

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
BEFORE THE  
BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM  
WASHINGTON, D.C.

In the Matter of

BANK OF AMERICA CORPORATION  
Charlotte, North Carolina

Docket No. 15-010-B-HC  
15-010-CMP-HC

Order to Cease and Desist and  
Order of Assessment of a Civil  
Money Penalty Issued Upon Consent  
Pursuant to the Federal Deposit  
Insurance Act, as Amended

WHEREAS, Bank of America Corporation, Charlotte, North Carolina (“BAC”), a registered bank holding company, owns and controls Bank of America, N.A., Charlotte, North Carolina (the “Bank”), other U.S. insured depository institutions, various Edge Act corporations organized under section 25A of the Federal Reserve Act (12 U.S.C. § 611 et seq.), and multiple other nonbank subsidiaries;

WHEREAS, BAC has adopted a firm-wide risk management, compliance and audit program designed to identify and manage risks across the consolidated organization;

WHEREAS, BAC, through the Bank, serves as a foreign exchange (“FX”) dealer, both in the United States and in its offices abroad, by buying and selling U.S. dollars and foreign currency, for its own account and by soliciting and receiving orders through communications between customers and sales personnel that are executed by traders in the market (“Covered FX Activities”);

WHEREAS, the FX benchmarks published by the World Markets Company plc/Reuters (“WM/R”), the European Central Bank (“ECB”), and other reference rate providers affect the prices of certain FX currency transactions in the United States and international financial

markets. These reference rates are set using different methodologies and, in the case of the reference rates published by WM/R and ECB, can be affected by FX trading at or around the time the benchmark is calculated;

WHEREAS, in addition to Covered FX Activities, the Bank engages in other trading activities and related sales activities involving FX, including FX trading where a customer directly inputs an order through an electronic platform (“Electronic Trading”), and in wholesale markets for commodities and interest rate products where the Bank acts as principal, prices and rates are or can be influenced by industry benchmark prices or rates, and compliance and control risk factors and vulnerabilities are similar to those related to Covered FX Activities (collectively with Covered FX Activities, “Designated Market Activities”);

WHEREAS, BAC has conducted a review of its Covered FX Activities occurring from 2008 through 2013 (the “Review Period”), has identified and reported relevant conduct to the Board of Governors and the Reserve Bank, has fully cooperated with the Board of Governors and the Reserve Bank, and has made and continues to make progress in implementing enhancements to its firm-wide compliance systems and controls that are designed to address deficiencies in the firm’s Covered FX Activities;

WHEREAS, the Board of Governors and the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency (“OCC”) have conducted or have been conducting investigations into the practices of BAC and its direct and indirect subsidiaries relating to FX activities;

WHEREAS, on November 11, 2014, the Bank consented to the issuance of a Cease and Desist Order and Assessment of a Civil Money Penalty by the OCC relating to deficient practices in FX activities at the Bank;

WHEREAS, during the Review Period:

A. BAC lacked adequate firm-wide governance, risk management, compliance and audit policies and procedures to ensure that the firm's Covered FX Activities complied with safe and sound banking practices, applicable U.S. laws and regulations, including policies and procedures to prevent potential violations of the U.S. commodities, antitrust and criminal fraud laws, and applicable internal policies;

B. FX traders in the spot market at the Bank routinely communicated with FX traders at other financial institutions through chatrooms on electronic messaging platforms accessible by traders at multiple institutions;

C. BAC's deficient policies and procedures prevented BAC from detecting and addressing periodic conduct by the Bank's FX traders, including in communications by traders in multibank chatrooms, consisting of:

(i.) disclosures to traders of other institutions of confidential customer information of the Bank;

(ii.) possible agreements with traders of other institutions to coordinate FX trading in a manner designed to influence the WM/R FX benchmark fix and market prices generally; and

(iii.) trading strategies that raised potential conflicts of interest;

D. As a result of deficient policies and procedures described above, BAC engaged in unsafe and unsound banking practices.

WHEREAS, the Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond (the “Reserve Bank”) conducted a supervisory review of the compliance and control infrastructure governing BAC’s FX trading activities. Among other things, the Reserve Bank identified areas for improvement in BAC’s compliance and control infrastructure relating to its FX businesses;

WHEREAS, to address the deficiencies described above, BAC has made and must continue to implement additional improvements in its internal controls, compliance, risk management, and audit programs for Designated Market Activities in order to comply with BAC policies, safe and sound banking practices, and applicable U.S. laws and regulations;

WHEREAS, the Board of Governors, the Reserve Bank, and BAC have the common goal to ensure that BAC and its subsidiaries conduct their activities in a safe and sound manner and comply with U.S. laws, rules, and regulations that apply to the activities of the BAC organization, and that BAC fosters a strong firm-wide commitment towards compliance;

WHEREAS, the Board of Governors is issuing this consent Order;

WHEREAS, pursuant to delegated authority, Jana J. Litsey is authorized to enter into this Order on behalf of BAC, and to consent to compliance with each and every provision of this Order by BAC and to waive any and all rights that BAC may have pursuant to section 8 of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act, as amended (the “FDI Act”) (12 U.S.C. § 1818), including, but not limited to: (i) the issuance of a notice of charges on any matters set forth in this Order; (ii) a hearing for the purpose of taking evidence on any matters set forth in this Order; (iii) judicial review of this Order; and (iv) challenge or contest, in any manner, the basis, issuance, validity, terms, effectiveness or enforceability of the Order or any provision hereof.

NOW, THEREFORE, it is hereby ordered by the Board of Governors that, before the filing of the notices, or taking of any testimony, or adjudication of or finding on any issues of fact or law herein, and solely for the purpose of settling this matter without a formal proceeding being filed and without the necessity for protracted or extended hearings or testimony, pursuant to sections 8(b)(1) and (3) of the FDI Act (12 U.S.C. §§1818(b)(1) and 1818(b)(3)), BAC and its institution-affiliated parties, as defined in sections 3(u) and 8(b)(3) of the FDI Act (12 U.S.C. §§ 1813(u) and 1818(b)(3)), shall cease and desist and take affirmative action as follows:

### **Senior Management Oversight**

1. Within 90 days of this Order, BAC shall submit a written plan approved by the board of directors of BAC, or an authorized committee thereof, that is acceptable to the Reserve Bank to improve senior management's oversight of BAC's compliance with applicable U.S. laws and regulations and all applicable internal policies in connection with the firm's Designated Market Activities. The plan shall, at a minimum, address, consider, and include:

(a) measures to ensure that senior management periodically reassess risks associated with the firm's Designated Market Activities to proactively identify areas vulnerable to employee misconduct;

(b) measures to ensure management's effective oversight of staff's compliance with policies, procedures, and internal controls designed to deter and detect potential employee misconduct in connection with the firm's Designated Market Activities; and

(c) periodic monitoring by senior management and reporting to the board of directors or an authorized committee thereof on the status and results of measures taken, or to be taken, to correct identified deficiencies and to comply with this Order and to ensure the ongoing efficacy of BAC's overall program.

## **Internal Controls and Compliance Program**

2. Within 90 days of this Order, BAC shall submit an enhanced written internal controls and compliance program acceptable to the Reserve Bank to comply with applicable U.S. laws and regulations with respect to the firm's Designated Market Activities. The program shall, at a minimum, address, consider, and include:

- (a) enhancement of comprehensive policies and procedures to ensure compliance with applicable U.S. laws and regulations by BAC's global business lines that engage in Designated Market Activities, including U.S. commodities, antitrust and criminal fraud laws, and a review of BAC's policies and procedures relating to the firm's Designated Market Activities, including conflict of interest policies, client confidentiality policies, and a code of conduct or other statement of conduct or policies;
- (b) provisions that clearly identify the Designated Market Activities covered by the policies and procedures;
- (c) measures to ensure compliance with policies and applicable U.S. laws and regulations applicable to Designated Market Activities by BAC's global business lines;
- (d) the duties and responsibilities of personnel responsible for overseeing compliance with policies and procedures relating to the firm's Designated Market Activities, including the reporting lines within the firm;
- (e) policies and procedures that define management responsibilities and establish accountability within all business lines that engage in Designated Market Activities;
- (f) a comprehensive and effective system of internal controls to monitor and detect potential employee misconduct in connection with the firm's Designated Market

Activities, which shall include, but not be limited to transaction monitoring and communication surveillance that is commensurate with the level and nature of the risks inherent in the market;

(g) establishment of comprehensive policies and procedures to ensure that sales personnel and traders do not communicate inaccurate or misleading information to customers regarding: (i) the amount of markup, commission, or other service charge applied to customer orders by the firm; and (ii) how orders are executed by the firm;

(h) a revised code of conduct or other statement of conduct or policies for employees engaged in Designated Market Activities that establishes rules and procedures governing, among other matters, (i) the types of communications media employees may use to communicate with employees at other institutions that trade in the same financial instruments or products and the circumstances when employees may use these communications media; (ii) the types of trading information of the firm that may be disclosed to employees of other institutions that trade in the same financial instruments or products; (iii) the types of information and circumstances under which confidential customer information may be shared outside of the firm; and (iv) appropriate conduct in responding to potential conflicts of interest with customers that place orders for execution by the firm, including procedures for the timing of the execution of customer orders;

(i) enhancement of the compliance reporting process for the firm's Designated Market Activities that is widely publicized within the global organization and integrated into BAC's other reporting systems, through which employees report known or suspected violations of BAC policies and U.S. law and regulations, including U.S. commodities, antitrust and criminal fraud laws, and that includes a process designed to ensure that known or

suspected violations are promptly escalated to appropriate personnel for appropriate resolution and reporting; and

(j) training for BAC's employees engaged in Designated Market Activities in conduct-related issues appropriate to the employee's job responsibilities that is provided on an ongoing, periodic basis.

### **Compliance Risk Management Program**

3. Within 90 days of this Order, BAC shall submit a written plan acceptable to the Reserve Bank to improve its compliance risk management program with regard to compliance by the firm with applicable U.S. laws and regulations with respect to Designated Market Activities firm-wide. The plan shall, at a minimum, address, consider, and include:

(a) identification of all business lines that engage in Designated Market Activities and the attendant legal and compliance risks to ensure that such activities are appropriately risk-rated and included in the firm-wide compliance risk assessment;

(b) completion, within 90 days of the Reserve Bank's approval of the plan, of a firm-wide risk assessment to evaluate current potential conduct risks associated with all areas relating to the firm's Designated Market Activities;

(c) prior to trading new financial products or instruments in connection with the firm's Designated Market Activities, a review of potential risks, including, but not limited to, reputational risk, fraud risk, and potential for misconduct associated with the proposed new activity;

(d) development of comprehensive risk assessment processes for the firm's Designated Market Activities, which shall identify: (i) the scope and frequency of such reviews, (ii) compliance risks, and (iii) all applicable risk factors and mitigating controls; and



(e) measures to ensure that material risk management issues related to potential employee misconduct in connection with the firm's Designated Market Activities are escalated to and addressed in a timely manner by senior management and the board of directors or a committee thereof, as appropriate.

### **Controls Review**

4. (a) During the term of this Order, to ensure that the internal controls of BAC required under paragraph 2 of the Order are functioning effectively to detect, correct, and report misconduct with regard to Designated Market Activities that are required to comply with applicable U.S. laws and regulations, BAC management, utilizing personnel who are independent of the business line and acceptable to the Reserve Bank, shall conduct on an annual basis: (i) a review of compliance policies and procedures applicable to the firm's Designated Market Activities and their implementation, and (ii) an appropriate risk-focused sampling of other key controls for BAC's firm-wide Designated Market Activities (the "Controls Review").

(b) The results of each Controls Review shall be submitted to the Reserve Bank within 90 days of the corresponding anniversary date of this Order. Upon request, BAC shall provide to the Reserve Bank the materials relied upon in conducting each Controls Review.

### **Internal Audit**

5. Within 90 days of this Order, BAC shall submit an enhanced written internal audit program acceptable to the Reserve Bank with respect to the firm's compliance with applicable U.S. laws and regulations in its Designated Market Activities. The program shall, at a minimum, address, consider, and include:

(a) periodic internal audit reviews of business line controls and compliance detection and monitoring processes, as applicable, designed to identify and prevent potential misconduct in connection with the firm's Designated Market Activities;

(b) enhanced escalation procedures for the timely resolution of material audit exceptions and recommendations in connection with the firm's Designated Market Activities; and

(c) the periodic review of risk assessments to ensure emerging risks associated with the firm's Designated Market Activities are appropriately identified and monitored.

#### **Assessment of Civil Money Penalty**

6. The Board of Governors hereby assesses BAC a civil money penalty in connection with Covered FX Activities in the amount of \$205,000,000, which shall be remitted at the time of the execution of this Order by Fedwire transfer of immediately available funds to the Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond, ABA No. 1000033, beneficiary, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System. The Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond, on behalf of the Board of Governors, shall distribute this sum to the U.S. Department of the Treasury, pursuant to section 8(i) of the FDI Act (12 U.S.C. § 1818(i)).

#### **Approval, Implementation, and Progress Reports**

7. (a) BAC shall submit the written plans and programs that are acceptable to the Reserve Bank within the applicable time periods set forth in paragraphs 1, 2, 3, and 5 of this Order. Each plan or program shall contain a timeline for full implementation of the plan or program with specific deadlines for the completion of each component of the plan or program.

(b) Within 10 days of approval by the Reserve Bank, BAC shall adopt the approved plans and programs. Upon adoption, BAC shall promptly implement the approved plan and programs and thereafter fully comply with them.

(c) During the term of this Order, the approved plans and programs shall not be amended or rescinded without the prior written approval of the Reserve Bank.

8. Within 30 days after the end of the first full calendar quarter following the date of this Order, and quarterly thereafter, BAC shall submit to the Reserve Bank written progress reports detailing the form and manner of all actions taken to secure compliance with the provisions of this Order and the results thereof.

#### **Accountability for Employees Involved in Misconduct**

9. BAC shall not in the future directly or indirectly retain any individual as an officer, employee, agent, consultant, or contractor of BAC or of any subsidiary of BAC who, based on the investigative record compiled by U.S. authorities, has done all of the following: (i) participated in the misconduct underlying this Order, (ii) been subject to formal disciplinary action as a result of the firm's internal disciplinary review or performance review in connection with the conduct described above, and (iii) either separated from BAC or any subsidiary thereof or had his or her employment terminated in connection with the conduct described above.

10. BAC shall continue to fully cooperate with and provide substantial assistance to the Board of Governors, including, but not limited to, the provision of information, testimony, documents, records, and other tangible evidence and perform analyses as directed by the Board of Governors in connection with the investigations of whether separate enforcement actions should be taken against individuals who are or were institution-affiliated parties of BAC and who were involved in the misconduct underlying this Order. For purposes of clarity and not limitation, substantial assistance as used in this Order means BAC will use its best efforts, as

determined by the Board of Governors, to make available for interviews or testimony, as requested by the Board of Governors, present or former officers, directors, employees, agents and consultants of BAC. This obligation includes, but is not limited to, sworn testimony pursuant to administrative subpoena as well as interviews with regulatory authorities. Cooperation under this paragraph shall also include identification of witnesses who, to the knowledge of BAC, may have material information regarding the matters under investigation and the preparation and provision of trading analyses.

### **Notices**

11. All communications regarding this Order shall be sent to:
  - (a) Richard M. Ashton  
Deputy General Counsel  
Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System  
Washington, D.C. 20551
  - (b) Jeremy Caldwell  
Senior Vice President  
Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond  
530 East Trade Street  
Charlotte, N.C. 28202
  - (c) Jana J. Litsey  
Deputy General Counsel  
Director of Litigation & Regulatory Inquiries  
Bank of America Corporation  
101 South Tryon Street  
Charlotte, North Carolina 28255

## **Miscellaneous**

12. Notwithstanding any provision of this Order to the contrary, the Reserve Bank may, in its sole discretion, grant written extensions of time to BAC to comply with this Order.

13. The provisions of this Order shall be binding upon BAC and each of its institution-affiliated parties, in their capacities as such, and their successors and assigns.

14. Each provision of this Order shall remain effective and enforceable until stayed, modified, terminated, or suspended in writing by the Reserve Bank.

15. Except as otherwise provided in this paragraph 15, the Board of Governors hereby agrees not to initiate any further enforcement actions, including for civil money penalties, against BAC, and its affiliates, successors and assigns, with respect to the conduct involving Covered FX Activities described in the WHEREAS clauses of this Order to the extent known by the Board of Governors as of the effective date of this Order. For purposes of clarity and not limitation, this release does not include Electronic Trading. This release and discharge shall not preclude or affect (i) any right of the Board of Governors to determine and ensure compliance with this Order, (ii) any proceedings brought by the Board of Governors to enforce the terms of this Order, or (iii) any proceedings brought by the Board of Governors against individuals who are or were institution-affiliated parties of BAC.

