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COMMISSION  
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SO 3/21/05 #1

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

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

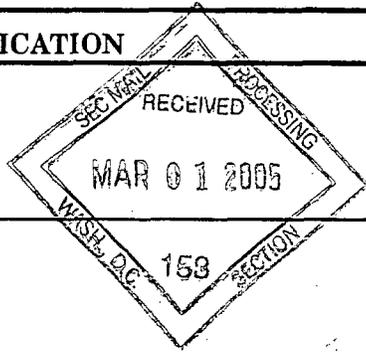
**SEC FILE NUMBER**  
8- 49852

REPORT FOR THE PERIOD BEGINNING 01/01/04 AND ENDING 12/31/04  
MM/DD/YY MM/DD/YY

**A. REGISTRANT IDENTIFICATION**

NAME OF BROKER-DEALER:

MBSC, LLC



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

200 Park Avenue

(No. and Street)

New York

New York

10166

(City)

(State)

(Zip Code)

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

William Verity III

(Area Code -- Telephone No.)  
212-922-7892

**B. ACCOUNTANT IDENTIFICATION**

INDEPENDENT PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT whose opinion is contained in this Report\*  
(Name -- if individual, state last, first, middle name)

KPMG Peat Marwick

757 3rd Avenue

New York, New York

10017

(ADDRESS) Number and Street

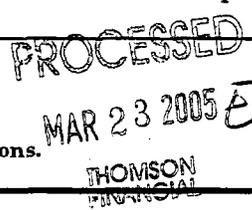
City

State

Zip Code

CHECK ONE:

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



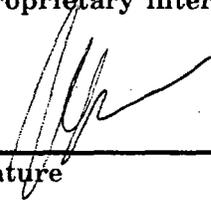
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\*Claims for exemption from the requirement that the annual report be covered by the opinion of an independent public accountant must be supported by a statement of facts and circumstances relied on as the basis for the exemption. See section 240.17a-5(e)(2).

3/22/05

### OATH OR AFFIRMATION

I, William H. Maresca, swear (or affirm) that, to the best of my knowledge and belief the accompanying financial statements and supporting schedules pertaining to the firm of MBSC, LLC as of December 31, 2004, 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].

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

Title Chief Financial Officer

Martin R. Krasilovsky  
Notary Public

MARTIN R. KRASILOVSKY  
Notary Public, State of New York  
No. 01KR2194223  
Qualified in Queens County  
Certificate Filed in New York County  
Commission Expires August 31, 2005

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 Stockholder's Equity
- (f) Statement of Changes in Liabilities Subordinated to Claims of Creditors
- (g) Computation of Net Capital
- (h) Computation for Determination of Reserve Requirement Pursuant to Rule 15c3-3 or a statement concerning exemption.
- (i) Information Relating to the Possession or Control Requirements Under Rule 15c3-3 or a statement that none is required.
- (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) Schedule of Segregation Requirements and Funds in Segregation Pursuant to Commodity Exchange Act
- (l) A Reconciliation between the audited and unaudited Statements of Financial Condition with respect to methods of consolidation
- (m) An Oath or Affirmation
- (n) A Copy of the SIPC Supplemental Report
- (o) A Report describing any material inadequacies found to exist or found to have existed since the date of the previous audit
- (p) Independent auditor's report on internal control.

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



**DREYFUS SERVICE CORPORATION  
AND SUBSIDIARY COMPANIES**

Consolidated Statement of Financial Condition

December 31, 2004

(With Independent Auditors' Report Thereon)

**DREYFUS SERVICE CORPORATION  
AND SUBSIDIARY COMPANIES**

**Table of Contents**

	<b>Page</b>
Independent Auditors' Report	
Statement of Financial Condition:	
Statement of Financial Condition	2
Notes to Statement of Financial Condition	3
<b>Supplementary Independent Auditors' Report</b>	
Independent Auditors' Report on Internal Control Required by SEC Rule 17a-5	12



**KPMG LLP**  
345 Park Avenue  
New York, NY 10154

## **Independent Auditors' Report**

Stockholder and Board of Directors  
Dreyfus Service Corporation:

We have audited the accompanying consolidated statement of financial condition of Dreyfus Service Corporation and subsidiary companies (the Company) (a wholly owned subsidiary of The Dreyfus Corporation) as of December 31, 2004 that you are filing pursuant to Rule 17a-5 under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934. This consolidated financial statement is the responsibility of the Company's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on this consolidated 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 consolidated statement of financial condition is free of material misstatement. An audit includes consideration of internal control over financial reporting as a basis for designing audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Company's internal control over financial reporting. Accordingly, we express no such opinion. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in that 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 consolidated statement of financial condition referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the consolidated financial position of Dreyfus Service Corporation and subsidiary companies at December 31, 2004, in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

**KPMG LLP**

February 11, 2005

**DREYFUS SERVICE CORPORATION  
AND SUBSIDIARY COMPANIES**

Consolidated Statement of Financial Condition

December 31, 2004

**Assets**

Cash and cash equivalents – note 1	\$ 52,810,000
Trading securities – at market value – note 1	8,083,000
Secured demand note – note 4	170,000,000
Receivables:	
From related investment companies and affiliates – notes 7 and 11	30,854,000
Other	11,850,000
Total receivables	<u>42,704,000</u>
Investment in leveraged leases – note 9	85,128,000
Fixed assets, at cost, less accumulated depreciation and amortization – note 5	4,932,000
Deferred sales commissions – note 6	25,277,000
Goodwill and other intangibles – notes 1 and 2	122,896,000
Other assets	7,603,000
Total assets	\$ <u><u>519,433,000</u></u>

**Liabilities and Stockholder's Equity**

Liabilities:	
Deferred income taxes, net – note 7	\$ 72,621,000
Due to related affiliates – note 11	12,957,000
Sundry liabilities and accrued expenses	42,042,000
Total liabilities	<u>127,620,000</u>
Subordinated debt – note 4	<u>170,000,000</u>
Stockholder's equity – note 12:	
Common stock, no par value. Authorized, issued, and outstanding 200 shares	—
Additional paid-in capital	1,329,461,000
Accumulated deficit	<u>(1,107,648,000)</u>
Total stockholder's equity	<u>221,813,000</u>
Commitments and other matters – notes 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, and 13	
Total liabilities and stockholder's equity	\$ <u><u>519,433,000</u></u>

See accompanying notes to consolidated statement of financial condition.

**DREYFUS SERVICE CORPORATION  
AND SUBSIDIARY COMPANIES**

Notes to Consolidated Statement of Financial Condition

December 31, 2004

**(1) Nature of Business and Summary of Significant Accounting Policies**

**(a) Organization**

Dreyfus Service Corporation (the Company), a registered broker-dealer and a registered investment adviser, is a wholly owned subsidiary of The Dreyfus Corporation (the Corporation), which is a wholly owned subsidiary of Mellon Financial Corporation (MFC). The Company provides various investment product related services and advisory services as follows:

1. Distribution and sales of mutual funds sponsored/administered by the Corporation; and
2. Variable annuity products issued through insurance carriers; and
3. Sales and marketing of various wrap fee and institutional separate account products for high net worth individuals, corporate pension plans, public employee trust funds, endowments and foundations; and
4. Introducing brokerage services which are cleared with Pershing LLC, member NYSE/SIPC, a BNY Securities Group Co., on a fully disclosed basis.

Commission income on the sale of mutual funds and securities are recorded on a trade date basis.

The consolidated statement of financial condition include the accounts of the Company and its wholly owned subsidiaries, Founders Asset Management LLC (Founders), MBSC, LLC (MBSC), Lighthouse Growth Advisors, LLC (LGA) and Boston Safe Advisors, Inc. (BSA). All significant intercompany accounts and transactions have been eliminated in consolidation.

**(b) Reorganization**

On March 30, 2004 in an effort to achieve operational efficiencies the Corporation was repositioned from an indirect subsidiary of MFC (formerly a wholly owned subsidiary of MBNA, which is a wholly owned subsidiary of MFC) to a direct wholly owned subsidiary of MFC. In addition, Cornice Holding Company, Inc. (Cornice), formerly a wholly owned subsidiary of MBNA, merged into and with the Company, with the Company being the accounting and legal entity survivor of the merger. As a result of this merger, Founders, formerly a wholly owned subsidiary of Cornice, became a wholly owned subsidiary of the Company. Founders is a registered investment adviser whose primary business consists of providing investment management services to the Dreyfus Founders mutual funds, sub-advised funds and private clients.

In accordance with SFAS No 141 *Business Combinations*, the Company initially recognized the assets and liabilities transferred at their then carrying amounts.

**(c) Preparation of Statement of Financial Condition**

The preparation of consolidated statement of financial condition in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of

**DREYFUS SERVICE CORPORATION  
AND SUBSIDIARY COMPANIES**

Notes to Consolidated Statement of Financial Condition  
December 31, 2004

contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the statement of financial. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

**(d) Cash and Cash Equivalents**

Cash and cash equivalents consisted of the following as at December 31, 2004 (000's omitted):

Cash	\$	4,590
Time deposits at Mellon Bank, N.A.		21,876
Time deposits at Mellon Bank, Grand Cayman		8,060
Dreyfus Institutional Prime Money Market Fund*		12,813
Nonaffiliate money market fund		5,471
	\$	<u>52,810</u>

\* A related money market investment company

The carrying amount reported in the statement of financial condition for cash and cash equivalents approximates fair value.

**(e) Trading Securities**

Trading securities, consisting primarily of municipal obligations at December 31, 2004, are carried at market value in accordance with practices in the brokerage industry; unrealized gains and losses are included in operations. Purchases and sales of trading securities are recorded on a trade-date basis; realized gain and loss thereon are recorded on an identified-cost basis.

**(f) Goodwill and Other Intangibles**

Goodwill is assessed annually for possible impairment in accordance with Statement of Financial Accounting Standard No. 142, *Goodwill and Other Intangible Assets*. Identified intangible assets with useful lives are amortized using straight-line and accelerated amortization methods over their respective estimated useful lives. Identified intangible assets are reviewed for impairment in accordance with Statement of Financial Accounting Standard No. 144, *Accounting for the Impairment or Disposal of Long-Lived Assets*.

**(2) Goodwill and Other Intangible Assets**

The Company acquired intangible assets and goodwill as a result of acquiring substantially all of the separate accounts business and mid-cap business of Ashland in 2002. A fair value of approximately \$1.5 million was recorded for the customer-base intangible asset, with an estimated life of 5 years and \$16.8 million was recorded as goodwill. Additionally, a fair value of \$500,000 was recorded for the intellectual property based intangible asset with an estimated life of 3 years. In addition, there was a \$225.2 million increase in Goodwill as a result of the 2004 merger with Cornice and the subsequent repositioning of Founders as a wholly owned subsidiary of the Company.

**DREYFUS SERVICE CORPORATION  
AND SUBSIDIARY COMPANIES**

Notes to Consolidated Statement of Financial Condition

December 31, 2004

The following table summarizes acquired Intangibles and goodwill (000's omitted):

	<b>Gross carrying amount</b>	<b>Accumulated amortization</b>
Acquired Intangible assets-subject to amortization:		
Customer contracts	\$ 1,546	(670)
Intellectual property	500	(361)
	2,046	(1,031)
Goodwill acquired *	121,881	—
	\$ 123,927	(1,031)

\* The Company's reorganization, as discussed in note 1, required management to test the potential impairment of goodwill recorded on Founders. The Company performed a detailed valuation analysis of Founders' goodwill in accordance with Statement of Financial Accounting Standard No. 142 *Goodwill and Other Intangible Assets*. Such analysis incorporated discounted cash flow techniques to measure the fair value of Founders' goodwill. As a result of the analysis performed, it was determined that the carrying value of goodwill exceeded expected future cash flows. As such, Founders recorded an impairment loss for the year ended December 31, 2004.

**(3) Summarized Financial Information of Consolidated Subsidiaries**

MBSC, a registered broker-dealer, acts as an introducing broker-dealer, clearing trades on a fully disclosed basis through an arrangement with Pershing LLC, Member NYSE/SIPC, a BNY Securities Group Co.

The Company's transactions for certain institutional customers are executed and cleared by or through a network of unaffiliated broker-dealers, namely, Pershing, Jefferies & Co., ITG, Bear, Stearns Securities Corp., Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Inc., UBS Warburg LLC, Deutsche Bank Securities, Citigroup Global Markets, Inc., Credit Lyonnais Securities and Weedon & Co, LLC.

Founders is a registered investment adviser whose primary business consists of providing investment management services to the Dreyfus Founders mutual funds, sub-advised funds and private clients.

BSA manages equities, bonds and balanced portfolios as a sub-adviser in various Wrap programs as well as separate accounts for high net worth individuals, corporate pension plans, public employee trust funds, endowments and foundations.

LGA provides investment management services for the separate accounts division acquired from Ashland.

**DREYFUS SERVICE CORPORATION  
AND SUBSIDIARY COMPANIES**

Notes to Consolidated Statement of Financial Condition

December 31, 2004

The following presents summarized financial information for the Company's wholly owned subsidiaries (000's omitted):

	LGA	MBSC	BSA	Founders
As of December 31, 2004:				
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 2,246	15,306	6,256	14,601
Goodwill and other intangibles, net	17,801	—	—	105,095
Total assets	20,768	16,782	6,522	142,119
Due to related affiliates	415	1,024	119	1,238
Total liabilities	1,445	1,441	122	1,588

**(4) Subordinated Debt**

Liabilities subordinated to the claims of general creditors were \$170,000,000 at December 31, 2004. Such liabilities bear interest at the 3-month LIBOR rate plus 62.5 bps and mature on December 31, 2005. Interest on the subordinated debt is payable at the time of maturity.

The liabilities were incurred following the contribution of a non-interest bearing secured demand note from MBNA during 2000. The original maturity date has been extended until December 31, 2005. The secured demand note is collateralized with marketable securities having a fair market value of \$231,043,000. The subordinated borrowings are covered by agreements approved by the NASD, Inc. and qualify as equity capital in computing net capital under the Securities and Exchange Commission uniform net capital rule. To the extent that such liabilities are required for the Company's continued compliance with minimum net capital requirements, they may not be repaid.

**(5) Fixed Assets**

The Company provides for depreciation of fixed assets based on the estimated useful life of the assets using the straight-line method. Amortization of leasehold improvements is computed over the respective terms of the leases.

The major classifications of fixed assets at December 31, 2004 are as follows (000's omitted):

Furniture, fixtures, and equipment	\$	13,066	
Leasehold improvements		16,868	
		29,934	
Less: accumulated depreciation and amortization		(25,002)	
Fixed assets, net	\$	4,932	

**DREYFUS SERVICE CORPORATION  
AND SUBSIDIARY COMPANIES**

Notes to Consolidated Statement of Financial Condition

December 31, 2004

**(6) Deferred Sales Commissions**

Certain funds sponsored by the Corporation offer multiple classes of shares. These funds offer Class A shares, which are sold with a sales charge imposed at the time of purchase. Class B and C shares (excluding money market funds) are subject to a contingent deferred sales charge (CDSC) imposed on redemptions made within a specified period. Class B and C shares are also subject to an annual distribution fee payable to the distributor pursuant to a distribution plan adopted in accordance with Rule 12b-1 under the Investment Company Act of 1940 (Rule 12b-1 Plan). Sales commissions advanced by the Company are amortized over the investment-aging period of each Class (six years for Class B shares and one year for Class C shares). This amortization period approximates the period of time during which the sales commissions paid by the Company to broker-dealers for selling Class B and C shares are expected to be recovered from the funds through payments made pursuant to the funds' Rule 12b-1 Plan.

The funds' Rule 12b-1 Plan is subject to annual review by the funds' respective Boards. Any CDSC received by the Company is recorded as income. This income is offset with a charge to operations for the write-off of the unamortized deferred sales commissions associated with the redemptions for the period.

**(7) Federal, State, and Local Income Taxes**

The Company has been advised by MFC that it intends to file a consolidated federal income tax return, consistent with the procedures followed in prior years, which will include the operations of the Company. In addition, the Company has been advised by the Corporation that it intends to file combined state and local income tax returns, consistent with the procedures followed in prior years, which will include the operations of the Company, the Corporation and certain related affiliates (the combined group).

All participants in the combined income tax returns are severally liable for the full amount of any tax payable by the combined group. In accordance with MFC's Tax Allocation Policy and Tax Sharing Agreement, the provision for federal, state and local income taxes is calculated on a separate return basis except for tax benefits of current year losses.

Tax credits and tax benefit carryforwards are recorded only to the extent they would be used to reduce consolidated federal and combined state and local income tax expense.

Current federal income taxes are remitted quarterly to or from MFC, which then makes the estimated payments to the Internal Revenue Service from such remittances.

**DREYFUS SERVICE CORPORATION  
AND SUBSIDIARY COMPANIES**

Notes to Consolidated Statement of Financial Condition

December 31, 2004

The tax effects of temporary differences that give rise to significant portions of the Company's deferred tax assets and deferred tax liabilities are as follows (000's omitted):

Deferred tax assets:	
Goodwill	\$ 16,254
Depreciation and amortization of fixed assets	4,967
Deferred compensation	2,927
Other	1,981
Total gross deferred tax assets	26,129
Deferred tax liabilities:	
Leveraged leases	(86,790)
Deferred sales commissions	(10,178)
Other	(1,782)
Total gross deferred tax liabilities	(98,750)
Net deferred tax liability	\$ (72,621)

The Company determined that it was not required to establish a valuation allowance for deferred tax assets since it is likely that the deferred tax assets will be realized through utilization of the Company's operations to reduce consolidated Federal and combined state and local income tax expense.

**(8) Employees' Benefit Plans**

The Mellon Bank Retirement Plan covers the employees of the Company. Employees' payroll deductions into the Mellon 401(k) Retirement Savings Plan are matched by MFC's contribution of common stock, at the rate of \$0.65 on the dollar, up to 6% of the employees' base salary.

**(9) Leveraged Leases**

The Company is the lessor in several leveraged lease agreements entered into during 1997 and 1996 under which railroad cars and jet aircrafts were leased for periods between 16.5 and 25 years.

The equity investments in the railroad cars and jet aircrafts represent the net purchase price, with the remaining funds being furnished by third-party financing in the form of long-term debt, which provides for no recourse against the Company and is secured by a first lien on the related property. At the end of the lease term, the equipment reverts back to the Company. For federal, state and local income tax purposes, the Company receives the benefits of tax deductions for depreciation on the entire leased asset and for interest on the long-term debt.

**DREYFUS SERVICE CORPORATION  
AND SUBSIDIARY COMPANIES**

Notes to Consolidated Statement of Financial Condition

December 31, 2004

The Company's future rentals on leveraged leases, net of reserve, as of December 31, 2004 are as follows (000's omitted):

	<b>Amount</b>
Year ending December 31:	
2005	\$ 18,554
2006	19,324
2007	19,244
2008	19,237
2009	20,509
Later years	139,426
Total net future rentals	\$ 236,294

The Company's net investment in leveraged leases as of December 31, 2004 is comprised of the following (000's omitted):

Rentals receivable (net of principal and interest on the nonrecourse debt of \$208,367)	\$	36,895
Add:		
Estimated residual value of leased assets		84,952
Deferred fees, net		501
Less:		
Unearned and deferred revenue		(28,251)
Reserve for lease losses		(8,969)
Investment in leveraged leases		85,128
Net deferred taxes arising from leveraged leases		(86,790)
Net investment in leveraged leases	\$	(1,662)

**DREYFUS SERVICE CORPORATION  
AND SUBSIDIARY COMPANIES**

Notes to Consolidated Statement of Financial Condition

December 31, 2004

**(10) Minimum Lease Commitments**

Future minimum payments, by year and in the aggregate, under noncancelable operating leases (premises) with initial or remaining terms of one year or more consisted of the following at December 31, 2004 (000's omitted):

	<b>Amount</b>
Year ending December 31:	
2005	\$ 7,878
2006	7,480
2007	7,486
2008	7,453
2009	7,058
2010-2019*	27,714
	\$ 65,069

\* There are no rental commitments beyond 2019.

**(11) Related Party Transactions**

- (a) Under various service plans adopted pursuant to Rule 12b-1 under the Investment Company Act of 1940, the Company receives fees from certain funds advised and/or administered by the Corporation. Such fees are for promoting the sale of these funds, and for providing ongoing personal services relating to shareholder accounts and the maintenance of such shareholder accounts. The fees from these funds are based on their respective average daily net assets.
- (b) The Company has been billed for its share of certain expenses incurred by related affiliates on its behalf. These expenses include services such as payroll, human resources, information systems, legal and accounting. In addition, expenses of the Company have been reduced during the year for reimbursements received primarily from its related affiliates for costs incurred by the Company on their behalf. These costs include services such as payroll, administration and accounting.

**(12) Net Capital Requirements**

Pursuant to the net capital provisions of Rule 15c3-1 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the Company is required to maintain minimum net capital equal to 6 2/3% of aggregate indebtedness, as defined, or \$250,000, whichever is greater. Net capital may fluctuate on a daily basis. At December 31, 2004, the Company had net capital of \$51,843,000, which was \$48,633,000 in excess of its required net capital of \$3,210,000.

The Company's ratio of aggregate indebtedness to net capital was 0.93 to 1. Such ratio, as defined, shall not exceed 15 to 1. The net capital rules may effectively restrict the payment of cash distributions and the withdrawal of equity capital.

**DREYFUS SERVICE CORPORATION  
AND SUBSIDIARY COMPANIES**

Notes to Consolidated Statement of Financial Condition

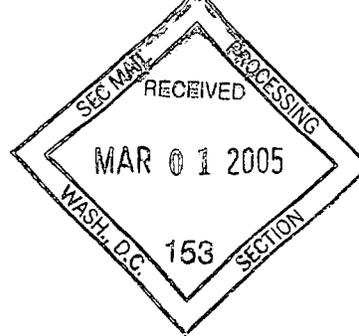
December 31, 2004

**(13) Litigation**

In the ordinary course of business the Company may be a defendant or codefendant in legal actions. It is the opinion of management, after consultation with counsel, that the resolution of all known actions will not have a material effect on the consolidated financial position and results of operations of the Company.



KPMG LLP  
345 Park Avenue  
New York, NY 10154



## Independent Auditors' Report on Internal Control Required by SEC Rule 17a-5

Stockholder and Board of Directors  
Dreyfus Service Corporation:

In planning and performing our audit of the consolidated financial statements and supplemental schedules of Dreyfus Service Corporation and subsidiary companies (the Company) for the year ended December 31, 2004, we considered its internal control, including control activities for safeguarding securities, in order to determine our auditing procedures for the purpose of expressing our opinion on the consolidated financial statements and not to provide assurance on internal control.

Also, as required by Rule 17a-5(g)(1) of the Securities and Exchange Commission (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) in making the periodic computations of aggregate indebtedness and net capital under Rule 17a-3(a)(11) and for determining compliance with the exemptive provisions of Rule 15c3-3. Because the Company does not carry securities accounts for customers or perform custodial functions relating to customer securities, we did not review the practices and procedures followed by the Company in any of the following:

1. Making quarterly securities examinations, counts, verifications, and comparisons
2. Recordation of differences required by Rule 17a-13
3. 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.

The management of the Company is responsible for establishing and maintaining internal control 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 controls 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 internal control 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 consolidated financial statements in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. 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 internal control would not necessarily disclose all matters in internal control 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 components does not reduce to a relatively low level the risk that error or fraud in amounts that would be material in relation to the consolidated 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 internal control, including control activities for safeguarding securities, that we consider to be material weaknesses as defined above.

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, 2004, to meet the SEC's objectives.

This report is intended solely for the use of the board of directors, management, the SEC, the National Association of Securities Dealers, Inc. 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.

KPMG LLP

February 11, 2005