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



SEC FILE NUMBER 8-65590

# **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 BEG	GINNING_	<b>01/01/09</b> MM/DD/YY	AND ENDING	T 12/31/09 MM/DD/YY
A	. REGIST	RANT IDEN	TIFICATION	
NAME OF BROKER-DEALER:				OFFICIAL USE ONLY
EMPIRICAL RESEARCH PARTNERS, LLC				FIRM I.D. NO.
ADDRESS OF PRINCIPAL PLACE 477 MADISON AVENUE	CE OF BUS E, 23 <sup>RD</sup> FLO	INESS: (Do not t	ise P.O. Box No.)	
		(No. and Street)		
NEW YORK		NY		10022
(City)		(State)		(Zip Code)
NAME AND TELEPHONE NUM	BER OF PE	ERSON TO CO	NTACT IN REGA	RD TO THIS REPORT
MICHAEL L. GOLDSTI				(212) 803-8010
В.	ACCOUN	TANT IDEN	TIFICATION	
INDEPENDENT PUBLIC ACCOUNTINE COOPERMA				is Report*
CITITITY COOTESTINE		dividual, state last. fir		
529 FIFTH AVENUE	NE	W YORK	NY	10017
(Address)		(City)	(State)	(Zip Code)
CHECK ONE:				SEC Mail Processing Section
Certified Public Accountant				Section
☐ Public Accountant ☐ Accountant not resident in Un	ited States o	r any of its posse	ssions.	MAR 0 1 2010
	FOR C	OFFICIAL US	E ONLY	Washington, DC
				120
*Claims for exemption from the requirement tha	t the annual rep	ort be covered by the	opinion of an independent	public accountant must be supported by

SEC 1410 (06-02)

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<sup>\*</sup>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)

#### **OATH OR AFFIRMATION**

I, MICHAEL L. GOLDSTEIN	_, swear (or affirm) that, to the best
of my knowledge and belief the accompanying financial statement and supporting sc	chedules pertaining to the firm of
EMPIRICAL RESEARCH PARTNERS, LLC, as of DECEMBER 31, 2009, are true and	d 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

MANAGING PARTNER

Title

CLAUDIA TAYLOR

NOTARY PUBLIC, State of New York No. 01TA5068172 Qualified in Kings County Commission Expires 10/28/20/0

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

- (a) Facing Page.
- (b) Statement of Financial Condition.
- (c) Statement of Income (Loss).
- (d) Statement of Cash Flows.
- (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.
- (I) 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.
- (o) Independent auditor's report on internal control.

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

# EMPIRICAL RESEARCH PARTNERS LLC (A Limited Liability Company) DECEMBER 31, 2009

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CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

### INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

To the Members Empirical Research Partners LLC

We have audited the accompanying statement of financial condition of Empirical Research Partners LLC (a limited liability company) as of December 31, 2009, that you are filing pursuant to Rule 17a-5 under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934. This financial statement is the responsibility of the Company's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on this financial statement 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 statement of financial condition is free of material misstatement. An audit includes consideration of internal control over financial reporting as a basis for designing audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Company's internal control over financial reporting. Accordingly, we express no such opinion. An audit also includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the statement of financial condition, assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall statement of financial condition presentation. We believe that our audit of the statement of financial condition provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, the statement of financial condition referred to above presents fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Empirical Research Partners LLC as of December 31, 2009, in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

As discussed in Note 2 to the statement of financial condition as of January 1, 2009, the Company changed its method of accounting for uncertainty in income taxes and adopted new accounting guidance for fair value measurements related to non-financial assets and liabilities.

CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTAN

February 24, 2010

# **ASSETS**

Cash and cash equivalents	\$	30,153,972
Receivable from clearing brokers		1,338,728
Commissions and fees receivable		1,088,876
Property and equipment, net of accumulated depreciation and amortization of \$863,118		237,447
Prepaid expenses and other assets		261,533
TOTAL ASSETS	\$	33,080,556
LIABILITIES AND MEMBERS' EQUITY		
Liabilities: Accrued expenses and other liabilities	\$	11,252,813
Commitment (Note 6)		
Members' equity	_	21,827,743
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND MEMBERS' EQUITY	\$_	33,080,556

### NOTE 1. ORGANIZATION

Empirical Research Partners LLC (the "Company") is a limited liability company formed pursuant to and in accordance with the Delaware Limited Liability Company Act. The Company commenced operations in 2003. The Company is a broker-dealer registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the "SEC") and is a member of the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority, Inc. ("FINRA").

The Company prepares research in the areas of portfolio strategy, quantitative modeling for stock selection, and money management business strategy, which is provided to institutional investors. These include mutual funds, banks, insurance companies, pension funds, and hedge funds. The Company is compensated and receives its fee income for its research in three ways:

- 1. Commissions earned on transactions in which the Company acts as an introducing broker. The Company shares in this revenue with its clearing brokers.
- 2. Payments from other brokerage firms representing the transfer of commissions as directed by their clients.
- 3. Payments directly from clients.

For category one, revenue is recognized on a trade-date basis, while in categories two and three, it is recognized when the research is utilized by the customer and the customer advises the Company of its usage.

# NOTE 2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

### Use of Estimates

The preparation of the statement of financial condition in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America ("GAAP") requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosures of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the statement of financial condition. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

### Property and Equipment

Property and equipment are stated at cost less accumulated depreciation and amortization. Depreciation is based on the straight-line method over the estimated useful lives of the assets. Leasehold improvements are amortized over the life of the lease.

### Concentrations of Credit Risk

The Company maintains its cash and cash equivalents at more than one commercial bank in amounts that at times may exceed the federal insurance limit.

### Cash and Cash Equivalents

The Company considers all highly liquid instruments with maturities of three months or less when purchased to be cash equivalents.

# NOTE 2 SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

# Income Taxes

As a limited liability company, the Company is not subject to federal or state income taxes. The Company's income or loss is reportable by its members on their personal income tax returns. The Company is subject to and has provided a liability for the New York City unincorporated business tax.

### Recently Adopted Accounting Pronouncements

In June 2009, the Financial Accounting Standards Board ("FASB") issued authoritative guidance that established the FASB Accounting Standards Codification ("Codification" or "ASC") as the source of authoritative GAAP recognized by the FASB to be applied to all nongovernmental entities. The Codification supersedes all of the existing accounting and reporting standards applicable to privately held companies upon its effective date and, subsequently, the FASB will not issue new standards in the form of Statements, FASB Staff Positions, or Emerging Issues Task Force Abstracts. The guidance is not intended to change or alter existing GAAP. The guidance became effective for the Company for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2009. The guidance did not have an impact on the Company's financial position, results of operations or cash flows. All references to previous numbering of FASB statements, FASB Staff Positions or Emerging Issues Task Force Abstracts have been removed from the statement of financial condition and accompanying notes.

On January 1, 2009, the Company adopted new accounting guidance found in FASB ASC 820, Fair Value Measurements and Disclosures, for nonfinancial assets and liabilities, except for items that are recognized or disclosed at fair value in the financial statements on a recurring basis (at least annually). Adoption of the new guidance did not have a material impact on the Company's statement of financial condition.

On January 1, 2009, the Company adopted the new standard for uncertainty in income taxes. The Company is required to apply the "more likely than not" threshold to the recognition and derecognition of tax positions. The standard also provides guidance on the measurement of tax positions, balance sheet classification, interest and penalties, accounting in interim periods, disclosures, and transition. Adoption of the standard did not impact the Company's statement of financial condition.

#### Commissions and Fees Receivable

Commission and fees receivable are stated at the amount the Company expects to collect. At December 31, 2009, there was no allowance for doubtful accounts. If the financial conditions of the Company's customers were to deteriorate, adversely affecting their ability to make payments, allowance for doubtful accounts would be provided.

# NOTE 2 SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

# Subsequent Events

In May 2009, the FASB issued guidance related to subsequent events, which was primarily codified into FASB ASC 855, Subsequent Events. This guidance establishes general standards of accounting for and disclosure of events that occur after the date of the statement of financial condition but before the statement of financial condition is issued. In particular, the guidance sets forth: (1) the period after the date of the statement of financial condition during which management of a reporting entity should evaluate events or transactions that may occur for potential recognition or disclosure in the statement of financial condition; (2) the circumstances under which an entity should recognize events or transactions occurring after the date of the statement of financial condition in its statement of financial condition; and (3) the disclosures that an entity should make about events or transactions that occurred after the date of the statement of financial condition.

FASB ASC 855 is effective for interim or annual periods ending after June 15, 2009, and is to be applied prospectively. The Company adopted FASB ASC 855 as of December 31, 2009. The Company has evaluated all events or transactions that occurred after December 31, 2009, up through the date that the statement of financial condition was available to be issued on February 24, 2010.

# NOTE 3. RECEIVABLE FROM CLEARING BROKERS

The clearing and depository operations for the Company's security transactions are provided primarily by brokers pursuant to clearance agreements. At December 31, 2009, the amount receivable from clearing brokers represents commissions earned as an introducing broker for the transactions of its customers.

The Company has agreed to indemnify its clearing brokers for losses that the clearing brokers may sustain from customer accounts introduced by the Company. At December 31, 2009, there were no significant unsecured amounts owed to the clearing brokers by these customers in connection with normal margin, cash, and delivery against payment transactions.

### NOTE 4. PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT

Property and equipment consisted of the following at December 31, 2009:

			Estimated Useful Life
Furniture and fixtures	\$	138,350	6 years
Computer equipment		280,747	2 years
Leasehold improvements		681,468	Lease term
•		1,100,565	
Less: accumulated depreciation	_	(863,118)	
Property and equipment, net	\$_	237,447	

### NOTE 5. EMPLOYEE BENEFIT PLAN

In 2006, the Company adopted a 401(k) retirement savings plan for all eligible employees. Under the plan, eligible participating employees may elect to contribute the maximum allowed by law. The Company may make profit-sharing contributions that are determined by the Managing Member according to a discretionary formula in an amount determined each year. Participants are fully vested in their contributions at all times, and the Company's profit-sharing contributions vest immediately. No amount for profit-sharing contributions was due at December 31, 2009.

### NOTE 6. <u>COMMITMENT</u>

The Company leases office space under a noncancelable lease expiring in September 2012. The approximate future minimum annual lease payments are as follows:

Year ending December 31:		
2010	\$	255,000
2011		255,000
2012	_	192,000
	\$	702,000

The lease contains provisions for escalations based on increases in certain costs incurred by the lessor. Rent expense was approximately \$302,512 for the year ended December 31, 2009.

"Other assets" includes a certificate of deposit that collateralizes a letter of credit for the benefit of the landlord in the approximate amount of \$61,000.

### NOTE 7. FAIR VALUE MEASUREMENTS

Pursuant to FASB ASC 820, fair value is the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date. A fair value measurement assumes that the transaction to sell the asset or transfer the liability occurs in the principal market for the asset or liability or, in the absence of a principal market, the most advantageous market. Valuation techniques that are consistent with the market, income or cost approach, as specified by FASB ASC 820, are used to measure fair value.

Using the provisions within FASB ASC 820, the Company has characterized its investments in securities, based on the order of liquidity of the inputs used to value the investments, into a three-level fair value hierarchy. The fair value hierarchy gives the highest order of liquidity to quoted prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities [Level 1], and the lowest order of liquidity to unobservable inputs [Level 3]. If the inputs used to measure the investments fall within different levels of the hierarchy, the categorization is based on the lowest level input that is significant to the fair value measurement of the investment.

# NOTE 7. FAIR VALUE MEASUREMENTS (CONTINUED)

The Company's fair value measurements are classified into one of three categories as follows based on the measurement inputs:

Level 1. These are investments where values are based on unadjusted quoted prices for identical assets in an active market the Company has the ability to access. The investments are exchange-traded equity and over-the-counter securities.

Level 2. These are investments where values are based on quoted prices in markets that are not active or model inputs that are observable either directly or indirectly for substantially the full term of the investments. These investments would be comprised of less liquid restricted securities and warrants that trade less frequently.

Level 3. These are investments where values are based on prices or valuation techniques that require inputs that are both unobservable and significant to the overall fair value measurement. These inputs reflect assumptions of management about the assumptions market that participants would use in pricing the investments.

As of December 31, 2009, all of the Company's money market fund accounts (fair value aggregating approximately \$29,126,000 (which approximates cost) and included in cash and cash equivalents in the accompanying statement of financial condition) were considered to be Level 2 in the valuation hierarchy, which were valued based upon quoted prices in markets that are not active which the Company has the ability to access.

### NOTE 8. NET CAPITAL REQUIREMENT

As a broker-dealer and member organization of FINRA, the Company is subject to the SEC's Uniform Net Capital Rule ("SEC Rule 15c3-1"), which requires the maintenance of minimum net capital and that the ratio of aggregate indebtedness to net capital, both as defined, not exceed 15:1. Net capital and aggregate indebtedness change from day to day. At December 31, 2009, the Company had net capital of approximately \$18,080,000, which was in excess of its requirement of approximately \$750,000. At December 31, 2009, the Company's ratio of aggregate indebtedness to net capital was 0.62 to 1.

### NOTE 9. OTHER MATTERS

As a limited liability company, the members are not personally liable for any of the debts, obligations, losses, claims, or judgments on any of the liabilities of the Company, whether arising in tort, contract, or otherwise, except as provided by law.