

BANK OF AMERICA CORP /DE/
Form 424B5
May 08, 2015
Table of Contents

Filed Pursuant to Rule 424(b)(5)
Registration No. 333-202354

Pricing Supplement No. 4

(To Prospectus dated May 1, 2015,
Prospectus Supplement dated May 4, 2015, and
Prospectus Addendum dated May 5, 2015)

May 7, 2015

Medium-Term Notes, Series L

\$600,000,000 1.950% Senior Notes, due May 2018

This pricing supplement describes a series of our senior notes that will be issued under our Medium-Term Note Program, Series L. The notes mature on May 12, 2018. We will pay interest on the notes for each semi-annual interest period at a rate of 1.950% per annum. As described under "Use of Proceeds," we will use the proceeds of the sale of the notes to fund renewable energy and energy efficiency projects.

The notes are unsecured and rank equally with all of our other unsecured and senior indebtedness outstanding from time to time. We do not intend to list the notes on any securities exchange.

Investing in the notes involves risks. For an explanation of some of these risks, see "Risk Factors" beginning on page S-5 of the attached prospectus supplement, and "Risk Factors" beginning on page 9 of the attached prospectus.

None of the Securities and Exchange Commission, any state securities commission, or any other regulatory body has approved or disapproved of these notes or passed upon the adequacy or accuracy of this pricing supplement, the attached prospectus addendum, the attached prospectus supplement, or the attached prospectus. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense.

	<u>Per Note</u>	<u>Total</u>
Public Offering Price	99.994%	\$ 599,964,000
Selling Agents' Commission	0.250%	\$ 1,500,000
Proceeds (before expenses)	99.744%	\$ 598,464,000

Edgar Filing: BANK OF AMERICA CORP /DE/ - Form 424B5

We expect to deliver the notes in book-entry only form through the facilities of The Depository Trust Company on or about May 12, 2015.

Sole Book-Runner

BofA Merrill Lynch

Credit Agricole CIB

Lebenthal & Co., LLC

MFR Securities, Inc.

Table of Contents**SPECIFIC TERMS OF THE NOTES**

The following description of the specific terms of the notes supplements, and should be read together with, the description of our Medium-Term Notes, Series L included in the attached prospectus supplement dated May 4, 2015, and the general description of our debt securities included in Description of Debt Securities in the attached prospectus dated May 1, 2015. If there is any inconsistency between the information in this pricing supplement and the attached prospectus supplement or the attached prospectus, you should rely on the information in this pricing supplement. Capitalized terms used, but not defined, in this pricing supplement have the same meanings as are given to them in the attached prospectus supplement or in the attached prospectus.

Title of the Series:	1.950% Senior Notes, due May 2018
Aggregate Principal Amount Initially Being Issued:	\$600,000,000
Issue Date:	May 12, 2015
CUSIP No.:	06051GFR5
ISIN:	US06051GFR56
Maturity Date:	May 12, 2018
Minimum Denominations:	\$2,000 and multiples of \$1,000 in excess of \$2,000
Ranking:	Senior
Day Count Fraction:	30/360
Interest Rate:	1.950%
Interest Periods:	Semi-annual.
Interest Payment Dates:	May 12 and November 12 of each year, commencing November 12, 2015, subject to the following business day convention (unadjusted).
Record Dates for Interest Payments:	For book-entry only notes, one business day prior to the applicable Interest Payment Date. If the notes are not held in book-entry only form, the record dates will be the first day of the calendar month in which the applicable Interest Payment Date is originally scheduled to occur.
Optional Redemption:	None
Repayment at Option of Holder:	None
Listing:	None
Selling Agents and Conflicts of Interest:	As set forth beginning on page PS-3
Further Issuances:	We have the ability to reopen, or increase after the Issue Date, the aggregate principal amount of the notes initially being issued without notice to the holders of existing notes by selling additional notes having the same terms, provided that such additional notes shall be fungible for U.S. federal income tax purposes. However, any new notes of this kind may have a different offering price and may begin to bear interest on a different date.

PS-2

Table of Contents

U.S. Federal Income Tax Considerations

For a brief description of the tax effects of an investment in the notes, see *U.S. Federal Income Tax Considerations* and *U.S. Federal Income Tax Considerations Taxation of Debt Securities* beginning on page 99 and page 100, respectively, of the attached prospectus.

Use of Proceeds

Environmental Business Initiatives

In 2012, we announced a new 10-year \$50 billion environmental business initiative to help address climate change, reduce demands on natural resources and advance lower-carbon economic solutions. As part of this initiative, we are focusing on energy efficiency, renewable energy and energy infrastructure, advanced transportation, waste and water, through lending, investing and facilitating capital, providing advice and developing solutions for clients around the world.

Funding of Eligible Green Projects

The net proceeds of the sale of the notes will be used to fund renewable energy and energy efficiency projects (*Eligible Green Projects*), in whole or in part, as defined by our internal investment criteria. Renewable energy projects include financing of, or investments in, equipment and systems which facilitate the use of energy from renewable sources, such as solar, wind, and geothermal energy. Energy efficiency projects help reduce energy consumption per unit of output and include projects such as lighting retrofits, district heating, co-generation, and building insulation, in residential, commercial and public properties. These *Eligible Green Projects* are for illustrative purposes only and no assurance can be provided that the proceeds of the notes will be allocated to fund projects with these specific characteristics during the term of the notes.

An amount equal to the net proceeds of the notes will be allocated by us to the financing of existing and future *Eligible Green Projects*. So long as the notes are outstanding, our internal records will show, at any time, the net proceeds from the issuance of the notes as allocated to the assets that meet our internal investment criteria of *Eligible Green Projects*. Pending the allocation of the net proceeds of the notes to finance *Eligible Green Projects*, the net proceeds will be invested in overnight or other short-term financial instruments.

Payment of principal of and interest on the notes will be made from our general funds and will not be directly linked to the performance of any *Eligible Green Projects*.

Further Information

During the term of the notes, we will provide investors with annual updates on a dedicated website regarding (i) the allocation of the net proceeds of the notes to *Eligible Green Projects*, detailing the *Eligible Green Projects* funded, current funded amounts, initial funding dates and

contractual maturity dates, and (ii) assertions by management that the net proceeds of the notes are invested either in qualifying Eligible Green Projects or in overnight or other short-term financial instruments. The updates and assertions will be accompanied by a report from an independent accountant in respect of the independent accountant's examination of management's assertion conducted in accordance with attestation standards established by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants.

Supplemental Information Concerning the Plan of Distribution and Conflicts of Interest

On May 7, 2015, we entered into an agreement with the selling agents identified below for the purchase and sale of the notes. We have agreed to sell to each of the selling agents, and each of the selling agents has agreed to purchase from us, the principal amount of the notes shown opposite its name in the table below at the public offering price set forth above.

PS-3

Table of Contents

<u>Selling Agent</u>	<u>Principal Amount of Notes</u>
Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Incorporated	\$ 588,000,000
Credit Agricole Securities (USA) Inc.	\$ 6,000,000
Lebenthal & Co., LLC	\$ 3,000,000
MFR Securities, Inc.	\$ 3,000,000
Total	\$ 600,000,000

The selling agents may sell the notes to certain dealers at the public offering price, less a concession which will not exceed 0.150% of the principal amount of the notes, and the selling agents and those dealers may resell the notes to other dealers at a reallowance discount which will not exceed 0.100% of the principal amount of the notes.

After the initial offering of the notes, the concessions and reallowance discounts for the notes may change.

We estimate that the total offering expenses for the notes, excluding the selling agents' commissions, will be approximately \$183,520.

Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Incorporated is our wholly-owned subsidiary, and we will receive the net proceeds of the offering.

Some of the selling agents and their affiliates have engaged in, and may in the future engage in, investment banking and other commercial dealings in the ordinary course of business with us or our affiliates. They have received, or may in the future receive, customary fees and commissions for these transactions.

In addition, in the ordinary course of their business activities, the selling agents and their affiliates may make or hold a broad array of investments and actively trade debt and equity securities (or related derivative securities) and financial instruments (including bank loans) for their own account and for the accounts of their customers. Such investments and securities activities may involve securities and/or instruments of ours or our affiliates. Certain of the selling agents or their affiliates that have a lending relationship with us routinely hedge their credit exposure to us consistent with their customary risk management policies. Typically, such selling agents and their affiliates would hedge such exposure by entering into transactions which consist of either the purchase of credit default swaps or the creation of short positions in our securities, including potentially the notes offered hereby. Any such short positions could adversely affect future trading prices of the notes offered hereby. The selling agents and their affiliates may also make investment recommendations and/or publish or express independent research views in respect of such securities or financial instruments and may hold, or recommend to clients that they acquire, long and/or short positions in such securities and instruments.

Validity of the Notes

Edgar Filing: BANK OF AMERICA CORP /DE/ - Form 424B5

In the opinion of McGuireWoods LLP, as counsel to Bank of America Corporation (BAC), when the notes offered hereby have been completed and executed by BAC, and authenticated by the trustee, and the notes have been delivered against payment therefor as contemplated in this pricing supplement and the attached prospectus, prospectus supplement and prospectus addendum, all in accordance with the provisions of the indenture governing the notes, such notes will be legal, valid and binding obligations of BAC, subject to the effect of applicable bankruptcy, insolvency (including laws relating to preferences, fraudulent transfers and equitable subordination), reorganization, moratorium and other similar laws affecting creditors' rights generally, and to general principles of equity. This opinion is given as of the date hereof and is limited to the laws of the State of New York and the Delaware General Corporation Law (including the statutory provisions, all applicable provisions of the Delaware Constitution and reported

PS-4

Table of Contents

judicial decisions interpreting the foregoing). In addition, this opinion is subject to customary assumptions about the trustee's authorization, execution and delivery of the indenture governing the notes, the validity, binding nature and enforceability of the indenture governing the notes with respect to the trustee, the legal capacity of natural persons, the genuineness of signatures, the authenticity of all documents submitted to McGuireWoods LLP as originals, the conformity to original documents of all documents submitted to McGuireWoods LLP as copies thereof, the authenticity of the originals of such copies and certain factual matters, all as stated in the letter of McGuireWoods LLP dated February 27, 2015, which has been filed as an exhibit to BAC's Registration Statement relating to the notes filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on February 27, 2015.

PS-5

Table of Contents

Prospectus Addendum

(To Prospectus Dated May 1, 2015 and Prospectus Supplement Dated May 4, 2015)

May 5, 2015

As part of our Bank of America Corporation Medium-Term Notes, Series L, program, we may offer from time to time notes where the proceeds will be used to further our environmental business initiative.

In 2012, we announced a new 10-year \$50 billion environmental business initiative to help address climate change, reduce demands on natural resources and advance lower-carbon economic solutions. As part of this initiative, we are focusing on energy efficiency, renewable energy and energy infrastructure, advanced transportation, waste and water, through lending, investing and facilitating capital, providing advice and developing solutions for clients around the world.

We may offer from time to time our Medium-Term Notes, Series L, where we specify that the proceeds from such offering will be used in furtherance of this initiative, in particular to finance energy efficiency and renewable energy projects. The specific terms of any notes that we offer in conjunction with our environmental business initiative will be determined before each sale and will be described in a separate pricing supplement. The terms of any such notes will not be tied to any specific environmental initiative or the performance or success of any environmental initiative.

We may sell notes to the selling agents as principal for resale at varying or fixed offering prices or through the selling agents as agents using their best efforts on our behalf. We also may sell the notes directly to investors.

We may use this prospectus addendum and the accompanying prospectus and prospectus supplement in the initial sale of any notes. In addition, Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Incorporated, or any of our other affiliates, may use this prospectus addendum and the accompanying prospectus and prospectus supplement in a market-making transaction in any notes after their initial sale. Unless we or one of our selling agents informs you otherwise in the confirmation of sale, this prospectus addendum and the accompanying prospectus and prospectus supplement are being used in a market-making transaction.

Unless otherwise specified in the applicable pricing supplement, we do not intend to list the notes on any securities exchange.

Investing in the notes involves risks. See **Risk Factors beginning on page S-5 of the accompanying prospectus supplement.**

Our notes are unsecured and are not savings accounts, deposits, or other obligations of a bank. Our notes are not guaranteed by Bank of America, N.A. or any other bank, are not insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation or any other governmental agency, and involve investment risks.

None of the Securities and Exchange Commission, any state securities commission, or any other regulatory body has approved or disapproved of these notes or passed upon the adequacy or accuracy of this prospectus addendum or the accompanying prospectus and prospectus supplement. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense.

BofA Merrill Lynch

Table of Contents

USE OF PROCEEDS

Funding of Eligible Green Projects

The net proceeds from any sale of notes in furtherance of our environmental business initiative will be used to fund renewable energy and energy efficiency projects (Eligible Green Projects), in whole or in part, as defined by Bank of America internal investment criteria. Renewable energy projects include financing of, or investments in, equipment and systems which facilitate the use of energy from renewable sources, such as solar, wind, and geothermal energy. Energy efficiency projects help reduce energy consumption per unit of output and include projects such as lighting retrofits, district heating, co-generation, and building insulation, in residential, commercial and public properties. The specific use of proceeds of any note issuance will be described in the applicable pricing supplement.

An amount equal to the net proceeds from the sale of a specific issue of notes will be allocated by us to the financing of existing and future Eligible Green Projects. So long as that tranche of notes remains outstanding, our internal records will show, at any time, the net proceeds from the issuance of those notes as allocated to the assets funded that meet our internal investment criteria of Eligible Green Projects. Pending the allocation of the net proceeds of such notes to finance Eligible Green Projects, the net proceeds will be invested in overnight or otherwise short-term financial instruments.

Payment of principal of and interest on the notes will be made from Bank of America's general funds and will not be directly linked to the performance of any Eligible Green Projects.

Further Information

During the term of any tranche or series of notes issued in furtherance of our environmental business initiative, we will provide investors with annual updates on a designated website regarding (i) the allocation of the net proceeds of those notes to Eligible Green Projects, detailing the Eligible Green Projects funded, current funded amounts, initial funding dates and contractual maturity dates, and (ii) assertions by management that the net proceeds of that tranche or series of notes are invested either in qualifying Eligible Green Projects or in overnight or other short-term financial instruments. The updates and assertions will be accompanied by a report from an independent accountant in respect of the independent accountant's examination of management's assertion conducted in accordance with attestation standards established by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants.

Table of Contents

Medium-Term Notes, Series L

We may offer from time to time our Bank of America Corporation Medium-Term Notes, Series L. The specific terms of any notes that we offer will be determined before each sale and will be described in a separate product supplement, index supplement and/or pricing supplement (each, a supplement). Terms may include:

Priority: senior or subordinated

Interest rate: notes may bear interest at fixed or floating rates, or may not bear any interest

Base floating rates of interest:

i funds rate

i LIBOR

i EURIBOR

i prime rate

i treasury rate

i any other rate we specify

Maturity: three months or more

Indexed notes: principal, premium (if any), interest payments, or other amounts payable (if any) linked, either directly or indirectly, to the price or performance of one or more market measures, including securities, currencies or composite currencies, commodities, interest rates, stock or commodity indices, exchange traded funds, currency indices, consumer price indices, inflation indices, or any combination of the above

Payments: U.S. dollars or any other currency that we specify in the applicable supplement

We may sell notes to the selling agents as principal for resale at varying or fixed offering prices or through the selling agents as agents using their best efforts on our behalf. We also may sell the notes directly to investors.

Edgar Filing: BANK OF AMERICA CORP /DE/ - Form 424B5

We may use this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus in the initial sale of any notes. In addition, Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Incorporated, or any of our other affiliates, may use this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus in a market-making transaction in any notes after their initial sale. Unless we or one of our selling agents informs you otherwise in the confirmation of sale, this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus are being used in a market-making transaction.

Unless otherwise specified in the applicable supplement, we do not intend to list the notes on any securities exchange.

Investing in the notes involves risks. See Risk Factors beginning on page S-5.

Our notes are unsecured and are not savings accounts, deposits, or other obligations of a bank. Our notes are not guaranteed by Bank of America, N.A. or any other bank, are not insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation or any other governmental agency, and involve investment risks.

None of the Securities and Exchange Commission, any state securities commission, or any other regulatory body has approved or disapproved of these notes or passed upon the adequacy or accuracy of this prospectus supplement or the accompanying prospectus. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense.

BofA Merrill Lynch

Prospectus Supplement to Prospectus dated May 1, 2015

May 4, 2015

Table of Contents**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

	Page
Prospectus Supplement	
<u>About this Prospectus Supplement</u>	S-3
<u>Risk Factors</u>	S-5
<u>Description of the Notes</u>	S-7
<u>General</u>	S-7
<u>Types of Notes</u>	S-8
<u>Payment of Principal, Interest, and Other Amounts Due</u>	S-10
<u>Ranking</u>	S-13
<u>Redemption</u>	S-13
<u>Repayment</u>	S-14
<u>Reopenings</u>	S-14
<u>Extendible/Renewable Notes</u>	S-14
<u>Other Provisions</u>	S-14
<u>Repurchase</u>	S-14
<u>Form, Exchange, Registration, and Transfer of Notes</u>	S-14
<u>U.S. Federal Income Tax Considerations</u>	S-15
<u>Supplemental Plan of Distribution (Conflicts of Interest)</u>	S-15
<u>Selling Restrictions</u>	S-18
<u>Legal Matters</u>	S-27
Prospectus	
<u>About this Prospectus</u>	3
<u>Prospectus Summary</u>	4
<u>Risk Factors</u>	9
<u>Currency Risks</u>	9
<u>Reform of LIBOR and EURIBOR and Proposed Regulation of These and Other Benchmarks</u>	11
<u>Risks Related to our Common Stock and Preferred Stock</u>	13
<u>Other Risks</u>	14
<u>Bank of America Corporation</u>	16
<u>Use of Proceeds</u>	16
<u>Description of Debt Securities</u>	17
<u>General</u>	17
<u>The Indentures</u>	17
<u>Form and Denomination of Debt Securities</u>	18
<u>Different Series of Debt Securities</u>	19
<u>Fixed-Rate Notes</u>	20
<u>Floating-Rate Notes</u>	20
<u>Indexed Notes</u>	28
<u>Floating-Rate/Fixed-Rate/Indexed Notes</u>	29
<u>Original Issue Discount Notes</u>	29
<u>Payment of Principal, Interest, and Other Amounts Due</u>	30
<u>No Sinking Fund</u>	33
<u>Redemption</u>	33
<u>Repayment</u>	34
<u>Repurchase</u>	34
<u>Conversion</u>	34
<u>Exchange, Registration, and Transfer</u>	35
<u>Subordination</u>	35
<u>Sale or Issuance of Capital Stock of Banks</u>	36
<u>Limitation on Mergers and Sales of Assets</u>	37
<u>Waiver of Covenants</u>	37
<u>Modification of the Indentures</u>	37
<u>Meetings and Action by Securityholders</u>	38
<u>Events of Default and Rights of Acceleration</u>	38
<u>Collection of Indebtedness</u>	38
<u>Payment of Additional Amounts</u>	39
<u>Redemption for Tax Reasons</u>	42
<u>Defeasance and Covenant Defeasance</u>	43
<u>Notices</u>	44

Edgar Filing: BANK OF AMERICA CORP /DE/ - Form 424B5

<u>Concerning the Trustees</u>	44
<u>Governing Law</u>	44
<u>Description of Warrants</u>	44
<u>General</u>	44
<u>Description of Debt Warrants</u>	44
<u>Description of Universal Warrants</u>	45
<u>Modification</u>	46
<u>Enforceability of Rights of Warrantholders; No Trust Indenture Act Protection</u>	47
	Page
<u>Description of Purchase Contracts</u>	47
<u>General</u>	47
<u>Purchase Contract Property</u>	47
<u>Information in Supplement</u>	48
<u>Prepaid Purchase Contracts; Applicability of Indenture</u>	49
<u>Non-Prepaid Purchase Contracts; No Trust Indenture Act Protection</u>	49
<u>Pledge by Holders to Secure Performance</u>	50
<u>Settlement of Purchase Contracts That Are Part of Units</u>	50
<u>Failure of Holder to Perform Obligations</u>	50
<u>Description of Units</u>	51
<u>General</u>	51
<u>Unit Agreements: Prepaid, Non-Prepaid, and Other</u>	51
<u>Modification</u>	52
<u>Enforceability of Rights of Unitholders; No Trust Indenture Act Protection</u>	52
<u>Description of Preferred Stock</u>	53
<u>General</u>	53
<u>Dividends</u>	54
<u>Voting</u>	54
<u>Liquidation Preference</u>	54
<u>Preemptive Rights</u>	55
<u>Existing Preferred Stock</u>	55
<u>Additional Classes or Series of Stock</u>	85
<u>Description of Depositary Shares</u>	85
<u>General</u>	85
<u>Terms of the Depositary Shares</u>	85
<u>Withdrawal of Preferred Stock</u>	86
<u>Dividends and Other Distributions</u>	86
<u>Redemption of Depositary Shares</u>	86
<u>Voting the Deposited Preferred Stock</u>	87
<u>Amendment and Termination of the Deposit Agreement</u>	87
<u>Charges of Depository</u>	87
<u>Miscellaneous</u>	88
<u>Resignation and Removal of Depository</u>	88
<u>Description of Common Stock</u>	88
<u>General</u>	88
<u>Voting and Other Rights</u>	88
<u>Dividends</u>	89
<u>Certain Anti-Takeover Matters</u>	89
<u>Registration and Settlement</u>	91
<u>Book-Entry Only Issuance</u>	91
<u>Certificated Securities</u>	91
<u>Street Name Owners</u>	92
<u>Legal Holders</u>	92
<u>Special Considerations for Indirect Owners</u>	92
<u>Depositories for Global Securities</u>	93
<u>Special Considerations for Global Securities</u>	97
<u>Registration, Transfer, and Payment of Certificated Securities</u>	98
<u>U.S. Federal Income Tax Considerations</u>	99
<u>Taxation of Debt Securities</u>	100
<u>Taxation of Common Stock, Preferred Stock, and Depositary Shares</u>	115
<u>Taxation of Warrants</u>	121
<u>Taxation of Purchase Contracts</u>	121
<u>Taxation of Units</u>	121
<u>Reportable Transactions</u>	121
<u>Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act</u>	122
<u>EU Directive on the Taxation of Savings Income</u>	123
<u>Plan of Distribution (Conflicts of Interest)</u>	124
<u>Distribution Through Underwriters</u>	124
<u>Distribution Through Dealers</u>	125
<u>Distribution Through Agents</u>	125
<u>Direct Sales</u>	125

Edgar Filing: BANK OF AMERICA CORP /DE/ - Form 424B5

<u>General Information</u>	125
<u>Market-Making Transactions by Affiliates</u>	126
<u>Conflicts of Interest</u>	126
<u>ERISA Considerations</u>	128
<u>Where You Can Find More Information</u>	130
<u>Forward-Looking Statements</u>	131
<u>Legal Matters</u>	132
<u>Experts</u>	132

S-2

Table of Contents

ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT

We have registered the notes on a registration statement on Form S-3 with the Securities and Exchange Commission under Registration No. 333-202354.

From time to time, we intend to use this prospectus supplement, the accompanying prospectus, and a related product supplement, index supplement and/or pricing supplement to offer the notes. We may refer to any pricing supplement as a term sheet. You should read each of these documents before investing in the notes.

This prospectus supplement describes additional terms of the notes and supplements the description of our debt securities contained in the accompanying prospectus. If the information in this prospectus supplement is inconsistent with the prospectus, this prospectus supplement will supersede the information in the prospectus.

This prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus do not constitute an offer to sell or the solicitation of an offer to buy the notes in any jurisdiction in which that offer or solicitation is unlawful. The distribution of this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus and the offering of the notes in some jurisdictions may be restricted by law. If you have received this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus, you should find out about and observe these restrictions. Persons outside the United States who come into possession of this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus must inform themselves about and observe any restrictions relating to the distribution of this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus and the offering of the notes outside of the United States. See Supplemental Plan of Distribution (Conflicts of Interest).

This prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus have been prepared on the basis that any offer of notes in any Member State of the European Economic Area which has implemented the Prospectus Directive (2003/71/EC) (and amendments thereto, including the Directive 2010/73/EU, to the extent implemented in the relevant Member State, the Prospectus Directive) (each, a Relevant Member State) will be made under an exemption under the Prospectus Directive, as implemented in that Relevant Member State, from the requirement to publish a prospectus for offers of notes. Accordingly, any person making or intending to make an offer in that Relevant Member State of any notes which are contemplated in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus may only do so in circumstances in which no obligation arises for us or any of the selling agents to publish a prospectus pursuant to Article 3 of the Prospectus Directive or supplement a prospectus pursuant to Article 16 of the Prospectus Directive, in each case, in relation to such offer. Neither we nor the selling agents have authorized, and neither we nor they authorize, the making of any offer of notes in circumstances in which an obligation arises for us or any selling agent to publish or supplement a prospectus for the purposes of the Prospectus Directive in relation to such offer. Neither this prospectus supplement nor the accompanying prospectus constitutes an approved prospectus for the purposes of the Prospective Directive.

For each offering of notes, we will issue a product supplement, index supplement, and/or a pricing supplement which will contain additional terms of the offering and a specific description of the notes being offered. A supplement also may add, update, or change information in this prospectus supplement or the accompanying prospectus, including provisions describing the calculation of the amounts due under the notes and the method of making payments under the terms of a note. We will state in the applicable supplement the interest rate or interest rate basis or formula, issue price, any relevant market measures, the maturity date, interest payment dates, redemption, or repayment provisions, if any, and other relevant terms and conditions for each note

Table of Contents

at the time of issuance. A supplement also may include a discussion of any risk factors or other special additional considerations that apply to a particular type of note. Each applicable supplement can be quite detailed and always should be read carefully.

Any term that is used, but not defined, in this prospectus supplement has the meaning set forth in the accompanying prospectus.

S-4

Table of Contents

RISK FACTORS

Your investment in the notes involves significant risks. Your decision to purchase the notes should be made only after carefully considering the risks of an investment in the notes, including those discussed below, in the accompanying prospectus beginning on page 9, and in the relevant supplement(s) for the specific notes, with your advisors in light of your particular circumstances. The notes are not an appropriate investment for you if you are not knowledgeable about significant elements of the notes or financial matters in general. For information regarding risks and uncertainties that may materially affect our business and results, please refer to the information under the captions Item 1A. Risk Factors and Item 7. Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations in our annual report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2014, which is incorporated by reference in the accompanying prospectus, as well as those risks and uncertainties discussed in our subsequent filings that are incorporated by reference in the accompanying prospectus. You should also review the risk factors that will be set forth in other documents that we will file after the date of this prospectus supplement.

The market value of the notes may be less than the principal amount of the notes.

The market for, and market value of, the notes may be affected by a number of factors. These factors include:

- the method of calculating the principal, premium, if any, interest or other amounts payable, if any, on the notes;
- the time remaining to maturity of the notes;
- the aggregate amount outstanding of the relevant notes;
- any redemption or repayment features of the notes;
- the level, direction, and volatility of market interest rates generally;
- general economic conditions of the capital markets in the United States;
- geopolitical conditions and other financial, political, regulatory, and judicial events that affect the stock markets generally; and
- any market-making activities with respect to the notes.

Often, the only way to liquidate your investment in the notes prior to maturity will be to sell the notes. At that time, there may be a very illiquid market for the notes or no market at all. For indexed notes that have specific investment objectives or strategies, the applicable trading market may be more limited, and the price may be more volatile, than for other notes. The market value of indexed notes may be adversely affected by the complexity of the payout formula and volatility of the applicable market measure, including any dividend rates or yields of other securities or financial instruments that relate to the indexed notes. Moreover, the market value of indexed notes could be adversely affected by changes in the amount of outstanding debt, equity, or other securities linked to the applicable market measures, assets or formula applicable to those notes.

Holders of indexed notes are subject to important risks that are not associated with more conventional debt securities.

If you invest in indexed notes, you will be subject to significant risks not associated with conventional fixed-rate or floating-rate debt securities. These risks include the possibility that the

Table of Contents

applicable market measures may be subject to fluctuations, and the possibility that you will receive a lower, or no, amount of principal, premium, or interest, and at different times, than expected. In recent years, many securities, currencies, commodities, interest rates, indices, and other market measures have experienced volatility, and this volatility may be expected in the future. However, past experience is not necessarily indicative of what may occur in the future. We have no control over a number of matters, including economic, financial, and political events, that are important in determining the existence, magnitude, and longevity of market volatility and other risks and their impact on the value of, or payments made on, the indexed notes. Further, you should assume that there is no statutory, judicial, or administrative authority that addresses directly the characterization of some types of indexed notes or similar instruments for U.S. federal or other income tax purposes. As a result, the income tax consequences of an investment in indexed notes are not certain. In considering whether to purchase indexed notes, you should be aware that the calculation of amounts payable on indexed notes may involve reference to a market measure determined by one of our affiliates or prices or values that are published solely by third parties or entities which are not regulated by the laws of the United States. Additional risks that you should consider in connection with an investment in indexed notes are set forth in the applicable supplement(s) for the notes.

Our obligations under subordinated notes will be subordinated.

Holders of our subordinated notes should recognize that contractual provisions in the Subordinated Indenture may prohibit us from making payments on the subordinated notes. The subordinated notes are unsecured and subordinate and junior in right of payment to all of our senior indebtedness (as defined in the Subordinated Indenture), to the extent and in the manner provided in the Subordinated Indenture. In addition, the subordinated notes may be fully subordinated to interests held by the U.S. government in the event we enter into a receivership, insolvency, liquidation or similar proceedings. For additional information regarding the subordination provisions applicable to the subordinated notes, see Description of Debt Securities Subordination in the accompanying prospectus.

Our subordinated notes are subject to limited rights of acceleration.

Payment of our subordinated notes may be accelerated only in the event of our voluntary or involuntary bankruptcy under federal bankruptcy laws (and, in the case of our involuntary bankruptcy, continuing for a period of 60 days). If you purchase any subordinated notes, you will have no right to accelerate the payment of the subordinated notes if we fail to pay interest on such notes or if we fail in the performance of any of our other obligations under such notes.

Floating-rate notes bear additional risks.

If your notes bear interest at a floating rate, there will be additional significant risks not associated with a conventional fixed-rate debt security. These risks include fluctuation of the interest rates and the possibility that you will receive an amount of interest that is lower than expected. We have no control over a number of matters, including economic, financial, and political events, that are important in determining the existence, magnitude, and longevity of market volatility and other risks and their impact on the value of, or payments made on, your floating-rate notes. In recent years, interest rates have been volatile, and that volatility may be expected in the future.

Table of Contents

Our hedging activities may affect your return at maturity and the market value of the notes.

At any time, we or our affiliates may engage in hedging activities relating to the notes. This hedging activity, in turn, may increase or decrease the market value of the notes. In addition, we or our affiliates may acquire a long or short position in the notes from time to time. All or a portion of these positions may be liquidated at or about the time of maturity of the notes. The aggregate amount and the composition of these positions are likely to vary over time. We have no reason to believe that any of our hedging activities will have a material effect on the notes, either directly or indirectly, by impacting the value of the notes. However, we cannot assure you that our activities or affiliates' activities will not affect these values.

Our hedging and trading activities may create conflicts of interest with you.

From time to time during the term of each series of notes and in connection with the determination of the payments on the notes, we or our affiliates may enter into additional hedging transactions or adjust or close out existing hedging transactions. We or our affiliates also may enter into hedging transactions relating to other notes or instruments that we issue, some of which may have returns calculated in a manner related to that of a particular series of notes. We or our affiliates will price these hedging transactions with the intent to realize a profit, considering the risks inherent in these hedging activities, whether the value of the notes increases or decreases. However, these hedging activities may result in a profit that is more or less than initially expected, or could result in a loss.

We or one or more of our affiliates, including Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Incorporated, may engage in trading activities that are not for your account or on your behalf. These trading activities may present a conflict of interest between your interest in the notes and the interests we and our affiliates may have in our proprietary accounts, in facilitating transactions, including block trades, for our other customers, and in accounts under our management. These trading activities, if they influence the market measure or other reference asset (if any) for the notes or secondary trading (if any) in the notes, could be adverse to your interests as a beneficial owner of the notes.

DESCRIPTION OF THE NOTES

This section describes the general terms and conditions of the notes, which may be senior or subordinated medium-term notes. This section supplements, and should be read together with, the general description of our debt securities included in "Description of Debt Securities" in the accompanying prospectus. If there is any inconsistency between the information in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus, you should rely on the information in this prospectus supplement.

We will describe the particular terms of the notes we sell in a separate supplement. The terms and conditions stated in this section will apply to each note unless the note or the applicable supplement indicates otherwise.

General

In addition to the following summary of the general terms of the notes and the indentures, you should review the actual notes and the specific provisions of the Senior Indenture and the Subordinated Indenture, as applicable, which are on file with the SEC.

Table of Contents

We will issue the notes as part of a series of debt securities under the Senior Indenture or the Subordinated Indenture, as applicable, which are exhibits to our registration statement and are contracts between us and The Bank of New York Mellon Trust Company, N.A., as successor trustee. In this prospectus supplement, we refer to The Bank of New York Mellon Trust Company, N.A., as the trustee, and we refer to the Senior Indenture and the Subordinated Indenture individually as the Indenture and together as the Indentures.

The Indentures are subject to, and governed by, the Trust Indenture Act of 1939. We, the selling agents, and the depository, in the ordinary course of our respective businesses, have conducted and may conduct business with the trustee or its affiliates. See Description of Debt Securities The Indentures in the accompanying prospectus for more information about the Indentures and the functions of the trustee.

The notes are our direct unsecured obligations and are not obligations of our subsidiaries. The notes are being offered on a continuous basis. There is no limit under our registration statement on the total initial public offering price or aggregate principal amount of the Senior and Subordinated Medium-Term Notes, Series L, that may be offered using this prospectus supplement. We may issue other debt securities under the Indentures from time to time in one or more series up to the aggregate principal amount of the then-existing grant of authority by our board of directors.

Unless otherwise provided in the applicable supplement, the minimum denomination of the notes will be \$1,000 and any larger amount that is a whole multiple of \$1,000 (or the equivalent in other currencies). We may also issue the notes in units of \$10.

Types of Notes

Fixed-Rate Notes. We may issue notes that bear interest at a fixed rate described in the applicable supplement, which we refer to as fixed-rate notes. We also may issue fixed-rate notes that combine principal and interest payments in installment payments over the life of the note, which we refer to as amortizing notes. For more information on fixed-rate notes and amortizing notes, see Description of Debt Securities Fixed-Rate Notes in the accompanying prospectus.

Floating-Rate Notes. We may issue notes that bear interest at a floating rate of interest determined by reference to one or more base interest rates, or by reference to one or more interest rate formulae, described in the applicable supplement, which we refer to as floating-rate notes. In some cases, the interest rate of a floating-rate note also may be adjusted by adding or subtracting a spread or by multiplying the interest rate by a spread multiplier. A floating-rate note also may be subject to a maximum interest rate limit, or ceiling, and/or a minimum interest rate limit, or floor, on the interest that may accrue during any interest period. For more information on floating-rate notes, including a description of the manner in which interest payments will be calculated, see Description of Debt Securities Floating-Rate Notes in the accompanying prospectus.

Indexed Notes. We may issue notes that provide that the rate of return, including the principal, premium (if any), interest, or other amounts payable (if any), is determined by reference, either directly or indirectly, to the price or performance of one or more securities, commodities, currencies or composite currencies, interest rates, stock or commodity indices, exchange traded funds, currency indices, consumer price indices, inflation indices or other market measures, or any combination of the above, in each case as specified in the applicable supplement. We refer to these notes as indexed notes.

Table of Contents

If you purchase an indexed note, you may receive an amount at maturity that is greater than or less than the face amount of your note, depending upon the formula used to determine the amount payable and the relative value at maturity of the market measure to which your indexed note is linked. We expect that the value of the applicable market measure will fluctuate over time.

An indexed note may provide either for cash settlement or for physical settlement by delivery of the relevant asset. An indexed note also may provide that the form of settlement may be determined at our option or the holder's option. Some indexed notes may be convertible, exercisable, or exchangeable prior to maturity, at our option or the holder's option, for the relevant asset or the cash value of the relevant asset.

We will specify in the applicable supplement the method for determining the principal, premium (if any), interest, or other amounts payable (if any) in respect of particular indexed notes, as well as certain historical or other information with respect to the specified index or other market measure, specific risk factors relating to that particular type of indexed note, and tax considerations associated with an investment in the indexed notes.

A supplement for any particular indexed notes also will identify the calculation agent that will calculate the amounts payable with respect to the indexed note. The calculation agent may be one of our affiliates, including Bank of America, N.A., Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Incorporated (MLPF&S), Merrill Lynch Commodities, Inc., or Merrill Lynch Capital Services, Inc. We may appoint different calculation agents from time to time after the original issue date of an indexed note without your consent and without notifying you of the change. Absent manifest error, all determinations of the calculation agent will be final and binding on you, the selling agents, and us. Upon request of the holder of an indexed note, and to the extent set forth in the applicable supplement, the calculation agent will provide, if applicable, information relating to the current principal, premium (if any), rate of interest, interest payable, or other amounts payable (if any) in connection with that indexed note.

For more information about indexed notes, see *Description of Debt Securities - Indexed Notes* in the accompanying prospectus.

Original Issue Discount Notes. We may issue notes at a price lower than their principal amount or lower than their minimum guaranteed repayment amount at maturity, which we refer to as *original issue discount notes*. *Original issue discount notes* may be fixed-rate, floating-rate, or indexed notes and may bear no interest (*zero coupon notes*) or may bear interest at a rate that is below market rates at the time of issuance. For more information on *original issue discount notes*, see *Description of Debt Securities - Original Issue Discount Notes* in the accompanying prospectus.

Specific Terms of the Notes. The applicable supplement(s) for each offering of notes will contain additional terms of the offering and a specific description of those notes, including:

the specific designation of the notes;

the issue price;

the principal amount;

the issue date;

the maturity date, and any terms providing for the extension or postponement of the maturity date;

Table of Contents

the denominations or minimum denominations, if other than \$1,000;

the currency or currencies, if not U.S. dollars, in which payments will be made on the notes;

whether the note is a fixed-rate note, a floating-rate note, or an indexed note;

whether the note is senior or subordinated;

the method of determining and paying interest, including any applicable interest rate basis or bases, any initial interest rate, or the method for determining any initial interest rate, any interest reset dates, any payment dates, any index maturity, and any maximum or minimum rate of interest, as applicable;

any spread or spread multiplier applicable to a floating-rate note or an indexed note;

the method for the calculation and payment of principal, premium (if any), interest, and other amounts payable (if any);

for exchangeable notes, the securities, or other property for which the notes may be exchanged, the rate of exchange, whether the notes are exchangeable at your option or our option, and other terms of the exchangeable notes;

if applicable, the circumstances under which the note may be redeemed at our option or repaid at your option prior to the maturity date set forth on the face of the note, including any repayment date, redemption commencement date, redemption price, and redemption period;

if applicable, the circumstances under which the maturity date set forth on the face of the note may be extended at our option or renewed at your option, including the extension or renewal periods and the final maturity date;

whether the notes will be listed on any stock exchange; and

if applicable, any other material terms of the note which are different from those described in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus.

Each note will mature on a business day (as defined in the accompanying prospectus) three or more months from the issue date. Unless we specify otherwise in the supplement, the record dates for any interest payments for book-entry notes denominated in U.S. dollars will be one business day (in Charlotte, North Carolina and New York City) prior to the applicable payment date, and for any book-entry notes denominated in a currency other than U.S. dollars will be the fifteenth calendar day preceding the applicable payment date.

Unless we specify otherwise in the applicable supplement, the notes will not be entitled to the benefit of any sinking fund.

Payment of Principal, Interest, and Other Amounts Due

Paying Agents. Unless otherwise provided in the applicable supplement, the trustee will act as our paying agent, security registrar, and transfer agent with respect to the notes through the trustee's corporate trust office. That office is currently located at 101 Barclay Street, New York, New York 10286. If specified in the applicable supplement, with respect to some of our notes, including notes denominated in euro, The Bank of New

York Mellon will act as the London paying

S-10

Table of Contents

agent (the London paying agent) through its London branch, which is located at the 48th Floor, One Canada Square, London, E14 5AL. At any time, we may rescind the designation of a paying agent, appoint a successor or an additional paying agent or different paying agent (including the London paying agent), or approve a change in the office through which any paying agent acts in accordance with the applicable Indenture. In addition, we may decide to act as our own paying agent with respect to some or all of the notes, and the paying agent may resign.

Calculation Agents. The trustee or the London paying agent also will act as the calculation agent for floating-rate notes, unless otherwise specified in the applicable supplement. We will identify the calculation agent for any indexed notes in the applicable supplement. The calculation agent will be responsible for calculating the interest rate, reference rates, principal, premium (if any), interest, or other amounts payable (if any) applicable to the floating-rate notes or indexed notes, as the case may be, and for certain other related matters. The calculation agent, at the request of the holder of any floating-rate note, will provide the interest rate then in effect and, if already determined, the interest rate that is to take effect on the next interest reset date, as described below, for the floating-rate note. At the request of the holder of any floating-rate note that is an indexed note, and to the extent set forth in the applicable supplement, the calculation agent will provide the reference rate or formula then in effect. We may replace any calculation agent or elect to act as the calculation agent for some or all of the notes, and the calculation agent may resign.

Manner of Payment. Unless otherwise stated in the applicable supplement, we will pay principal, premium (if any), interest, and other amounts payable (if any) on the notes in book-entry form in accordance with arrangements then in place between the applicable paying agent and the applicable depository. Unless otherwise stated in the applicable supplement, we will pay any interest on notes in certificated form on each interest payment date other than the maturity date by, in our discretion, wire transfer of immediately available funds or check mailed to holders of the notes on the applicable record date at the address appearing on our or the security registrar's records. Unless otherwise stated in the applicable supplement, we will pay any principal, premium (if any), interest, and other amounts payable (if any) at the maturity date of a note in certificated form by wire transfer of immediately available funds upon surrender of the note at the corporate trust office of the trustee, the London paying agent or such other paying agent specified in the applicable supplement, as applicable.

Currency Conversions and Payments on Notes Denominated in Currencies Other than U.S. Dollars. For any notes denominated in a currency other than U.S. dollars, the initial investors will be required to pay for the notes in that foreign currency. The applicable selling agent may arrange for the conversion of U.S. dollars into the applicable foreign currency to facilitate payment for the notes by U.S. purchasers electing to make the initial payment in U.S. dollars. Any such conversion will be made by that selling agent on the terms and subject to the conditions, limitations, and charges as it may establish from time to time in accordance with its regular foreign exchange procedures, and subject to United States laws and regulations. All costs of any such conversion for the initial purchase of the notes will be borne by the initial investors using those conversion arrangements.

We generally will pay principal, premium (if any), interest, and other amounts payable (if any) on notes denominated in a currency other than U.S. dollars in the applicable foreign currency. Holders of beneficial interests in notes through a participant in The Depository Trust Company, or DTC, will receive payments in U.S. dollars, unless they elect to receive payments on those notes in the applicable foreign currency. If a holder through DTC does not make an election through its DTC participant to receive payments in the applicable foreign currency, the exchange rate agent for the relevant notes, which will be named in the applicable supplement, will convert payments to that holder into U.S. dollars, and all costs of those conversions will be borne by that holder by deduction from the applicable payments.

Table of Contents

For holders not electing payment in the applicable foreign currency, the U.S. dollar amount of any payment will be the amount of the applicable foreign currency otherwise payable, converted into U.S. dollars at the applicable exchange rate prevailing as of 11:00 a.m. (New York City time) on the second business day prior to the relevant payment dates, less any costs incurred by the exchange rate agent for that conversion. The costs of those conversions will be shared pro rata among the holders of beneficial interests in the applicable global notes receiving U.S. dollar payments in the proportion of their respective holdings. The exchange rate agent will make those conversions in accordance with the terms of the applicable note and with any applicable arrangements between us and the exchange rate agent.

If an exchange rate quotation is unavailable from the entity or source ordinarily used by the exchange rate agent in the normal course of business, the exchange rate agent will obtain a quotation from a leading foreign exchange bank in New York City, which may be an affiliate of the exchange rate agent or another entity selected by the exchange rate agent for that purpose after consultation with us. If no quotation from a leading foreign exchange bank is available, payment will be made in the applicable foreign currency to the account or accounts specified by DTC to the applicable paying agent, unless the applicable foreign currency is unavailable due to the imposition of exchange controls or other circumstances beyond our control. If payment on a note is required to be made in a currency other than U.S. dollars and that currency is unavailable due to the imposition of exchange controls or other circumstances beyond our control, or is no longer used by the government of the relevant country or for the settlement of transactions by public institutions of or within the international banking community (and is not replaced by another currency), then all payments on that note will be made in U.S. dollars on the basis of the most recently available market exchange rate for the applicable foreign currency. Any payment on a note so made in U.S. dollars will not constitute an event of default under the applicable notes.

The holder of a beneficial interest in global notes held through a DTC participant may elect to receive payments on those notes in a foreign currency by notifying the DTC participant through which it holds its beneficial interests on or prior to the fifteenth business day prior to the record date for the applicable notes of (1) that holder's election to receive all or a portion of the payment in the applicable foreign currency and (2) wire transfer instructions to an account for the applicable foreign currency outside the United States. DTC must be notified of that election and wire transfer instructions (a) on or prior to the fifth business day after the record date for any payment of interest and (b) on or prior to the tenth business day prior to the date for any payment of principal. DTC will notify the trustee of the election and wire transfer instructions (1) on or prior to 5:00 p.m. New York City time on the fifth business day after the record date for any payment of interest and (2) on or prior to 5:00 p.m. New York City time on the tenth business day prior to the date for any payment of principal. If complete instructions are forwarded to and received by DTC through a DTC participant and forwarded by DTC to the trustee and received on or prior to the dates described above, the holder will receive payment in the applicable foreign currency outside DTC; otherwise, only U.S. dollar payments will be made by the trustee to DTC.

For purposes of the above discussion about currency conversions and payments on notes denominated in a foreign currency, the term "business day" means any weekday that is not a legal holiday in New York, New York or Charlotte, North Carolina and is not a day on which banking institutions in those cities are authorized or required by law or regulation to be closed.

For information regarding risks associated with foreign currencies and exchange rates, see "Risk Factors - Currency Risks" in the accompanying prospectus.

Payment of Additional Amounts. If we so specify in the applicable supplement, additional amounts will be payable to a beneficial holder of notes that is a non-U.S. person. Our obligation to pay additional amounts to non-U.S. persons is subject to the limitations described under

Table of Contents

Description of Debt Securities Payment of Additional Amounts in the accompanying prospectus. If we so specify in the applicable supplement, we may redeem the notes in whole, but not in part, at any time before maturity if we have or will become obligated to pay additional amounts as a result of a change in, or amendment to, U.S. tax laws or regulations, as described under Description of Debt Securities Redemption for Tax Reasons in the accompanying prospectus.

For more information about payment procedures, including payments in a currency other than U.S. dollars, see Description of Debt Securities Payment of Principal, Interest, and Other Amounts Due in the accompanying prospectus.

Ranking

Because we are a holding company, our right to participate in any distribution of assets of any subsidiary upon such subsidiary's liquidation or reorganization or otherwise is subject to the prior claims of creditors of that subsidiary, except to the extent we may ourselves be recognized as a creditor of that subsidiary. Accordingly, our obligations under senior notes or subordinated notes will be structurally subordinated to all existing and future liabilities of our subsidiaries, and claimants should look only to our assets for payments.

Senior Notes. The senior notes will be unsecured and will rank equally with all our other unsecured and unsubordinated obligations from time to time outstanding, except obligations, including deposit liabilities, that are subject to any priorities or preferences by law.

The Senior Indenture and the senior notes do not contain any limitation on the amount of obligations that we may incur in the future.

Subordinated Notes. Our indebtedness evidenced by the subordinated notes, including the principal, premium (if any), interest, and other amounts payable (if any) will be subordinate and junior in right of payment to all of our senior indebtedness from time to time outstanding. Payment of principal of our subordinated indebtedness, including any subordinated notes, may not be accelerated if there is a default in the payment of amounts due under, or a default in any of our other covenants applicable to, our subordinated indebtedness.

The Subordinated Indenture and the subordinated notes do not contain any limitation on the amount of obligations ranking senior to the subordinated notes, or the amount of obligations ranking equally with the subordinated notes, that we may incur in the future.

Unless we specify otherwise in the applicable supplement, the subordinated notes will not be guaranteed by us or any of our affiliates and will not be subject to any other arrangement that legally or economically enhances the ranking of the subordinated notes.

For more information about our subordinated notes, see Description of Debt Securities Subordination in the accompanying prospectus.

Redemption

The applicable supplement will indicate whether we have the option to redeem notes prior to their maturity date. If we may redeem the notes prior to maturity, the applicable supplement will indicate the redemption price and method for redemption. See also Description of Debt Securities Redemption in the accompanying prospectus. Unless we specify otherwise in the

Table of Contents

applicable supplement, to the extent then required by applicable laws or regulations, the subordinated notes may not be redeemed prior to maturity without the requisite prior approvals, if any, from applicable regulators.

Repayment

The applicable supplement will indicate whether the notes can be repaid at the holder's option prior to their maturity date. If the notes may be repaid prior to maturity, the applicable supplement will indicate the amount at which we will repay the notes and the procedure for repayment. Unless we specify otherwise in the applicable supplement, to the extent then required by applicable laws or regulations, the subordinated notes may not be repaid prior to maturity without the requisite prior approvals, if any, from applicable regulators.

Reopenings

We have the ability to reopen, or increase after the issuance date, the principal amount of a particular tranche or series of our notes without notice to the holders of existing notes by selling additional notes having the same terms, provided that such additional notes shall be fungible for U.S. federal income tax purposes. However, any new notes of this kind may have a different offering price and may begin to bear interest at a different date.

Extendible/Renewable Notes

We may issue notes for which the maturity date may be extended at our option or renewed at the option of the holder for one or more specified periods, up to but not beyond the final maturity date stated in the note. The specific terms of and any additional considerations relating to extendible or renewable notes will be set forth in the applicable supplement.

Other Provisions

Any provisions with respect to the determination of an interest rate basis, the specification of interest rate basis, the calculation of the applicable interest rate, the amounts payable at maturity, interest payment dates, or any other related matters for a particular tranche of notes, may be modified as described in the applicable supplement.

Repurchase

We, or our affiliates, may purchase at any time our notes by tender, in the open market at prevailing prices or in private transactions at negotiated prices. If we purchase notes in this manner, we have the discretion to hold, resell, or cancel any repurchased notes. Unless we specify otherwise in the applicable supplement, to the extent then required by applicable laws or regulations, the subordinated notes may not be repurchased prior to maturity without the requisite prior approvals, if any, from applicable regulators.

Form, Exchange, Registration, and Transfer of Notes

We will issue each note in book-entry only form. This means that we will not issue certificated notes to each beneficial owner. Instead, the notes will be in the form of a global note or a master global note, in fully registered form, registered and held in the name of the applicable depository or a nominee of that depository. For notes denominated in a currency other than U.S. dollars, the

Table of Contents

notes may be issued in the form of two global notes, each in fully registered form, one of which will be deposited with DTC, or its custodian, and one of which will be deposited with a common depository for Euroclear Bank SA/NV (Euroclear) and/or Clearstream Banking, société anonyme, Luxembourg (Clearstream). Unless we specify otherwise in the applicable supplement, the depository for the notes will be DTC. DTC, Euroclear, and Clearstream, as depositories for global securities, and some of their policies and procedures are described under

Registration and Settlement Depositories for Global Securities in the accompanying prospectus. For more information about book-entry only notes and the procedures for registration, settlement, exchange, and transfer of book-entry only notes, see Description of Debt Securities Form and Denomination of Debt Securities and Registration and Settlement in the accompanying prospectus.

If we ever issue notes in certificated form, unless we specify otherwise in the applicable supplement, those notes will be in registered form, and the exchange, registration, or transfer of those notes will be governed by the applicable Indenture and the procedures described under

Description of Debt Securities Exchange, Registration, and Transfer and Registration and Settlement Registration, Transfer, and Payment of Certificated Securities in the accompanying prospectus.

U.S. FEDERAL INCOME TAX CONSIDERATIONS

For the material U.S. federal income tax considerations of the acquisition, ownership and disposition of certain notes, see U.S. Federal Income Tax Considerations on page 99 of the accompanying prospectus and the subsection Taxation of Debt Securities of that section. Special U.S. federal income tax rules are applicable to certain types of notes we may issue under this prospectus supplement. The material U.S. federal income tax considerations with respect to any notes we issue, and which are not addressed in the accompanying prospectus, will be discussed in the applicable supplement.

You should consult with your own tax advisor before investing in the notes.

SUPPLEMENTAL PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION (CONFLICTS OF INTEREST)

We are offering the notes for sale on a continuing basis through the selling agents. The selling agents may act either on a principal basis or on an agency basis. We may offer the notes at varying prices relating to prevailing market prices at the time of resale, as determined by the selling agents, or, if so specified in the applicable supplement, for resale at a fixed public offering price. The applicable supplement will set forth the initial price for the notes, or whether they will be sold at varying prices.

If we sell notes on an agency basis, we will pay a commission to the selling agent to be negotiated at the time of sale. The commission will be determined at the time of sale and will be specified in the applicable supplement. Each selling agent will use its reasonable best efforts when we request it to solicit purchases of the notes as our agent.

Unless otherwise agreed and specified in the applicable supplement, if notes are sold to a selling agent acting as principal, for its own account, or for resale to one or more investors or other purchasers, including other broker-dealers, then any notes so sold will be purchased by that selling agent at a price equal to 100% of the principal amount of the notes less a commission that will be a percentage of the principal amount determined as described above. Notes sold in this manner may be resold by the selling agent to investors and other purchasers from time to time in one or more transactions, including negotiated transactions, at a fixed public offering price or at varying prices determined at the time of sale, or the notes may be resold to other dealers for resale to investors.

Table of Contents

The selling agents may allow any portion of the discount received in connection with the purchase from us to the dealers, but the discount allowed to any dealer will not be in excess of the discount to be received by the selling agent from us. After the initial public offering of notes, the selling agent may change the public offering price or the discount allowed to dealers.

We also may sell notes directly to investors, without the involvement of any selling agent. In this case, we would not be obligated to pay any commission or discount in connection with the sale, and we would receive 100% of the principal amount of the notes so sold, unless otherwise specified in the applicable supplement.

We will name any selling agents or other persons through which we sell any notes, as well as any commissions or discounts payable to those selling agents or other persons, in the applicable supplement. As of the date of this prospectus supplement, our selling agent is MLPF&S. We will enter into a distribution agreement with MLPF&S that describes the offering of notes by them as our agent and as our principal. A form of distribution agreement has been filed as an exhibit to the registration statement of which this prospectus supplement forms a part. We also may accept offers to purchase notes through additional selling agents on substantially the same terms and conditions, including commissions, as would apply to purchases through MLPF&S under the distribution agreement. If a selling agent purchases notes as principal, that selling agent usually will be required to enter into a separate purchase agreement for the notes, and may be referred to in that purchase agreement and the applicable supplement, along with any other selling agents, as underwriters.

We have the right to withdraw, cancel, or modify the offer made by this prospectus supplement without notice. We will have the sole right to accept offers to purchase notes, and we, in our absolute discretion, may reject any proposed purchase of notes in whole or in part. Each selling agent will have the right, in its reasonable discretion, to reject in whole or in part any proposed purchase of notes through that selling agent.

Any selling agent participating in the distribution of the notes may be considered to be an underwriter, as that term is defined in the Securities Act. We have agreed to indemnify each selling agent and certain other persons against certain liabilities, including liabilities under the Securities Act, or to contribute to payments that the selling agents may be required to make. We also have agreed to reimburse the selling agents for certain expenses.

The notes will not have an established trading market when issued, and we do not intend to list the notes on any securities exchange, unless otherwise specified in the applicable supplement. Any selling agent may purchase and sell notes in the secondary market from time to time. However, no selling agent is obligated to do so, and any selling agent may discontinue making a market in the notes at any time without notice. There is no assurance that there will be a secondary market for any of the notes.

To facilitate offerings of the notes by a selling agent that purchases notes as principal, and in accordance with industry practice, selling agents may engage in transactions that stabilize, maintain, or otherwise affect the market price of the notes. Those transactions may include overallotment, entering stabilizing bids, effecting syndicate-covering transactions, and imposing penalty bids to reclaim selling concessions allowed to a member of the syndicate or to a dealer, as follows:

An overallotment in connection with an offering creates a short position in the offered securities for the selling agent's own account.

A selling agent may place a stabilizing bid to purchase a note for the purpose of pegging, fixing, or maintaining the price of that note.

Table of Contents

Selling agents may engage in syndicate-covering transactions to cover overallocments or to stabilize the price of the notes by bidding for, and purchasing, the notes or any other securities in the open market in order to reduce a short position created in connection with the offering.

The selling agent that serves as syndicate manager may impose a penalty bid on a syndicate member to reclaim a selling concession in connection with an offering when offered securities originally sold by the syndicate member are purchased in syndicate-covering transactions, in stabilization transactions, or otherwise.

Any of these activities may stabilize or maintain the market price of the securities above independent market levels. The selling agents are not required to engage in these activities, and may end any of these activities at any time.

MLPF&S, a selling agent and one of our affiliates, is a broker-dealer and member of the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority, Inc., or FINRA. Each initial offering and any remarketing of notes involving any of our broker-dealer affiliates, including MLPF&S, will be conducted in compliance with the requirements of FINRA Rule 5121 regarding a FINRA member firm's offer and sale of securities of an affiliate. None of our broker-dealer affiliates that is a FINRA member will execute a transaction in the notes in a discretionary account without specific prior written approval of the customer, see Plan of Distribution (Conflicts of Interest) Conflicts of Interest in the accompanying prospectus.

Following the initial distribution of any notes, our affiliates, including MLPF&S, may buy and sell the notes in market-making transactions as part of their business as a broker-dealer. Resales of this kind may occur in the open market or may be privately negotiated at prevailing market prices at the time of sale. Notes may be sold in connection with a remarketing after their purchase by one or more firms. Any of our affiliates may act as principal or agent in these transactions.

This prospectus supplement may be used by one or more of our affiliates in connection with offers and sales related to market-making transactions in the notes, including block positioning and block trades, to the extent permitted by applicable law. Any of our affiliates may act as principal or agent in these transactions.

Notes sold in market-making transactions include notes issued after the date of this prospectus supplement as well as previously-issued securities. Information about the trade and settlement dates, as well as the purchase price, for a market-making transaction will be provided to the purchaser in a separate confirmation of sale. Unless we or one of our selling agents informs you in the confirmation of sale that notes are being purchased in an original offering and sale, you may assume that you are purchasing the notes in a market-making transaction.

MLPF&S and other selling agents that we may name in the future, or their affiliates, have engaged, and may in the future engage, in investment banking, commercial banking, and financial advisory transactions with us and our affiliates. These transactions are in the ordinary course of business for the selling agents and us and our respective affiliates. In these transactions, the selling agents or their affiliates receive customary fees and expenses.

Although we expect that delivery of the notes generally will be made against payment on or about the third business day following the date of any contract for sale, we may specify a shorter or a longer settlement cycle in the applicable supplement. Under Rule 15c6-1 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, trades in the secondary market generally are required to settle in three business days, unless the parties to a trade expressly agree otherwise. Accordingly, if we have specified a longer settlement cycle in the applicable supplement for an offering of securities, purchasers who wish to trade those securities on the date of the contract for sale, or on one or more

Table of Contents

of the next succeeding business days as we will specify in the applicable supplement, will be required, by virtue of the fact that those securities will settle in more than T+3, to specify an alternative settlement cycle at the time of the trade to prevent a failed settlement and should consult their own advisors in connection with that election.

Selling Restrictions

General. Each of the selling agents, severally and not jointly, has represented and agreed that it has not and will not offer, sell, or deliver any note, directly or indirectly, or distribute this prospectus supplement or the accompanying prospectus, or any other offering material relating to any of the notes, in any jurisdiction except under circumstances that will result in compliance with applicable laws and regulations and that will not impose any obligations on us except as set forth in the distribution agreement.

Argentina. We have not made, and will not make, any application to obtain an authorization from the Comisión Nacional de Valores (the CNV) for the public offering of the notes in Argentina. The CNV has not approved the terms and conditions of the notes, their issuance or offering, this prospectus supplement or the accompanying prospectus, or any other document relating to the offering of the notes. The selling agents have not offered or sold, and will not offer or sell, any of the notes in Argentina, except in transactions that will not constitute a public offering of securities within the meaning of Sections 2 and 83 of the Argentine Capital Markets Law No. 26,831. Argentine insurance companies may not purchase the notes.

Australia. Each selling agent has represented and agreed that in connection with the distribution of the notes, it:

- (a) must not make any offer or invitation in Australia or which is received in Australia in relation to the issue, sale or purchase of any notes unless the offeree or invitee is required to pay at least A\$500,000 for the notes or its foreign currency equivalent (in either case disregarding amounts, if any, lent by us or any other person offering the notes or its associates (within the meaning of those expressions in Part 6D.2 of the Corporations Act 2001 (Cth) of Australia (the Corporations Act)), or it is otherwise an offer or invitation in respect of which, by virtue of section 708 of the Corporations Act, no disclosure is required to be made under Part 6D.2 of the Corporations Act and provided that in any case the offeree or invitee is not a retail client (within the meaning of section 761G or section 761GA of the Corporations Act); and
- (b) has not circulated or issued and must not circulate or issue this prospectus supplement or the accompanying prospectus or any disclosure document relating to the notes in Australia or which is received in Australia which requires lodging under Division 5 of Part 6D.2 or under Part 7 of the Corporations Act.

We are not authorized under the Banking Act 1959 of the Commonwealth of Australia (the Australian Banking Act) to carry on banking business and are not subject to prudential supervision by the Australian Prudential Regulation Authority. The notes are not Deposit Liabilities under the Australian Banking Act.

Austria. The notes may only be offered in the Republic of Austria in accordance with the Austrian Capital Market Act and any other laws and regulations applicable in the Republic of Austria governing the issue, offer and sale of securities in the Republic of Austria. The notes are not registered or otherwise authorized for public offer under the Austrian Capital Market Act or any other applicable laws and regulations in Austria. The recipients of this prospectus supplement, the accompanying prospectus and any other selling materials in respect to the notes are qualified

Table of Contents

investors within the meaning of the Austrian Capital Market Act, i.e., persons who purchase and sell securities as part of their profession or business, and are targeted exclusively on the basis of a private placement. Accordingly, the notes may not be, and are not being, issued, offered or advertised publicly or offered similarly under either the Austrian Capital Market Act or any other relevant securities legislation in Austria. We are a U.S. bank holding company and a financial holding company. We are not a bank under the Austrian Banking Act (*Bankwesengesetz*) and are not EU passported to perform banking business in Austria.

Brazil. The information contained in this prospectus supplement or in the accompanying prospectus does not constitute a public offering or distribution of securities in Brazil and no registration or filing with respect to any securities or financial products described in these documents has been made with the Comissão de Valores Mobiliários (the CVM). No public offer of securities or financial products described in this prospectus supplement or in the accompanying prospectus should be made in Brazil without the applicable registration at the CVM.

Canada. Each selling agent has represented and agreed that in connection with the distribution of the notes it will sell the notes from outside Canada solely to purchasers purchasing as principal that are both accredited investors as defined in National Instrument 45-106 *Prospectus and Registration Exemptions* and permitted clients as defined in National Instrument 31-103 *Registration Requirements, Exemptions and Ongoing Registrant Obligations*.

Chile. The notes have not been registered with the Superintendency of Securities and Insurance of Chile, and the notes may not be offered or sold to persons in Chile, except in circumstances which do not result in an offer to the public in Chile, within the meaning of Chilean Law.

The People's Republic of China. This prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus have not been filed with or approved by the People's Republic of China (for such purposes, not including Hong Kong and Macau Special Administrative Regions or Taiwan) authorities, and is not an offer of securities (whether public offering or private placement) within the meaning of the Securities Law or other pertinent laws and regulations of the People's Republic of China. This prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus shall not be delivered to any party who is not an intended recipient or offered to the general public if used within the People's Republic of China, and the notes so offered cannot be sold to anyone that is not a qualified purchaser of the People's Republic of China. Each selling agent has represented, warranted and agreed that the notes are not being offered or sold and may not be offered or sold, directly or indirectly, in the People's Republic of China, except under circumstances that will result in compliance with applicable laws and regulations.

European Economic Area. In relation to each Member State of the European Economic Area which has implemented the Prospectus Directive (each, a Relevant Member State), each selling agent has represented and agreed, and each further selling agent appointed under the program will be required to represent and agree, that with effect from and including the date on which the Prospectus Directive is implemented in that Relevant Member State (the Relevant Implementation Date), it has not made and will not make an offer of notes which are the subject of the offering contemplated by this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus to the public in that Relevant Member State except that it may, with effect from and including the Relevant Implementation Date, make an offer of such notes to the public in that Relevant Member State:

- (a) at any time to any legal entity which is a qualified investor as defined in the Prospectus Directive;

Table of Contents

(b) at any time to fewer than 150 natural or legal persons (other than qualified investors as defined in the Prospectus Directive), subject to obtaining the prior consent of each selling agent or other agent(s) nominated by us for any such offer; or

(c) at any time in any other circumstances falling within Article 3(2) of the Prospectus Directive, provided that no such offer of notes referred to in (a) to (c) above shall require us or any selling agent to publish a prospectus pursuant to Article 3 of the Prospectus Directive, or supplement a prospectus pursuant to Article 16 of the Prospectus Directive.

For the purposes of this provision, the expression an **offer of notes to the public**, in relation to any notes in any Relevant Member State, means the communication in any form and by any means of sufficient information on the terms of the offer and the notes to be offered so as to enable an investor to decide to purchase or subscribe for the notes, as the same may be varied in that Member State by any measure implementing the Prospectus Directive in that Member State, the expression **Prospectus Directive** means Directive 2003/71/EC (as amended by Directive 2010/73/EU), and includes any relevant implementing measure in the Relevant Member State.

France. This prospectus supplement and accompanying prospectus have not been approved by the *Autorité des marchés financiers* (AMF). Each of the selling agents has represented and agreed that:

(a) it has only made and will only make an offer of the notes to the public (*offre au public*) in France or an admission of the notes to trading on a regulated market in France in the period beginning (i) when a prospectus in relation to those notes has been approved by the AMF, on the date of such publication, or (ii) when a prospectus in relation to those notes has been approved by the competent authority of another Member State of the European Economic Area which has implemented the EU Prospectus Directive 2003/71/EC, on the date of notification of such approval to the AMF and, in either case, when the formalities required by French laws and regulations have been carried out, and ending at the latest on the date which is 12 months after the date of the approval of the prospectus, all in accordance with articles L.412-1 and L.621-8 to L.621-8-3 of the French *Code monétaire et financier* and the *Règlement général* of the AMF; or

(b) it has only made and will only make an offer of the notes to the public in France or an admission of the notes to trading on a regulated market in France in circumstances which do not require the publication by the offeror of a prospectus pursuant to the French *Code monétaire et financier* and the *Règlement général* of the AMF; and

(c) otherwise, it has not offered or sold and will not offer or sell, directly or indirectly, the notes to the public in France, and it has not distributed or caused to be distributed and will not distribute or cause to be distributed this prospectus supplement, the accompanying prospectus or any other offering material relating to the notes to the public in France, and such offers, sales and distributions have been and will be made in France only to (i) providers of the investment service of portfolio management for the account of third parties, and/or (ii) qualified investors (*investisseurs qualifiés*) other than individuals, acting for their own account, all as defined in, and in accordance with, articles L.411-2, D.411-1, D.744-1, D.754-1 and D.764-1 of the French *Code monétaire et financier*. The direct or indirect resale of the notes to the public in France may be made only as provided by, and in accordance with, articles L.411-1, L.411-2, L.412-1 and L.621-8 to L.621-8-3 of the French *Code monétaire et financier*.

Table of Contents

In addition, each of the selling agents has represented and agreed that it has not distributed or caused to be distributed and will not distribute or cause to be distributed in France, this prospectus supplement or the accompanying prospectus, or any other offering material relating to the notes other than to investors to whom offers and sales of the notes in France may be made as described above.

Hong Kong. Each selling agent has represented and agreed that:

- (a) it has not offered or sold and will not offer or sell in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China (Hong Kong), by means of any document, any notes other than (i) to professional investors as defined in the Securities and Futures Ordinance (Cap. 571) of Hong Kong (the SFO) and any rules made under the SFO, or (ii) in other circumstances which do not result in the document being a prospectus as defined in the Companies (Winding Up and Miscellaneous Provisions) Ordinance (Cap. 32) of Hong Kong (the CO) or which do not constitute an offer to the public within the meaning of the CO; and
- (b) it has not issued or had in its possession for the purposes of issue, and will not issue or have in its possession for the purposes of issue, whether in Hong Kong or elsewhere, any advertisement, invitation, or document relating to the notes, which is directed at, or the contents of which are likely to be accessed or read by, the public in Hong Kong (except if permitted to do so under the securities laws of Hong Kong) other than with respect to the notes that are or are intended to be disposed of (i) only to persons outside Hong Kong or (ii) only to professional investors as defined in the SFO and any rules made under the SFO.

Indonesia. The notes offered have not been and will not be registered under the Indonesian Capital Market Law (Law No. 8/1995) and therefore are not authorized by the Capital Market and Financial Services Authority (OJK) in Indonesia as a public offering of securities. Likewise, the notes and this prospectus supplement and accompanying prospectus are not authorized by the Central Bank (Bank Indonesia) for their distribution through banking institutions in Indonesia.

Investors who intend to buy the notes should consult with their financial advisors, brokers or other financial experts before making any decision to buy the notes.

Israel. This prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus are intended solely for investors listed in the First Supplement of the Israeli Securities Law of 1968, as amended. A prospectus has not been prepared or filed, and will not be prepared or filed, in Israel relating to the notes offered hereunder. The notes cannot be resold in Israel other than to investors listed in the First Supplement of the Israeli Securities Law of 1968, as amended.

Subject to any applicable law, the notes offered hereunder may not be offered or sold to more than thirty-five offerees, in the aggregate, who are resident in the State of Israel, and are not listed in the First Supplement of the Israeli Securities Law of 1968. No action will be taken in Israel that would permit an offering of the notes or the distribution of any offering document or any other material to the public in Israel. In particular, no offering document or other material has been reviewed or approved by the Israel Securities Authority. Any material provided to an offeree in Israel may not be reproduced or used for any other purpose, nor be furnished to any other person other than those to whom copies have been provided directly by us or the selling agents.

Italy. The offering of the notes has not been registered with CONSOB *Commissione Nazionale per le Società e la Borsa* (the Italian Companies and Exchange Commission) pursuant to Italian securities legislation and, accordingly, no such notes may be offered, sold or delivered, nor

Table of Contents

may copies of this prospectus supplement or the accompanying prospectus or of any other document relating to the notes be distributed in the Republic of Italy except:

- (i) to qualified investors (*investitori qualificati*), as defined in Article 34-ter, first paragraph, letter (b), of CONSOB Regulation No. 11971 of May 14, 1999, as amended (CONSOB Regulation No. 11971), pursuant to Article 100 of Legislative Decree No. 58 of February 24, 1998, as amended (the Italian Financial Services Act); or
- (ii) in other circumstances which are expressly exempted from the rules on offerings of securities to the public (*offerta al pubblico di prodotti finanziari*) pursuant to Article 100 of the Italian Financial Services Act and Article 34-ter, first paragraph, of CONSOB Regulation No. 11971.

In addition and without prejudice to the foregoing, any offer, sale or delivery of the notes or distribution of copies of this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus or any other document relating to such notes in the Republic of Italy under (a) or (b) above must be:

- (a) made by an investment firm, bank or financial intermediary authorized to conduct such activities in the Republic of Italy in accordance with the Italian Financial Services Act, Legislative Decree No. 385 of September 1, 1993, as amended (the Consolidated Banking Act), and Regulation No. 16190 of October 29, 2007 (as amended from time to time);
- (b) in compliance with Article 129 of Consolidated Banking Act, as amended, and the implementing guidelines of the Bank of Italy, as amended from time to time, pursuant to which the Bank of Italy may require the issuer or any entity offering the notes to provide data and information on the issue or the offer of the notes in the Republic of Italy; and
- (c) in compliance with any other applicable laws and regulations, as well as with any regulations or requirements imposed by CONSOB, the Bank of Italy or other Italian authority.

Please note that in accordance with Article 100-bis of the Financial Services Act, concerning the circulation of financial products, where no exemption from the rules on offerings of securities to the public applies under (a) and (b) above, the subsequent distribution of the notes on the secondary market in Italy must be made in compliance with the public offer and the prospectus requirement rules provided under the Financial Services Act and CONSOB Regulation No. 11971. Furthermore, Article 100-bis of the Financial Services Act affects the transferability of the notes in the Republic of Italy to the extent that any placing of the notes is made solely with qualified investors and the notes are then systematically resold to non-qualified investors on the secondary market at any time in the 12 months following such placing. Where this occurs, if a prospectus has not been published, purchasers of the notes who are acting outside of the course of their business or profession may be entitled to declare such purchase null and void and to claim damages from any authorized intermediary at whose premises the notes were purchased, unless an exemption provided for by the Financial Services Act applies.

Japan. The notes have not been and will not be registered under the Financial Instruments and Exchange Law of Japan (Act No. 25 of 1948, as amended, the FIEL). Each selling agent has represented and agreed that it has not offered or sold and will not offer or sell any notes, directly or indirectly, in Japan or to, or for the benefit of, any resident of Japan (which term as used herein means any person or resident in Japan, including any corporation or other entity organized under the laws of Japan) or to others for reoffering or resale, directly or indirectly, in Japan or to, or for the benefit of, a resident of Japan, except pursuant to an exemption from the registration requirements of, and otherwise in compliance with, the FIEL and any other applicable laws, regulations, and ministerial guidelines of Japan.

Table of Contents

If the offer is made by way of a Qualified Institutional Investors Private Placement as set out in Article 2, Paragraph 3, Item 2(i) or Article 2, Paragraph 4, Item 2(i) of the FIEL (the QII Private Placement), the notes are being offered to qualified institutional investors (the QIIs) as defined in Article 10 of the Cabinet Office Ordinance Concerning the Definition of Terms provided in Article 2 of the FIEL and the investor in any notes is prohibited from transferring such notes in Japan to any person in any way other than to QIIs. As the offering of the notes satisfies the requirements provided in Article 2, Paragraph 3, Item 2(i) or Article 2, Paragraph 4, Item 2(i) of the FIEL, no securities registration statement has been or will get filed under Article 4, Paragraph 1 of the FIEL.

Except in the case the offering is made by way of QII Private Placement, the notes are being offered only to a small number of potential investors (i.e., less than 50 offerees, except QIIs who are offered the notes pursuant to the QII Private Placement), and the investor of any notes (other than the above-mentioned QII investors) is prohibited from transferring such notes to another person in any way other than as a whole to one transferee. As the offering of the notes satisfies the requirements provided in Article 2, Paragraph 3, Item 2(ha) or Article 2, Paragraph 4, Item 2(ha) of the FIEL, no securities registration statement has been or will be filed under Article 4, Paragraph 1 of the FIEL.

Mexico. The notes have not been and will not be registered in the National Securities Registry (*Registro Nacional de Valores*). Therefore, the notes may not be offered or sold in the United Mexican States (Mexico) by any means except in circumstances which constitute a private offering (*oferta privada*) pursuant to Article 8 of the Securities Market Law (*Ley del Mercado de Valores*) and its regulations. All applicable provisions of the Securities Market Law must be complied with in respect to anything done in relation to the notes in, from or otherwise involving Mexico.

Netherlands. We do not have an authorization from the Dutch Central Bank (*De Nederlandsche Bank N.V.*) pursuant to the Dutch Financial Supervision Act (*Wet op het financieel toezicht*) for the pursuit of the business of a credit institution in the Netherlands and therefore do not have a license pursuant to section 2.1(1), 2.12(1), 2.13(1) or 2.20(1) of the Dutch Financial Supervision Act.

Each selling agent has represented and agreed that it has not made and will not make an offer of the notes to the public in the Netherlands other than to qualified investors (*gekwalificeerde beleggers*), provided that no such offer of the notes will require us or any selling agent to publish a prospectus pursuant to Article 3 of the Prospectus Directive or supplement a prospectus pursuant to Article 16 of the Prospectus Directive.

New Zealand. We do not intend that notes be offered for sale or subscription to the public in New Zealand within the meaning of the Securities Act 1978 of New Zealand. Accordingly, no prospectus has been or will be registered, and no investment statement will be prepared, under the Securities Act 1978 of New Zealand.

The notes shall not be directly or indirectly offered for sale, sold or transferred to any member of the public in New Zealand in breach of the Securities Act 1978 or the Securities Regulations 2009 of New Zealand. In particular, but without limitation, in respect of offers of or invitations for the notes received in New Zealand, the notes may only be offered or transferred either:

- (a) to persons whose principal business is the investment of money or to persons who, in the course of and for the purposes of their business, habitually invest money within the meaning of section 3(2)(a)(ii) of the Securities Act 1978;

Table of Contents

- (b) to persons who are each required to pay a minimum subscription price of at least NZ\$500,000 for the notes (disregarding any amount lent by the offeror, us, or any associated person of the offeror or us) before the allotment of those notes and who have a minimum holding of the Notes of at least NZ\$500,000;
- (c) to persons who have each paid a minimum subscription price of at least NZ\$500,000 for notes previously issued by us (Initial Securities) (in a single transaction before allotment of Initial Securities and disregarding any amount lent by the offeror, us or any associated person of the offeror or us), provided the date of first allotment of Initial Securities occurred not more than 18 months before the date of offer of the relevant notes; or
- (d) to any other persons in circumstances where there is no contravention of the Securities Act 1978, provided that notes shall not be offered or sold to any eligible person (as defined in section 5(2CC) of the Securities Act 1978) unless that person also satisfies the criteria in paragraphs (a), (b) or (c) above.

In addition, each holder of the notes is deemed to represent and agree that it will not distribute, publish, deliver or disseminate this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus or any other advertisement (as defined in the Securities Act 1978) in relation to any offer of the notes in New Zealand other than to any such persons as referred to in paragraphs (a) to (d) above.

***Philippines.* THE NOTES BEING OFFERED OR SOLD HAVE NOT BEEN REGISTERED WITH THE SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION UNDER THE SECURITIES REGULATION CODE. ANY FUTURE OFFER OR SALE THEREOF IS SUBJECT TO REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS UNDER THE SECURITIES REGULATION CODE UNLESS SUCH OFFER OR SALE QUALIFIES AS AN EXEMPT TRANSACTION.**

Singapore. This prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus have not been registered as a prospectus with the Monetary Authority of Singapore. Accordingly, this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus and any other document or material in connection with the offer or sale, or invitation for subscription or purchase, of the notes may not be circulated or distributed, nor may the notes be offered or sold, or be made the subject of an invitation for subscription or purchase, whether directly or indirectly, to persons in Singapore other than (i) to an institutional investor under Section 274 of the Securities and Futures Act, Chapter 289 of Singapore (the SFA), (ii) to a relevant person pursuant to Section 275(1), or any person pursuant to Section 275(1A), and in accordance with the conditions specified in Section 275 of the SFA, or (iii) otherwise pursuant to, and in accordance with the conditions of, any other applicable provision of the SFA.

Where the notes are subscribed or purchased under Section 275 of the SFA by a relevant person which is:

- (a) a corporation (which is not an accredited investor (as defined in Section 4A of the SFA)) the sole business of which is to hold investments and the entire share capital of which is owned by one or more individuals, each of whom is an accredited investor; or
 - (b) a trust (where the trustee is not an accredited investor) whose sole purpose is to hold investments and each beneficiary of the trust is an individual who is an accredited investor,
- securities (as defined in Section 239(1) of the SFA) of that corporation or the beneficiaries rights and interest (howsoever described) in that trust shall not be transferred within six months after

Table of Contents

that corporation or that trust has acquired the notes pursuant to an offer made under Section 275 of the SFA except:

- (1) to an institutional investor or to a relevant person defined in Section 275(2) of the SFA, or to any person arising from an offer referred to in Section 275(1A) or Section 276(4)(i)(B) of the SFA;
- (2) where no consideration is or will be given for the transfer;
- (3) where the transfer is by operation of law;
- (4) as specified in Section 276(7) of the SFA; or
- (5) as specified in Regulation 32 of the Securities and Futures (Offers of Investments) (Shares and Debentures) Regulations 2005 of Singapore.

South Korea. The notes have not been and will not be registered under the Financial Investments Services and Capital Markets Act of Korea and the decrees and regulations thereunder (the FSCMA) and the notes have been and will be offered in Korea as a private placement under the FSCMA. None of the notes may be offered, sold and delivered directly or indirectly, or offered or sold to any person for re-offering or resale, directly or indirectly, in Korea or to any resident of Korea except pursuant to the applicable laws and regulations of Korea, including the FSCMA and the Foreign Exchange Transaction Law of Korea and the decrees and regulations thereunder (the FETL). For a period of one year from the issue date of the notes, any acquirer of the notes who was solicited to buy the notes in Korea is prohibited from transferring any of the notes to another person in any way other than as a whole to one transferee. Furthermore, the purchaser of the notes shall comply with all applicable regulatory requirements (including but not limited to requirements under the FETL) in connection with the purchase of the notes.

Each selling agent has represented and agreed that it has not offered, sold or delivered the notes directly or indirectly, or offered or sold the notes to any person for re-offering or resale, directly or indirectly, in Korea or to any resident of Korea and will not offer, sell or deliver the notes directly or indirectly, or offer or sell the notes to any person for re-offering or resale, directly or indirectly, in Korea or to any resident of Korea, except pursuant to an exemption from the registration requirements of, and otherwise in compliance with, the FSCMA, the FETL and other relevant laws and regulations of Korea.

Switzerland. The notes may not be offered, sold or advertised directly or indirectly into or in Switzerland except in a manner which will not result in a public offering within the meaning of article 652a or 1156 of the Swiss Federal Code of Obligations (CO). Neither this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus nor any other offering or marketing materials relating to the notes have been prepared with regard to the disclosure standards for prospectuses under article 652a or 1156 CO, and therefore do not constitute a prospectus within the meaning of article 652a or 1156 CO. Neither this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus nor any other offering or marketing materials relating to the notes may be distributed, published or otherwise made available in Switzerland except in a manner which will not constitute a public offering of the notes into or in Switzerland.

Taiwan. The notes may be made available for purchase outside Taiwan by investors residing in Taiwan (either directly or through properly licensed Taiwan intermediaries acting on behalf of such investors) but may not be offered or sold in Taiwan.

United Arab Emirates. This prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus have not been approved or licensed by the Central Bank of the United Arab Emirates (the UAE),

Table of Contents

Securities and Commodities Authority of the UAE (the SCA), the Dubai Financial Services Authority (the DFSA) or any other relevant licensing authority in the UAE. The offer of the notes does not constitute a public offer of securities in the UAE in accordance with relevant laws of the UAE, in particular, the Commercial Companies Law, Federal law No. 8 of 1984 (as amended), SCA Resolution No.(37) of 2012 or otherwise. Accordingly, the notes may not be offered to the public in the UAE (including the Dubai International Financial Centre).

This prospectus supplement and the attached prospectus are strictly private and confidential and are being issued to a limited number of institutional and individual investors:

- (a) who qualify as sophisticated investors;
- (b) upon their request and confirmation that they understand that the notes have not been approved or licensed by or registered with the UAE Central Bank, the SCA, DFSA or any other relevant licensing authorities or governmental agencies in the UAE; and
- (c) must not be provided to any person other than the original recipient, and may not be reproduced or used for any other purpose.

Each selling agent represents and warrants that it has not and will not offer, sell, transfer or deliver the notes to the public in the UAE (including the Dubai International Financial Centre).

United Kingdom. Each selling agent has represented and agreed, and each further selling agent appointed in connection with the notes will be required to represent and agree, that:

- (a) in relation to any notes which have a maturity of less than one year (i) it is a person whose ordinary activities involve it in acquiring, holding, managing, or disposing of investments (as principal or agent) for the purposes of its business and (ii) it has not offered or sold and will not offer or sell any notes other than to persons whose ordinary activities involve them in acquiring, holding, managing, or disposing of investments (as principal or agent) for the purposes of their businesses or who it is reasonable to expect will acquire, hold, manage, or dispose of investments (as principal or agent) for the purposes of their businesses, where the issue of the notes would otherwise constitute a contravention of section 19 of the Financial Services and Markets Act of 2000 (the FSMA) by us;
- (b) it has only communicated or caused to be communicated and will only communicate or cause to be communicated an invitation or inducement to engage in investment activity (within the meaning of section 21 of the FSMA) received by it in connection with the issue or sale of any notes in circumstances in which section 21(1) of the FSMA does not apply to us; and
- (c) it has complied and will comply with all applicable provisions of the FSMA with respect to anything done by it in relation to any notes in, from, or otherwise involving the United Kingdom.

Uruguay. The notes have not been registered under Law No. 18.627 of December 2, 2009 with the Central Bank of Uruguay. The notes are not available publicly in Uruguay and are offered only on a private basis. No action may be taken in Uruguay that would render any offering of the notes a public offering in Uruguay. No Uruguayan regulatory authority has approved the notes or passed on our solvency. In addition, any resale of the notes must be made in a manner that will not constitute a public offering in Uruguay.

Table of Contents

Los valores no han sido registrados bajo la Ley de Mercado de Valores de la República Oriental del Uruguay o registrados ante el Banco Central del Uruguay. Los valores no son ofrecidos en forma pública en Uruguay y lo son únicamente en forma privada. Ninguna acción puede ser adoptada en Uruguay en relación a estos valores que resulte en que esta oferta de valores sea una oferta pública de valores en Uruguay. Ninguna autoridad regulatoria del Uruguay ha aprobado estos valores o se ha manifestado sobre nuestra solvencia. Adicionalmente, cualquier reventa de estos valores debe ser realizada en forma tal que no constituya oferta pública de valores en el Uruguay.

Venezuela. The notes have not been registered with the Comision Nacional de Valores de Venezuela and are not being publicly offered in Venezuela. No document related to the offering of the notes, including this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus, shall be interpreted to constitute an offer of securities or an offer or the rendering of any investment advice, securities brokerage, and/or banking services in Venezuela. Investors wishing to acquire the notes may use only funds located outside of Venezuela.

LEGAL MATTERS

The legality of the notes will be passed upon for us by McGuireWoods LLP, Charlotte, North Carolina, and for the selling agents by Morrison & Foerster LLP, New York, New York. McGuireWoods LLP regularly performs legal services for us. Some members of McGuireWoods LLP performing those legal services own shares of our common stock.

S-27

Table of Contents

PROSPECTUS

\$109,857,980,881

Debt Securities, Warrants, Units, Purchase Contracts,

Preferred Stock, Depositary Shares, and Common Stock

We from time to time may offer to sell up to \$109,857,980,881, or the equivalent thereof in any other currency, of debt securities, warrants, purchase contracts, preferred stock, depositary shares representing fractional interests in preferred stock, and common stock, as well as units comprised of one or more of these securities or debt or equity securities of third parties, in any combination. The debt securities, warrants, purchase contracts, and preferred stock may be convertible into or exercisable or exchangeable for our common or preferred stock or for debt or equity securities of one or more other entities. Our common stock is listed on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol BAC.

This prospectus describes all material terms of these securities that are known as of the date of this prospectus and the general manner in which we will offer the securities. When we sell a particular issue of securities, we will prepare one or more supplements to this prospectus describing the offering and the specific terms of that issue of securities. You should read this prospectus and any applicable supplement carefully before you invest.

We may use this prospectus in the initial sale of these securities. In addition, Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Incorporated, or any of our other affiliates, may use this prospectus in a market-making transaction in any of these securities after their initial sale. Unless you are informed otherwise in the confirmation of sale, this prospectus is being used in a market-making transaction.

Potential purchasers of our securities should consider the information set forth in the Risk Factors section beginning on page 9.

Our securities are unsecured and are not savings accounts, deposits, or other obligations of a bank, are not guaranteed by Bank of America, N.A. or any other bank, are not insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation or any other governmental agency, and may involve investment risks, including possible loss of principal.

Neither the Securities and Exchange Commission nor any state securities commission has approved or disapproved of these securities or passed upon the adequacy or accuracy of this prospectus. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense.

Prospectus dated May 1, 2015

Table of Contents**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

	Page
<u>About this Prospectus</u>	3
<u>Prospectus Summary</u>	4
<u>Risk Factors</u>	9
<u>Currency Risks</u>	9
<u>Reform of LIBOR and EURIBOR and Proposed Regulation of These and Other Benchmarks</u>	11
<u>Risks Related to our Common Stock and Preferred Stock</u>	13
<u>Other Risks</u>	14
<u>Bank of America Corporation</u>	16
<u>Use of Proceeds</u>	16
<u>Description of Debt Securities</u>	17
<u>General</u>	17
<u>The Indentures</u>	17
<u>Form and Denomination of Debt Securities</u>	18
<u>Different Series of Debt Securities</u>	19
<u>Fixed-Rate Notes</u>	20
<u>Floating-Rate Notes</u>	20
<u>Indexed Notes</u>	28
<u>Floating-Rate/Fixed-Rate/Indexed Notes</u>	29
<u>Original Issue Discount Notes</u>	29
<u>Payment of Principal, Interest, and Other Amounts Due</u>	30
<u>No Sinking Fund</u>	33
<u>Redemption</u>	33
<u>Repayment</u>	34
<u>Repurchase</u>	34
<u>Conversion</u>	34
<u>Exchange, Registration, and Transfer</u>	35
<u>Subordination</u>	35
<u>Sale or Issuance of Capital Stock of Banks</u>	36
<u>Limitation on Mergers and Sales of Assets</u>	37
<u>Waiver of Covenants</u>	37
<u>Modification of the Indentures</u>	37
<u>Meetings and Action by Securityholders</u>	38
<u>Events of Default and Rights of Acceleration</u>	38
<u>Collection of Indebtedness</u>	38
<u>Payment of Additional Amounts</u>	39
<u>Redemption for Tax Reasons</u>	42
<u>Defeasance and Covenant Defeasance</u>	43
<u>Notices</u>	44
<u>Concerning the Trustees</u>	44
<u>Governing Law</u>	44
<u>Description of Warrants</u>	44
<u>General</u>	44
<u>Description of Debt Warrants</u>	44
<u>Description of Universal Warrants</u>	45
<u>Modification</u>	46
<u>Enforceability of Rights of Warrantholders; No Trust Indenture Act Protection</u>	47
<u>Description of Purchase Contracts</u>	47
<u>General</u>	47
<u>Purchase Contract Property</u>	47
<u>Information in Supplement</u>	48
<u>Prepaid Purchase Contracts; Applicability of Indenture</u>	49
<u>Non-Prepaid Purchase Contracts; No Trust Indenture Act Protection</u>	49
<u>Pledge by Holders to Secure Performance</u>	50
<u>Settlement of Purchase Contracts That Are Part of Units</u>	50
<u>Failure of Holder to Perform Obligations</u>	50
	Page
<u>Description of Units</u>	51
<u>General</u>	51
<u>Unit Agreements: Prepaid, Non-Prepaid, and Other</u>	51

<u>Modification</u>	52
<u>Enforceability of Rights of Unitholders: No Trust Indenture Act Protection</u>	52
<u>Description of Preferred Stock</u>	53
<u>General</u>	53
<u>Dividends</u>	54
<u>Voting</u>	54
<u>Liquidation Preference</u>	54
<u>Preemptive Rights</u>	55
<u>Existing Preferred Stock</u>	55
<u>Additional Classes or Series of Stock</u>	85
<u>Description of Depositary Shares</u>	85
<u>General</u>	85
<u>Terms of the Depositary Shares</u>	85
<u>Withdrawal of Preferred Stock</u>	86
<u>Dividends and Other Distributions</u>	86
<u>Redemption of Depositary Shares</u>	86
<u>Voting the Deposited Preferred Stock</u>	87
<u>Amendment and Termination of the Deposit Agreement</u>	87
<u>Charges of Depository</u>	87
<u>Miscellaneous</u>	88
<u>Resignation and Removal of Depository</u>	88
<u>Description of Common Stock</u>	88
<u>General</u>	88
<u>Voting and Other Rights</u>	88
<u>Dividends</u>	89
<u>Certain Anti-Takeover Matters</u>	89
<u>Registration and Settlement</u>	91
<u>Book-Entry Only Issuance</u>	91
<u>Certificated Securities</u>	91
<u>Street Name Owners</u>	92
<u>Legal Holders</u>	92
<u>Special Considerations for Indirect Owners</u>	92
<u>Depositories for Global Securities</u>	93
<u>Special Considerations for Global Securities</u>	97
<u>Registration, Transfer, and Payment of Certificated Securities</u>	98
<u>U.S. Federal Income Tax Considerations</u>	99
<u>Taxation of Debt Securities</u>	100
<u>Taxation of Common Stock, Preferred Stock, and Depositary Shares</u>	115
<u>Taxation of Warrants</u>	121
<u>Taxation of Purchase Contracts</u>	121
<u>Taxation of Units</u>	121
<u>Reportable Transactions</u>	121
<u>Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act</u>	122
<u>EU Directive on the Taxation of Savings Income</u>	123
<u>Plan of Distribution (Conflicts of Interest)</u>	124
<u>Distribution Through Underwriters</u>	124
<u>Distribution Through Dealers</u>	125
<u>Distribution Through Agents</u>	125
<u>Direct Sales</u>	125
<u>General Information</u>	125
<u>Market-Making Transactions by Affiliates</u>	126
<u>Conflicts of Interest</u>	126
<u>ERISA Considerations</u>	128
<u>Where You Can Find More Information</u>	130
<u>Forward-Looking Statements</u>	131
<u>Legal Matters</u>	132
<u>Experts</u>	132

Table of Contents

ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS

This prospectus is part of a registration statement that we filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission, or the SEC, utilizing a shelf registration process. Under this shelf process, we may, from time to time, sell any combination of the securities described in this prospectus or the registration statement in one or more offerings.

This prospectus provides you with all material terms of securities we may offer that are known as of the date of this prospectus and the general manner in which we will offer the securities. Each time we sell securities, we will provide one or more prospectus supplements, product supplements, pricing supplements (each of which we may refer to as a term sheet), and/or index supplements that describe the particular securities offering and the specific terms of the securities being offered. These documents also may add, update, or change information contained in this prospectus. In this prospectus, when we refer to the applicable supplement or the accompanying supplement, we mean the prospectus supplement or supplements, as well as any applicable pricing, product, or index supplements, that describe the particular securities being offered to you. If there is any inconsistency between the information in this prospectus and the applicable supplement, you should rely on the information in the applicable supplement.

The information in this prospectus is not complete and may be changed. You should rely only on the information provided in or incorporated by reference in this prospectus, the accompanying supplement, or documents to which we otherwise refer you. We are not making an offer of these securities in any jurisdiction where the offer or sale is not permitted. You should assume that the information appearing in this prospectus and the accompanying supplement, as well as information we have filed or will file with the SEC and incorporated by reference in this prospectus, is accurate as of the date of the applicable document or other date referred to in that document. Our business, financial condition, and results of operations may have changed since that date.

Unless we indicate otherwise or unless the context requires otherwise, all references in this prospectus to Bank of America, we, us, our, or similar references are to Bank of America Corporation excluding its consolidated subsidiaries.

References in this prospectus to \$ and dollars are to the currency of the United States of America; and references in this prospectus to and euro are to the currency introduced at the start of the third stage of the European Economic and Monetary Union pursuant to Article 109g of the Treaty establishing the European Community, as amended from time to time.

Table of Contents

PROSPECTUS SUMMARY

This summary section provides a brief overview of all material terms of the securities we may offer that are known as of the date of this prospectus and highlights other selected information from this prospectus. This summary does not contain all the information that you should consider before investing in the securities we may offer using this prospectus. To fully understand the securities we may offer, you should read carefully:

this prospectus, which explains the general terms of the securities we may offer;

the applicable supplement, which explains the specific terms of the particular securities we are offering, and which may update or change the information in this prospectus; and

the documents we refer to in **Where You Can Find More Information** below for information about us, including our financial statements.

Bank of America Corporation

Bank of America Corporation is a Delaware corporation, a bank holding company, and a financial holding company. Through our banking and various nonbank subsidiaries throughout the U.S. and in international markets, we provide a diversified range of banking and nonbank financial services and products. Our principal executive offices are located in the Bank of America Corporate Center, 100 North Tryon Street, Charlotte, North Carolina 28255 and our telephone number is (704) 386-5681.

The Securities We May Offer

We may use this prospectus to offer up to \$109,857,980,881, or the equivalent thereof in any other currency, of any of the following securities from time to time:

debt securities;

warrants;

purchase contracts;

preferred stock;

depository shares representing fractional interests in preferred stock;

common stock; and

units, comprised of one or more of any of the securities referred to above or debt or equity securities of third parties, in any combination.

When we use the term securities in this prospectus, we mean any of the securities we may offer with this prospectus, unless we specifically state otherwise. This prospectus, including this summary, describes the general terms of the securities we may offer. Each time we sell securities, we will provide you with the applicable supplement or supplements that will describe the offering and the specific terms of the securities being offered. A supplement may include a discussion of additional U.S. federal income tax consequences and any additional risk factors or other special considerations applicable to those particular securities.

Debt Securities

Our debt securities may be either senior or subordinated obligations in right of payment. Our senior and subordinated debt securities will be issued under separate indentures, or contracts, that

Table of Contents

we have with The Bank of New York Mellon Trust Company, N.A., as successor trustee. The particular terms of each series of debt securities will be described in the applicable supplement.

Warrants

We may offer warrants, including:

warrants to purchase our debt securities; and

warrants to purchase or sell, or whose cash value is determined by reference to the performance, level, or value of, one or more of the following:

securities of one or more issuers, including our common or preferred stock, other securities described in this prospectus, or the debt or equity securities of third parties;

one or more currencies, currency units, or composite currencies;

one or more commodities;

any other financial, economic, or other measure or instrument, including the occurrence or non-occurrence of any event or circumstance; and

one or more indices or baskets of the items described above.

For any warrants we may offer, we will describe in the applicable supplement the underlying property, the expiration date, the exercise price or the manner of determining the exercise price, the amount and kind, or the manner of determining the amount and kind, of property to be delivered by you or us upon exercise, and any other specific terms of the warrants. We will issue warrants under warrant agreements that we will enter into with one or more warrant agents.

Purchase Contracts

We may offer purchase contracts requiring holders to purchase or sell, or whose cash value is determined by reference to the performance, level, or value of, one or more of the following:

securities of one or more issuers, including our common or preferred stock, other securities described in this prospectus, or the debt or equity securities of third parties;

one or more currencies, currency units, or composite currencies;

one or more commodities;

any other financial, economic, or other measure or instrument, including the occurrence or non-occurrence of any event or circumstance; and

one or more indices or baskets of the items described above.

For any purchase contracts we may offer, we will describe in the applicable supplement the underlying property, the settlement date, the purchase price, or manner of determining the purchase price, and whether it must be paid when the purchase contract is issued or at a later date, the amount and kind, or manner of determining the amount and kind, of property to be delivered at settlement, whether the holder will pledge property to secure the performance of any obligations the holder may have under the purchase contract, and any other specific terms of the purchase contracts.

Table of Contents

Units

We may offer units consisting of one or more securities described in this prospectus or debt or equity securities of third parties, in any combination. For any units we may offer, we will describe in the applicable supplement the particular securities that comprise each unit, whether or not the particular securities will be separable and, if they will be separable, the terms on which they will be separable, a description of the provisions for the payment, settlement, transfer, or exchange of the units, and any other specific terms of the units. We will issue units under unit agreements that we will enter into with one or more unit agents.

Preferred Stock and Depositary Shares

We may offer our preferred stock in one or more series. For any particular series we may offer, we will describe in the applicable supplement:

the specific designation;

the aggregate number of shares offered;

the dividend rate and periods, or manner of calculating the dividend rate and periods, if any;

the stated value and liquidation preference amount, if any;

the voting rights, if any;

the terms on which the series of preferred stock is convertible into shares of our common stock, preferred stock of another series, or other securities, if any;

the redemption terms, if any; and

any other specific terms of the series.

We also may offer depositary shares, each of which will represent a fractional interest in a share or multiple shares of our preferred stock. We will describe in the applicable supplement any specific terms of the depositary shares. We will issue the depositary shares under deposit agreements that we will enter into with one or more depositories.

Form of Securities

Unless we specify otherwise in the applicable supplement, we will issue the securities in book-entry only form through one or more depositories, such as The Depository Trust Company, Euroclear Bank SA/NV, or Clearstream Banking, société anonyme, Luxembourg, as identified in the applicable supplement. We will issue the securities only in registered form, without coupons, although we may issue the securities in bearer form if we so specify in the applicable supplement. The securities issued in book-entry only form will be uncertificated or will be represented by a global security registered in the name of the specified depository, rather than certificated securities in definitive form registered in the name of each individual investor. Unless we specify otherwise in the applicable supplement, each sale of securities in book-entry form will settle in immediately available funds through the specified depository.

A global security may be exchanged for certificated securities in definitive form registered in the names of the beneficial owners only under the limited circumstances described in this prospectus.

Table of Contents

Payment Currencies

All amounts payable in respect of the securities, including the purchase price, will be payable in U.S. dollars, unless we specify otherwise in the applicable supplement.

Listing

We will state in the applicable supplement whether the particular securities that we are offering will be listed or quoted on a securities exchange or quotation system.

Distribution

We may offer the securities under this prospectus:

through underwriters;

through dealers;

through agents; or

directly to purchasers.

The applicable supplement will include any required information about the firms we use and the discounts or commissions we may pay them for their services.

Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Incorporated, or any of our other affiliates, may be an underwriter, dealer, or agent for us.

Market-Making by Our Affiliates

Following the initial distribution of an offering of securities, Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Incorporated, and other affiliates of ours may offer and sell those securities in the course of their businesses as broker-dealers. Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Incorporated and any such other affiliates may act as a principal or agent in these transactions. This prospectus and the applicable supplement or supplements also will be used in connection with these market-making transactions. Sales in any of these market-making transactions will be made at varying prices related to prevailing market prices and other circumstances at the time of sale.

If you purchase securities in a market-making transaction, you will receive information about the purchase price and your trade and settlement dates in a separate confirmation of sale.

Table of Contents**Ratio of Earnings to Fixed Charges and Ratio of Earnings to Fixed Charges and Preferred Dividends**

The following table sets forth our consolidated ratios of earnings to fixed charges and earnings to fixed charges and preferred dividends for the periods indicated.

	Three Months Ended		Year Ended December 31			
	March 31, 2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010
Ratio of earnings to fixed charges (excluding interest on deposits) ¹	2.86	1.61	2.29	1.21	1.02	.99
Ratio of earnings to fixed charges (including interest on deposits) ¹	2.71	1.55	2.16	1.18	1.02	1.00
Ratio of earnings to fixed charges and preferred dividends (excluding interest on deposits) ¹	2.36	1.42	2.01	1.13	1.02	.96
Ratio of earnings to fixed charges and preferred dividends (including interest on deposits) ¹	2.27	1.38	1.92	1.12	1.02	.96

¹ The earnings for 2010 were inadequate to cover fixed charges, and fixed charges and preferred dividends. The earnings deficiency is a result of \$12.4 billion of goodwill impairment charges during 2010. The coverage deficiency for fixed charges was \$113 million and the coverage deficiency for fixed charges and preferred dividends was \$915 million for 2010.

Table of Contents

RISK FACTORS

This section summarizes some specific risks and investment considerations with respect to an investment in our securities. This summary does not describe all of the risks and investment considerations with respect to an investment in our securities, including risks and considerations relating to a prospective investor's particular circumstances. For information regarding risks and uncertainties that may materially affect our business and results, please refer to the information under the captions Item 1A. Risk Factors and Item 7. Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations in our annual report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2014, which is incorporated by reference in this prospectus, as well as those risks and uncertainties discussed in our subsequent filings that are incorporated by reference in this prospectus. You should also review the risk factors that will be set forth in other documents that we will file after the date of this prospectus, together with the risk factors set forth in any applicable supplement. Prospective investors should consult their own financial, legal, tax, and other professional advisors as to the risks associated with an investment in our securities and the suitability of the investment for the investor.

Currency Risks

We may issue securities denominated in or whose principal and/or interest is payable in a currency other than U.S. dollars, which we refer to as Non-U.S. Dollar-Denominated Securities. If you intend to invest in any Non-U.S. Dollar-Denominated Securities, you should consult your own financial and legal advisors as to the currency risks related to your investment. The Non-U.S. Dollar-Denominated Securities are not an appropriate investment for you if you are not knowledgeable about the significant terms and conditions of the Non-U.S. Dollar-Denominated Securities, non-U.S. dollar currency transactions, or financial matters in general. The information in this prospectus is directed primarily to investors who are U.S. residents. Investors who are not U.S. residents should consult their own financial and legal advisors about currency-related risks arising from their investment.

An investment in a Non-U.S. Dollar-Denominated Security involves currency-related risks. An investment in a Non-U.S. Dollar-Denominated Security entails significant risks that are not associated with a similar investment in a security that is payable solely in U.S. dollars. These risks include possible significant changes in rates of exchange between the U.S. dollar and the relevant non-U.S. dollar currency or currencies and the imposition or modification of foreign exchange controls or other conditions by either the United States or non-U.S. governments. These risks generally depend on factors over which we have no control, such as economic and political events and the supply of and demand for the relevant currencies in the global markets.

Changes in currency exchange rates can be volatile and may adversely affect an investment in Non-U.S. Dollar-Denominated Securities. In recent years, exchange rates between the U.S. dollar and other currencies have been highly volatile. This volatility may continue and could spread to other currencies in the future. Fluctuations in currency exchange rates could affect adversely an investment in a Non-U.S. Dollar-Denominated Security, and such changes in exchange rates may vary considerably during the life of that security. Depreciation of the specified currency against the U.S. dollar could result in a decrease in the U.S. dollar-equivalent value of payments on the Non-U.S. Dollar-Denominated Securities, including the principal payable at maturity or the redemption amount payable upon those securities. That in turn could cause the market value of the Non-U.S. Dollar-Denominated Securities to fall.

We will not adjust Non-U.S. Dollar-Denominated Securities to compensate for changes in foreign currency exchange rates. Except as described below or in a supplement, we will not make any adjustment in or change to the terms of the Non-U.S. Dollar-Denominated

Table of Contents

Securities for changes in the foreign currency exchange rate for the relevant currency, including any devaluation, revaluation, or imposition of exchange or other regulatory controls or taxes, or for other developments affecting that currency, the U.S. dollar, or any other currency. Consequently, you will bear the risk that your investment may be affected adversely by these types of events.

Government policy can adversely affect foreign currency exchange rates and an investment in a Non-U.S. Dollar-Denominated Security. Foreign currency exchange rates either can float or be fixed by sovereign governments. Governments or governmental bodies, including the European Central Bank, may intervene from time to time in their economies to alter the exchange rate or exchange characteristics of their currencies. For example, a central bank may intervene to devalue or revalue a currency or to replace an existing currency. In addition, a government may impose regulatory controls or taxes to affect the exchange rate of its currency or may issue a new currency or replace an existing currency. As a result, the yield or payout of a Non-U.S. Dollar-Denominated Security could be affected significantly and unpredictably by governmental actions. Even in the absence of governmental action directly affecting currency exchange rates, political or economic developments in the country or region issuing the specified currency for a Non-U.S. Dollar-Denominated Security or elsewhere could result in significant and sudden changes in the exchange rate between the U.S. dollar and the specified currency. Changes in exchange rates could affect the value of the Non- U.S. Dollar-Denominated Securities as participants in the global currency markets move to buy or sell the specified currency or U.S. dollars in reaction to these developments.

If a governmental authority imposes exchange controls or other conditions, such as taxes on the exchange or transfer of the specified currency, there may be limited availability of the specified currency for payment on the Non-U.S. Dollar-Denominated Securities at their maturity or on any other payment date. In addition, the ability of a holder to move currency freely out of the country in which payment in the currency is received or to convert the currency at a freely determined market rate could be limited by governmental actions.

Non-U.S. Dollar-Denominated Securities may permit us to make payments in U.S. dollars if we are unable to obtain the specified currency. The terms of any Non-U.S. Dollar-Denominated Securities may provide that we may have the right to make a payment in U.S. dollars instead of the specified currency, if at or about the time when the payment on the Non-U.S. Dollar-Denominated Securities comes due, the specified currency is subject to convertibility, transferability, market disruption, or other conditions affecting its availability because of circumstances beyond our control. These circumstances could include the imposition of exchange controls, our inability to obtain the specified currency because of a disruption in the currency markets for the specified currency, or unavailability because the specified currency is no longer used by the government of the relevant country or for settlement of transactions by public institutions of or within the international banking community. The exchange rate used to make payment in U.S. dollars may be based on limited information and would involve significant discretion on the part of our exchange rate agent who may be one of our affiliates. As a result, the value of the payment in U.S. dollars may be less than the value of the payment you would have received in the specified currency if the specified currency had been available. The exchange rate agent will generally not have any liability for its determinations.

An investor may bear foreign currency exchange risk in a lawsuit for payment on Non-U.S. Dollar-Denominated Securities. Any Non-U.S. Dollar-Denominated Securities typically will be governed by New York law. Under Section 27 of the New York Judiciary Law, a state court in the State of New York rendering a judgment on the Non-U.S. Dollar-Denominated Debt Securities would be required to render the judgment in the specified currency. In turn, the judgment would be converted into U.S. dollars at the exchange rate prevailing on the date of entry

Table of Contents

of the judgment. Consequently, in a lawsuit for payment on the Non-U.S. Dollar-Denominated Securities, you would bear currency exchange risk until judgment is entered, which could be a long time.

In courts outside of New York, you may not be able to obtain judgment in a specified currency other than U.S. dollars. For example, a judgment for money in an action based on Non-U.S. Dollar-Denominated Securities in many other U.S. federal or state courts ordinarily would be enforced in the United States only in U.S. dollars. The date and method used to determine the rate of conversion of the specified currency into U.S. dollars will depend on various factors, including which court renders the judgment.

Information about foreign currency exchange rates may not be indicative of future performance. If we issue a Non-U.S. Dollar-Denominated Security, we may include in the applicable supplement information about historical exchange rates for the relevant non-U.S. dollar currency or currencies. Any information about exchange rates that we may provide will be furnished as a matter of information only, and you should not regard the information as indicative of the range of, or trends in, fluctuations in currency exchange rates that may occur in the future.

Reform of LIBOR and EURIBOR and Proposed Regulation of These and Other Benchmarks

The London Interbank Offered Rate (LIBOR), the Euro Interbank Offered Rate (EURIBOR), and other indices which are deemed benchmarks are the subject of recent national, international, and other regulatory guidance and proposals for reform. Some of these reforms are already effective while others are still to be implemented. These reforms may cause such benchmarks to perform differently than in the past, or have other consequences which cannot be predicted.

In September 2012, the U.K. government published the results of its review of LIBOR (commonly referred to as the Wheatley Review). The Wheatley Review made a number of recommendations for changes with respect to LIBOR including the introduction of statutory regulation of LIBOR, the transfer of responsibility for LIBOR from the British Bankers Association to an independent administrator, changes to the method of compilation of lending rates and new regulatory oversight and enforcement mechanisms for rate-setting. Based on the Wheatley Review, final rules for the regulation and supervision of LIBOR by the Financial Conduct Authority (the FCA) were published and came into effect on April 2, 2013 (the FCA Rules). In particular, the FCA Rules include requirements that (i) an independent LIBOR administrator monitor and survey LIBOR submissions to identify breaches of practice standards and/or potentially manipulative behavior, and (ii) firms submitting data to LIBOR establish and maintain a clear conflicts of interest policy and appropriate systems and controls. In response to the Wheatley Review recommendations, ICE Benchmark Administration Limited (the ICE Administration) has been appointed as the independent LIBOR administrator, effective February 1, 2014.

It is not possible to predict the effect of the FCA Rules, any changes in the methods pursuant to which the LIBOR rates are determined, and any other reforms to LIBOR that will be enacted in the U.K., which may adversely affect the trading market for LIBOR-based securities. In addition, any changes announced by the FCA, the ICE Administration, or any other successor governance or oversight body in the method pursuant to which the LIBOR rates are determined may result in a sudden or prolonged decrease (or increase) in the reported LIBOR rates. If that were to occur, the level of interest payments on and the trading value of LIBOR-based securities may be adversely affected. Further, uncertainty as to the extent and manner in which the Wheatley Review recommendations will continue to be adopted and the timing of such changes may adversely affect the current trading market for LIBOR-based securities.

Table of Contents

At an international level, proposals for the reform of benchmarks include (i) IOSCO's Principles for Financial Market Benchmarks (July 2013), (ii) ESMA-EBA's Principles for the benchmark-setting process (June 2013), and (iii) the European Commission's proposed regulation on indices used as benchmarks in certain financial instruments, financial contracts and investment funds (September 2013) (the Proposed Benchmark Regulation).

The Proposed Benchmark Regulation, if passed in its current form, would apply to contributors, administrators and users of benchmarks in the European Union, and would, among other things, (i) require benchmark administrators to be authorized (or, if non-European Union-based, to be subject to an equivalent regulatory regime) and to comply with extensive requirements in relation to the administration of benchmarks and (ii) ban the use of benchmarks of unauthorized administrators. The scope of the Proposed Benchmark Regulation is wide and, in addition to so-called critical benchmark indices such as LIBOR and EURIBOR, could also potentially apply to many interest rate and foreign exchange rate indices, equity indices, and other indices (including proprietary indices or strategies) where referenced in financial instruments, financial contracts, and investment funds.

It is presently unclear whether the Proposed Benchmark Regulation will be passed in its current form (and in particular, whether it will have the broad scope currently envisaged) and, if so, when it would become effective. However, if so enacted, it could potentially have a material impact on any securities based on or linked to a benchmark index in a range of circumstances including, without limitation, where:

the administrator of an index which is a benchmark relating to a series of securities does not have or obtain or ceases to have the appropriate European Union authorizations in order to operate such a benchmark or is based in a non-European Union jurisdiction which does not have equivalent regulation. In such an event, depending on the particular benchmark and the applicable terms of the securities, the securities could be de-listed (if listed) or may otherwise be adversely affected; and

the methodology or other terms of the benchmark relating to a series of securities is changed in order to comply with the terms of the Proposed Benchmark Regulation, and such changes have the effect of reducing or increasing the published rate or level of the benchmark or of affecting the volatility of such published rate or level, or otherwise result in an adverse effect on the trading market for, return on or the value of the relevant securities.

More broadly, the FCA Rules, the Proposed Benchmark Regulation, and any of the other international, national, or other proposals for reform or general increased regulatory scrutiny of benchmarks could have a material adverse effect on the costs and risks of administering or otherwise participating in the setting of a benchmark and complying with any such regulations or requirements. Such factors may have the effect of discouraging market participants from continuing to administer or participate in certain benchmarks, trigger changes in the rules or methodologies used in the determination of certain benchmarks, or may even lead to the disappearance of certain benchmarks. The disappearance of, or uncertainty relating to the continued existence of, a benchmark or changes in the manner of determination of or administration of a benchmark may adversely affect the trading market for, return on, or value of benchmark-based securities.

In addition to the international proposals for the reform of benchmarks described above, there are numerous other proposals, initiatives, and investigations which may impact the use and regulation of benchmarks. For example, there are ongoing global investigations into the setting of foreign exchange rate benchmarks, which may result in further regulation around the setting of foreign exchange rates.

Table of Contents

Any of the above changes or any other consequential changes to LIBOR, EURIBOR, or any other benchmark as a result of U.K., European Union, or other international, national, or other proposals for reform or other initiatives or investigations, or any further uncertainty in relation to the timing and manner of implementation of such changes could have a material adverse effect on the value of and return on any securities based on or linked to a benchmark.

Risks Related to Our Common Stock and Preferred Stock

You may not receive dividends on our common stock. Holders of our common stock are only entitled to receive such dividends as our board of directors may declare out of funds legally available for such payments. Furthermore, holders of our common stock are subject to the prior dividend rights of holders of our preferred stock or the depositary shares representing such preferred stock then outstanding. Although we have historically declared cash dividends on our common stock, we are not required to do so and may reduce or eliminate our common stock dividend in the future.

Our common stock is equity and is subordinate to our existing and future indebtedness and preferred stock. Shares of our common stock are equity interests in us and do not constitute indebtedness. This means that shares of our common stock will rank junior to all of our indebtedness and to other non-equity claims against us and our assets available to satisfy claims against us, including claims in our liquidation. Additionally, holders of our common stock are subject to the prior dividend and liquidation rights of holders of our outstanding preferred stock or depositary shares representing interests in such preferred stock then outstanding. Our board of directors is authorized to issue additional classes or series of preferred stock without any action on the part of the holders of our common stock. As of March 31, 2015, the aggregate liquidation preference of all our outstanding preferred stock was approximately \$24.6 billion.

Our preferred stock is equity and is subordinate to our existing and future indebtedness. Shares of our preferred stock are equity interests in us and do not constitute indebtedness. This means that shares of our preferred stock and any depositary shares which represent interests in shares of our preferred stock will rank junior to all of our indebtedness and to other non-equity claims against us and our assets available to satisfy claims against us, including claims in our liquidation. Our existing and future indebtedness may restrict payment of dividends on our preferred stock. In addition, holders of our preferred stock or depositary shares representing interests in shares of our preferred stock may be fully subordinated to interests held by the U.S. government in the event that we enter into a receivership, insolvency, liquidation, or similar proceeding.

Cash dividends on our preferred stock are subject to certain limitations. Unlike indebtedness, where principal and interest customarily are payable on specified due dates, in the case of our preferred stock (1) dividends are payable only when, as and if declared by our board of directors or a duly authorized committee of the board and (2) as a corporation, we are restricted to making dividend payments and redemption payments out of legally available funds. In addition, under the Federal Reserve Board's risk-based capital rules related to additional Tier 1 capital instruments, dividends on our preferred stock may only be paid out of our net income, retained earnings or surplus related to other additional Tier 1 capital instruments.

Our ability to pay dividends on our common stock and preferred stock may be limited by extensive and changing regulatory considerations. We and our broker-dealer, bank, and other subsidiaries are subject to extensive laws, regulations, and rules, both in the U.S. and internationally, that may limit directly or indirectly the payment of dividends on our common stock and preferred stock. U.S. federal banking regulators are authorized to determine,

Table of Contents

under certain circumstances relating to the financial condition of a bank or a bank holding company, like Bank of America Corporation, that the payment of dividends would be an unsafe or unsound practice and to prohibit payment of those dividends. For instance, Federal Reserve Board regulations require us to submit a capital plan as part of an annual Comprehensive Capital Analysis and Review in order to assess our capital planning process, including any planned capital actions, such as payment of dividends on common stock and common stock repurchases. Furthermore, many rules and regulations are in proposed form and subject to periods of significant comment and further revisions. As a result, there is considerable uncertainty about what the final versions of these proposed rules and regulations will be or the impact they may have on us and our subsidiaries. While we closely monitor various regulatory developments and intend to manage our assets and liabilities and our operations to comply with new laws, regulations, and rules at the time they become effective, there is no assurance that we will be compliant with all such laws, regulations, and rules at such times and a failure to be so compliant could adversely affect our ability to pay dividends on our common stock and preferred stock.

If we are deferring payments on our outstanding junior subordinated notes or are in default under the indentures governing those securities, we will be prohibited from making distributions on our common stock and preferred stock, or redeeming our preferred stock. The terms of our outstanding junior subordinated notes prohibit us from declaring or paying any dividends or distributions on our common stock and preferred stock, or redeeming, purchasing, acquiring, or making a liquidation payment on such stock, if we are aware of any event that would be an event of default under the indenture governing those junior subordinated notes or at any time when we have deferred payment of interest on those junior subordinated notes.

Other Risks

Our ability to pay dividends on our common stock and preferred stock and to make payments on our other securities depends upon the results of operations of our subsidiaries. As a holding company, we conduct substantially all of our operations through our subsidiaries and depend on dividends, distributions, and other payments from our banking and nonbank subsidiaries to fund dividend payments on our common stock and preferred stock and to fund all payments on our other obligations, including debt obligations. Many of our subsidiaries, including our bank and broker-dealer subsidiaries, are subject to laws that restrict dividend payments or authorize regulatory bodies to block or reduce the flow of funds from those subsidiaries to us or to our other subsidiaries. In addition, our bank and broker-dealer subsidiaries are subject to restrictions on their ability to lend or transact with affiliates and to minimum regulatory capital and liquidity requirements. These restrictions could prevent those subsidiaries from making distributions to us or otherwise providing cash to us that we need in order to make payments on the securities.

Our obligations on the securities will be structurally subordinated to liabilities of our subsidiaries. Because we are a holding company, our right to participate in any distribution of assets of any subsidiary upon such subsidiary's liquidation or reorganization or otherwise is subject to the prior claims of creditors of that subsidiary, except to the extent we may ourselves be recognized as a creditor of that subsidiary. As a result, our obligations under the securities will be structurally subordinated to all existing and future liabilities of our subsidiaries, and claimants should look only to our assets for payments.

We cannot assure you that a trading market for your securities will ever develop or be maintained. We may not list our securities on any securities exchange. We cannot predict how these securities will trade in the secondary market or whether that market will be liquid or illiquid. The number of potential buyers of our securities in any secondary market may be limited. Although

Table of Contents

any underwriters or agents may purchase and sell our securities in the secondary market from time to time, these underwriters or agents will not be obligated to do so and may discontinue making a market for the securities at any time without giving us notice. We cannot assure you that a secondary market for any of our securities will develop, or that if one develops, it will be maintained.

Redemption of the securities prior to maturity may result in a reduced return on your investment. The terms of our securities may permit or require redemption of the securities prior to maturity. That redemption may occur at a time when prevailing interest rates are relatively low. As a result, in the case of debt or similar securities, a holder of the redeemed securities may not be able to invest the redemption proceeds in a new investment that yields a similar return.

Payments on the securities are subject to our credit risk, and actual or perceived changes in our creditworthiness may affect the value of the notes. Our credit ratings are an assessment of our ability to pay our obligations. Consequently, our perceived creditworthiness and actual or anticipated changes in our credit ratings may affect the market value of our securities. However, because the return on our securities generally depends upon factors in addition to our ability to pay our obligations, an improvement in our credit ratings will not reduce the other investment risks, if any, related to our securities.

Table of Contents

BANK OF AMERICA CORPORATION

Bank of America Corporation is a Delaware corporation, a bank holding company, and a financial holding company. Our principal executive offices are located in the Bank of America Corporate Center, 100 North Tryon Street, Charlotte, North Carolina 28255 and our telephone number is (704) 386-5681. Through our banking and various nonbank subsidiaries throughout the United States and in international markets, we provide a diversified range of banking and nonbank financial services and products.

USE OF PROCEEDS

Unless we describe a different use in the applicable supplement, we will use the net proceeds from the sale of the securities for general corporate purposes. General corporate purposes include, but are not limited to, the following:

our working capital needs;

the funding of investments in, or extensions of credit to, our subsidiaries;

possible reductions, redemptions, or repurchases of outstanding indebtedness;

possible repayments on outstanding indebtedness;

the possible acquisitions of, or investments in, other financial institutions or other businesses; and

other uses in the ordinary course of conducting our business.

Until we designate the use of these net proceeds, we will invest them temporarily. From time to time, we may engage in additional financings as we determine appropriate based on our needs and prevailing market conditions. These additional financings may include the sale of other securities.

Table of Contents

DESCRIPTION OF DEBT SECURITIES

General

We may issue senior or subordinated debt securities. Neither the senior debt securities nor the subordinated debt securities will be secured by any of our property or assets. As a result, by owning a debt security, you are one of our unsecured creditors.

The senior debt securities will constitute part of our senior debt, will be issued under our senior debt indenture described below, and will rank equally with all of our other unsecured and unsubordinated debt.

The subordinated debt securities will constitute part of our subordinated debt, will be issued under our subordinated debt indenture described below, and will be subordinated in right of payment to all of our senior indebtedness, as defined in the subordinated debt indenture. Neither the senior debt indenture nor the subordinated debt indenture limits our ability to incur additional senior indebtedness.

The Indentures

The senior debt securities and the subordinated debt securities each are governed by a document called an indenture, which is a contract between us and the applicable trustee. Senior debt securities will be issued under the Indenture dated as of January 1, 1995 (as supplemented, the Senior Indenture) between us and The Bank of New York Mellon Trust Company, N.A., as successor trustee, and subordinated debt securities will be issued under the Indenture dated as of January 1, 1995 (as supplemented, the Subordinated Indenture) between us and The Bank of New York Mellon Trust Company, N.A., as successor trustee. The indentures are substantially identical, except for:

the covenant described below under Sale or Issuance of Capital Stock of Banks, which is included only in the Senior Indenture;

the provisions relating to subordination described below under Subordination, which are included only in the Subordinated Indenture; and

the events of default described below under Events of Default and Rights of Acceleration, many of which are not included in the Subordinated Indenture.

In this prospectus, when we refer to debt securities, we mean both our senior debt securities and our subordinated debt securities, and when we refer to the indenture or the trustee with respect to any debt securities, we mean the indenture under which those debt securities are issued and the trustee under that indenture.

The trustee under each indenture has two principal functions:

First, the trustee can enforce your rights against us if we default. However, there are limitations on the extent to which the trustee may act on your behalf, which we describe below under Collection of Indebtedness.

Second, the trustee performs administrative duties for us, including the delivery of interest payments and notices.

Table of Contents

Neither indenture limits the aggregate amount of debt securities that we may issue or the number of series or the aggregate amount of any particular series. The indentures and the debt securities also do not limit our ability to incur other indebtedness or to issue other securities. This means that we may issue additional debt securities and other securities at any time without your consent and without notifying you. In addition, neither indenture contains provisions protecting holders against a decline in our credit quality resulting from takeovers, recapitalizations, the incurrence of additional indebtedness, or restructuring. If our credit quality declines as a result of an event of this type, or otherwise, any ratings of our debt securities then outstanding may be withdrawn or downgraded.

This section is a summary of the general terms and provisions of the indentures. We have filed the indentures with the SEC as exhibits to the registration statement of which this prospectus forms a part. See [Where You Can Find More Information](#) below for information on how to obtain copies of the indentures. Whenever we refer to the defined terms of the indentures in this prospectus or in a supplement without defining them, the terms have the meanings given to them in the indentures. You must look to the indentures for the most complete description of the information summarized in this prospectus.

Form and Denomination of Debt Securities

Unless we specify otherwise in the applicable supplement, we will issue each debt security in book-entry form. Debt securities in book-entry form will be represented by a global security registered in the name of a depository. Accordingly, the depository will be the holder of all the debt securities represented by the global security. Those who own beneficial interests in a global security will do so through participants in the depository's securities clearing system, and the rights of these indirect owners will be governed solely by the applicable procedures of the depository and its participants. We describe the procedures applicable to book-entry securities below under the heading [Registration and Settlement](#).

Generally, all securities represented by the same global security will have the same terms. We may, however, issue a global security that represents multiple debt securities that have different terms and are issued at different times. We call this kind of global security a master global security. Your prospectus supplement will not indicate whether your debt securities are represented by a master global security.

Unless we specify otherwise in the applicable supplement, we will issue our debt securities in fully registered form, without coupons. If we issue a debt security in bearer form, we will describe the special considerations applicable to bearer securities in the applicable supplement. Some of the features that we describe in this prospectus may not apply to the bearer securities.

Our debt securities may be denominated, and cash payments with respect to the debt securities may be made, in U.S. dollars or in another currency, or in a composite currency, a basket of currencies, or a currency unit or units. Unless we specify otherwise in the applicable supplement, the debt securities will be denominated, and cash payments with respect to the debt securities will be made, in U.S. dollars, and the debt securities ordinarily will be issued in denominations of \$1,000 and multiples of \$1,000 in excess of \$1,000. We may also issue debt securities that are denominated in units of \$10. If any of the debt securities are denominated, or if principal, any premium, interest, and any other amounts payable on any of the debt securities is payable, in a foreign currency, or in a composite currency, a basket of currencies, or a currency unit or units, the specified currency, as well as any additional investment considerations, risk factors, restrictions, tax consequences, specific terms and other information relating to that issue of debt securities and

Table of Contents

the specified currency, composite currency, basket of currencies, or currency unit or units, may be described in the applicable supplement. We describe some of those investment considerations relating to securities denominated or payable in a currency other than U.S. dollars above under the heading Risk Factors.

Different Series of Debt Securities

We may issue our debt securities from time to time in one or more series with the same or different maturities. We also may reopen a series of our debt securities. This means that we can increase the principal amount of a series of our debt securities by selling additional debt securities with the same terms, provided that such additional notes shall be fungible for U.S. federal income tax purposes. We may do so without notice to the existing holders of securities of that series. However, any new securities of this kind may begin to bear interest at a different date.

This section of the prospectus summarizes the material terms of the debt securities that are common to all series. We will describe the financial and other specific terms of the series of debt securities being offered in the applicable supplement. The supplement also may describe any differences from the material terms described in this prospectus. If there are any differences between the applicable supplement and this prospectus, the applicable supplement will control.

The terms of your series of debt securities as described in the applicable supplement may include the following:

the title and type of the debt securities;

the principal amount of the debt securities;

the minimum denominations, if other than \$1,000 and multiples of \$1,000 in excess of \$1,000;

the percentage of the stated principal amount at which the debt securities will be sold and, if applicable, the method of determining the price;

the person to whom interest is payable, if other than the owner of the debt securities;

the maturity date or dates;

the interest rate or rates, which may be fixed or variable, and the method used to calculate that interest;

any index or other reference asset or assets that will be used to determine the amounts of any payments on the debt securities and the manner in which those amounts will be determined;

the interest payment dates, the regular record dates for the interest payment dates, the date interest will begin to accrue, and the applicable business day convention;

the place or places where payments on the debt securities may be made and the place or places where the debt securities may be presented for registration of transfer or exchange;

any date or dates after which the debt securities may be redeemed, repurchased, or repaid in whole or in part at our option or the option of the holder, and the periods, prices, terms, and conditions of that redemption, repurchase, or repayment;

Table of Contents

if other than the full principal amount, the portion of the principal amount of the debt securities that will be payable if their maturity is accelerated;

the currency of principal, any premium, interest, and any other amounts payable on the debt securities, if other than U.S. dollars;

if the debt securities will be issued in other than book-entry form;

the identification of or method of selecting any calculation agents, exchange rate agents, or any other agents for the debt securities;

any provisions for the discharge of our obligations relating to the debt securities by the deposit of funds or U.S. government obligations;

any provisions relating to the extension or renewal of the maturity date of the debt securities;

whether the debt securities will be listed on any securities exchange; or

any other terms of the debt securities that are permitted under the applicable indenture.

Fixed-Rate Notes

General. We may issue debt securities that bear interest at one or more fixed rates of interest, as specified in the applicable supplement. We refer to these as fixed-rate notes. Unless we specify otherwise in the applicable supplement, each fixed-rate note will bear interest from its original issue date or from the most recent date to which interest on the note has been paid or made available for payment. Interest will accrue on the principal of a fixed-rate note at the fixed annual rate stated in the applicable supplement, until the principal is paid or made available for payment or the note is converted or exchanged.

Unless we specify otherwise in the applicable supplement, we will pay interest on any fixed-rate note quarterly, semi-annually, or annually, as applicable, in arrears, on the days set forth in the applicable supplement (each such day being an interest payment date for a fixed-rate note) and at maturity. Each interest payment due on an interest payment date or the maturity date will include interest accrued from and including the most recent interest payment date to which interest has been paid, or, if no interest has been paid, from the original issue date, to but excluding the next interest payment date or the maturity date, as the case may be. Unless we specify otherwise in the applicable supplement, interest on fixed-rate notes will be computed and paid on the basis of a 360-day year consisting of twelve 30-day months, which we may refer to as the 30/360 day count convention. We will make payments on fixed-rate notes as described below under the heading Payment of Principal, Interest, and Other Amounts Due.

Amortizing Notes. We also may issue amortizing notes, which are fixed-rate notes for which combined principal and interest payments are made in installments over the life of the debt security. Payments on amortizing notes are applied first to interest due and then to the reduction of the unpaid principal amount. The supplement for an amortizing note will include a table setting forth repayment information.

Floating-Rate Notes

General. We may issue debt securities that will bear interest at a floating rate of interest determined by reference to one or more interest rate bases, or by reference to one or more interest

Table of Contents

rate formulae, referred to as the base rate. We refer to these debt securities as floating-rate notes. The base rate may be one or more of the following:

the federal funds rate, in which case the debt security will be a federal funds rate note ;

the London interbank offered rate, in which case the debt security will be a LIBOR note ;

the euro interbank offered rate, in which case the debt security will be a EURIBOR note ;

the prime rate, in which case the debt security will be a prime rate note ;

the treasury rate, in which case the debt security will be a treasury rate note ; or

any other interest rate formula as may be specified in the applicable supplement.

The interest rate for a floating-rate note will be determined by reference to:

the specified base rate based on the index maturity;

plus or minus the spread, if any; and/or

multiplied by the spread multiplier, if any.

For any floating-rate note, the index maturity is the period to maturity of the instrument for which the interest rate basis is calculated and will be specified in the applicable supplement. The spread is the number of basis points we specify on the floating-rate note to be added to or subtracted from the base rate. The spread multiplier is the percentage we may specify on the floating-rate note by which the base rate is multiplied in order to calculate the applicable interest rate.

A floating-rate note also may be subject to:

a maximum interest rate limit, or ceiling, on the interest that may accrue during any interest period;

a minimum interest rate limit, or floor, on the interest that may accrue during any interest period; or

both.

In addition, the interest rate on a floating-rate note may not be higher than the maximum rate permitted by New York law, as that rate may be modified by United States law of general application. Under current New York law, the maximum rate of interest, subject to some exceptions, for any loan in an amount less than \$250,000 is 16% and for any loan in the amount of \$250,000 or more but less than \$2,500,000 is 25% per annum on a simple interest basis. These limits do not apply to loans of \$2,500,000 or more.

Unless we specify otherwise in the applicable supplement, each floating-rate note will bear interest from its original issue date or from the most recent date to which interest on the note has been paid or made available for payment. Interest will accrue on the principal of a floating-rate note at the annual rate determined according to the interest rate formula stated in the applicable supplement, until the principal is paid or made available for payment. Unless we specify otherwise

Table of Contents

in the applicable supplement, we will pay interest on any floating-rate note monthly, quarterly, semi-annually, or annually, as applicable, in arrears, on the days set forth in the applicable supplement (each such day being an interest payment date for a floating-rate note) and at maturity. Unless we specify otherwise in the applicable supplement, each interest payment due on an interest payment date or the maturity date will include interest accrued from and including the most recent interest payment date to which interest has been paid, or, if no interest has been paid, from the original issue date, to but excluding the next interest payment date or the maturity date, as the case may be (each such period, an interest period). Interest payment dates and interest periods may be adjusted in accordance with the business day convention (as described below under Payment of Principal, Interest, and Other Amounts Due Business Day Conventions) specified in the applicable supplement. We will make payments on floating-rate notes as described below under the heading Payment of Principal, Interest, and Other Amounts Due.

How Interest Is Reset. The interest rate in effect from the date of issue to the first interest reset date for a floating-rate note will be the initial interest rate determined as described in the applicable supplement. The interest rate of each floating-rate note may be reset daily, weekly, monthly, quarterly, semi-annually, or annually, as we specify in the applicable supplement. We refer to each date on which the interest rate for a floating-rate note will reset as an interest reset date.

The interest determination date for any interest reset date is the day the calculation agent will refer to when determining the new interest rate at which a floating rate will reset. Unless we specify otherwise in the applicable supplement, the interest determination date for an interest reset date will be:

for a federal funds rate note or a prime rate note, the business day immediately preceding the interest reset date;

for a LIBOR note, the second London Banking Day (as defined below) preceding the interest reset date unless the index currency is pounds sterling, in which case the interest determination date will be the interest reset date;

for a EURIBOR note, the second TARGET Settlement Date (as defined below) preceding the interest reset date;

for a treasury rate note, the day of the week in which the interest reset date falls on which Treasury bills (as described below) of the applicable index maturity would normally be auctioned; and

for a floating-rate note with two or more base rates, the interest determination date will be the most recent business day that is at least two business days prior to the applicable interest reset date on which each applicable base rate is determinable.

Treasury bills usually are sold at auction on Monday of each week, unless that day is a legal holiday, in which case the auction usually is held on the following Tuesday, except that the auction may be held on the preceding Friday. If, as a result of a legal holiday, an auction is held on the preceding Friday, that preceding Friday will be the interest determination date pertaining to the interest reset date occurring in the next succeeding week. The treasury rate will be determined as of that date, and the applicable interest rate will take effect on the applicable interest reset date. If Treasury bills are sold at an auction that falls on a day that is an interest reset date, that interest reset date will be the next following business day unless we specify otherwise in the applicable supplement.

Table of Contents

We will specify the interest reset dates in the applicable supplement. Interest reset dates may be adjusted in accordance with the business day convention (as described below under Payment of Principal, Interest, and Other Amounts Due Business Day Conventions) specified in the applicable supplement.

Calculation of Interest. Calculations relating to floating-rate notes will be made by the calculation agent, which will be an institution that we appoint as our agent for this purpose. The calculation agent may be one of our affiliates, including Bank of America, N.A., Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Incorporated, Merrill Lynch Commodities, Inc., or Merrill Lynch Capital Services, Inc. and may also be The Bank of New York Mellon Trust Company, N.A. We will identify in the applicable supplement the calculation agent we have appointed for a particular series of debt securities as of its original issue date. We may appoint different calculation agents from time to time after the original issue date of a floating-rate note without your consent and without notifying you of the change. Absent manifest error, all determinations of the calculation agent will be final and binding on you, the trustee and us.

For each floating-rate note, the calculation agent will determine, on the corresponding calculation or interest determination date, the interest rate for the applicable interest period. In addition, the calculation agent will calculate the amount of interest that has accrued during each interest period. Unless we specify otherwise in the applicable supplement, the calculation date for any interest determination date will be the date by which the calculation agent computes the amount of interest owed on a floating-rate note for the related interest period. Unless we specify otherwise in the applicable supplement, the calculation date pertaining to an interest determination date will be the earlier of:

the tenth calendar day after that interest determination date or, if that day is not a business day, the next succeeding business day; or

the business day immediately preceding the applicable interest payment date, the maturity date, or the date of redemption or prepayment, as the case may be.

Accrued interest on a floating-rate note is calculated by multiplying the principal amount of a note by an accrued interest factor. This accrued interest factor is the sum of the interest factors calculated for each day in the period for which accrued interest is being calculated. Unless we specify otherwise in the applicable supplement, the daily interest factor will be computed on the basis of:

a 360-day year of twelve 30-day months if the day count convention specified in the applicable supplement is 30/360 ;

the actual number of days in the relevant period divided by 360 if the day count convention specified in the applicable supplement is Actual/360 ; or

the actual number of days in the relevant period divided by 365, or in the case of an interest payment date falling in a leap year, 366, if the day count convention specified in the applicable supplement is Actual/Actual.

If no day count convention is specified in the applicable supplement, the daily interest factor will be computed and interest will be paid (including payments for partial periods) as follows:

for federal funds rate notes, LIBOR notes, EURIBOR notes, prime rate notes, or any other floating-rate notes other than treasury rate notes, on the basis of the actual number of days in the relevant period divided by 360; and

Table of Contents

for treasury rate notes, on the basis of the actual number of days in the relevant period divided by 365 or 366, as applicable. All amounts used in or resulting from any calculation on floating-rate notes will be rounded to the nearest cent, in the case of U.S. dollars, or to the nearest corresponding hundredth of a unit, in the case of a currency other than U.S. dollars, with one-half cent or one-half of a corresponding hundredth of a unit or more being rounded upward. Unless we specify otherwise in the applicable supplement, all percentages resulting from any calculation with respect to a floating-rate note will be rounded, if necessary, to the nearest one hundred-thousandth of a percent, with five one-millionths of a percentage point rounded upwards, e.g., 9.876545% (or .09876545) being rounded to 9.87655% (or .0987655).

In determining the base rate that applies to a floating-rate note during a particular interest period, the calculation agent may obtain rate quotes from various banks or dealers active in the relevant market, as described in the descriptions of the base rates below and/or in the applicable supplement. Those reference banks and dealers may include the calculation agent itself and its affiliates, as well as any underwriter, dealer, or agent participating in the distribution of the relevant floating-rate notes and its affiliates, and they may include our affiliates.

At the request of the holder of any floating-rate note, the calculation agent will provide the interest rate then in effect for that floating-rate note and, if already determined, the interest rate that is to take effect on the next interest reset date.

LIBOR Notes. Each LIBOR note will bear interest at the LIBOR base rate, adjusted by any spread or spread multiplier, as specified in the applicable supplement. The LIBOR base rate will be the London interbank offered rate for deposits in U.S. dollars or any index currency, as specified in the applicable supplement.

LIBOR for any interest determination date will be the arithmetic mean of the offered rates for deposits in the relevant index currency having the index maturity described in the applicable supplement, commencing on the related interest reset date, as the rates appear on the Reuters LIBOR screen page designated in the applicable supplement as of 11:00 A.M., London time, on that interest determination date, if at least two offered rates appear on the designated LIBOR page, except that, if the designated Reuters LIBOR screen page only provides for a single rate, that single rate will be used.

If fewer than two of the rates described above appear on that page or no rate appears on any page on which only one rate normally appears, then the calculation agent will determine LIBOR as follows:

The calculation agent will request on the interest determination date four major banks in the London interbank market, as selected and identified by us, to provide their offered quotations for deposits in the relevant index currency having an index maturity specified in the applicable supplement commencing on the interest reset date and in a representative amount to prime banks in the London interbank market at approximately 11:00 A.M., London time.

If at least two quotations are provided, the calculation agent will determine LIBOR as the arithmetic mean of those quotations.

If fewer than two quotations are provided, we will select and identify to the calculation agent three major banks in New York City, or if the relevant index currency is not U.S. dollars, the principal financial center of the country issuing the index currency. On the

Table of Contents

interest reset date, those three banks will be requested by the calculation agent to provide their offered quotations for loans in the relevant index currency having an index maturity specified in the applicable supplement commencing on the interest reset date and in a representative amount to leading European banks at approximately 11:00 A.M., New York time (or the time in the relevant principal financial center). The calculation agent will determine LIBOR as the arithmetic mean of those quotations.

If fewer than three New York City banks (or banks in the relevant principal financial center) selected by us are quoting rates, LIBOR for that interest period will remain LIBOR then in effect on the interest determination date.

Principal financial center means, unless we specify otherwise in the applicable supplement, the capital city of the country to which the index currency relates, except for U.S. dollars, Australian dollars, Canadian dollars, South African rand, and Swiss francs, for which the principal financial center is New York, Sydney and Melbourne, Toronto, Johannesburg, and Zurich, respectively.

Representative amount means an amount that, in our judgment, is representative of a single transaction in the relevant market at the relevant time.

Reuters page means the display on the Thomson Reuters service, or any successor or replacement service (Reuters), on the page or pages specified in this prospectus or the applicable supplement, or any successor or replacement page or pages on that service.

EURIBOR Notes. Each EURIBOR note will bear interest at the EURIBOR base rate, adjusted by any spread or spread multiplier, as specified in the applicable supplement.

EURIBOR, for any interest determination date, will mean the rate for deposits in euro as sponsored, calculated, and published jointly by the European Banking Federation and ACI The Financial Markets Association, or any company established by the joint sponsors for purposes of compiling and publishing those rates, having the index maturity specified in the applicable supplement, as that rate appears on Reuters page EURIBOR01, referred to as Reuters Page EURIBOR01, as of 11:00 A.M., Brussels time.

The following procedures will be followed if EURIBOR cannot be determined as described above:

If no offered rate appears on Reuters Page EURIBOR01 on an interest determination date at approximately 11:00 A.M., Brussels time, then the calculation agent will request four major banks in the Eurozone interbank market selected and identified by us to provide a quotation of the rate at which deposits in euro having the index maturity specified in the applicable supplement are offered to prime banks in the Eurozone interbank market, and in a principal amount not less than the equivalent of 1,000,000, that is representative of a single transaction in euro in that market at that time. If at least two quotations are provided, EURIBOR will be the average of those quotations.

If fewer than two quotations are provided, then the calculation agent will request four major banks in the Eurozone interbank market selected and identified by us to provide a quotation of the rate offered by them, at approximately 11:00 A.M., Brussels time, on the interest determination date, for loans in euro to prime banks in the Eurozone interbank market for a period of time equivalent to the index maturity specified in the applicable supplement commencing on that interest reset date and in a principal amount not less than the equivalent of 1,000,000, that is representative of a single transaction in euro in that market at that time. If at least three quotations are provided, EURIBOR will be the average of those quotations.

Table of Contents

If three quotations are not provided, EURIBOR for that interest determination date will be equal to EURIBOR for the immediately preceding interest period.

Eurozone means the region comprised of member states of the European Union that adopted the single currency in accordance with the Treaty establishing the European Community (signed in Rome on March 25, 1957), as amended by the Treaty on European Union (signed in Maastricht on February 7, 1992) and the Treaty of Amsterdam (signed in Amsterdam on October 2, 1997).

Treasury Rate Notes. Each treasury rate note will bear interest at the treasury rate, adjusted by any spread or spread multiplier, as specified in the applicable supplement.

The treasury rate for any interest determination date will be the rate set at the auction of direct obligations of the United States, referred to as Treasury bills, having the index maturity described in the applicable supplement, as specified under the caption INVEST RATE on Reuters page USAUCTION10 or page USAUCTION11.

The following procedures will be followed if the treasury rate cannot be determined as described above:

If the rate is not displayed on Reuters by 3:00 P.M., New York City time, on the related calculation date, the treasury rate will be the bond equivalent yield, as defined below, of the auction rate of the applicable Treasury bills as announced by the U.S. Department of the Treasury.

If the alternative rate described in the paragraph immediately above is not announced by the U.S. Department of the Treasury, or if the auction is not held, the treasury rate will be the bond equivalent yield of the rate on the particular interest determination date of the applicable Treasury bills as published in H.15(519) under the caption U.S. government securities/Treasury Bills (Secondary Market).

If the alternative rate described in the paragraph immediately above is not announced by the U.S. Department of the Treasury, the treasury rate will be the bond equivalent yield of the rate on the particular interest determination date of the applicable Treasury bills as published in H.15 Daily Update, or another recognized electronic source used for the purpose of displaying the applicable rate, under the caption U.S. Government Securities/Treasury Bills/Secondary Market.

If the alternative rate described in the paragraph immediately above is not published by 3:00 P.M., New York City time, on the related calculation date, the treasury rate will be the rate on the particular interest determination date calculated by the calculation agent as the bond equivalent yield of the arithmetic mean of the secondary market bid rates, as of approximately 3:30 P.M., New York City time, on that interest determination date, of three primary U.S. government securities dealers, selected by us, for the issue of Treasury bills with a remaining maturity closest to the particular index maturity.

If the dealers selected by us are not quoting as described in the paragraph immediately above, the treasury rate will be the treasury rate in effect on the particular interest determination date.

The bond equivalent yield will be calculated using the following formula:

$$\text{Bond equivalent yield} = \frac{D \times N}{360 - (D \times M)} \times 100$$

Table of Contents

where *D* refers to the applicable annual rate for Treasury bills quoted on a bank discount basis and expressed as a decimal, *N* refers to 365 or 366, as the case may be, and *M* refers to the actual number of days in the applicable interest period.

H.15(519) means the weekly statistical release designated as H.15(519), or any successor publication, published by the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System at <http://www.federalreserve.gov/releases/h15/current/>, or any successor site or publication.

H.15 Daily Update means the daily update of H.15(519), available through the website of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System at www.federalreserve.gov/releases/h15/update, or any successor site or publication.

Federal Funds Rate Notes. Each federal funds rate note will bear interest at the federal funds rate, adjusted by any spread or spread multiplier, as specified in the applicable supplement.

If *Federal Funds (Effective) Rate* is specified in the applicable supplement, the federal funds rate for any interest determination date will be the rate on that date for U.S. dollar federal funds, as published in H.15(519) under the heading *Federal funds (effective)* and displayed on Reuters on page FEDFUNDS1 under the heading *EFFECT*, referred to as *Reuters Page FedFunds1*. If this rate is not published in H.15 Daily Update by 3:00 P.M., New York City time, on the related calculation date, or does not appear on Reuters Page FedFunds1, the federal funds rate will be the rate on that interest determination date as published in H.15 Daily Update, or any other recognized electronic source for the purposes of displaying the applicable rate, under the caption *Federal funds (effective)*. If this alternate rate is not published in H.15 Daily Update, or other recognized electronic source for the purpose of displaying the applicable rate, by 3:00 P.M., New York City time, on the related calculation date, then the calculation agent will determine the federal funds rate to be the average of the rates for the last transaction in overnight U.S. dollar federal funds quoted prior to 9:00 A.M., New York City time, on the business day following that interest determination date, by each of three leading brokers of U.S. dollar federal funds transactions in New York City, selected by us. If fewer than three brokers selected by us are so quoting, the federal funds rate will be the federal funds rate in effect on that interest determination date.

If *Federal Funds Open Rate* is specified in the applicable supplement, the federal funds rate will be the rate on that interest determination date set forth under the heading *Federal Funds* opposite the caption *Open* and displayed on Reuters on page 5, referred to as *Reuters Page 5*, or if that rate does not appear on Reuters Page 5 by 3:00 P.M., New York City time, on the related calculation date, the federal funds rate will be the rate on that interest determination date displayed on FFPREBON Index page on Bloomberg L.P. (*Bloomberg*), which is the Fed Funds Opening Rate as reported by Prebon Yamane (or a successor) on Bloomberg. If the alternate rate described in the preceding sentence is not displayed on FFPREBON Index page on Bloomberg, or any other recognized electronic source for the purpose of displaying the applicable rate, by 3:00 P.M., New York City time, on the related calculation date, then the calculation agent will determine the federal funds rate to be the average of the rates for the last transaction in overnight U.S. dollar federal funds, quoted prior to 9:00 A.M., New York City time, on that interest determination date, by each of three leading brokers of U.S. dollar federal funds transactions in New York City, selected by us. If fewer than three brokers selected by us are quoting as described above, the federal funds rate will be the federal funds rate in effect on that interest determination date.

If *Federal Funds Target Rate* is specified in the applicable supplement, the federal funds rate will be the rate on that interest determination date for U.S. dollar federal funds displayed on the FDTR Index page on Bloomberg. If that rate does not appear on the FDTR Index page on Bloomberg by 3:00 P.M., New York City time, on the calculation date, the federal funds rate for the

Table of Contents

applicable interest determination date will be the rate for that day appearing on Reuters on page USFFTARGET=, referred to as Reuters Page USFFTARGET=. If that rate does not appear on the FDTR Index page on Bloomberg or is not displayed on Reuters page USFFTARGET= by 3:00 P.M., New York City time, on the related calculation date, then the calculation agent will determine the federal funds rate to be the average of the rates for the last transaction in overnight U.S. dollar federal funds, quoted prior to 9:00 A.M., New York City time, on that interest determination date, by each of three leading brokers of U.S. dollar federal funds transactions in New York City, selected by us. If fewer than three brokers selected by us are quoting as described above, the federal funds rate will be the federal funds rate in effect on that interest determination date.

Prime Rate Notes. Each prime rate note will bear interest at the prime rate, as adjusted by any spread or spread multiplier, as specified in the applicable supplement.

The prime rate for any interest determination date will be the prime rate or base lending rate on that date, as published in H.15(519) prior to 3:00 P.M., New York City time, on the related calculation date, under the heading Bank prime loan.

The following procedures will be followed if the prime rate cannot be determined as described above:

If the rate is not published in H.15(519) by 3:00 P.M., New York City time, on the related calculation date, then the prime rate will be the rate as published in H.15 Daily Update, or any other recognized electronic source used for the purpose of displaying the applicable rate, under the caption Bank prime loan.

If the alternative rate described above is not published in H.15 Daily Update or another recognized electronic source by 3:00 P.M., New York City time, on the related calculation date, then the calculation agent will determine the prime rate to be the arithmetic mean of the rates of interest publicly announced by each bank that appears on Reuters page USPRIME1, as defined below, as that bank's prime rate or base lending rate as in effect as of 11:00 A.M., New York City time, on that interest determination date.

If fewer than four rates appear on the Reuters page USPRIME1 for that interest determination date, by 3:00 P.M., New York City time, then the calculation agent will determine the prime rate to be the average of the prime rates or base lending rates furnished in New York City by three substitute banks or trust companies (all organized under the laws of the United States or any of its states and having total equity capital of at least \$500,000,000) selected by us.

If the banks selected by us are not quoting as described above, the prime rate will remain the prime rate then in effect on the interest determination date.

Reuters page USPRIME1 means the display designated as page USPRIME1 on Reuters for the purpose of displaying prime rates or base lending rates of major U.S. banks.

Indexed Notes

We may issue debt securities that provide that the rate of return, including the principal, premium (if any), interest, or other amounts payable (if any), is determined by reference, either directly or indirectly, to the price or performance of one or more securities, currencies or composite currencies, commodities, interest rates, stock indices, commodity indices or other indices, formulae, or measure, in each case as specified in the applicable supplement. We refer to these as indexed notes.

Table of Contents

Holders of indexed notes may receive an amount at maturity that is greater than or less than the face amount of the notes, depending upon the formula used to determine the amount payable and the relative value at maturity of the reference asset or underlying obligation. The value of the applicable index will fluctuate over time.

An indexed note may provide either for cash settlement or for physical settlement by delivery of the indexed note or securities, or other securities of the types listed above. An indexed note also may provide that the form of settlement may be determined at our option or the holder's option. Some indexed notes may be convertible, exercisable, or exchangeable prior to maturity, at our option or the holder's option, for the related securities.

We will specify in the applicable supplement the method for determining the principal, premium (if any), interest, or other amounts payable (if any) in respect of particular indexed notes, as well as certain historical information with respect to the specified index or indexed items, specific risk factors relating to that particular type of indexed note, and tax considerations associated with an investment in the indexed notes.

The applicable supplement for any particular indexed notes also will identify the calculation agent that will calculate the amounts payable with respect to the indexed note. The calculation agent may be one of our affiliates, including Bank of America, N.A., Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Incorporated, Merrill Lynch Commodities, Inc., or Merrill Lynch Capital Services, Inc. We may appoint different calculation agents from time to time after the original issue date of an indexed note without your consent and without notifying you of the change. Absent manifest error, all determinations of the calculation agent will be final and binding on you, the trustee and us. Upon request of the holder of an indexed note, the calculation agent will provide, if applicable, information relating to the current principal, premium (if any), rate of interest, interest payable, or other amounts payable (if any) in connection with the indexed note.

We also may offer indexed amortizing notes, the rate of amortization and final maturity of which are subject to periodic adjustment based upon the degree to which an objective base or index rate such as LIBOR, called a reference rate, coincides with a specified target rate. Indexed amortizing notes may provide for adjustment of the amortization rate either on every interest payment date, or only on interest payment dates that occur after a specified lockout date. Each indexed amortizing note will include an amortization table, specifying the rate at which the principal of the note is to be amortized following any applicable interest payment date, based upon the difference between the reference rate and the target rate. The specific terms of, and any additional considerations relating to, indexed amortizing notes will be set forth in the applicable supplement.

Floating-Rate/Fixed-Rate/Indexed Notes

We may issue a debt security with elements of each of the fixed-rate, floating-rate, and indexed notes described above. For example, a debt security may bear interest at a fixed rate for some periods and at a floating rate in others. Similarly, a debt security may provide for a payment of principal at maturity linked to an index and also may bear interest at a fixed or floating rate. We will describe the determination of interest for any of these debt securities in the applicable supplement.

Original Issue Discount Notes

A fixed-rate note, a floating-rate note, or an indexed note may be an original issue discount note. Original issue discount notes are debt securities that are issued at a price lower than their

Table of Contents

stated principal amount or lower than their minimum guaranteed repayment amount at maturity. Original issue discount notes may bear no interest (zero coupon rate notes) or may bear interest at a rate that is below market rates at the time of issuance. Upon an acceleration of the maturity of an original issue discount note, the amount of interest payable will be determined in accordance with the terms of the note, as described in the applicable supplement. That amount normally is less than the amount payable at the maturity date. A note issued at a discount to its principal may, for U.S. federal income tax purposes, be considered an original issue discount note, regardless of the amount payable upon redemption or acceleration of maturity. See U.S. Federal Income Tax Considerations Taxation of Debt Securities below for a summary of the U.S. federal income tax consequences of owning an original issue discount note.

Payment of Principal, Interest, and Other Amounts Due

Paying Agents. We may appoint one or more financial institutions to act as our paying agents. Unless we specify otherwise in the applicable supplement, the trustee will act as our sole paying agent, security registrar, and transfer agent with respect to the debt securities through the trustee's office. That office is currently located at 101 Barclay Street, New York, New York 10286. In addition, in the case of some of our debt securities, such as debt securities denominated in euro, that office is expected to be 48th Floor, One Canada Square, London, E14 5AL. At any time, we may rescind the designation of a paying agent, appoint a successor or an additional paying agent, or approve a change in the office through which any paying agent acts in accordance with the applicable indenture. In addition, we may decide to act as our own paying agent with respect to some or all of the debt securities, and the paying agent may resign.

Payments to Holders and Record Dates for Interest. We refer to each date on which interest is payable on a debt security as an interest payment date. Unless we specify otherwise in the applicable supplement, the provisions described in this section will apply to payments on the debt securities.

Subject to any applicable business day convention as described below, interest payments on the debt securities will be made on each interest payment date applicable to, and at the maturity date of, the debt securities. Interest payable at any interest payment date other than the maturity date will be paid to the registered holder of the debt security on the regular record date for that interest payment date, as described below. However, unless we specify otherwise in the applicable supplement, the initial interest payment on a debt security issued between a regular record date and the interest payment date immediately following the regular record date will be made on the second interest payment date following the original issue date to the holder of record on the regular record date preceding the second interest payment date. The principal and interest payable at maturity will be paid to the holder of the debt security at the time of payment by the paying agent.

Unless we specify otherwise in the applicable supplement, the record date for any interest payment for a debt security in book-entry only form generally will be the business day prior to the payment date. If the debt security is in a form that is other than book-entry only, and unless we specify otherwise in the applicable supplement, the regular record date for an interest payment date will be the last day of the calendar month preceding the interest payment date or the fifteenth day of the calendar month in which the interest payment date occurs, as specified in the supplement, whether or not that date is a business day.

Business Day Conventions. If the applicable supplement specifies that one of the following business day conventions is applicable to a debt security, the interest payment dates, interest reset dates, and interest periods for that debt security will be affected and, consequently, may be adjusted

Table of Contents

as described below. Unless we specify otherwise in the applicable supplement, any interest payment due at maturity or on a redemption date or repayment date will not be affected as described below.

Following business day convention (adjusted) means, if an interest payment date would otherwise fall on a day that is not a business day (as described below), then such interest payment date will be postponed to the next day that is a business day. Unless we specify otherwise in the applicable supplement, the related interest reset dates and interest periods also will be adjusted for non-business days.

Modified following business day convention (adjusted) means, if an interest payment date would otherwise fall on a day that is not a business day, then such interest payment date will be postponed to the next day that is a business day, except that, if the next succeeding business day falls in the next calendar month, then such interest payment date will be advanced to the immediately preceding day that is a business day. In each case, unless we specify otherwise in the applicable supplement, the related interest reset dates and interest periods also will be adjusted for non-business days.

Following unadjusted business day convention means, if an interest payment date falls on a day that is not a business day, any payment due on such interest payment date will be postponed to the next day that is a business day; *provided* that interest due with respect to such interest payment date will not accrue from and including such interest payment date to and including the date of payment of such interest as so postponed. Interest reset dates and interest periods also are not adjusted for non-business days under the following unadjusted business day convention.

Modified following unadjusted business day convention means, if an interest payment date falls on a day that is not a business day, any payment due on such interest payment date will be postponed to the next day that is a business day; *provided* that interest due with respect to such interest payment date will not accrue from and including such interest payment date to and including the date of payment of such interest as so postponed, and, *provided further* that, if such next succeeding business day would fall in the next succeeding calendar month, the date of payment with respect to such interest payment date will be advanced to the business day immediately preceding such interest payment date. Interest reset dates and interest periods also are not adjusted for non-business days under the modified following unadjusted business day convention.

Preceding business day convention means, if an interest payment date would otherwise fall on a day that is not a business day, then such interest payment date will be advanced to the immediately preceding day that is a business day. If the preceding business day convention is specified in the applicable supplement to be adjusted, then the related interest reset dates and interest periods also will be adjusted for non-business days; however, if the preceding business day convention is specified in the applicable supplement to be unadjusted, then the related interest reset dates and interest periods will not be adjusted for non-business days.

In all cases, unless we specify otherwise in the applicable supplement, if the maturity date or any earlier redemption date or repayment date with respect to any debt security falls on a day that is not a business day, any payment of principal, premium, if any, interest and any other amounts otherwise due on such day will be made on the next succeeding business day, and no interest on such payment will accrue for the period from and after such maturity date, redemption date or repayment date, as the case may be.

Table of Contents

If no business day convention is specified in the applicable supplement, then the following unadjusted business day convention will apply to the debt security. We also may specify and describe a different business day convention from those described above in the applicable supplement.

Unless we specify otherwise in the applicable supplement, the term **business day** means, for any debt security, a day that meets all the following applicable requirements:

for all debt securities, is any weekday that is not a legal holiday in New York, New York, Charlotte, North Carolina, or any other place of payment of the debt security, and is not a date on which banking institutions in those cities are authorized or required by law or regulation to be closed;

for any LIBOR note, also is a day on which commercial banks are open for business (including dealings in the index currency specified in the applicable supplement) in London, England (a **London Banking Day**);

for any debt security denominated in euro or any EURIBOR note, also is a day on which the TransEuropean Automated Real-Time Gross Settlement Express Transfer, or **TARGET**, System or any successor is operating (a **TARGET Settlement Date**); and

for any debt security that has a specified currency other than U.S. dollars or euro, also is not a day on which banking institutions generally are authorized or obligated by law, regulation, or executive order to close in the principal financial center of the country of the specified currency.

Unless we specify otherwise in the applicable supplement, for purposes of this determination, the **principal financial center** is:

the capital city of the country issuing the specified currency, except for U.S. dollars, Australian dollars, Canadian dollars, South African rand, and Swiss francs, for which the **principal financial center** is New York, Sydney and Melbourne, Toronto, Johannesburg, and Zurich, respectively; or

the capital city of the country to which the index currency relates, except for U.S. dollars, Australian dollars, Canadian dollars, South African rand, and Swiss francs, for which the **principal financial center** is New York, Sydney, Toronto, Johannesburg, and Zurich, respectively.

Payments Due in U.S. Dollars. Unless we specify otherwise in the applicable supplement, we will follow the practices described in this subsection when we pay amounts that are due in U.S. dollars.

We will make payments on debt securities in book-entry form in accordance with arrangements then in place between the paying agent and the depository or its nominee, as holder. An indirect owner's right to receive those payments will be governed by the rules and practices of the depository and its participants, as described below under the heading **Registration and Settlement**.

We will pay any interest on debt securities in certificated form on each interest payment date other than the maturity date by, in our discretion, wire transfer of immediately available funds or check mailed to holders of the debt securities on the applicable record date at the address

Table of Contents

appearing on our or the security registrar's records. We will pay any principal, premium (if any), interest, and other amounts payable (if any) at the maturity date of a debt security in certificated form by wire transfer of immediately available funds upon surrender of the debt security at the corporate trust office of the applicable trustee or paying agent.

Book-entry and other indirect owners should contact their banks or brokers for information on how they will receive payments on their debt securities.

Payments Due in Other Currencies. Unless we specify otherwise in the applicable supplement, we will follow the practices described in this subsection when we pay amounts that are due on a debt security in a currency other than U.S. dollars. Unless we specify otherwise in the applicable supplement, holders are not entitled to receive payments in U.S. dollars of an amount due in another currency, either on a global debt security or a debt security in certificated form.

We will make payments on non-U.S. dollar-denominated debt securities in book-entry form in the applicable specified currency in accordance with arrangements then in place between the paying agent and the depository or its nominee, as holder. An indirect owner's right to receive those payments will be governed by the rules and practices of the depository and its participants, as described below under the heading Registration and Settlement.

We will pay any interest on non-U.S. dollar-denominated debt securities in certificated form by, in our discretion, wire transfer of immediately available funds or check mailed to holders of the debt securities on the applicable record date at the address appearing on our or the security registrar's records. We will pay any principal, premium (if any), interest, and other amounts payable (if any) at the maturity date of a non-U.S. dollar-denominated debt security in certificated form by wire transfer of immediately available funds upon surrender of the debt security at the corporate trust office of the applicable trustee or paying agent.

If we issue a debt security in a specified currency other than U.S. dollars, unless we specify otherwise in the applicable supplement, we will appoint a financial institution to act as the exchange rate agent. The exchange rate agent will determine the applicable rate of exchange that would apply to a payment made in U.S. dollars, if the currency in which we otherwise would be required to make the applicable payment is not available. The exchange rate agent may be one of our affiliates. We will identify in the applicable supplement the exchange rate agent that we have appointed for a particular debt security as of its original issue date. We may appoint different exchange rate agents from time to time after the original issue date of the debt security without your consent and without notifying you of the change. All determinations made by the exchange rate agent will be in its sole discretion unless we state in the applicable supplement that any determination requires our approval. Absent manifest error, those determinations will be final and binding on you and us.

Book-entry and other indirect owners of a debt security with a specified currency other than U.S. dollars should contact their banks or brokers for information about how to receive payments in the specified currency or in U.S. dollars.

No Sinking Fund

Unless we specify otherwise in the applicable supplement, our debt securities will not be entitled to the benefit of any sinking fund. This means that we will not deposit money on a regular basis into any separate custodial account to repay the debt securities.

Redemption

The applicable supplement will indicate whether we may redeem the debt securities prior to their maturity date. If we may redeem the debt securities prior to maturity, the applicable

Table of Contents

supplement will indicate the redemption price, the method for redemption, and the date or dates upon which we may redeem the debt securities. Unless we specify otherwise in the applicable supplement, we may redeem debt securities only on an interest payment date, and the redemption price will be 100% of the principal amount of the debt securities to be redeemed, plus any accrued and unpaid interest.

Unless we specify otherwise in the applicable supplement, we may exercise our right to redeem debt securities by giving notice to the trustee under the applicable indenture at least 10 business days but not more than 60 calendar days before the specified redemption date. The notice will take the form of a certificate signed by us specifying:

the date fixed for redemption;

the redemption price;

the CUSIP number of the debt securities to be redeemed;

the amount to be redeemed, if less than all of a series of debt securities is to be redeemed;

the place of payment for the debt securities to be redeemed; and

that on and after the date fixed for redemption, interest will cease to accrue on the debt securities to be redeemed.

So long as a depository is the record holder of the applicable debt securities to be redeemed, we will deliver any notice of our election to exercise our redemption right only to that depository.

Repayment

The applicable supplement will indicate whether the debt securities can be repaid at the holder's option prior to their maturity date. If the debt securities may be repaid prior to maturity, the applicable supplement will indicate the applicable repayment price or prices, the procedures for repayment and the date or dates on or after which the holder can request repayment.

Repurchase

We may purchase at any time and from time to time, including through a subsidiary or affiliate of ours, outstanding debt securities by tender, in the open market, or by private agreement. We, or our affiliates, have the discretion to hold or resell any repurchased debt securities. We also have the discretion to cancel any repurchased debt securities.

Conversion

We may issue debt securities that are convertible into, or exercisable or exchangeable for, at either our option or the holder's option or otherwise as provided in the applicable supplement, our preferred stock, depositary shares, common stock, or other debt securities, or debt or equity securities of one or more third parties. The applicable supplement will describe the terms of any conversion, exercise, or exchange features, including:

the periods during which conversion, exercise, or exchange, as applicable, may be elected;

the conversion, exercise, or exchange price payable and the number of shares or amount of our preferred stock, depositary shares, common stock, or other debt securities, or debt or equity securities of a third party, that may be issued upon conversion, exercise, or exchange, and any adjustment provisions; and

Table of Contents

the procedures for electing conversion, exercise, or exchange, as applicable.

Exchange, Registration, and Transfer

Subject to the terms of the applicable indenture, debt securities of any series in certificated form may be exchanged at the option of the holder for other debt securities of the same series and of an equal aggregate principal amount and type in any authorized denominations.

Debt securities in certificated form may be presented for registration of transfer at the office of the security registrar or at the office of any transfer agent that we designate and maintain. The security registrar or the transfer agent will make the transfer or registration only if it is satisfied with the documents of title and identity of the person making the request. There will not be a service charge for any exchange or registration of transfer of debt securities, but we may require payment of a sum sufficient to cover any tax or other governmental charge that may be imposed in connection with the exchange. Unless we specify otherwise in the applicable supplement, The Bank of New York Mellon Trust Company, N.A. will be the authenticating agent, registrar, and transfer agent for the debt securities issued under the respective indentures. We may change the security registrar or the transfer agent or approve a change in the location through which any security registrar or transfer agent acts at any time, except that we will be required to maintain a security registrar and transfer agent in each place of payment for each series of debt securities. At any time, we may designate additional transfer agents for any series of debt securities.

We will not be required to (1) issue, exchange, or register the transfer of any debt security of any series to be redeemed for a period of 15 days before those debt securities were selected for redemption, or (2) exchange or register the transfer of any debt security that was selected, called, or is being called for redemption, except the unredeemed portion of any debt security being redeemed in part.

For a discussion of restrictions on the exchange, registration, and transfer of book-entry securities, see **Registration and Settlement** below.

Subordination

Our subordinated debt securities are subordinated and junior in right of payment to all of our senior indebtedness. The Subordinated Indenture defines senior indebtedness as any indebtedness for money borrowed, including all of our indebtedness for borrowed and purchased money, all of our obligations arising from off-balance sheet guarantees and direct credit substitutes, and our obligations associated with derivative products such as interest and foreign exchange rate contracts and commodity contracts, that was outstanding on the date we executed the Subordinated Indenture, or was created, incurred, or assumed after that date, for which we are responsible or liable as obligor, guarantor, or otherwise, and all deferrals, renewals, extensions, and refundings of that indebtedness or obligations, other than the debt securities issued under the Subordinated Indenture or any other indebtedness that by its terms is subordinate in right of payment to any of our other indebtedness. Each supplement for a series of subordinated debt securities will indicate the aggregate amount of our senior indebtedness outstanding, as of the most recent practicable date, and any limitation on the issuance of additional senior indebtedness. As of March 31, 2015, on a non-consolidated basis, we had approximately \$142 billion of senior long-term debt and certain short-term borrowings. Senior indebtedness also includes our obligations under letters of credit, guarantees, foreign exchange contracts and interest rate swap contracts, none of which are included in such amount. In addition, holders of subordinated debt securities may be fully subordinated to interests held by the U.S. government in the event that we enter into a receivership, insolvency, liquidation or similar proceeding.

Table of Contents

If there is a default or event of default under any senior indebtedness that would allow acceleration of maturity of the senior indebtedness and that default or event of default is not remedied, and we and the trustee of the Subordinated Indenture receive notice of this default from the holders of at least 10% in principal amount of any kind or category of any senior indebtedness or if the trustee of the Subordinated Indenture receives notice from us, then we will not be able to make any principal, premium, interest, or other payments on the subordinated debt securities or repurchase our subordinated debt securities.

If any subordinated debt security is declared due and payable before the required date or upon a payment or distribution of our assets to creditors pursuant to a dissolution, winding up, liquidation, or reorganization, we are required to pay all principal, premium, interest, or other payments to holders of senior indebtedness before any holders of subordinated debt are paid. In addition, if any amounts previously were paid to the holders of subordinated debt or the trustee of the Subordinated Indenture, the holders of senior indebtedness will have first rights to the amounts previously paid.

Subject to the payment in full of all our senior indebtedness, the holders of our subordinated debt securities will be subrogated to the rights of the holders of our senior indebtedness to receive payments or distributions of our assets applicable to the senior indebtedness until our subordinated debt securities are paid in full. For purposes of this subrogation, the subordinated debt securities will be subrogated equally and ratably with all our other indebtedness that by its terms ranks equally with our subordinated debt securities and is entitled to like rights of subrogation.

Due to differing subordination provisions in various series of subordinated debt securities issued by us and our predecessors, in the event of a dissolution, winding up, liquidation, reorganization, insolvency, receivership or other proceeding, holders of subordinated debt securities may receive more or less, ratably, than holders of some other series of our outstanding subordinated debt securities.

Sale or Issuance of Capital Stock of Banks

The Senior Indenture prohibits the issuance, sale, or other disposition of capital stock, or securities convertible into or options, warrants, or rights to acquire capital stock, of any Principal Subsidiary Bank (as defined below) or of any subsidiary which owns shares of capital stock, or securities convertible into or options, warrants, or rights to acquire capital stock, of any Principal Subsidiary Bank, with the following exceptions:

sales of directors' qualifying shares;

sales or other dispositions for fair market value, if, after giving effect to the disposition and to conversion of any shares or securities convertible into capital stock of a Principal Subsidiary Bank, we would own at least 80% of each class of the capital stock of that Principal Subsidiary Bank;

sales or other dispositions made in compliance with an order of a court or regulatory authority of competent jurisdiction;

any sale by a Principal Subsidiary Bank of additional shares of its capital stock, securities convertible into shares of its capital stock, or options, warrants, or rights to subscribe for or purchase shares of its capital stock, to its stockholders at any price, so long as before that sale we owned, directly or indirectly, securities of the same class and immediately after the sale, we owned, directly or indirectly, at least as great a percentage of each class of securities of the Principal Subsidiary Bank as we owned before the sale of additional securities; and

Table of Contents

any issuance of shares of capital stock, or securities convertible into or options, warrants, or rights to subscribe for or purchase shares of capital stock, of a Principal Subsidiary Bank or any subsidiary which owns shares of capital stock, or securities convertible into or options, warrants, or rights to acquire capital stock, of any Principal Subsidiary Bank, to us or our wholly owned subsidiary.

A Principal Subsidiary Bank is defined in the Senior Indenture as any bank with total assets equal to more than 10% of our total consolidated assets. As of the date of this prospectus, Bank of America, N.A. is our only Principal Subsidiary Bank.

Limitation on Mergers and Sales of Assets

Each indenture generally permits a consolidation or merger between us and another entity. It also permits the sale or transfer by us of all or substantially all of our assets. These transactions are permitted if:

the resulting or acquiring entity, if other than us, is organized and existing under the laws of the United States or any state or the District of Columbia and expressly assumes all of our obligations under that indenture; and

immediately after the transaction, we (or any successor company) are not in default in the performance of any covenant or condition under that indenture.

Upon any consolidation, merger, sale, or transfer of this kind, the resulting or acquiring entity will be substituted for us in the applicable indenture with the same effect as if it had been an original party to that indenture. As a result, the successor entity may exercise our rights and powers under the indenture.

Waiver of Covenants

The holders of a majority in principal amount of the debt securities of all affected series then outstanding under the indenture may waive compliance with some of the covenants or conditions of that indenture.

Modification of the Indentures

We and the trustee may modify the applicable indenture and the rights of the holders of the debt securities with the consent of the holders of at least 66 2/3% of the aggregate principal amount of all series of debt securities under that indenture affected by the modification. However, no modification may extend the fixed maturity of, reduce the principal amount or redemption premium of, or reduce the rate of, or extend the time of payment of, interest on, any debt security without the consent of each holder affected by the modification. No modification may reduce the percentage of debt securities that is required to consent to modification of an indenture without the consent of all holders of the debt securities outstanding under that indenture.

In addition, we and the trustee may execute supplemental indentures in some circumstances without the consent of any holders of outstanding debt securities.

For purposes of determining the aggregate principal amount of the debt securities outstanding at any time in connection with any request, demand, authorization, direction, notice, consent, or waiver under the applicable indenture, (1) the principal amount of any debt security issued with original issue discount is that amount that would be due and payable at that time upon an event of

Table of Contents

default, and (2) the principal amount of a debt security denominated in a foreign currency or currency unit is the U.S. dollar equivalent on the date of original issuance of the debt security.

Meetings and Action by Securityholders

The trustee may call a meeting in its discretion, or upon request by us or the holders of at least 10% in principal amount of a series of outstanding debt securities, by giving notice. If a meeting of holders is duly held, any resolution raised or decision taken in accordance with the indenture will be binding on all holders of debt securities of that series.

Events of Default and Rights of Acceleration

The Senior Indenture defines an event of default for a series of senior debt securities as any one of the following events:

our failure to pay principal or any premium when due on any securities of that series;

our failure to pay interest on any securities of that series, within 30 calendar days after the interest becomes due;

our breach of any of our other covenants contained in the senior debt securities of that series or in the Senior Indenture, that is not cured within 90 calendar days after written notice to us by the trustee of the Senior Indenture, or to us and the trustee of the Senior Indenture by the holders of at least 25% in principal amount of all senior debt securities then outstanding under the Senior Indenture and affected by the breach; and

specified events involving our bankruptcy, insolvency, or liquidation.

The Subordinated Indenture defines an event of default only as our voluntary or involuntary bankruptcy under U.S. federal bankruptcy laws (and, in the case of our involuntary bankruptcy, continuing for a period of 60 days).

If an event of default occurs and is continuing, either the trustee or the holders of 25% in principal amount of the debt securities outstanding under the applicable indenture (or, in the case of an event of default under the Senior Indenture with respect to a series of senior debt securities, the holders of 25% in principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of all series affected) may declare the principal amount, or, if the debt securities are issued with original issue discount, a specified portion of the principal amount, of all debt securities (or the debt securities of all series affected, as the case may be) to be due and payable immediately. The holders of a majority in principal amount of the debt securities then outstanding (or of the series affected, as the case may be), in some circumstances, may annul the declaration of acceleration and waive past defaults.

Payment of principal of the subordinated debt securities may not be accelerated in the case of a default in the payment of principal, any premium, interest, or any other amounts or the performance of any of our other covenants.

Collection of Indebtedness

If we fail to pay the principal of (or, under the Senior Indenture, any premium on) any debt securities, or if we are over 30 calendar days late on an interest payment on the debt securities, the applicable trustee can demand that we pay to it, for the benefit of the holders of those debt securities,

Table of Contents

the amount which is due and payable on those debt securities, including any interest incurred because of our failure to make that payment. If we fail to pay the required amount on demand, the trustee may take appropriate action, including instituting judicial proceedings against us.

In addition, a holder of a debt security also may file suit to enforce our obligation to make payment of principal, any premium, interest, or other amounts due on that debt security regardless of the actions taken by the trustee.

The holders of a majority in principal amount of each series of the debt securities then outstanding under an indenture may direct the time, method, and place of conducting any proceeding for any remedy available to the trustee under that indenture, but the trustee will be entitled to receive from the holders a reasonable indemnity against expenses and liabilities.

We are required periodically to file with the trustees a certificate stating that we are not in default under any of the terms of the indentures.

Payment of Additional Amounts

If we so specify in the applicable supplement, and subject to the exceptions and limitations set forth below, we will pay to the beneficial owner of any debt security that is a non-U.S. person additional amounts to ensure that every net payment on that debt security will not be less, due to the payment of U.S. withholding tax, than the amount then otherwise due and payable. For this purpose, a net payment on a debt security means a payment by us or any paying agent, including payment of principal and interest, after deduction for any present or future tax, assessment, or other governmental charge of the United States (other than a territory or possession). These additional amounts will constitute additional interest on the debt security. For this purpose, U.S. withholding tax means a withholding tax of the United States, other than a territory or possession.

However, notwithstanding our obligation, if so specified, to pay additional amounts, we will not be required to pay additional amounts in any of the circumstances described in items (1) through (15) below, unless we specify otherwise in the applicable supplement.

- (1) Additional amounts will not be payable if a payment on a debt security is reduced as a result of any tax, assessment, or other governmental charge that is imposed or withheld solely by reason of the beneficial owner of the debt security:

having a relationship with the United States as a citizen, resident, or otherwise;

having had such a relationship in the past; or

being considered as having had such a relationship.

- (2) Additional amounts will not be payable if a payment on a debt security is reduced as a result of any tax, assessment, or other governmental charge that is imposed or withheld solely by reason of the beneficial owner of the debt security:

being treated as present in or engaged in a trade or business in the United States;

being treated as having been present in or engaged in a trade or business in the United States in the past;

Table of Contents

having or having had a permanent establishment in the United States; or

having or having had a qualified business unit which has the U.S. dollar as its functional currency.

- (3) Additional amounts will not be payable if a payment on a debt security is reduced as a result of any tax, assessment, or other governmental charge that is imposed or withheld solely by reason of the beneficial owner of the debt security being or having been a:

personal holding company;

foreign personal holding company;

private foundation or other tax-exempt organization;

passive foreign investment company;

controlled foreign corporation; or

corporation which has accumulated earnings to avoid U.S. federal income tax.

- (4) Additional amounts will not be payable if a payment on a debt security is reduced as a result of any tax, assessment, or other governmental charge that is imposed or withheld solely by reason of the beneficial owner of the debt security owning or having owned, actually or constructively, 10% or more of the total combined voting power of all classes of our stock entitled to vote.

- (5) Additional amounts will not be payable if a payment on a debt security is reduced as a result of any tax, assessment, or other governmental charge that is imposed or withheld solely by reason of the beneficial owner of the debt security being a bank extending credit under a loan agreement entered into in the ordinary course of business.

For purposes of items (1) through (5) above, beneficial owner includes, without limitation, a holder and a fiduciary, settlor, partner, member, shareholder, or beneficiary of the holder if the holder is an estate, trust, partnership, limited liability company, corporation, or other entity, or a person holding a power over an estate or trust administered by a fiduciary holder.

- (6) Additional amounts will not be payable to any beneficial owner of a debt security that is:

A fiduciary;

A partnership;

A limited liability company;

Another fiscally transparent entity; or

Not the sole beneficial owner of the debt security, or any portion of the debt security.

However, this exception to the obligation to pay additional amounts will apply only to the extent that a beneficiary or settlor in relation to the fiduciary, or a beneficial owner, partner, or member of the partnership, limited liability company, or other fiscally transparent entity, would not have been entitled to the payment of an additional amount had the beneficiary, settlor, beneficial owner, partner, or member received directly its beneficial or distributive share of the payment.

Table of Contents

- (7) Additional amounts will not be payable if a payment on a debt security is reduced as a result of any tax, assessment, or other governmental charge that is imposed or withheld solely by reason of the failure of the beneficial owner of the debt security or any other person to comply with applicable certification, identification, documentation, or other information reporting requirements. This exception to the obligation to pay additional amounts will apply only if compliance with such requirements is required as a precondition to exemption from such tax, assessment, or other governmental charge by statute or regulation of the United States or by an applicable income tax treaty to which the United States is a party.
- (8) Additional amounts will not be payable if a payment on a debt security is reduced as a result of any tax, assessment, or other governmental charge that is collected or imposed by any method other than by withholding from a payment on a debt security by us or any paying agent.
- (9) Additional amounts will not be payable if a payment on a debt security is reduced as a result of any tax, assessment, or other governmental charge that is imposed or withheld by reason of a change in law, regulation, or administrative or judicial interpretation that becomes effective more than 15 days after the payment becomes due or is duly provided for, whichever occurs later.
- (10) Additional amounts will not be payable if a payment on a debt security is reduced as a result of any tax, assessment, or other governmental charge that is imposed or withheld by reason of the presentation by the beneficial owner of a debt security for payment more than 30 days after the date on which such payment becomes due or is duly provided for, whichever occurs later.
- (11) Additional amounts will not be payable if a payment on a debt security is reduced as a result of any:
- estate tax;
 - inheritance tax;
 - gift tax;
 - sales tax;
 - excise tax;
 - transfer tax;
 - wealth tax;
 - personal property tax; or
 - any similar tax, assessment, or other governmental charge.

- (12) Additional amounts will not be payable if a payment on a debt security is reduced as a result of any tax, assessment, or other governmental charge required to be withheld by any paying agent from a payment of principal or interest on the applicable security if such payment can be made without such withholding by any other paying agent.

Table of Contents

- (13) Additional amounts will not be payable if a payment on a debt security is reduced as a result of any tax, assessment, or other governmental charge that is imposed or withheld by reason of the application of Section 1471 through Section 1474 of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, (or any successor provision), any regulation, pronouncement, or agreement thereunder, official interpretations thereof, or any law implementing an intergovernmental approach thereto, whether currently in effect or as published and amended from time to time.
- (14) Additional amounts will not be payable if a payment on a debt security is reduced as a result of any tax, assessment, or other governmental charge that is imposed or withheld by reason of the payment being treated as a dividend or dividend equivalent for U.S. tax purposes.
- (15) Additional amounts will not be payable if a payment on a debt security is reduced as a result of any combination of items (1) through (14) above.

Except as specifically provided in this section, we will not be required to make any payment of any tax, assessment, or other governmental charge imposed by any government, political subdivision, or taxing authority of that government.

For purposes of determining whether the payment of additional amounts is required, the term **U.S. person** means any individual who is a citizen or resident of the United States; any corporation, partnership, or other entity created or organized in or under the laws of the United States; any estate if the income of such estate falls within the federal income tax jurisdiction of the United States regardless of the source of that income; and any trust if a U.S. court is able to exercise primary supervision over its administration and one or more U.S. persons have the authority to control all of the substantial decisions of the trust. Additionally, for this purpose, **non-U.S. person** means a person who is not a U.S. person, and **United States** means the United States of America, including each state of the United States and the District of Columbia, its territories, its possessions, and other areas within its jurisdiction.

Redemption for Tax Reasons

If we so specify in the applicable supplement, we may redeem the debt securities in whole, but not in part, at any time before maturity, after giving not less than 30 nor more than 60 calendar days notice to the trustee under the applicable indenture and to the holders of the debt securities, if we have or will become obligated to pay additional amounts, as described above under **Payment of Additional Amounts**, as a result of any change in, or amendment to, the laws or regulations of the United States or any political subdivision or any authority of the United States having power to tax, or any change in the application or official interpretation of such laws or regulations, which change or amendment becomes effective on or after the date of the applicable supplement for the issuance of those debt securities.

In connection with any notice of redemption for tax reasons, we will deliver to the trustee under the indenture any required certificate, request, or order.

Unless we specify otherwise in the applicable supplement, any debt securities redeemed for tax reasons will be redeemed at 100% of their principal amount together with interest accrued up to, but excluding, the redemption date.

Table of Contents

Defeasance and Covenant Defeasance

If we so specify in the applicable supplement, the provisions for full defeasance and covenant defeasance described below will apply to the debt securities if certain conditions are satisfied.

Full Defeasance. If there is a change in the U.S. federal tax law, as described below, we can legally release ourselves from all payment and other obligations on any debt securities. This is called full defeasance. For us to do so, each of the following must occur:

We must deposit in trust for the benefit of the holders of those debt securities a combination of money and U.S. government or U.S. government agency notes or bonds that will generate enough cash to make interest, principal, and any other payments on those debt securities at their due dates;

There must be a change in current U.S. federal tax law or an Internal Revenue Service ruling that lets us make the above deposit without causing the holders to be taxed on the debt securities any differently than if we did not make the deposit and repaid the debt securities ourselves. Under current U.S. federal tax law, the deposit, and our legal release from your debt security, would be treated as though we took back your debt security and gave you your share of the cash and notes or bonds deposited in trust. In that event, you could recognize gain or loss on your debt security; and

We must deliver to the trustee under the indenture a legal opinion of our counsel confirming the tax law treatment described above. If we ever fully defeased your debt security, you would have to rely solely on the trust deposit for payments on your debt security. You would not be able to look to us for payment in the event of any shortfall.

Covenant Defeasance. Under current U.S. federal tax law, we can make the same type of deposit described above and be released from any restrictive covenants relating to your debt security. This is called covenant defeasance. In that event, you would lose the protection of those restrictive covenants. In order to achieve covenant defeasance for the debt securities, we must do both of the following:

We must deposit in trust for the benefit of the holders of those debt securities a combination of money and U.S. government or U.S. government agency notes or bonds that will generate enough cash to make interest, principal, and any other payments on those debt securities on their due dates; and

We must deliver to the trustee under the indenture a legal opinion of our counsel confirming that under current U.S. federal income tax law we may make the above deposit without causing the holders to be taxed on the debt securities any differently than if we did not make the deposit and repaid the debt securities ourselves.

If we achieve covenant defeasance with respect to your debt security, you can still look to us for repayment of your debt security in the event of any shortfall in the trust deposit. You should note, however, that if one of the remaining events of default occurred, such as our bankruptcy, and your debt security became immediately due and payable, there may be a shortfall. Depending on the event causing the default, you may not be able to obtain payment of the shortfall.

Table of Contents

Notices

We or the trustee on our behalf, if so requested, will provide the holders with any required notices by first-class mail to the addresses of the holders as they appear in the security register. So long as a depository is the record holder of a series of debt securities with respect to which a notice is given, we or the trustee, if so requested, will deliver the notice only to that depository.

Concerning the Trustees

We and certain of our affiliates have from time to time maintained deposit accounts and conducted other banking transactions with The Bank of New York Mellon Trust Company, N.A. and its affiliates in the ordinary course of b