

# **Loop Capital Markets LLC**

Statement of Financial Condition  
Year Ended December 31, 2016  
With Report of Independent Registered Public  
Accounting Firm

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Filed as PUBLIC information pursuant to Rule 17a-5(d) under the Securities  
Exchange Act of 1934.

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UNITED STATES  
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
Washington, D.C. 20549

ANNUAL AUDITED REPORT  
FORM X-17A-5  
PART III

OMB APPROVAL	
OMB Number:	3235-0123
Expires:	May 31, 2017
Estimated average burden hours per response.....	12.00

SEC FILE NUMBER
8-50140

FACING PAGE

Information Required of Brokers and Dealers Pursuant to Section 17 of the  
Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and Rule 17a-5 Thereunder

REPORT FOR THE PERIOD BEGINNING 01/01/2016 AND ENDING 12/31/2016  
MM/DD/YY MM/DD/YY

A. REGISTRANT IDENTIFICATION

NAME OF BROKER-DEALER:

ADDRESS OF PRINCIPAL PLACE OF BUSINESS: (Do not use P.O. Box No.)

111 West Jackson Blvd. Suite 1901

(No. and Street)

Chicago

IL

60604

(City)

(State)

(Zip Code)

NAME AND TELEPHONE NUMBER OF PERSON TO CONTACT IN REGARD TO THIS REPORT

James Reynolds

312-913-4900

(Area Code - Telephone Number)

B. ACCOUNTANT IDENTIFICATION

INDEPENDENT PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT whose opinion is contained in this Report\*

Ernst & Young

(Name - if individual, state last, first, middle name)

155 North Wacker Drive

Chicago

Illinois

60606

(Address)

(City)

(State)

(Zip Code)

CHECK ONE:



Certified Public Accountant



Public Accountant



Accountant not resident in United States or any of its possessions.

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\*Claims for exemption from the requirement that the annual report be covered by the opinion of an independent public accountant must be supported by a statement of facts and circumstances relied on as the basis for the exemption. See Section 240.17a-5(e)(2)

## OATH OR AFFIRMATION

I, James Reynolds, swear (or affirm) that, to the best of my knowledge and belief the accompanying financial statement and supporting schedules pertaining to the firm of Loop Capital Markets LLC, as of December 31, 20 16, are true and correct. I further swear (or affirm) that neither the company nor any partner, proprietor, principal officer or director has any proprietary interest in any account classified solely as that of a customer, except as follows:



Wanda D. White  
Notary Public

James Reynolds  
Signature  
Chairman & CEO  
Title

This report \*\* contains (check all applicable boxes):

- ☒ (a) Facing Page.
- ☒ (b) Statement of Financial Condition.
- ☐ (c) Statement of Income (Loss).
- ☐ (d) Statement of Changes in Financial Condition.
- ☐ (e) Statement of Changes in Stockholders' Equity or Partners' or Sole Proprietors' Capital.
- ☐ (f) Statement of Changes in Liabilities Subordinated to Claims of Creditors.
- ☐ (g) Computation of Net Capital.
- ☐ (h) Computation for Determination of Reserve Requirements Pursuant to Rule 15c3-3.
- ☐ (i) Information Relating to the Possession or Control Requirements Under Rule 15c3-3.
- ☐ (j) A Reconciliation, including appropriate explanation of the Computation of Net Capital Under Rule 15c3-1 and the Computation for Determination of the Reserve Requirements Under Exhibit A of Rule 15c3-3.
- ☐ (k) A Reconciliation between the audited and unaudited Statements of Financial Condition with respect to methods of consolidation.
- ☒ (l) An Oath or Affirmation.
- ☐ (m) A copy of the SIPC Supplemental Report.
- ☐ (n) A report describing any material inadequacies found to exist or found to have existed since the date of the previous audit.

\*\*For conditions of confidential treatment of certain portions of this filing, see section 240.17a-5(e)(3).

**Loop Capital Markets LLC**  
**Statement of Financial Condition**  
**Year Ended December 31, 2016**

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## **Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm**

The Board of Managers of Loop Capital Markets LLC

We have audited the accompanying statement of financial condition of Loop Capital Markets LLC (the Company) as of December 31, 2016. This financial statement is the responsibility of the Company's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on this financial statement based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States). Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the statement of financial condition is free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, the statement of financial condition referred to above presents fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Loop Capital Markets LLC at December 31, 2016, in conformity with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles.

*Ernst & Young LLP*

March 1, 2017

**Loop Capital Markets LLC**

**Statement of Financial Condition  
December 31, 2016**

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**Assets**

Cash Equivalents	\$ 4,280,454
Securities owned, at fair value	15,373,085
Deposit with clearing brokers	300,000
Due from clearing broker	8,494,869
Due from affiliates	1,716,676
Fees and commissions receivable	1,382,216
Underwriting fees receivables	4,351,543
Prepaid expenses and other assets	3,217,834
Fixed assets, net	830,415

Total assets	<u>\$ 39,947,092</u>
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**Liabilities and Members' Equity**

**Liabilities**

Securities sold, not yet purchased, at fair value	\$ 3,561,668
Accounts payable	2,314,741
Accrued expenses	12,046,751
Deferred rent obligation	1,134,482
Other liabilities	297,005
Debt	125,000
Subordinated borrowings	1,625,000

Total liabilities	<u>21,104,647</u>
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Members' equity	<u>18,842,445</u>
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Total liabilities and members' equity	<u>\$ 39,947,092</u>
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See notes to statement of financial condition

**Loop Capital Markets LLC**  
**Notes to Statement of Financial Condition**  
**December 31, 2016**

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**1. Organization and Nature of Business**

Loop Capital Markets LLC (the Company) is organized as a Delaware limited liability company under the Delaware Limited Liability Company Act. As a limited liability company, the members' liability is limited to the equity in the Company. Profits, losses, contributions, and distributions of the Company are allocated in accordance with the respective members' ownership interests. The Company is majority owned by Loop Capital, LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Loop Capital Holdings, LLC.

The Company trades fixed income securities on a principal basis, provides equity brokerage, underwriting services, fixed income analytical services, equity research, financial advisory and mergers and acquisition services for institutional customers.

The Company is an introducing broker-dealer registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) and is a member of the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority (FINRA). The Company does not carry security accounts for customers, nor does the Company perform custodial functions relating to customer securities. All customer transactions are executed and cleared through another registered broker on a fully disclosed basis. The Company does participate in various commission recapture programs in which customer funds are held for subsequent payment pursuant to the customer agreements in place. These customer funds are held in a "Special Account for the Exclusive Benefit of customers". As such, the Company is operating under the provisions of paragraph (k)(2)(i) and (k)(2)(ii) of Rule 15c3-3 of the SEC and accordingly is exempt from the remaining provisions of the Rule.

**2. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies**

**Use of Estimates**

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP). The preparation of these financial statements require management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts reported in the financial statements and accompanying notes. Actual results could differ from such estimates.

**Cash**

The Company has defined cash equivalents as highly liquid investments, with original maturities of less than three months at the date of acquisition that are not held for sale in the ordinary course of business.

**Accrued Expenses**

At December 31, 2016, the Company had accrued expenses primarily consisting of employee compensation, benefits, and distributions payable.

**Fair Value of Financial Instruments**

Financial instruments are generally recorded at fair value. The Company uses third-party sources combined with internal pricing procedures to determine fair value for all equity and debt securities. The fair value of domestic equity securities and options is the market price obtained from a national securities exchanges or the sale price in the over-the-counter markets or, if applicable, the official closing price or, in the absence of a sale on the date of valuation, at the latest bid price.

**Loop Capital Markets LLC**  
**Notes to Statement of Financial Condition**  
**December 31, 2016**

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Long-term, fixed-income securities are valued based on market quotations by independent pricing services that use prices provided by market makers or matrices that produce estimates of fair market values obtained from yield data relating to instruments or securities with similar characteristics or future contractual sale transactions.

The carrying amount of subordinated borrowings closely approximates fair value based upon market rates of interest available to the Company at December 31, 2016.

**Due To and From Clearing Broker**

Receivable and payables related to trades pending settlement are netted in due to/from clearing broker in the statement of financial condition. The Company may obtain short-term financing from its clearing broker from whom it can borrow against its inventory positions, subject to collateral maintenance requirements. At December 31, 2016, the Company had a net amount due from its clearing broker of \$8,494,869.

**Deposit with Clearing Brokers**

Deposits represent amounts held in conjunction with the Company's agreements with its clearing brokers. As of December 31, 2016, the Company had deposits of \$300,000 with its clearing brokers.

**Fixed Assets**

Fixed assets include furniture, equipment and artwork. Furniture and equipment are depreciated using the straight-line method over the estimated useful lives of the assets ranging from 3 to 7 years. Artwork is recorded and held at cost.

The Company reviews long-lived assets, including property and equipment for impairment whenever events or changes in business circumstances indicate that the carrying amount of an asset may not be fully recoverable, no less than annually. An impairment loss would be recognized when the estimated future cash flows from the use of the asset are less than the carrying amount of that asset. As of December 31, 2016, the Company did not have an impairment of long-lived assets.

**Deferred Rent**

Deferred rent is recorded for the difference between recorded rent expense and actual rental payments, and for certain concessions received by the Company.

**Stock Based Compensation**

Certain employees of the Company receive Class B units as equity based compensation. Compensation cost is measured as the fair value of the awards on the day they are granted. A Black Scholes model is used to estimate the fair value of the awards. Compensation accounts for equity-based compensation expense by measuring the value of the award and recognizes compensation expense ratably over the 4 year vesting period. Recognized stock compensation expense is reduced for estimated forfeitures prior to vesting. Upon termination, unvested units are forfeited and the vested units are payable in accordance with the Company's operating agreement. Estimated forfeitures are reassessed in subsequent periods and may change based on new facts and circumstances. There were no forfeitures during 2016. The value of the non-vested units as of December 31, 2016 were \$716,667 and are expected to fully vest in 2017.



**Loop Capital Markets LLC**  
**Notes to Statement of Financial Condition**  
**December 31, 2016**

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## **Income Taxes**

As a limited liability company, the Company elected to be treated as a partnership. Consequently, taxable income or loss is allocated to the members in accordance with the operating agreement and no provision or liability for federal income taxes has been included in the financial statements. The Company files tax returns with the U.S. Internal Revenue Service and various states, as required. The Company is generally not subject to examination by U.S. federal and state tax authorities for tax years before 2013.

The Company has evaluated tax positions taken or expected to be taken in the course of preparing the Company's tax returns to determine whether the tax positions are more likely than not to be sustained by the applicable tax authority. Based on this analysis, there were no material tax positions not deemed to meet a more-likely-than-not threshold. The Company does not believe it is reasonably possible that unrecognized tax benefits will significantly change in the next 12 months.

For the year ended December 31, 2016, the Company has no interest or penalties relating to income tax positions recognized in the statement of financial condition. For the year ended December 31, 2016, the Company had a state tax accrual of \$44,962 which consisted of \$52,924 in tax liability and \$7,965 in deferred tax asset that consists principally of net temporary differences related to the NYC depreciation.

## **Recently Issued Accounting Policy**

In February 2016, Financial Accounting Standards Board ("FASB") issued Accounting Standard Update ("ASU") No. 2016-02, Leases, with an effective date for fiscal years beginning after December 15, 2018, including interim periods within those fiscal years and will require an entity to recognize and measure leases at the beginning of the earliest period presented using a modified retrospective approach. Therefore, ASU 2016-02 will be effective for the Company's fiscal year beginning January 1, 2019. Management is assessing the impact that this ASU will have on the Company's financial statements.

## **3. Fair Value of Financial Instruments**

The Accounting Standards Codification ("ASC") Topic 820-10, Fair Value Measurement, establishes a fair value hierarchy that prioritizes inputs used in determining the fair value of financial instruments. The degree of judgement utilized in measuring fair value generally correlates to the level of pricing observability. Fair value is the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability in the principal market, or in the absence of a principal market, the most advantageous market. Financial instruments are classified in their entirety based on the lowest level of input that is significant to the fair value measurement. These inputs are summarized in the three broad levels below:

**Level 1:** Valuations are based on quoted prices (unadjusted) in active markets for identical assets or liabilities.

**Level 2:** Valuations are based on quoted prices for identical or similar instruments in less than active markets and valuation techniques for which significant assumptions are observable, either directly or indirectly. The types of assets and liabilities that are categorized by the Company as Level 2 generally include U.S. government and government agency securities, and most state, municipal and corporate obligations.

**Level 3:** Valuations are based on valuation techniques whereby significant assumptions and inputs are unobservable and reflect the Company's best estimate of assumptions it believes market participants would use in pricing the asset or liability.

**Loop Capital Markets LLC**  
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The inputs or methodologies used for valuing securities are not necessarily an indication of the risk associated with investing in those securities.

The Company assesses its financial instruments on an annual basis to determine the appropriate classification within the fair value hierarchy, as defined by ASC Topic 820. Transfers between fair value classifications occur when there are changes in pricing observability levels. Transfers of financial instruments among levels are deemed to occur at the beginning of the period.

The Company's assessment of the significance of a particular input to the fair value measurement in its entirety requires judgment, and considers factors specific to the investment.

A description of the valuation techniques applied to the Company's major categories of assets and liabilities measured at fair value on a recurring basis follows:

*Municipal bonds* – Municipal bonds can be valued under three approaches: (1) occasionally trades of municipal securities can be observed via trading activity posted by the Municipal Securities Rulemaking Board; (2) via a discounted cash flow model that incorporates market observable data such as reported sales of similar securities, broker quotes, yields, yield curves, bids, offers, and other reference data; and/or, (3) in certain instances securities are valued principally using dealer quotations.

Municipal bonds are categorized in Level 1, Level 2 or Level 3 of the fair value hierarchy depending on the inputs (i.e., observable or unobservable) used and market activity levels for specific bonds.

*Corporate bonds* – The fair value of corporate bonds is estimated using various techniques, which may consider recently executed transactions in securities of the issuer or comparable issuers or securities, market price quotations (where observable), evaluated prices from pricing sources, bond spreads, fundamental data relating to the issuer, and credit default swap spreads adjusted for any basis difference between cash and derivative instruments. Corporate bonds can be categorized as Level 1, Level 2 or Level 3 in the fair value hierarchy depending on the inputs (i.e., observable or unobservable) used and market activity levels for specific bonds.

*U.S. Government Securities* - U.S. government securities are valued using quoted market prices. Valuation adjustments are not applied. Accordingly, U.S. government securities are generally categorized in Level 2 of the fair value hierarchy.

The following table presents the Company's fair value hierarchy for those assets and liabilities measured at fair value on a recurring basis as of December 31, 2016:

Description	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Total
<b>Assets</b>				
<b>Securities owned:</b>				
Municipal bonds	\$ -	\$ 10,809,887	\$ -	\$ 10,809,887
Corporate bonds	-	4,563,198	-	4,563,198
	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 15,373,085</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 15,373,085</u>
<b>Liabilities</b>				
<b>Securities sold, not yet purchased:</b>				
Government securities	\$ -	\$ (3,561,668)	\$ -	\$ (3,561,668)
	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ (3,561,668)</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ (3,561,668)</u>

**Loop Capital Markets LLC**  
**Notes to Statement of Financial Condition**  
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The Company assesses the levels of the investments at each measurement day, and transfers between levels are recognized on the actual date of the event or change in circumstances that caused the transfer. There were no transfers between the Company's Levels 1, 2 and 3 classified instruments.

**4. Fixed Assets**

Fixed assets consisted of the following as of December 31, 2016:

Furniture and fixtures	\$ 1,912,645
Equipment	1,465,272
Total	<u>3,377,917</u>
Less:	
Accumulated depreciation	(2,547,502)
Fixed Assets, net	<u>\$ 830,415</u>

**5. Members' Equity**

On May 3, 2013, the Company authorized an amendment to the operating agreement that created a new class of non-voting B-units. As a result of the amendment, the Company had two classes of units, A (voting) and B (non-voting). On June 1, 2013, certain employees of the Company were granted 20,154 non-voting B-units. Among other things as defined in the agreement, these units are subject to a vesting period. The fair value of the units were determined by a Black Scholes Model and recognized on a straight-line basis over a 4-year vesting period. Upon termination of employment, unvested units are forfeited and the vested units are payable in accordance with the Company's operating agreement. Since inception, 1,715 of the non-voting B-units have been forfeited. On December 1, 2016, the Company issued 11,020 A-units. For the year ended December 31, 2016, the Company had outstanding 121,449 voting A-units and 18,439 non-voting B-units.

As of December 31, 2016, the Company had the following non-vested B-units:

Non-vested units at January 1, 2016	12,292
Vested Units	<u>6,146</u>
Non-vested units at December 31, 2016	<u>6,146</u>

**6. Debt**

The Company has a \$75 million senior revolving line-of-credit agreement with BMO Harris Bank N.A. (Harris) due April 30, 2016 on which it intermittently draws based on business needs. Pursuant to this agreement, interest is at a rate determined and agreed upon by the Company and Harris at the time funds are drawn down, which varies from time to time. The agreement is collateralized by certain securities and other property as defined in the agreement. As of December 31, 2016, the Company had no outstanding borrowings under this line-of-credit agreement. The loan had an interest rate of .125% as of December 31, 2016.

**Loop Capital Markets LLC**  
**Notes to Statement of Financial Condition**  
**December 31, 2016**

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**7. Employee Benefit Plan**

The Company maintains an employee 401(k) plan covering all of its eligible employees as defined by the plan. Under the terms of the plan, management may make discretionary matching contributions. The Company made no matching contributions for the year ended December 31, 2016.

**8. Operating Leases**

The Company leases office space in Chicago and New York City under non-cancelable operating leases that expire during various times through January 2027. Additionally, the Company leases office space in various other locations with lease terms of one year or less, which, due to the short-term nature of the leases, are not included in the schedule below. The Company also has a lease and sublease that is assumed by a third party, the lease payments and receipts from the sublease are not included below. The Company is responsible for utilities, real estate taxes, and maintenance on its leased office spaces.

Future minimum rental payments under non-cancelable operating leases with remaining terms in excess of one year as of December 31, 2016 for each of the next five years and in the aggregate are:

2017	\$ 1,760,701
2018	1,780,777
2019	1,800,861
2020	1,820,941
2021	1,332,241
Thereafter	4,689,721
Total minimum lease payments	<u>\$ 13,185,242</u>

**9. Related Party**

The Company has an expense sharing agreement with Loop Capital, LLC, a related party. The Company had net receivables from other affiliated entities, Loop Capital Financial Consulting Services, Loop Capital Strategies, LLC, Loop Capital Holdings, LLC and Loop Capital, LLC, in the amount of \$1,716,676. At December 31, 2016, this amount was included in due from affiliates on the statement of financial condition.

**10. Concentrations of Credit Risk**

The Company is engaged in various trading and brokerage activities through its principal correspondent broker-dealer and others. Amounts due to the clearing broker, if any, and securities sold, not yet purchased, are collateralized by securities owned and cash on deposit with the clearing broker. In the event such parties do not fulfill their obligations, the Company may be exposed to risk. The risk of default depends on the creditworthiness of the correspondent broker-dealer and others. It is the Company's policy to periodically review, as necessary, the credit standing of such correspondent broker-dealer and others.

The Company maintains deposits with financial institutions in amounts that exceed the federally insured limits. The Company does not believe it is exposed to significant credit risk.

**Loop Capital Markets LLC**  
**Notes to Statement of Financial Condition**  
**December 31, 2016**

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## **11. Subordinated Borrowings**

The following is a summary of subordination agreements at December 31, 2016 are listed below:

Description	Principal	Interest	Total
Subordinated loan, with a related party, interest at 3.0 percent, due December 18, 2017	\$ 1,500,000	\$ 138,250	\$ 1,638,250
Subordinated loan, with third party, interest at 7.5 percent, due January 15, 2017	125,000	9,922	134,922
	<u>\$ 1,625,000</u>	<u>\$ 148,172</u>	<u>\$ 1,773,172</u>

The subordinated borrowings are available in computing net capital under the SEC's uniform net capital rule. To the extent that such borrowings are required for the Company's continued compliance with minimum net capital requirements, they may not be repaid.

The fair value of subordinated borrowings is \$1,773,172 of which \$1,625,000 is principal and \$148,172 is accrued interest included in accrued expenses on the statement of financial condition. The Company made principal payments in the amount of \$698,544 during 2016. During January 2014, the Company entered into a \$2,500,000 settlement and mutual release agreement for outstanding claims as a result of its participation in a 2008 debt underwriting. The insurance covered \$1,750,000 of the settlement. The Company's liability related to this agreement was \$750,000, of which \$375,000 is recorded as subordinated debt, paid over three years beginning in 2015 with an interest at a rate of 7.5 percent per annum. The remaining \$375,000 is recorded in debt and has the same terms as the subordinated debt agreement. The Company made a principal payment on the debt in the amount of \$125,000 during 2016.

## **12. Commitments and Contingent Liabilities**

The Company is an introducing broker, which executes and clears all transactions with and for customers on a fully disclosed basis with another broker-dealer, and in connection with this arrangement the Company is contingently liable for the payment of securities purchased and the delivery of securities sold by customers.

In the ordinary course of business, the Company may be named as a defendant in, or be party to, various pending and threatened legal proceedings. In view of the intrinsic difficulty in ascertaining the outcome of such matters, the Company cannot state what the eventual outcome of any such proceeding will be. As a result of the Company's participation in an underwriting syndicate, the Company has been named in a class action lawsuit. Management believes that liabilities arising out of these proceedings will not have a material adverse effect on the financial statements of the Company.



### **13. Indemnifications**

In the normal course of business, the Company indemnifies and guarantees certain service providers, such as clearing brokers, against specified losses in connection with their acting as an agent of, or providing services to, the Company or its affiliates. The maximum potential amount of future payments that the Company could be required to make under these indemnifications cannot be estimated. However, the Company believes that it is unlikely it will have to make material payments under these arrangements and has not recorded any contingent liability in the financial statements for these indemnifications.

Additionally, the Company enters into contracts that contain a variety of representations and warranties that provide indemnifications under certain circumstances. The Company's maximum exposure under these arrangements is unknown, as this would involve future claims that may be made against the Company that have not yet occurred. The Company expects the risk of future obligation under these indemnifications to be remote.

### **14. Net Capital Requirements**

Pursuant to Rule 15c3-1 of the SEC, the Company is required to maintain minimum "net capital" equal to the greater of \$250,000 or 6-2/3% of "aggregate indebtedness," as these terms are defined, and that the ratio of aggregate indebtedness to net capital both as defined, not to exceed 15 to 1. Net capital changes from day to day, but at December 31, 2016, the Company had net capital and net capital requirements of \$12,254,113 and \$1,061,252 respectively, and its net capital ratio was 1.30 to 1. The minimum net capital may effectively restrict the payment of distributions.

### **15. Subsequent Events**

The Company has evaluated subsequent events through March 1, 2017, the date these financial statements were available to be issued.