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PRICING SUPPLEMENT
Dated December 21, 2011
(To Prospectus dated April 2, 2009,
Prospectus Supplement dated April 9, 2009,
Product Supplement dated April 9, 2009, and
Underlying Supplement no. 3 dated October 22, 2010)

HSBC USA Inc.

Buffered Performance Plus Securities Linked to the Dow Jones Industrial Average℠

- $1,790,000 Buffered Performance Plus Securities linked to the Dow Jones Industrial Average℠
- Uncapped participation in gains of the reference asset
- Minimum payment at maturity if the return is zero or positive, subject to the credit risk of HSBC USA Inc.
- Protection from the first 10% of any losses in the reference asset, subject to the credit risk of HSBC USA Inc.

The Buffered Performance Plus Securities (each a "security" and collectively the "securities") offered hereunder are not deposit liabilities or other obligations of a bank and are not insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation or any other governmental agency of the United States or any other jurisdiction and include investment risks including possible loss of the Principal Amount invested due to the credit risk of HSBC USA Inc.

The securities will not be listed on any U.S. securities exchange or automated quotation system. The securities will not bear interest.

Neither the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (the "SEC") nor any state securities commission has approved or disapproved of the securities or passed upon the accuracy or the adequacy of this document, the accompanying underlying supplement, product supplement, prospectus or prospectus supplement. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense. We have appointed HSBC Securities (USA) Inc., an affiliate of ours, as the agent for the sale of the securities. HSBC Securities (USA) Inc. will purchase the securities from us for distribution to other registered broker-dealers or will offer the securities directly to investors. In addition, HSBC Securities (USA) Inc. or another of its affiliates or agents may use this pricing supplement in market-making transactions in any securities after their initial sale. Unless we or our agent informs you otherwise in the confirmation of sale, this pricing supplement is being used in a market-making transaction. See "Supplemental Plan of Distribution (Conflicts of Interest)" on page PS-10 of this pricing supplement.

Investment in the securities involves certain risks. You should refer to "Risk Factors" beginning on page PS-6 of this document, page PS-4 of the accompanying product supplement, page S-3 of the accompanying prospectus supplement, and page US3-1 of the accompanying underlying supplement no. 3.

	Price to Public	Fees and Commissions[1]	Proceeds to Issuer
Per security	$1,000	$36	$964
Total	$1,790,000	$64,440	$1,725,560

[1]See "Supplemental Plan of Distribution (Conflicts of Interest)" on page PS-10 of this pricing supplement.

HSBC

HSBC USA Inc.
Buffered Performance Plus Securities

Linked to the Dow Jones Industrial Average℠

All references to "Enhanced Market Participation Notes" in the accompanying product supplement shall refer to these Buffered Performance Plus Securities. This offering of securities has the terms described in this pricing supplement and the accompanying product supplement, prospectus supplement, prospectus and underlying supplement. If the terms of the securities offered hereby are inconsistent with those described in the accompanying product supplement, prospectus supplement, prospectus or underlying supplement, the terms described in this pricing supplement shall control. **You should be willing to forgo interest and dividend payments during the term of the securities and, if the Reference Return is negative, lose up to 90% of your principal.**

This pricing supplement relates to an offering of securities linked to the performance of the Dow Jones Industrial Average℠ (the "Reference Asset"). The purchaser of a security will acquire a senior unsecured debt security of HSBC USA Inc. linked to the Reference Asset as described below. The following key terms relate to the offering of securities:

Issuer:	HSBC USA Inc.
Principal Amount:	$1,000 per security
Reference Asset:	The Dow Jones Industrial Average℠ (Ticker: INDU)
Trade Date:	December 21, 2011
Pricing Date:	December 21, 2011
Original Issue Date:	December 27, 2011
Final Valuation Date:	December 21, 2015. The Final Valuation Date is subject to adjustment as described under "Additional Terms of the Notes" in the accompanying underlying supplement.
Maturity Date:	3 business days after the Final Valuation Date, which is expected to be December 24, 2015. The Maturity Date is subject to adjustment as described under "Additional Terms of the Notes" in the accompanying underlying supplement.
Minimum Upside Return:	40.00%
Payment at Maturity:	On the Maturity Date, for each security, we will pay you the Final Settlement Value.
Final Settlement Value:	***If the Reference Return is greater than or equal to zero,*** you will receive a cash payment on the Maturity Date, per $1,000 Principal Amount of securities, equal to the greater of: (a) $1,000 + ($1,000 × Reference Return); and (b) $1,000 + ($1,000 × Minimum Upside Return). ***If the Reference Return is less than zero but greater than or equal to the Buffer Level,*** you will receive $1,000 per $1,000 Principal Amount of securities (zero return). ***If the Reference Return is less than the Buffer Level,*** you will receive a cash payment on the Maturity Date, per $1,000 Principal Amount of securities, calculated as follows: $1,000 + [$1,000 × (Reference Return + 10%)]. Under these circumstances, you will lose 1% of the Principal Amount of your securities for each percentage point that the Reference Return is below the Buffer Level. For example, because the buffer protects the first 10% of loss, subject to the credit risk of HSBC, if the Reference Return is -30%, you will suffer a 20% loss and receive 80% of the Principal Amount. **If the Reference Return is less than the Buffer Level, you may lose up to 90% of your investment.**
Reference Return:	The quotient, expressed as a percentage, calculated as follows: $\frac{\text{Final Level} - \text{Initial Level}}{\text{Initial Level}}$
Buffer Level:	-10%
Initial Level:	12,107.74, which was the Official Closing Level of the Reference Asset on the Pricing Date.
Final Level:	The Official Closing Level of the Reference Asset on the Final Valuation Date.
Official Closing Level:	The closing level of the Reference Asset on any scheduled trading day as determined by the calculation agent based upon the level displayed on Bloomberg Professional® service page "INDU <INDEX>", or on any successor page on Bloomberg

	Professional® service or any successor service, as applicable.
Form of securities:	Book-Entry
Listing:	The securities will not be listed on any U.S. securities exchange or quotation system.
CUSIP / ISIN:	4042K1TL7 / US4042K1TL70

GENERAL

This pricing supplement relates to an offering of securities linked to the Reference Asset identified on the cover page. The purchaser of a security will acquire a senior unsecured debt security of HSBC USA Inc. linked to a single Reference Asset. Although the offering of securities relates to the Reference Asset identified on the cover page, you should not construe that fact as a recommendation as to the merits of acquiring an investment linked to the Reference Asset or any component security included in the Reference Asset or as to the suitability of an investment in the securities.

You should read this document together with the prospectus dated April 2, 2009, the prospectus supplement dated April 9, 2009, the product supplement dated April 9, 2009, and the underlying supplement no. 3 dated October 22, 2010. All references to "Enhanced Market Participation Notes" in the accompanying product supplement shall refer to these Accelerated Market Participation Securities. If the terms of the securities offered hereby are inconsistent with those described in the accompanying product supplement, prospectus supplement, prospectus, or underlying supplement, the terms described in this pricing supplement shall control. You should carefully consider, among other things, the matters set forth in "Risk Factors" beginning on page PS-6 of this pricing supplement, page PS-4 of the product supplement, page S-3 of the prospectus supplement and page US3-1 of underlying supplement no. 3, as the securities involve risks not associated with conventional debt securities. We urge you to consult your investment, legal, tax, accounting and other advisors before you invest in the securities. As used herein, references to the "Issuer", "HSBC", "we", "us" and "our" are to HSBC USA Inc.

HSBC has filed a registration statement (including a prospectus, a prospectus supplement, a product supplement and underlying supplement no. 3) with the SEC for the offering to which this pricing supplement relates. Before you invest, you should read the prospectus, prospectus supplement and underlying supplement no. 3 in that registration statement and other documents HSBC has filed with the SEC for more complete information about HSBC and this offering. You may get these documents for free by visiting EDGAR on the SEC's web site at www.sec.gov. Alternatively, HSBC Securities (USA) Inc. or any dealer participating in this offering will arrange to send you the prospectus, prospectus supplement, product supplement and underlying supplement if you request them by calling toll-free 1-866-811-8049.

You may also obtain:

- The underlying supplement no. 3 at: http://www.sec.gov/Archives/edgar/data/83246/000114420410055205/v198039_424b2.htm
- The product supplement at: http://www.sec.gov/Archives/edgar/data/83246/000114420409019791/v145840_424b2.htm
- The prospectus supplement at: http://www.sec.gov/Archives/edgar/data/83246/000114420409019785/v145824_424b2.htm
- The prospectus at: http://www.sec.gov/Archives/edgar/data/83246/000104746909003736/a2192100zs-3asr.htm

PAYMENT AT MATURITY

On the Maturity Date, for each security you hold, we will pay you the Final Settlement Value, which is an amount in cash, as described below:

If the Reference Return is greater than or equal to zero, you will receive a cash payment on the Maturity Date, per $1,000 Principal Amount of securities, equal to the greater of:

(a) $1,000 + ($1,000 × Reference Return); and

(b) $1,000 + ($1,000 × Minimum Upside Return).

If the Reference Return is less than zero but greater than or equal to the Buffer Level, you will receive $1,000 per $1,000 Principal Amount of securities (zero return).

If the Reference Return is less than the Buffer Level, you will receive a cash payment on the Maturity Date, per $1,000 Principal Amount of securities, calculated as follows:

$1,000 + [$1,000 × (Reference Return + 10%)].

Under these circumstances, you will lose 1% of the Principal Amount of your securities for each percentage point that the Reference Return is below the Buffer Level. For example, because the buffer protects the first 10% loss, subject to the credit risk of HSBC, if the Reference Return is -30%, you will suffer a 20% loss and receive 80% of the Principal Amount. **You should be aware that if the Reference Return is less than the Buffer Level, you may lose up to 90% of your investment.**

Interest

The securities will not pay periodic interest.

Calculation Agent

We or one of our affiliates will act as calculation agent with respect to the securities.

Indenture and Trustee

Notwithstanding anything contained in the accompanying prospectus supplement or product supplement to the contrary, the securities will be issued under the senior indenture dated March 31, 2009, between HSBC USA Inc., as Issuer, and Wells Fargo Bank, National Association, as trustee. Such indenture has substantially the same terms as the indenture described in the accompanying prospectus supplement.

Paying Agent

Notwithstanding anything contained in the accompanying prospectus supplement or product supplement to the contrary, HSBC Bank USA, N.A. will act as paying agent with respect to the securities pursuant to a Paying Agent and Securities Registrar Agreement dated June 1, 2009, between HSBC USA Inc. and HSBC Bank USA, N.A.

Reference Sponsor

The Dow Jones & Company, Inc. is the reference sponsor.

INVESTOR SUITABILITY

The securities may be suitable for you if:

- You seek an investment with a return linked to the potential positive performance of the Reference Asset and you believe the level of the Reference Asset will not change or will increase over the term of the securities.
- You are willing to make an investment that is exposed to the negative Reference Return on a 1-to-1 basis for each percentage point that the Reference Return is less than -10%.
- You are willing to forgo dividends or other distributions paid to holders of stocks comprising the Reference Asset.
- You do not seek current income from your investment.
- You do not seek an investment for which there is an active secondary market.
- You are willing to hold the securities to maturity.
- You are comfortable with the creditworthiness of HSBC, as issuer of the securities.

The securities may not be suitable for you if:

- You believe the Reference Return will be negative or that the Reference Return will not be sufficiently positive to provide you with your desired return.
- You are unwilling to make an investment that is exposed to the negative Reference Return on a 1-to-1 basis for each percentage point that the Reference Return is below -10%.
- You seek an investment that provides a full return of principal.
- You prefer the lower risk, and therefore accept the potentially lower returns, of conventional debt securities with comparable maturities issued by HSBC or another issuer with a similar credit rating.
- You prefer to receive the dividends or other distributions paid on any stocks comprising the Reference Asset.
- You seek current income from your investment.
- You seek an investment for which there will be an active secondary market.
- You are unable or unwilling to hold the securities to maturity.
- You are not willing or are unable to assume the credit risk associated with HSBC, as issuer of the securities.

RISK FACTORS

We urge you to read the section "Risk Factors" on page S-3 in the accompanying prospectus supplement, on page PS-4 of the accompanying product supplement and on page US3-1 of underlying supplement no. 3. Investing in the securities is not equivalent to investing directly in any of the stocks comprising the Reference Asset. You should understand the risks of investing in the securities and should reach an investment decision only after careful consideration, with your advisors, of the suitability of the securities in light of your particular financial circumstances and the information set forth in this pricing supplement and the accompanying underlying supplement, product supplement, prospectus supplement and prospectus.

In addition to the risks discussed below, you should review "Risk Factors" in the accompanying prospectus supplement, product supplement and underlying supplement including the explanation of risks relating to the securities described in the following sections:

- "— Risks Relating to All Note Issuances" in the prospectus supplement; and
- "— Additional Risks Relating to Notes with an Equity Security or Equity Index as the Reference Asset" in the prospectus supplement.

You will be subject to significant risks not associated with conventional fixed-rate or floating-rate debt securities.

Your investment in the securities may result in a loss.

You will be exposed to the decline in the Final Level from the Initial Level beyond the Buffer Level of -10%. Accordingly, if the Reference Return is less than -10%, your Payment at Maturity will be less than the Principal Amount of your securities. You may lose up to 90% of your investment at maturity if the Reference Return is negative.

Credit risk of HSBC USA Inc.

The securities are senior unsecured debt obligations of the issuer, HSBC, and are not, either directly or indirectly, an obligation of any third party. As further described in the accompanying prospectus supplement and prospectus, the securities will rank on par with all of the other unsecured and unsubordinated debt obligations of HSBC, except such obligations as may be preferred by operation of law. Any payment to be made on the securities, including any return of principal at maturity, depends on the ability of HSBC to satisfy its obligations as they come due. As a result, the actual and perceived creditworthiness of HSBC may affect the market value of the securities and, in the event HSBC were to default on its obligations, you may not receive the amounts owed to you under the terms of the securities.

The securities will not bear interest.

As a holder of the securities, you will not receive periodic interest payments.

Changes that affect the Reference Asset will affect the market value of the securities and the amount you will receive at maturity.

The policies of the reference sponsor concerning additions, deletions and substitutions of the constituents comprising the Reference Asset and the manner in which the reference sponsor takes account of certain changes affecting those constituents included in the Reference Asset may affect the level of the Reference Asset. The policies of the reference sponsor with respect to the calculation of the Reference Asset could also affect the level of the Reference Asset. The reference sponsor may discontinue or suspend calculation or dissemination of the Reference Asset. Any such actions could affect the value of the securities.

Please read and pay particular attention to the section "Additional Risks Relating to Notes with an Equity Security or Equity Index as the Reference Asset" in the accompanying prospectus supplement.

The securities are not insured by any governmental agency of the United States or any other jurisdiction.

The securities are not deposit liabilities or other obligations of a bank and are not insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation or any other governmental agency or program of the United States or any other jurisdiction. An investment in the securities is subject to the credit risk of HSBC, and in the event that HSBC is unable to pay its obligations as they become due, you may not receive the full Payment at Maturity of the securities.

Certain built-in costs are likely to adversely affect the value of the securities prior to maturity.

While the Payment at Maturity described in this pricing supplement is based on the full Principal Amount of your securities, the original issue price of the securities includes the placement agent's commission and the estimated cost of HSBC hedging its obligations under the securities. As a result, the price, if any, at which HSBC Securities (USA) Inc. will be willing to purchase securities from you in secondary market transactions, if at all, will likely be lower than the original issue price, and any sale prior to the Maturity Date could result in a substantial loss to you. The securities are not designed to be short-term trading instruments. Accordingly, you should be able and willing to hold your securities to maturity.

The securities lack liquidity.

The securities will not be listed on any securities exchange. HSBC Securities (USA) Inc. is not required to offer to purchase the securities in the secondary market, if any exists. Even if there is a secondary market, it may not provide enough liquidity to allow you to trade or sell the securities easily. Because other dealers are not likely to make a secondary market for the securities, the price at which

you may be able to trade your securities is likely to depend on the price, if any, at which HSBC Securities (USA) Inc. is willing to buy the securities.

Potential conflicts.

HSBC and its affiliates play a variety of roles in connection with the issuance of the securities, including acting as calculation agent and hedging our obligations under the securities. In performing these duties, the economic interests of the calculation agent and other affiliates of ours are potentially adverse to your interests as an investor in the securities. We will not have any obligation to consider your interests as a holder of the securities in taking any action that might affect the value of your securities.

Uncertain tax treatment.

For a discussion of the U.S. federal income tax consequences of your investment in a security, please see the discussion under “U.S. Federal Income Tax Considerations” herein, the discussion under “Certain U.S. Federal Income Tax Considerations” in the accompanying product supplement and the discussion under “Certain U.S. Federal Income Tax Considerations” in the accompanying prospectus supplement.

ILLUSTRATIVE EXAMPLES

The following table and examples are provided for illustrative purposes only and are hypothetical. They do not purport to be representative of every possible scenario concerning increases or decreases in the level of the Reference Asset relative to its Initial Level. We cannot predict the Final Level. The assumptions we have made in connection with the illustrations set forth below may not reflect actual events. You should not take this illustration or these examples as an indication or assurance of the expected performance of the Reference Asset or the return on your securities**.** With respect to the securities, the Final Settlement Value may be less than the amount that you would have received from a conventional debt security with the same stated maturity, including those issued by HSBC. The numbers appearing in the table below and following examples have been rounded for ease of analysis.

The table below illustrates the Payment at Maturity on a $1,000 investment in the securities for a hypothetical range of performance for the Reference Return from -100% to +100%. The following results are based solely on the assumptions outlined below. The "Hypothetical Return on the Security" as used below is the number, expressed as a percentage, that results from comparing the Payment at Maturity per $1,000 Principal Amount of securities to $1,000. The potential returns described here assume that your securities are held to maturity. You should consider carefully whether the securities are suitable to your investment goals. The following table and examples assume the following:

- Principal Amount: $1,000
- Initial Level: 12,107.74
- Minimum Upside Return: 40.00%

Hypothetical Final Level	Hypothetical Reference Return	Hypothetical Payment at Maturity	Hypothetical Return on the Security
24,215.48	100.00%	$2,000.00	100.00%
21,793.93	80.00%	$1,800.00	80.00%
19,372.38	60.00%	$1,600.00	60.00%
18,161.61	50.00%	$1,500.00	50.00%
16,950.84	40.00%	$1,400.00	40.00%
15,740.06	30.00%	$1,400.00	40.00%
14,529.29	20.00%	$1,400.00	40.00%
13,923.90	15.00%	$1,400.00	40.00%
13,318.51	10.00%	$1,400.00	40.00%
12,713.13	5.00%	$1,400.00	40.00%
12,349.89	2.00%	$1,400.00	40.00%
12,228.82	1.00%	$1,400.00	40.00%
12,107.74	**0.00%**	**$1,400.00**	**40.00%**
11,986.66	-1.00%	$1,000.00	0.00%
11,865.59	-2.00%	$1,000.00	0.00%
11,502.35	-5.00%	$1,000.00	0.00%
10,896.97	-10.00%	$1,000.00	0.00%
10,291.58	-15.00%	$950.00	-5.00%
9,686.19	-20.00%	$900.00	-10.00%
8,475.42	-30.00%	$800.00	-20.00%
7,264.64	-40.00%	$700.00	-30.00%
4,843.10	-60.00%	$500.00	-50.00%
2,421.55	-80.00%	$300.00	-70.00%
0.00	-100.00%	$100.00	-90.00%

The following examples indicate how the Final Settlement Value would be calculated with respect to a hypothetical $1,000 investment in the securities.

Example 1: The level of the Reference Asset increases from the Initial Level of 12,107.74 to a Final Level of 12,713.13.

Reference Return:	5.00%
Final Settlement Value:	**$1,400.00**

Because the Reference Return is positive, and such Reference Return is less than the Minimum Upside Return, the investor receives the Minimum Upside Return and the Final Settlement Value would be $1,400.00 per $1,000 Principal Amount of securities, calculated as follows:

$1,000 + ($1,000 × Minimum Upside Return)

= $1,000 + ($1,000 × 40.00%)

= $1,400.00

Example 1 shows that you will benefit from the Minimum Upside Return at maturity when the Reference Return is positive but less than the Minimum Upside Return.

Example 2: The level of the Reference Asset increases from the Initial Level of 12,107.74 to a Final Level of 19,372.38.

Reference Return:	60.00%
Final Settlement Value:	**$1,600.00**

Because the Reference Return is positive, and such Reference Return is greater than the Minimum Upside Return, the Final Settlement Value would be $1,600.00 per $1,000 Principal Amount of securities, calculated as follows:

$1,000 + ($1,000 × Reference Return)

= $1,000 + ($1,000 × 60.00%)

= $1,600.00

Example 2 shows that you will receive the return of your principal investment plus a return equal to the Reference Return at maturity when the Reference Return is positive and greater than the Minimum Upside Return.

Example 3: The level of the Reference Asset decreases from the Initial Level of 12,107.74 to a Final Level of 11,502.35.

Reference Return:	-5.00%
Final Settlement Value:	**$1,000.00**

Because the Reference Return is less than zero but greater than the Buffer Level, the Final Settlement Value would be $1,000.00 per $1,000 Principal Amount of securities (a zero return).

Example 4: The level of the Reference Asset decreases from the Initial Level of 12,107.74 to a Final Level of 7,264.64.

Reference Return:	-40.00%
Final Settlement Value:	**$700.00**

Here, the Reference Return is -40.00%. Because the Reference Return is less than the Buffer Level of -10%, the Final Settlement Value would be $700.00 per $1,000 Principal Amount of securities, calculated as follows:

$1,000 + [$1,000 × (Reference Return + 10%)]

= $1,000 + [$1,000 × (-40.00% + 10%)]

= $700.00

Example 4 shows that you are exposed on a 1-to-1 basis to declines in the level of the Reference Asset beyond the Buffer Level of -10%. YOU MAY LOSE UP TO 90% OF THE PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF YOUR SECURITIES.

THE DOW JONES INDUSTRIAL AVERAGE℠

Description of the INDU

The INDU is a price-weighted index compromised of 30 blue chip stocks considered to be the leaders in their industry. It is intended to be a measure of the entire U.S. market, except the transportation and utilities industries, covering a diverse set of industries such as financial services, technology, retail, entertainment and consumer goods.

For more information about the INDU, see "The Dow Jones Industrial Average℠" on page US3-11 of the accompanying underlying supplement no. 3.

Historical Performance of the INDU

The following graph sets forth the historical performance of the INDU based on the daily historical closing levels from December 21, 2006 through December 21, 2011. The closing level for the INDU on December 21, 2011 was 12,107.74. We obtained the closing levels below from Bloomberg Professional® service. We make no representation or warranty as to the accuracy or completeness of the information obtained from Bloomberg Professional® service.

The historical levels of the INDU should not be taken as an indication of future performance, and no assurance can be given as to the Official Closing Level of the INDU on the Final Valuation Date.

SUPPLEMENTAL PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION (CONFLICTS OF INTEREST)

We have appointed HSBC Securities (USA) Inc., an affiliate of HSBC, as the agent for the sale of the securities. Pursuant to the terms of a distribution agreement, HSBC Securities (USA) Inc. will purchase the securities from HSBC for distribution to other registered broker-dealers or will offer the securities directly to investors. HSBC Securities (USA) Inc. will offer the securities at the offering price set forth on the cover page of this pricing supplement and will receive underwriting discounts and commissions of up to 3.60%, or $36.00, per $1,000 Principal Amount of securities. HSBC Securities (USA) Inc. may allow selling concessions on sales of such securities by other brokers or dealers of up to 3.60%, or $36.00, and may pay referral fees to other broker-dealers of up to 1.60%, or $16.00, per $1,000 Principal Amount of securities.

In addition, HSBC Securities (USA) Inc. or another of its affiliates or agents may use this pricing supplement in market-making transactions after the initial sale of the securities, but is under no obligation to do so and may discontinue any market-making activities at any time without notice.

See 'Supplemental Plan of Distribution' on page S-52 in the prospectus supplement. All references to NASD Rule 2720 in the prospectus supplement shall be to FINRA Rule 5121.

U.S. FEDERAL INCOME TAX CONSIDERATIONS

There is no direct legal authority as to the proper tax treatment of the securities, and therefore significant aspects of the tax treatment of the securities are uncertain as to both the timing and character of any inclusion in income in respect of the securities. Under one approach, a security should be treated as a pre-paid forward or other executory contract with respect to the Reference Asset. We intend to treat the securities consistent with this approach. Pursuant to the terms of the securities, you agree to treat the securities under this approach for all U.S. federal income tax purposes. Notwithstanding any disclosure in the accompanying product supplement to the contrary, our special U.S. tax counsel in this transaction is Sidley Austin LLP. Subject to the limitations described therein, and based on certain factual representations received from us, in the opinion of our special U.S. tax counsel, Sidley Austin LLP, it is reasonable to treat a security as a pre-paid forward or other executory contract with respect to the Reference Asset. Pursuant to this approach, we do not intend to report any income or gain with respect to the securities prior to their maturity or an earlier sale or exchange and we intend to treat any gain or loss upon maturity or an earlier sale or exchange as long-term capital gain or loss, provided that you have held the security for more than one year at such time for U.S. federal income tax purposes. For a discussion of the U.S. federal income tax consequences of your investment in a security, please see the discussion under "Certain U.S. Federal Income Tax Considerations" in the accompanying product supplement and the discussion under "Certain U.S Federal Income Tax Considerations" in the accompanying prospectus supplement.

VALIDITY OF THE NOTES

In the opinion of Sidley Austin llp, as counsel to the Issuer, when the notes offered by this pricing supplement have been executed and issued by the Issuer and authenticated by the trustee pursuant to the senior indenture referred in this pricing supplement, and delivered against payment as contemplated herein, such notes will be valid and binding obligations of the Issuer, enforceable in accordance with their terms, subject to applicable bankruptcy, insolvency and similar laws affecting creditors' rights generally, concepts of reasonableness and equitable principles of general applicability (including, without limitation, concepts of good faith, fair dealing and the lack of bad faith), provided that such counsel expresses no opinion as to the effect of fraudulent conveyance, fraudulent transfer or similar provision of applicable law on the conclusions expressed above. This opinion is given as of the date hereof and is limited to the Federal laws of the United States, the laws of the State of New York and the Maryland General Corporation Law as in effect on the date hereof. In addition, this opinion is subject to customary assumptions about the trustee's authorization, execution and delivery of the senior indenture and the genuineness of signatures and certain factual matters, all as stated in the letter of such counsel dated December 14, 2011, which has been filed as an exhibit to a Current Report on Form 8-K filed by the Issuer on December 14, 2011.

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