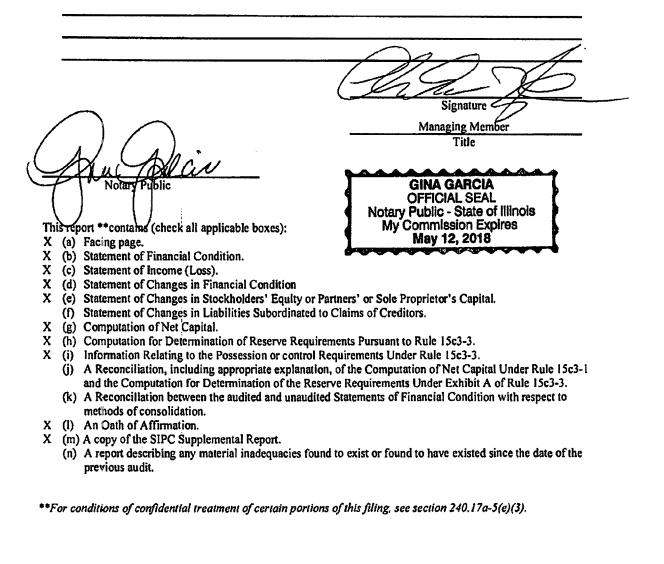
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REPORT FOR THE PERIOD BEGI		MM/DD/YY		MM/DD/YY
	A. REG	ISTRANT ID	ENTIFICATION	
NAME OF BROKER - DEALER:				OFFICIAL USE ONLY
CMZ TRADING, LLC				FIRM ID. NO.
ADDRESS OF PRINCIPAL PLACE OF		(Do not use P.O. I	Box No.)	
141 West Jackson Blvd Suite 8	326			
		(No. and Str	reet)	
Chiego		Illinois	60604	
Chicago (City)	00000013	Illinois (State)	60604 (Zip Code)	
(Ĉiţy) NAME AND TELEPHONE NUMBER (	OF PERSON T	(State)	(Zip Code)	PORT 312-431-0014 (Area Code - Telephone
(Ĉiţy) NAME AND TELEPHONE NUMBER (		(State) TO CONTACT IN	(Zip Code)	312-431-0014
(Ĉiţy) NAME AND TELEPHONE NUMBER ( Jacqueline Sloan	B. ACCO	(State) TO CONTACT IN	(Zip Code) REGARD TO THIS REP DENTIFICATION	312-431-0014
(Ĉiţy) NAME AND TELEPHONE NUMBER ( Jacqueline Sloan INDEPENDENT PUBLIC ACCOUNT/	B. ACCO ANT whose opi P.C.	(State) TO CONTACT IN DUNTANT III	(Zip Code) REGARD TO THIS REF DENTIFICATION in this Report*	312-431-0014
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	B. ACCO ANT whose opi P.C.	(State) TO CONTACT IN DUNTANT III	(Zip Code) REGARD TO THIS REF DENTIFICATION in this Report* ast, first, middle name) IL	<u>312-431-0014</u> (Area Code - Telephone 60604
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## **OATH OR AFFIRMATION**

I,	Charles Maylee		, swear (or affirm) that	t, to the best of
my	knowledge and belief the accompanying finan-	cial statements and supporting st	chedules pertaining to	the firm of
	CMZ Trading, LLC	, as of	December 31	, 2015,
are	true and correct. I further swear (or affirm) that	at neither the company nor any p	artner, proprietor, prin	cipal, officer or
dire	ector has any proprietary interest in any accoun	t classified solely as that of a cu	stomer, except as follo	ws:



SEC 1410 (3-91)

# CMZ Trading, LLC

(An Illinois Limited Liability Company) Financial Statements And Independent Audit Report December 31, 2015

(Filed pursuant to SEC Rule 17a-5)

## CMZ Trading, LLC (An Illinois Limited Liability Company) Index December 31, 2015

Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm	1
Statement of Financial Condition	2
Notes to Financial Statements	3-8

Page

Robert Cooper & Company CPA PC 141 W. Jackson Blvd. Suite 4105 Chicago, Illinois 60604 312-322-2238 Facsimile 312-698-8722

## REPORT OF INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM

To the Members of CMZ Trading, LLC

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of CMZ Trading, LLC (an Illinois LLC), which comprise the statement of financial condition as of December 31, 2015, and the related statements of income, changes in member's equity, and cash flows for the year then ended that are filed pursuant to Rule 17a-5 under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, and the related notes to the financial statements and supplemental information. CMZ Trading, LLC's management is responsible for these financial statements. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States). Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. The company is not required to have, nor were we engaged to perform, an audit of its internal control over financial reporting. Our audit included 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 financial statements, 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 CMZ Trading, LLC as of December 31, 2015, and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

The supplemental information on pages 11 to 13 has been subjected to audit procedures performed in conjunction with the audit of CMZ Trading, LLC's financial statements. The supplemental information is the responsibility of CMZ Trading, LLC's management. Our audit procedures included determining whether the supplemental information reconciles to the financial statements or the underlying accounting and other records, as applicable, and performing procedures to test the completeness and accuracy of the information presented in the supplemental information. In forming our opinion on the supplemental information, we evaluated whether the supplemental information, including its form and content, is presented in conformity with Rule 17a-5 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934. In our opinion, the supplemental information is fairly stated, in all material respects, in relation to the financial statements as a whole.

1ha

Robert Cooper and Company CPA PC Chicago, Illinois 60604 February 24, 2016

## CMZ Trading, LLC Statement of Financial Condition as of December 31, 2015

Assets	
Cash and cash equivalents Marketable securities	\$ 127,052
Equities at fair value	0
Options at fair value	<u>69,329,298</u>
Total securities owned at fair value	69,329,298
CME Stock pledge at market value	1,812,636
Exchange memberships (at costs)	3,421,000
Fixed assets net of depreciation	141
Lease deposit	4,394
Preferred stock	10,187
Total assets	\$ 74,704,708

Liabilities	
Securities sold, not yet purchased at fair value	1,809,463
Short options at fair value	35,697,735
Total positions sold, not yet purchased at fair value	37,507,198
Open Trade Equity Futures	40,885
Due to clearing firm	21,680,150
Dividend payable	58,660
Accrued expenses payable	_50,761
Total liabilities	59,337,654
Member equity	15,367,054
Total liabilities and members' equity	<u>\$ 74,704,708</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

## NOTE 1 Organization

CMZ Trading, LLC (The "Company") was organized under Limited Liability Company Act of Illinois January 21, 2003. The business of the Company is to engage in the speculative trading of stock and stock options, for their own account on organized exchanges in the United States. CMZ Trading, LLC is registered as a Broker Dealer with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) and a member of the Chicago Board Options Exchange (CBOE). The Company is exempt from certain filing requirements under the Rule 15c3-1(a)(6) of the Securities and Exchange Commission, since the Company does not trade on behalf of customers, effects transactions only with other broker dealers, does not affect transactions in unlisted options and clears and carries its trading accounts with a registered clearing partner of the Exchange.

## NOTE 2 Significant Accounting Policies

- a) The preparation of financial statements in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles in the United States of America 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 financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from those estimates.
- b) In the normal course of business, as part of its trading strategy, the Company enters into transactions in exchange traded futures and broad based indexes, including options thereon. These derivative financial contracts are used to adjust the risk and return of their trading strategy. Proprietary trading of principal transactions together with related revenues and expenses are recorded on trade date.

Upon entering into a futures contract, the Company is required to deposit either cash or securities (initial margin) in an amount equal to a certain percentage of the contract value. Subsequent payments (variation margin) are made or received by the Company each day. The variation margin payments are generally equal to the daily changes in the contract value and are recorded as unrealized gain or loss. The Company recognizes a realized gain or loss when a futures contract is closed.

c) Revenue Recognition

Derivative financial contracts are valued at fair value. Changes in fair value of these contracts are recorded as unrealized gains or losses in the accompanying statement of income. Realized gains and losses on these derivative financial contracts are recognized when such contracts are closed or expired.

d) Income Taxes

A Limited Liability Company does not pay federal income taxes. The Company is treated for Fcderal and State income taxes as if it was a partnership reporting their income under the Sub Chapter K provision of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986. Each member is responsible for reporting their pro rata share of the profits or losses on their tax returns. The Company reports their income for taxes on a calendar year basis.

The Company applies the provision of FASB ASC 740, Income Taxes, which provides guidance for how uncertain tax positions should be recognized measured, present and disclosed in the financial statements. FASB ASC 740 requires the evaluation of tax positions taken or expected to be taken in the course of preparing the Company's financial statements to determine whether the tax positions are more-than-likely-than-not of being sustained by the applicable tax authority. The managing member has concluded there is no tax expense to be recorded by the Company for the year ended December 31, 2015.

#### c) Statement of Cash Flows

For purposes of the Statement of Cash Flows, the Company has defined cash equivalents as highly liquid investments, with original maturities of less than ninety days that are not held for sale in the ordinary course of business.

#### f) Depreciation

Depreciation is provided on a double declining balance following MACRS lives for all depreciable assets. The estimated useful lives are three years to five years for computers and related software. The Company writes off immediately all computer equipment

#### **FASB** Accounting Standard Updates

In January 2010, the FASB issued ASU no. 2010-06, Fair Value Measurements and Disclosures (Top 820): Improving Disclosures about Fair Value Measurements. ASU 2010-06 also establishes a roll forward of activities on purchases, sales, issuance, and settlements for the assets and liabilities measure using significant unobservable inputs (level 3 fair value measurements). The Company has adopted ASU 2010-06 effective January 1, 2010. There were no transfers between levels during 2015.

## NOTE 3 Clearing Agreements

The Company has a joint back office (JBO) clearing agreement with Goldman Sachs Clearing, LLC The agreement allows JBO participants to receive favorable margin treatment as compared to a regular customer. As part of the agreement the Company has invested 10,187 in a preferred interest in Goldman Sachs Execution and Clearing, LLC. (GSEC) The Company's interest in Goldman Sachs Clearing is reflected as a preferred stock on the balance sheet. Under the rules of the Chicago Board Options Exchange, the Company is required to maintain a minimum net liquidly trading value of \$ 1 million in Goldman Sachs Clearing, LLC and is exclusive of the preferred stock value of \$10,187.

#### NOTE 4 Fair Value measurements

FASB ASC 820 defines fair value, establishes a framework for measuring fair value, and establishes a fair value hierarchy which prioritizes the inputs to valuation techniques. 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 arc consistent with the market, income or cost approach, as specified by FASB ASC 820, are used to measure.

The fair value hierarchy prioritizes the inputs to valuation techniques used to measure fair value into three broad levels:

Level 1 inputs are quoted prices (unadjusted) in active markets for identical assets or a liability the Company has the ability to access.

Level 2 inputs are inputs (other than quoted prices included within level 1) that are observable for the asset or liability, either directly or indirectly.

Level 3 are unobservable inputs for the asset or liability and rely on management's own assumptions about the assumptions that market participants would use in pricing the asset or liability.

The Company valued their liquid assets and liabilities on the Level 1 inputs for quoted prices in active markets which are essentially cash and cash equivalents.

The Company did not value any assets at Level 2 or Level 3. The following is a summary of their fair value.

Assets at Fair Value	Level 1
Options & Derivatives	69,329,298
CME Stock pledge	<u>1,812,636</u>
Total at Fair Value	<u>\$ 71,141,934</u>
Liabilities at Fair Value	Level 1
Due to broker dealer	21,680,150
Open Trade Equity Futures	40,885
Securities sold, not yet purchased	1,809,463
Options sold, not yet purchased	35,697,735
Total at Fair Value	<u>\$ 59,228,233</u>

#### NOTE 5 Net Capital Requirements

The Company is subject to the Securities and Exchange Commission Uniform Net Capital Rule (Rule 15c3-1) which requires the maintenance of minimum net capital and requires that the ratio of aggregate indebtedness to net capital, both as defined shall not exceed 15 to 1 (and the rule of the applicable exchange also provides that equity capital may not be withdrawn or cash dividends paid if the resulting net capital ratio would exceed 10 to 1). Under this rule, the Company is required to maintain "minimum net capital" equivalent to \$100,000 or 6 2/3% of "aggregate indebtedness," whichever is greater, as these terms are defined. At December 31, 2015 the Company had net capital of \$8,559,953, which was \$8,459,953 in excess of its required net capital.

## NOTE 6 Derivative Financial Instruments and Off-Balance Sheet Risk

In the normal course of business, the Company enters into transactions in derivative financial instruments and other financial instruments with off-balance sheet risk that include exchange-traded futures and futures options contracts, equity and index options, and short stocks. All derivative instruments are held for trading purposes. All positions are reported in the accompanying statement of financial condition at fair value.

Futures contracts provide for the delayed delivery/receipt of securities or money market instruments with the seller/buyer agreeing to make/take delivery at specified date at specified price.

Options grant the purchaser for the payment of premium, the right to either purchase from or sell to the writer specified instrument under agreed terms. As writer of options, the Company receives premium in exchange for bearing the risk of unfavorable changes in the price of the financial instruments underlying the options.

Securities sold not yet purchased represent obligations of the Company to deliver specified securities and thereby create liability to repurchase the securities in the market at prevailing prices. These transactions may result in off-balance sheet risk as the Company's ultimate obligation to satisfy its obligation for securities sold not yet purchased may exceed the amount recognized in the statement of financial condition.

Risk arises from the potential inability of counterparties to perform under the terms of the contracts, credit risk and from changes in the values of the underlying financial instruments market risk.

The Company is subject to credit risk to the extent any broker with whom it conducts business is unable to fulfill contractual obligations on its behalf. The Company attempts to minimize its exposure to credit risk by monitoring brokers with which it conducts investment activities. In management's opinion, market risk is substantially diminished when all financial instruments are aggregated.

#### NOTE 7 Derivative Instruments and Hedging Activities

The Company's derivative activities are limited to the trading of futures equity options and options on futures. As market maker and liquidity provider in various markets, the Company's activities may result in notional value of open derivative positions that is not representative of the risk in the outstanding derivatives contract. The Company's trading activities involve the use of hedging strategies to reduce directional and non-directional risks based on models and there is no guarantee that the hedging strategies will achieve their desired result. The Company may also employ arbitrage trading strategies.

Derivative contracts are recorded on the statement of financial condition as assets or liabilities measured at fair value or receivables from clearing broker and the related realized, and unrealized gain or loss associated with these derivatives is recorded on the statement of income. The Company does not consider any derivative instruments to be hedging instruments as those terms are generally understood under generally accepted accounting principles.

As of December 31, 2015 and for the year then ended, the Company's derivative activities had the following impact on the statement of financial condition:

Derivate	Asset	Notional	Liability	Notional
	FMV	Value	FMV	Value
Long Equity Options	\$69,329,298	\$2,088,822,860		
Equity Options sold, not yet purchased			\$35,697,735	\$2,657,617,777
Open trade Equity Futures			\$40,885	

#### NOTE 8 Due to/ from Broker-Dealers

Payables to broker-dealers as of December 31, 2015 consist of the following:

#### Broker-dealer

\$21,680,150

The amount receivable from/ payable to broker-dealers is collectible cash primarily from trading of stock and stock options. The cash balance receives interest at less than the broker call rate. The Company clears all transactions through another broker dealer pursuant to their clearing agreement. At December 31, 2015, substantially all assets of the Company are deposited with the clearing broker.

### NOTE 9 Concentrations of Credit Risk

The Company is engaged in various trading and brokerage activities in which counterparties primarily include broker-dealers, banks, and other financial institutions. In the event counterparties do not fulfill their obligations, the Company may be exposed to risk. The risk of default depends on the creditworthiness of the exchanges who guarantee the transactions. It is the Company's policy to review, as necessary, the credit risk of all trading positions.

#### NOTE 10 Guarantees

FASB ASC 460, Guarantees, requires the Company to disclose information about its obligations under certain guarantee arrangements. FASB ASC 460 defines guarantees as contracts and indemnification agreements that contingently require a guarantor to make payments to the guaranteed party based on changes in an underlying (security or commodity price, an index) related to an asset, liability or equity security of a guaranteed party. FASB ASC 460 also defines guarantees as contracts that contingently require the guaranteet to the guaranteet based on another entity's failure to perform under an agreement as well as indirect guarantees of the indebtedness of others.

#### **Derivative Contracts**

Certain dcrivative contracts that the Company may enter into meet the accounting definition of a guarantee under FASB ASC 460.

The Company records all derivative contracts at fair value. For this reason, the Company does not monitor its risk exposure to derivative contracts based on derivative notional amounts; rather the Company manages its risk exposure on a fair value basis. Aggregate market risk limits have been established, and market risk measures are routinely monitored against these limits. The Company also manages its exposure to these derivative contracts through a variety of risk mitigation strategies.

#### **Exchange Member Guarantees**

The Company is a member of various exchanges that trade and clear securities and/or futures contracts. Associated with its membership, the Company may be required to pay a proportionate share of the financial obligations of another member who may default on its obligations to the exchange. While the rules governing different

Exchange memberships vary, in general the Company's guarantee obligations would arise only if the exchange had previously exhausted its resources. In addition, any such guarantee obligation would be apportioned among the other non-defaulting members of the exchange. Any potential contingent liability under these membership agreements cannot be estimated. The Company has not recorded any contingent liability in the consolidated financial statements for these agreements and believes that any potential requirement to make payments under these agreements is remote.

## NOTE 11 Preferred Stock

The Company owns preferred in their broker dealer. The stock is unmarketable and is carried at cost, which is its approximate fair value.

#### NOTE 12 Subsequent events

Management has evaluated subsequent events through February 24, 2016, the date the financial statements were issued.

#### NOTE 13 Exchange memberships

The Company owns Memberships with the following exchanges: Chicago Board of Trade (CBOT) Commodity Option Membership, Chicago Mercantile Exchange (CME) Index and Option Market membership and Chicago Board Option Exchange. Memberships are carried at cost.

#### NOTE 14 Pledged stock

Pursuant to the Chicago Mercantile Exchange rule 902 certain assigned Class A shares and memberships are pledged to the Exchange as security for clearing member's obligations. Assigned shares and memberships may be sold by the Exchange in the event of insolvency or a clearing member. The proceeds of such sale will be used to fulfill the obligations of the member.

At December 31, 2015, these securities carried at estimated fair values consist of the

following: CME Group Class A20,007 Shares pledged to ExchangeFair value of Stock pledged\$1,812,636