

## Information Circular: Merrill Lynch & Co., Inc. Index-Linked Notes

To: Head Traders, Technical Contacts, Compliance Officers, Heads of ETF

Trading, Structured Products Traders

From: William Slattery, Associate Vice President, NASDAQ Listing Qualifications

Department

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## Index-Linked Notes Symbol CUSIP #

Merrill Lynch & Co., Inc. Capped Leveraged Index Return Notes RHQ 59023V399 Linked to the Russell 2000 Index

## Information on the Notes

Merrill Lynch & Co., Inc. (the "Issuer") has issued Capped Leveraged Index Return Notes ("Notes") linked to the Russell 2000 Index (the "Index"). The Notes were priced at \$10 each and mature on January 20, 2010.

The Notes Linked are senior, unsecured debt securities of the Issuer that provide a leveraged return for investors, subject to a cap, if the level of the Index increases moderately from the Starting Value to the Ending Value. The Notes do not provide for any interest payment and the maturity payment return is capped. The Notes are not principal protected, therefore investors may receive a maturity payment that is less, and potentially significantly less, than the original public offering price.

## Payment at Maturity will equal:

If the Ending Value is greater than the Starting Value, investors will receive:

\$10 + [\$10 x ((Ending Value – Starting Value) / Starting Value) x 2]

Subject to the maximum payment at maturity of \$13.07.

• If the Ending Value is less than or equal to the Starting Value, but greater than or equal to the Threshold Value (644.67), investors will receive:

\$10

If the Ending Index Value is less than the Threshold Value (644.67), investors will receive:

\$10 + [\$10 x ((Ending Value – Threshold Value) / Starting Value) x 1]

The Starting Value of the Index equals: 716.30. The Ending Value will be calculated near the maturity date.

Please see the prospectus for the Notes for more details regarding the calculations.

It is expected that the market value of the Notes will depend substantially on the value of the Index and may be affected by a number of other interrelated factors including, among other things: the general level of interest rates, the volatility of the Index, the time remaining to maturity, the dividend yield of the stocks comprising the Index, and the credit ratings of the Issuer.

Trading in the Notes on NASDAQ is on a UTP basis and is subject to NASDAQ equity trading rules. The Notes will trade from 7:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m. Eastern Time. Additional risks may exist with respect to trading the Notes during Nasdaq's Pre-Market and Post-Market sessions, when the Index's value may not be disseminated.

Trading of the Notes on NASDAQ is subject to the provisions of <u>NASDAQ Rule 2310</u>. Members recommending transactions in the Notes to customers should make a determination that the recommendation is suitable for the customer. In addition, members must possess sufficient information to satisfy the "know your customer" obligation that is embedded in the NASDAQ Conduct Rules.

Members also should review NASD Notice to Members 03-71 for guidance on trading these products. The Notice reminds members of their obligations to: (1) conduct adequate due diligence to understand the features of the product; (2) perform a reasonable-basis suitability analysis; (3) perform customer-specific suitability analysis in connection with any recommended transactions; (4) provide a balanced disclosure of both the risks and rewards associated with the particular product, especially when selling to retail investors; (5) implement appropriate internal controls; and (6) train registered persons regarding the features, risk and suitability of these products.

This Information Circular is not a statutory prospectus. NASDAQ members should consult the registration statement or prospectus for the Notes for additional information.

Inquiries regarding this Information Circular should be directed to:

- Will Slattery, NASDAQ Listing Qualifications, at 301.978.8088
- NASDAQ Market Sales at 800.846.0477