

BANK OF AMERICA CORP /DE/  
Form 424B3  
February 24, 2015  
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Filed Pursuant to Rule 424(b)(3)  
Registration No. 333-180488

## 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.

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 February 24, 2015**

**February 24, 2015**

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**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. 333-180488.

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

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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.

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**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, 2013, 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





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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 attached 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.

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### **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**

The following summary of the terms of the notes and the indentures is not complete and is qualified in its entirety by reference to the actual notes and the specific provisions of the Senior Indenture and the Subordinated Indenture, as applicable.

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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 pricing 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.

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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;

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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 pricing 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 pricing supplement, with respect to some of our notes, including notes denominated in

euro, The Bank of New York Mellon will act as the

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London paying 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 pricing supplement. We will identify the calculation agent for any indexed notes in the applicable pricing 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 pricing 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 pricing supplement, we will pay any interest on notes in certificated form on each interest payment date other than the maturity date by check mailed to holders of the notes on the applicable record date at the address appearing on our records. Unless otherwise stated in the applicable pricing 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 or the London paying agent, 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 to receive payments in the applicable foreign currency, the exchange rate agent for the relevant notes, which will be named in the applicable pricing 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.



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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 exchange rate 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 pricing 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

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under **Description of Debt Securities** **Payment of Additional Amounts** in the accompanying prospectus. If we so specify in the applicable pricing 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.

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.

## **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.

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### **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.

### **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 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 pricing 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.

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**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 96 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 pricing supplement, for resale at a fixed public offering price. The applicable pricing 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 pricing 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 pricing 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. 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 pricing 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 pricing supplement. As of the date of this prospectus supplement, our selling agent is MLPF&S. MLPF&S has entered into a distribution agreement with us that describes the offering of notes by them as our agent and as our principal. 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

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purchase agreement for the notes, and may be referred to in that purchase agreement and the applicable pricing 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 pricing 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 overallocation, 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 overallocation 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.

Selling agents may engage in syndicate-covering transactions to cover overallocations 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.

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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 pricing 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 pricing 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 of the next succeeding business days as we will specify in the applicable pricing 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

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**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 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.

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**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;
- (b) at any time to fewer than 100 or, if the Relevant Member State has implemented the relevant provision of the 2010 PD Amending Directive (as defined below), 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



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State by any measure implementing the Prospectus Directive in that Member State, the expression **Prospectus Directive** means Directive 2003/71/EC (and amendments thereto, including the 2010 PD Amending Directive, to the extent implemented in the Relevant Member State), and includes any relevant implementing measure in the Relevant Member State, and the expression **2010 PD Amending Directive** means Directive 2010/73/EU.

**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*.

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

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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 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.

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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); and
- (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.

If the offer is made by way of 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 of 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.

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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 in terms 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; or
- (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; or
- (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

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- (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 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;

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(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 ), 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).

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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.

*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.*

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**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.

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**PROSPECTUS**

**\$118,000,000,000**

**Debt Securities, Warrants, Units, Purchase Contracts,**

**Preferred Stock, Depositary Shares, and Common Stock**

We from time to time may offer to sell up to \$118,000,000,000, 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 February 24, 2015**

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**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.

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**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 \$118,000,000,000, 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

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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.



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### **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.



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### **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.

	Year Ended December 31		Year Ended December 31			
	Nine Months Ended September 30, 2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009
Ratio of earnings to fixed charges (excluding interest on deposits) <sup>1</sup>	1.27	2.29	1.21	1.02	0.99	1.10
Ratio of earnings to fixed charges (including interest on deposits) <sup>1</sup>	1.25	2.16	1.18	1.02	1.00	1.08
Ratio of earnings to fixed charges and preferred dividends (excluding interest on deposits) <sup>1,2</sup>	1.13	2.01	1.13	1.02	0.96	0.89
Ratio of earnings to fixed charges and preferred dividends (including interest on deposits) <sup>1,2</sup>	1.12	1.92	1.12	1.02	0.96	0.91

<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>2</sup> The earnings for 2009 were inadequate to cover fixed charges and preferred dividends. The earnings deficiency is a result of accelerated accretion of \$4.0 billion recorded as a result of the repurchase of TARP Preferred Stock. The coverage deficiency for fixed charges and preferred dividends was \$3.4 billion.

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**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, 2013, 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

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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. 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

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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.

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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



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foreign exchange rate benchmarks, which may result in further regulation around the setting of foreign exchange rates.

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 the date of this prospectus, the aggregate liquidation preference of all our outstanding preferred stock was approximately \$22.7 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 subject to restrictions on 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 and retained earnings.

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**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, under certain circumstances relating to the financial condition of a bank or