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|---|-----------------------------------|---|--|
| SEC<br>Unite<br>Sectorities ANL<br>Washington, I  | 120 <b>60725</b><br>D.C. 20549    | OMB API<br>OMB Number: 32<br>Expires: April 3<br>Estimated average<br>hours per respons | 2 <b>35-0123</b><br>30, 2013<br>9 burden |
| Mastuppion MC FORM  | NITED REPORT<br>X-17A-5<br>RT III |   | <u>E NUMBER</u><br>68473                 |
| FACING<br>Information Required of Brokers and D<br>Securities Exchange Act of 193   | Dealers Pursuant to Se            |   |  |
| REPORT AS OF <u>12/31/11</u>  |                                   |   |  |
| A. REGISTRANT I   | DENTIFICATION                     |   |  |
| VAME OF BROKER-DEALER:  |                                   |   | L USE ONLY<br>M ID. NO.                  |
| COGNIENT SECURITIES LLC   |                                   | L   |  |
| ADDRESS OF PRINCIPAL PLACE OF BUSINESS: (D  | o not use P.O. Box No.)           |   |  |
| 205 North Michigan, Suite 2000  |                                   |   |  |
| (No. and Street)<br>Chicago   | Illinois                          | 60601   |  |
|   | (State)                           | (Z)n (Code)   |  |
| (City)  | (State)                           | (Zip Code)  |  |
| (City)  |                                   | D TO THIS REPOR   |  |
| (City)  |                                   |   | 1  |
| (City)  | OCONTACT IN REGAR                 | D TO THIS REPOR<br>(312) 268-681  | 1  |
| (City)<br>NAME AND TELEPHONE NUMBER OF PERSON TO<br>Michael Marek   | O CONTACT IN REGAR                | D TO THIS REPOR<br>(312) 268-681<br>(Area Code - Telephone                              | 1  |
| (City)<br>NAME AND TELEPHONE NUMBER OF PERSON TO<br>Michael Marek<br>B. ACCOUNTANT II<br>NDEPENDENT PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT whose opinic<br>Ryan & Juraska, Certified Public Accounta | O CONTACT IN REGAR                | D TO THIS REPOR<br>(312) 268-681<br>(Area Code - Telephone                              | 1  |

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must be supported by a statement of facts and circumstances relied on as the basis for the exemption. See section 240.17a-5(e)(2).

# OATH OR AFFIRMATION

I, Michael Marek, swear (or affirm) that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, the accompanying financial statement and supporting schedules pertaining to the firm of Cognient Securities 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   |
|---|--|
|   | Signature  |
|   | President Title  |
| <b>~</b> • • •  |  |
| Subscri   | bed and sworn to before me this  |
| 2.711   | day of February , 2012   |
| Plp   | "OFFICIAL SEAL"   Philip C. Ryan   Notary Public, State of Illinois   My Commission Expires 08/20/2012   Notary Public   |
| [x] (a)<br>[x] (b)<br>[ ] (c)<br>[ ] (d)<br>[ ] (e)<br>[ ] (f)<br>[x] (g) | port** contains (check all applicable boxes)<br>Facing Page.<br>Statement of Financial Condition.<br>Statement of Income (Loss).<br>Statement of Cash Flows.<br>Statement of Changes in Stockholders' Equity or Partners' or Sole Proprietor's Capital.<br>Statement of Changes in Liabilities Subordinated to Claims of General Creditors.<br>Computation of Net Capital for Brokers and Dealers pursuant to Rule 15c3-1.<br>Computation for Determination of Reserve Requirements Pursuant to Rule 15c3-3. |
| [ <b>x</b> ] (h)<br>[ <b>x</b> ] (i)                                      | Information Relating to the Possession or Control Requirements for Brokers and Dealers Under<br>Rule 15c3-3  |
| [](j)   | A Reconciliation, including appropriate explanation, of the Computation of Net Capital Under Rule<br>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.
- An Oath or Affirmation. [**x**] (I)

- [] (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.
- [x] (o) Independent Auditors' Report on Internal Accounting Control.
- Schedule of Segregation Requirements and Funds in Segregation Customers' Regulated [](p) Commodity Futures Accounts Pursuant to CFTC Rule 1.11(d)2(iv).

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

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL CONDITION AND SUPPLEMENTARY SCHEDULES PURSUANT TO SEC RULE 17-a5(d)

December 31, 2011 AVAILABLE FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION





CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

### STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL CONDITION AND SUPPLEMENTARY SCHEDULES PURSUANT TO SEC RULE 17-a5(d)

December 31, 2011 AVAILABLE FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION

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R&J

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 Member of Cognient Securities LLC

We have audited the accompanying statement of financial condition of Cognient Securities LLC (the "Company") as of December 31, 2011, 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 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 the financial statement. 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 Cognient Securities LLC as of December 31, 2011, 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.

Kyan & Juraska

Chicago, Illinois February 23, 2012

# COGNIENT SECURITIES LLC Statement of Financial Condition December 31, 2011

| Assets                          |              |
|---------------------------------|--------------|
| Cash                            | \$<br>26,665 |
|                                 |              |
|                                 |              |
| Liabilities and Member's Equity |              |
| Liabilities                     |              |
| Payable to parent               | \$<br>98     |
|                                 | 00 507       |
| Member's equity                 | <br>26,567   |
|                                 | \$<br>26,665 |

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See accompanying notes.

#### Notes to Statement of Financial Condition

#### December 31, 2011

#### 1. Organization and Business

Cognient Securities LLC (the "Company"), a Delaware limited liability company, was formed on December 10, 2009. The Company is a wholly owned subsidiary of Cognient Advisors, LLC (the "Parent"). The Company is a broker-dealer registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission and is a member of the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority. The Company's primary purpose is to provide investment banking services.

#### 2. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

#### **Revenue Recognition**

Consulting and advisory fee income is recorded on an accrual basis.

#### Income Taxes

No provision has been made for federal U.S. income taxes as the taxable income or loss of the Company is included in the respective income tax returns of the sole member.

#### **Use of Estimates**

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosures of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the consolidated financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from these estimates.

#### 3. Agreements and Related Party Transactions

The Company has a services agreement with the Parent. Per the agreement, the Company has agreed to reimburse the Parent for certain monthly administrative and overhead expenses in accordance with applicable federal and state securities laws and regulations. The services agreement calls for the Parent to provide administrative support to the Company and permits the Company to utilize the Parent's facilities to conduct its operations.

At December 31, 2011, the Company had a payable to the Parent totaling \$98.

#### 4. Fair Value Disclosure

ASC 820, Fair Value Measurements and Disclosures, requires enhanced disclosures about investments that are measured and reported at fair value. Fair value is defined as the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date. ASC 820 establishes a fair value hierarchy for inputs used in measuring fair value that maximizes the use of observable inputs and minimizes the use of unobservable inputs by requiring that the most observable inputs be used when available. Observable inputs are those that market participants would use in pricing the asset or liability based on market data obtained from sources independent of the Partnership. Unobservable inputs reflect the Partnership's assumptions about the inputs market participants would use in pricing the asset or liability due in pricing the asset or liability due in pricing the asset or liability based on the best market participants would use in pricing the asset or liability due in pricing the asset or liability based on the best market participants would use in pricing the asset or liability based on the best market participants would use in pricing the asset or liability due to based on the best market participants would use in pricing the asset or liability based on the best market participants would use in pricing the asset or liability due to based on the best market participants would use in pricing the asset or liability due to based on the best market participants would use in pricing the asset or liability due to based on the best market participants would use in pricing the asset or liability due to based on the best market participants would use in pricing the asset or liability due to based on the best market participants would use in pricing the asset or liability due to based on the based on the based on the baset or liability due to based on the baset or liability due to based on the baset or liability due to basset on the baset or liability due t

### Notes to Statement of Financial Condition, Continued

### December 31, 2011

### 4. Fair Value Disclosure, continued

information available in the circumstances. The fair value hierarchy prioritizes the inputs to valuation techniques used to measure fair value into three broad levels:

- <u>Level 1 Inputs</u> Valuation is based on unadjusted quoted prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities at the reporting date.
- Level 2 Inputs Valuation is based on other than quoted prices included with Level 1 that are observable for substantially the full term of the asset or liability, either directly or indirectly. Level 2 assets include quoted prices for similar assets or liabilities in active markets; quoted prices for identical or similar assets or liabilities that are not active; and inputs other than quoted prices that are observable, such as models or other valuation methodologies.
- Level 3 Inputs Valuation is based on unobservable inputs for the valuation of the asset or liability. Level 3 assets include investments for which there is little, if any, market activity. These inputs require significant management judgment or estimation.

At December 31, 2011, the Partnership held no Level 1, Level 2, or Level 3 investments.

### 5. Net Capital Requirements

The Company is subject to the Securities and Exchange Commission Uniform Net Capital Rule (Rule 15(c)3-1) and various exchange rules. Under the highest requirement, the Partnership is required to maintain "net capital" equal to the greater of \$5,000 or 63% of "aggregate indebtedness", as defined.

At December 31, 2011, the Company had net capital and net capital requirements of \$26,567 and \$5,000, respectively.

### 6. Uncertainty – Going Concern

Management expects to continue business activities and the Parent will contribute additional capital to fund such activities as needed.

#### 7. Subsequent Events

The Company's management has evaluated events and transactions through February 23, 2012, the date the financial statements were issued, noting no material events requiring disclosure in the Company's financial statements other than those listed below.

In January 2012, capital contributions were made by the Parent totaling \$40,000.

# SUPPLEMENTAL SCHEDULES

# Computation of Net Capital for Broker and Dealers pursuant to Rule 15c3-1

December 31, 2011

| Computation of net capital  |              |
|---|--------------|
| Total member's equity   | \$26,567     |
| Net capital   | \$26,567     |
| Computation of basic capital requirement  |              |
| Minimum net capital required (greater of \$5,000 or 6 3/3% of aggregate indebtedness) | 5,000        |
| Net capital in excess of net capital requirement                                      | \$21,567     |
| Computation of aggregate indebtedness   |              |
| Aggregate indebtedness  | \$ <u>98</u> |
| Ratio of aggregate indebtedness to net capital  | %0.37_       |

There are no material differences between the above computation and the Company's corresponding unaudited Form FOCUS Part II filing as of December 31, 2011.

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

December 31, 2011

The Company did not handle any customer cash or securities during the year ended December 31, 2011 and does not have any customer accounts.

## **COGNIENT SECURITIES LLC**

# Information Relating to Possession or Control Requirements pursuant to Rule 15c3-3 December 31, 2011

The Company did not handle any customer cash or securities during the year ended December 31, 2011 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

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

To the Member of Cognient Securities LLC

In planning and performing our audit of the statement of financial condition of Cognient Securities LLC (the "Company"), as of 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 statement, 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 test of such stated in Rule 17a-5(g) in making the periodic computations of aggregate indebtedness (or aggregate debits) 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 the financial statement 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 statement 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 management, the SEC, the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority, 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.

Kyan & Jueska

Chicago, Illinois February 23, 2012