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

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ANNUAL AUDITED REPORT
FORM X-17A-5/A
PART III

SEC FILE NUMBER
8- [redacted]

8-50854

FACING PAGE

Information Required of Brokers and Dealers Pursuant to Section 17 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and Rule 17a-5 Thereunder

REPORT FOR THE PERIOD BEGINNING 1/1/09 (MM/DD/YY) AND ENDING 12/31/09 (MM/DD/YY)

A. REGISTRANT IDENTIFICATION

NAME OF BROKER-DEALER: Arete Wealth Management LLC

OFFICIAL USE ONLY
FIRM I.D. NO.

ADDRESS OF PRINCIPAL PLACE OF BUSINESS: (Do not use P.O. Box No.)

9 Crystal Lake Road, Suite 100
(No. and Street)

Lake in the Hills	IL	60156
(City)	(State)	(Zip Code)

NAME AND TELEPHONE NUMBER OF PERSON TO CONTACT IN REGARD TO THIS REPORT

(Area Code – Telephone Number)

B. ACCOUNTANT IDENTIFICATION

INDEPENDENT PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT whose opinion is contained in this Report*

Ostrow Reisin Berk & Abrams, Ltd.
(Name – *if individual, state last, first, middle name*)

455 N. Cityfront Plaza	Chicago	IL	60611
(Address)	(City)	(State)	(Zip Code)

CHECK ONE:

☒ Certified Public Accountant
☐ Public Accountant
☐ Accountant not resident in United States or any of its possessions.

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

**Claims for exemption from the requirement that the annual report be covered by the opinion of an independent public accountant must be supported by a statement of facts and circumstances relied on as the basis for the exemption. See Section 240.17a-5(e)(2)*

SEC 1410 (06-02)

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 control number.

AG 5/10

OATH OR AFFIRMATION

I, Joshua D. Rogers, swear (or affirm) that, to the best of my knowledge and belief the accompanying financial statement and supporting schedules pertaining to the firm of Arete Wealth Management LLC, as of December 31, 20 09, are true and correct. I further swear (or affirm) that neither the company nor any partner, proprietor, principal officer or director has any proprietary interest in any account classified solely as that of a customer, except as follows:

Signature

President

Title

OFFICIAL SEAL
SHEREE L MATLOCK
Notary Public - State of Illinois
My Commission Expires Aug 28, 2013

Sheree L. Matlock

Notary Public

This report ** contains (check all applicable boxes):

- ☒ (a) Facing Page.
- ☒ (b) Statement of Financial Condition.
- ☒ (c) Statement of Income (Loss).
- ☒ (d) Statement of Changes in Financial Condition.
- ☒ (e) Statement of Changes in Stockholders' Equity or Partners' or Sole Proprietors' Capital.
- ☐ (f) Statement of Changes in Liabilities Subordinated to Claims of Creditors.
- ☒ (g) Computation of Net Capital.
- ☒ (h) Computation for Determination of Reserve Requirements Pursuant to Rule 15c3-3.
- ☒ (i) Information Relating to the Possession or Control Requirements Under Rule 15c3-3.
- ☐ (j) A Reconciliation, including appropriate explanation of the Computation of Net Capital Under Rule 15c3-1 and the Computation for Determination of the Reserve Requirements Under Exhibit A of Rule 15c3-3.
- ☐ (k) A Reconciliation between the audited and unaudited Statements of Financial Condition with respect to methods of consolidation.
- ☒ (l) An Oath or Affirmation.
- ☐ (m) A copy of the SIPC Supplemental Report.
- ☒ (n) A report describing any material inadequacies found to exist or found to have existed since the date of the previous audit.

***For conditions of confidential treatment of certain portions of this filing, see section 240.17a-5(e)(3).*

ARETE WEALTH MANAGEMENT LLC

YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2009

CONTENTS

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Abrams,
Ltd.

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Independent Affiliate of BKR International

Independent Auditors' Report

Member
Arete Wealth Management LLC
Lake in the Hills, Illinois

We have audited the accompanying statement of financial condition of Arete Wealth Management LLC (the Company) as of December 31, 2009 and the related statement of income, changes in member's equity and cash flows for the year then ended. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Company's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial condition of Arete Wealth Management LLC as of December 31, 2009 and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year then ended, in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Our audit was made primarily for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the basic financial statements taken as a whole. The supplementary information is presented for purposes of additional analysis and is not a required part of the basic financial statements, but is information required by Rule 17a-5 under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934. Such information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the basic financial statements and, in our opinion, is fairly stated in all material respects in relation to the basic financial statements taken as a whole.

Ostrow Reisin Berk & Abrams, Ltd

March 16, 2010

*Also licensed to practice by the State of Florida

ARETE WEALTH MANAGEMENT LLC

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL CONDITION

December 31, 2009		
ASSETS		
Cash and cash equivalents	$	151,474
Commissions receivable		157,018
Prepaid expenses		18,987
Deposits		15,000
Total assets	$	342,479
LIABILITIES AND MEMBER'S EQUITY		
Liabilities:		
Accrued expenses	$	1,850
Commissions payable		127,276
Total liabilities		129,126
Member's equity		213,353
Total liabilities and member's equity	$	342,479

See notes to financial statements.

ARETE WEALTH MANAGEMENT LLC

STATEMENT OF INCOME

Year ended December 31, 2009	
Revenues:	
Commission income	$ 1,575,119
Management fees	45,766
Interest income	7,728
Other income	78,992
Total revenues	1,707,605
Expenses:	
Clearing and related costs	1,213,348
Management fees	112,500
Professional fees	12,739
Registration fees	24,238
Other	27,167
Total expenses	1,389,992
Net income	$ 317,613

See notes to financial statements.

ARETE WEALTH MANAGEMENT LLC

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN MEMBER'S EQUITY

Year ended December 31, 2009		
Balance, December 31, 2008	$	19,562
Member's distributions		(123,822)
Net income		317,613
Balance, December 31, 2009	$	213,353

See notes to financial statements.

ARETE WEALTH MANAGEMENT LLC

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

Year ended December 31, 2009		
Operating activities:		
Net income	$	317,613
Adjustments to reconcile net income to cash provided by operating activities:		
Changes in operating assets and liabilities:		
Commissions receivable		(150,317)
Prepaid expenses		(18,987)
Accrued expenses		(7,650)
Commissions payable		126,492
Cash provided by operating activities		267,151
Financing activity:		
Member distributions		(123,822)
Cash used in financing activity		(123,822)
Increase in cash and cash equivalents		143,329
Cash and cash equivalents, beginning of year		8,145
Cash and cash equivalents, end of year	$	151,474

See notes to financial statements.

ARETE WEALTH MANAGEMENT LLC

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

1. Organization and summary of significant accounting policies

Organization:

Arete Wealth Management LLC (the Company) is a registered securities broker-dealer with the Securities and Exchange Commission and is a member of the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority (FINRA). The Company, an Illinois limited liability corporation, was organized and began operations on January 20, 1998. The Company is headquartered in Lake in the Hills, Illinois.

The Company operates under the provisions of Paragraph (k)(2)(ii) of Rule 15c3-3 of the Securities and Exchange Commission and, accordingly, is exempt from the remaining provisions of that rule. Essentially, the requirements of Paragraph (k)(2)(ii) provide that the Company clear all transactions on behalf of customers on a fully disclosed basis with a clearing broker-dealer and promptly transmit all customer funds and securities to the clearing broker-dealer. The clearing broker-dealer carries all of the accounts of the customers and maintains and preserves all related books and records as are customarily kept by a clearing broker-dealer.

Use of estimates:

The preparation of financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities, disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities and reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting period. Accordingly, actual results could differ from those estimates.

Cash and cash equivalents:

For purposes of the statement of cash flows, the Company considers all short-term debt securities purchased with a maturity of three months or less to be cash equivalents. The Company maintains its cash in bank accounts which, at times, may exceed federally-insured limits. There have been no losses in these accounts and management believes the Company is not exposed to any significant credit risk on cash.

Commissions receivable:

Commissions receivable represents the net amount relating to commissions/trading income less clearing costs from the clearing organization. The Company considers commissions receivable to be fully collectible; accordingly, no allowance for doubtful accounts is required.

The Company typically maintains, as collateral against losses due to potential nonperformance by its customers, deposits to cover its inventory and outstanding customer positions.

1. Organization and summary of significant accounting policies (continued)

Revenue recognition:

Commissions are recorded on a trade-date basis. Securities transactions and related revenue and expenses are recorded on a trade-date basis.

Income taxes:

The Company is a limited liability company and is taxed as a partnership under the provisions of the Internal Revenue Code. Under these provisions, the Company is not required to pay federal income tax on its income. Instead, the member of the Company is liable for federal and state income taxes on its taxable income, if any.

2. Clearing agreement

In accordance with the clearing agreement, all of the Company's property held by the clearing broker including, but not limited to, securities, deposits, monies and receivables, are used as collateral to secure the Company's liabilities and obligations to the clearing broker.

The Company typically maintains, as collateral against losses due to potential nonperformance by its customers, deposits to cover its inventory and outstanding customer positions.

On December 4, 2009, the Company entered into a clearing agreement. The initial term of this agreement is five years. The agreement has a termination clause requiring payment of a lump sum figure representing the monthly clearing and execution fees for the remainder of the initial term.

3. Net capital requirement

The Company is subject to the SEC Uniform Net Capital Rule (Rule 15c3-1), which requires the maintenance of minimum net capital and requires that the ratio of aggregate indebtedness to regulatory net capital, both as defined, shall not exceed 15 to 1. At December 31, 2009, the Company had regulatory net capital of $213,353, which was $204,744 in excess of its required net capital of $8,609. At December 31, 2009, the Company's net capital ratio was 0.61 to 1. Withdrawals of capital are subject to certain notification and other provisions of the net capital rule of the SEC and other regulatory bodies.

4. Commitments

In the normal course of business, the Company executes, as agent, securities transactions on behalf of its customers. If the agency transactions do not settle because of failure to perform by either the customer or the counterparty, the Company may be obligated to discharge the obligation of the nonperforming party and, as a result, is subject to market risk if the market value of the securities is different from the contract amount of the transactions.

The Company does not anticipate nonperformance by customers or counterparties in the above situations.

5. Related party transactions

The Company is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Old Growth Capital, LLC, a Delaware holding company specializing in financial service company management. The Company paid management fees in the amount of $112,500 to the parent organization for the year ended December 31, 2009.

6. Subsequent events

Management of the Company has reviewed and evaluated subsequent events from December 31, 2009, the financial statement date, through March 16, 2010, the date the financial statements were available to be issued. No events have occurred in this period that would be required to be recognized and/or disclosed in these financial statements as required by generally accepted accounting principles.

ARETE WEALTH MANAGEMENT LLC

COMPUTATION OF NET CAPITAL UNDER RULE 15c3-1

December 31, 2009		
Computation of net capital		
Total member's equity from statement of financial condition	$	213,353
Deductions and/or charges:		
Nonallowable assets:		
Net capital before haircuts on securities positions		213,353
Haircuts on securities:		
Net capital	$	213,353
Computation of net capital requirement		
Minimum net capital required (6-2/3% of $129,126)	$	8,609
Minimum dollar net capital requirement of reporting broker or dealer	$	5,000
Net capital requirement	$	8,609
Excess net capital	$	204,744
Computation of aggregate indebtedness:		
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	$	129,126
Percentage of aggregate indebtedness to net capital		60.52%

There are no material differences between the amounts presented above and the amounts presented in the Company's December 31, 2009 unaudited FOCUS Part II Report.

ARETE WEALTH MANAGEMENT LLC

COMPUTATION FOR DETERMINATION OF RESERVE REQUIREMENTS AND INFORMATION RELATING TO THE POSSESSION AND CONTROL REQUIREMENTS UNDER RULE 15c3-3 OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

DECEMBER 31, 2009

The Company does not clear securities transactions or take possession or control of securities for customers and, therefore, is exempt from the possession or control and reserve requirements of Rule 15c3-3 under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934.

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Independent Auditors' Report on Internal Control

Member
Arete Wealth Management LLC
Lake in the Hills, Illinois

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements of Arete Wealth Management LLC (the Company) as of and for the year ended December 31, 2009, in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, we considered the Company's internal control over financial reporting (internal control) as a basis for designing our auditing procedures for the purpose of expressing our opinion on the financial statements, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Company's internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the Company's internal control.

Also, as required by Rule 17a-5(g)(1) of the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), we made a study of the practices and procedures followed by the Company, including consideration of control activities for safeguarding securities. This study includes tests of compliance with such practices and procedures that we considered relevant to the objectives stated in Rule 17a-5(g)(1) in making the periodic computations of aggregate indebtedness and net capital under Rule 17a-3(a)(11) and the procedures for determining compliance with the exemptive provisions of Rule 15c3-3. Because the Company does not carry securities accounts for customers or perform custodial functions relating to customer securities, we did not review the practices and procedures followed by the Company in any of the following:

1. Making quarterly securities examinations, counts, verifications and comparisons.

2. Recordation of differences required by Rule 17a-13.

3. Complying with the requirements for prompt payment for securities under Section 8 of Federal Reserve Regulation T of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System.

*Also licensed to practice by the State of Florida

The management of the Company is responsible for establishing and maintaining a system of internal control including the practices and procedures referred to in the preceding paragraph. In fulfilling this responsibility, estimates and judgments by management are required to assess the expected benefits and related costs of controls, and of the practices and procedures referred to in the preceding paragraph and to assess whether those practices and procedures can be expected to achieve the SEC's above-mentioned objectives. Two of the objectives of internal control and the practices and procedures are to provide management with reasonable, but not absolute, assurance that assets for which the Company has responsibility are safeguarded against loss from unauthorized use or disposition and that transactions are executed in accordance with management's authorization and recorded properly to permit preparation of financial statements in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles. Rule 17a-5(g) lists additional objectives of the practices and procedures listed in the preceding paragraph.

A deficiency in internal control exists when the design or operation of a control does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent or detect and correct misstatements on a timely basis. A material weakness is a deficiency or a combination of deficiencies in internal control, such that there is a reasonable possibility that a material misstatement of the entity's financial statements will not be prevented or detected and corrected on a timely basis. We considered the following deficiency in the Company's internal control to be a material weakness:

A material amount of commissions earned in 2009, but not paid until 2010, were recorded in the improper fiscal period. Management has made all adjusting entries on their books.

Management Response

Management of the Company has instituted a policy to review journal entries on a quarterly basis to ensure that all transactions, especially commissions, are recorded accurately in the proper fiscal period. Management also has hired a new Financial and Operations Principal (FINOP) who is involved in day-to-day operations in order to ensure proper cutoff and accuracy in financial reporting.

A significant deficiency is a deficiency or a combination of deficiencies in internal control that is less severe than a material weakness, yet important enough to merit attention by those charged with governance.

Our consideration of internal control was for the limited purpose described in the first paragraph and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control that might be significant deficiencies or material weaknesses and, therefore, there can be no assurance that all such deficiencies have been identified. However, as discussed above, we identified a deficiency in internal control that we consider to be a material weakness.

We understand that practices and procedures that accomplish the objectives referred to in the second paragraph of this report are considered by the SEC to be adequate for its purposes in accordance with the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and related regulations and that practices and procedures that do not accomplish such objectives in all material respects indicate a material inadequacy for such purposes. Based on this understanding and on our study, we believe that the Company's practices and procedures were adequate at December 31, 2009 to meet the SEC's objective.

This report is intended solely for the use of the member, management, the SEC, the National Association of Securities Dealers, Inc. and other regulatory agencies which rely on Rule 17a-5(g) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 in their regulation of registered brokers and dealers and is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than these specified parties.

Ostrow Reisin Berk & Abrams, Ltd.

Chicago, Illinois
March 16, 2010

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Independent Accountants' Report on Applying Agreed-Upon Procedures Related to an Entity's SIPC Assessment Reconciliation

Member
Arete Wealth Management LLC
Lake in the Hills, Illinois

In accordance with Rule 17a-5(e)(4) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, we have performed the procedures enumerated below with respect to the accompanying Schedule of Assessment and Payments [Transitional Assessment Reconciliation (Form SIPC-7T)] to the Securities Investor Protection Corporation (SIPC) for the year ended December 31, 2009, which were agreed to by Arete Wealth Management LLC (the Company) and the Securities and Exchange Commission, Financial Industry Regulatory Authority, Inc. and SIPC, solely to assist you and the other specified parties in evaluating the Company's compliance with the applicable instructions of the Transitional Assessment Reconciliation (Form SIPC-7T). The Company's management is responsible for the Company's compliance with those requirements. This agreed-upon procedures engagement was conducted in accordance with attestation standards established by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants. The sufficiency of these procedures is solely the responsibility of those parties specified in this report. Consequently, we make no representation regarding the sufficiency of the procedures described below either for the purpose for which this report has been requested or for any other purpose. The procedures we performed and our findings are as follows:

1. Compared the listed assessment payments in Form SIPC-7T with respective cash disbursement records entries per the general ledger noting no differences;

2. Compared the amounts reported on the audited Form X-17A-5 for the year ended December 31, 2009, as amended April 27, 2010, with the amounts reported in Form SIPC-7T, as amended April 27, 2010, for the year ended December 31, 2009 noting no differences;

*Also licensed to practice by the State of Florida

3. Compared any adjustments reported in Form SIPC-7T with supporting schedules and clearing statements noting no differences; and

4. Proved the arithmetical accuracy of the calculations reflected in Form SIPC-7T and in the related schedules and working papers supporting the adjustments noting no differences.

We were not engaged to and did not conduct an examination, the objective of which would be the expression of an opinion on compliance. Accordingly, we do not express such an opinion. Had we performed additional procedures, other matters might have come to our attention that would have been reported to you.

This report is intended solely for the information and use of the specified parties listed above and is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than these specified parties.

Ostrow Reisin Berk & Abrams, Ltd.

Chicago, Illinois
April 28, 2010