

CALAMOS STRATEGIC TOTAL RETURN FUND  
 Form 5  
 December 12, 2008

**FORM 5**

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

OMB APPROVAL  
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Check this box if no longer subject to Section 16. Form 4 or Form 5 obligations may continue. See Instruction 1(b).  
 Form 3 Holdings Reported Form 4 Transactions Reported

**ANNUAL STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF SECURITIES**

Filed pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, Section 17(a) of the Public Utility Holding Company Act of 1935 or Section 30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person \*  
 CALAMOS JOHN P SR

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol  
 CALAMOS STRATEGIC TOTAL RETURN FUND [CSQ]

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer  
 (Check all applicable)

(Last) (First) (Middle)

3. Statement for Issuer's Fiscal Year Ended (Month/Day/Year)  
 10/31/2008

Director  10% Owner  
 Officer (give title below)  Other (specify below)  
 President and Chairman

2020 CALAMOS COURT  
 (Street)

4. If Amendment, Date Original Filed(Month/Day/Year)

6. Individual or Joint/Group Reporting  
 (check applicable line)

NAPERVILLE, IL 60563

Form Filed by One Reporting Person  
 Form Filed by More than One Reporting Person

(City) (State) (Zip)

**Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned**

1. Title of Security (Instr. 3)	2. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year)	2A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year)	3. Transaction Code (Instr. 8)	4. Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5)	5. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned at end of Issuer's Fiscal Year (Instr. 3 and 4)	6. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4)	7. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4)
Common	Â	Â	Â	Â Â Â	108,272.562 (1)	I	by John P. Calamos 1985 Trust
Common	Â	Â	Â	Â Â Â	45,800	I	by J&L Capital LLC (2)

Reminder: Report on a separate line for each class of securities beneficially owned directly or indirectly.

**Persons who respond to the collection of information contained in this form are not required to respond unless**

SEC 2270 (9-02)

the form displays a currently valid OMB control number.

Table II - Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned (e.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities)

Table with 9 columns: 1. Title of Derivative Security (Instr. 3), 2. Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative Security, 3. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year), 3A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year), 4. Transaction Code (Instr. 8), 5. Number of Derivative Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4, and 5), 6. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year), 7. Title and Amount of Underlying Securities (Instr. 3 and 4), 8. Price of Derivative Security (Instr. 5), 9. (partially visible). Sub-headers include Date Exercisable, Expiration Date, Title, Amount or Number of Shares.

Reporting Owners

Table with 2 main columns: Reporting Owner Name / Address and Relationships. Reporting Owner Name / Address: CALAMOS JOHN P SR, 2020 CALAMOS COURT, NAPERVILLE, IL 60563. Relationships: Director (X), 10% Owner, Officer, Other.

Signatures

/s/ John P. Calamos, Sr. 12/12/2008

\*\*Signature of Reporting Person Date

Explanation of Responses:

- \* If the form is filed by more than one reporting person, see Instruction 4(b)(v).
\*\* Intentional misstatements or omissions of facts constitute Federal Criminal Violations. See 18 U.S.C. 1001 and 15 U.S.C. 78ff(a).
(1) Includes 11,261.742 shares acquired between November 2007 and October 2008 under the Calamos Strategic Total Return Fund dividend reinvestment plan.
(2) The reporting person is managing member of the limited liability company that owns the reported securities. The reporting person disclaims beneficial ownership of the reported securities except to the extent of his pecuniary interest therein.

Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed. If space provided is insufficient, see Instruction 6 for procedure. Potential persons who are to respond to the collection of information contained in this form are not required to respond unless the form displays a currently valid OMB number.