# Popular Securities LLC (a wholly-owned subsidiary of Popular, Inc.)

(a wholly-owned subsidiary of Popular, Inc.)
Statement of Financial Condition
December 31, 2015



# Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm

To the Board of Directors of Popular Securities LLC

In our opinion, the accompanying statement of financial condition presents fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Popular Securities LLC at December 31, 2015 in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. The statement of financial condition is the responsibility of the Company's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the statement of financial condition based on our audit. We conducted our audit of this statement in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States). Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the statement of financial condition is free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the statement of financial condition, assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, and evaluating the overall statement of financial condition presentation. We believe that our audit of the statement of financial condition provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

February 29, 2016

CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS (OF PUERTO RICO)
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Certified Public Accountants has been affixed to the file copy of this report

Pricenaterbus Cooper, LLP

Popular Securities LLC (a wholly-owned subsidiary of Popular, Inc.) **Statement of Financial Condition December 31, 2015** 

(dollars in thousands, except share data)

Assets		
Cash	\$	3,716
Financial instruments owned, at fair value		
Pledged securities with creditors' rights to repledge		15,109
Other securities owned		28,512
Receivables from broker-dealers and clearing organizations		7,443
Accrued interest receivable		267
Receivables from affiliates		36
Fixed assets, net of accumulated depreciation of \$3,036		970
Goodwill		3,800
Other intangible assets		563
Other assets		1,821
Total assets	\$	62,237
Liabilities and Stockholder's Equity		
Securities sold under agreements to repurchase	\$	13,955
Payables to broker-dealers and clearing organizations	*	6,160
Accrued interest payable		10
Accounts payable to affiliates		558
Accrued employee compensation and benefits		1,530
Deferred compensation		1,694
Other liabilities		1,356
Total liabilities	-	25,263
Commitments and contingencies (Notes 10 and 11)		
Stockholder's equity		
Capital stock, \$25 stated value; 10,000 shares authorized; 1,000 shares		
issued and outstanding		25
Additional paid-in capital		15,713
Retained earnings		21,236
Total stockholder's equity		36,974
Total liabilities and stockholder's equity	\$	62,237
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(a wholly-owned subsidiary of Popular, Inc.)
Notes to Financial Statements
December 31, 2015

(dollars in thousands, except share data)

# 1. Nature of Business and Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

Popular Securities LLC (the "Company") is engaged in investment banking, brokerage, and financial advisory services and is a member of the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority (FINRA). The Company operates principally in the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico and is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Popular, Inc. ("Parent Company").

The Company is a registered broker-dealer pursuant to section 15(b) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934. The Company is exempt from the provisions of Rule 15c3-3 (the "Rule") under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, in that the Company's activities are limited to those set forth in the conditions for exemption appearing in paragraph (k)(2)(ii) of the Rule. As an introducing broker, the Company clears customer transactions on a fully disclosed basis with National Financial Services, LLC ("NFS"), clearing broker, and promptly transmits all customer funds and securities to NFS. NFS carries all of the accounts of such customers and maintains and preserves books and records related to these accounts. In addition, the Company is licensed by the Office of the Commissioner of Financial Institutions of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico as a registered broker-dealer and as an eligible similar institution under Regulation 5105.

The accounting and reporting policies of the Company conform to accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAP) and industry practices. Following is a description of the significant accounting policies followed by the Company:

#### **Use of Estimates**

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with GAAP requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting period. Management believes that these estimates are adequate. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

# **Income Recognition**

# Commissions

Commissions and related expenses are recorded on a trade-date basis as securities transactions occur.

# Investment Banking

Investment banking revenues net of syndicate expenses, arising from offerings in which the Company acts as an underwriter or agent. Investment banking revenues also include fees earned from providing corporate finance advisory services. Investment banking revenue is recorded as follows: 1) underwriting fees at the time the underwriting is completed and income is reasonably determinable, 2) corporate finance advisory fees as earned, according to the terms of the specific contracts, and 3) sales concessions on a trade-date basis.

(a wholly-owned subsidiary of Popular, Inc.)
Notes to Financial Statements
December 31, 2015

(dollars in thousands, except share data)

# Principal transactions, net

Principal transactions, net are the trading gains and losses which are composed of both realized and unrealized gains and losses. These are recorded as the difference between the acquisition cost and the selling price or fair value. For presentation in the financial statements, these are reported net, on a trade date basis.

Interest and Dividend Income and Interest Expense

Interest income earned by the Company includes the following sources: interest earned on reverse repurchase transactions, and interest income earned by the Company on its trading portfolio. Interest expense arises from the following: interest on cash borrowings to finance payment for securities purchased, interest on cash collateral received in repurchase transactions and interest to subordinated lenders. Dividend income is derived from the investment in investment companies, and is recorded at ex-dividend date.

# Investment Advisory Fees

Investment advisory fees are based on the net assets of the client accounts. These revenues are received quarterly but are recognized as earned on a pro rata basis over the quarter.

# Other Revenues

Other revenues include fees charged on debit balances in customer margin accounts, and fees earned on distribution of investment companies.

## Securities Purchased/Sold Under Agreements to Resell/Repurchase

Repurchase and resale agreements are treated as collateralized financing transactions and are carried at the amounts at which the securities will be reacquired or resold as specified in the respective agreements. Interest income and expense related to these agreements is recorded on an accrual basis.

It is the Company's policy to take possession of securities purchased under resale agreements and such collateral is not reflected in the financial statements. The Company monitors the market value of the securities received as collateral under the resale agreements as compared to the related receivable, including accrued interest, and requests additional collateral when deemed appropriate.

The Company maintains control over the securities sold under repurchase agreements.

The Company nets certain repurchase and resale agreements with the same counterparty in the Statement of Financial Condition when the requirements of ASC 210-20-45-11 are met.

There were no outstanding resell agreements as of December 31, 2015.

(a wholly-owned subsidiary of Popular, Inc.)
Notes to Financial Statements
December 31, 2015

(dollars in thousands, except share data)

# Receivables from and Payables to Broker-Dealers and Clearing Organizations

At December 31, 2015, receivables and payables to broker dealers and clearing organizations consist of the following:

Receivables	
Net unsettled transactions	\$ 6,153
Clearing broker	873
Other	417
	\$ 7,443
Payables	
Net unsettled transactions	\$ 6,150
Other	 10
	\$ 6,160

The Company entered into an agreement with NFS providing for margin borrowing with no predetermined limit or maturity date. The interest rate on this borrowing is the prevailing Brokers Call rate less 55 basis points. At December 31, 2015, the interest rate was 1.70%. There was no outstanding balance under this agreement as of December 31, 2015.

# Cash

Cash includes cash on hand and in banks.

#### **Fixed Assets**

Fixed assets are composed of furniture, equipment and leasehold improvements. Furniture and equipment are initially recorded at cost and depreciated using the straight-line method over the estimated useful life of the related assets (between 3 and 10 years). Leasehold improvements are amortized over the lesser of the economic useful life of the improvement or the term of the lease.

At December 31, 2015, fixed assets, net consist of the following:

	Useful life	
	in years	Cost
Leasehold improvements	10	\$ 2,023
Furniture and fixtures	5	1,636
Electronic equipment	3	290
Vehicles	5	57
		\$ 4,006
Less - accumulated		
depreciation and amortization		(3,036)
		\$ 970

(a wholly-owned subsidiary of Popular, Inc.)
Notes to Financial Statements
December 31, 2015

(dollars in thousands, except share data)

#### Other Assets

Included in Other Assets are forgivable loans made to financial consultants, typically in connection with their recruitment. These loans are forgivable based on continued employment and are amortized over the terms specified in each agreement, which is generally four to nine years, using the straight-line method. The Company recognized \$697 of commission expense related to the amortization of these loans during the year ended December 31, 2015. Total net forgivable loans as of December 31, 2015 amounted to approximately \$1,249. At December 31, 2015 the Company has a reserve for uncollectible loans amounting to \$1,902.

#### Allowance for Doubtful accounts

The Company provides an allowance for doubtful accounts based on the estimated uncollectible amounts on unsecured counterparty balances receivable. The Company's estimate is primarily based on a review of the current status of specified accounts receivable. Provisions made to this allowance are charged to operations and included in other expenses in the Statement of Operations. There was no allowance for doubtful accounts as of December 31, 2015.

#### **Income Taxes**

Effective January 1, 2014 the Company changed its organization charter from Corporation to Limited Liability Corporation (LLC). Upon this change, the Company made an election under the Puerto Rico Tax Code to be treated as a partnership. As a result of this election, the Company's tax attributes will flow through to its Parent Company. Therefore, no current or deferred taxes will be reported in the Company's financial statements going forward.

Since the Company is a tax conduit entity, no provision for income tax is presented in its standalone financial statements, and its related income tax accounts were derecognized as of the effective date of the election.

The Company has no open uncertain tax positions as of December 31, 2015. Tax years 2011 to 2013 are open to examination by the Puerto Rico taxing authorities.

# **Goodwill and Other Intangibles**

Goodwill represents the excess of the purchase price and related costs over the value assigned to net assets acquired. Other intangible assets are recognized separately from goodwill when they arise from contractual or other legal rights or are separable and their fair value can be measured reliably. Goodwill will not be amortized but rather will be tested at least annually for impairment. Other intangible assets that have a finite useful life are amortized over a period based on the expected useful life.

The Company completed all impairment tests and determined that there are no impairment losses to be recognized during the year ended December 31, 2015.

(a wholly-owned subsidiary of Popular, Inc.)
Notes to Financial Statements
December 31, 2015

(dollars in thousands, except share data)

## 2. Financial Instruments Owned and Fair Value Measurements

ASC Subtopic 820-10 "Fair Value Measurements and Disclosures" establishes a fair value hierarchy that prioritizes the inputs to valuation techniques used to measure fair value into three levels in order to increase consistency and comparability in fair value measurements and disclosures. The hierarchy is broken down into three levels based on the reliability of inputs as follows:

- Level 1- Unadjusted quoted prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities that
  the Company has the ability to access at the measurement date. Valuation on these
  instruments does not require a significant degree of judgment since valuations are based
  on quoted prices that are readily available in an active market.
- Level 2- Quoted prices other than those included in Level 1 that are observable either
  directly or indirectly. Level 2 inputs include quoted prices for similar assets or liabilities in
  active markets, quoted prices for identical or similar assets or liabilities in markets that are
  not active, or other inputs that are observable or that can be corroborated by observable
  market data for substantially the full term of the financial instrument.
- Level 3- Inputs are unobservable and significant to the fair value measurement. Unobservable inputs reflect the Company's own assumptions about assumptions that market participants would use in pricing the asset or liability.

The Company maximizes the use of observable inputs and minimizes the use of unobservable inputs by requiring that the observable inputs be used when available. Fair value is based upon quoted market prices when available. If listed price or quotes are not available, the Company employs internally-developed models that primarily use market-based inputs including yield curves, interest rates, volatilities, and credit curves, among others. Valuation adjustments are limited to those necessary to ensure that the financial instrument's fair value is adequately representative of the price that would be received or paid in the marketplace. These adjustments include amounts that reflect counterparty credit quality, the Company's credit standing, constraints on liquidity, and unobservable parameters that are applied consistently.

The estimated fair value may be subjective in nature and may involve uncertainties and matters of significant judgment for certain financial instruments. Changes in the underlying assumptions used in calculating fair value could significantly affect the results. In addition, the fair value estimates are based on outstanding balances without attempting to estimate the value of anticipated future business. Therefore, the estimated fair value may materially differ from the value that could actually be realized on a sale.

# Popular Securities LLC (a wholly-owned subsidiary of Popular, Inc.) Notes to Financial Statements

December 31, 2015

(dollars in thousands, except share data)

Following is a description of the Company's valuation methodologies used for assets measured at fair value, by asset type:

- Obligations of Puerto Rico, States and political subdivisions: Obligations of Puerto Rico, States and political subdivisions include municipal bonds. The bonds are segregated and the like characteristics divided into specific sectors. Market inputs used in the evaluation process include all or some of the following: trades, bid price or spread, two sided markets, quotes, benchmark curves including but not limited to Treasury benchmarks, London Interbank Offered Rate ("LIBOR") and swap curves, market data feeds such as Municipal Securities Rulemaking Board ("MSRB"), discount and capital rates, and trustee reports. The municipal bonds are classified as Level 2.
- Mortgage and other asset-backed securities: Certain agency mortgage and other
  asset-backed securities ("MBS") are priced based on a bond's theoretical value from
  similar bonds defined by credit quality and market sector. Their fair value incorporates
  an option adjusted spread. The agency MBS are classified as Level 2. Other agency
  MBS such as certain GNMA Puerto Rico Serials are priced using an internally-prepared
  pricing matrix with quoted prices from local broker dealers. These particular MBS are
  classified as Level 3.
- Collateralized mortgage obligations: Agency and private collateralized mortgage obligations ("CMOs") are priced based on a bond's theoretical value from similar bonds defined by credit quality and market sector and for which fair value incorporates an option adjusted spread. The option adjusted spread model includes prepayment and volatility assumptions, ratings (whole loans collateral) and spread adjustments. These investment securities are classified as Level 2. Private label CMOs that are priced using significant unobservable inputs are classified as Level 3.
- **Residual interest certificate:** The fair value of the residual interest certificate is priced internally using a model which includes prepayment speed and expected yield assumptions that are unobservable. This instrument is classified as Level 3.
- Corporate debt securities and investment companies: Quoted prices for these security types are obtained from broker dealers. Given that the quoted prices are for similar instruments or do not trade in highly liquid markets, the corporate securities and mutual funds are classified as Level 2. The important variables in determining the prices of Puerto Rico tax-exempt mutual fund shares are net asset value, dividend yield and type of assets in the fund. All funds trade based on a relevant dividend yield taking into consideration the aforementioned variables. In addition, demand and supply also affect the price. Open-ended funds are considered to be liquid, as investors can sell their shares continually to the fund. Closed-end funds are traded on the secondary market at the shares' market value. Corporate debt securities that trade less frequently are classified as Level 3.

Popular Securities LLC (a wholly-owned subsidiary of Popular, Inc.) **Notes to Financial Statements December 31, 2015** 

(dollars in thousands, except share data)

The following table sets presents the Company's fair value hierarchy for those assets measured at fair value on a recurring basis:

ASSETS	 Fair value r Level 1	ments on a re	j basis as c evel 3	December 31, 2015 Total	
Collateralized mortgage obligations	\$ -	\$ 223	\$ 1,831	2,054	
Puerto Rico, States and political subdivisions	-	4,590	-	4,590	
Mortgage and other asset-backed securities	-	20,113	6,454	26,567	
Corporate debt securities and investment companies	-	9,723	-	9,723	
Residual interest certificate	-	-	687	687	
Financial instruments owned, at fair value	\$ -	\$ 34,649	\$ 8,972	\$ 43,621	

There were no transfers between Level 1, Level 2 and Level 3 during the year.

The following is a reconciliation of the beginning and ending balances for assets measured at fair value on a recurring basis using significant unobservable inputs (Level 3) during the year ended December 31, 2015:

	For the year ended December 31, 2015									
	Mortgage and other asset-backed securities		Corporate Debt		Residual Interest Certificate		Collateralized Mortgage Obligations			Total
Balance at December 31, 2014	\$	6,230	\$	794	# \$	769	\$	1,375	\$	9,168
Realized and Unrealized Gains (losses) included in earnings		(42)		176		(82)		(2)		50
Purchases		1,126		-		-		808		1,934
Sales		(187)		(970)		-		(43)		(1,201)
Paydowns and maturities		(673)		-		-		(307)		(980)
Transfers into Level 3		-		-		-		-		-
Balance at December 31, 2015	\$	6,454	\$		\$	687	\$	1,831	\$	8,972

(a wholly-owned subsidiary of Popular, Inc.)
Notes to Financial Statements
December 31, 2015

(dollars in thousands, except share data)

The following disclosure provides information on the valuation techniques, significant unobservable inputs, and their ranges for each major category of assets measured at fair value on a recurring basis with a Level 3 balance.

	Fair V Decen 20			Siginificant Unobservable Inputs	Weighted Average
				Weighted average life	2.9 years (0.4- 4.7 years)
Collateralized mortgage obligations	\$	1.831	Discounted cash	Yield	3.8%
Collateralized mortgage obligations	Φ	1,031	flow model		(1.1% - 4.7%)
				Constant prepayment rate	20.9%
					(18% - 23.8%)
•			Discounted cash	Weighted average life	5.4 years
Residual interest certificate	\$	687	flow model	Yield	12%
			now model	Prepayment speed assumption	180
Mortgage and other asset backed securities	\$	6,454	Broker quotes	Evaluated quotes	N/A

The significant unobservable inputs used in the fair value measurement of the collateralized mortgage obligations and residual interest certificate are yield, constant prepayment rate, and weighted average life. Significant increases (decreases) in any of those inputs in isolation would result in significantly lower (higher) fair value measurement. Generally, a change in the assumption used for the constant prepayment rate will generate a directionally opposite change in the weighted average life. For example, as the average life is reduced by a higher constant prepayment rate, a lower yield will be realized, and when there is a reduction in the constant prepayment rate, the average life of these collateralized mortgage obligations will extend, thus resulting in a higher yield. These particular financial instruments are valued internally utilizing internal valuation techniques. The unobservable inputs incorporated into the internal discounted cash flow models used to derive the fair value of collateralized mortgage obligations and residual interest certificate are reviewed by the Parent Company's Corporate Treasury unit on a quarterly basis. In the case of Level 3 financial instruments which fair value is based on broker quotes, the Parent Company's Corporate Treasury unit reviews the inputs used by the broker-dealers for reasonableness utilizing information available from other published sources and validates that the fair value measurements were developed in accordance with ASC Topic 820. The Parent Company's Corporate Treasury unit also substantiates the inputs used by validating the prices with other broker-dealers, whenever possible. At December 31, 2015, Level 3 securities were valued based on broker-dealer indicative quotes or third party vendor pricing determined using pricing models, discounted cash flows methodologies, or similar techniques, for which the determination of fair value is based on significant unobservable inputs that require significant judgment or estimation.

### **Financial Instruments Not Measured at Fair Value**

Following is a description of the Company's valuation methodologies and inputs used to estimate the fair values for each class of financial assets and liabilities not measured at fair value, but for which the fair value is disclosed. The disclosure requirements exclude certain financial instruments and all non-financial instruments.

• Cash: includes cash on hand. The carrying amount of cash is a reasonable estimate of its fair value. Cash is classified as Level 1.

(a wholly-owned subsidiary of Popular, Inc.)
Notes to Financial Statements
December 31, 2015

(dollars in thousands, except share data)

• Securities sold under agreements to repurchase: includes securities sold under agreements to repurchase with an average maturity of three months or less. For this reason, they carry a low risk of changes in value as a result of changes in interest rates, and the carrying amount approximates their fair value. Securities sold under agreements to repurchase are classified as Level 2.

The following table presents the carrying and estimated fair values for financial instruments with their corresponding level in the fair value hierarchy.

	 At Decem	ber 31,	2015						
	arrying mount	Fa	ir value	Le	vel 1	L	Level 2		el 3
<u>Financial Assets:</u> Cash	\$ 3,716	\$	3,716	\$	3,716	\$	-	\$	-
Financial Liabilities: Securities sold under agreements to repurchase	\$ 13,955	\$	13,955	\$	-	\$	13,955	\$	-

## 3. Securitization Residual Interest

During the year ended November 30, 2004, the Company transferred approximately \$61 million of GNMA mortgage-backed securities to an irrevocable trust in exchange for collateralized mortgage obligation (CMO) certificates. The Company derecognized the mortgage-backed securities transferred given that it relinquished control over such securities. The mortgage-backed securities transferred were accounted for at fair value prior to securitization. The Company subsequently retained a residual interest certificate (interest only). The residual interests is accounted for at fair value and included in the "Residual Interest Certificate" caption above. Cash flows received on the residual retained interest were approximately \$204 for the year ended December 31, 2015, and are included in Interest income in the Statement of Operations.

The following table sets forth the weighted average key economic assumptions used in measuring the fair value of the residual retained interest, for which fair value is based on discounted cash flows:

Fair value of residual retained interest	\$ 687
Weighted-average life (in years)	5.40
Prepayment speed assumption	180
Discount rate (yield)	12%

(a wholly-owned subsidiary of Popular, Inc.)
Notes to Financial Statements
December 31, 2015

(dollars in thousands, except share data)

# 4. Goodwill and Other Intangible Assets

At December 31, 2015, goodwill and other intangible assets consist of the following:

	Useful Life (years)	
Customer lists	10	\$ 1,500
Covenant not to compete	3	71
		1,571
Less - Accumulated amortization		 (1,008)
Other intangibles		 563
Goodwill		 3,800
Goodwill and other intangibles		\$ 4,363

# 5. Securities Sold Under Agreements to Repurchase

The following table summarizes certain information on securities sold under agreements to repurchase as of December 31, 2015:

Securities sold under agreements to repurchase	\$ 13,955
Maximum aggregate balance outstanding at any month-end	\$ 191,297
Average monthly aggregate balance outstanding	\$ 128,439
Weighted average interest rate	
At December 31, 2015	 1.07%
For the period	0.50%

The following table presents the carrying and market values of securities sold under agreements to repurchase, shown by type and remaining maturity of the related repurchase agreement as of December 31, 2015.

	Carrying (Notional A		Market	Value	Repurchase	Repo Rate	
Mortgage and other asset-backed securities 30 to 90 days	\$	13,982	\$	15,114	\$	13,955	1.07%

# 6. Subordinated Borrowings

The Company has a revolving subordinated loan agreement with Popular, Inc. maturing on November 15, 2017. Under the agreement, the Company may borrow up to \$50,000. The interest rate on this loan is adjusted quarterly to the comparable floating spread for three-months LIBOR plus 7.90 basis points. All borrowings under this agreement qualify as regulatory capital and the

(a wholly-owned subsidiary of Popular, Inc.)
Notes to Financial Statements
December 31, 2015

(dollars in thousands, except share data)

agreement includes all statutory restrictions specified by the Uniform Net Capital Rule. The Company had no borrowings outstanding as of December 31, 2015.

# 7. Deferred Compensation

The Company maintains a Deferred Compensation Plan (the "Plan"), which is divided into two deferral methods, depending on the employee's group.

Under the Plan, non-financial consultant participants earning over \$150 are required to defer a portion of their incentive performance bonus. The dates on which participants are vested are as follows: (a) 50% at the end of the fiscal year in which the amounts were deferred and (b) 50% at the end of the subsequent fiscal year for which the amounts were deferred.

Total amount deferred related to this Plan included in deferred compensation as of December 31, 2015 amounted to \$139.

Total liability under the Plan for the non-financial consultant employees not deferred, included in accrued employee compensation and benefits, amounted to \$646.

Under the Plan, retail division (financial consultants) participants' deferred compensation must be deferred completely. The principal and interest thereon have a vesting period of three years. The deferred compensation expense related to this Plan is recognized over the vesting period. The interest on the principal amount deferred is the result of earnings of the investment of such principal in certain financial instruments as defined by the Plan.

Total Plan liability for retail division employees as of December 31, 2015 amounted to \$1,555 included as deferred compensation in the Statement of Financial Condition.

# 8. Employee Benefit Plan

The Company maintains a contributory savings plan which is available to employees with more than three months of service. Company contributions include a matching contribution and an additional discretionary profit sharing contribution. Employees are fully vested on these contributions after five years of service. The plan's trustee is an affiliated company.

## 9. Concentration of Credit Risk

The Company is engaged in various trading and brokerage activities in which counterparties primarily include broker-dealers, banks, and other financial institutions. In the event counterparties do not fulfill their obligations, the Company may be exposed to risk. The risk of default depends on the creditworthiness of the counterparty or issuer of the instrument. It is the Company's policy to review, as necessary, the credit standing of each counterparty. At December 31, 2015, all of the outstanding repurchase agreements were with the Popular Money Market Fund, an affiliated fund.

The Company is subject to concentration risk by holding large positions in certain types of securities of a single issuer, including issuers located in a particular country or geographic area. At December 31, 2015, the Company had \$4,590 in obligations issued or guaranteed by the Puerto

(a wholly-owned subsidiary of Popular, Inc.) Notes to Financial Statements December 31, 2015

(dollars in thousands, except share data)

Rico Government, its municipalities, and public corporations as part of its trading securities portfolio. Also, the Company's main business is with individual customers and corporations in Puerto Rico.

#### 10. Commitments

At December 31, 2015, the Company has obligations under a number of noncancelable leases with affiliates, for office space which require rental payments as follows:

	Minimum Payments		
Year			
2016 2017	\$ 615 588		
2018	563		
2019 2020 and thereafter	543 415		
	\$ 2,725		

Certain lease agreements contain provisions for future rent increases. The total amount of rental payments due over the lease term is being charged to rent expense on the straight-line method over the term of the lease. The difference between rent expense recorded and the amount paid is charged to "Deferred rent obligation", which is included in "Accounts payable to affiliates" in the accompanying Statement of Financial Condition. Total Deferred rent obligation as of December 31, 2015 amounted to \$14.

# 11. Contingent Liabilities

The Company's ordinary course of business subjects it to claims, lawsuits, regulatory examinations and other proceedings. The volatility in prices and declines in value that Puerto Rico municipal bonds and closed-end investment companies that invest primarily in Puerto Rico municipal bonds have experienced since August 2013 have led to regulatory inquiries, customer complaints and arbitrations for most broker-dealers in Puerto Rico, including the Company.

Popular Securities has received customer complaints and is named as a respondent (among other broker-dealers) in 52 arbitration proceedings with aggregate claimed damages of approximately \$124 million, including one arbitration with claimed damages of \$78 million in which two other Puerto Rico broker-dealers are co-defendants. The proceedings are in their early stages and it is the view of management that Popular Securities has meritorious defenses to the claims asserted.

The Parent Company, Banco Popular de Puerto Rico ("BPPR") and Popular Securities have also been named defendants in a putative class action complaint captioned Nora Fernández, et al. v. UBS, et al., filed in the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York ("SDNY") on May 5, 2014 on behalf of investors in 23 Puerto Rico closed-end investment companies. UBS Financial Services Incorporated of Puerto Rico, another named defendant, is the sponsor and co-sponsor of all 23 funds, while BPPR was co-sponsor, together with UBS, of nine (9) of those funds. Plaintiffs allege breach of fiduciary duty and breach of contract against Popular Securities, aiding and abetting breach of fiduciary

# Popular Securities LLC (a wholly-owned subsidiary of Popular, Inc.) Notes to Financial Statements December 31, 2015

(dollars in thousands, except share data)

duty against BPPR, and similar claims against the UBS entities. The complaint seeks unspecified damages, including disgorgement of fees and attorneys' fees. On May 30, 2014, plaintiffs voluntarily dismissed their class action in the SDNY and on that same date, they filed a virtually identical complaint in the United States District Court of Puerto Rico ("USDC-PR") and requested that the case be consolidated with the matter of In re: UBS Financial Services Securities Litigation, a class action currently pending before the USDC-PR in which neither BPPR nor Popular Securities are parties. The UBS defendants filed an opposition to the consolidation request and moved to transfer the case back to the SDNY on the ground that the relevant agreements between the parties contain a choice of forum clause, with New York as the selected forum. The Popular defendants joined this opposition and motion. By order dated January 30, 2015, the court denied the plaintiffs' motion to consolidate. By order dated March 30, 2015, the court granted defendants' motion to transfer. On May 8, 2015, plaintiffs filed an amended complaint in the Southern District of New York containing virtually identical allegations with respect to Popular Securities and BPPR. Defendants filed motions to dismiss the amended complaint on June 18, 2015. Such motions remain pending to date.

The Government's recent announcements regarding its ability to pay its debt and intention to pursue a comprehensive debt restructuring, together with the market reaction to it, may increase the number of customer complaints (and claimed damages) against the Company concerning Puerto Rico municipal bonds and closed-end investment companies that invest primarily in Puerto Rico municipal bonds. An adverse result in the matters described above or a significant increase in customer complaints could have a material and adverse effect on the Company.

On at least a quarterly basis, the Company assesses its liabilities and contingencies in connection with outstanding legal proceedings utilizing the latest information available. For matters where it is probable that the Company will incur a loss and the amount can be reasonably estimated, the Company establishes an accrual for the estimated loss. Once established, the accrual is adjusted on at least a quarterly basis as appropriate to reflect any relevant developments. For matters where a material loss is not probable or the amount of the loss cannot be estimated, no accrual is established.

In certain cases, exposure to loss exists in excess of the accrual to the extent such loss is reasonably possible, but not probable. Management believes and estimates that the aggregate range of reasonably possible losses (with respect to those matters where such limits may be determined, in excess of amounts accrued), for current legal proceedings ranges from \$0 to approximately \$6 million as of December 31, 2015. For certain other cases, management cannot reasonably estimate the possible loss at this time. Any estimate involves judgment, given the varying stages of the proceedings (including the fact that many of them are currently in preliminary stages), the existence of multiple defendants in several of the current proceedings whose share of the liability has not been determined, the numerous unresolved issues in many proceedings, and the inherent uncertainty of the various potential outcomes of such proceedings. Accordingly, management's estimate will change from time-to-time, and actual losses may be more or less than the current estimate.

While the final outcome of legal proceedings is inherently uncertain, based on information currently available and advice of legal counsel, management believes that the amount it has already accrued is adequate and any incremental liability arising from the Company's legal proceedings will not have an adverse material effect on the Company's financial position as a whole. However, in the event of unexpected future developments, it is possible that the ultimate resolution of these matters, if unfavorable, may be material to the Company's financial position in a particular period.

(a wholly-owned subsidiary of Popular, Inc.)
Notes to Financial Statements
December 31, 2015

(dollars in thousands, except share data)

# 12. Clearance Agreements

The Company has clearing and custody agreements with NFS, for its retail brokerage operation. The Company's institutional division self-clears its transactions through Bank of New York. NFS is a member of various stock exchanges and subject to the rules and regulations of such organizations as well as those of the Securities and Exchange Commission. Under the terms of the agreement, NFS clears and executes the brokerage transactions of the Company's customers on a fully disclosed basis.

#### 13. Guarantees

Under the terms of the clearance agreement with NFS, the clearing broker has the right to charge us for losses that result from a counterparty's, introduced by the Company, failure to fulfill its contractual obligations which default could have material effect on our business, financial condition, and operating results. The maximum potential amount of future payments that the Company could be required to make under this guarantee cannot be estimated. However, the Company believes that it is unlikely it will have to make material payments under this arrangement and has not recorded any contingent liability in the financial statements for these indemnifications. During 2015, the Company did not pay any amounts related to these guarantees.

# 14. Related Party Transactions

In the normal course of business, the Company enters into transactions with affiliated companies. As of December 31, 2015, there were outstanding repurchase agreements with Popular Money Market Fund, an affiliated fund, of \$13,955. Accrued interest payable related to these transactions amounted to \$6.

At December 31, 2015, the Company owned securities issued by affiliates and affiliated funds (Popular funds and Puerto Rico Investors Tax Free funds) with a fair value of approximately \$2,912.

The Company receives managerial services from Banco Popular de Puerto Rico.

# 15. Stock Option Plan

The Company participates in Popular, Inc.'s Omnibus Incentive Plan (the "Incentive Plan"), which permits the granting of incentive awards in the form of Annual Incentive Awards, Long-term Performance Unit Awards, Stock Options, Stock Appreciation Rights, Restricted Stock, Restricted Units or Performance Shares. Participants in the Incentive Plan are designated by the Compensation Committee of the Board of Directors of Popular, Inc. (or its delegate as determined by the Board). The Company is allocated stock compensation expense based upon an analysis of the awards granted to its employees. This Incentive Plan provides for the issuance of Popular, Inc.'s common stock at a price equal to its fair market value at the grant date, subject to certain plan provisions.

Popular, Inc. uses the fair value method of recording stock options as described in FASB ASC 718, "Stock Compensation". All future stock-based compensation awards will be expensed over the vesting period based on the fair value at the date the awards are granted.

(a wholly-owned subsidiary of Popular, Inc.)
Notes to Financial Statements
December 31, 2015

(dollars in thousands, except share data)

# 16. Net Capital Requirements

As a registered broker-dealer, the Company is subject to the Uniform Net Capital Rule 15c3-1 (the "Rule") under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and has elected to compute its net capital in accordance with the alternative method of the Rule. Under the alternative method, the Company is required to maintain at all times a net capital equal to the greater of \$250 or 2% of aggregate debit items computed in accordance with the Rule. At December 31, 2015, the Company's net capital of \$19,101 was \$18,851 in excess of required net capital of \$250. The Company's ratio of debt to equity was 0%, which is below the maximum requirement specified by the Rule.

# 17. Subsequent Events

Management has evaluated the effects of subsequent events that have occurred subsequent to December 31, 2015 up to February 29, 2016, the date the financial statements were available to be issued.