

# Stephens Inc.

(A Wholly Owned Subsidiary of SI Holdings Inc.)

Statement of Financial Condition  
as of December 31, 2009, and  
Independent Auditors' Report

## INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

To the Board of Directors and Stockholder of  
Stephens Inc.  
Little Rock, AR

We have audited the accompanying statement of financial condition of Stephens Inc. (the "Company") (a wholly owned subsidiary of SI Holdings Inc.) as of December 31, 2009. 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 financial statements are 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 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, such statement of financial condition presents fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Stephens Inc. at December 31, 2009, in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

*Deloitte + Touche LLP*

February 16, 2010

**STEPHENS INC.**  
**(A Wholly Owned Subsidiary of SI Holdings Inc.)**

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL CONDITION**  
**AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2009**  
**(In thousands, except share amounts)**

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**ASSETS**

CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS	\$ 2,870
GOVERNMENT SECURITIES — Segregated under federal and other regulations	2,400
RECEIVABLES FROM:	
Brokers and dealers	63,488
Customers	83,840
Officers, directors, and affiliates	11,296
Others	6,001
SECURITIES PURCHASED UNDER AGREEMENTS TO RESELL	585
MARKETABLE SECURITIES — At fair value	102,001
MARKETABLE SECURITIES PLEDGED AS COLLATERAL FOR REPURCHASE AGREEMENTS — At fair value	32,417
NOT READILY MARKETABLE SECURITIES — At fair value	1,070
FURNITURE, FIXTURES, EQUIPMENT, AND LEASEHOLD IMPROVEMENTS — At cost — net of accumulated depreciation and amortization of \$37,623	7,029
OTHER	<u>6,130</u>
TOTAL	<u>\$319,127</u>

**LIABILITIES AND STOCKHOLDER'S EQUITY**

LIABILITIES:	
Payables to:	
Brokers and dealers	\$ 5,201
Customers including free credit balances of \$74,529	103,331
Officers, directors, and affiliates	30,990
Securities sold under agreements to repurchase	28,438
Securities sold but not yet purchased — at fair value	934
Short-term borrowings	300
Accrued compensation	39,337
Other	<u>10,603</u>
Total liabilities	<u>219,134</u>
STOCKHOLDER'S EQUITY:	
Common stock, no par value — 2,000 shares authorized, issued, and outstanding	100,000
Additional paid-in capital	12,000
Retained earnings	<u>(12,007)</u>
Total stockholder's equity	<u>99,993</u>
TOTAL	<u>\$319,127</u>

See notes to statement of financial condition.

**STEPHENS INC.**  
**(A Wholly Owned Subsidiary of SI Holdings Inc.)**

**NOTES TO STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL CONDITION**  
**AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2009**  
**(Dollars in thousands)**

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**1. ORGANIZATION**

Stephens Inc., an S Corporation, (the “Company”) is a full-service investment banking firm which is headquartered in Little Rock, Arkansas. The Company is a registered broker/dealer with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) and the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority. The Company is a wholly owned subsidiary of SI Holdings Inc., an S Corporation (the “Parent”).

**2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

**Cash and Cash Equivalents** — For financial reporting purposes, the Company defines cash and cash equivalents as currency on hand and demand deposits with banks.

**Securities Transactions** — Marketable securities and securities sold but not yet purchased are carried at fair value on a trade date basis. Unrealized gains and losses are reflected in principal transactions revenue. Customer securities transactions, including commissions, are recorded on a settlement date basis at fair value. Recording these transactions on a settlement date basis does not result in a material difference in the accompanying financial statements taken as a whole.

Principal transactions revenue represents realized and unrealized trading gains and losses associated with proprietary trading and market making activities. Interest and dividends related to principal transactions are included in interest and dividend income.

Securities borrowed are treated as collateralized financing transactions and are recorded at the amount of cash collateral advanced. The Company monitors the market value of the securities borrowed on a daily basis, with additional collateral obtained or refunded as necessary.

Transactions involving sales of securities under agreements to repurchase or purchases of securities under agreements to resell are treated as collateralized financing transactions and are recorded at their contracted resale or repurchase amounts plus accrued interest. The Company’s policy is to take possession of securities with a market value in excess of the principal amount loaned plus accrued interest in order to initially collateralize the purchase of securities under agreements to resell. The Company’s agreements with third parties generally contain contractual provisions to allow for additional collateral to be obtained when necessary. It is the Company’s policy to value collateral daily and to obtain additional collateral when deemed appropriate.

**Investment Banking** — Investment banking revenues, which include underwriting fees, management fees, and mergers and acquisitions advisory fees, are recorded when services for the transaction are substantially completed. Transaction-related expenses incurred prior to closing or termination of an engagement are deferred and later expensed to match revenue recognition.

**Concentrations of Credit Risk** — In the normal course of business, the Company engages in fixed income transactions that expose it to temporary concentrations of credit. In the case of repurchase and resale agreements, counterparty risk is evaluated while underwriting is reviewed by an underwriting committee prior to commitment.

**Furniture, Fixtures, Equipment, and Leasehold Improvements** — Furniture, fixtures, equipment, and leasehold improvements are recorded at cost. Depreciation of furniture, fixtures, and equipment is provided over estimated useful lives of three to ten years using the straight-line method. Leasehold improvements are amortized using the straight-line method over the shorter of 10 years or the lease term. The Company periodically evaluates the carrying value of its furniture, fixtures, and equipment to determine if an impairment exists.

**Income Taxes** — The Company is a Qualified Subchapter S Corporation and therefore bears no entity level tax.

**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, liabilities, and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting period. Actual results may differ from these estimates and assumptions, and these differences may be material.

**Recent Accounting Pronouncements** — In June 2009, the Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB) issued an accounting pronouncement that established the Accounting Standards Codification (ASC). The accounting pronouncement states that the ASC will become the source of authoritative U.S. generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP) recognized by the FASB to be applied by all nongovernmental entities. This pronouncement, which was subsequently codified as ASC topic 105, *Generally Accepted Accounting Principles*, was effective for financial statements issued for annual periods ending after September 15, 2009. On the effective date, the ASC superseded all then-existing non-SEC accounting and reporting standards. The adoption of this pronouncement did not have a significant impact on the Company's financial condition or results of operations.

In April 2009, the FASB issued three staff positions intended to provide additional application guidance and enhance the disclosures regarding fair value measurements and impairments of securities. This guidance is now codified within ASC topic 820, *Financial Measurements and Disclosures* ("ASC topic 820"), ASC topic 825, *Financial Instruments* ("ASC topic 825") and ASC Topic 320, *Investments—Debt and Equity Securities* ("ASC topic 320"). ASC topic 820 provides guidance on determining fair value when market activity has decreased. Updates contained within ASC topic 825 enhance consistency in financial reporting by increasing the frequency of fair value disclosures. ASC topic 320 provides additional guidance designed to create greater clarity and consistency in accounting for and presenting impairment losses on debt securities. The adoption of the provisions contained in these topics did not have a material impact on the Company's financial condition or results of operations.

In May 2009, the FASB issued an accounting pronouncement which establishes general standards of accounting for and disclosure of events that occur after the balance sheet date but before financial statements are issued or are available to be issued. The pronouncement was subsequently codified into ASC topic 855, *Subsequent Events*. ASC topic 855 requires the disclosure of the date through which an entity has evaluated subsequent events and the basis for that date. This pronouncement was effective for fiscal periods ending after June 15, 2009. The Company has evaluated subsequent events through February 16, 2010, the date these financial statements were issued (Note 14). The adoption of this pronouncement did not have a significant impact on the Company's financial condition or results of operations.

In August 2009, the FASB issued Accounting Standards Update ("ASU") No. 2009-05, *Fair Value Measurements and Disclosures* (topic 820)—*Measuring Liabilities at Fair Value* ("ASU 2009-05") ASU 2009-05 provides clarification in measuring the fair value of liabilities in circumstances in which a

quoted price in an active market for the identical liability is not available and in circumstances in which a liability is restricted from being transferred. This ASU also clarifies that both a quoted price in an active market for the identical liability at the measurement date and the quoted price for the identical liability when traded as an asset in an active market when no adjustments to the quoted price of the asset are required for Level 1 fair value measurements. The Company adopted ASU 2009-05, which did not have a material impact on its financial condition or results of operations.

### **3. FAIR VALUE MEASUREMENTS**

Fair value is defined as 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. In determining fair value, the Company uses various valuation approaches. The fair value hierarchy requires an entity to maximize the use of observable inputs and minimizes the use of unobservable inputs by requiring that the most observable inputs be used when available. Fair value is a market-based measure considered from the perspective of a market participant rather than a Company-specific measure. Therefore, even when market assumptions are not readily available, the Company's own assumptions are set to reflect those that the Company believes market participants would use in pricing the asset or liability at the measurement date. The hierarchy is broken down into three levels based on the observability of inputs as follows:

*Level 1* — Valuations based on quoted prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities that the Company has the ability to access. Valuation adjustments and block discounts are not applied to Level 1 instruments. Since valuations are based on quoted prices that are readily and regularly available in an active market, valuation of these products does not entail a significant degree of judgment.

*Level 2* — Valuations based on one or more quoted prices in markets that are not active or for which all significant inputs are observable, either directly or indirectly.

*Level 3* — Valuations based on inputs that are unobservable and significant to the overall fair value measurement.

The availability of observable inputs can vary by product and is affected by a wide variety of factors, including, for example, the type of product, whether the product is new and not yet established in the market place, the liquidity of the markets and other characteristics particular to the transaction. To the extent that valuation is based on models or inputs that are less observable or unobservable in the market, the determination of fair value requires more judgment. Accordingly, the degree of judgment exercised by the Company in determining fair value is greatest for instruments categorized in Level 3.

A description of the valuation techniques applied to the Company's major categories of assets and liabilities measured at fair value on a recurring basis follows:

U.S. Treasury obligations are valued using quoted market prices. Valuation adjustments are not applied. Accordingly, U.S. Treasury obligations are categorized in Level 1 of the fair value hierarchy.

Mortgage-backed Securities are comprised of agency issued debt and mortgage pass-throughs. Non-callable agency issued debt securities are generally valued using quoted market prices. Actively traded non-callable agency issued debt securities are generally categorized in Level 1 of the fair value hierarchy.

The fair value of corporate bonds is estimated using recently executed transactions, market price quotations or bond spreads. Corporate bonds are generally categorized in Level 1 of the fair value hierarchy.

The fair value of municipal bonds is estimated using recently executed transactions, market price quotations and pricing models that factor in, where applicable, interest rates and volatility. These bonds are generally categorized in Level 2 of the fair value hierarchy.

Corporate stocks are exchange traded securities that are generally valued based on quoted prices from the exchange. To the extent these securities are actively traded, valuation adjustments are not applied and they are categorized in Level 1 of the fair value hierarchy.

Not readily marketable securities held in trust are valued using quoted market prices and are categorized in Level 1 of the fair value hierarchy. Other not readily marketable securities are estimated using multiple factors including the cost of the investment, terms and liquidity, developments since the acquisition of the investment, the sales price of recently issued securities, the financial condition and operating results of the issuer, earnings trends and consistency of operating cash flows, the long-term business potential of the issuer, the quoted market price of securities with similar quality and yield that are publicly traded, and other factors generally pertinent to the valuation of investments. These securities are generally categorized in Level 2 of the fair value hierarchy.

	<b>Quoted Prices in Active Markets (Level 1)</b>	<b>Significant Other Observable Inputs (Level 2)</b>	<b>Balance as of December 31, 2009</b>
<b>Assets:</b>			
Government securities segregated under federal and other regulations	\$ 2,400	\$ -	\$ 2,400
State and municipal obligations	-	3,525	3,525
Mortgage-backed securities	102,611	88	102,699
Corporate stocks	4,315	-	4,315
Money markets, mutual funds and other	15	-	15
Corporate bonds, debentures and notes	2,565	-	2,565
U.S. Treasury obligations	21,299	-	21,299
Not readily marketable securities	<u>871</u>	<u>199</u>	<u>1,070</u>
Total assets at fair value:	<u>\$ 134,076</u>	<u>\$ 3,812</u>	<u>\$ 137,888</u>
<b>Liabilities:</b>			
Mortgage-backed securities	\$ 34	\$ -	\$ 34
Money markets, mutual funds and other	303	-	303
Corporate bonds, debentures and notes	3	-	3
U.S. Treasury obligations	<u>594</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>594</u>
Total liabilities at fair value:	<u>\$ 934</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 934</u>

#### 4. ASSETS SEGREGATED UNDER FEDERAL REGULATIONS

At December 31, 2009, the Company had segregated \$2,400 of marketable securities in an account “for the exclusive benefit of customers” pursuant to Rule 15c3-3 under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934.

#### 5. RECEIVABLES AND PAYABLES

**Brokers and Dealers** — Receivables from brokers and dealers at December 31, 2009, consist of the following:

Unsettled regular-way trades	\$ 34,877
Securities borrowed	25,623
Securities failed to deliver	1,413
Other	<u>1,575</u>
	<u>\$ 63,488</u>

Payables to brokers and dealers at December 31, 2009, consist of the following:

Securities failed to receive	\$ 4,880
Clearing deposits payable	192
Dealer free credits	<u>129</u>
	<u>\$ 5,201</u>

**Customers** — Receivables from customers primarily consist of amounts due on cash and margin securities transactions. The value of securities owned by customers and held as collateral for these receivables is not reflected in the financial statements. No allowance for doubtful accounts is considered necessary. Payables to customers primarily represent cash on deposit with the Company.

**Officers, Directors, and Affiliates** — Receivables from and payables to officers, directors, and affiliates result from securities transactions executed in the ordinary course of business and carry the same terms and conditions as transactions with non-related parties.

**Others** — Receivables from others result primarily from the Company’s brokerage activities.

## 6. MARKETABLE SECURITIES AND SECURITIES SOLD, NOT YET PURCHASED

The components of marketable securities and securities sold, not yet purchased at December 31, 2009, are as follows:

	Owned	Sold, Not Yet Purchased
State and municipal obligations	\$ 3,525	\$ -
Mortgage-backed securities	102,699	34
Corporate stocks	4,315	-
Money markets, mutual funds and other	15	303
Corporate bonds, debentures and notes	2,565	3
U.S. Treasury obligations	21,299	594
Less marketable securities pledged as collateral for repurchase agreements	<u>(32,417)</u>	<u>-</u>
Total	<u>\$ 102,001</u>	<u>\$ 934</u>

## 7. BORROWINGS

The Company had short-term bank borrowings outstanding at December 31, 2009 of \$300. During the year, short-term borrowings averaged \$1,502 per month, with a maximum indebtedness of approximately \$38,100. The weighted-average interest rate on these borrowings approximated 1.42% for the year ended December 31, 2009 and the interest rate as of December 31, 2009 was 1.38%. These borrowings are collateralized by firm-owned marketable securities.

As of and for the year ended December 31, 2009, the Company had no outstanding obligations that were subordinated to claims of general creditors.

## 8. NET CAPITAL REQUIREMENTS

The Company is subject to the Uniform Net Capital Rule 15c3-1 (the "Rule") under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934. The Company has elected to compute its net capital requirement under the aggregate indebtedness method of the Rule, which does not allow aggregate indebtedness to exceed 15 times net capital. At December 31, 2009, the Company had an aggregate indebtedness to net capital ratio of 2.85 to 1 with \$66,554 of net capital, which was \$53,923 in excess of its required minimum net capital of \$12,631. The Company is also subject to the Commodity Futures Trading Commission's minimum financial requirements (Regulation 1.17).

The Company operates in a highly regulated industry. Applicable laws and regulation restrict permissible activities and investments. These policies require compliance with various financial and client-related regulations. The consequences of noncompliance can include substantial monetary and nonmonetary sanctions. In addition, the Company is also subjected to comprehensive examinations and supervisions by various governmental and self-regulatory agencies. These regulatory agencies generally have broad discretion to prescribe greater limitations on the operations of a regulated entity for the protection of investors or public interest. Furthermore, where the agencies determine that such operations are unsafe or unsound, fail to comply with applicable law, or are otherwise inconsistent with the laws and regulations or with the supervisory policies, greater restrictions may be imposed.

## 9. EMPLOYEE BENEFIT PLANS

The Company has a 401 (k) profit sharing plan which allows employees to begin making contributions on the first payroll date of the second calendar month following their date of hire. Participants are eligible for Company matching contributions at the beginning of the calendar quarter following six months of employment with a minimum of 500 hours worked. The plan was amended in 2009 to provide that Company contributions for each plan year are made at the discretion of the Company's Board of Directors. Participants are fully vested in the Company's contributions after five years of service, and have graduated vesting up to the five years. Forfeitures of the Company's contributions are used to pay for plan expenses or to increase the Company's contributions. Profit sharing plan expense for the year ended December 31, 2009, was approximately \$85 and has been included in employee compensation.

The Company participates in a nonqualified, unfunded deferred compensation plan (the "Plan") with affiliated entities that permits eligible participants to defer a portion of their compensation and earn interest on amounts deferred, including interest. Participants in the Plan are vested immediately. For 2009, the Company did not allow participants to contribute to the Plan. The Plan provides for payments after a minimum deferral period of three years, with additional payment provisions upon retirement, termination, death, or disability. At December 31, 2009, the Company's recorded liability related to the Plan was \$2,444, which is included in accrued compensation.

## 10. RELATED-PARTY TRANSACTIONS

The Company rents certain real property from an affiliate and other related parties under noncancelable operating leases. At December 31, 2009, the future minimum rental commitments under these leases are as follows:

<b>Years Ending December 31</b>	<b>Amount</b>
2010	\$ 5,750
2011	3,104
2012	2,947
2013	2,947
2014	2,947
Thereafter	<u>1,965</u>
	<u>\$19,660</u>

During 2009, rent expense under the related-party leases was approximately \$3,068, which is net of sublease income of approximately \$325 received from affiliates. Related-party rent expense is included in communications and occupancy expense.

The Company pays various expenses on behalf of an affiliated entity which are attributable to the operations of that entity. Subsequently, the affiliate reimburses the Company for expenses paid on its behalf. The receivable balance from affiliated entities as of December 31, 2009 was \$728, which is included in receivables from officers, directors and affiliates. During the year, the Company allocated \$3,064 of administrative and other expenses to an affiliated entity, based on a written agreement. From time to time, the Company provides investment banking services to certain related parties, from which revenues of \$83 were recognized during 2009, which are included in revenues from investment banking. The Company executes and settles various securities transactions with officers, directors, and affiliates. During 2009, these transactions generated revenues of approximately \$719, which are included in

revenues from commissions. The Company incurred interest expense of approximately \$51 related to payables to officers, directors, and affiliates and earned interest income of approximately \$143 related to receivables from officers, directors, and affiliates. Related-party interest expense and interest income is included in expenses from interest and interest and dividend income, respectively. During 2009, the Company charged affiliates \$3,960 in fees for research related services, which is included in other revenue.

The Company holds a position in marketable securities of companies in which officers, directors, and affiliates are members of the Boards of Directors. Total investment in related entities was \$871, which is included in marketable securities. The Company realized a loss of approximately \$394 in other income from investments in which affiliates had a significant investment.

Related-party transactions include transactions with Mutual Assurance Administrators, Inc. (“MAA”), which is a third-party administrator of health claims and a wholly owned subsidiary of SI Holdings Inc. At December 31, 2009, the Company paid \$721 to MAA for health insurance premiums and fees.

## 11. COMMITMENTS AND CONTINGENCIES

In addition to the lease commitment discussed in Note 10, the Company has commitments related to other office space and software maintenance agreements. At December 31, 2009, the future minimum payments required under these agreements are as follows:

<b>Years Ending December 31</b>	<b>Amount</b>
2010	\$ 4,344
2011	4,188
2012	4,262
2013	4,069
2014	3,110
Thereafter	<u>17,178</u>
	<u>\$ 37,151</u>

Rent and lease expense incurred for the year ended December 31, 2009, was approximately \$8,184 excluding the amounts paid to related parties discussed in Note 10.

The Company is a defendant in several lawsuits and arbitrations, which arose from its usual business activities. Certain of these lawsuits arose from the Company’s participation as a member of the selling group or the underwriting syndicate in public offerings of securities. The Company also is involved, from time to time, in investigations and proceedings by governmental and self-regulatory agencies, certain of which may result in adverse judgments, fines, or penalties. Although the ultimate outcome of these actions cannot be ascertained at this time, and the results of legal proceedings cannot be predicted with certainty, management, based on its understanding of the facts and consultation with outside counsel, does not believe that the ultimate resolution of these matters will have a materially adverse effect on the Company’s financial position, results of operations or cash flows.

In 2008, a judgment was entered against the Company in the amount of \$25 million. The Company settled this matter while its appeal was pending and paid \$18 million to the plaintiffs in exchange for a full release of liability.

The Company also provides guarantees to securities clearinghouses and exchanges under their standard membership agreement, which requires members to guarantee the performance of other members. Under the agreement, if another member becomes unable to satisfy its obligations to the clearinghouse, other members would be required to meet shortfalls. The Company's liability under these agreements is not quantifiable and may exceed the cash and securities it has posted as collateral. However, the potential requirement for the Company to make payments under these arrangements is remote. Accordingly, no liability has been recognized for these transactions.

The Company provides indemnification in connection with securities offering transactions in which it is involved. When the Company is an underwriter or placement agent, it provides a limited indemnification to the issuer related to its actions in connection with the offering and, if there are other underwriters, indemnification to the other underwriters intended to result in an appropriate sharing of the risk of participating in the offering. It is not possible to quantify the aggregate exposure to the Company resulting from these types of indemnification provisions. The Company has not recorded a liability for such exposure as the likelihood of being required to pay is remote.

## 12. DISCLOSURES ABOUT FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

**Off-Balance-Sheet Risk** — The Company enters into various transactions involving off-balance-sheet financial instruments, which primarily include securities purchased and sold on a when-issued basis, securities to-be-announced, and options.

The Company has sold securities not yet purchased and, therefore, will be obligated to purchase such securities at a future date. The Company has exposure to losses if the market values of these securities increase prior to purchase.

The Company's clearance activities involve the execution, settlement, and financing of various customer securities and commodities transactions on either a cash or margin basis. In margin transactions, the Company extends credit to the customer, subject to various regulatory and internal margin requirements, collateralized by cash and securities in the customer's account. Customer transactions may expose the Company to off-balance-sheet risks in the event the customer is unable to fulfill its contractual obligation or the margin requirements are not sufficient to fully cover losses that the customer may incur. The Company controls this risk by establishing credit limits for such activities and monitoring its customers' compliance and exposure on a daily basis.

As a registered futures commission merchant, the Company introduces customer transactions to another broker on a fully disclosed basis that involve the purchase and sale of commodity futures contracts (including options on futures), but it does not carry any accounts related to commodities transactions for customers.

The Company occasionally sells futures contracts on Treasury instruments as an economic hedge against certain positions in the Company's municipal bonds inventory. There were no futures contracts outstanding at December 31, 2009 or executed during the year ended December 31, 2009.

Futures contracts are executed on an exchange, and cash settlement is made on a daily basis for market movements. Accordingly, futures contracts generally do not have credit risk. The Company is also exposed to market risk, which is substantially dependent upon the value of the underlying financial instruments and is affected by market forces such as volatility and changes in interest and foreign exchange rates.

### **13. COLLATERAL**

The Company receives collateral in connection with resale agreements, securities borrowed transactions, and customer margin loans. Under many agreements, the Company is permitted to sell or repledge the securities held as collateral and use the securities to enter into securities lending arrangements or deliver to counterparties to cover short positions. At December 31, 2009, the fair value of securities received as collateral where the Company is permitted to sell or repledge the securities was \$158,813 and the fair value of the firm's collateral that had been sold or repledged was \$28,014.

### **14. SUBSEQUENT EVENTS**

The Company is in the process of determining whether it may transfer and outsource by contract to one or more of its affiliate companies the work of operating its computer systems and data processing systems sometime during calendar 2010. This work is currently being performed in-house.

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A copy of our December 31, 2009, statement of financial condition filed pursuant to Rule 17a-5 of the Securities Act of 1934 is available for examination at the Fort Worth, Texas Office of the Securities and Exchange Commission or at our principle office at 111 Center Street, Little Rock, Arkansas 72201.