary at a price per depositary share equal to the applicable fraction of the redemption price per share payable in respect of the shares of preferred stock so redeemed.

Whenever we redeem shares of preferred stock held by the depositary, the depositary will redeem as of the same date the number of depositary shares representing the shares of preferred stock so redeemed. If fewer than all the depositary shares are to be redeemed, the depositary shares to be redeemed will be selected by the depositary by lot or ratably or by any other equitable method as we may decide.

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DESCRIPTION OF COMMON STOCK

The Corporation is authorized to issue 1,000,000,000 shares of common stock, par value \$.01 per share. As of March 31, 2012, 580,226,318 shares of common stock were issued. The common stock is traded on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol COF. All outstanding shares of common stock are and will be fully paid and nonassessable.

The following summary is not complete, and you should refer to the applicable provisions of the Delaware General Corporation Law and our Restated Certificate of Incorporation and Amended and Restated Bylaws for additional information. See [Where You Can Find More Information](#).

Voting and Other Rights

Each share of common stock is entitled to one vote on all matters submitted to a vote of stockholders. Except as otherwise provided by law, the Restated Certificate of Incorporation or the Amended and Restated Bylaws, a majority of the votes cast is required for all actions to be taken by stockholders. Directors in uncontested elections shall be elected by a majority of votes cast; however, in contested elections, a plurality standard shall apply. Stockholders do not have cumulative voting rights in the election of directors, which means that the holders of more than 50% of the shares voting in an election of directors can elect all of the directors. Shares of common stock also do not have any preemptive, subscription, redemption, sinking fund or conversion rights.

The foregoing rights may be subject to voting and other rights that we may grant from time to time to the holders of other classes of our securities.

In addition, in connection with the ING Transaction, the Corporation and ING Groep N.V. entered into a Shareholders Agreement, dated February 17, 2012, that gave ING Groep N.V. the right to designate one representative to serve on our Board until the earlier of (i) February 17, 2013 (the one-year anniversary of the closing of the ING Transaction) and (ii) the day on which ING Bank N.V. has sold more than 33% of its shares of our common stock acquired in the ING Transaction to third parties. For more information, see Item 1.01 and Exhibit 2.1 of our Current Report on Form 8-K filed on June 22, 2011, which we incorporate into this prospectus by reference.

For a more detailed description of the terms of these and similar rights granted to the holders of other classes of our securities, please refer to the applicable prospectus supplement for any offering of our common stock pursuant to this registration statement and to the documents and other information that we incorporate by reference elsewhere in this prospectus. See [Where You Can Find More Information](#).

Distribution

Common stock dividends are subject to preferences, if any, on any outstanding shares of preferred stock. Dividends must be declared by the Board out of legally available funds. If we liquidate, dissolve or wind up our affairs, common stockholders are entitled to share proportionately in the assets available for distribution to common stockholders.

Anti-Takeover Provisions of the Restated Certificate of Incorporation and Amended and Restated Bylaws

Certain provisions in our Restated Certificate of Incorporation and Amended and Restated Bylaws could make more difficult or discourage a tender offer, proxy contest or other takeover attempt that is opposed by the Board but which might be favored by the stockholders. The Restated Certificate of Incorporation and Amended and Restated Bylaws are filed as exhibits to the registration statement, and certain provisions are summarized below.

Classified Board of Directors. At the 2011 annual meeting of stockholders, our stockholders approved an amendment to our Restated Certificate of Incorporation, to phase out over a three-year period the classification of

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the Board and provide instead for the annual election of directors. Previously, other than directors elected by any series of preferred stock, the Board was divided into three classes of directors, with each class of directors elected for a three-year term. Following our stockholders' approval of the amendment to our Restated Certificate of Incorporation, the Board approved certain related amendments to our Amended and Restated Bylaws. For more information regarding the foregoing amendments, see Item 5.03 of our Current Report on Form 8-K, filed on May 17, 2011, which we incorporate into this prospectus by reference.

As a result of the foregoing amendments, our Restated Certificate of Incorporation and Amended and Restated Bylaws provide that, other than directors elected by any series of preferred stock, beginning with the 2012 annual meeting of stockholders, directors will be elected annually to one-year terms in office. Directors elected at the 2009, 2010, and 2011 annual meetings of stockholders will continue to serve the remainder of their three-year terms in office. At the 2014 annual meeting of stockholders, the declassification of the Board will be complete.

Until the 2014 annual meeting of stockholders, our Board will consequently have more than one class of directors, which may have the effect of deterring or delaying any attempt by any group to obtain control of the Corporation. Specifically, these provisions could prevent a stockholder or a group of stockholders having majority voting power from obtaining control of the Board until the 2013 annual meeting of stockholders, at which time they could elect a majority of the directors appointed to the Board.

Number of Directors; Removal; Filling Vacancies. Generally, our Board must consist of between three and seventeen directors, and vacancies will be filled only by the affirmative vote of a majority of the remaining directors, even if less than a quorum remains in office. Therefore, unless the Amended and Restated Bylaws are further amended, the Board could prevent any stockholder from enlarging the Board of Directors and filling the new directorships with the stockholder's own nominees.

Under Delaware law, unless otherwise provided in the certificate of incorporation, directors serving on a classified board may only be removed by the stockholders for cause. Our Restated Certificate of Incorporation provides that directors may be removed without cause, except that directors serving the remainder of a three-year term in office may be removed only for cause. It also provides that directors may only be removed, whether for or without cause, upon the affirmative vote of holders of at least 80% of the voting power of all of the then-outstanding shares of stock entitled to vote generally in the election of directors.

No Stockholder Action by Written Consent; Special Meetings. Stockholder action can be taken only at an annual or special meeting of stockholders and cannot be taken by written consent. Under circumstances described in the Amended and Restated Bylaws, special meetings of stockholders can be called by the Chairman of the Board or by the Board. Stockholders are not permitted to call a special meeting or to require that the Board call a special meeting. Moreover, any special meeting of stockholders is limited to the business in the notice of the special meeting sent to the stockholders before the meeting.

The provisions prohibiting stockholder action by written consent and prohibiting stockholders from calling a special meeting could delay consideration of a stockholder proposal until our next annual meeting. This would prevent the holders of our stock from unilaterally using the written consent procedure to take stockholder action. Moreover, a stockholder cannot force stockholder consideration of a proposal over the opposition of the Chairman and the Board by calling a special meeting of stockholders.

Advance Notice Provisions for Stockholder Nominations and Stockholder Proposals. Only people who are nominated by, or at the direction of, the Board, or by a stockholder who has given proper written notice prior to a meeting at which directors are to be elected, will be eligible for election as directors. Business conducted at an annual meeting is limited to the business brought before the meeting by, or at the direction of, the Chairman, the Board or a stockholder who has given proper notice. A stockholder's notice to us proposing to nominate a person

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for election as a director must also contain certain information described in the Amended and Restated Bylaws. You should refer to our Amended and Restated Bylaws for more information, including the process and timing requirements for a stockholder notice.

Some of the effects of the provisions described above and in the Amended and Restated Bylaws include:

the Board will have a longer period to consider the qualifications of the proposed nominees and, if deemed necessary or desirable, to inform stockholders about the qualifications;

there will be an orderly procedure for conducting annual meetings of stockholders and informing stockholders, prior to the meetings, of any business proposed to be conducted at the meetings, including any Board recommendations; and

contests for the election of directors or the consideration of stockholder proposals will be precluded if the procedures are not followed. Third parties may therefore be discouraged from conducting a solicitation of proxies to elect their own slate of directors or to approve their own proposal.

Business Combinations. Certain mergers, share exchanges or sales of our assets with or to interested stockholders, as defined below, must be approved by the affirmative vote of the holders of at least 75% of our voting stock, voting together as a single class, including 75% of our voting stock not owned directly or indirectly by any interested stockholder or any affiliate of any interested stockholder. Our Restated Certificate of Incorporation requires this affirmative vote even if no vote is required, or a lesser percentage is specified, by law or any national securities exchange or otherwise. This affirmative vote is not required in two situations. First, it is not required if the business combination has been approved by a majority of uninterested, continuing directors. Second, it is not required if certain price and procedure requirements designed to ensure that our stockholders receive a fair price for their common stock are satisfied. Our Restated Certificate of Incorporation defines an interested stockholder as any person, other than us or any of our subsidiaries, who or which:

itself or along with its affiliates beneficially owns, directly or indirectly, more than 5% of the then outstanding voting stock;

is an affiliate of us and at any time within the two-year period immediately prior to the date in question itself or along with its affiliates beneficially owned, directly or indirectly, 5% or more of the then-outstanding voting stock; or

owns any shares of voting stock which were at any time within the two-year period immediately prior to the date in question beneficially owned by any interested stockholder, if the transfer of ownership occurred in the course of a non-public transaction or series of non-public transactions.

Liability of Directors; Indemnification. A director generally will not be personally liable for monetary damages to us or our stockholders for breach of fiduciary duty as a director. A director may be held liable, however, for the following:

any breach of the director's duty of loyalty to us or our stockholders;

acts or omissions not in good faith or which involve intentional misconduct or a knowing violation of law;

paying a dividend or approving a stock repurchase in violation of Delaware law; or

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any transaction from which the director derived an improper personal benefit.

We indemnify our officers and directors against lawsuits by third parties to the fullest extent of the law. We may agree with any person to provide an indemnification greater than or different from the indemnification provided by the Restated Certificate of Incorporation.

Amendments. The Restated Certificate of Incorporation generally may be amended with a majority vote of the stockholders, but some provisions, including some of the provisions discussed above, can only be amended with an affirmative vote of the holders at least 80% of the then-outstanding voting stock. The Amended and

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Restated Bylaws generally may be amended by the Board or by the stockholders; provided that in the case of amendments by the stockholders the affirmative vote of at least 80% of the then outstanding voting stock is required. These 80% vote requirements prevent a stockholder with only a majority of the common stock from circumventing the requirements of the Amended and Restated Bylaws or certain provisions of the Restated Certificate of Incorporation by simply amending or repealing them.

Anti-Takeover Legislation

We are a Delaware corporation and are governed by Section 203 of the Delaware General Corporation Law. This provision generally states that, subject to some exceptions, a corporation cannot engage in any business combination with any interested stockholder for three years after the time that the stockholder became an interested stockholder unless the business combination is approved by the board of directors and authorized by the affirmative vote of at least 66-2/3% of the outstanding voting stock of the corporation which is not owned by the interested stockholder. Delaware law defines an interested stockholder to include any person, and its affiliates and associates, that owns 15% or more of the outstanding voting stock of the corporation, or that is an affiliate or associate of the corporation and was the owner of 15% or more of the outstanding voting stock of the corporation at any time within three years immediately prior to the relevant date.

Although stockholders may elect to exclude a corporation from Section 203's restrictions, our Restated Certificate of Incorporation and Amended and Restated Bylaws do not exclude us from Section 203's restrictions. The provisions of Section 203 may encourage companies interested in acquiring us to negotiate in advance with the Board, since Section 203 does not require stockholder approval for a corporation to engage in any business combination with any interested stockholder, if the board of directors prior to the time that such stockholder became an interested stockholder approved either the business combination or the transaction in which the stockholder became an interested stockholder. Business combinations are discussed more fully above.

Dividend Reinvestment Plan

Our dividend reinvestment and stock purchase plan (as amended and supplemented, the DRIP Program) provides stockholders with the opportunity to purchase additional shares of our common stock by reinvesting all or a portion of their dividends on shares of common stock. It also provides existing stockholders with the option to make cash investments monthly, subject to a minimum monthly limit of \$50 and a maximum monthly limit of \$10,000. Optional cash investments in excess of \$10,000 may be made only with our express permission, and, in our sole discretion, we may grant a discount for such optional cash investments (from 0% to 5%). We use proceeds from the DRIP Program for general corporate purposes.

Transfer Agent

The transfer agent and registrar for the common stock is Computershare Trust Company, N.A.

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DESCRIPTION OF PURCHASE CONTRACTS

We may from time to time issue purchase contracts, including purchase contracts obligating holders to purchase from or sell to us, and us to sell to or purchase from holders, at a future date a number of:

our debt securities, preferred stock, depositary shares or common stock;

securities of an third party not affiliated with us, a basket of those securities, an index or indices of those securities or any combination of the above;

currencies; or

commodities.

The price of the items specified above may be fixed at the time the purchase contracts are issued or may be determined by reference to a specific formula contained in such purchase contracts. The purchase contracts may be issued separately or as parts of units, including units consisting of a combination of a purchase contract obligating the holder to purchase debt obligations or other securities of third parties not affiliated with us, including U.S. Treasury securities, which may secure the holders' obligations to purchase the common stock or preferred stock under the purchase contracts. We may issue purchase contracts in such amounts and in as many distinct series as we may require.

The applicable prospectus supplement will describe the terms of the purchase contracts offered pursuant to it, including one or more of the following:

whether the purchase contracts obligate the holder to purchase or sell, or both purchase and sell, the items specified above, and the nature and amount of each of those items or method of determining those amounts;

the amounts payable under the purchase contract or the formula by which such amount will be determined;

whether the purchase contracts are to be prepaid or not;

whether the purchase contracts are to be settled by delivery, or by reference or linkage to the value, performance or level of our securities, the securities of an third party not affiliated with us (or a basket of such securities, an index or indices of such securities or any combination of the above), the currencies or the commodities that are subject to such purchase contracts;

any acceleration, cancellation, termination or other provisions relating to the settlement of the purchase contracts;

United States federal income tax considerations relevant to the purchase contracts; and

whether the purchase contracts will be issued in fully registered or global form.

The preceding description and any description of purchase contracts in the applicable prospectus supplement does not purport to be complete and is subject to and is qualified in its entirety by reference to each purchase contract agreement and, if applicable, collateral arrangements

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relating to such purchase contracts. An investment in purchase contracts may involve special risks, including risks associated with indexed securities or currency related risks if the purchase contract or the related security is linked to an index or is payable in or linked to a non-U.S.-dollar currency.

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DESCRIPTION OF WARRANTS

We may from time to time issue warrants to purchase our debt securities, preferred stock, depositary shares or common stock. We may offer warrants separately or together with one or more additional warrants, debt securities, preferred stock, depositary shares or common stock, or any combination of those securities in the form of units, as described in the applicable prospectus supplement. If we issue warrants as part of a unit, the accompanying prospectus supplement will specify whether those warrants may be separated from the other securities in the unit prior to the warrants' expiration date.

Below is a description of certain general terms and provisions of the warrants that we may offer. Further terms of the warrants will be described in the applicable prospectus supplement. You should read the particular terms of any warrants we offer described in the related prospectus supplement, together with any warrant agreement relating to the particular warrant, for provisions that may be important to you.

The applicable prospectus supplement will contain, where applicable, the following terms of and other information relating to the warrants:

the specific designation and aggregate number of, and the price at which we will issue, the warrants;

the currency or currency units in which the offering price, if any, and the exercise price are payable;

the date on which the right to exercise the warrants will begin and the date on which that right will expire or, if you may not continuously exercise the warrants throughout that period, the specific date or dates on which you may exercise the warrants;

whether the warrants will be issued in fully registered form or bearer form, in definitive or global form or in any combination of these forms, although, in any case, the form of a warrant included in a unit will correspond to the form of the unit and of any security included in that unit;

any applicable material United States federal income tax consequences;

the identity of the warrant agent for the warrants and of any other depositaries, execution or paying agents, transfer agents, registrars or other agents;

the proposed listing, if any, of the warrants or any securities purchasable upon exercise of the warrants on any securities exchange;

the designation, aggregate principal amount, currency and terms of the debt securities purchasable upon exercise of the warrants, and the price at which such principal amount may be purchased;

the number of shares of preferred stock, the number of depositary shares or the number of shares of common stock purchasable upon exercise of a warrant and the price at which those shares may be purchased;

the designation and terms of the preferred stock or common stock, or of the preferred stock underlying any depositary shares, purchasable upon exercise of the warrants;

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if applicable, the designation and terms of the debt securities, preferred stock, depositary shares or common stock with which the warrants are issued and the number of warrants issued with each security;

if applicable, the date from and after which the warrants and the related debt securities, preferred stock, depositary shares or common stock will be separately transferable;

if applicable, the minimum or maximum amount of the warrants that may be exercised at any one time;

information with respect to book-entry procedures, if any;

the antidilution provisions of the warrants, if any;

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any redemption or call provisions;

whether the warrants are to be sold separately or with other securities as parts of units; and

any additional terms of the warrants, including terms, procedures and limitations relating to the exchange and exercise of the warrants.

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DESCRIPTION OF UNITS

We may issue units comprised of one or more of the other securities described in this prospectus in any combination. Each unit may also include debt obligations or other securities of third parties not affiliated with us, such as U.S. Treasury securities. 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 applicable 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 any time before a specified date.

The applicable prospectus supplement will describe the terms of the units offered pursuant to it, including one or more of the following:

the designation and terms of the units and of the securities comprising the units, including whether and under what circumstances those securities may be held or transferred separately;

any provisions for the issuance, payment, settlement, transfer or exchange of the units or of the securities comprising the units;

the terms of any agreements governing the units;

U.S. federal income tax considerations relevant to the units; and

whether the units will be issued in fully registered or global form.

The preceding description and any description of units in the applicable prospectus supplement does not purport to be complete and is subject to and is qualified in its entirety by reference to each unit agreement and, if applicable, collateral arrangements relating to such units.

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RESALE BY SELLING SECURITYHOLDERS

Selling securityholders may use this prospectus in connection with offering our securities for resale. The applicable prospectus supplement will identify the selling securityholders and the terms of the securities offered for resale. Selling securityholders may be deemed to be underwriters in connection with the securities they resell and any profits on the resales may be deemed to be underwriting discounts and commissions under the Securities Act. The selling securityholders will receive all the proceeds from the resale of our securities. We will not receive any proceeds from resales by selling securityholders.

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BOOK-ENTRY PROCEDURES AND SETTLEMENT

Unless we indicate otherwise in the applicable prospectus supplement, the debt securities, common stock, preferred stock or other securities described herein, which we refer to collectively as the securities, will be book-entry securities. All book-entry securities of the same issue initially will be represented by one or more fully registered global securities. Each global security will be deposited upon issuance with, or on behalf of, The Depository Trust Company, as depository (DTC), and will be registered in the name of DTC or a nominee of DTC, in each case for credit to an account of a direct or indirect participant in DTC as described below. DTC will thus be the only registered holder of the securities and will be considered the sole owner of the securities for purposes of any indenture, warrant agreement, unit agreement, purchase contract, or similar agreement governing the terms of such securities, as applicable, which we refer to as a governing agreement.

Global securities may be transferred, in whole and not in part, only to another nominee of DTC or to a successor of DTC or its nominee. Beneficial interests in the global securities may be held through the Euroclear System, or Euroclear, and Clearstream Banking, S.A., or Clearstream, each as indirect participants in DTC. Transfers of beneficial interests in the global securities will be subject to the applicable rules and procedures of DTC and its direct and indirect participants, including, if applicable, those of Euroclear and Clearstream, which may change from time to time. DTC has advised us as follows: it is a limited-purpose trust company organized under the New York Banking Law, a banking organization within the meaning of the New York Banking Law, a member of the Federal Reserve System, a clearing corporation within the meaning of the New York Uniform Commercial Code, and a clearing agency registered pursuant to the provisions of Section 17A of the Exchange Act. DTC holds and provides asset servicing for securities that its participants deposit with it. DTC also facilitates the post-trade settlement among participants of sales and other securities transactions in deposited securities through electronic computerized book entry transfers and pledges between participants accounts, thereby eliminating the need for physical movement of securities certificates.

Direct participants in DTC s system include both U.S. and non-U.S. securities brokers and dealers, banks, trust companies, clearing corporations, and certain other organizations. Access to DTC s system also is 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, which we collectively call indirect participants. Persons that are not participants may beneficially own securities held by or on behalf of DTC only through the participants or the indirect participants. The ownership interests in, and transfers of ownership interests in, each security held by or on behalf of DTC are recorded on the records of the participants and the indirect participants. The rules applicable to DTC and its participants are on file with the Securities and Exchange Commission. More information about DTC can be found at <http://www.dtcc.com/> and <http://www.dtc.org/>.

DTC has also advised us that, upon the issuance of a global security evidencing any securities, it will credit, on its book-entry registration and transfer system, the respective principal or face amounts of the securities evidenced thereby to the designated accounts of participants. Ownership of beneficial interests in the global securities will be limited to participants or persons that may hold interests through participants. Ownership of beneficial interests in the global securities will be shown on, and the transfer of those ownership interests may be effected only through, records maintained by DTC or its nominee (with respect to participants) and the records of participants and indirect participants (with respect to other owners of beneficial interests in the global securities).

Investors in the global securities that are participants may hold their interests therein directly through DTC. Investors in the global securities that are not participants may hold their interests therein indirectly through organizations (including Euroclear and Clearstream) that are participants in such system. Euroclear and Clearstream will hold interests in the global securities on behalf of their participants through customers securities accounts in their respective names on the books of their respective depositories. All interests in a global security, including those held through Euroclear or Clearstream, may be subject to the procedures and requirements of DTC. Those interests held through Euroclear or Clearstream may also be subject to the procedures and requirements of such systems.

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The laws of some states require that certain purchasers of securities take physical delivery of those securities in definitive form. These laws may impair the ability of holders to transfer beneficial interests in global securities to certain purchasers. Because DTC can act only on behalf of the participants, which in turn act on behalf of the indirect participants, the ability of a person having beneficial interests in a global security to pledge such interests to persons that do not participate in the DTC system, or otherwise take actions in respect of such interests, may be affected by the lack of a physical certificate evidencing such interests.

So long as DTC or any successor depository for a global security, or any nominee, is the registered holder of such global security, DTC or such successor depository or nominee will be considered the sole owner or holder of the securities represented by such global security for all purposes under the governing agreement applicable to that global security. Except as set forth below, owners of beneficial interests in a global security will not be entitled to have the securities represented by such global security registered in their names, will not receive or be entitled to receive physical delivery of such securities in definitive form, and will not be considered the owners or holders thereof for any purpose under the governing agreement applicable to that global security. Accordingly, each person owning a beneficial interest in a global security must rely on the procedures of DTC and, if such person is not a participant, on the procedures of the participant through which such person owns its interest, to exercise any rights of a holder of securities under the governing agreement applicable to that global security. We understand that, under existing industry practices, in the event that we request any action of holders or that an owner of a beneficial interest in a global security desires to give any consent or take any action under the governing agreement applicable to that global security, DTC or any successor depository would authorize the participants holding the relevant beneficial interests to give or take such action or consent, and such participants would authorize beneficial owners owning through such participants to give or take such action or consent or would otherwise act upon the instructions of beneficial owners owning through them.

Unless we indicate otherwise in the applicable prospectus supplement, any payments due with respect to any securities (including payments of principal and interest with respect to debt securities and dividends with respect to equity securities) that are registered in the name of or held by DTC or any successor depository or nominee will be payable to DTC or such successor depository or nominee, as the case may be, in its capacity as registered holder of the global securities representing the securities. Neither we, nor any trustee, registrar, paying agent or other agent in respect of the securities, nor any other agent of us or any such person will have any responsibility or liability for any aspect of the records relating to, or payments made on account of, beneficial ownership interests in the global securities, for maintaining, supervising or reviewing any records relating to such beneficial ownership interests, or for any other matter relating to the actions and practices of DTC or any of its participants or indirect participants.

We have been advised by DTC that its current practice, upon receipt of any payment in respect of a global security, is to credit participants accounts with payments on the payment date, unless DTC has reason to believe it will not receive payments on such payment date. Each relevant participant is credited with an amount proportionate to its beneficial ownership of an interest in the principal or face amount of the relevant security as shown on the records of DTC. Payments by participants and indirect participants to owners of beneficial interests in a global security held through such participants and indirect participants will be governed by standing instructions and customary practices, as is now the case with securities held for the accounts of customers in bearer form or registered in street name, and will be the responsibility of such participants or indirect participants, and will not be the responsibility of us, any trustee, registrar, paying agent or other agent in respect of the securities, nor any agent of us or of any such person. Neither we nor any such person or agent will be liable for any delay by DTC or by any participant or indirect participant in identifying the beneficial owners of the securities, and we and any such person or agent may conclusively rely on and will be protected in relying on instructions from DTC or its nominee for all purposes.

Crossmarket transfers between the participants in DTC, on the one hand, and Euroclear or Clearstream participants, on the other hand, will be effected through DTC in accordance with DTC's rules on behalf of Euroclear or Clearstream, as the case may be, by its depository; however, such cross-market transactions will

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require delivery of instructions to Euroclear or Clearstream, as the case may be, by the counterparty in such system in accordance with the rules and procedures and within the established deadlines (Brussels time) of such system. Euroclear or Clearstream, as the case may be, will, if the transaction meets its settlement requirements, deliver instructions to its respective depository to take action to effect final settlement on its behalf by delivering or receiving interests in the relevant global security in DTC, and making or receiving payment in accordance with normal procedures for same-day funds settlement applicable to DTC. Euroclear participants and Clearstream participants may not deliver instructions directly to the depositories for Euroclear or Clearstream. DTC has advised us that it will take any action permitted to be taken by a holder of securities only at the direction of one or more participants to whose account DTC has credited the interests in the applicable global security and only in respect of such portion of the aggregate principal or face amount of the securities as to which such participant or participants has or have given such direction.

Except as provided in the applicable prospectus supplement, owners of beneficial interests in a global security will not be entitled to receive physical delivery of the related securities in certificated form and will not be considered the holders of the related securities for any purpose under the governing agreement applicable to that global security, and no global security will be exchangeable, except for another global security of the same denomination and tenor to be registered in the name of DTC or a successor depository or nominee. Accordingly, each beneficial owner must rely on the procedures of DTC and, if the beneficial owner is not a participant, on the procedures of the participant or indirect participant through which the beneficial owner owns its interest to exercise any rights of a holder under the applicable governing agreement. However, if there is an event of default under any applicable governing agreement, DTC reserves the right to exchange the relevant global securities for securities in certificated form, and to distribute such securities to the participants.

Although DTC, Euroclear and Clearstream have agreed to the foregoing procedures to facilitate transfers of interests in the global securities among participants in DTC, Euroclear and Clearstream, they are under no obligation to perform or to continue to perform such procedures, and may discontinue such procedures at any time. Neither we, nor any indenture trustee, nor any agent of us or of any such person will have any responsibility for the performance by DTC, Euroclear or Clearstream or their respective participants or indirect participants of their respective obligations under the rules and procedures governing their operations.

The information in this section, including any description of the operations and procedures of DTC, Euroclear and Clearstream, has been provided solely as a matter of convenience. We do not take any responsibility for the accuracy of this information, and this information is not intended to serve as a representation, warranty or contract modification of any kind. The operations and procedures of DTC, Euroclear and Clearstream are solely within the control of such settlement systems and are subject to changes by them. We urge investors to contact such systems or their participants directly to discuss these matters.

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CERTAIN LEGAL MATTERS

Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP will pass upon certain legal matters in connection with the securities. Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP has from time to time acted as counsel for us and our subsidiaries and affiliates and may do so in the future. Morrison & Foerster LLP will pass upon certain legal matters for the underwriters.

EXPERTS

Ernst & Young LLP, an independent registered public accounting firm, has audited our consolidated financial statements included in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2011 as set forth in their report, which is incorporated by reference in this prospectus and elsewhere in the registration statement. Our financial statements are incorporated by reference in reliance on Ernst & Young LLP's report, given on their authority as experts in accounting and auditing.

Ernst & Young LLP, an independent registered public accounting firm, has audited the consolidated financial statements of ING Bank, fsb included in our Current Reports on Form 8-K filed with the SEC on March 14, 2012, as set forth in their report, which is incorporated by reference in this prospectus and elsewhere in the registration statement. The ING Bank, fsb financial statements are incorporated by reference in reliance on Ernst & Young LLP's report, given on their authority as experts in accounting and auditing.

KPMG LLP, an independent registered public accounting firm, has audited the financial statements of HSBC Card and Retail Services, included in our Current Report on Form 8-K filed with the SEC on March 14, 2012, as set forth in their report, which is incorporated by reference in this prospectus and elsewhere in the registration statement. The HSBC Card and Retail Services financial statements are incorporated by reference in reliance on KPMG LLP's report, given on their authority as experts in accounting and auditing.

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Shares

Common Stock

Pricing Supplement

, 2012

BofA Merrill Lynch

Morgan Stanley

Citigroup