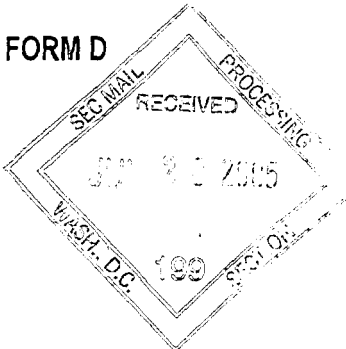


FORM D



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

Table with OMB APPROVAL, OMB Number: 3235-0076, Expires: May 31, 2005, Estimated average burden hours per form: 1.00

FORM D

NOTICE OF SALE OF SECURITIES PURSUANT TO REGULATION D, SECTION 4(6), AND/OR UNIFORM LIMITED OFFERING EXEMPTION

Table with SEC USE ONLY, Prefix, Serial, DATE RECEIVED

Name of Offering (X check if this is an amendment and name has changed, and indicate change.) CLIFFWOOD ABSOLUTE RETURN STRATEGY LTD. (f/k/a CLIFFWOOD SELECT EQUITY FUND LTD.) (the "Issuer")

Filing Under (Check box(es) that apply): Rule 504, Rule 505, X Rule 506, Section 4(6), ULOE. Type of Filing: New Filing, X Amendment

A. BASIC IDENTIFICATION DATA

1. Enter the information requested about the issuer

Name of Issuer (X check if this is an amendment and name has changed, and indicate change.) CLIFFWOOD ABSOLUTE RETURN STRATEGY LTD. (f/k/a CLIFFWOOD SELECT EQUITY FUND LTD.)

Address of Executive Offices (Number and Street, City, State, ZIP Code) Telephone Number (including Area Code) c/o CITCO Fund Services (Cayman Islands) Limited, P.O. Box 31106, Corporate Centre, West Bay Road, Grand Cayman, Cayman Islands, British West Indies, Attn: Desiree Sampang-Ebanks (345) 949-3877

Address of Principal Business Operations (Number and Street, City, State, ZIP Code) Telephone Number (Including Area Code) (if different from Executive Offices) same as above Same as above

Brief Description of Business To achieve long-term capital growth by investing primarily in both long and short positions in publicly traded real estate equity securities and to preserve capital.

Type of Business Organization: corporation, limited partnership, already formed, X other (please specify): Cayman Islands exempted company, business trust, limited partnership, to be formed

Actual or Estimated Date of Incorporation or Organization: Month 08, Year 00, X Actual, Estimated. Jurisdiction of Incorporation or Organization: (Enter two-letter U.S. Postal Service abbreviation for State: CN for Canada; FN for other foreign jurisdiction) F N



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THOMSON FINANCIAL

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

Federal: Who Must File: All issuers making an offering of securities in reliance on an exemption under Regulation D or Section 4(6), 17 CFR 230.501 et seq. or 15 U.S.C. 77d(6).

When to File: A notice must be filed no later than 15 days after the first sale of securities in the offering. A notice is deemed filed with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) on the earlier of the date it is received by the SEC at the address given below or, if received at that address after the date on which it is due, on the date it was mailed by United States registered or certified mail to that address.

Where to File: U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission, 450 Fifth Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20549.

Copies Required: Five (5) copies of this notice must be filed with the SEC, one of which must be manually signed. Any copies not manually signed must be photocopies of the manually signed copy or bear typed or printed signatures.

Information Required: A new filing must contain all information requested. Amendments need only report the name of the issuer and offering, any changes thereto, the information requested in Part C, and any material changes from the information previously supplied in Parts A and B. Part E and the Appendix need not be filed with the SEC.

Filing Fee: There is no federal filing fee.

State: This notice shall be used to indicate reliance on the Uniform Limited Offering Exemption (ULOE) for sales of securities in those states that have adopted ULOE and that have adopted this form. Issuers relying on ULOE must file a separate notice with the Securities Administrator in each state where sales are to be, or have been made. If a state requires the payment of a fee as a precondition to the claim for the exemption, a fee in the proper amount shall accompany this form. This notice shall be filed in the appropriate states in accordance with state law. The Appendix to the notice constitutes a part of this notice and must be completed.

ATTENTION Failure to file notice in the appropriate states will not result in a loss of the federal exemption. Conversely, failure to file the appropriate federal notice will not result in a loss of an available state exemption unless such exemption is predicated on the filing of a federal notice.

A. BASIC IDENTIFICATION DATA

2. Enter the information requested for the following:

- Each promoter of the issuer, if the issuer has been organized within the past five years;
- Each beneficial owner having the power to vote or dispose, or direct the vote or disposition of, 10% or more of a class of equity securities of the issuer;
- Each executive officer and director of corporate issuers and of corporate general and managing partners of partnership issuers; and
- Each general and managing partner of partnership issuers.

Check Box(es) that Apply: Promoter Beneficial Owner Executive Officer Director General and/or Managing Partner

Full Name (Last name first, if individual)
Cliffwood Partners LLC (the "Sponsor")

Business or Residence Address (Number and Street, City, State, Zip Code)
11726 San Vicente Boulevard, Suite 600, Los Angeles, California 90049

Check Box(es) that Apply: Promoter Beneficial Owner Executive Officer Director General and/or Managing Partner

Full Name (Last name first, if individual)
CFS Company Ltd.

Business or Residence Address (Number and Street, City, State, Zip Code)
c/o CITCO Fund Services (Cayman Islands) Limited, P.O. Box 31106, Corporate Centre, West Bay Road, Grand Cayman, Cayman Islands, British West Indies, Attn: Desiree Sampang-Ebanks

Check Box(es) that Apply: Promoter Beneficial Owner Executive Officer Director General and/or Managing Partner

Full Name (Last name first, if individual)
CTC Corporation Ltd.

Business or Residence Address (Number and Street, City, State, Zip Code)
c/o CITCO Fund Services (Cayman Islands) Limited, P.O. Box 31106, Corporate Centre, West Bay Road, Grand Cayman, Cayman Islands, British West Indies, Attn: Desiree Sampang-Ebanks

Check Box(es) that Apply: Promoter Beneficial Owner Executive Officer Director General and/or Managing Partner

Full Name (Last name first, if individual)
Tash, Carl

Business or Residence Address (Number and Street, City, State, Zip Code)
c/o Cliffwood Partners LLC, 11726 San Vicente Boulevard, Suite 600, Los Angeles, California 90049

Check Box(es) that Apply: Promoter Beneficial Owner Executive Officer Director General and/or Managing Partner

Full Name (Last name first, if individual)
Pepperdine University

Business or Residence Address (Number and Street, City, State, Zip Code)
24255 Pacific Coast Highway, Malibu, California 90263-4525

Check Box(es) that Apply: Promoter Beneficial Owner Executive Officer Director General and/or Managing Partner

Full Name (Last name first, if individual)

Business or Residence Address (Number and Street, City, State, Zip Code)

Check Box(es) that Apply: Promoter Beneficial Owner Executive Officer Director General and/or Managing Partner

Full Name (Last name first, if individual)

Business or Residence Address (Number and Street, City, State, Zip Code)

(Use blank sheet, or copy and use additional copies of this sheet, as necessary.)

B. INFORMATION ABOUT OFFERING

1. Has the issuer sold, or does the issuer intend to sell, to non-accredited investors in this offering? YES NO

 Answer also in Appendix, Column 2, if filing under ULOE.

2. What is the minimum investment that will be accepted from any individual? \$5,000,000*

* **Subject to the discretion of the Sponsor to lower such amount.**
 3. Does the offering permit joint ownership of a single unit? YES NO

4. Enter the information requested for each person who has been or will be paid or given, directly or indirectly, any commission or similar remuneration for solicitation of purchasers in connection with sales of securities in the offering. If a person to be listed is an associated person or agent of a broker or dealer registered with the SEC and/or with a state or states, list the name of the broker or dealer. If more than five (5) persons to be listed are associated persons of such a broker or dealer, you may set forth the information for that broker or dealer only.

Full Name (Last name first, if individual)

Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Incorporated

Business or Residence Address (Number and Street, City, State, Zip Code)

4 World Financial Center, New York, New York 10281

Name of Associated Broker or Dealer

States in Which Person Listed Has Solicited or Intends to Solicit Purchasers

(Check "All States" or check individual States)..... All States
 [AL] [AK] [AZ] [AR] [CA] [CO] [CT] [DE] [DC] [FL] [GA] [HI] [ID]
 [IL] [IN] [IA] [KS] [KY] [LA] [ME] [MD] [MA] [MI] [MN] [MS] [MO]
 [MT] [NE] [NV] [NH] [NJ] [NM] [NY] [NC] [ND] [OH] [OK] [OR] [PA]
 [RI] [SC] [SD] [TN] [TX] [UT] [VT] [VA] [WA] [WV] [WI] [WY] [PR]

Full Name (Last name first, if individual)

Business or Residence Address (Number and Street, City, State, Zip Code)

Name of Associated Broker or Dealer

States in Which Person Listed Has Solicited or Intends to Solicit Purchasers

(Check "All States" or check individual States)..... All States
 [AL] [AK] [AZ] [AR] [CA] [CO] [CT] [DE] [DC] [FL] [GA] [HI] [ID]
 [IL] [IN] [IA] [KS] [KY] [LA] [ME] [MD] [MA] [MI] [MN] [MS] [MO]
 [MT] [NE] [NV] [NH] [NJ] [NM] [NY] [NC] [ND] [OH] [OK] [OR] [PA]
 [RI] [SC] [SD] [TN] [TX] [UT] [VT] [VA] [WA] [WV] [WI] [WY] [PR]

Full Name (Last name first, if individual)

Business or Residence Address (Number and Street, City, State, Zip Code)

Name of Associated Broker or Dealer

States in Which Person Listed Has Solicited or Intends to Solicit Purchasers

(Check "All States" or check individual States)..... All States
 [AL] [AK] [AZ] [AR] [CA] [CO] [CT] [DE] [DC] [FL] [GA] [HI] [ID]
 [IL] [IN] [IA] [KS] [KY] [LA] [ME] [MD] [MA] [MI] [MN] [MS] [MO]
 [MT] [NE] [NV] [NH] [NJ] [NM] [NY] [NC] [ND] [OH] [OK] [OR] [PA]
 [RI] [SC] [SD] [TN] [TX] [UT] [VT] [VA] [WA] [WV] [WI] [WY] [PR]

(Use blank sheet, or copy and use additional copies of this sheet, as necessary.)

C. OFFERING PRICE, NUMBER OF INVESTORS, EXPENSES AND USE OF PROCEEDS

1. Enter the aggregate offering price of securities included in this offering and the total amount already sold. Enter "0" if answer is "none" or "zero." If the transaction is an exchange offering, check this box and indicate in the columns below the amounts of the securities offered for exchange and already exchanged.

| Type of Security | Aggregate Offering Price | Amount Already Sold |
|--|--------------------------|------------------------|
| Debt | \$0 | \$0 |
| Equity | \$0 | \$0 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Common <input type="checkbox"/> Preferred | | |
| Convertible Securities (including warrants) | \$0 | \$0 |
| Partnership Interests | \$0 | \$0 |
| Other (Specify <u>Redeemable Participating Shares</u>) | \$250,000,000(a) | \$31,662,536.92 |
| Total | \$250,000,000(a) | \$31,662,536.92 |

Answer also in Appendix, Column 3, if filing under ULOE.

2. Enter the number of accredited and non-accredited investors who have purchased securities in this offering and the aggregate dollar amounts of their purchases. For offerings under Rule 504, indicate the number of persons who have purchased securities and the aggregate dollar amount of their purchases on the total lines. Enter "0" if answer is "none" or "zero."

| | Number Investors | Aggregate Dollar Amount of Purchases |
|--|------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Accredited Investors | 5 | \$31,662,536.92 |
| Non-accredited investors | 0 | \$0 |
| Total (for filings under Rule 504 only) | N/A | \$N/A |

Answer also in Appendix, Column 4, if filing under ULOE.

3. If this filing is for an offering under Rule 504 or 505, enter the information requested for all securities sold by the issuer, to date, in offerings of the types indicated, in the twelve (12) months prior to the first sale of securities in this offering. Classify securities by type listed in Part C - Question 1.

| Type of offering | Type of Security | Dollar Amount Sold |
|--------------------|------------------|--------------------|
| Rule 505 | N/A | \$N/A |
| Regulation A | N/A | \$N/A |
| Rule 504 | N/A | \$N/A |
| Total | N/A | \$N/A |

4. a. Furnish a statement of all expenses in connection with the issuance and distribution of the securities in this offering. Exclude amounts relating solely to organization expenses of the issuer. The information may be given as subject to future contingencies. If the amount of an expenditure is not known, furnish an estimate and check the box to the left of the estimate.

| | | |
|--|-------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Transfer Agent's Fees | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | \$0 |
| Printing and Engraving Costs | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | \$10,000 |
| Legal Fees | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | \$40,000 |
| Accounting Fees | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | \$20,000 |
| Engineering Fees | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | \$0 |
| Sales Commissions (specify finders' fees separately) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | \$0 |
| Other Expenses (identify) <u>Filing Fees</u> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | \$5,000 |
| Total | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | \$75,000 |

(a) Open-end fund; estimated maximum aggregate offering amount.

C. OFFERING PRICE, NUMBER OF INVESTORS, EXPENSES AND USE OF PROCEEDS

b. Enter the difference between the aggregate offering price given in response to Part C - Question 1 and total expenses furnished in response to Part C - Question 4.a. This difference is the "adjusted gross proceed proceeds to the issuer."

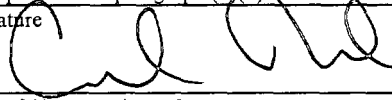
\$249,925,000 _____

5. Indicate below the amount of the adjusted gross proceeds to the issuer used or proposed to be used for each of the purposes shown. If the amount for any purpose is not known, furnish an estimate and check the box to the left of the estimate. The total of the payments listed must equal the adjusted gross proceeds to the issuer set forth in response to Part C - Question 4.b above.

| | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Payments to Officers, Directors, & Affiliates | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Payments to Others |
|---|-------------------------------------|--|-------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Salaries and fees..... | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | \$0 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | \$0 |
| Purchase of real estate..... | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | \$0 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | \$0 |
| Purchase, rental or leasing and installation of machinery and equipment..... | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | \$0 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | \$0 |
| Construction or leasing of plant buildings and facilities..... | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | \$0 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | \$0 |
| Acquisition of other businesses (including the value of securities involved in this offering that may be used in exchange for the assets or securities of another issuer pursuant to a merger)..... | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | \$0 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | \$0 |
| Repayment of indebtedness..... | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | \$0 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | \$0 |
| Working capital..... | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | \$0 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | \$0 |
| Other (specify): <u>Portfolio Investments</u> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | \$0 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | \$249,925,000 |
| | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | \$0 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | \$0 |
| Column Totals..... | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | \$0 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | \$249,925,000 |
| Total Payments Listed (column totals added)..... | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | \$249,925,000 | | |

D. FEDERAL SIGNATURE

The issuer has duly caused this notice to be signed by the undersigned duly authorized person. If this notice is filed under Rule 505, the following signature constitutes an undertaking by the issuer to furnish to the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission, upon written request of its staff, the information furnished by the issuer to any non-accredited investor pursuant to paragraph (b)(2) of Rule 502.

| | | |
|--|---|------------------------------|
| Issuer (Print or Type) CLIFFWOOD ABSOLUTE RETURN STRATEGY LTD. | Signature  | Date July 26, 2005 |
| Name of Signer (Print or Type) Carl B. Tash | Title of Signer (Print or Type) Chief Executive Officer of the Sponsor | |

ATTENTION

Intentional misstatements or omissions of fact constitute federal criminal violations. (See 18 U.S.C. 1001).