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

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

SEC  
Mail Processing  
Section

SEC FILE NUMBER
8- 51043

FACING PAGE

**Information Required of Brokers and Dealers Pursuant to Section 17 of the  
Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and Rule 17c-5 thereunder**

FEB 28 2012

Washington, DC  
1723

REPORT FOR THE PERIOD BEGINNING 01/01/11 AND ENDING 12/31/11  
MM/DD/YY MM/DD/YY

**A. REGISTRANT IDENTIFICATION**

NAME OF BROKER-DEALER: Artisan Partners Distributors LLC

OFFICIAL USE ONLY
FIRM I.D. NO.

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

875 East Wisconsin Avenue, Suite 800

(No. and Street)

Milwaukee

WI

53202

(City)

(State)

(Zip Code)

NAME AND TELEPHONE NUMBER OF PERSON TO CONTACT IN REGARD TO THIS REPORT  
Lawrence A. Totsky

414-390-6100

(Area Code - Telephone Number)

**B. ACCOUNTANT IDENTIFICATION**

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

PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP

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

100 East Wisconsin Avenue, Suite 1800

Milwaukee

WI

53202

(Address)

(City)

(State)

(Zip Code)

**CHECK ONE:**

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

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

\*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)

SEC 1410 (06-02)

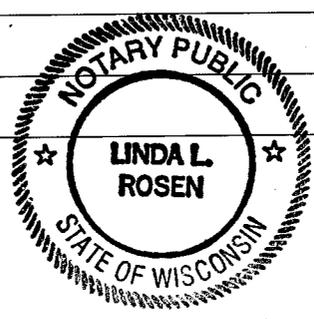
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J.D.  
3/2/12

OATH OR AFFIRMATION

I, Lawrence A. Totsky, swear (or affirm) that, to the best of my knowledge and belief the accompanying financial statement and supporting schedules pertaining to the firm of Artisan Partners Distributors LLC, as of December 31, 2011, 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:

-None-



Lawrence A. Totsky  
Signature

Vice President, Treasurer and Chief Financial Officer

Title

Linda L. Rosen  
Notary Public

Signed on 2-8-2012.  
My commission expires 4-14-2013.  
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).

**Artisan Partners Distributors LLC**  
**Financial Statements and Supplementary**  
**Schedules Pursuant to Rule 17a-5**  
**of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934**  
**December 31, 2011 and 2010**





**Artisan Partners Distributors LLC**  
**Financial Statements and Supplementary**  
**Schedules Pursuant to Rule 17a-5**  
**of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934**  
**December 31, 2011 and 2010**

**Artisan Partners Distributors LLC**  
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**December 31, 2011 and 2010**

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## Report of Independent Auditors

To the Sole Member of Artisan Partners Distributors LLC:

In our opinion, the accompanying statements of financial condition and the related statements of operations, of changes in member's equity, and of cash flows present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Artisan Partners Distributors LLC (the "Company"), a wholly-owned subsidiary of Artisan Partners Holdings LP, at December 31, 2011 and 2010, and the results of its operations, changes in its member's equity and its cash flows for the years then ended in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Company's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audits. We conducted our audits of these statements 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 financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements, assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, and evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audits provide a reasonable basis for our opinion.

As described in Notes 3 and 6, the Company transacts business with its member. Because of this relationship, the terms of these transactions may not be the same as those that would result from transactions among unrelated parties.

Our audit was conducted for the purpose of forming an opinion on the basic financial statements taken as a whole. The information contained in Schedules I, II and III is presented for purposes of additional analysis and is not a required part of the basic financial statements, 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 the audit of the basic financial statements and, in our opinion, is fairly stated in all material respects in relation to the basic financial statements taken as a whole.

*PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP*

February 10, 2012

**Artisan Partners Distributors LLC**  
**Statements of Financial Condition**  
**December 31, 2011 and 2010**

*(expressed in U.S. dollars)*

**ASSETS**

	<b>At December 31,</b>	
	<b>2011</b>	<b>2010</b>
Cash	\$ 172,024	\$ 172,024
Prepaid expenses	151,407	138,384
Funds on deposit	30,328	11,793
Total assets	<u>\$ 353,759</u>	<u>\$ 322,201</u>

**LIABILITIES AND MEMBER'S EQUITY**

Liabilities:		
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	<u>\$ 24,000</u>	<u>\$ 18,000</u>
Member's equity:		
Paid-in capital	2,822,023	2,555,678
Accumulated deficit	(2,492,264)	(2,251,477)
Total member's equity	<u>329,759</u>	<u>304,201</u>
Total liabilities and member's equity	<u>\$ 353,759</u>	<u>\$ 322,201</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the financial statements.

**Artisan Partners Distributors LLC**  
**Statements of Operations**  
**For the years ended December 31, 2011 and 2010**

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*(expressed in U.S. dollars)*

	<b>For the Years Ended December 31,</b>	
	<b>2011</b>	<b>2010</b>
Income	\$ -	\$ -
Expenses:		
Registration expenses	183,218	161,976
Professional fees	26,339	24,975
Marketing and advertising expenses	31,230	27,070
Other	-	25
Total expenses	240,787	214,046
Net loss	\$ (240,787)	\$ (214,046)

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the financial statements.

**Artisan Partners Distributors LLC**  
**Statements of Changes in Member's Equity**  
**For the years ended December 31, 2011 and 2010**

*(expressed in U.S. dollars)*

	<b>For the Years ended December 31,</b>	
	<b>2011</b>	<b>2010</b>
Paid-in capital:		
Balance at beginning of year	\$ 2,555,678	\$ 2,327,466
Capital contributions from Artisan Partners Holdings LP	266,345	228,212
Balance at end of year	<u>2,822,023</u>	<u>2,555,678</u>
Accumulated deficit:		
Balance at beginning of year	(2,251,477)	(2,037,431)
Net loss	(240,787)	(214,046)
Balance at end of year	<u>(2,492,264)</u>	<u>(2,251,477)</u>
Total member's equity	<u>\$ 329,759</u>	<u>\$ 304,201</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the financial statements.

**Artisan Partners Distributors LLC**  
**Statements of Cash Flows**  
**For the years ended December 31, 2011 and 2010**

*(expressed in U.S. dollars)*

	<b>For the Years Ended December 31,</b>	
	<b>2011</b>	<b>2010</b>
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES:</b>		
Net loss	\$ (240,787)	\$ (214,046)
Adjustments to reconcile net loss to net cash used in operating activities:		
Change in:		
Prepaid expenses and funds on deposit	(31,558)	(14,666)
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	6,000	500
Net cash used in operating activities	<u>(266,345)</u>	<u>(228,212)</u>
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES:</b>		
Capital contributions from Artisan Partners Holdings LP	<u>266,345</u>	<u>228,212</u>
Net cash provided by financing activities	<u>266,345</u>	<u>228,212</u>
Net change in cash	-	-
Cash, beginning of year	<u>172,024</u>	<u>172,024</u>
Cash, end of year	<u>\$ 172,024</u>	<u>\$ 172,024</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the financial statements.

# **Artisan Partners Distributors LLC**

## **Notes to Financial Statements**

### **For the Years Ended December 31, 2011 and 2010**

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#### **1. Nature of Operations**

Artisan Partners Distributors LLC (the "Company"), formerly known as Artisan Distributors LLC until July 2011, was formed as a limited liability company in the State of Wisconsin. The Company's exclusive activity is to act as principal distributor of the shares of Artisan Partners Funds, Inc., known as Artisan Funds, Inc. until July 2011, a registered open-end, diversified, management investment company, presently consisting of twelve no-load mutual funds. The Company's sole member is Artisan Partners Holdings LP ("Artisan Partners Holdings").

The Company is registered as a broker-dealer under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934.

#### **2. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies**

##### **Basis of Presentation**

The accompanying financial statements are prepared in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America ("GAAP"). The preparation of financial statements in conformity with GAAP requires management to make estimates or assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the periods presented. Actual future results could differ from these estimates and assumptions.

##### **Cash**

Cash consists of cash on deposit with a financial institution.

##### **Prepaid expenses and funds on deposit**

Prepaid expenses represent registration expenses paid to the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority ("FINRA"). Registration expenses are calculated on a per agent basis. As of December 31, 2011, all agents of the Company were employees of Artisan Partners Limited Partnership. Funds on deposit represent deposits with FINRA for future registration and advertising filings.

##### **Revenue recognition**

The Company receives no revenue for services provided as distributor of the shares of Artisan Partners Funds, Inc. ("Artisan Funds"). Artisan Funds is a U.S. registered investment company that has not adopted a Rule 12b-1 Plan and, as such, is not permitted to pay expenses related to the marketing and distribution of its shares. Rather, all expenses related to marketing and distribution are paid by Artisan Funds' adviser and/or the Company. The Company has entered into an expense arrangement with its parent entity, Artisan Partners Holdings LP. Pursuant to this arrangement, Artisan Partners Holdings LP, through its wholly-owned subsidiary, Artisan Partners Limited Partnership, provides the Company with management and support personnel and office premises and facilities to conduct the Company's operations. In addition, as part of the expense arrangement, Artisan Partners Holdings LP has committed, to the extent necessary, to make capital contributions to the Company to keep the Company's net capital from falling below the Company's required minimum net capital under Exchange Act Rule 15c3-1 or as otherwise required by FINRA.

#### **3. Related Party Transactions**

All direct expenses attributable to the Company, such as registration, licensing, professional fees and marketing fees, are accrued and recorded in the Company's financial statements. Artisan Partners Holdings provides the Company with capital contributions to pay direct expenses and maintain required net capital. Other expenses which are not identified as direct expenses, such as rent, utilities and administrative expenses, or which are not specifically attributable to the

**Artisan Partners Distributors LLC**  
**Notes to Financial Statements**  
**For the Years Ended December 31, 2011 and 2010**

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Company, are paid directly by Artisan Partners Holdings or its subsidiaries and recorded on the books and records of Artisan Partners Holdings or its subsidiaries, as applicable.

**4. Income Taxes**

The Company is a limited liability company, the profits and losses of which are passed through and included in the tax return of its sole member, Artisan Partners Holdings. Accordingly, the Company's financial statements do not reflect a provision for income taxes.

The Company applies authoritative guidance on accounting for and disclosure of uncertainty in tax positions, which requires the Company's management to determine whether a tax position of the Company is more likely than not to be sustained upon examination, including resolution of any related appeals or litigation processes, based on the technical merits of the position. For tax positions meeting the more likely than not threshold, the tax amount recognized in the financial statements is reduced by the largest benefit that has a greater than fifty percent likelihood of being realized upon ultimate settlement with the relevant taxing authority. Management has determined that there was no material effect on the financial statements from the application of this authoritative guidance.

**5. Commitments and Contingencies**

Accounting standards require the disclosure of representations and warranties which the Company enters into and which may provide general indemnifications to others. The Company, in its normal course of business, may enter into contracts that contain such representations and warranties. 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. However, based on its experience, the Company expects the risk of loss to be remote.

**6. Net Capital Requirements**

The Company is subject to the Securities and Exchange Commission's (the "SEC") Uniform Net Capital Rule ("Rule 15c3-1") which requires the maintenance of minimum net capital and requires that the ratio of aggregate indebtedness to net capital, both as defined by the SEC, shall not exceed 15 to 1. On December 31, 2011, the Company's ratio of aggregate indebtedness to net capital was 0.16 to 1.00 and net capital was \$148,024, which was \$123,024 in excess of the minimum capital required of \$25,000. Artisan Partners Holdings has agreed to make sufficient capital contributions to the Company to keep the Company's net capital from falling below its required minimum net capital requirements.

**7. Subsequent Events**

The Company has evaluated subsequent events through February 10, 2012, the date these financial statements were available to be issued. Based on this evaluation, no events have occurred subsequent to December 31, 2011 that require disclosure or adjustment to the financial statements at that date or for the year then ended.

**Artisan Partners Distributors LLC**  
**Supplementary Schedules**  
**December 31, 2011**

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**SCHEDULE I**

Computation of Net Capital Pursuant to Rule 15c3-1

<u>Net capital</u>	
Total member's equity	\$ 329,759
Total member's equity qualified for net capital	\$ 329,759
Total capital and allowable subordinated liabilities	\$ 329,759
Deduction of total nonallowable assets	181,735
Net capital before haircuts on securities	148,024
Haircuts on securities	-
Net capital	\$ 148,024
<u>Aggregate Indebtedness</u>	
Total aggregate indebtedness liabilities	\$ 24,000
Total aggregate indebtedness	\$ 24,000
<u>Computation of Basic Net Capital Requirements</u>	
Minimum net capital required (greater of \$25,000 or 6 2/3% of total aggregate indebtedness)	\$ 25,000
Excess net capital	\$ 123,024
Net capital less greater of 10% of total aggregate indebtedness or 120% of minimum net capital required	\$ 118,024
Percentage of aggregate indebtedness to net capital	16%

**Artisan Partners Distributors LLC**  
**Supplementary Schedules**  
**December 31, 2011**

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**SCHEDULE II**

Computation for Determination of Reserve Requirements  
Pursuant to Rule 15c3-3

Artisan Distributors LLC claims exemption from Rule 15c3-3 under the provisions of Rule 15c3-3(k)(1) which exempts broker-dealers whose transactions are limited to the sale and redemption of redeemable securities of registered investment companies.

**SCHEDULE III**

Reconciliation Pursuant to Rule 17a-5(d)(4)

No differences exist between the net capital included in the audited financial statements and the computation of net capital filed with the unaudited FOCUS Report IIA – Form X-17a-5 as of December 31, 2011.



## Report of Independent Auditors on Internal Control Required By SEC Rule 17a-5

To the Sole Member of Artisan Partners Distributors LLC:

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements and supplemental schedules of Artisan Partners Distributors LLC (the "Company") as of and for the year ended December 31, 2011, in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, we considered the Company's internal control over financial reporting (internal control) as a basis for designing our auditing procedures for the purpose of expressing our opinion on the financial statements, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Company's internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the Company's 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 consideration of control activities for safeguarding securities. This study included 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 and recordation of differences required by Rule 17a-13
2. 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 previously 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 financial statements in conformity 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 and 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.

A *control deficiency* exists when the design or operation of a control does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent or detect



misstatements on a timely basis. A *significant deficiency* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control that is less severe than a material weakness, yet important enough to merit attention by those charged with governance.

A *material weakness* is a deficiency, or combination of deficiencies, in internal control, such that there is a reasonable possibility that a material misstatement of the company's financial statements will not be prevented or detected and corrected on a timely basis.

Our consideration of internal control was for the limited purpose described in the first and second paragraphs and would not necessarily identify all deficiencies in internal control that might be material weaknesses. We did not identify any deficiencies in internal control and control activities for safeguarding securities that we consider to be material weaknesses, as defined previously.

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, as described in the second paragraph of this report, were adequate at December 31, 2011 to meet the SEC's objectives.

This report is intended solely for the information and use of the Company's management, the SEC, the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority, 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.

*PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP*

February 10, 2012



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