

CapLease, Inc.  
Form S-3  
January 14, 2008

As filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on January 14, 2008

Registration No. 333-

---

**SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION**  
Washington, D.C. 20549

---

**FORM S-3**  
**REGISTRATION STATEMENT**  
UNDER THE SECURITIES ACT OF 1933

---

**CAPLEASE, INC.**

(Exact name of Registrant as specified in its Charter)

**Maryland**

(State or Other Jurisdiction of Incorporation or Organization)

**52-2414533**

(I.R.S. Employer Identification No.)

---

**1065 Avenue of the Americas**  
**New York, New York 10018**  
**(212) 217-6300**

(Address and telephone number of principal executive offices)

---

**Paul C. Hughes**  
**Vice President, General Counsel and Corporate Secretary**  
**CapLease, Inc.**

**1065 Avenue of the Americas**  
**New York, New York 10018**  
**(212) 217-6300**

(Name, address and telephone number of agent for service)

---

**Approximate date of commencement of proposed sale to the public:** From time to time after this registration statement becomes effective as determined by the Registrant.

If the only securities being registered on this form are being offered pursuant to dividend or interest reinvestment plans, please check the following box.

If any of the securities being registered on this form are to be offered on a delayed or continuous basis pursuant to Rule 415 under the Securities Act of 1933, other than securities offered only in connection with dividend or interest

reinvestment plans, check the following box.  x

If this form is filed to register additional securities for an offering pursuant to Rule 462(b) under the Securities Act, please check the following box and list the Securities Act registration statement number of the earlier effective registration statement for the same offering.  o

If this form is a post-effective amendment filed pursuant to Rule 462(c) under the Securities Act, check the following box and list the Securities Act registration statement number of the earlier effective registration statement for the same offering.  o

If this form is a registration statement pursuant to General Instruction I.D. or a post-effective amendment thereto that shall become effective upon filing with the Commission pursuant to Rule 462(e) under the Securities Act, check the following box.  o

If this form is a post-effective amendment to a registration statement filed pursuant to General Instruction I.D. filed to register additional securities or additional classes of securities pursuant to Rule 413(b) under the Securities Act, check the following box.  o

**CALCULATION OF REGISTRATION FEE**

Title of Each Class of Securities to be Registered	Amount to be Registered (1)	Proposed Maximum Offering Price Per Unit (2)	Proposed Maximum Aggregate Offering Price(2)	Amount of Registration Fee
Common Stock, par value \$0.01 per share	6,627,780	\$ 7.90	\$ 52,359,462.00	\$ 2,057.73

(1) Represents the maximum number of shares of common stock issuable upon exchange of the \$75,000,000 Aggregate Principal Amount of 7.50% Convertible Senior Notes due 2027 at a conversion rate corresponding to the initial conversion rate of 88.3704 shares of our common stock per \$1,000 principal amount of the notes. Pursuant to Rule 416 under the Securities Act this registration statement also covers such additional shares as may hereafter be offered or issued to prevent dilution resulting from stock splits, stock dividends, recapitalizations or certain other capital adjustments.

(2) Determined pursuant to Rule 457(c) of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, based on the average of the high and low prices reported for the Registrant's common stock on the New York Stock Exchange on January 11, 2008.

**The Registrant hereby amends this Registration Statement on such date or dates as may be necessary to delay its effective date until the registrant shall file a further amendment which specifically states that this Registration Statement shall thereafter become effective in accordance with Section 8(a) of the Securities Act of 1933 or until the Registration Statement shall become effective on such date as the Commission, acting pursuant to said Section 8(a), may determine.**

**The information in this prospectus is not complete and may be changed. We may not issue these securities until the registration statement filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission is effective. This prospectus is not an offer to sell these securities and it is not soliciting an offer to buy these securities in any state where the offer or sale is not permitted.**

SUBJECT TO COMPLETION, DATED JANUARY 11, 2008

## PROSPECTUS

### 6,627,780 Shares of Common Stock

#### CapLease, Inc.

We issued and sold \$75,000,000 aggregate principal amount of our 7.50% Convertible Senior Notes due 2027 in a private transaction on October 9, 2007. Under certain circumstances, we may issue shares of our common stock upon the conversion of the notes. In such circumstances, the recipients of such common stock, whom we refer to as the selling stockholders, may use this prospectus to resell from time to time the shares of our common stock that we may issue to them upon the conversion of the notes. Additional selling stockholders may be named by future prospectus supplements.

The registration of the shares of our common stock covered by this prospectus does not necessarily mean that any of the selling stockholders will convert their notes for our common stock, that upon any conversion of the notes we will elect, in our sole and absolute discretion, to convert some or all of the notes for shares of our common stock rather than cash, or that any shares of our common stock received upon conversion of the notes will be sold by the selling stockholders.

We will receive no proceeds from any issuance of shares of our common stock to the selling stockholders or from any sale of such shares by the selling stockholders, but we have agreed to pay certain registration expenses relating to such shares of our common stock. The selling stockholders from time to time may offer and sell the shares held by them directly or through agents or broker-dealers on terms to be determined at the time of sale, as described in more detail in this prospectus.

To assist us in maintaining our qualification as a real estate investment trust for U.S. federal income tax purposes, our charter contains certain restrictions relating to the ownership and transfer of our stock, including an ownership limit of 9.9% in value or in number, whichever is more restrictive, of our outstanding common stock. See "Restrictions on Ownership" beginning on page 20 of this prospectus.

Our common stock is listed on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol "LSE." On \_\_\_\_\_, 2008, the last reported sale price of our common stock on the New York Stock Exchange was \$ \_\_\_\_\_ per share.

Our executive offices are located at 1065 Avenue of the Americas, New York, New York 10018. Our telephone number is (212) 217-6300. We maintain an Internet web site at <http://www.caplease.com>.

---

**Investing in our common stock involves risks. Before investing in our common stock, you should carefully read and consider the "Risk Factors" beginning on page 1 of this prospectus and in our periodic reports and other information that we file from time to time with the Securities and Exchange Commission.**

---

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

**The date of this prospectus is**

---

**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

<b>RISK FACTORS</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>CAUTIONARY STATEMENT REGARDING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>THE COMPANY</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>USE OF PROCEEDS</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>SELLING STOCKHOLDERS</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>DESCRIPTION OF CAPITAL STOCK</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF MARYLAND LAW AND OF OUR CHARTER AND BYLAWS</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>RESTRICTIONS ON OWNERSHIP</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>FEDERAL INCOME TAX CONSEQUENCES OF OUR STATUS AS A REIT</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>OTHER TAX CONSEQUENCES</b>	<b>39</b>
<b>PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION</b>	<b>40</b>
<b>LEGAL MATTERS</b>	<b>42</b>
<b>EXPERTS</b>	<b>42</b>

We have not authorized anyone to provide you with information or to represent anything not contained in this prospectus. You must not rely on any unauthorized information or representations. The information contained in this prospectus is current only as of its date, regardless of the time and delivery of this prospectus or of any sale of the securities covered hereby.

You should read carefully the entire prospectus, as well as the documents incorporated by reference in the prospectus, before making an investment decision.

When used in this prospectus, except where the context otherwise requires, the terms “we,” “our,” “us” and “the Company” refer to CapLease, Inc. and its predecessors and subsidiaries.

---

**RISK FACTORS**

Investing in our common stock involves risks. You should carefully consider the risk factors incorporated by reference to our most recent Annual Report on Form 10-K and Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q, and the other information contained in this prospectus and any prospectus supplements, as the same may be updated from time to time by our future filings under the Exchange Act, before investing in our common stock. The occurrence of any of these risks could cause you to lose all or part of your investment in our common stock. Please also refer to the section entitled “Cautionary Statement Regarding Forward-Looking Statements.”

## ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS

This prospectus is part of a registration statement that we filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission, or SEC, using a “shelf” registration process or continuous offering process. Under this shelf registration process, the selling stockholders named in this prospectus may sell our common stock from time to time. This prospectus provides you with a general description of our common stock any selling stockholder may offer. We may also file, from time to time, a prospectus supplement or an amendment to the registration statement of which this prospectus forms a part containing additional information about the selling stockholders and the terms of the offering of the securities. That prospectus supplement or amendment may contain additional risk factors or other special considerations applicable to the securities. Any prospectus supplement or amendment may also add, update or change information contained in this prospectus. If there is any supplement or amendment, you should read the information in that prospectus supplement or amendment.

You should read both this prospectus and any prospectus supplement together with additional information described below under the heading “Where You Can Find More Information.” Information filed with the SEC and incorporated by reference after the date of this prospectus, or information included in any prospectus supplement or an amendment to the registration statement of which this prospectus forms a part, may add, update, or change information in this prospectus or any prospectus supplement. If information in these subsequent filings, prospectus supplements or amendments is inconsistent with this prospectus or any prospectus supplement, the information incorporated by reference or included in the subsequent prospectus supplement or amendment will supersede the information in this prospectus or any earlier prospectus supplement. You should not assume that the information in this prospectus or any prospectus supplement is accurate as of any date other than the date on the front of each document.

## WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION

We file annual, quarterly and current reports, proxy statements and other information with the SEC under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the “Exchange Act”). You may read and copy any materials we file with the SEC at the SEC’s Public Reference Room located at 100 F Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20549. You may obtain information on the operation of the Public Reference Room by calling the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330. The SEC filings are also available at the Internet website maintained by the SEC at <http://www.sec.gov>. These filings are also available to the public from commercial document retrieval services.

This prospectus does not contain all of the information in our “shelf” registration statement. We have omitted parts of the registration statement in accordance with the rules and regulations of the SEC. For more detail about us and any securities that may be offered by this prospectus, you may examine the registration statement on Form S-3 and the exhibits filed with it at the locations listed in the previous paragraph.

We incorporate information into this prospectus by reference, which means that we disclose important information to you by referring you to another document filed separately with the SEC. The information incorporated by reference is deemed to be part of this prospectus, except to the extent superseded by information contained herein or by information contained in documents filed with or furnished to the SEC after the date of this prospectus. This prospectus incorporates by reference the documents set forth below, the file number for each of which is 1-32039, that have been previously filed with the SEC:

- our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2006 filed with the SEC on March 7, 2007;
- our Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q for the quarters ended March 31, 2007 filed with the SEC on May 10, 2007, June 30, 2007 filed with the SEC on August 9, 2007, and September 30, 2007 filed with the SEC on November 7, 2007;

Edgar Filing: CapLease, Inc. - Form S-3

- our Current Reports on Form 8-K or Form 8-K/A, as the case may be, filed with the SEC on February 20, 2007, March 16, 2007, April 19, 2007 (excluding the item 2.02 information and related exhibit), May 10, 2007, May 29, 2007, July 20, 2007, July 31, 2007, August 29, 2007, October 9, 2007 (excluding the item 7.01 information and related exhibit), December 12, 2007 and December 20, 2007; and
- our Registration Statement on Form 8-A, which incorporates by reference the description of our common stock from our Registration Statement on Form S-11 (Reg. No. 333-110644), and all reports filed for the purpose of updating such description.

We also incorporate by reference into this prospectus additional documents that we may file with the SEC under Section 13(a), 13(c), 14 or 15(d) of the Exchange Act from the date of this prospectus until we have sold all of the securities to which this prospectus relates or the offering is otherwise terminated (other than any portion of these documents that is furnished or otherwise deemed not to be filed). These documents may include annual reports on Form 10-K, quarterly reports on Form 10-Q and current reports on Form 8-K, as well as proxy statements.



Edgar Filing: CapLease, Inc. - Form S-3

You may obtain copies of any of these filings through CapLease, Inc. as described below, through the SEC or through the SEC's Internet website as described above. Documents incorporated by reference are available without charge by accessing our Internet web site at <http://www.caplease.com> or by requesting them from us in writing or by telephone at:

CapLease, Inc.  
1065 Avenue of the Americas  
New York, New York 10018  
(212) 217-6300  
Attn: Investor Relations

3

---

## CAUTIONARY STATEMENT REGARDING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

We may from time to time make written or oral forward-looking statements within the meaning of Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, including statements contained in our filings with the SEC and in our press releases and webcasts. Forward-looking statements relate to expectations, beliefs, projections, future plans and strategies, anticipated events or trends and similar expressions concerning matters that are not historical facts. In some cases, you can identify forward-looking statements by terms such as “anticipate,” “believe,” “could,” “estimate,” “expect,” “intend,” “may,” “plan,” “potential,” “should,” “strategy,” “will” and other words of similar meaning. The forward-looking statements are based on our beliefs, assumptions and expectations of future performance, taking into account all information currently available to us. These beliefs, assumptions and expectations can change as a result of many possible events or factors, not all of which are known to us or are within our control. If a change occurs, our business, financial condition, liquidity and results of operations may vary materially from those expressed in our forward-looking statements. In connection with the “safe harbor” provisions of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995, we are hereby identifying important factors that could cause actual results and outcomes to differ materially from those contained in any forward-looking statement made by or on our behalf. Such factors include, but are not limited to:

- our ability to make additional investments in a timely manner or on acceptable terms;
- our ability to obtain long-term financing for our asset investments in a timely manner and on terms that are consistent with those we project when we invest in the asset;
- adverse changes in the financial condition of the tenants underlying our investments;
- increases in our financing costs, our general and administrative costs and/or our property expenses;
- changes in our industry, the industries of our tenants, interest rates or the general economy;
- the success of our hedging strategy;
- our ability to raise additional capital;
- impairments in the value of the collateral underlying our investments;
- the degree and nature of our competition; and
- the other factors discussed in this prospectus and the documents incorporated by reference into this prospectus.

In addition, we may be required to defer revenue recognition on real properties we acquire if the property is under construction or is not yet ready for occupancy.

These risks and uncertainties should be considered in evaluating any forward-looking statement we may make from time to time. Any forward-looking statement speaks only as of its date. All subsequent written and oral forward-looking statements attributable to us or any person acting on our behalf are qualified by the cautionary statements in this section. We undertake no obligation to update or publicly release any revisions to forward-looking statements to reflect events, circumstances or changes in expectations after the date made.

## THE COMPANY

We are a diversified real estate investment trust, or REIT, that invests primarily in single tenant commercial real estate assets subject to long-term leases to high credit quality tenants. We focus on properties that are subject to a net lease, or a lease that requires the tenant to pay all or substantially all expenses normally associated with the ownership of the property (such as utilities, taxes, insurance and routine maintenance) during the lease term. We also are opportunistic and have made and expect to continue to make investments in single tenant properties where the owner has exposure to property expenses when we determine we can sufficiently underwrite that exposure and isolate a predictable cash flow.

Our primary business objective is to generate stable, long-term and attractive returns based on the spread between the yields generated by our assets and the cost of financing our portfolio. We invest at all levels of the capital structure of net lease and other single tenant properties, including equity investments in real estate (owned real properties), debt investments (mortgage loans and net lease mortgage backed securities) and mezzanine investments secured by net leased or other single tenant real estate collateral.

Our current portfolio produces stable, high quality cash flows generated by long-term leases to primarily investment grade tenants. Tenants underlying our investments are primarily large public companies or their significant operating subsidiaries and governmental and quasi-governmental entities with investment grade credit ratings, defined as a published senior unsecured credit rating of BBB-/Baa3 or above from one or both of Standard & Poor's ("S&P") and Moody's Investors Service ("Moody's"). We also imply an investment grade credit rating for tenants that are not publicly rated by S&P or Moody's but (i) are 100% owned by an investment grade parent, (ii) for which we have obtained a private investment grade rating from either S&P or Moody's, or (iii) are governmental entity branches or units of another investment grade rated governmental entity.

As of September 30, 2007, some of the highlights of our investment portfolio were as follows:

- approximately \$2.1 billion total investment portfolio measured by carry value before depreciation and amortization;
  - 78% owned real properties (approximately \$1.7 billion) and 22% primarily loans and mortgage securities (approximately \$474.3 million);
- approximately 90% invested (approximately \$1.9 billion) in owned properties and loans on properties where the underlying tenant was rated investment grade or implied investment grade, and in investment grade rated real estate securities;
  - weighted average underlying tenant credit rating of A-; and
  - weighted average underlying tenant remaining lease term of approximately 11 years.

## USE OF PROCEEDS

We are filing the registration statement of which this prospectus forms a part pursuant to our contractual obligation to the holders of the notes named in the section entitled "Selling Stockholders." We will not receive any of the proceeds from the resale of shares of our common stock from time to time by such selling stockholders.

The selling stockholders will pay any underwriting discounts and commissions and expenses they incur for brokerage or legal services or any other expenses they incur in disposing of the shares. We will bear all other costs, fees and expenses incurred in effecting the filing and registration of the shares covered by this prospectus. These may include, without limitation, all registration and filing fees, NYSE listing fees, fees and expenses of our counsel and accountants, and blue sky fees and expenses.

## SELLING STOCKHOLDERS

The 7.50% Convertible Senior Notes due 2027, or the notes, were originally issued by us and sold by the initial purchasers of the notes in transactions exempt from the registration requirements of the Securities Act to persons reasonably believed by the initial purchasers to be qualified institutional buyers as defined by Rule 144A under the Securities Act. Under certain circumstances, we may issue shares of our common stock upon the conversion of the notes. In such circumstances, the recipients of shares of our common stock, whom we refer to as the selling stockholders, may use this prospectus to resell from time to time the shares of our common stock that we may issue to them upon the conversion of the notes. Information about selling stockholders is set forth herein and information about additional selling stockholders may be set forth in a prospectus supplement, in a post-effective amendment, or in filings we make with the SEC under the Exchange Act which are incorporated by reference in this prospectus.

Selling stockholders, including their transferees, pledgees or donees or their successors, may from time to time offer and sell pursuant to this prospectus and any accompanying prospectus supplement any or all of the shares of our common stock which we may issue upon the conversion of the notes.

The following table sets forth information, as of January 2, 2008, with respect to the selling stockholders and the number of shares of our common stock that would become beneficially owned by each stockholder should we issue our common stock to such selling stockholder upon the conversion of the notes. The information is based on information provided by or on behalf of the selling stockholders. The selling stockholders may offer all, some or none of the shares of our common stock which we may issue upon the conversion of the notes. Because the selling stockholders may offer all or some portion of such shares of our common stock, we cannot estimate the number of shares of our common stock that will be held by the selling stockholders upon termination of any of these sales. In addition, the selling stockholders identified below may have sold, transferred or otherwise disposed of all or a portion of their notes or shares of our common stock since the date on which they provided the information regarding their notes in transactions exempt from the registration requirements of the Securities Act.

The number of shares of our common stock issuable upon the conversion of the notes shown in the table below assumes conversion of the full amount of notes held by each selling stockholder at the maximum conversion rate of 88.3704 shares of our common stock per \$1,000 principal amount of notes and a cash payment in lieu of any fractional share. This conversion rate is subject to adjustment in certain events. Accordingly, the number of shares of our common stock issued upon the conversion of the notes may increase or decrease from time to time. The number of shares of our common stock owned by the other selling stockholders or any future transferee from any such holder assumes that they do not beneficially own any shares of common stock other than the common stock that we may issue to them upon conversion of the notes.

Based upon information provided by the selling stockholders, none of the selling stockholders nor any of their affiliates, officers, directors or principal equity holders has held any positions or office or has had any material

relationship with us within the past three years.

6

---

To the extent any of the selling stockholders identified below are broker-dealers, they may be deemed to be, under interpretations of the staff of the SEC, “underwriters” within the meaning of the Securities Act.

Name	Number of Shares Beneficially Owned Prior to the Offering	Percentage of Shares Beneficially Owned to the Offering(1)	Number of Shares Offered Hereby	Number of Shares Beneficially Owned After the Offering(2)	Percentage of Shares Beneficially Owned After the Offering(2)
BPER International Sicav – Global Convertible Bond EUR	44,185	*	44,185	0	*
UBS (Lux) Institutional Fund Global Convertible Bonds	583,244	1.3%	583,244	0	*
UBS (Lux) Bond Sicav Convert Global USD B	88,370	*	88,370	0	*
Focused Sicav – Convert Global EUR	609,755	1.4%	609,755	0	*
Vicis Capital Master Fund	265,111	*	265,111	0	*
Xavex Convertible Arbitrage 10 Fund	44,185	*	44,185	0	*
Highbridge International LLC(3)	486,037	1.1%	486,037	0	*
Argent Classic Convertible Arbitrage Fund Ltd.	547,896	1.2%	547,896	0	*
Any other holder of common stock issuable upon conversion of the notes or future transferee, pledgee, donee or successor of any holder	3,958,997	8.2%	3,958,997	0	*
<b>TOTAL(4)</b>	<b>6,627,780</b>	<b>13.0%</b>	<b>6,627,780</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>*</b>

\* Less than one percent.

(1) Based on a total of 44,350,330 shares of our common stock outstanding as of January 2, 2008. For purposes of computing the percentage of outstanding shares beneficially owned by each selling stockholder named above, the shares of common stock beneficially owned by such selling stockholder are deemed to be outstanding, but such shares are not deemed to be outstanding for the purpose of computing the percentage ownership of any other selling stockholder.

(2) Assumes the selling stockholder sells all of its shares of our common stock offered pursuant to this prospectus.

(3) Highbridge Capital Management, LLC is the trading manager of Highbridge International LLC and has voting control and investment discretion over the securities held by Highbridge International LLC. Glenn Dubin and Henry Swieca control Highbridge Capital Management, LLC and have voting control and investment discretion over the securities held by Highbridge International LLC. Each of Highbridge Capital Management, LLC, Glenn Dubin and Henry Swieca disclaims beneficial ownership of the securities held by Highbridge International LLC.

(4) Additional selling stockholders not named in this prospectus will not be able to use this prospectus for resales until they are named in the selling stockholders table by prospectus supplement or post-effective amendment. Transferees, successors and donees of identified selling stockholders will not be able to use this prospectus for resales until they are named in the selling stockholders table by prospectus supplement or post-effective amendment. If required, we will add transferees, successors and donees by prospectus supplement in instances where the transferee, successor or donee has acquired its shares from holders named in this prospectus after the

effective date of this prospectus.

7

---

## DESCRIPTION OF CAPITAL STOCK

The following summary of the terms of our capital stock does not purport to be complete and is subject to and qualified in its entirety by reference to our charter and bylaws. See “Where You Can Find More Information.”

### Authorized Stock

Our charter provides that we may issue up to 500,000,000 shares of common stock, \$0.01 par value per share, and 100,000,000 shares of preferred stock, \$0.01 par value per share. As permitted by the Maryland General Corporation Law, or MGCL, our charter contains a provision permitting our board of directors, without any action by our stockholders, to amend the charter to increase or decrease the aggregate number of shares of stock or the number of shares of stock of any class or series that we have authority to issue.

As of September 30, 2007, 45,874,720 shares of common stock were issued and outstanding, 1,400,000 shares of our 8.125% Series A Cumulative Redeemable Preferred Stock were issued and outstanding, 263,157 shares of common stock have been reserved for future issuance upon redemption of units of limited partnership interest in our operating partnership, 925,755 shares of common stock have been reserved for future issuance under our 2004 stock incentive plan and 3,888,359 shares of common stock have been reserved for future issuance pursuant to our dividend reinvestment and stock purchase plan.

### Preferred Stock-General

Subject to the limitations prescribed by Maryland law and our charter and bylaws, our board of directors is authorized to establish the number of shares constituting each series of preferred stock and to designate and issue, from time to time, one or more classes or series of preferred stock with the designations and powers, preferences and relative, participating, optional or other special rights and qualifications, limitations or restrictions thereof, including such provisions as may be desired concerning voting, redemption, dividends, dissolution or the distribution of assets, conversion or exchange, and such other subjects or matters as may be fixed by resolution of the board of directors or duly authorized committee thereof.

### Description of Series A Preferred Stock

Our board of directors has adopted articles supplementary to our charter establishing the number and fixing the terms, designations, powers, preferences, rights, limitations and restrictions of a series of preferred stock designated the 8.125% Series A Cumulative Redeemable Preferred Stock. The Series A Preferred Stock is listed on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol “LSE PrA.”

*Rank.* The Series A Preferred Stock ranks senior to our common stock and future junior securities, equal with future parity securities and junior to future senior securities and to all our existing and future indebtedness, with respect to the payment of dividends and the distribution of amounts upon liquidation, dissolution or winding up.

*Dividends.* Holders of the Series A Preferred Stock are entitled to receive cumulative cash distributions at a rate of 8.125% per annum of the \$25.00 liquidation preference (equivalent to \$2.03125 per annum per share). However, if the Series A Preferred Stock is delisted from the New York Stock Exchange following a “change of control,” holders of the Series A Preferred Stock will be entitled to receive cumulative cash dividends at a rate of 9.125% per annum of the \$25.00 liquidation preference (equivalent to \$2.28125 per annum per share). Dividends are payable quarterly on or about the 15<sup>th</sup> day of each January, April, July and October.

*Redemption.* We may not redeem the Series A Preferred Stock prior to October 19, 2010, except in certain limited circumstances relating to the ownership limitation necessary to preserve our qualification as a REIT. On and after



October 19, 2010, we may redeem the Series A Preferred Stock for cash at our option, in whole or from time to time in part, at a redemption price of \$25.00 per share, plus accrued and unpaid dividends (whether or not declared) to the redemption date.

*Maturity.* The Series A Preferred Stock does not have any stated maturity date and is not subject to any sinking fund or mandatory redemption provisions.

*Liquidation Preference.* If we liquidate, dissolve or wind up our operations, the holders of the Series A Preferred Stock will have the right to receive \$25.00 per share, plus all accrued and unpaid dividends (whether or not declared) to the date of payment, before any payment is made to the holders of our common stock and any other of our equity securities ranking junior to the Series A Preferred Stock. The rights of the holders of the Series A Preferred Stock to receive the liquidation preference will be subject to the rights of holders of our debt, holders of any equity securities senior in liquidation preference to the Series A Preferred Stock and the proportionate rights of holders of each other series or class of our equity securities ranked on a parity with the Series A Preferred Stock.

*Voting Rights.* Holders of our Series A Preferred Stock generally will have no voting rights. However, if we do not pay dividends on the Series A Preferred Stock for six or more quarterly periods (whether or not consecutive), the holders of the shares (voting together as a single class with all other shares of any class or series of shares ranking on a parity with the Series A Preferred Stock which are entitled to similar voting rights, if any) will be entitled to vote for the election of two additional directors to serve on our board of directors until all dividends in arrears on outstanding shares of Series A Preferred Stock have been paid or declared and set apart for payment. In addition, the issuance of future senior equity securities or certain changes to the terms of the Series A Preferred Stock that would be materially adverse to the rights of holders of Series A Preferred Stock cannot be made without the affirmative vote of holders of two-thirds of the outstanding Series A Preferred Stock and shares of any class or series of shares ranking on a parity with the Series A Preferred Stock which are entitled to similar voting rights, if any, voting as a single class.

*Conversion Rights.* The Series A Preferred Stock is not convertible into or exchangeable for any of our other securities or property.

### **Voting Rights of Common Stock**

Subject to the provisions of our charter restricting the transfer and ownership of our capital stock, each outstanding share of common stock entitles the holder to one vote on all matters submitted to a vote of stockholders, including the election of directors, and, except as provided with respect to any other class or series of capital stock that we may issue in the future, the holders of our common stock possess the exclusive voting power. There is no cumulative voting in the election of directors. The holders of a plurality of the outstanding common stock, voting as a single class, can elect all of the directors.

### **Distributions, Liquidation and Other Rights of Common Stock**

All common stock offered by this prospectus will be duly authorized, fully paid and nonassessable. Holders of our common stock are entitled to receive distributions when, as and if authorized by our board of directors and declared by us out of assets legally available for the payment of distributions. They also are entitled to share ratably in our assets legally available for distribution to our stockholders in the event of our liquidation, dissolution or winding up, after payment of or adequate provision for all of our known debts and liabilities. These rights are subject to the preferential rights of any other class or series of our stock and to the provisions of our charter restricting transfer of our stock.

Holders of our common stock have no preference, conversion, exchange, sinking fund, redemption or appraisal rights and have no preemptive rights to subscribe for any of our securities. Subject to the restrictions on transfer of stock contained in our charter, all shares of common stock have equal distribution, liquidation and other rights.

### **Power to Reclassify Stock**

Our charter authorizes our board of directors to classify any unissued preferred stock and to reclassify any previously classified but unissued common stock and preferred stock of any series, from time to time, in one or more classes or series, as authorized by the board of directors. Prior to issuance of stock of each class or series, the board of directors is required by the MGCL and our charter to set for each such class or series, the terms, preferences, conversion or other rights, voting powers, restrictions, limitations as to dividends or other distributions, qualifications and terms or conditions of redemption for each such class or series. Thus, our board of directors could authorize the issuance of preferred stock with priority over the common stock with respect to distributions and rights upon liquidation and with other terms and conditions which may delay, defer or prevent a transaction or a change of control of our company that might involve a premium price for our common stock or otherwise be in the best interests of our common stock holders.

**Power to Issue Additional Common Stock and Preferred Stock**

We believe that the power to issue additional common stock or preferred stock and to classify or reclassify unissued common stock or preferred stock and thereafter to issue the classified or reclassified stock provides us with increased flexibility in structuring possible future financings and acquisitions and in meeting other needs which might arise. These actions can be taken without stockholder approval, unless stockholder approval is required by applicable law or the rules of the NYSE. The listing requirements of the NYSE require stockholder approval of certain issuances of 20% or more of the then outstanding voting power or the outstanding number of shares of common stock. Although we have no current intention of doing so, we could issue a class or series of stock that could delay, defer or prevent a transaction or a change of control of our company that might involve a premium price for our common stock or otherwise be in the best interests of our common stockholders.

**Restrictions on Ownership and Transfer**

Our charter provides that no person may beneficially own, actually or constructively, more than 9.9% in value or in number, whichever is more restrictive, of our outstanding shares of capital stock, or more than 9.9% in value or in number, whichever is more restrictive, of our outstanding shares of common stock. See “Restrictions on Ownership.”

**Other Matters**

The transfer agent and registrar for our common stock is American Stock Transfer & Trust Company.

## **CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF MARYLAND LAW AND OF OUR CHARTER AND BYLAWS**

The following description of certain provisions of Maryland law and of our charter and bylaws does not purport to be complete and is qualified in its entirety by reference to Maryland law, our charter and our bylaws. See “Where You Can Find More Information.”

### **Our Board of Directors**

Our bylaws provide that the number of our directors may be established only by our board of directors. We have seven directors. The board of directors may increase or decrease the number of directors by a vote of a majority of the members of our board of directors, *provided* that the number of directors may not be less than the number required by Maryland law, nor more than 15, and that the tenure of office of a director may not be affected by any decrease in the number of directors. Except as may be provided by the board of directors in setting the terms of any class or series of preferred stock, any vacancy on our board of directors may be filled only by a majority of the remaining directors, even if the remaining directors do not constitute a quorum, or, if no directors remain, by our stockholders. Any director elected to fill a vacancy serves for the remainder of the full term of the directorship in which the vacancy occurred and until a successor is elected and qualifies.

At each annual meeting of stockholders, the holders of the common stock may vote to elect all of the directors on the board of directors, each of which is elected to a one-year term. Holders of common stock have no right to cumulative voting in the election of directors. At each annual meeting of stockholders, the holders of a plurality of the common stock are able to elect all of the directors.

### **Removal of Directors**

Under Maryland law and our charter, a director may be removed, with or without cause, upon the affirmative vote of at least two-thirds of the votes entitled to be cast in the election of directors. Absent removal of all of our directors, this provision, when coupled with the exclusive power of our board of directors to fill vacant directorships (described below under “—Other Anti-Takeover Provisions”), precludes stockholders from removing incumbent directors, except upon a substantial affirmative vote, and filling the vacancies created by such removal with their own nominees.

### **Business Combinations**

Maryland law prohibits “business combinations” between us and an interested stockholder or an affiliate of an interested stockholder for five years after the most recent date on which the interested stockholder becomes an interested stockholder. These business combinations include a merger, consolidation, share exchange or, in certain circumstances specified in the statute, an asset transfer, issuance or transfer by us of equity securities, liquidation plan or reclassification of equity securities. Maryland law defines an interested stockholder as:

- any person who beneficially owns 10% or more of the voting power of our stock; or

- an affiliate or associate of ours who, at any time within the two-year period prior to the date in question, was the beneficial owner of 10% or more of the voting power of our then-outstanding voting stock.

A person is not an interested stockholder if our board of directors approved in advance the transaction by which the person otherwise would have become an interested stockholder. However, in approving a transaction, our board of directors may provide that its approval is subject to compliance, at or after the time of approval, with any terms and conditions determined by our board of directors.

Edgar Filing: CapLease, Inc. - Form S-3

After the five-year prohibition, any business combination between us and an interested stockholder or an affiliate of an interested stockholder generally must be recommended by our board of directors and approved by the affirmative vote of at least:

- 80% of the votes entitled to be cast by holders of our then-outstanding shares of voting stock; and
- two-thirds of the votes entitled to be cast by holders of our voting stock other than stock held by the interested stockholder with whom or with whose affiliate the business combination is to be effected or stock held by an affiliate or associate of the interested stockholder.

These super-majority vote requirements do not apply if our common stockholders receive a minimum price, as defined under Maryland law, for their stock in the form of cash or other consideration in the same form as previously paid by the interested stockholder for its stock.

The statute permits various exemptions from its provisions, including business combinations that are approved or exempted by the board of directors before the time that the interested stockholder becomes an interested stockholder. We have opted out of the business combination provisions of the MGCL by resolution of our board of directors. However, our board of directors may, by resolution, opt into the business combination statute in the future.

Should our board opt into the business combination statute, the business combination statute may discourage others from trying to acquire control of us and increase the difficulty of consummating any offer.

### **Control Share Acquisitions**

Maryland law provides that “control shares” of a Maryland corporation acquired in a “control share acquisition” have no voting rights unless approved by a vote of two-thirds of the votes entitled to be cast on the matter. Shares owned by the acquiring person, or by officers or by directors who are our employees, are excluded from shares entitled to vote on the matter. “Control shares” are voting shares which, if aggregated with all other shares previously acquired by the acquiring person, or in respect of which the acquiring person is able to exercise or direct the exercise of voting power (except solely by virtue of a revocable proxy), would entitle the acquiring person to exercise voting power in electing directors within one of the following ranges of voting power:

- one-tenth or more but less than one-third;
- one-third or more but less than a majority; or
- a majority or more.

Control shares do not include shares the acquiring person is then entitled to vote as a result of having previously obtained stockholder approval. A “control share acquisition” means the acquisition of control shares, subject to certain exceptions.

A person who has made or proposes to make a control share acquisition may compel our board of directors to call a special meeting of stockholders to be held within 50 days of demand to consider the voting rights of the shares. The right to compel the calling of a special meeting is subject to the satisfaction of certain conditions, including an undertaking to pay the expenses of the meeting and delivery of an acquiring person statement. If no request for a meeting is made, we may present the question at any stockholders’ meeting.

If voting rights are not approved at the stockholders’ meeting or if the acquiring person does not deliver the acquiring person statement required by Maryland law, then, subject to certain conditions and limitations, we may redeem any or all of the control shares, except those for which voting rights have previously been approved, for fair value. Fair value is determined without regard to the absence of voting rights for the control shares and as of the date of the last control share acquisition by the acquiring person or of any meeting of stockholders at which the voting rights of the shares were considered and not approved. If voting rights for control shares are approved at a stockholders’ meeting and the acquiring person becomes entitled to vote a majority of the shares entitled to vote, then all other stockholders may exercise appraisal rights. The fair value of the shares for purposes of these appraisal rights may not be less than the highest price per share paid by the acquiring person in the control share acquisition. The control share acquisition statute does not apply to shares acquired in a merger, consolidation or share exchange if we are a party to the transaction, nor does it apply to acquisitions approved or exempted by our charter or bylaws.

Our bylaws contain a provision exempting from the control share acquisition statute any and all acquisitions by any person of our shares of stock. There can be no assurance that this provision will not be amended or eliminated at any time in the future.



### **Other Anti-Takeover Provisions**

Subtitle 8 of Title 3 of the MGCL permits a Maryland corporation with a class of equity securities registered under the Exchange Act, and at least three independent directors to elect to be subject, by provision in its charter or bylaws or a resolution of its board of directors and notwithstanding any contrary provision in the charter or bylaws, to any or all of five provisions:

- a classified board;

- a two-thirds vote requirement for removing a director;

- a requirement that the number of directors be fixed only by vote of the directors;

- a requirement that a vacancy on the board be filled only by the remaining directors and for the remainder of the full term of the directorship in which the vacancy occurred; and

- a majority requirement for the calling of a special meeting of stockholders.

Pursuant to Subtitle 8, we have elected to provide that vacancies on the board be filled only by the remaining directors and for the remainder of the full term of the directorship in which the vacancy occurred. Through provisions in our charter and bylaws unrelated to Subtitle 8, we also (a) require a two-thirds vote for the removal of any director from the board, (b) vest in our board the exclusive power to fix the number of directorships and (c) require, unless called by the chairman of our board of directors, our chief executive officer, our president or our board of directors, the request of the holders of a majority of outstanding shares to call for a special stockholders meeting.

Our bylaws also provide that only our board of directors may amend or repeal any of our bylaws or adopt new bylaws.

### **Merger; Amendment of Charter**

Under the MGCL, a Maryland corporation generally cannot dissolve, amend its charter or merge with another entity unless approved by the affirmative vote of stockholders holding at least two-thirds of the shares entitled to vote on the matter, unless a lesser percentage (but not less than a majority of all the votes entitled to be cast on the matter) is set forth in the corporation's charter. Our charter provides for approval by the holders of a majority of all the votes entitled to be cast on the matter for the matters described in this paragraph, except for amendments to various provisions of the charter, including the provisions relating to removal of directors, that require the affirmative vote of the holders of two-thirds of the votes entitled to be cast on the matter. As permitted by the MGCL, our charter contains a provision permitting our directors, without any action by our stockholders, to amend the charter to increase or decrease the aggregate number of shares of stock or the number of shares of stock of any class or series that we have authority to issue.

### **Limitation of Liability and Indemnification**

Our charter limits the liability of our directors and officers for money damages to the maximum extent permitted by Maryland law. Maryland law permits us to include in our charter a provision limiting the liability of our directors and officers to us and our stockholders for money damages, except for liability resulting from:

- actual receipt of an improper benefit or profit in money, property or services; or

- active and deliberate dishonesty established by a final judgment and which is material to the cause of action.

Our charter authorizes us to obligate ourselves and our bylaws require us, to the maximum extent permitted by Maryland law, to indemnify, and to pay or reimburse reasonable expenses to, any of our present or former directors or officers or any individual who, while a director and at our request, serves or has served another entity, employee benefit plan or any other enterprise as a director, trustee, officer, partner or otherwise. The indemnification covers any claim or liability against the person by reason of his or her status as a present or former director or officer.

Maryland law requires us (unless our charter provides otherwise, which our charter does not) to indemnify a director or officer who has been successful, on the merits or otherwise, in the defense of any proceeding to which he or she is made a party by reason of his or her service in that capacity. Maryland law permits us to indemnify our present and former directors and officers against liabilities and reasonable expenses actually incurred by them in any proceeding to which they are made a party by reason of their service in these or other capacities unless it is established that:

- the act or omission of the director or officer was material to the matter giving rise to the proceeding and was committed in bad faith or was the result of active and deliberate dishonesty;
- the director or officer actually received an improper personal benefit in money, property or services; or

- in a criminal proceeding, the director or officer had reasonable cause to believe that the act or omission was unlawful.

However, Maryland law prohibits us from indemnifying our present and former directors and officers for an adverse judgment in a derivative action or for a judgment of liability on the basis that personal benefit was improperly received, unless in either case a court orders indemnification, and then only for expenses.

Maryland law requires us, as a condition to advancing expenses in certain circumstances, to obtain:

- a written affirmation by the director or officer of his or her good faith belief that he or she has met the standard of conduct necessary for indemnification; and
- a written undertaking to repay the amount advanced if the standard of conduct is not met.

Insofar as the above provisions permit indemnification of directors, officers, or persons controlling us for liability arising under the Securities Act, we have been informed that in the opinion of the SEC, this indemnification is against public policy as expressed in the Securities Act, and is therefore unenforceable.

### **REIT Status**

Our charter provides that our board of directors may revoke or otherwise terminate our REIT election if it determines that it is no longer in our best interest to continue to qualify as a REIT.

### **Dissolution**

Pursuant to our charter, and subject to the provisions of any of our classes or series of shares of stock then outstanding and the prior approval by a majority of the entire board of directors, our stockholders, at any meeting thereof, by the affirmative vote of a majority of all of the votes entitled to be cast on the matter, may approve a plan of liquidation and dissolution.

### **Advance Notice of Director Nominations and New Business**

Our bylaws provide that, with respect to an annual meeting of stockholders, nominations of individuals for election to our board of directors and the proposal of business to be considered by stockholders at the annual meeting may be made only:

- pursuant to our notice of the meeting;

- by or at the direction of our board of directors; or

- by a stockholder who is a stockholder of record both at the time of the provision of notice and at the time of the meeting, who is entitled to vote at the meeting and who complied with the advance notice procedures set forth in our bylaws.

Generally, under our bylaws, a stockholder seeking to nominate a director or bring other business before our annual meeting of stockholders must deliver a notice to our secretary not later than the close of business on the 90<sup>th</sup> day nor earlier than the close of business on the 120<sup>th</sup> day prior to the first anniversary of the date of mailing of the notice to stockholders for the prior year's annual meeting. For a stockholder seeking to nominate a candidate for our board of directors, the notice must describe various matters regarding the nominee, including name, address, occupation and

number of shares held, and other specified matters. For a stockholder seeking to propose other business, the notice must include a description of the proposed business, the reasons for the proposal and other specified matters.

With respect to special meetings of stockholders, only the business specified in our notice of meeting may be brought before the meeting of stockholders and nominations of individuals for election to our board of directors may be made only:

pursuant to our notice of the meeting;

by or at the direction of our board of directors; or

*provided* that our board of directors has determined that directors shall be elected at such meeting, by a stockholder who is a stockholder of record both at the time of the provision of notice and at the time of the meeting, who is entitled to vote at the meeting and who complied with the advance notice provisions set forth in our bylaws.

**Possible Anti-Takeover Effect of Certain Provisions of Maryland Law and of Our Charter and Bylaws**

Our board or directors may rescind the resolution opting out of the business combination statute or repeal the bylaw opting out of the control share acquisition statute. If the business combination provisions or control share provisions become applicable to our company, those provisions, in addition to the provisions in our charter regarding removal of directors and the restrictions on the transfer of shares of capital stock and the advance notice provisions of our bylaws, may delay, defer or prevent a transaction or a change of control of our company that might involve a premium price for our common stock or otherwise be in the best interest of our common stockholders.

## PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT

We conduct a significant portion of our business through our operating partnership, Caplease, LP. Our operating partnership structure enables us to issue units of limited partnership interest in the partnership to the sellers of real estate. The issuance of these partnership units can help sellers defer recognition of taxable gain which would otherwise be payable upon the sale of a property to us. We believe that offering sellers the ability to acquire these partnership units enhances our ability to acquire properties because of the tax advantages to sellers.

Our wholly-owned subsidiary is the sole general partner of our operating partnership. As of September 30, 2007, we owned directly or indirectly approximately 98.5% and an unaffiliated third party owned approximately 1.5% of the limited partnership interests in our operating partnership. This third party acquired its limited partnership interest in June 2006 as partial consideration for the sale of a real property to us. The third party owns 263,157 units of limited partnership interest which, as described below, are redeemable for cash or shares of CapLease, Inc. common stock on a one-for-one basis. We may admit additional limited partners to the partnership in the future, particularly in connection with the acquisition of real estate.

The following is a summary of the material terms of the amended and restated agreement of limited partnership of our operating partnership, a copy of which is filed as an exhibit to the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part. See "Where You Can Find More Information."

### Management

As the sole general partner of the operating partnership, we have, subject to certain protective rights of limited partners described below, full, exclusive and complete responsibility and discretion in the management and control of the operating partnership, including the ability to cause the operating partnership to enter into certain major transactions including acquisitions, dispositions and refinancings and to cause changes in the operating partnership's line of business and distribution policies.

### Transferability of Interests

We may not voluntarily withdraw from the operating partnership or transfer or assign our interest in the operating partnership or engage in any merger, consolidation or other combination, or sale of substantially all of our assets, in a transaction which results in a change of control of our company unless:

- we receive the consent of limited partners (other than our company or its subsidiaries) holding more than 50% of the partnership interests of the limited partners;
- as a result of such transaction all limited partners will receive for each partnership unit an amount of cash, securities or other property equal in value to the greatest amount of cash, securities or other property paid in the transaction to a holder of one share of our common stock, *provided* that if, in connection with the transaction, a purchase, tender or exchange offer shall have been made to and accepted by the holders of more than 50% of the outstanding shares of our common stock, each holder of partnership units will be given the option to exchange its partnership units for the greatest amount of cash, securities or other property that a limited partner would have received had it (i) exercised its redemption right (described below) and (ii) sold, tendered or exchanged pursuant to the offer shares of our common stock received upon exercise of the redemption right immediately prior to the expiration of the offer; or
- we are the surviving entity in the transaction and either (i) our stockholders do not receive cash, securities or other property in the transaction or (ii) all limited partners (other than our company or its subsidiaries) receive for each partnership unit an amount of cash, securities or other property having a value that is no less than the greatest amount of cash, securities or other property received in the transaction by our stockholders for a share of our

common stock.

We also may merge with or into or consolidate with another entity if immediately after such merger or consolidation (i) substantially all of the assets of the successor or surviving entity, other than partnership units held by us, are contributed, directly or indirectly, to the partnership as a capital contribution in exchange for partnership units with a fair market value equal to the value of the assets so contributed as determined by the survivor in good faith and (ii) the survivor expressly agrees to assume all of our obligations under the partnership agreement and the partnership agreement is amended after any such merger or consolidation so as to arrive at a new method of calculating the amounts payable upon exercise of the redemption right that approximates the existing method for such calculation as closely as reasonably possible.

16

---

We also may (i) transfer all or any portion of our general partnership interest to (1) a wholly-owned subsidiary or (2) a parent company, and following such transfer may withdraw as the general partner and (ii) engage in a transaction required by law or by the rules of any national securities exchange on which our common stock is listed.

### **Capital Contribution**

We and the third party limited partner have contributed capital to the operating partnership in exchange for our partnership interests. Other parties in the future that contribute assets to our operating partnership will become limited partners and will receive partnership units based on the fair market value of the assets at the time of such contributions. The partnership agreement provides that if the operating partnership requires additional funds at any time in excess of funds available to the operating partnership from borrowing or capital contributions, we may contribute additional capital to the operating partnership and receive in exchange additional partnership interests. We may also borrow such funds from a financial institution or other lender and lend such funds to the operating partnership on the same terms and conditions as are applicable to our borrowing of such funds. Under the partnership agreement, we may contribute the proceeds of any offering of shares of stock of CapLease, Inc. as additional capital to the operating partnership. We are authorized to cause the operating partnership to issue partnership interests for less than fair market value if we have concluded in good faith that such issuance is in both the operating partnership's and our best interests. If we contribute additional capital to the operating partnership, we will receive additional partnership units and our percentage interest will be increased on a proportionate basis based upon the amount of such additional capital contributions and the value of the operating partnership at the time of such contributions. Conversely, the percentage interests of the limited partners will be decreased on a proportionate basis in the event of additional capital contributions by us. In addition, if we contribute additional capital to the operating partnership, we will revalue the property of the operating partnership to its fair market value (as determined by us) and the capital accounts of the partners will be adjusted to reflect the manner in which the unrealized gain or loss inherent in such property (that has not been reflected in the capital accounts previously) would be allocated among the partners under the terms of the partnership agreement if there were a taxable disposition of such property for its fair market value (as determined by us) on the date of the revaluation. The operating partnership has issued to us preferred partnership interests that track the rights and obligations of the preferred stock holders of CapLease, Inc. The operating partnership may issue preferred partnership interests, in connection with acquisitions of property or otherwise, which could have priority over common partnership interests with respect to distributions from the operating partnership, including the partnership interests we own as the general partner.

### **Redemption Rights**

Pursuant to the partnership agreement, the limited partners receive redemption rights, which enable them to cause the operating partnership to redeem their units of partnership interests in exchange for cash or, at our option, shares of common stock on a one-for-one basis. The number of shares of common stock issuable upon redemption of units of partnership interest held by limited partners may be adjusted upon the occurrence of certain events such as stock dividends, stock subdivisions or combinations. Notwithstanding the foregoing, a limited partner will not be entitled to exercise its redemption rights if the delivery of common stock to the redeeming limited partner would:

- result in any person owning, directly or indirectly, shares of common stock in excess of the stock ownership limits in our charter;
- result in our shares of our common stock being owned by fewer than 100 persons (determined without reference to any rules of attribution);
- result in our being “closely held” within the meaning of section 856(h) of the Code;



Edgar Filing: CapLease, Inc. - Form S-3

cause us to own, actually or constructively, 10% or more of the ownership interests in a tenant of our or a subsidiary's real property, within the meaning of section 856(d)(2)(B) of the Code; or

· cause the acquisition of common stock by such redeeming limited partner to be "integrated" with any other distribution of common stock for purposes of complying with the registration provisions of the Securities Act.

We may, in our sole and absolute discretion, waive any of these restrictions.

17

---

The redemption rights may be exercised by the limited partners at any time after an initial holding period; *provided, however*, unless we otherwise agree:

- a limited partner may not exercise the redemption right for fewer than 1,000 partnership units or, if such limited partner holds fewer than 1,000 partnership units, the limited partner must redeem all of the partnership units held by such limited partner;
- a limited partner may not exercise the redemption right for more than the number of partnership units that would, upon redemption, result in such limited partner or any other person owning, directly or indirectly, common stock in excess of the ownership limitation in our charter; and
- a limited partner may not exercise the redemption right more than two times annually.

The partnership agreement requires that the operating partnership be operated in a manner that enables us to satisfy the requirements for being classified as a REIT, to avoid any federal income or excise tax liability imposed by the Code (other than any federal income tax liability associated with our retained capital gains) and to ensure that the partnership will not be classified as a “publicly traded partnership” taxable as a corporation under section 7704 of the Code.

In addition to the administrative and operating costs and expenses incurred by the operating partnership, the operating partnership generally will pay all of our administrative costs and expenses, including:

- all expenses relating to our continuity of existence and our subsidiaries’ operations;
- all expenses relating to offerings and registration of securities;
- all expenses associated with the preparation and filing of any of our periodic or other reports and communications under federal, state or local laws or regulations;
- all expenses associated with our compliance with laws, rules and regulations promulgated by any regulatory body; and
- all of our other operating or administrative costs incurred in the ordinary course of business on behalf of the operating partnership.

These expenses, however, do not include any of our administrative and operating costs and expenses incurred that are attributable to assets that are owned by us directly rather than by the operating partnership or its subsidiaries.

## **Distributions**

The partnership agreement provides that the operating partnership will distribute cash from operations (including net sale or refinancing proceeds, but excluding net proceeds from the sale of the operating partnership’s property in connection with the liquidation of the operating partnership) at such time and in such amounts as determined by us in our sole discretion, to us and the limited partners in accordance with their respective percentage interests in the operating partnership.

Upon liquidation of the operating partnership, after payment of, or adequate provision for, debts and obligations of the partnership, including any partner loans, any remaining assets of the partnership will be distributed to us and the limited partners with positive capital accounts in accordance with their respective positive capital account balances.

**Allocations**

Profits and losses of the operating partnership (including depreciation and amortization deductions) for each fiscal year generally will be allocated to us and the limited partners in accordance with the respective percentage interests in the operating partnership. All of the foregoing allocations are subject to compliance with the provisions of sections 704(b) and 704(c) of the Code and Treasury regulations promulgated thereunder. We expect the operating partnership to use the “traditional method” under section 704(c) of the Code for allocating items with respect to contributed property for which the fair market value differs from the adjusted tax basis at the time of contribution.

**Term**

The operating partnership will continue for a perpetual term, or until sooner dissolved upon:

- our bankruptcy, dissolution, removal or withdrawal (unless the limited partners elect to continue the partnership);
- the passage of 90 days after the sale or other disposition of all or substantially all the assets of the partnership;

- the redemption of all limited partnership units (other than those held by us, if any); or
- an election by us in our capacity as the general partner.

**Tax Matters**

Pursuant to the partnership agreement, we are the tax matters partner of the operating partnership and have authority to handle tax audits and to make tax elections under the Code on behalf of the operating partnership.

19

---

## RESTRICTIONS ON OWNERSHIP

For us to qualify as a REIT under the Code, our shares of stock must be beneficially owned by 100 or more persons during at least 335 days of a taxable year of 12 months (other than the first year for which an election to be a REIT has been made) or during a proportionate part of a shorter taxable year. Also, not more than 50% of the value of the outstanding shares of stock may be owned, directly or indirectly, by five or fewer individuals (as defined in the Code to include certain entities) during the last half of a taxable year (other than the first year for which an election to be a REIT has been made).

In order to help us to satisfy the requirements set forth in the preceding paragraph, our charter, subject to certain exceptions, contains restrictions on the number of shares of our stock that a person may own. Our charter provides that no person or persons acting as a group may own, or be deemed to own by virtue of the attribution provisions of the Code, more than 9.9% in value or in number, whichever is more restrictive, of our outstanding shares of capital stock (the "Aggregate Stock Ownership Limit"). In addition, our charter prohibits any person or persons acting as a group from acquiring or holding, directly or indirectly, shares of common stock in excess of 9.9% in value or in number, whichever is more restrictive, of our outstanding shares of common stock (the "Common Stock Ownership Limit").

In addition to these ownership limits, our charter prohibits:

- any person from beneficially or constructively owning shares of our stock that would result in us being "closely held" under Section 856(h) of the Code;
- any transfer of shares of our stock if that would result in our stock being beneficially owned by fewer than 100 persons; and
- any transfer of shares of our stock that would cause us to own, directly or indirectly, 10% or more of the ownership interests in a tenant of our company (or a tenant of any entity owned or controlled by us).

Any person who acquires or attempts or intends to acquire beneficial or constructive ownership of our shares of stock that will or may violate any of the foregoing restrictions on transferability and ownership, or any person who would have owned shares of our stock that resulted in a transfer of shares to a charitable trust, as described below, is required to give written notice immediately to us, or in the case of a proposed or attempted transaction, to give at least 15 days' prior written notice, and provide us with such other information as we may request in order to determine the effect of such transfer on our status as a REIT. The foregoing restrictions on transferability and ownership will not apply if our board of directors determines that it is no longer in our best interest to attempt to continue to qualify as a REIT.

Furthermore, our board of directors, in its sole discretion, may exempt a person from the above ownership limits and any of the restrictions described in the first sentence of the paragraph directly above. However, the board of directors may not grant an exemption to any person unless the board of directors obtains such representations, covenants and undertakings as the board of directors may deem appropriate in order to determine that granting the exemption would not result in our failing to qualify as a REIT. As a condition of exemption, our board of directors may require a ruling from the Internal Revenue Service or an opinion of counsel, in either case in form and substance satisfactory to the board of directors, in its sole discretion, in order to determine or ensure our status as a REIT.

Our board of directors has granted an exemption to Hotchkis & Wiley Capital Management permitting them to own up to 12.5% of our outstanding common stock.

If any transfer of our shares of stock occurs which, if effective, would result in our shares of stock being owned by fewer than 100 persons, would cause us to be "closely held" under the Code, would cause us to own, directly or indirectly, 10% or more of the ownership interests in a tenant of our company (or a tenant of any entity owned or

controlled by us) or would result in any person beneficially or constructively owning shares of stock in excess or in violation of the above transfer or ownership limitations (a “Prohibited Owner”), then that number of shares of stock the transfer of which otherwise would cause such person to violate the charter limitations (rounded up to the nearest whole share) will be automatically transferred to a charitable trust for the exclusive benefit of a charitable beneficiary, and the Prohibited Owner will not acquire any rights in such shares. This automatic transfer will be considered effective as of the close of business on the business day before the violative transfer. If the transfer to the charitable trust would not be effective for any reason to prevent the violation of the above transferor ownership limitations, then the transfer of that number of shares of stock that otherwise would cause any person to violate the above limitations will be void. Shares of stock held in the charitable trust will constitute issued and outstanding shares of our stock. The Prohibited Owner will not benefit economically from ownership of any shares of stock held in the charitable trust, will have no rights to dividends or other distributions and will not possess any rights to vote or other rights attributable to the shares of stock held in the charitable trust. The trustee of the charitable trust will be designated by us and must be unaffiliated with us or any Prohibited Owner and will have all voting rights and rights to dividends or other distributions with respect to shares of stock held in the charitable trust, and these rights will be exercised for the exclusive benefit of the trust’s beneficiary. Any dividend or other distribution paid before our discovery that shares of stock have been transferred to the trustee will be paid by the recipient of such dividend or distribution to the trustee upon demand, and any dividend or other distribution authorized but unpaid will be paid when due to the trustee. Any dividend or distribution so paid to the trustee will be held in trust for the trust’s charitable beneficiary. The Prohibited Owner will have no voting rights with respect to shares of stock held in the charitable trust and, subject to Maryland law, effective as of the date that such shares of stock have been transferred to the trustee, the trustee, in its discretion, will have the authority to:

- rescind as void any vote cast by a Prohibited Owner prior to our discovery that such shares have been transferred to the trustee; and

- recast such vote in accordance with the desires of the trustee acting for the benefit of the trust's beneficiary.

However, if we have already taken irreversible corporate action, then the trustee will not have the authority to rescind and recast such vote.

Within 20 days of receiving notice from us that shares of stock have been transferred to the charitable trust, and unless we buy the shares as described below, the trustee will sell the shares of stock held in the charitable trust to a person, designated by the trustee, whose ownership of the shares will not violate the ownership limitations in our charter. Upon the sale, the interest of the charitable beneficiary in the shares sold will terminate and the trustee will distribute the net proceeds of the sale to the Prohibited Owner and to the charitable beneficiary. The Prohibited Owner will receive the lesser of:

- the price paid by the Prohibited Owner for the shares or, if the Prohibited Owner did not give value for the shares in connection with the event causing the shares to be held in the charitable trust (for example, in the case of a gift or devise) the market price of the shares on the day of the event causing the shares to be held in the charitable trust; and
- the price per share received by the trustee from the sale or other disposition of the shares held in the charitable trust.

Any net sale proceeds in excess of the amount payable to the Prohibited Owner will be paid immediately to the charitable beneficiary. If, before our discovery that shares of stock have been transferred to the charitable trust, such shares are sold by a Prohibited Owner, then:

- such shares will be deemed to have been sold on behalf of the charitable trust; and
- to the extent that the Prohibited Owner received an amount for such shares that exceeds the amount that the Prohibited Owner was entitled to receive as described above, the excess must be paid to the trustee upon demand.

In addition, shares of stock held in the charitable trust will be deemed to have been offered for sale to us, or our designee, at a price per share equal to the lesser of:

- the price per share in the transaction that resulted in such transfer to the charitable trust (or, in the case of a gift or devise, the market price at the time of the gift or devise); and
- the market price on the date we, or our designee, accept such offer.

We will have the right to accept the offer until the trustee has sold the shares of stock held in the charitable trust. Upon such a sale to us, the interest of the charitable beneficiary in the shares sold will terminate and the trustee will distribute the net proceeds of the sale to the Prohibited Owner and any dividends or other distributions held by the trustee will be paid to the charitable beneficiary.

All certificates representing our shares of stock will bear a legend referring to the restrictions described above.

Every owner of more than 5% (or such lower percentages as required by the Code or the Treasury Regulations promulgated thereunder) of all classes or series of our shares of capital stock must give written notice to us, within 30 days after the end of each taxable year, of the name and address of such owner, the number of shares of each class and series of shares of stock which the owner beneficially owns and a description of the manner in which the shares are held. Each such owner must also provide us with additional information as we may request to determine the effect of the owner's beneficial ownership on our REIT status and to ensure compliance with the Aggregate Stock Ownership Limit and the Common Stock Ownership Limit. In addition, each of our stockholders, whether or not an owner of 5% or more of our capital stock, must provide us with information as we may request to determine our REIT status and to

comply with the requirements of any taxing authority or governmental authority or to determine such compliance and to ensure compliance with the Aggregate Stock Ownership Limit and the Common Stock Ownership Limit.

These ownership and transfer limitations in our charter could delay, defer or prevent a transaction or a change of control of our company that might involve a premium price for our common stock or otherwise be in the best interest of our stockholders.



## FEDERAL INCOME TAX CONSEQUENCES OF OUR STATUS AS A REIT

The following is a summary of certain material U.S. federal income tax consequences relating to the purchase, ownership and disposition of our common stock. The discussion in this section does not purport to be a complete analysis of all the potential tax considerations relating to shares of our common stock or our taxation as a REIT. This section is based on the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the "Code"), current, temporary and proposed Treasury regulations promulgated thereunder, current administrative interpretations and practices of the Internal Revenue Service ("IRS"), and judicial decisions now in effect, all of which are subject to change (possibly with retroactive effect) or to different interpretations.

We have not requested, and do not plan to request, any rulings from the IRS concerning the tax treatment with respect to matters contained in this discussion, and the statements in this prospectus are not binding on the IRS or any court. Thus, we can provide no assurance that the tax considerations contained in this summary will not be challenged by the IRS or will be sustained by a court if challenged by the IRS.

This summary of certain U.S. federal income tax consequences applies to you if hold our common stock as a "capital asset" (generally, property held for investment within the meaning of Section 1221 of the Code). Because this discussion addresses only the material U.S. federal income tax considerations relating to the acquisition, ownership and disposition of our common stock, it may not contain all the information that may be important to you. As you review this discussion, you should keep in mind that:

- the tax consequences to you may vary depending on your particular tax situation;
- special rules that are not discussed below may apply to you if, for example, you are a tax-exempt organization, a broker-dealer, a trust, an estate, a cooperative, a regulated investment company, a financial institution, an insurance company, a partnership or other pass-through entity (or a partner or member thereof) that holds our notes or shares, or are otherwise subject to special tax treatment under the Code;
- this summary does not address state, local or non-U.S. tax considerations; and
- this discussion is not intended to be, and should not be construed as tax advice.

**We urge you to consult your own tax advisor regarding the specific tax consequences to you of ownership of our securities and of our election to be taxed as a REIT. Specifically, you should consult your own tax advisor regarding the federal, state, local, foreign, and other tax consequences of such ownership and election, and regarding potential changes in applicable tax laws.**

### Taxation of Our Company

We elected to be taxed as a REIT under the federal income tax laws commencing with our short taxable year ended on December 31, 2004. We believe that, commencing with such short taxable year, we were organized and have operated in such a manner as to qualify for taxation as a REIT under the federal income tax laws, and we intend to continue to operate in such a manner, but no assurance can be given that we will operate in a manner so as to qualify or remain qualified as a REIT. This section discusses the laws governing the federal income tax treatment of a REIT and its stockholders. These laws are highly technical and complex.

In the opinion of Hunton & Williams LLP, we qualified to be taxed as a REIT under the federal income tax laws for our taxable years ended December 31, 2004 through December 31, 2006, and our current and proposed method of operation will enable us to continue to meet the requirements for qualification and taxation as a REIT under the federal income tax laws for our taxable year ended December 31, 2007 and in the future. Investors should be aware

that Hunton & Williams LLP's opinion is based upon customary assumptions, is conditioned upon certain representations made by us as to factual matters, including representations regarding the nature of our assets and the conduct of our business, and is not binding upon the IRS or any court. In addition, Hunton & Williams LLP's opinion is based on existing federal income tax law governing qualification as a REIT, which is subject to change either prospectively or retroactively. Moreover, our qualification and taxation as a REIT depend upon our ability to meet on a continuing basis, through actual annual operating results, certain qualification tests set forth in the federal tax laws. Those qualification tests involve the percentage of income that we earn from specified sources, the percentage of our assets that falls within specified categories, the diversity of our stock ownership, and the percentage of our earnings that we distribute. Hunton & Williams LLP will not review our compliance with those tests on a continuing basis. Accordingly, no assurance can be given that our actual results of operations for any particular taxable year will satisfy such requirements. For a discussion of the tax consequences of our failure to qualify as a REIT, see "Federal Income Tax Consequences of Our Status as a REIT—Failure to Qualify" below.

If we qualify as a REIT, we generally will not be subject to federal income tax on the taxable income that we distribute to our stockholders. The benefit of that tax treatment is that it avoids the “double taxation,” or taxation at both the corporate and stockholder levels, that generally results from owning stock in a corporation. However, we will be subject to federal tax in the following circumstances:

- We will pay federal income tax on taxable income, including net capital gain, that we do not distribute to stockholders during, or within a specified time period after, the calendar year in which the income is earned.

- We may be subject to the “alternative minimum tax” on items of tax preference.

- We will pay income tax at the highest corporate rate on:

- net income from the sale or other disposition of property acquired through foreclosure (“foreclosure property”) that we hold primarily for sale to customers in the ordinary course of business, and

- other non-qualifying income from foreclosure property.

- We will pay a 100% tax on net income from sales or other dispositions of property, other than foreclosure property, that we hold primarily for sale to customers in the ordinary course of business.

- If we fail to satisfy one or both of the 75% gross income test or the 95% gross income test, as described below under “Requirements for Qualification—Income Tests,” and nonetheless continue to qualify as a REIT because we meet other requirements, we will pay a 100% tax on:

- the greater of (i) the amount by which we fail the 75% gross income test or (ii) the amount by which 95% (90% for taxable years prior to 2005) of our gross income exceeds the amount of our income qualifying under the 95% gross income test, multiplied by

- a fraction intended to reflect our profitability.

- In the event of a more than de minimis failure of any of the asset tests occurring after January 1, 2005, as described below under “—Requirements for Qualification—Asset Tests,” as long as the failure was due to reasonable cause and not to willful neglect and we dispose of the assets or otherwise comply with the asset tests within six months after the last day of the applicable quarter, we will pay a tax equal to the greater of \$50,000 or 35% of the net income from the nonqualifying assets during the period in which we failed to satisfy the asset test or tests.

- If we fail to satisfy one or more requirements for REIT qualification during a taxable year beginning on or after January 1, 2005, other than a gross income test or an asset test, we will be required to pay a penalty of \$50,000 for each such failure.

- If we fail to distribute during a calendar year at least the sum of:

- 85% of our REIT ordinary income for the calendar year,

- 95% of our REIT capital gain net income for the calendar year, and

- any undistributed income required to be distributed from earlier periods,

we will pay a 4% nondeductible excise tax on the excess of the required distribution over the amount we actually distributed.

- We may elect to retain and pay income tax on our net long-term capital gain. In that case, a U.S. stockholder would be taxed on its proportionate share of our undistributed long-term capital gain (to the extent that we make a timely designation of such gain to the stockholder) and would receive a credit or refund for its proportionate share of the tax we paid.
- We will be subject to a 100% tax on transactions with a taxable REIT subsidiary that are not conducted on an arm's-length basis.
- If we acquire any asset from a C corporation, or a corporation that generally is subject to full corporate-level tax, in a merger or other transaction in which we acquire a basis in the asset that is determined by reference either to the C corporation's basis in the asset or to another asset, we will pay tax at the highest regular corporate rate applicable if we recognize gain on the sale or disposition of the asset during the 10-year period after we acquire the asset. The amount of gain on which we will pay tax is the lesser of:

the amount of gain that we recognize at the time of the sale or disposition, and

the amount of gain that we would have recognized if we had sold the asset at the time we acquired it.

If we own a residual interest in a real estate mortgage investment conduit, or REMIC, we will be taxable at the highest corporate rate on the portion of any excess inclusion income that we derive from the REMIC residual interests equal to the percentage of our stock that is held in record name by “disqualified organizations.” Although the law is unclear, similar rules may apply if we own an equity interest in a taxable mortgage pool. To the extent that we own a REMIC residual interest or an equity interest in a taxable mortgage pool through a TRS, we will not be subject to this tax. For a discussion of “excess inclusion income,” see “—Requirements for Qualification—Taxable Mortgage Pools and Excess Inclusion Income.” A “disqualified organization” includes:

the United States;

any state or political subdivision of the United States;

any foreign government;

any international organization;

any agency or instrumentality of any of the foregoing;

any other tax-exempt organization, other than a farmer’s cooperative described in section 521 of the Internal Revenue Code, that is exempt both from income taxation and from taxation under the unrelated business taxable income provisions of the Internal Revenue Code; and

any rural electrical or telephone cooperative.

### **Requirements for Qualification**

A REIT is a corporation, trust, or association that meets each of the following requirements:

1. It is managed by one or more trustees or directors.
2. Its beneficial ownership is evidenced by transferable shares or by transferable certificates of beneficial interest.
3. It would be taxable as a domestic corporation but for the REIT provisions of the federal income tax laws.
4. It is neither a financial institution nor an insurance company subject to special provisions of the federal income tax laws.
5. At least 100 persons are beneficial owners of its shares or ownership certificates.
6. Not more than 50% in value of its outstanding shares or ownership certificates is owned, directly or indirectly, by five or fewer individuals, which the federal income tax laws define to include certain entities, during the last half of any taxable year.
7. It elects to be a REIT, or has made such election for a previous taxable year, and satisfies all relevant filing and other administrative requirements established by the IRS that must be met to elect and maintain REIT status.

8. It meets certain other qualification tests, described below, regarding the nature of its income and assets and the distribution of its income.

We must meet requirements 1 through 4 during our entire taxable year and must meet requirement 5 during at least 335 days of a taxable year of 12 months or during a proportionate part of a taxable year of less than 12 months. Requirements 5 and 6 apply to us beginning with our 2005 taxable year. If we comply with all the requirements for ascertaining the ownership of our outstanding stock in a taxable year and have no reason to know that we violated requirement 6, we will be deemed to have satisfied requirement 6 for that taxable year. For purposes of determining share ownership under requirement 6, an "individual" generally includes a supplemental unemployment compensation benefits plan, a private foundation, or a portion of a trust permanently set aside or used exclusively for charitable purposes. An "individual," however, generally does not include a trust that is a qualified employee pension or profit sharing trust under the federal income tax laws, and beneficiaries of such a trust will be treated as holding our stock in proportion to their actuarial interests in the trust for purposes of requirement 6.

We have issued common stock with sufficient diversity of ownership to satisfy requirements 5 and 6. In addition, our charter restricts the ownership and transfer of our stock so that we should continue to satisfy these requirements. The provisions of our charter restricting the ownership and transfer of the common stock are described in “Restrictions on Ownership.”

*Qualified REIT Subsidiaries.* A corporation that is a “qualified REIT subsidiary” is not treated as a corporation separate from its parent REIT. All assets, liabilities, and items of income, deduction, and credit of a “qualified REIT subsidiary” are treated as assets, liabilities, and items of income, deduction, and credit of the REIT. A “qualified REIT subsidiary” is a corporation, all of the capital stock of which is owned by the REIT and that has not elected to be a taxable REIT subsidiary. Thus, in applying the requirements described herein, any “qualified REIT subsidiary” that we own will be ignored, and all assets, liabilities, and items of income, deduction, and credit of such subsidiary will be treated as our assets, liabilities, and items of income, deduction, and credit.

*Other Disregarded Entities and Partnerships.* An unincorporated domestic entity, such as a partnership or limited liability company, that has a single owner, generally is not treated as an entity separate from its parent for federal income tax purposes. An unincorporated domestic entity with two or more owners generally is treated as a partnership for federal income tax purposes. In the case of a REIT that is a partner in a partnership that has other partners, the REIT is treated as owning its proportionate share of the assets of the partnership and as earning its proportionate share of the gross income of the partnership for purposes of the applicable REIT qualification tests. Commencing with our 2005 taxable year, our proportionate share for purposes of the 10% value test (see “—Asset Tests”) is based on our proportionate interest in the equity interests and certain debt securities issued by the partnership. For all of the other asset and income tests, our proportionate share is based on our proportionate interest in the capital interests in the partnership. Our proportionate share of the assets, liabilities, and items of income of any partnership, including Caplease, LP (the “operating partnership”), joint venture, or limited liability company that is treated as a partnership for federal income tax purposes in which we acquire an interest, directly or indirectly, will be treated as our assets and gross income for purposes of applying the various REIT qualification requirements.

*Taxable REIT Subsidiaries.* A REIT is permitted to own up to 100% of the stock of one or more “taxable REIT subsidiaries” or TRSs. A TRS is a fully taxable corporation that may earn income that would not be qualifying income if earned directly by the parent REIT. The subsidiary and the REIT must jointly elect to treat the subsidiary as a TRS. A corporation of which a TRS directly or indirectly owns more than 35% of the voting power or value of the stock will automatically be treated as a TRS. Overall, no more than 20% of the value of a REIT’s assets may consist of stock or securities of one or more TRSs.

A TRS will pay income tax at regular corporate rates on any income that it earns. In addition, the TRS rules limit the deductibility of interest paid or accrued by a TRS to its parent REIT to assure that the TRS is subject to an appropriate level of corporate taxation. Further, the rules impose a 100% tax on transactions between a TRS and its parent REIT or the REIT’s tenants that are not conducted on an arm’s-length basis. We have formed a TRS which will engage in activity that could jeopardize our REIT status if engaged in by us and will earn income that would not be qualifying income if earned directly by us.

*Taxable Mortgage Pools and Excess Inclusion Income.* An entity, or a portion of an entity, may be classified as a taxable mortgage pool under the federal income tax laws if:

- substantially all of its assets consist of debt obligations or interests in debt obligations;
- more than 50% of those debt obligations are real estate mortgages or interests in real estate mortgages as of specified testing dates;
- the entity has issued debt obligations that have two or more maturities; and

·the payments required to be made by the entity on its debt obligations “bear a relationship” to the payments to be received by the entity on the debt obligations that it holds as assets.

Under the Treasury regulations, if less than 80% of the assets of an entity, or portion of an entity, consists of debt obligations, these debt obligations are considered not to comprise “substantially all” of its assets, and therefore the entity would not be treated as a taxable mortgage pool.

We may make investments or enter into financing and securitization transactions that give rise to us being considered to be, or owning an interest in, one or more taxable mortgage pools. Where an entity, or a portion of an entity, is classified as a taxable mortgage pool, it is generally treated as a taxable corporation for federal income tax purposes. However, special rules apply to a REIT, a portion of a REIT, or a qualified REIT subsidiary that is a taxable mortgage pool. The portion of the REIT’s assets, held directly or through a qualified REIT subsidiary, that is treated as a taxable mortgage pool is treated as a qualified REIT subsidiary that is not subject to corporate income tax, and the taxable mortgage pool classification does not affect the tax status of the REIT. Rather, the consequences of the taxable mortgage pool classification generally would, except as described below, be limited to the REIT’s stockholders. The Treasury Department has yet to issue regulations governing the tax treatment of the stockholders of a REIT that owns an interest in a taxable mortgage pool.



A portion of our income from a taxable mortgage pool arrangement, which might be non-cash accrued income, or “phantom” taxable income, could be treated as “excess inclusion income.” Excess inclusion income is an amount, with respect to any calendar quarter, equal to the excess, if any, of (i) income allocable to the holder of a residual interest in a REMIC or taxable mortgage pool interest over (ii) the sum of an amount for each day in the calendar quarter equal to the product of (a) the adjusted issue price at the beginning of the quarter multiplied by (b) 120% of the long-term federal rate (determined on the basis of compounding at the close of each calendar quarter and properly adjusted for the length of such quarter). This non-cash or “phantom” income would nonetheless be subject to the distribution requirements that apply to us and could therefore adversely affect our liquidity. See “—Requirements for Qualification—Distribution Requirements.”

Recently issued IRS guidance indicates that our excess inclusion income would be allocated among our stockholders in proportion to our dividends paid. A stockholder’s share of excess inclusion income (i) would not be allowed to be offset by any net operating losses otherwise available to the stockholder, (ii) would be subject to tax as unrelated business taxable income in the hands of most tax-exempt stockholders, and (iii) would result in the application of U.S. federal income tax withholding at the maximum rate of 30%, without reduction for any otherwise applicable income tax treaty, to the extent allocable to most types of foreign stockholders. See “—Taxation of Tax-Exempt Stockholders” and “—Taxation of Non-U.S. Stockholders.” To the extent that excess inclusion income is allocated from REMIC residual interests to “disqualified organizations” (see “—Taxation as a REIT”) that hold our stock in record name, we may be taxable on this income at the highest applicable corporate tax rate (currently 35%). Although the law is unclear, recently issued IRS guidance indicates that the same tax will apply in the case of excess inclusion income from a taxable mortgage pool that is allocated to “disqualified organizations” that hold our stock in record name. To the extent that our common stock owned by “disqualified organizations” is held in street name by a broker/dealer or other nominee, the broker/dealer or other nominee would be liable for the corporate level tax on the portion of our excess inclusion income allocable to the common stock held by the broker/dealer or other nominee on behalf of the “disqualified organizations.” A regulated investment company or other pass-through entity owning our common stock will be subject to tax at the highest corporate tax rate on excess inclusion income allocated to their record name owners that are disqualified organizations. The manner in which excess inclusion income would be allocated among shares of different classes of our stock or how such income is to be reported to stockholders is not clear under current law. Tax-exempt investors, foreign investors, and taxpayers with net operating losses should carefully consider the tax consequences described above and are urged to consult their tax advisors in connection with their decision to invest in our common stock.

If we were to own less than all of the equity interests in an entity that is classified as a taxable mortgage pool, the foregoing rules would not apply. Rather, the entity would be treated as an ordinary corporation for federal income tax purposes, and its taxable income would be subject to corporate income tax. In addition, this characterization could adversely affect our compliance with the REIT gross income and asset tests. We currently do not own, and do not intend to own, some, but less than all, of the equity interests in an entity that is or will become a taxable mortgage pool, and we intend to monitor the structure of any taxable mortgage pools in which we have an interest to ensure that they will not adversely affect our status as a REIT.

#### *Income Tests*

We must satisfy two gross income tests annually to maintain our qualification as a REIT. First, at least 75% of our gross income for each taxable year must consist of defined types of income that we derive, directly or indirectly, from investments relating to real property or mortgages on real property or qualified temporary investment income. Qualifying income for purposes of that 75% gross income test generally includes:

- rents from real property;
- interest on debt secured by mortgages on real property or on interests in real property;

· dividends or other distributions on, and gain from the sale of, shares in other REITs;

· gain from the sale of real estate assets;

- amounts, such as commitment fees, received in consideration for entering into an agreement to make a loan secured by real property, unless such amounts are determined by income and profits; and
- income derived from the temporary investment of new capital that is attributable to the issuance of our stock or a public offering of our debt with a maturity date of at least five years and that we receive during the one-year period beginning on the date on which we received such new capital.

Second, in general, at least 95% of our gross income for each taxable year must consist of income that is qualifying income for purposes of the 75% gross income test, other types of interest and dividends, gain from the sale or disposition of stock or securities, or any combination of these. Gross income from servicing fees, loan origination fees, financial advisory fees and structuring fees receivable are not qualifying income for purposes of either gross income test. In addition, gross income from our sale of property that we hold primarily for sale to customers in the ordinary course of business is excluded from both the numerator and the denominator in both income tests. For taxable years beginning on and after January 1, 2005, income and gain from “hedging transactions” that we enter into to hedge indebtedness incurred, or to be incurred, to acquire or carry real estate assets and that are clearly and timely identified as such will be excluded from both the numerator and the denominator for purposes of the 95% gross income test (but not the 75% gross income test). We will monitor the amount of our nonqualifying income and we will manage our portfolio to comply at all times with the gross income tests. The following paragraphs discuss the specific application of the gross income tests to us.

*Rents from Real Property.* Rent that we receive from real property that we own and lease to tenants will qualify as “rents from real property,” which is qualifying income for purposes of the 75% and 95% gross income tests, only if the following conditions are met.

First, the amount of rent must not be based in whole or in part on the income or profits of any person. Any participating or percentage rent, however, will qualify as “rents from real property” if it is based on percentages of receipts or sales and the percentages:

- are fixed at the time the leases are entered into;
- are not renegotiated during the term of the leases in a manner that has the effect of basing percentage rent on income or profits; and
- conform with normal business practice.

More generally, any participating or percentage rent will not qualify as “rents from real property” if, considering the leases and all the surrounding circumstances, the arrangement does not conform with normal business practice, but is in reality used as a means of basing the rent on income or profits. Since the rent that we expect to receive will not be based on the lessees’ income or sales, our rent should not be considered based in whole or in part on the income or profits of any person. Furthermore, we have represented that, with respect to other properties that we acquire in the future, we will not charge rent for any property that is based in whole or in part on the income or profits of any person, except by reason of being based on a fixed percentage of gross revenues, as described above.

Second, we must not own, actually or constructively, 10% or more of the stock or the assets or net profits of any lessee (a “related party tenant”) other than a TRS. The constructive ownership rules generally provide that, if 10% or more in value of our stock is owned, directly or indirectly, by or for any person, we are considered as owning the stock owned, directly or indirectly, by or for such person. We do not own any stock or any assets or net profits of any lessee directly. In addition, our charter prohibits transfers of our common stock that would cause us to own actually or constructively, 10% or more of the ownership interests in a lessee. Based on the foregoing, we should never own, actually or constructively, 10% or more of any lessee other than a TRS. Furthermore, we have represented that, with

respect to other properties that we acquire in the future, we will not rent any property to a related party tenant. However, because the constructive ownership rules are broad and it is not possible to monitor continually direct and indirect transfers of our common stock, no absolute assurance can be given that such transfers or other events of which we have no knowledge will not cause us to own constructively 10% or more of a lessee other than a TRS at some future date.

As described above, we may own up to 100% of the stock of one or more TRSs. As an exception to the related party tenant rule described in the preceding paragraph, rent that we receive from a TRS will qualify as “rents from real property” as long as (i) the TRS is a qualifying TRS (among other things, it does not directly or indirectly operate or manage any hotels or health care facilities or provide rights to any brand name under which any hotel or health care facility is operated), (ii) at least 90% of the leased space in the property is leased to persons other than TRSs and related party tenants, and (iii) the amount paid by the TRS to rent space at the property is substantially comparable to rents paid by other tenants of the property for comparable space. The “substantially comparable” requirement must be satisfied when the lease is entered into, when it is extended, and when the lease is modified, if the modification increases the rent paid by the TRS. If the requirement that at least 90% of the leased space in the related property is rented to unrelated tenants is met when a lease is entered into, extended, or modified, such requirement will continue to be met as long as there is no increase in the space leased to any TRS or related party tenant. Any increased rent attributable to a modification of a lease with a TRS in which we own directly or indirectly more than 50% of the voting power or value of the stock (a “controlled TRS”) will not be treated as “rents from real property.”

Third, the rent attributable to the personal property leased in connection with the lease of a property must not be greater than 15% of the total rent received under the lease. The rent attributable to the personal property contained in a property is the amount that bears the same ratio to total rent for the taxable year as the average of the fair market values of the personal property at the beginning and at the end of the taxable year bears to the average of the aggregate fair market values of both the real and personal property contained in the property at the beginning and at the end of such taxable year (the “personal property ratio”). With respect to each property, we believe either that the personal property ratio is less than 15% or that any income attributable to excess personal property will not jeopardize our ability to qualify as a REIT. There can be no assurance, however, that the IRS would not challenge our calculation of a personal property ratio, or that a court would not uphold such assertion. If such a challenge were successfully asserted, we could fail to satisfy the 75% or 95% gross income test and thus lose our REIT status.

Fourth, we generally cannot furnish or render noncustomary services to the tenants of our properties, or manage or operate our properties, other than through an independent contractor who is adequately compensated and from whom we do not derive or receive any income. However, we need not provide services through an “independent contractor,” but instead may provide services directly to our tenants, if the services are “usually or customarily rendered” in connection with the rental of space for occupancy only and are not considered to be provided for the tenants’ convenience. In addition, we may provide a minimal amount of “noncustomary” services to the tenants of a property, other than through an independent contractor, as long as our income from the services does not exceed 1% of our gross income from the related property. Finally, we may own up to 100% of the stock of one or more TRSs, which may provide noncustomary services to our tenants without tainting our rents from the related properties. We do not perform any services other than customary ones for our lessees. Furthermore, we have represented that, with respect to other properties that we acquire in the future, we will not perform noncustomary services for the lessees of the property to the extent that the provision of such services would jeopardize our REIT status.

If a portion of the rent that we receive from a property does not qualify as “rents from real property” because the rent attributable to personal property exceeds 15% of the total rent for a taxable year, the portion of the rent that is attributable to personal property will not be qualifying income for purposes of either the 75% or 95% gross income test. Thus, if such rent attributable to personal property, plus any other income that is nonqualifying income for purposes of the 95% gross income test, during a taxable year exceeds 5% of our gross income during the year, we would lose our REIT status. If, however, the rent from a particular property does not qualify as “rents from real property” because either (i) the rent is considered based on the income or profits of the related lessee, (ii) the lessee either is a related party tenant or fails to qualify for the exception to the related party tenant rule for qualifying TRSs, or (iii) we furnish noncustomary services to the tenants of the property, or manage or operate the property, other than through a qualifying independent contractor or a TRS, none of the rent from that property would qualify as “rents from real property.” In that case, we might lose our REIT status because we would be unable to satisfy either the 75% or 95% gross income test.

In addition to rent, our lessees are required to pay certain additional charges. To the extent that such additional charges represent either (i) reimbursements of amounts that we are obligated to pay to third parties, such as a lessee’s proportionate share of a property’s operational or capital expenses or (ii) penalties for nonpayment or late payment of such amounts, such charges should qualify as “rents from real property.” However, to the extent that charges described in clause (ii) do not qualify as “rents from real property,” they instead may be treated as interest that qualifies for the 95% gross income test.

*Interest.* The term “interest,” as defined for purposes of both gross income tests, generally excludes any amount that is based in whole or in part on the income or profits of any person. However, interest generally includes the following:

- an amount that is based on a fixed percentage or percentages of receipts or sales; and

an amount that is based on the income or profits of a debtor, as long as the debtor derives substantially all of its income from the real property securing the debt from leasing substantially all of its interest in the property, and only to the extent that the amounts received by the debtor would be qualifying “rents from real property” if received directly by a REIT.

If a loan contains a provision that entitles a REIT to a percentage of the borrower's gain upon the sale of the real property securing the loan or a percentage of the appreciation in the property's value as of a specific date, income attributable to that loan provision generally will be treated as gain from the sale of the property securing the loan, which generally is qualifying income for purposes of both gross income tests.

Interest on debt secured by mortgages on real property or on interests in real property, including, for this purpose, prepayment penalties, loan assumption fees, and late payment charges that are not compensation for services, generally is qualifying income for purposes of the 75% gross income test. However, if the highest principal amount of a loan outstanding during a taxable year exceeds the fair market value of the real property securing the loan as of the date the REIT agreed to originate or acquire the loan, a portion of the interest income from such loan will not be qualifying income for purposes of the 75% gross income test, but will be qualifying income for purposes of the 95% gross income test. The portion of the interest income that will not be qualifying income for purposes of the 75% gross income test will be equal to the portion of the principal amount of the loan that is not secured by real property—that is, the amount by which the principal amount of the loan exceeds the value of the real estate that is security for the loan.

Mezzanine loans that we originate generally will not be secured by a direct interest in real property. Instead, our mezzanine loans generally will be secured by ownership interests in an entity owning real property. In Revenue Procedure 2003-65, the Internal Revenue Service established a safe harbor under which interest from loans secured by a first priority security interest in ownership interests in a partnership or limited liability company owning real property will be treated as qualifying income for both the 75% and 95% gross income tests, provided several requirements are satisfied. Although we anticipate that any mezzanine loans that we extend will qualify for the safe harbor in Revenue Procedure 2003-65, it is possible that we may make some mezzanine loans that do not qualify for that safe harbor. In those cases, the interest income from the loan will be qualifying income for purposes of the 95% gross income test, but potentially will not be qualifying income for purposes of the 75% gross income test. We will make mezzanine loans that do not qualify for the safe harbor in Revenue Procedure 2003-65 only to the extent that the interest from those loans, combined with our other nonqualifying income, will not cause us to fail to satisfy the 75% gross income test.

We also may originate construction or development loans. As stated above, in order to determine whether the interest income from a loan is qualifying income for purposes of the gross income tests, we generally compare the loan amount, or the highest principal amount of a loan outstanding during a taxable year, to the loan value, or the fair market value of the real property securing the loan as of the date we agree to originate or acquire the loan. However, in the case of a construction or development loan, the loan value is equal to the fair market value of the land plus the reasonably estimated cost of the improvements or developments (other than personal property) which will secure the loan and which are to be constructed from the proceeds of the loan, determined as of the date we agree to originate the loan. If we do not make the construction loan but commit to provide long-term financing following completion of construction, the loan value is determined by using the principles for determining the loan value for a construction loan. In addition, if the mortgage on the real property is given as additional security (or as a substitute for other security) for the loan after our commitment to extend the loan is binding, the loan value is equal to the fair market value of the real property when it becomes security for the loan (or, if earlier, when the borrower makes a binding commitment to add or substitute the property as security).

The interest, original issue discount, and market discount income that we receive from our mortgage loans and mortgage-backed securities generally are qualifying income for purposes of both gross income tests. However, as discussed above, if the fair market value of the real estate securing any of our loans is less than the principal amount of the loan, a portion of the income from that loan will be qualifying income for purposes of the 95% gross income test but not the 75% gross income test. In addition, to the extent that any mezzanine loans that we extend do not qualify for the safe harbor described above, the interest income from the loans will be qualifying income for purposes of the 95% gross income test, but potentially will not be qualifying income for purposes of the 75% gross income test.

*Fee Income.* We may receive various fees in connection with our mortgage loans. The fees will be qualifying income for purposes of both the 75% and 95% income tests if they are received in consideration for entering into an agreement to make a loan secured by real property, and the fees are not determined by income and profits. Therefore, commitment fees generally will be qualifying income for purposes of the income tests. Other fees, such as fees received for servicing loans for third parties, origination fees, and financial advisory fees, are not qualifying income for purposes of either income test. To the extent necessary, one of our TRSs will conduct loan servicing and financial advisory functions that generate fee income that is not qualifying income. In this case, the income earned by our TRS from these services will not be included for purposes of the REIT gross income tests.



*Dividends.* Our share of any dividends received from any corporation (including a TRS but not another REIT) in which we own an equity interest will be qualifying income for purposes of the 95% gross income test but not for purposes of the 75% gross income test. Our share of any dividends received from any other REIT in which we own an equity interest will be qualifying income for purposes of both gross income tests.

*Hedging Transactions.* From time to time, we enter into hedging transactions with respect to one or more of our assets or liabilities. Our hedging activities may include entering into interest rate swaps, caps, and floors, options to purchase these items, and futures and forward contracts. For taxable years prior to 2005, to the extent that we entered into an interest rate swap or cap contract, option, futures contract, forward rate agreement, or any similar financial instrument to hedge our indebtedness incurred to acquire or carry “real estate assets,” any periodic income or gain from the disposition of such contract should have been qualifying income for purposes of the 95% gross income test, but not the 75% gross income test. For taxable years beginning on and after January 1, 2005, income and gain from “hedging transactions” will be excluded from gross income for purposes of the 95% gross income test (but not the 75% gross income test). For those taxable years, a “hedging transaction” means any transaction entered into in the normal course of our trade or business primarily to manage the risk of interest rate or price changes, or currency fluctuations with respect to borrowings made or to be made, or ordinary obligations incurred or to be incurred, to acquire or carry real estate assets. We are required to clearly identify any such hedging transaction before the close of the day on which it was acquired, originated, or entered into. We intend to structure any hedging transactions in a manner that does not jeopardize our status as a REIT.

*Prohibited Transactions.* A REIT will incur a 100% tax on the net income derived from any sale or other disposition of property, other than foreclosure property, that the REIT holds primarily for sale to customers in the ordinary course of a trade or business. We believe that none of our assets will be held primarily for sale to customers and that a sale of any of our assets will not be in the ordinary course of our business. Whether a REIT holds an asset “primarily for sale to customers in the ordinary course of a trade or business” depends, however, on the facts and circumstances in effect, from time to time, including those related to a particular asset. Nevertheless, we will attempt to comply with the terms of safe-harbor provisions in the federal income tax laws prescribing when an asset sale will not be characterized as a prohibited transaction. We cannot assure you, however, that we can comply with the safe-harbor provisions or that we will avoid owning property that may be characterized as property that we hold “primarily for sale to customers in the ordinary course of a trade or business.” To the extent necessary to avoid the prohibited transactions tax, we will conduct sales of our loans through one of our taxable REIT subsidiaries.

It is our current intention that any securitizations that we undertake with regard to our mortgage loans will not be treated as sales for tax purposes. If we were to transfer a mortgage loan to a REMIC, this transfer would be treated as a sale for tax purposes and the sale may be subject to the prohibited transactions tax. As a result, we intend to securitize our mortgage loans only in non-REMIC transactions.

*Foreclosure Property.* We will be subject to tax at the maximum corporate rate on any income from foreclosure property, other than income that otherwise would be qualifying income for purposes of the 75% gross income test, less expenses directly connected with the production of that income. However, gross income from foreclosure property will qualify under the 75% and 95% gross income tests. Foreclosure property is any real property, including interests in real property, and any personal property incident to such real property:

- that is acquired by a REIT as the result of the REIT having bid on such property at foreclosure, or having otherwise reduced such property to ownership or possession by agreement or process of law, after there was a default or default was imminent on a lease of such property or on indebtedness that such property secured;
- for which the related loan or leased property was acquired by the REIT at a time when the default was not imminent or anticipated; and

· for which the REIT makes a proper election to treat the property as foreclosure property.

However, a REIT will not be considered to have foreclosed on a property where the REIT takes control of the property as a mortgagee-in-possession and cannot receive any profit or sustain any loss except as a creditor of the mortgagor. Property generally ceases to be foreclosure property at the end of the third taxable year following the taxable year in which the REIT acquired the property, or longer if an extension is granted by the Secretary of the Treasury. This grace period terminates and foreclosure property ceases to be foreclosure property on the first day:

· on which a lease is entered into for the property that, by its terms, will give rise to income that does not qualify for purposes of the 75% gross income test, or any amount is received or accrued, directly or indirectly, pursuant to a lease entered into on or after such day that will give rise to income that does not qualify for purposes of the 75% gross income test;

- on which any construction takes place on the property, other than completion of a building or any other improvement, where more than 10% of the construction was completed before default became imminent; or
- which is more than 90 days after the day on which the REIT acquired the property and the property is used in a trade or business which is conducted by the REIT, other than through an independent contractor from whom the REIT itself does not derive or receive any income.

*Failure to Satisfy Gross Income Tests.* If we fail to satisfy one or both of the gross income tests for any taxable year, we nevertheless may qualify as a REIT for that year if we qualify for relief under certain provisions of the federal income tax laws. Those relief provisions generally will be available if:

- our failure to meet such tests is due to reasonable cause and not due to willful neglect; and
- following such failure for any taxable year, a schedule of the sources of our income is filed in accordance with regulations prescribed by the Secretary of the Treasury.

For taxable years prior to 2005, any incorrect information on the schedule of the sources of our income must not have been due to fraud with intent to evade tax.

We cannot predict, however, whether in all circumstances we would qualify for the relief provisions. In addition, as discussed above in “Taxation of Our Company,” even if the relief provisions apply, we would incur a 100% tax on the gross income attributable to the greater of (i) the amount by which we fail the 75% gross income test or (ii) the amount by which 95% (90% for taxable years prior to 2005) of our gross income exceeds the amount of our income qualifying under the 95% gross income test, in each case multiplied by a fraction intended to reflect our profitability.

#### *Asset Tests*

To qualify as a REIT, we also must satisfy the following asset tests at the end of each quarter of each taxable year. At least 75% of the value of our total assets must consist of:

- cash or cash items, including certain receivables;
- government securities;
- interests in real property, including leaseholds and options to acquire real property and leaseholds;
- interests in mortgages on real property;
- stock in other REITs; and
- investments in stock or debt instruments during the one-year period following our receipt of new capital that we raise through equity offerings or offerings of debt with at least a five-year term.

Of our investments not included in the 75% asset class:

First, the value of our interest in any one issuer’s securities may not exceed 5% of the value of our total assets.

Second, we may not own more than 10% of the voting power or value of any one issuer’s outstanding securities.

Third, no more than 20% of the value of our total assets may consist of the securities of one or more TRSs.

Fourth, no more than 25% of the value of our total assets may consist of the securities of TRSs and other non-TRS taxable subsidiaries and other assets that are not qualifying assets for purposes of the 75% asset test.

For purposes of the 5% and 10% asset tests, the term “securities” does not include stock in another REIT, equity or debt securities of a qualified REIT subsidiary or TRS, mortgage loans that constitute real estate assets, or equity interests in a partnership. The term “securities,” however, generally includes debt securities issued by a partnership or another REIT, except that for purposes of the 10% value test, the term “securities” does not include:

- “Straight debt,” defined as a written unconditional promise to pay on demand or on a specified date a sum certain in money if (i) the debt is not convertible, directly or indirectly, into stock, and (ii) the interest rate and interest payment dates are not contingent on profits, the borrower’s discretion, or similar factors. “Straight debt” securities do not include any securities issued by a partnership or a corporation in which we or any controlled TRS (i.e., a TRS in which we own directly or indirectly more than 50% of the voting power or value of the stock) holds non-“straight debt” securities that have an aggregate value of more than 1% of the issuer’s outstanding securities. However, “straight debt” securities include debt subject to the following contingencies:

- a contingency relating to the time of payment of interest or principal, as long as either (i) there is no change to the effective yield of the debt obligation, other than a change to the annual yield that does not exceed the greater of 0.25% or 5% of the annual yield, or (ii) neither the aggregate issue price nor the aggregate face amount of the issuer's debt obligations held by us exceeds \$1 million and no more than 12 months of unaccrued interest on the debt obligations can be required to be prepaid; and
- a contingency relating to the time or amount of payment upon a default or prepayment of a debt obligation, as long as the contingency is consistent with customary commercial practice;

· Any loan to an individual or an estate;

· Any "section 467 rental agreement," other than an agreement with a related party tenant;

· Any obligation to pay "rents from real property";

- Any security issued by a state or any political subdivision thereof, the District of Columbia, a foreign government of any political subdivision thereof, or the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, but only if the determination of any payment thereunder does not depend in whole or in part on the profits of any entity not described in this paragraph or payments on any obligation issued by an entity not described in this paragraph;

· Any security issued by a REIT;

- Any debt instrument of an entity treated as a partnership for federal income tax purposes to the extent of our interest as a partner in the partnership; or
- Any debt instrument of an entity treated as a partnership for federal income tax purposes not described in the preceding bullet points if at least 75% of the partnership's gross income, excluding income from prohibited transactions, is qualifying income for purposes of the 75% gross income test described above in "—Requirements for Qualification-Income Tests."

For purposes of the 10% value test, our proportionate share of the assets of a partnership is our proportionate interest in any securities issued by the partnership, without regard to securities described in the last two bullet points above.

We believe that all or substantially all of the real property, mortgage loans, and mortgage-backed securities that we own are qualifying assets for purposes of the 75% asset test. For purposes of these rules, however, if the outstanding principal balance of a mortgage loan exceeds the fair market value of the real property securing the loan (determined as described under "Income Tests—Interest" above), a portion of such loan likely will not be a qualifying real estate asset under the federal income tax laws. Although the law on the matter is not entirely clear, it appears that the non-qualifying portion of that mortgage loan will be equal to the portion of the loan amount that exceeds the value of the associated real property that is security for that loan. In addition, any mezzanine loan that we extend generally will be secured by ownership interests in an entity owning real property. We anticipate that most or all of such mezzanine loans will qualify for the safe harbor in Revenue Procedure 2003-65 pursuant to which certain loans secured by a first priority security interest in ownership interests in a partnership or limited liability company will be treated as qualifying assets for purposes of the 75% asset test. See "—Income Tests." However, it is possible that we may make some mezzanine loans that do not qualify for that safe harbor and that do not qualify as "straight debt" securities for purposes of the 10% value test. We will make mezzanine loans that do not qualify for the safe harbor in Revenue Procedure 2003-65 or as "straight debt" securities only to the extent that such loans will not cause us to fail the asset tests described above. Furthermore, to the extent that we own debt securities issued by other REITs or C corporations that are not secured by mortgages on real property, those debt securities will not be qualifying assets for purposes of the 75% asset test. Instead, we would be subject to the 5% and 10% asset tests with respect to those debt securities.

We will monitor the status of our assets for purposes of the various asset tests and will seek to manage our portfolio to comply at all times with such tests. There can be no assurance, however, that we will be successful in this effort. In this regard, to determine our compliance with these requirements, we will need to estimate the value of the real estate securing our mortgage loans at various times. Although we will seek to be prudent in making these estimates, there can be no assurances that the IRS will not disagree with these determinations and assert that a lower value is applicable. If we fail to satisfy the asset tests at the end of a calendar quarter, we will not lose our REIT status if:

- we satisfied the asset tests at the end of the immediately preceding calendar quarter; and

· the discrepancy between the value of our assets and the asset test requirements arose from changes in the market values of our assets and was not wholly or partly caused by the acquisition of one or more non-qualifying assets.

If we did not satisfy the condition described in the second item, above, we still could avoid disqualification by eliminating any discrepancy within 30 days after the close of the calendar quarter in which it arose.

In the event that, at the end of any calendar quarter in a taxable year beginning on or after January 1, 2005, we violate the 5% or 10% asset test described above, we will not lose our REIT status if (1) the failure is de minimis (up to the lesser of 1% of our assets or \$10 million) and (2) we dispose of assets or otherwise comply with the asset tests within six months after the last day of the quarter in which we discovered the failure of the asset test. In the event of a more than de minimis failure of any of the asset tests at the end of any calendar quarter in a taxable year beginning on or after January 1, 2005, as long as the failure was due to reasonable cause and not to willful neglect, we will not lose our REIT status if we (1) dispose of assets or otherwise comply with the asset tests within six months after the last day of the quarter in which we discovered the failure of the asset test and (2) pay a tax equal to the greater of \$50,000 or 35% of the net income from the nonqualifying assets during the period in which we failed to satisfy the asset tests.

#### *Distribution Requirements*

Each taxable year, we must distribute dividends, other than capital gain dividends and deemed distributions of retained capital gain, to our stockholders in an aggregate amount at least equal to:

the sum of

· 90% of our “REIT taxable income,” computed without regard to the dividends paid deduction and our net capital gain or loss, and

· 90% of our after-tax net income, if any, from foreclosure property, minus

the sum of certain items of non-cash income.

Generally, we must pay such distributions in the taxable year to which they relate, or in the following taxable year if we declare the distribution before we timely file our federal income tax return for the year and pay the distribution on or before the first regular dividend payment date after such declaration.

We will pay federal income tax on taxable income, including net capital gain, that we do not distribute to stockholders. Furthermore, if we fail to distribute during a calendar year, or by the end of January following the calendar year in the case of distributions with declaration and record dates falling in the last three months of the calendar year, at least the sum of:

· 85% of our REIT ordinary income for such calendar year,

· 95% of our REIT capital gain income for such calendar year, and

· the excess, if any, of the “grossed up required distribution” for the preceding calendar year over the distributed amount for that preceding calendar year. The “grossed up required distribution” for any calendar year is the sum of the taxable income of the REIT for the calendar year (without regard to the deduction for dividends paid) and all amounts from earlier years that are not treated as having been distributed under the provision,

we will incur a 4% nondeductible excise tax on the excess of such required distribution over the distributed amount. The distributed amount is the sum of (i) the deduction for dividends paid during that calendar year, (ii) amounts on

which the REIT is required to pay corporate tax, and (iii) the excess, if any, of the distributed amount for the preceding taxable year over the grossed up required distribution for that preceding taxable year. We may elect to retain and pay income tax on the net long-term capital gain we receive in a taxable year. See “Taxation of Taxable U.S. Stockholders.” If we so elect, we will be treated as having distributed any such retained amount for purposes of the 4% nondeductible excise tax described above. We intend to make timely distributions sufficient to satisfy the annual distribution requirements and to avoid corporate income tax and the 4% nondeductible excise tax.



It is possible that, from time to time, we may experience timing differences between the actual receipt of income and actual payment of deductible expenses and the inclusion of that income and deduction of such expenses in arriving at our REIT taxable income. Possible examples of those timing differences include the following:

- Because we may deduct capital losses only to the extent of our capital gains, we may have taxable income that exceeds our economic income.
- We will recognize taxable income in advance of the related cash flow if any of our mortgage loans or subordinated structured interests in net lease assets are deemed to have original issue discount. We generally must accrue original issue discount based on a constant yield method that takes into account projected prepayments but that defers taking into account credit losses until they are actually incurred.
- We may be required to recognize the amount of any payment projected to be made pursuant to a provision in a mortgage loan that entitles us to share in the gain from the sale of, or the appreciation in, the mortgaged property over the term of the related loan using the constant yield method, even though we may not receive the related cash until the maturity of the loan.
- We may recognize taxable market discount income when we receive the proceeds from the disposition of, or principal payments on, loans that have a stated redemption price at maturity that is greater than our tax basis in those loans, although such proceeds often will be used to make non-deductible principal payments on related borrowings.
- We may recognize taxable income without receiving a corresponding cash distribution if we foreclose on or make a significant modification to a loan, to the extent that the fair market value of the underlying property or the principal amount of the modified loan, as applicable, exceeds our basis in the original loan.
- We may recognize phantom taxable income from any retained ownership interests in mortgage loans subject to collateralized mortgage obligation debt that we own.

Although several types of non-cash income are excluded in determining the annual distribution requirement, we may incur corporate income tax and the 4% excise tax with respect to those non-cash income items if we do not distribute those items on a current basis. As a result of the foregoing, we may have less cash than is necessary to distribute all of our taxable income and thereby avoid corporate income tax and the excise tax imposed on certain undistributed income. In such a situation, we may need to borrow funds or issue additional common or preferred stock.

Under certain circumstances, we may be able to correct a failure to meet the distribution requirement for a year by paying “deficiency dividends” to our stockholders in a later year. We may include such deficiency dividends in our deduction for dividends paid for the earlier year. Although we may be able to avoid income tax on amounts distributed as deficiency dividends, we will be required to pay interest to the IRS based upon the amount of any deduction we take for deficiency dividends.

#### *Recordkeeping Requirements*

We must maintain certain records in order to qualify as a REIT. In addition, to avoid a monetary penalty, we must request on an annual basis information from our stockholders designed to disclose the actual ownership of our outstanding stock. We intend to comply with these requirements.

#### **Failure to Qualify**

If we fail to qualify as a REIT in any taxable year, and no relief provision applies, we would be subject to federal income tax and any applicable alternative minimum tax on our taxable income at regular corporate rates. In

calculating our taxable income in a year in which we fail to qualify as a REIT, we would not be able to deduct amounts paid out to stockholders. In fact, we would not be required to distribute any amounts to stockholders in that year. In such event, to the extent of our current and accumulated earnings and profits, all distributions to stockholders would be taxable as ordinary income. Subject to certain limitations of the federal income tax laws, corporate stockholders might be eligible for the dividends received deduction. Unless we qualified for relief under specific statutory provisions, we also would be disqualified from taxation as a REIT for the four taxable years following the year during which we ceased to qualify as a REIT. We cannot predict whether in all circumstances we would qualify for such statutory relief.

For taxable years beginning on and after January 1, 2005, if we fail to satisfy one or more requirements for REIT qualification, other than the gross income tests and the asset tests, we could avoid disqualification if our failure is due to reasonable cause and not to willful neglect and we pay a penalty of \$50,000 for each such failure. In addition, there are relief provisions for a failure of the gross income tests and asset tests, as described above in “—Income Tests” and “—Asset Tests.”

## Taxation of Taxable U.S. Stockholders

The term “U.S. stockholder” means a holder of our common stock that, for United States federal income tax purposes, is:

- a citizen or resident of the United States;
- a corporation (including an entity treated as a corporation or partnership for U.S. federal income tax purposes) created or organized under the laws of the United States or of a political subdivision of the United States;
- an estate whose income is subject to U.S. federal income taxation regardless of its source; or
- any trust if (i) a U.S. court is able to exercise primary supervision over the administration of such trust and one or more U.S. persons have the authority to control all substantial decisions of the trust or (ii) it has a valid election in place to be treated as a U.S. person.

If a partnership, including any entity that is treated as a partnership for U.S. federal income tax purposes, is a beneficial owner of our common stock, the treatment of the partner in the partnership will generally depend on the status of the partner and the activities of the partnership. Persons that have an indirect interest in shares of common stock through an entity treated as a partnership for U.S. federal income tax purposes should consult their tax advisors about the U.S. federal income tax consequences of acquiring, holding and disposing of our common stock.

As long as we qualify as a REIT, a taxable “U.S. stockholder” must take into account as ordinary income distributions made out of our current or accumulated earnings and profits that we do not designate as capital gain dividends or retained long-term capital gain. A U.S. stockholder will not qualify for the dividends received deduction generally available to corporations. In addition, dividends paid to a U.S. stockholder generally will not qualify for the 15% tax rate for “qualified dividend income.” Qualified dividend income generally includes dividends paid by domestic C corporations and certain qualified foreign corporations to most U.S. noncorporate stockholders. Because we are not generally subject to federal income tax on the portion of our REIT taxable income distributed to our stockholders, our dividends generally will not be eligible for the new 15% rate on qualified dividend income. As a result, our ordinary REIT dividends will continue to be taxed at the higher tax rate applicable to ordinary income. Currently, the highest marginal individual income tax rate on ordinary income is 35%. However, the 15% tax rate for qualified dividend income will apply to our ordinary REIT dividends, if any, that are (i) attributable to dividends received by us from non-REIT corporations, such as our TRSs, and (ii) attributable to income upon which we have paid corporate income tax (e.g., to the extent that we distribute less than 100% of our taxable income). In general, to qualify for the reduced tax rate on qualified dividend income, a stockholder must hold our common stock for more than 60 days during the 121-day period beginning on the date that is 60 days before the date on which our common stock becomes ex-dividend.

If we declare a distribution in October, November, or December of any year that is payable to a U.S. stockholder of record on a specified date in any such month, such distribution shall be treated as both paid by us and received by the U.S. stockholder on December 31 of such year, *provided* that we actually pay the distribution during January of the following calendar year.

A U.S. stockholder generally will recognize distributions that we designate as capital gain dividends as long-term capital gain without regard to the period for which the U.S. stockholder has held its common stock. We generally will designate our capital gain dividends as either 15% or 25% rate distributions. See “—Capital Gains and Losses.” A corporate U.S. stockholder, however, may be required to treat up to 20% of certain capital gain dividends as a preference item.

We may elect to retain and pay income tax on the net long-term capital gain that we recognize in a taxable year. In that case, a U.S. stockholder would be taxed on its proportionate share of our undistributed long-term capital gain. The U.S. stockholder would receive a credit or refund for its proportionate share of the tax we paid. The U.S. stockholder would increase the basis in its common stock by the amount of its proportionate share of our undistributed long-term capital gain, minus its share of the tax we paid.

A U.S. stockholder will not incur tax on a distribution in excess of our current and accumulated earnings and profits if the distribution does not exceed the adjusted basis of the U.S. stockholder's common stock. Instead, the distribution will reduce the adjusted basis of such common stock. A U.S. stockholder will recognize a distribution in excess of both our current and accumulated earnings and profits and the U.S. stockholder's adjusted basis in his or her common stock as long-term capital gain, or short-term capital gain if the common stock has been held for one year or less, assuming the common stock is a capital asset in the hands of the U.S. stockholder.

Stockholders may not include in their individual income tax returns any of our net operating losses or capital losses. Instead, these losses are generally carried over by us for potential offset against our future income. Taxable distributions from us and gain from the disposition of the common stock will not be treated as passive activity income and, therefore, stockholders generally will not be able to apply any “passive activity losses,” such as losses from certain types of limited partnerships in which the stockholder is a limited partner, against such income. In addition, taxable distributions from us and gain from the disposition of our common stock generally will be treated as investment income for purposes of the investment interest limitations. We will notify stockholders after the close of our taxable year as to the portions of the distributions attributable to that year that constitute ordinary income, return of capital, and capital gain.

To the extent that we recognize “excess inclusion income,” such excess inclusion income generally will be allocated among our stockholders to the extent that it exceeds our REIT taxable income in a particular year. A stockholder’s share of excess inclusion income would not be allowed to be offset by any net operating losses otherwise available to the stockholder.

### **Taxation of U.S. Stockholders on the Disposition of Common Stock**

In general, a U.S. stockholder who is not a dealer in securities must treat any gain or loss realized upon a taxable disposition of our common stock as long-term capital gain or loss if the U.S. stockholder has held the common stock for more than one year and otherwise as short-term capital gain or loss. However, a U.S. stockholder must treat any loss upon a sale or exchange of common stock held by such stockholder for six-months or less as a long-term capital loss to the extent of capital gain dividends and any other actual or deemed distributions from us that such U.S. stockholder treats as long-term capital gain. All or a portion of any loss that a U.S. stockholder realizes upon a taxable disposition of the common stock may be disallowed if the U.S. stockholder purchases substantially identical common stock within 30 days before or after the disposition.

### **Capital Gains and Losses**

A taxpayer generally must hold a capital asset for more than one year for gain or loss derived from its sale or exchange to be treated as long-term capital gain or loss. The highest marginal individual income tax rate currently is 35%. The maximum tax rate on long-term capital gain applicable to non-corporate taxpayers is 15% through December 31, 2010. The maximum tax rate on long-term capital gain from the sale or exchange of “section 1250 property,” or depreciable real property, is 25% to the extent that such gain would have been treated as ordinary income if the property were “section 1245 property.” With respect to distributions that we designate as capital gain dividends and any retained capital gain that we are deemed to distribute, we generally may designate whether such a distribution is taxable to our non-corporate stockholders at a 15% or 25% rate. Thus, the tax rate differential between capital gain and ordinary income for non-corporate taxpayers may be significant. In addition, the characterization of income as capital gain or ordinary income may affect the deductibility of capital losses. A non-corporate taxpayer may deduct capital losses not offset by capital gains against its ordinary income only up to a maximum annual amount of \$3,000 (\$1,500 for married individuals filing separate returns). A non-corporate taxpayer may carry forward unused capital losses indefinitely. A corporate taxpayer must pay tax on its net capital gain at ordinary corporate rates. A corporate taxpayer may deduct capital losses only to the extent of capital gains, with unused losses being carried back three years and forward five years.

### **Information Reporting Requirements and Backup Withholding**

We will report to our stockholders and to the IRS the amount of dividends we pay during each calendar year, and the amount of tax we withhold, if any. Under the backup withholding rules, a stockholder may be subject to backup withholding at a rate of 28% with respect to distributions unless the holder:

- is a corporation or comes within certain other exempt categories and, when required, demonstrates this fact; or
  - provides a taxpayer identification number, certifies as to no loss of exemption from backup withholding, and otherwise complies with the applicable requirements of the backup withholding rules.

A stockholder who does not provide us with its correct taxpayer identification number also may be subject to penalties imposed by the IRS. Any amount paid as backup withholding will be creditable against the stockholder's income tax liability. In addition, we may be required to withhold a portion of capital gain distributions to any stockholders who fail to certify their non-foreign status to us. For a discussion of the backup withholding rules as applied to non-U.S. stockholders, see "—Taxation of Non-U.S. Stockholders."

## Taxation of Tax-Exempt Stockholders

Tax-exempt entities, including qualified employee pension and profit sharing trusts and individual retirement accounts, generally are exempt from federal income taxation. However, they are subject to taxation on their unrelated business taxable income, or UBTI. While many investments in real estate generate UBTI, the IRS has issued a ruling that dividend distributions from a REIT to an exempt employee pension trust do not constitute UBTI so long as the exempt employee pension trust does not otherwise use the shares of the REIT in an unrelated trade or business of the pension trust. Based on that ruling, amounts that we distribute to tax-exempt stockholders generally should not constitute UBTI. However, if a tax-exempt stockholder were to finance its acquisition of common stock with debt, a portion of the income that it receives from us would constitute UBTI pursuant to the “debt-financed property” rules. Moreover, social clubs, voluntary employee benefit associations, supplemental unemployment benefit trusts and qualified group legal services plans that are exempt from taxation under special provisions of the federal income tax laws are subject to different UBTI rules, which may require them to characterize distributions that they receive from us as UBTI. Furthermore, a tax-exempt stockholder’s share of our excess inclusion income would be subject to tax as UBTI. Finally, in certain circumstances, a qualified employee pension or profit sharing trust that owns more than 10% of our stock must treat a percentage of the dividends that it receives from us as UBTI. Such percentage is equal to the gross income we derive from an unrelated trade or business, determined as if we were a pension trust, divided by our total gross income for the year in which we pay or are treated as having paid the dividends. That rule applies to a pension trust holding more than 10% of our stock only if:

- the percentage of our dividends that the tax-exempt trust must treat as UBTI is at least 5%;
  - we qualify as a REIT by reason of the modification of the rule requiring that no more than 50% of our stock be owned by five or fewer individuals that requires the beneficiaries of the pension trust to be treated as holding our stock in proportion to their actuarial interests in the pension trust; and
- either
- at least one pension trust owns more than 25% of the value of our stock; or
  - a group of pension trusts individually holding more than 10% of the value of our stock collectively owns more than 50% of the value of our stock.

## Taxation of Non-U.S. Stockholders

The rules governing U.S. federal income taxation of nonresident alien individuals, foreign corporations, foreign partnerships, and other foreign stockholders are complex. This section is only a summary of such rules. **We urge non-U.S. stockholders to consult their own tax advisors to determine the impact of federal, foreign, state, and local income tax laws on ownership of the common stock, including any reporting requirements.**

A non-U.S. stockholder that receives a distribution that is not attributable to gain from our sale or exchange of U.S. real property interests, as defined below, and that we do not designate as a capital gain dividend or retained capital gain will recognize ordinary income to the extent that we pay the distribution out of our current or accumulated earnings and profits. A withholding tax equal to 30% of the gross amount of the distribution ordinarily will apply unless an applicable tax treaty reduces or eliminates the tax. However, if a distribution is treated as effectively connected with the non-U.S. stockholder’s conduct of a U.S. trade or business, the non-U.S. stockholder generally will be subject to federal income tax on the distribution at graduated rates, in the same manner as U.S. stockholders are taxed on distributions and also may be subject to the 30% branch profits tax in the case of a corporate non-U.S. stockholder. We plan to withhold U.S. income tax at the rate of 30% on the gross amount of any ordinary dividend paid to a non-U.S. stockholder unless either:

- a lower treaty rate applies and the non-U.S. stockholder files an IRS Form W-8BEN evidencing eligibility for that reduced rate with us, or
- the non-U.S. stockholder files an IRS Form W-8ECI with us claiming that the distribution is effectively connected income.

However, reduced treaty rates are not available to the extent that the income allocated to the foreign stockholder is excess inclusion income. Our excess inclusion income generally will be allocated among our stockholders to the extent that it exceeds our REIT taxable income in a particular year.



A non-U.S. stockholder will not incur U.S. tax on a distribution in excess of our current and accumulated earnings and profits if the excess portion of the distribution does not exceed the adjusted basis of its common stock. Instead, the excess portion of the distribution will reduce the adjusted basis of that common stock. A non-U.S. stockholder will be subject to tax on a distribution that exceeds both our current and accumulated earnings and profits and the adjusted basis of the common stock, if the non-U.S. stockholder otherwise would be subject to tax on gain from the sale or disposition of its common stock, as described below. Because we generally cannot determine at the time we make a distribution whether or not the distribution will exceed our current and accumulated earnings and profits, we normally will withhold tax on the entire amount of any distribution at the same rate as we would withhold on a dividend. However, by filing a U.S. tax return, a non-U.S. stockholder may obtain a refund of amounts that we withhold if we later determine that a distribution in fact exceeded our current and accumulated earnings and profits.

We may be required to withhold 10% of any distribution that exceeds our current and accumulated earnings and profits if we are not a domestically controlled qualified investment entity at the time of distribution. Consequently, although we intend to withhold at a rate of 30% on the entire amount of any distribution, to the extent that we do not do so, we will withhold at a rate of 10% on any portion of a distribution not subject to withholding at a rate of 30%, if we determine that we are not a domestically controlled qualified investment entity.

For any year in which we qualify as a REIT, a non-U.S. stockholder may incur tax on distributions that are attributable to gain from our sale or exchange of a USRPI under FIRPTA. The term USRPI includes certain interests in real property and stock in corporations at least 50% of whose assets consist of interests in real property. Under those rules, a non-U.S. stockholder is taxed on distributions attributable to gain from sales of USRPIs as if such gain were effectively connected with a U.S. business of the non-U.S. Holder. A non-U.S. stockholder thus would be taxed on such a distribution at the normal capital gains rates applicable to U.S. stockholders, subject to applicable alternative minimum tax and a special alternative minimum tax in the case of a nonresident alien individual. A corporate non-U.S. stockholder not entitled to treaty relief or exemption also may be subject to the 30% branch profits tax on such a distribution. Unless the exception described in the next paragraph applies, we must withhold 35% of any distribution that we could designate as a capital gain dividend. A non-U.S. stockholder may receive a credit against its tax liability for the amount we withhold.

Capital gain distributions to non-U.S. stockholders of common stock that are attributable to our sale of real property are treated as ordinary dividends rather than as gain from the sale of a USRPI, as long as (1) our common stock is “regularly traded” on an established securities market in the United States and (2) the non-U.S. stockholder did not own more than 5% of our common stock at any time during the one-year period preceding the date of the distribution. As a result, non-U.S. stockholders generally will be subject to withholding tax on such capital gain distributions in the same manner as they are subject to withholding tax on ordinary dividends. If the common stock ceases to be regularly traded on an established securities market in the United States or the non-U.S. stockholder owned more than 5% of our common stock at any time during the one-year period preceding the date of the distribution, capital gain distributions that are attributable to our sale of real property would be subject to tax under FIRPTA, as described in the preceding paragraph.

A non-U.S. stockholder generally will not incur tax under FIRPTA with respect to gain realized upon a disposition of common stock as long as at all times non-U.S. persons hold, directly or indirectly, less than 50% in value of our outstanding stock. We cannot assure you that that test will be met. However, a non-U.S. Holder that owned, actually or constructively, 5% or less of the common stock at all times during a specified testing period will not incur tax under FIRPTA if the common stock is “regularly traded” on an established securities market in the United States. Because the common stock is regularly traded on an established securities market in the United States, a non-U.S. stockholder will not incur tax under FIRPTA with respect to any such gain unless it owns, actually or constructively, more than 5% of our common stock. If the gain on the sale of the common stock was taxed under FIRPTA, a non-U.S. Holder would be taxed in the same manner as U.S. stockholders with respect to such gain, subject to applicable alternative minimum tax or a special alternative minimum tax in the case of nonresident alien individuals. Furthermore, a non-U.S.

stockholder will incur tax on gain not subject to FIRPTA if (1) the gain is effectively connected with the non-U.S. stockholder's U.S. trade or business (and, if required by an applicable tax treaty, is attributable to a U.S. permanent establishment or fixed base maintained by the non-U.S. Holder), in which case the non-U.S. stockholder will be subject to the same treatment as U.S. stockholders with respect to such gain, or (2) the non-U.S. stockholder is a nonresident alien individual who was present in the United States for 183 days or more during the taxable year and has a "tax home" in the United States, in which case the non-U.S. stockholder will incur a 30% tax on his capital gains.

## OTHER TAX CONSEQUENCES

### Tax Aspects of Our Investment in the Operating Partnership

The following discussion summarizes certain federal income tax considerations applicable to our direct or indirect investments in the operating partnership. See “Partnership Agreement.” The discussion does not cover state or local tax laws or any federal tax laws other than income tax laws.

*Tax Classification.* We will be entitled to include in our income our distributive share of the operating partnership’s income and to deduct our distributive share of the operating partnership’s losses only if the operating partnership is classified for federal income tax purposes as a partnership rather than as a corporation or an association taxable as a corporation. An organization will be classified as a partnership, rather than as a corporation, for federal income tax purposes if it:

· is treated as a partnership under Treasury regulations, effective January 1, 1997, relating to entity classification (the “check-the-box regulations”); and

· is not a “publicly traded” partnership.

Under the check-the-box regulations, an unincorporated entity with at least two members may elect to be classified either as an association taxable as a corporation or as a partnership. If such an entity fails to make an election, it generally will be treated as a partnership for federal income tax purposes. The operating partnership intends to be classified as a partnership for federal income tax purposes and it will not elect to be treated as an association taxable as a corporation under the check-the-box regulations.

A publicly traded partnership is a partnership whose interests are traded on an established securities market or are readily tradable on a secondary market or the substantial equivalent thereof. A publicly traded partnership will not, however, be treated as a corporation for any taxable year if 90% or more of the partnership’s gross income for such year consists of certain passive-type income, including real property rents (which includes rents that would be qualifying income for purposes of the 75% gross income test, with certain modifications that make it easier for the rents to qualify for the 90% passive income exception), gains from the sale or other disposition of real property, interest, and dividends (the “90% passive income exception”).

Treasury regulations (the “PTP regulations”) provide limited safe harbors from the definition of a publicly traded partnership. Pursuant to one of those safe harbors (the “private placement exclusion”), interests in a partnership will not be treated as readily tradable on a secondary market or the substantial equivalent thereof if (i) all interests in the partnership were issued in a transaction or transactions that were not required to be registered under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, and (ii) the partnership does not have more than 100 partners at any time during the partnership’s taxable year. In determining the number of partners in a partnership, a person owning an interest in a partnership, grantor trust, or S corporation that owns, directly or indirectly, an interest in the partnership is treated as a partner in such partnership only if (i) substantially all of the value of the owner’s interest in the entity is attributable to the entity’s direct or indirect interest in the partnership and (ii) a principal purpose of the use of the tiered arrangement is to permit the partnership to satisfy the 100-partner limitation. We believe that the operating partnership will qualify for the private placement exclusion.

We have not requested and do not intend to request a ruling from the Internal Revenue Service that the operating partnership will be classified as a partnership for federal income tax purposes. If for any reason the operating partnership were taxable as a corporation, rather than as a partnership, for federal income tax purposes, we likely would not be able to qualify as a REIT. See “—Requirements for Qualification—Income Tests” and “—Requirements for Qualification—Asset Tests.” In addition, any change in the operating partnership’s status for tax purposes might be treated

as a taxable event, in which case we might incur tax liability without any related cash distribution. See “—Requirements for Qualification—Distribution Requirements.” Further, items of income and deduction of the operating partnership would not pass through to its partners, and its partners would be treated as stockholders for tax purposes.

Consequently, the operating partnership would be required to pay income tax at corporate rates on its net income, and distributions to its partners would constitute dividends that would not be deductible in computing the operating partnership’s taxable income.

### **State and Local Taxes**

We and/or our stockholders may be subject to taxation by various states and localities, including those in which we or a stockholder transacts business, owns property or resides. The state and local tax treatment may differ from the federal income tax treatment described above. Consequently, stockholders should consult their own tax advisors regarding the effect of state and local tax laws upon an investment in the common stock.

## PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION

The selling stockholders may, from time to time, sell any or all of the shares of our common stock beneficially owned by them and offered hereby directly or through one or more underwriters, broker-dealers or agents. The selling stockholders will be responsible for any underwriter's or agent's commissions. The common stock may be sold in one or more transactions at fixed prices, at prevailing market prices at the time of the sale, at varying prices determined at the time of sale, or at negotiated prices. The selling stockholders may use any one or more of the following methods when selling shares:

- on the NYSE or any other national securities exchange or quotation service on which the securities may be listed or quoted at the time of sale,
- in the over-the-counter market,
- in transactions otherwise than on these exchanges or systems or in the over-the-counter market,
- through the writing of options, whether such options are listed on an options exchange or otherwise,
- ordinary brokerage transactions and transactions in which the broker-dealer solicits purchasers,
- block trades in which the broker-dealer will attempt to sell the shares as agent but may position and resell a portion of the block as principal to facilitate the transaction,
  - purchases by a broker-dealer as principal and resale by the broker-dealer for its account,
  - an exchange distribution in accordance with the rules of the applicable exchange,
  - in privately negotiated transactions,
  - through the settlement of short sales,
- broker-dealers may agree with the selling stockholders to sell a specified number of such shares at a stipulated price per share,
  - a combination of any such methods of sale, and
  - any other method permitted pursuant to applicable law.

The selling stockholders may also sell shares under Rule 144 under the Securities Act rather than under this prospectus or any accompanying prospectus supplement.

In addition, the selling stockholders may enter into hedging transactions with broker-dealers who may engage in short sales of shares in the course of hedging the positions they assume with the selling stockholders. The selling stockholders may also sell shares short and deliver the shares to close out such short position. The selling stockholders may also enter into option or other transactions with broker-dealers that require the delivery by such broker-dealers of the shares, which shares may be resold thereafter pursuant to this prospectus or any accompanying prospectus supplement.

Broker-dealers engaged by the selling stockholders may arrange for other broker-dealers to participate in sales. If the selling stockholders effect such transactions through underwriters, broker-dealers or agents, such underwriters,

broker-dealers or agents may receive commissions in the form of discounts, concessions or commissions from the selling stockholders or commissions from purchasers of the shares of our common stock for whom they may act as agent or to whom they may sell as principal, or both (which discounts, concessions or commissions as to particular underwriters, broker-dealers or agents may be less than or in excess of those customary in the types of transactions involved).

The selling stockholders and any underwriters, broker-dealers or agents that are involved in selling the shares may be deemed to be “underwriters” within the meaning of the Securities Act in connection with such sales. In such event, any commissions received by such broker-dealers or agents and any profit on the resale of the shares purchased by them may be deemed to be underwriting commissions or discounts under the Securities Act.

The selling stockholders will be subject to the Exchange Act, including Regulation M, which may limit the timing of purchases and sales of common stock by the selling stockholders and their affiliates.

There can be no assurance that the selling stockholders will sell any or all of the shares of common stock registered pursuant to the registration statement of which this prospectus or any accompanying prospectus supplement forms a part.

Our common stock is listed on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol "LSE."

We entered into a registration rights agreement for the benefit of the holders of the 7.50% Convertible Senior Notes due 2027 to register our common stock into which the notes are convertible. Under the registration rights agreement, the selling stockholders and we have agreed to indemnify each other and our respective controlling persons against, and in certain circumstances to provide contribution with respect to, specific liabilities in connection with the offer and sale of the common stock, including liabilities under the Securities Act.

If required, the common stock to be sold, the names of the selling stockholders, the respective purchase prices and public offering prices, the names of any agent, dealer or underwriter and any applicable commissions or discounts with respect to a particular offer will be set forth in an accompanying prospectus supplement or, if appropriate, a post-effective amendment to the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part.

## LEGAL MATTERS

The legality of the common stock offered hereby will be passed upon for us by Hunton & Williams LLP. In addition, we have based the description of federal income tax consequences in “Federal Income Tax Consequences of Our Status as a REIT” upon the opinion of Hunton & Williams LLP.

## EXPERTS

The consolidated financial statements, the related financial statement schedules, and management’s report on the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2006 and 2005 and for the years then ended incorporated by reference in this Prospectus and Registration Statement have been audited by McGladrey & Pullen, LLP, an independent registered public accounting firm, as stated in their reports incorporated by reference herein, and are included in reliance upon such reports and upon the authority of such firm as experts in accounting and auditing.

The consolidated financial statements of CapLease, Inc. (formerly known as Capital Lease Funding, Inc.) appearing in Capital Lease Funding, Inc.’s Annual Report (Form 10-K) for the year ended December 31, 2004, have been audited by Ernst & Young LLP, independent registered public accounting firm, as set forth in their report thereon, included therein, and incorporated herein by reference. Such consolidated financial statements are incorporated herein by reference in reliance upon such report given on the authority of such firm as experts in accounting and auditing.



**Part II****INFORMATION NOT REQUIRED IN PROSPECTUS****Item 14. *Other Expenses of Issuance and Distribution***

The following table sets forth the estimated expenses in connection with the registration and sale of the common stock being registered hereby, all of which will be paid by us:

Registration Fee	\$ 2,058
Legal Fees and Expenses	5,000
Accounting Fees and Expenses	15,000
Miscellaneous	2,942
Total	\$ 25,000

**Item 15. *Indemnification of Directors and Officers***

The Maryland General Corporation Law permits a Maryland corporation to include in its charter a provision limiting the liability of its directors and officers to the corporation and its stockholders for money damages except for liability resulting from (a) actual receipt of an improper benefit or profit in money, property or services or (b) active and deliberate dishonesty established by a final judgment as being material to the cause of action. Our charter contains a provision which limits the liability of our directors and officers to the maximum extent permitted by Maryland law.

Our charter permits us, to the maximum extent permitted by Maryland law, to obligate ourselves to indemnify and to pay or reimburse reasonable expenses in advance of the final disposition of a proceeding to (a) any present or former director or officer or (b) any individual who, while a director and at our request, serves or has served another real estate investment trust, corporation, partnership, joint venture, trust, employee benefit plan or any other enterprise as a trustee, director, officer or partner of such real estate investment trust, corporation, partnership, joint venture, trust, employee benefit plan or other enterprise from and against any claim or liability to which such person may become subject or which such person may incur by reason of his status as a present or former director or officer of our company. Our bylaws obligate us, to the maximum extent permitted by Maryland law, to indemnify and to pay or reimburse reasonable expenses in advance of the final disposition of a proceeding to (a) any present or former director or officer who is made a party to the proceeding by reason of his service in that capacity or (b) any individual who, while a director of our company and at our request, serves or has served another real estate investment trust, corporation, partnership, joint venture, trust, employee benefit plan or other enterprise as a trustee, director, officer or partner of such real estate investment trust, corporation, partnership, joint venture, trust, employee benefit plan or other enterprise and who is made a party to the proceeding by reason of his service in that capacity. Our charter and bylaws also permit us to indemnify and advance expenses to any person who served a predecessor of our company in any of the capacities described above and to any employee or agent of our company or a predecessor of our company.

The Maryland General Corporation Law requires a corporation (unless its charter provides otherwise, which our charter does not) to indemnify a director or officer who has been successful, on the merits or otherwise, in the defense of any proceeding to which he is made a party by reason of his service in that capacity. The Maryland General Corporation Law permits a corporation to indemnify its present and former directors and officers, among others, against judgments, penalties, fines, settlements and reasonable expenses actually incurred by them in connection with any proceeding to which they may be a party by reason of their service in those or other capacities unless it is established that (a) the act or omission of the director or officer was material to the matter giving rise to the proceeding and (i) was committed in bad faith or (ii) was a result of active and deliberate dishonesty, (b) the director

or officer actually received an improper personal benefit in money, property or services or (c) in the case of any criminal proceeding, the director or officer had reasonable cause to believe that the act or omission was unlawful. However, a Maryland corporation may not indemnify for an adverse judgment in a suit by or in the right of the corporation or for a judgment of liability on the basis that personal benefit was improperly received unless, in either case, a court orders indemnification, and then only for expenses. The Maryland General Corporation Law permits a corporation to advance reasonable expenses to a director or officer upon the corporation's receipt of (a) a written affirmation by the director or officer of his good faith belief that he has met the standard of conduct necessary for indemnification by the corporation and (b) a written undertaking by him or on his behalf to repay the amount paid or advanced by the corporation if it shall ultimately be determined that the standard of conduct was not met.

II-1

---

It is the position of the Securities and Exchange Commission that indemnification of directors and officers for liabilities arising under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, is against public policy and is unenforceable pursuant to Section 14 of such act.

We also maintain insurance on behalf of all of our directors and executive officers against liability asserted against or incurred by them in their official capacities with us, whether or not we are required or have the power to indemnify them against the same liability.

**Item 16. Exhibits**

The Exhibits to this Registration Statement are listed on the exhibit index, which appears elsewhere herein and is incorporated herein by reference.

**Item 17. Undertakings**

(a) The undersigned Registrant hereby undertakes:

(1) To file, during any period in which offers or sales are being made, a post-effective amendment to this registration statement:

(i) To include any prospectus required by Section 10(a)(3) of the Securities Act of 1933;

(ii) To reflect in the prospectus any facts or events arising after the effective date of the registration statement (or the most recent post-effective amendment thereof) which, individually or in the aggregate, represent a fundamental change in the information set forth in this registration statement. Notwithstanding the foregoing, any increase or decrease in volume of securities offered (if the total dollar value of securities offered would not exceed that which was registered) and any deviation from the low or high end of the estimated maximum offering range may be reflected in the form of prospectus filed with the Commission pursuant to Rule 424(b) if, in the aggregate, the changes in volume and price represent no more than a 20 percent change in the maximum aggregate offering price set forth in the "Calculation of Registration Fee" table in the effective registration statement; and

(iii) To include any material information with respect to the plan of distribution not previously disclosed in the registration statement or any material change to such information in this registration statement;

*provided, however,* that subparagraphs (i), (ii) and (iii) above shall not apply if the information required to be included in a post-effective amendment by those paragraphs is contained in the periodic reports filed with or furnished to the Commission by the Registrant pursuant to Section 13 or Section 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 that are incorporated by reference in this registration statement, or is contained in a prospectus filed pursuant to Rule 424(b) that is part of the registration statement.

(2) That, for the purpose of determining any liability under the Securities Act of 1933, each such post-effective amendment shall be deemed to be a new registration statement relating to the securities offered herein, and the offering of such securities at that time shall be deemed to be the initial *bona fide* offering thereof.

(3) To remove from registration by means of a post-effective amendment any of the securities being registered which remain unsold at the termination of the offering.

(4) That, for the purpose of determining liability under the Securities Act of 1933 to any purchaser:

(i) Each prospectus filed by a Registrant pursuant to Rule 424(b)(3) shall be deemed to be part of the registration statement as of the date the filed prospectus was deemed part of and included in the registration statement: and

(ii) Each prospectus required to be filed pursuant to Rule 424(b)(2), (b)(5) or (b)(7) as part of a registration statement in reliance on Rule 430B relating to an offering made pursuant to Rule 415(a)(1)(i), (vii) or (x) for the purpose of providing the information required by Section 10(a) of the Securities Act of 1933 shall be deemed to be part of and included in the registration statement as of the earlier of the date such form of prospectus is first used after effectiveness or the date of the first contract of sale of securities in the offering described in the prospectus. As provided in Rule 430B, for liability purposes of the issuer and any person that is at that date an underwriter, such date shall be deemed to be a new effective date of the registration statement relating to the securities in the registration statement to which the prospectus relates, and the offering of such securities at that time shall be deemed to be the initial *bona fide* offering thereof. Provided, however, that no statement made in a registration statement or prospectus that is part of the registration statement or made in a document incorporated or deemed incorporated by reference into the registration statement or prospectus that is part of the registration statement will, as to a purchaser with a time of contract of sale prior to such effective date, supersede or modify any statement that was made in the registration statement or prospectus that was part of the registration statement or made in any such document immediately prior to such effective date.

(5) That, for the purpose of determining liability of the Registrant under the Securities Act of 1933 to any purchaser in the initial distribution of the securities, the undersigned Registrant undertakes that in a primary offering of securities of the undersigned Registrant pursuant to this registration statement, regardless of the underwriting method used to sell the securities to the purchaser, if the securities are offered or sold to such purchaser by means of any to the following communications, the undersigned Registrant will be a seller to the purchaser and will be considered to offer or sell such securities to such purchaser:

(i) Any preliminary prospectus or prospectus of the undersigned Registrant relating to the offering required to be filed pursuant to Rule 424;

(ii) Any free writing prospectus relating to the offering prepared by or on behalf of the undersigned Registrant or used or referred to by the undersigned Registrant;

(iii) The portion of any other free writing prospectus relating to the offering containing material information about the undersigned Registrant or its securities provided by or on behalf of the undersigned Registrant; and

(iv) Any other communication that is an offer in the offering made by the undersigned Registrant to the purchaser.

(b) That, for the purposes of determining any liability under the Securities Act of 1933, each filing of the Registrant's annual report pursuant to Section 13(a) or Section 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 that is incorporated by reference in this registration statement shall be deemed to be a new registration statement relating to the securities offered herein, and the offering of such securities at that time shall be deemed to be the initial *bona fide* offering thereof.

(c) Insofar as indemnification for liabilities arising under the Securities Act of 1933 may be permitted to directors, officers and controlling persons of the Registrant pursuant to existing provisions or arrangements whereby the Registrant may indemnify a director, officer or controlling person of the Registrant against liabilities arising under the Securities Act of 1933, or otherwise, the Registrant has been advised that in the opinion of the Securities and Exchange Commission such indemnification is against public policy as expressed in the Securities Act of 1933 and is, therefore, unenforceable. In the event that a claim for indemnification against such liabilities (other than the payment by the Registrant of expenses incurred or paid by a director, officer or controlling person of the Registrant in the successful defense of any action, suit or proceeding) is asserted by such director, officer or controlling person in connection with the securities being registered, the Registrant will, unless in the opinion of its counsel the matter has been settled by controlling precedent, submit to a court of appropriate jurisdiction the question whether such indemnification by it is against public policy as expressed in the Securities Act of 1933 and will be governed by the final adjudication of such issue.

**SIGNATURES**

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act of 1933, the Registrant certifies that it has reasonable grounds to believe that it meets all of the requirements for filing on Form S-3 and has duly caused this Registration Statement to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized, in the City of New York, State of New York, on January 14, 2008.

**CAPLEASE, INC.**

(Registrant)

By: /s/ Paul H.  
McDowell  
**Paul H. McDowell**  
**Chairman of the Board**  
**and Chief Executive**  
**Officer**

**POWER OF ATTORNEY**

We, the undersigned directors and officers of CapLease, Inc., a Maryland corporation, do hereby constitute and appoint Paul H. McDowell, Shawn P. Seale and Paul C. Hughes and each and any of them, our true and lawful attorneys-in-fact and agents, with full power of substitution and resubstitution, to do any and all acts and things in our names and on our behalf in our capacities as directors and officers and to execute any and all instruments for us and in our name in the capacities indicated below, which said attorneys and agents may deem necessary or advisable to enable said corporation to comply with the Securities Act of 1933 and any rules, regulations and requirements of the Securities and Exchange Commission, in connection with this Registration Statement, or any registration statement for this offering that is to be effective upon filing pursuant to Rule 462(b) under the Securities Act of 1933, including specifically, but without limitation, any and all amendments (including post-effective amendments) hereto; and we hereby ratify and confirm all that said attorneys and agents, or any of them, shall do or cause to be done by virtue thereof.

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act of 1933, the registration statement has been signed by the following persons in the capacities indicated on January 14, 2008.

<b>Signature</b>	<b>Title</b>
/s/ Paul H. McDowell Paul H. McDowell	Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer (Principal Executive Officer)
/s/ William R. Pollert William R. Pollert	Director and President
/s/ Shawn P. Seale Shawn P. Seale	Senior Vice President, Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer (Principal Financial Officer)
/s/ John E. Warch John E. Warch	Senior Vice President and Chief Accounting Officer (Principal Accounting Officer)

Edgar Filing: CapLease, Inc. - Form S-3

/s/ Michael E. Gagliardi Michael E. Gagliardi	Director
/s/ Stanley Kreitman Stanley Kreitman	Director
/s/ Jeffrey F. Rogatz Jeffrey F. Rogatz	Director
/s/ Howard A. Silver Howard A. Silver	Director

II-4

---

**EXHIBIT INDEX**

<b>Exhibit Number</b>	<b>Description</b>
4.1	Amended and Restated Articles of Incorporation (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3.1 to the Registrant's Amendment No. 4 to Registration Statement on Form S-11 filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on March 8, 2004)
4.2	Articles Supplementary Establishing the Rights and Preferences of the 8.125% Series A Cumulative Redeemable Preferred Stock of the Registrant (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3.2 to the Registrant's Registration Statement on Form 8-A filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on October 17, 2005)
4.3	Articles of Amendment to Articles of Incorporation (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3.1 to the Registrant's Form 8-K filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on July 31, 2007)
4.4	Amended and Restated Bylaws (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3.2 to the Registrant's Amendment No. 4 to Registration Statement on Form S-11 filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on March 8, 2004)
4.5	First Amendment to Amended and Restated Bylaws (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3.2 to the Registrant's Form 8-K filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on July 31, 2007)
4.6	First Amended and Restated Limited Partnership Agreement of Caplease, LP, dated June 13, 2006
4.7	Indenture, dated as of October 9, 2007, by and among the Registrant, Caplease, LP, Caplease Debt Funding, LP, Caplease Services Corp., Caplease Credit LLC, and Deutsche Bank Trust Company Americas, as trustee (including form of 7.50% Convertible Senior Notes due 2027) (incorporated by reference from Exhibit 4 to the Registrant's Form 8-K filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on October 9, 2007)
5.1	Opinion of Hunton & Williams LLP regarding the legality of the securities being registered
8.1	Opinion of Hunton & Williams LLP regarding certain tax matters
10.1	Registration Rights Agreement, dated as of October 9, 2007, between the Registrant and Deutsche Bank Securities Inc. (incorporated by reference from Exhibit 10 to the Registrant's Form 8-K filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on October 9, 2007)
23.1	Consent of McGladrey & Pullen LLP
23.2	Consent of Ernst & Young LLP
23.3	Consent of Hunton & Williams LLP (included as part of Exhibit 5.1)
23.4	Consent of Hunton & Williams LLP (included as part of Exhibit 8.1)
24.1	Powers of Attorney (included on signature page)
II-5	



