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

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formation Required of Brokers and Dealers Pursuant to Section 17 of the Securities and Exchange Act of 1934 and Rule 17a-5 Thereunder

REPORT FOR THE PERIOD BEGINNING 01/01/2013 AND ENDING \_ MM/DD/YY A. REGISTRANT IDENTIFICATION NAME OF BROKER DEALER: OFFICIAL USE ONLY Corestone Distributors, LLC FIRM ID. NO. ADDRESS OF PRINCIPAL PLACE OF BUSINESS: (Do not use P.O. Box No.) 555 E. Lancaster Avenue, Suite 110 (No. and Street) Radnor 19087 (Zip Code) NAME AND TELEPHONE NUMBER OF PERSON TO CONTACT IN REGARD TO THIS REPORT Andrew Lutz (484) 866-8340 (Area Code - Telephone No.) **B. ACCOUNTANT IDENTIFICATION** INDEPENDENT PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT whose opinion is contained in this Report\* BBD, LLP (Name - if individual, state last, first, middle name) 1835 Market Street, 26th Floor Philadelphia 19103 (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

KHB

<sup>\*</sup>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).

# **OATH OR AFFIRMATION**

I,	Andrew Lutz , swear (or affirm) that, to the best of
my kno	owledge and belief the accompanying financial statement and supporting schedules pertaining to the firm of
of neither classifi	December 31 , 20 13 , are true and correct. I further swear (or affirm) that the company nor any partner, proprietor, principal officer or director has any proprietary interest in any account ied solely as that of a customer, except as follows:
	Signature
This re  (a) (b) (c) (d) (e) (f) (g) (h) (i) (i) (k) (i) (k) (i) (m) (m) (m)	Notary Public  Monomial Seal  Notary Public  Title  Title  Title  Title  Notary Public  Title  Title  Title  Title  Notary Public  Title  Notary Public  Title  Title  Title  Notary Public  Title  Title  Title  Notary Public  Title  Title  Notary Public  Title  Totary Public  Title  Title  Title  Totary Public  Totary P

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

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#### INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Managing Member of Corestone Distributors, LLC

#### Report on the Financial Statements

We have audited the statement of financial condition of Corestone Distributors, LLC (the "Company") as of December 31, 2013, and the related statements of income, changes in member's equity, and cash flows for the year then ended that are filed pursuant to rule 17a-5 under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, and the related notes to the financial statements.

### Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America; this includes the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

#### Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements 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 financial statements are free of material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the Company's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design 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. Accordingly, we express no such opinion. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting principles used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

#### **Opinion**

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Corestone Distributors, LLC as of December 31, 2013, and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year then ended, in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

#### Other Matter

Our audit was conducted for the purpose of forming an opinion on the financial statements taken as a whole. The information contained in Schedules I and II is presented for purposes of additional analysis and is not a required part of the financial statements, but is supplementary information required by Rule 17a-5 under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934. Such information is the responsibility of management and was derived from and relates directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the financial statements. The information in Schedule I and II has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the financial statements and certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling such information directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the financial statements or to the financial statements themselves, and other additional procedures in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. In our opinion, the information in Schedules I and II is fairly stated in all material respects in relation to the financial statements taken as a whole.

BBD, UP

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania February 27, 2014

# STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL CONDITION

# **December 31, 2013**

ASSETS Cash and cash equivalents Prepaid expenses Total assets	\$53,257 10,491 <u>\$63,748</u>
LIABILITIES AND MEMBER'S EC	QUITY
LIABILITIES Accrued expenses	<u>\$30,327</u>
MEMBER'S EQUITY	33,421
Total liabilities and member's equity	<u>\$63.748</u>

### STATEMENT OF INCOME

# Year ended December 31, 2013

REVENUE Marketing fee and reimbursement income	<u>\$3,550,000</u>
EXPENSES	
Commissions paid to registered representatives Travel Expense Professional fees Rent Regulatory fees and expenses Other operating expenses	3,360,483 59,688 55,514 18,000 14,075 44,531
Total expenses	_3,552,291
NET LOSS	<u>\$ (2,291)</u>

# STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN MEMBER'S EQUITY

# Year ended December 31, 2013

BALANCE, beginning of year	\$35,712
Net loss	_(2,291)
BALANCE, end of year	<u>\$33,421</u>

### STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

# Year ended December 31, 2013

CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES  Net loss  Adjustments to reconcile net loss to net cash provided by operating activities	\$ (2,291)
Increase in Prepaid expenses	(10,491)
Decrease in Accrued expenses Receivable from affiliate Commissions payable	(11,681) 965,000 (920,791)
Net cash provided by operating activities and net increase in cash and cash equivalents	19,746
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS Beginning of year	<u>33,511</u>
End of year	<u>\$ 53,257</u>

### NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

**December 31, 2013** 

#### (1) ORGANIZATION AND NATURE OF BUSINESS

Corestone Distributors, LLC (the "Company"), a Delaware Limited Liability Company, is a broker-dealer registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission and is a member of the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority ("FINRA"). All of the member's equity of the Company is owned by Corestone Group, LLC ("Group"), a single member Delaware Limited Liability Company that in turn has all of its member's equity owned by Corestone Holdings, LLC ("Holdings"), a Delaware Limited Liability Company owned by two individuals. The Company commenced operations on August 8, 2011.

The Company is exempt from Rule 15c3-3 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (reserve requirements for brokers and dealers) under the provisions of its subparagraph (k)(2)(i), in that the Company does not hold funds or securities for customers.

# (2) SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

#### Cash and Cash Equivalents

The Company maintains its cash in an account at a regional bank which, at times, may exceed federally insured limits. The Company has not experienced any losses in such account and believes it is not exposed to any significant credit risk on its cash deposits.

#### Related Party

The Company has a Placement and Marketing Agreement (the "Marketing Agreement") with Definitive Capital Management, L.P. ("Definitive"), a registered investment adviser under the Investment Advisors Act of 1940, affiliated with the Company through common ownership. The Marketing Agreement provides the Company shall be engaged in providing certain placement and marketing services in connection with the offering and sale of shares or interests of private investment vehicles and managed investment accounts managed by Definitive. In exchange for services provided, the Company shall receive a Marketing Fee, as defined in the Marketing Agreement.

The Company also has a Management and Expense Sharing Agreement (the "Expense Agreement") with Definitive. This Expense Agreement obligates Definitive to cover all reasonable operating expenses incurred by the Company as is necessary or appropriate to carry on its activities. In addition, under the Expense Agreement, Definitive provides the Company with all equipment, furniture, utilities, facilities and administrative support necessary to carry on its activities. Under the Expense Agreement, certain expenses of the Company are directly paid by the Company and the Company is then reimbursed by Definitive. These reimbursements are included in Marketing fee and reimbursement income in the Statement of Income.

All Marketing fee and reimbursement income as disclosed on the Statement of Income was received from Definitive.

#### Income and Expense Recognition

Marketing fee and reimbursement income earned under the Marketing Agreement and Expense Agreement is accrued as earned. Expenses are accrued as incurred.

#### **Commissions**

Commissions are paid to registered representatives for performing marketing services. The commissions are based on a percentage of management fees paid to Definitive by an introduced investor pursuant to Service Agreements with each registered representative.

#### NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

**December 31, 2013** 

#### **Accounting Estimates**

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America ("GAAP") requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenue and expenses during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

#### **Income Taxes**

As a single member Limited Liability Company, the Company is not subject to federal, state or local taxation. Rather, its taxable income is consolidated with the taxable income and/or loss of Group and Holdings and is reported by the members of Holdings on their personal income tax returns.

The Company follows the provisions in GAAP that provide guidance for how uncertain tax positions should be recognized, measured, presented and disclosed in the financial statements. GAAP requires the evaluation of tax positions taken or expected to be taken in the course of preparing an entity's tax returns to determine whether the tax positions are "more-likely-than-not" of being sustained by the applicable tax authority. Tax positions not deemed to meet a "more-likely-than-not" threshold would be recorded as a tax expense.

The Company has reviewed all taxable years that are open for examination by the taxing authorities of all relevant jurisdictions (including the Internal Revenue Service and Pennsylvania). As part of this review, the Company has evaluated all of its tax positions, including the position that it is not subject to an entity level income tax, and has determined that none of them are uncertain. As of December 31, 2013, the tax filings of Holding's members for the tax years ended December 31, 2011 and 2012 remain open. No examination of Holding's or its members' tax filings has been initiated by any relevant taxing authority.

The Company is subject to a tax on its gross receipts imposed by its local jurisdiction. For the year ended December 31, 2013, the Company incurred \$10,660 in gross receipts taxes. Such amount is included in other operating expenses in the Statement of Income.

#### (3) 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, as defined, equal to the greater of \$5,000 or 6-2/3% of aggregate indebtedness. Net capital and the related net capital ratio may fluctuate on a daily basis. At December 31, 2013, the Company had net capital of \$22,930, which was \$17,930 above the net capital requirements of \$5,000. The Company's ratio of aggregate indebtedness to net capital was 1.3226 to 1 at December 31, 2013.

#### (4) CONCENTRATION OF CREDIT RISK

The Company's only source of revenue is from an affiliated registered investment advisor, Definitive. If Definitive were unable to meet its contractual obligations under the Marketing Agreement and the Expense Agreement as discussed in Note 2, the Company would have no source of revenue. Management believes the potential for default by Definitive is minimal.

#### (5) OFF-BALANCE-SHEET CREDIT RISK

The Company does not believe it has any off-balance sheet risk.

#### NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

December 31, 2013

#### (6) CONTINGENCIES AND COMMITMENTS

The Company has executed a sublease in conjunction with Definitive. The term of the sublease ends July 31, 2020. Under the terms of the Expense Agreement, the Company pays Definitive \$1,500 per month in rent expense. Rent expense was \$ 18,000 for the year ended December 31, 2013. Future minimum lease payments under the sublease and Expense Agreement are as follows:

2014	\$ 18,000
2015	18,000
2016	18,000
2017	18,000
2018 and thereafter	46,500
	\$118,500

In the normal course of business, the Company enters into a variety of undertakings that may expose the Company to some risk of loss. The amount of future loss, if any, arising from such undertakings, while not quantifiable, is not expected to be significant.

### (7) SUBSEQUENT EVENTS

Management has evaluated subsequent events through to the date of the Company's financial statement issuance. No material events have occurred through such date.

# COMPUTATION OF AGGREGATE INDEBTEDNESS AND NET CAPITAL PURSUANT TO RULE 15c3-1

December 31, 2013	
Total member's equity from statement of financial condition	\$ 33,421
Less: Non-allowable assets Prepaid expenses	(10,491)
Net capital	\$ 22,930
Total aggregate indebtedness	\$ 30,327
Computation of basic net capital requirement Minimum net capital required (greater of \$5,000 or 6-2/3% of aggregate indebtedness)	\$ <u>5,000</u>
Net capital in excess of minimum requirement	<u>\$ 17,930</u>
Ratio of aggregate indebtedness to net capital	1.3226 to 1
Note: No material differences exist between the above computation and the computation include corresponding amended unaudited FOCUS Report (Form X-17A-5 Part IIA) filing as of E filed on February 27, 2014. A reconciliation between the net capital computation include corresponding originally filed unaudited FOCUS Report as of December 31, 2013, filed o and the net capital computation included above, is as follows:	December 31, 2013, and in the Company's
Net Capital – per originally filed FOCUS Report Increase in expenses Increase in prepaid expenses	\$ 37,882 (5,811) (9,141)
Net Capital – per above	\$ 22,930

#### STATEMENT PURSUANT TO RULE 15c3-3

**December 31, 2013** 

Schedule II

- 1. Computation for determination of reserve requirements under Rule 15c3-3

  The Company operates under the exemptive provision of paragraph (k)(2)(i) of SEC Rule 15c3-3.
- 2. Information relating to the possession or control requirements under SEC Rule 15c3-3

  The Company has complied with the exemptive requirements of SEC Rule 15c3-3 and did not maintain possession or control of any customer funds or securities as of December 31, 2013.



# INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT ON INTERNAL CONTROL REQUIRED BY SEC RULE 17a-5

# To the Managing Member of Corestone Distributors, LLC

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements of Corestone Distributors, LLC (the "Company"), as of and for the year ended December 31, 2013 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 ("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 compliance with 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 (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 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 and the practices and procedures referred to above, errors or fraud may occur and not be detected. Also, projection of any evaluation of them to future periods is subject to the risk that controls may become inadequate because of changes in conditions or that the effectiveness of their design and operation may deteriorate.

A deficiency in internal control 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 and correct, 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 the 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 have identified the following deficiency in internal control that we consider to be a material weakness, as defined above:

As of December 31, 2013, the Company's internal control did not serve to prevent or detect and correct the failure to properly record prepaid expenses and accrued expenses as of the end of the year. These conditions were considered in determining the nature, timing, and extent of the procedures performed in our audit of the Company as of and for the year ended December 31, 2013, and this report does not affect our report thereon dated February 27, 2014.

We did not identify any other deficiencies in internal control and 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, as described in the second paragraph of this report, were adequate at December 31, 2013, to meet the SEC's objectives.

This report is intended solely for the information and use of management, the SEC, 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.

BBD, UP

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania February 27, 2014





# INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANT'S REPORT ON APPLYING AGREED-UPON PROCEDURES RELATED TO AN ENTITY'S SIPC ASSESSMENT RECONCILIATION

To the Managing Member of Corestone Distributors, LLC

In accordance with Rule 17a-5(e)(4) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, we have performed the procedures enumerated below with respect to the accompanying Schedule of Assessment and Payments [General Assessment Reconciliation (Form SIPC-7)] to the Securities Investor Protection Corporation ("SIPC") for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2013, which were agreed to by Corestone Distributors, LLC and the Securities and Exchange Commission, Financial Industry Regulatory Authority, Inc. and SIPC, solely to assist you and the other specified parties in evaluating Corestone Distributors, LLC's compliance with the applicable instructions of the General Assessment Reconciliation (Form SIPC-7). Corestone Distributors, LLC's management is responsible for Corestone Distributors, LLC's compliance with those requirements. This agreed-upon procedures engagement was conducted in accordance with attestation standards established by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants. The sufficiency of these procedures is solely the responsibility of those parties specified in this report. Consequently, we make no representation regarding the sufficiency of the procedures described below either for the purpose for which this report has been requested or for any other purpose. The procedures we performed and our findings are as follows:

- 1. Compared the listed assessment payments in Form SIPC-7 with respective cash disbursement entries from checking account statements noting no differences;
- 2. Compared the amounts reported on the audited Form X-17A-5 for the year ended December 31, 2013, with the amounts reported in Form SIPC-7 for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2013 noting no differences;
- 3. Compared any adjustments reported in Form SIPC-7 with supporting schedules and working papers noting no differences:
- 4. Proved the arithmetical accuracy of the calculations reflected in Form SIPC-7 and in the related schedules and working papers supporting the adjustments noting no differences.

We were not engaged to, and did not conduct an examination, the objective of which would be the expression of an opinion on compliance. Accordingly, we do not express such an opinion. Had we performed additional procedures, other matters might have come to our attention that would have been reported to you.

This report is intended solely for the information and use of the specified parties listed above and is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than these specified parties.

BBD, LLP

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania February 27, 2014



FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
AND SUPPLEMENTAL SCHEDULES
PURSUANT TO RULE 17a-5 OF
THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934 AND
INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT ON INTERNAL CONTROL

**DECEMBER 31, 2013**