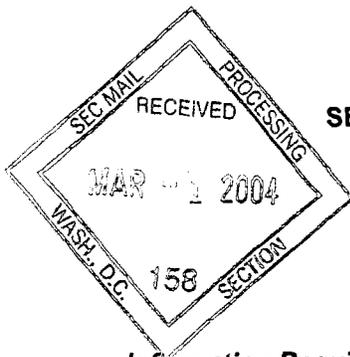


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SECURITIES AND COMMISSION  
Washington, D.C. 20549

OMB APPROVAL  
OMB Number: 3235-0123  
Expires: October 31, 2004  
Estimated average burden  
hours per response ..... 12.00

*1/18  
3/11*

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

SEC FILE NUMBER  
8-51295

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 AS OF 12/31/03  
MM/DD/YY

A. REGISTRANT IDENTIFICATION

NAME OF BROKER-DEALER:

**CSS, LLC**

OFFICIAL USE ONLY  
FIRM ID. NO.

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

**175 West Jackson Boulevard, Suite 440**

(No. and Street)

**Chicago**

(City)

**Illinois**

(State)

**60604**

(Zip Code)

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

**Mike Moran**

**(312) 542-8510**

(Area Code - Telephone No)

B. ACCOUNTANT IDENTIFICATION

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

**Ryan & Juraska, Certified Public Accountants**

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

**141 West Jackson Boulevard, Suite 3520**

(Address)

**Chicago**

(City)

**Illinois**

(State)

**60604**

(Zip Code)

CHECK ONE:

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

PROCESSED  
MAR 29 2004

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY  
THOMSON FINANCIAL

\*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).

*IPS  
3/26*

**CSS, LLC**

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL CONDITION  
AND SUPPLEMENTARY SCHEDULES  
PURSUANT TO SEC RULE 17a-5(d)**

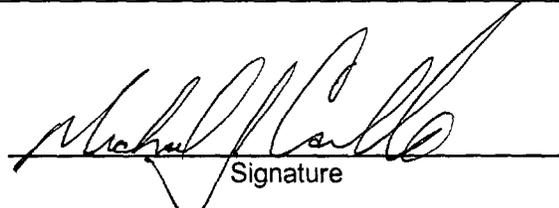
**as of December 31, 2003**

**AVAILABLE FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION**

## OATH OR AFFIRMATION

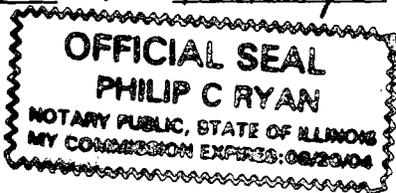
I, **Michael J. Carusillo**, swear (or affirm) that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, the accompanying financial statement and supporting schedules pertaining to the firm of **CSS, LLC** as of **December 31, 2003** are true and correct. I further swear (or affirm) that neither the company nor any partner, proprietor, principal officer or director has any proprietary interest in any account classified solely as that of a customer, except as follows:

The Company did not handle any customer cash or securities during the year ended December 31, 2003 and does not have any customer accounts.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Managing Member  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Title

Subscribed and sworn to before me this

23 day of February, 2004



  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Notary Public

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

- (a) Facing Page.
- (b) Statement of Financial Condition.
- (c) Statement of Income (Loss).
- (d) Statement of Cash Flows.
- (e) Statement of Changes in Members' Equity
- (f) Statement of Changes in Liabilities Subordinated to Claims of General Creditors.
- (g) Computation of Net Capital for Brokers and Dealers pursuant to Rule 15c3-1.
- (h) Computation for Determination of Reserve Requirements Pursuant to Rule 15c3-3.
- (i) Information Relating to the Possession or Control Requirements for Brokers and Dealers 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.
- (o) Independent Auditors' Report on Internal Accounting Control.
- (p) Schedule of Segregation Requirements and Funds in Segregation - Customers' Regulated Commodity Futures Accounts Pursuant to CFTC Rule 1.10(d)2(iv).

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



**RYAN & JURASKA**  
Certified Public Accountants

141 West Jackson Boulevard  
Chicago, Illinois 60604

Tel: 312.922.0062  
Fax: 312.922.0672

## INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

To the Members of  
CSS, LLC

We have audited the accompanying statement of financial condition of CSS, LLC as of December 31, 2003, that you are filing pursuant to Rule 17a-5 under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934. 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 auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. 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 statement of financial condition. 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 financial statement referred to above presents fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of CSS, LLC as of December 31, 2003, in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Our audit was conducted for the purpose of forming an opinion on the basic financial statement taken as a whole. The information contained in the supplementary schedules is presented for purposes of additional analysis and is not a required part of the basic financial statement, but is supplementary information required by Rule 17a-5 under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934. Such information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in our audit of the basic financial statement and, in our opinion, is fairly stated in all material respects, in relation to the basic financial statement taken as a whole.

*Ryan & Juraska*

Chicago, Illinois  
February 20, 2004

**CSS, LLC**

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL CONDITION**  
as of December 31, 2003

**ASSETS**

Cash in bank	\$	11,182
Receivables from brokers and dealers		551,654
Securities owned, at fair value		
Equities		278,046,040
Options		23,916,087
Government and agency		1,503,435
Preferred stock convertible		457,500
Corporate convertible		143,834,237
Corporate		31,597,067
Securities owned, not readily marketable at fair value		2,604,743
Exchange membership, at cost (market value \$169,000)		195,000
Furniture, equipment and leasehold improvements (net of accumulated depreciation and amortization of \$599,090)		701,735
Investment in broker-dealer		10,000
		<u>10,000</u>
	\$	<u>483,428,680</u>

**LIABILITIES AND MEMBERS' EQUITY**

<b>Liabilities</b>		
Payables to brokers and dealers	\$	73,026,698
Securities sold, not yet purchased, at fair value		
Equities		201,756,966
Options		17,568,695
Government and agency		27,920,950
Corporate convertible		48,521,250
Corporate		5,190,000
Accounts payable and accrued expenses		2,491,438
		<u>376,475,997</u>
<b>Members' Equity</b>		<u>106,952,683</u>
	\$	<u>483,428,680</u>

See accompanying notes.

## CSS, LLC

### NOTES TO THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL CONDITION as of December 31, 2003

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#### 1. Organization and Business

CSS, LLC (the "Company"), an Illinois limited liability company, was organized on July 8, 1998. The Company is a broker-dealer registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission and is a member of the Chicago Board Options Exchange. The Company engages primarily in the proprietary trading of exchange-traded equity securities, equity and index options contracts and other derivative equity instruments.

#### 2. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

##### Revenue Recognition and Securities Valuation

Securities transactions and related commission revenue and expenses are recorded on a trade date basis and, accordingly, gains and losses are recorded on unsettled transactions. Futures transactions and resulting gains and losses are recorded on a trade date basis, and, accordingly, gains and losses are recorded on open futures contracts.

Securities traded on a national securities exchange (or reported on the NASDAQ national market) are stated at the last reported sales price on the day of valuation; other securities traded in the over-the-counter market and listed securities for which no sale was reported on that date are stated at the last quoted bid price, except for short positions and call options written, for which the last quoted asked price is used. Other securities for which quotations are not readily available are valued at fair value as determined by the managing members. As the Company operates as a broker-dealer, all financial instruments are stated at a value that approximates fair value.

##### Income Taxes

No provision has been made for federal income taxes, as the taxable income of the Company is included in the respective income tax returns of the members. However, the Company is liable for nominal limited liability company state income taxes. These taxes, imposed at the Company level, are included in other expenses in the statement of operations.

##### Use of Estimates

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts reported in the financial statements and accompanying notes. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

##### Depreciation and amortization

Furniture, equipment and leasehold improvements are being depreciated over their estimated useful lives using an accelerated method.

## CSS, LLC

### NOTES TO THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL CONDITION, Continued as of December 31, 2003

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#### 3. Agreement and Related-Party Transactions

The Company has a Joint Back Office ("JBO") clearing agreement with O'Connor & Company L.L.C. ("OCC"). The agreement allows JBO participants to receive favorable margin treatment as compared to the full customer margin requirements of Regulation T. As part of this agreement, the Company has invested \$10,000 in the preferred interest of OCC. The Company's investment in OCC is reflected as investment in broker-dealer in the statement of financial condition. Under the rules of the Chicago Board Options Exchange, the agreement requires that the Company maintain a minimum net liquidating equity of \$1 million with OCC, exclusive of the preferred interest investment.

#### 4. Net Capital Requirements

The Company is subject to the Securities and Exchange Commission Uniform Net Capital Rule (Rule 15(c)3-1). Under this rule, the Company is required to maintain "net capital" equal to the greater of \$100,000 or 6 and 2/3 % of "aggregate indebtedness", as defined.

At December 31, 2003, the Company had net capital and net capital requirements of approximately \$5,999,281 and \$166,096, respectively.

#### 5. Lease Commitment

The Company conducts its operations in leased office facilities and annual rentals are charged to current operations. The lease is subject to an escalation clause based on the operating expenses of the lessor.

The minimum annual rental commitments under non-cancelable operating leases are approximately as follows as of December 31, 2003:

<u>Year Ending</u> <u>December 31,</u>		<u>Amount</u>
2004	\$	293,000
2005		302,000
2006		311,000
2007		320,000
2008		329,000
Thereafter		<u>2,705,000</u>
Total	\$	<u>4,260,000</u>

**CSS, LLC**

**NOTES TO THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL CONDITION, Continued  
as of December 31, 2003**

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**6. Employee Benefit Plan**

The Company has established a profit sharing/401(k) plan for qualified employees. The Company may elect to match employees' contributions and make further discretionary contributions to the plan, subject to certain limitations as set forth in the plan agreement.

**7. Trading Activities**

The Company trades in exchange traded equities and derivative equity instruments.

The fair value of derivatives represents unrealized gains and losses on open futures contracts and options contracts at market value. The following table discloses the approximate fair values of derivative financial instruments held for trading as of December 31, 2003, as well as the approximate quarterly average fair values of derivatives held during 2003:

	December 31, 2003	Average During 2003
Futures assets	\$ 42,000	\$ 413,000
Futures liabilities	(29,000)	(111,000)
Equity & index options assets	24,000,000	21,520,000
Equity & index options liabilities	(17,570,000)	(11,730,000)

**8. Financial Instruments with Off-Balance Sheet Risk and Concentration of Credit Risk**

In the normal course of business, the Company enters into transactions in derivative financial instruments and other financial instruments with off-balance sheet risk which include exchange-traded equity and index options, futures contracts and short stocks.

Futures contracts provide for the delayed delivery/receipt of securities or money market instruments with the seller/buyer agreeing to make/take delivery at a specified date, at a specified price.

Options contracts grant the purchaser, for the payment of a premium, the right to either purchase from or sell to the writer a specified instrument under agreed terms. As a writer of options and options on futures contracts, the Company receives a premium in exchange for bearing the risk of unfavorable changes in the price of the securities or money market instruments underlying the options.

## CSS, LLC

### NOTES TO THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL CONDITION, Continued as of December 31, 2003

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#### 9. Financial Instruments with Off-Balance Sheet Risk and Concentration of Credit Risk, continued

Securities sold, not yet purchased, represent obligations of the Company to deliver specified securities and thereby create a liability to repurchase the securities in the market at prevailing prices. These transactions may result in off-balance sheet risk as the Company's ultimate obligation to satisfy its obligation for securities sold, not yet purchased may exceed the amount recognized in the statement of financial condition.

All financial instruments with off-balance sheet risk and other derivative financial instruments are held for trading purposes.

Risk arises from the potential inability of counter-parties or exchanges to perform under the terms of the contracts (credit risk) and from changes in the values of securities, interest rates, currency exchange rates or equity index values (market risk).

The contractual or notional amounts related to derivative financial instruments reflect the volume and activity and do not reflect the amounts at risk. At December 31, 2003, the contract or notional amounts of derivative financial instruments used for trading purposes were as follows:

	<u>\$ Millions</u>
Futures commitments to purchase	7
Futures commitments to sell	9
Equity & index options held	506
Equity & index options written	318

In management's opinion, the market risk is substantially diminished when all financial instruments, including securities owned and sold, not yet purchased, are aggregated.

At December 31, 2003, significant credit concentrations consisted of approximately \$41.2 and \$64.8 million, representing the market value of the Company's trading accounts carried by its clearing brokers, O'Connor & Company L.L.C. and Goldman Sachs International, respectively. Management does not consider any credit risk associated with this net receivable to be significant.

**SUPPLEMENTAL SCHEDULES**



**FINANCIAL AND OPERATIONAL COMBINED UNIFORM SINGLE REPORT  
PART III**

**BROKER OR DEALER: CSS, LLC**

as of **December 31, 2003**

**COMPUTATION OF BASIC NET CAPITAL REQUIREMENT**

<b>Part A</b>			
11.	Minimum net capital required (6-2/3% of line 19)	\$ 166,096	[3756]
12.	Minimum dollar net capital requirement of reporting broker or dealer and minimum net capital requirement of subsidiaries computed in accordance with Note (A)	\$ 100,000	[3758]
13.	Net capital requirement (greater of line 11 or 12)	\$ 166,096	[3760]
14.	Excess net capital (line 10 less 13)	\$ 5,833,185	[3770]
15.	Excess net capital at 1000% (line 10 less 10% of line 19)	\$ 5,750,137	[3780]

**COMPUTATION OF AGGREGATE INDEBTEDNESS**

16.	Total A.I. liabilities from Statement of Financial Condition	\$ 2,491,438	[3790]
17.	Add:		
	A. Drafts for immediate credit	_____ [3800]	
	B. Market value of securities borrowed for which no equivalent value is paid or credited	_____ [3810]	
	C. Other unrecorded amounts (List)	_____ [3820]	[3830]
18.	Deduct: Adjustment based on deposits in Special Reserve Bank Accounts (15c3-1(c)(1)(vii) )	_____	[3838]
19.	Total aggregate indebtedness	\$ 2,491,438	[3840]
20.	Percentage of aggregate indebtedness to net capital (line 19 ÷ by line 10)	41.53%	[3850]
21.	Percentage of aggregate indebtedness to net capital <u>after</u> anticipated capital withdrawals (line 19 ÷ by line 10 less item 4880 page 11)	_____	[3853]

**COMPUTATION OF ALTERNATE NET CAPITAL REQUIREMENT**

<b>Part B</b>			
22.	2% of combined aggregate debit items as shown in Formula for Reserve Requirements pursuant to Rule 15c-3-3 prepared as of the date of the net capital computation including both brokers or dealers and consolidated subsidiaries debits	_____	[3870]
23.	Minimum dollar net capital requirement of reporting broker or dealer and minimum net capital requirement of subsidiaries computed in accordance with Note (A)	\$ _____	[3880]
24.	Net capital requirement (greater of line 22 or 23)	\$ _____	[3760]
25.	Excess net capital (line 10 less 24)	\$ _____	[3910]
26.	Percentage of Net Capital to Aggregate Debits (line 10 ÷ by line 17 page 8)	_____	[3851]
27.	Percentage of Net Capital, <u>after</u> anticipated capital withdrawals, to Aggregate Debits (line 10 less item 4880, page 11 ÷ by line 17 page 8)	_____	[3854]
28.	Net capital in excess of: 5% of combined aggregate debit items or \$300,000	\$ _____	[3920]

**OTHER RATIOS**

<b>Part C</b>			
29.	Percentage of debt to debt-equity total computed in accordance with Rule 15c3-1(d)	_____	[3860]
30.	Options deductions/Net Capital ratio (1000% test) total deductions exclusive of liquidating equity under Rule 15c3-1(a)(6), (a)(7) and (c)(2)(x) ÷ Net Capital	_____	[3852]

**NOTES:**

- A. The minimum net capital requirement should be computed by adding the minimum dollar net capital requirement of the reporting broker dealer and, for each subsidiary to be consolidated, the greater of:
  1. Minimum dollar net capital requirement, or
  2. 6-2/3% of aggregate indebtedness or 2% of aggregate debits if alternative method is used.
- B. Do not deduct the value of securities borrowed under subordination agreements of secured demand notes covered by subordination agreements not in satisfactory form and the market values of memberships in exchanges contributed for use of Company (contra to item 1740) and partners securities which were included in non-allowable assets.
- C. For reports filed pursuant to paragraph (d) of Rule 17a-5, respondent should provide a list of material non-allowable assets.

**CSS, LLC**

**COMPUTATION FOR DETERMINATION OF RESERVE REQUIREMENTS  
PURSUANT TO RULE 15c3-3  
as of December 31, 2003**

---

The Company did not handle any customer cash or securities during the year ended December 31, 2003 and does not have any customer accounts.

**CSS, LLC**

**COMPUTATION FOR DETERMINATION OF PAIB RESERVE REQUIREMENTS  
PURSUANT TO RULE 15c3-3  
as of December 31, 2003**

---

The Company did not handle any proprietary accounts of introducing brokers during the year ended December 31, 2003 and does not have any PAIB accounts.

**CSS, LLC**

**INFORMATION RELATING TO THE POSSESSION OR CONTROL  
REQUIREMENTS UNDER RULE 15c3-3  
as of December 31, 2003**

---

The Company did not handle any customer cash or securities during the year ended December 31, 2003 and does not have any customer accounts.



**RYAN & JURASKA**

Certified Public Accountants

141 West Jackson Boulevard  
Chicago, Illinois 60604

Tel: 312.922.0062

Fax: 312.922.0672

## **NDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT ON INTERNAL CONTROL**

To the Members of  
CSS, LLC

In planning and performing our audit of the statement of financial condition of CSS, LLC (the "Company") as of December 31, 2003, we considered its internal control structure, including control activities for safeguarding securities, in order to determine our auditing procedures for the purpose of expressing our opinion on the financial statement and not to provide assurance on the internal control.

Also, as required by Rule 17A-5(g)(1) of the Securities and Exchange Commission (the "SEC"), we have made a study of the practices and procedures followed by the Company, including tests of such practices and procedures that we considered relevant to the objectives stated in Rule 17a-5(g), (1) in making the periodic computations of aggregate indebtedness (or aggregate debits) and net capital under Rule 17a-3(a)(11) and the reserve required by Rule 15c3-3(e); and (2) in making the quarterly securities examinations, counts, verifications, and comparisons, and the recordation of differences required by Rule 17a-13. We did not review the practices and procedures followed by the Company in complying with the requirements for prompt payment for securities under Section 8 of Federal Reserve Regulation T of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, because the Company does not carry securities accounts for customers or perform custodial functions relating to customer securities.

The management of the Company is responsible for establishing and maintaining an internal control structure and the practices and procedures referred to in the preceding paragraph. In fulfilling this responsibility, estimates and judgments by management are required to assess the expected benefits and related costs of internal control structure policies and procedures, and of the practices and procedures referred to in the preceding paragraph, and to assess whether those practices and procedures can be expected to achieve the SEC's above-mentioned objectives. Two of the objectives of an internal control structure and the practices and procedures are to provide management with reasonable but not absolute assurance that assets for which the Company has responsibility are safeguarded against loss from unauthorized use or disposition, and that transactions are executed in accordance with management's authorization and recorded properly to permit the preparation of financial statements in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. Rule 17a-5(g) lists additional objectives of the practices and procedures listed in the preceding paragraph.

Because of inherent limitations in internal control or the practices and procedures referred to above, error or fraud may occur and not be detected. Also, projection of any evaluation of them to future periods is subject to the risk that they may become inadequate because of changes in conditions or that the effectiveness of their design and operation may deteriorate.

Our consideration of the internal control structure would not necessarily disclose all matters in the internal control structure that might be material weaknesses under standards established by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants. A material weakness is a condition in which the design or operation of the specific internal control structure elements does not reduce to a relatively low level the risk that errors or fraud in amounts that would be material in relation to the financial statements being audited may occur and not be detected within a timely period by employees in the normal course of performing their assigned functions. However, we noted no matters involving the internal control structure, including control activities for safeguarding securities, that we consider to be material weaknesses as defined above.

Our review indicated that the Company, although not exempt from Rule 15c-3-3, had no reporting requirements because it did not transact a business in securities directly with or for other than members of a national securities exchange and did not carry margin accounts, credit balances or securities for any person defined as a "customer" pursuant to Rule 17a-5(c)(4) and that, as of December 31, 2003, no facts came to our attention to indicate that such conditions were not complied with during the period.

We understand that practices and procedures that accomplish the objectives referred to in the second paragraph of this report are considered by the SEC to be adequate for its purposes in accordance with the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and related regulations, and that practices and procedures that do not accomplish such objectives in all material respects indicate a material inadequacy for such purposes. Based on this understanding and on our study, we believe that the Company's practices and procedures were adequate at December 31, 2003 to meet the SEC's objectives.

This report is intended solely for the information and use of management, the SEC, the Chicago Board Options Exchange, and other regulatory agencies that rely on Rule 17a-5(g) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 in their regulation of registered brokers and dealers, and is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than these specified parties.

*Ryan & Juraska*

Chicago, Illinois  
February 20, 2004