

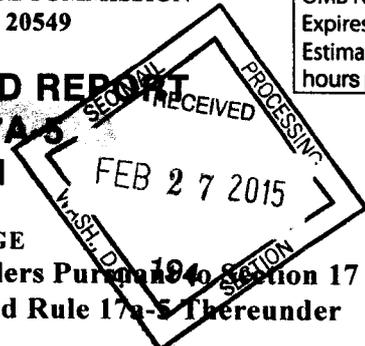
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UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20549

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



SEC FILE NUMBER
8-52396

FACING PAGE

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

REPORT FOR THE PERIOD BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2014 AND ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2014
MM/DD/YY MM/DD/YY

A. REGISTRANT IDENTIFICATION

NAME OF BROKER-DEALER: STERLING CAPITAL DISTRIBUTORS, LLC

OFFICIAL USE ONLY

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

FIRM I.D. NO.

899 CASSATT ROAD, 400 BERWYN PARK, SUITE 110

(No. and Street)

BERWYN

PA

19312

(City)

(State)

(Zip Code)

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

WESTON SOMMERS

(207) 553-7129

(Area Code - Telephone Number)

B. ACCOUNTANT IDENTIFICATION

INDEPENDENT PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT whose opinion is contained in this Report*

MARCUM LLP

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

750 THIRD AVENUE, 11TH FLOOR, NEW YORK

NEW YORK

10017

(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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8/2/15

OATH OR AFFIRMATION

I, WESTON SOMMERS, swear (or affirm) that, to the best of my knowledge and belief the accompanying financial statement and supporting schedules pertaining to the firm of STERLING CAPITAL DISTRIBUTORS, LLC, as of DECEMBER 31, 2014, 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:

Lisa Ann Bousquet
NOTARY PUBLIC
State of Maine
My Commission Expires 01/16/2017

Lisa Ann Bousquet
Notary Public

Weston Sommers
Signature

FINANCIAL AND OPERATIONS PRINCIPAL
Title

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).

STERLING CAPITAL DISTRIBUTORS, LLC
(A Wholly-Owned Subsidiary of Foreside Financial Group, LLC)

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REPORT OF INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM

To the Member of
Sterling Capital Distributors, LLC
(A Wholly-Owned Subsidiary of Foreside Financial Group, LLC)

We have audited the accompanying statement of financial condition of Sterling Capital Distributors, LLC (a wholly-owned subsidiary of Foreside Financial Group, LLC) as of December 31, 2014 that is filed pursuant to Rule 17a-5 under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, and the related notes to the financial statement. Sterling Capital Distributors, LLC's management is responsible for this financial statement. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on this financial statement based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States). 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. The company is not required to have, nor were we engaged to perform, an audit of its internal control over financial reporting. Our audit included 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 also includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the statement of financial condition, assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall statement of financial position presentation. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, the statement of financial condition referred to above presents fairly, in all material respects, the financial condition of Sterling Capital Distributors, LLC as of December 31, 2014 in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Marcum LLP

New York, NY
February 20, 2015

STERLING CAPITAL DISTRIBUTORS, LLC
(A Wholly-Owned Subsidiary of Foreside Financial Group, LLC)

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL CONDITION

DECEMBER 31, 2014

Assets

Cash	\$ 1,989,279
12b-1 fees receivable	720,000
Prepaid expenses	21,266
Other receivables	<u>48,993</u>

Total Assets

\$ 2,779,538

Liabilities and Member's Equity

Liabilities

Accrued 12b-1 fees	\$ 2,239,275
Accrued expenses	32,250
Due to related party	<u>16,108</u>

Total Liabilities

\$ 2,287,633

Commitments and Contingencies

Member's Equity

491,905

Total Liabilities and Member's Equity

\$ 2,779,538

The accompanying notes are an integral part of this financial statement.

STERLING CAPITAL DISTRIBUTORS, LLC
(A Wholly-Owned Subsidiary of Foreside Financial Group, LLC)

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENT

DECEMBER 31, 2014

NOTE 1 - ORGANIZATION

Sterling Capital Distributors, LLC (the "Company"), a limited liability company, is an indirect, wholly-owned subsidiary of Foreside Financial Group, LLC ("Foreside") and a direct subsidiary of Foreside Distributors, LLC (the "Parent"). The Company is registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC") as a broker-dealer and is a member of the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority ("FINRA").

The limited liability company operating agreement provides for the Company to exist into perpetuity.

The Company serves as the distributor and principal underwriter for the Sterling Family of Funds (the "Funds"). Substantially all of the Company's revenues are earned from the Funds or from the Funds' advisor (the "Advisor"). In accordance with the structure of the Company, sales of the Funds' shares are executed by unaffiliated third party broker-dealers.

The accompanying financial statement has been prepared from the separate records maintained by the Company and, due to certain transactions and agreements with affiliated entities, may not necessarily be indicative of the financial condition that would have existed, or the results that would have been obtained from operations, had the Company operated as an unaffiliated entity.

NOTE 2 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

USE OF ESTIMATES

The preparation of the financial statement in conformity with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles ("GAAP") requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets, liabilities, and disclosures of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statement. Actual results could differ from those amounts.

STERLING CAPITAL DISTRIBUTORS, LLC
(A Wholly-Owned Subsidiary of Foreside Financial Group, LLC)

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENT

DECEMBER 31, 2014

NOTE 2 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS

The Company considers all highly liquid temporary cash investments with an original maturity of three months or less when purchased to be cash equivalents.

At December 31, 2014, the Company had no cash equivalents.

RECEIVABLES

The Company extends unsecured credit in the normal course of business to its clients. The determination of the amount of uncollectible accounts is based on the amount of credit extended and the length of time each receivable has been outstanding. The allowance for uncollectible amounts reflects the amount of loss that can be reasonably estimated by management. As of December 31, 2014, the Company had not recorded an allowance for any potential non-collection.

INCOME TAXES

The Company is a disregarded entity for federal income tax purposes and is, therefore, required to be treated as a division of Foreside. The earnings and losses of the Company are included in the tax return of Foreside. The Company is not subject to income taxes in any jurisdiction. Foreside's members are responsible for the tax liability, if any, related to their proportionate share of the Company's taxable income. Accordingly, no provision for income taxes is reflected in the accompanying financial statement. Management has concluded that the Company is a pass-through entity and there are no uncertain tax positions that would require recognition in the financial statement. If the Company were to incur an income tax liability in the future, interest on any income tax liability would be reported as interest expense and penalties on any income tax liability would be reported as income taxes. For the year ended December 31, 2014, no interest or penalties were required to be recorded.

Management's conclusions regarding uncertain tax positions may be subject to review and adjustment at a later date based upon ongoing analyses of tax laws, regulations and interpretations thereof as well as other factors. Generally, federal, state and local authorities may examine the Company's tax returns (as part of Foreside's returns) for three years from the date of filing. These returns are open for examination (as part of Foreside's returns) for the period beginning on April 1, 2012 when the Company was acquired by Foreside through the current year.

STERLING CAPITAL DISTRIBUTORS, LLC
(A Wholly-Owned Subsidiary of Foreside Financial Group, LLC)

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENT

DECEMBER 31, 2014

NOTE 3 - FAIR VALUE

The Company defines fair value 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. The standard establishes the following hierarchy used in fair value measurements and expands the required disclosures of assets and liabilities measured at fair value:

- Level 1 - Inputs use quoted unadjusted prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities that the Company has the ability to access.
- Level 2 - Fair value measurements use other inputs that are observable, either directly or indirectly. These inputs include quoted prices for similar assets and liabilities in active markets as well as other inputs such as interest rates and yield curves that are observable at commonly quoted intervals.
- Level 3 - Inputs that are unobservable inputs, including inputs that are available in situations where there is little, if any, market activity for the related asset or liability.

The inputs or methodology used for valuing assets and liabilities are not necessarily an indication of the risk associated with investing in those assets and liabilities.

As of December 31, 2014, the Company had no financial instruments that required to be fair valued.

There were no transfers between Levels 1, 2, and 3 as of December 31, 2014.

At December 31, 2014, the Company did not hold any Level 2 or Level 3 assets or liabilities.

NOTE 4 - RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

The financial statement has been prepared from the separate records maintained by the Company. The Company shares office space and equipment with affiliates, which are under common control of Foreside. Accordingly, the Company has been allocated a portion of such shared costs. Also, the Parent provides administrative, legal, human resource and other

STERLING CAPITAL DISTRIBUTORS, LLC
(A Wholly-Owned Subsidiary of Foreside Financial Group, LLC)

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENT

DECEMBER 31, 2014

NOTE 4 - RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS (CONTINUED)

general support services, the cost of which is allocated to the Company. For the year ended December 31, 2014, these allocated expenses totaled \$139,120. At December 31, 2014, amounts due to the related party totaled \$16,108, which is included in "Due to related party" on the Statement of Financial Condition.

The Parent agrees to financially assist the Company and is committed to provide such funds, as needed, to operate the business.

During the year ended December 31, 2014, the Company made capital distributions to the Parent totaling \$50,000.

NOTE 5 - NET CAPITAL REQUIREMENT

The Company is subject to the SEC's Uniform Net Capital Rule 15c3-1 (the "Rule"), which requires the maintenance of minimum net capital. The Company has elected to use the alternate method permitted by the Rule, which requires that the Company maintain minimum net capital equal to \$250,000. At December 31, 2014, the Company had net capital of \$421,646, which was \$171,646 in excess of its minimum required net capital of \$250,000.

NOTE 6 - REGULATORY COMPLIANCE

The Company claims exemption under the exemptive provisions of Rule 15c3-3 under subparagraph (k)(1) - all customer transactions are limited to the sale and redemption of redeemable securities of registered investment companies and the Company does not maintain customer accounts or handle customer funds.

NOTE 7 - COMMITMENTS AND CONTINGENCIES

INDEMNIFICATIONS

The Company provides representations and warranties to counterparties in connection with a variety of commercial transactions and occasionally indemnifies them against potential losses caused by the breach of those representations and warranties. These indemnifications generally are standard contractual terms and are entered into in the normal course of business. The Company's maximum exposure under these arrangements cannot be known; however, the Company expects any risk of loss to be remote.

STERLING CAPITAL DISTRIBUTORS, LLC
(A Wholly-Owned Subsidiary of Foreside Financial Group, LLC)

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENT

DECEMBER 31, 2014

NOTE 7 - COMMITMENTS AND CONTINGENCIES (CONTINUED)

CREDIT RISK

The Company maintains a checking account in a financial institution. The account is insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation ("FDIC"). At times, cash may be uninsured or in deposit accounts that exceed the FDIC insurance limit. The Company has not experienced any losses in the account. The Company believes it is not exposed to any significant risk on cash and cash equivalents. Management periodically assesses the financial condition of the bank and believes that any potential credit loss is minimal.

NOTE 8 - AGREEMENTS

The Company has an Agreement with the Funds under which it acts as the distributor of the shares of beneficial interest of the Funds. The Agreement's initial term was for two years. Thereafter, if not terminated, the Agreement shall continue with respect to the Funds for successive one-year terms, provided such continuation is approved at least annually in accordance with the terms of the Agreement. The Agreement is terminable without penalty with 60 days' prior written notice, by the Funds or by the Company, in accordance with the terms of the Agreement. The Company has also entered into a Distribution Services Agreement with the Funds' Advisor (the "Services Agreement") which continues in effect through the term of the Agreement.

The Company enters into Dealer and Selling Group Member Agreements with various intermediaries (including third party broker-dealers, banks and third party administrators) related to the sale of the shares of the Funds and the servicing of the Funds' shareholders. The Company may pay these intermediaries 12b-1 fees and shareholder services fees or commissions as outlined in their respective Dealer and Selling Group Member Agreements provided that the Company first receives such payments from the Funds.

NOTE 9 - SUBSEQUENT EVENTS

Management has evaluated the impact of all events and transactions occurring after period end through the date this financial statement was issued, and has determined that there were no subsequent events requiring recognition or disclosure.

Sterling Capital Distributors, LLC
899 Cassatt Road, 400 Berwyn Park, Suite 110
Berwyn, PA 19312

February 20, 2015

To Whom It May Concern,

The Company meets the exclusion from SIPC Members (SEA Rule 17a-5(e)(4)). This exemption requires the Company to obtain and attach an independent accountants' report on applying agreed-upon procedures related to the entity's claim for exclusion from membership in SIPC. However the SEC, SIPC and the AICPA have not yet finalized an example of an illustrative independent accountants' report on applying agreed-upon procedures related to the entity's claim for exclusion from membership in SIPC (Form SIPC-3).

Therefore, the Company is filing this letter and at which time the illustrative sample report is finalized, the Company will submit such report accordingly.

Very truly yours,



Weston Sommers
Financial and Operations Principal
Sterling Capital Distributors, LLC