



SEC

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**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
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OMB APPROVAL
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REPORT FOR THE PERIOD BEGINNING 01/01/16 AND ENDING 12/31/16
MM/DD/YY MM/DD/YY

A. REGISTRANT IDENTIFICATION

NAME OF BROKER-DEALER: The Benchmark Company LLC

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

150 East 58th St 17th Floor

(No. and Street)

New York

NY

10155

(City)

(State)

(Zip Code)

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

Richard Messina

212 312 6767

(Area Code - Telephone Number)

B. ACCOUNTANT IDENTIFICATION

INDEPENDENT PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT whose opinion is contained in this Report*

Spicer Jeffries LLP

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

5251 S. Quebec St Suite 200

Greenwood Lake

CO

80111

(Address)

(City)

(State)

(Zip Code)

CHECK ONE:

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☐
☐

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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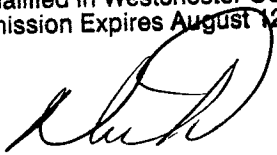
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OATH OR AFFIRMATION

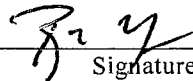
I, Richard Messina, swear (or affirm) that, to the best of my knowledge and belief the accompanying financial statement and supporting schedules pertaining to the firm of The Benchmark Company LLC, as of December 31, 2016, are true and correct. I further swear (or affirm) that neither the company nor any partner, proprietor, principal officer or director has any proprietary interest in any account classified solely as that of a customer, except as follows:

Richard Messina, Summit Capital, Benchmark Pellinore, , SCA Ret Plan SCA Money Purchase Plan

DEMETRIOS G. XISTRIS
Notary Public, State of New York
No. 02XI4904161
Qualified in Westchester County
Commission Expires August 12, 2017



Notary Public



Signature

President/Member

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).*



SPICER JEFFRIES LLP

CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

5251 SOUTH QUEBEC STREET • SUITE 200

GREENWOOD VILLAGE, COLORADO 80111

TELEPHONE: (303) 753-1959

FAX: (303) 753-0338

www.spicerjeffries.com

REPORT OF INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM

To the Member of
The Benchmark Company, LLC

We have audited the accompanying statement of financial condition of The Benchmark Company, LLC (the "Company") as of December 31, 2016 that is filed pursuant to Rule 17a-5 under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, and the related notes to the statement of financial condition. The Company'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 financial statements are 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 financial statements, 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 condition of the Company as of December 31, 2016 in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Greenwood Village, Colorado
February 13, 2017



THE BENCHMARK COMPANY, LLC
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL CONDITION
YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2016
ASSETS

Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 624,285
Receivable from clearing broker	442,654
Furniture and equipment, net of accumulated depreciation of \$838,492	144,736
Other assets (Note 4)	<u>109,486</u>
	<u>\$ 1,321,161</u>

LIABILITIES AND MEMBER'S EQUITY

LIABILITIES:

Due to clearing broker	\$ 42
Accounts payable	508,329
Commissions and salaries payable	<u>312,905</u>

Total liabilities 821,276

COMMITMENTS AND CONTINGENCIES (Notes 4 and 5)

MEMBER'S EQUITY (Note 2)	<u>499,885</u>
	<u>\$ 1,321,161</u>

THE BENCHMARK COMPANY, LLC

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

NOTE 1 - ORGANIZATION AND SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Organization and Business

The Company was originally incorporated in New York on June 22, 1988. During 2003, the Company contributed all of its assets and liabilities to a limited liability company and continues to be registered as a broker-dealer in securities with the Securities and Exchange Commission and is a member of the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority, Inc.

Clearing Agreement

The Company under Rule 15c3-3(k)(2)(ii) is exempt from the reserve and possession or control requirements of Rule 15c3-3 of the Securities and Exchange Commission. The Company does not carry or clear customer accounts. Accordingly, all customer transactions are executed and cleared on behalf of the Company by its clearing broker on a fully disclosed basis. The Company's agreement with its clearing broker provides that as clearing broker, that firm will make and keep such records of the transactions effected and cleared in the customer accounts as are customarily made and kept by a clearing broker pursuant to the requirements of Rules 17a-3 and 17a-4 of the Securities and Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the "Act"). It also performs all services customarily incident thereon, including the preparation and distribution of customer's confirmations and statements and maintenance margin requirements under the Act and the Rules of the Self Regulatory Organizations of which the Company is a member.

Basis of Accounting

The Company records securities transactions and related revenue and expenses on a trade-date basis. Securities owned or sold, but not yet purchased by the Company (substantially common stock) are recorded at fair value and related changes in fair value are reflected in income.

Securities Owned or Sold, not yet Purchased

The Company values its securities in accordance with Accounting Standards Codification 820 - Fair Value Measurements ("ASC 820"). Under ASC 820, fair value is defined as the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability (i.e., the "exit price") in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date.

In determining fair value, the Company uses various valuation approaches. 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 Company. Unobservable inputs reflect the Company's assumption about the inputs market participants would use in pricing the asset or liability developed based on the best information available in the circumstances. The fair value hierarchy is categorized into three levels based on the inputs as follows:

Level 1 - Valuations based on unadjusted quoted prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities that the Company has the ability to access. Valuation adjustments and blockage discounts are not applied to Level 1 securities. Since valuations are based on quoted prices that are readily and regularly available in an active market, valuation of these securities does not entail a significant degree of judgment.

THE BENCHMARK COMPANY, LLC

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

**NOTE 1 - ORGANIZATION AND SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING
POLICIES** (continued)

Securities Owned or Sold, not yet Purchased (concluded)

Level 2 - Valuations based on quoted prices in markets that are not active or for which all significant inputs are observable, either directly or indirectly.

Level 3 - Valuations based on inputs that are unobservable and significant to the overall fair value measurement.

The availability of valuation techniques and observable inputs can vary from security to security and is affected by a wide variety of factors, including the type of security, whether the security is new and not yet established in the marketplace, and other characteristics particular to the transaction. To the extent that valuation is based on models or inputs that are less observable or unobservable in the market, the determination of fair value requires more judgment. Those estimated values do not necessarily represent the amounts that may be ultimately realized due to the occurrence of future circumstances that cannot be reasonably determined. Because of the inherent uncertainty of valuation, those estimated values may be materially higher or lower than the values that would have been used had a ready market for the securities existed. Accordingly, the degree of judgment exercised by the Company in determining fair value is greatest for securities categorized in Level 3. In certain cases, the inputs used to measure fair value may fall into different levels of the fair value hierarchy. In such cases, for disclosure purposes, the level in the fair value hierarchy within which the fair value measurement falls in its entirety is determined by the lowest level input that is significant to the fair value measurement.

Fair value is a market-based measure considered from the perspective of a market participant rather than an entity-specific measure. Therefore, even when market assumptions are not readily available, the Company's own assumptions are set to reflect those that market participants would use in pricing the asset or liability at the measurement date. The Company uses prices and inputs that are current as of the measurement date, including during periods of market dislocation. In periods of market dislocation, the observability of prices and inputs may be reduced for many securities. This condition could cause a security to be reclassified to a lower level within the fair value hierarchy.

The Company values investments in securities and securities sold, not yet purchased that are freely tradable and are listed on a national securities exchange or reported on the NASDAQ national market at their last sales price as of the last business day of the year.

Furniture and Equipment

The Company records furniture and equipment at cost. The Company provides for depreciation of furniture and equipment on the straight-line method based on the estimated useful lives of the assets ranging from five to seven years.

Cash and Cash Equivalents

For purposes of cash flows, the Company considers highly liquid investments with a maturity of three months or less to be cash equivalents.

THE BENCHMARK COMPANY, LLC

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

**NOTE 1 - ORGANIZATION AND SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING
POLICIES (concluded)**

Income Taxes

The Company is not considered a separate taxable entity for tax purposes. All income is reported on the respective members' tax return.

The Company is required to determine whether a tax position is more likely than not to be sustained upon examination by the applicable taxing authority, including resolution of any tax related appeals or litigation processes, based on the technical merits of the position. The Company files an income tax return in the U.S. federal jurisdiction, and may file income tax returns in various U.S. states. The Company is not subject to income tax return examinations by major taxing authorities for years before 2013. The tax benefit recognized is measured as the largest amount of benefit that has a greater than fifty percent likelihood of being realized upon ultimate settlement. De-recognition of a tax benefit previously recognized results in the Company recording a tax liability that reduces members' equity. However, the Company's conclusions regarding this policy may be subject to review and adjustment at a later date based on factors including, but not limited to, on-going analyses of and changes to tax laws, regulations and interpretations thereof. The Company recognizes interest accrued related to unrecognized tax benefits and penalties related to unrecognized tax benefits in income taxes payable, if assessed. No interest expense or penalties have been recognized as of and for the year ended December 31, 2016.

Use of Estimates

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles 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 revenues and expenses during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

NOTE 2 - 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 a minimum net capital, as defined under such provisions. At December 31, 2013, the Company has net capital and net capital requirements of \$173,975 and \$100,000 respectively. The Company's net capital ratio (aggregate indebtedness to net capital) was 4.52 to 1. According to Rule 15c3-1, the Company's net capital ratio shall not exceed 15 to 1.

NOTE 3 - FAIR VALUE MEASUREMENTS

The Company's assets and liabilities recorded at fair value have been categorized based upon a fair value hierarchy in accordance with ASC 820. See Note 1 for a discussion of the Company's policies.

The Company did not have any assets and liabilities measured at fair value as of December 31, 2016.

In accordance with FASB Accounting Standards Update No. 2010-06, the Company did not have any significant transfers between Level 1 and Level 2 during the year ended December 31, 2016.

THE BENCHMARK COMPANY, LLC

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

NOTE 4 - COMMITMENTS AND RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

The Company leases office space under noncancellable operating leases expiring through May 2025. The Company also leases office space under month-to-month leases. At December 31, 2016, aggregate minimum future rental commitments under these leases with initial or remaining terms in excess of one year are as follows:

<u>Fiscal year</u>	<u>Amount</u>
2017	504,501
2018	484,509
2019	487,317
2020	506,369
2021	437,216
Thereafter	1,293,878
	<u>\$ 3,713,790</u>

Total rental expense of \$646,945 including the noncancellable and month-to-month leases referred to above, was charged to operations during the year ended December 31, 2016.

NOTE 5 - FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS, OFF-BALANCE SHEET RISKS AND CONTINGENCIES

In the normal course of business, the Company's client activities ("clients") through its clearing broker involve the execution, settlement, and financing of various client securities transactions. These activities may expose the Company to off-balance sheet risk. In the event the client fails to satisfy its obligations, the Company may be required to purchase or sell financial instruments at prevailing market prices in order to fulfill the client's obligations.

The Company has a substantial portion of its assets on deposit with banks and clearing brokers. Assets deposited with banks and clearing brokers are subject to credit risk. In the event of a bank's or clearing broker's insolvency, recovery of the Company's assets on deposit may be limited to account insurance or other protection afforded such deposits. As of December 31, 2016, the Company had \$374,285 of cash in excess of the federally insured amount of \$250,000.

The Company is involved in various disputes arising in the normal course of business, some of which are large and indeterminable in amount. Management, after review and discussion with counsel, believes the Company has meritorious defenses and intends to vigorously defend itself in these matters, but it is not feasible to predict the final outcomes at the present time.

The Company's financial instruments, including cash, receivables and other assets are carried at amounts which approximate fair value. Securities owned or sold, but not yet purchased are valued at fair value using quoted market prices. Payables and other liabilities are carried at amounts which approximate fair value.

THE BENCHMARK COMPANY, LLC

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

NOTE 6 - SUBSEQUENT EVENTS

The Company has performed an evaluation of subsequent events through the date the financial statements were issued. The evaluation did not result in any subsequent events that required disclosures and/or adjustments.