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To the Honorable Commissioner o

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attached original documents or copy thereof.

1. Name of conveying party(ies):

Frank LaQuinta (Executed 6/30/01)
Michael McGinley (Executed 6/29/01)
Michael Ryan (Executed 6/29/01)

Additional name(s) of conveying party(ies) attached? Yes No

2. Name and address of receiving party(ies)

Name: Merrill Lynch & Co. Inc.

Internal Address: _____

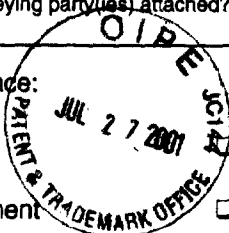
Street Address: 222 Broadway, 17th Fl.

City: New York State: NY ZIP: 10038

Additional name(s) & address(es) attached? Yes No

3. Nature of conveyance:

- Assignment
- Security Agreement
- Other _____
- Merger
- Change of Name



7-27-01

Execution Date: June 29, 2001

June 30, 2001

4. Application number(s) or patent number(s):

If this document is being filed together with a new application, the execution date of the application is: _____

A. Patent Application No.(s)

S.N. 09/644,013

B. Patent No.(s)

Additional numbers attached? Yes No

5. Name and address of party to whom correspondence concerning document should be mailed:

Name: Alfred Basichas, Esq.

Internal Address: Hopgood, Calimafde,

Judlowe & Mondolino LLP

Street Address: 60 East 42nd Street

City: New York State: NY ZIP: 10165

6. Total number of applications and patents involved:

7. Total fee (37 CFR 3.41).....\$ 120.00
(3 assignments)

- Enclosed
- Authorized to be charged to deposit account

8. Deposit account number:

(Attach duplicate copy of this page if paying by deposit account)

08/02/2001 RINNE1 0000061 09644013

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9. Statement and signature.

To the best of my knowledge and belief, the foregoing information is true and correct and any attached copy is a true copy of the original document.

Alfred Basichas

Name of Person Signing

Alfred Basichas
Signature

7/23/01
Date

Total number of pages including cover sheet, attachments, and document:

Mail documents to be recorded with required cover sheet information to:

Commissioner of Patents & Trademarks, Box Assignments

PATENT

Washington, D.C. 20231

REEL: 012013 FRAME: 0259

ASSIGNMENT

This assignment, by **Frank LaQuinta** of Marlboro, NJ (hereinafter the "inventor"),
witnesseth:

WHEREAS, the inventor has invented certain new and useful improvements
entitled **Method, Apparatus, and Article-of-Manufacture for Managing and
Supporting Initial Public Offerings and Other Financial Issues** as set forth in the
specification of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/644,013 (hereinafter the
"application"); and

WHEREAS, **Merrill Lynch & Co., Inc.**, a company duly organized under and
pursuant to the laws of the state of Delaware, and having a place of business at 222
Broadway, 17th floor, New York, NY (hereinafter the "assignee"), is desirous of acquiring
the entire right, title, and interest in the inventions claimed in the application, and in any
Letters Patent or Patents, United States or foreign, to be obtained therefrom.

NOW, THEREFORE, for valuable consideration, receipt of which is hereby
acknowledged, the inventor hereby sells, assigns, transfers, and sets over unto the
assignee, its successors, legal representatives, and assigns, the entire right, title, and
interest in the above-mentioned inventions, application, and any and all Letters Patent or
Patents in the United States of America and all foreign countries which may be granted
therefrom, and in any and all divisionals, continuations, reissues, and continuations-in-
part of the application, and to invoke and claim for any application for patent or other form
of protection for the inventions filed by the inventor or the assignee, the benefit of all

rights under the International Convention for the Protection of Industrial Property, as amended, or by any convention which may henceforth be substituted for it, the same to be held and enjoyed by the assignee, for its own use and behoof and that of its successors, legal representatives, and assigns, to the full end of the term or terms for which Letters Patent or Patents may be granted, as fully and entirely as the same would have been held and enjoyed by the inventor had this transfer not been made.

AND for the same consideration, the inventor hereby covenants to the assignee, its successors, legal representatives, and assigns, that, at the time of execution and delivery of this Assignment, the inventor is a joint and lawful owner of the entire right, title, and interest in and to the inventions and the application, and that the same are unencumbered and that the inventor has good and full right and lawful authority to sell and convey the same in the manner set forth herein.

AND for the same consideration, the inventor hereby covenants to the assignee, its successors, legal representatives, and assigns, whenever counsel of any of the same shall advise that any proceeding in connection with the inventions or the application for Letters Patent, or any proceeding in connection with Letters Patent for the inventions in any country, including interference proceedings, is lawful and desirable, or that any divisional, continuation, or continuation-in-part of any application for Letters Patent, or any reissue or extension of any Letters Patent for the inventions in any country to be obtained thereon is lawful and desirable, that the inventor shall sign all papers and documents, take all lawful oaths, and do all acts necessary, required, or desirable to be done for the procurement, maintenance, enforcement, and defense of any Letters Patent or securement of the inventions, without charge to the assignee, its successors, legal

representatives, and assigns, but at the cost and expense of the assignee, its successors, legal representatives, and assigns.

AND the inventor hereby requests the Commissioner of Patents to issue said Letters Patent of the United States to the assignee as the assignee of the inventions and the Letters Patent to be issued thereon for the sole use and behoof of the assignee, its successors, legal representatives, and assigns.

I hereby consent that a copy of this assignment shall be deemed a full legal and formal equivalent of any assignment, and consent to file this Assignment or like document which may be required in any country for any purpose, and more particularly in proof of the right of the assignee or nominee to claim the aforesaid benefits provided under the International Convention for the Protection of Industrial Property, as amended, or by any convention which may henceforth be substituted for it.

Date: 6/30/01

Signature of Inventor:



Frank LaQuinta

ASSIGNMENT

This assignment, by **Michael McGinley** of Baldwin, NY (hereinafter the "inventor"),
witnesseth:

WHEREAS, the inventor has invented certain new and useful improvements
entitled **Method, Apparatus, and Article-of-Manufacture for Managing and
Supporting Initial Public Offerings and Other Financial Issues** as set forth in the
specification of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/644,013 (hereinafter the
"application"); and

WHEREAS, **Merrill Lynch & Co., Inc.**, a company duly organized under and
pursuant to the laws of the state of Delaware, and having a place of business at 222
Broadway, 17th floor, New York, NY (hereinafter the "assignee"), is desirous of acquiring
the entire right, title, and interest in the inventions claimed in the application, and in any
Letters Patent or Patents, United States or foreign, to be obtained therefrom.

NOW, THEREFORE, for valuable consideration, receipt of which is hereby
acknowledged, the inventor hereby sells, assigns, transfers, and sets over unto the
assignee, its successors, legal representatives, and assigns, the entire right, title, and
interest in the above-mentioned inventions, application, and any and all Letters Patent or
Patents in the United States of America and all foreign countries which may be granted
therefrom, and in any and all divisionals, continuations, reissues, and continuations-in-
part of the application, and to invoke and claim for any application for patent or other form
of protection for the inventions filed by the inventor or the assignee, the benefit of all

rights under the International Convention for the Protection of Industrial Property, as amended, or by any convention which may henceforth be substituted for it, the same to be held and enjoyed by the assignee, for its own use and behoof and that of its successors, legal representatives, and assigns, to the full end of the term or terms for which Letters Patent or Patents may be granted, as fully and entirely as the same would have been held and enjoyed by the inventor had this transfer not been made.

AND for the same consideration, the inventor hereby covenants to the assignee, its successors, legal representatives, and assigns, that, at the time of execution and delivery of this Assignment, the inventor is a joint and lawful owner of the entire right, title, and interest in and to the inventions and the application, and that the same are unencumbered and that the inventor has good and full right and lawful authority to sell and convey the same in the manner set forth herein.

AND for the same consideration, the inventor hereby covenants to the assignee, its successors, legal representatives, and assigns, whenever counsel of any of the same shall advise that any proceeding in connection with the inventions or the application for Letters Patent, or any proceeding in connection with Letters Patent for the inventions in any country, including interference proceedings, is lawful and desirable, or that any divisional, continuation, or continuation-in-part of any application for Letters Patent, or any reissue or extension of any Letters Patent for the inventions in any country to be obtained thereon is lawful and desirable, that the inventor shall sign all papers and documents, take all lawful oaths, and do all acts necessary, required, or desirable to be done for the procurement, maintenance, enforcement, and defense of any Letters Patent or securement of the inventions, without charge to the assignee, its successors, legal

representatives, and assigns, but at the cost and expense of the assignee, its successors, legal representatives, and assigns.

AND the inventor hereby requests the Commissioner of Patents to issue said Letters Patent of the United States to the assignee as the assignee of the inventions and the Letters Patent to be issued thereon for the sole use and behoof of the assignee, its successors, legal representatives, and assigns.

I hereby consent that a copy of this assignment shall be deemed a full legal and formal equivalent of any assignment, and consent to file this Assignment or like document which may be required in any country for any purpose, and more particularly in proof of the right of the assignee or nominee to claim the aforesaid benefits provided under the International Convention for the Protection of Industrial Property, as amended, or by any convention which may henceforth be substituted for it.

Date: 6/29/01

Signature of Inventor:


Michael McGinley

ASSIGNMENT

This assignment, by **Michael Ryan** of Basking Ridge, NJ (hereinafter the "inventor"), witnesseth:

WHEREAS, the inventor has invented certain new and useful improvements entitled **Method, Apparatus, and Article-of-Manufacture for Managing and Supporting Initial Public Offerings and Other Financial Issues** as set forth in the specification of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/644,013 (hereinafter the "application"); and

WHEREAS, **Merrill Lynch & Co., Inc.**, a company duly organized under and pursuant to the laws of the state of Delaware, and having a place of business at 222 Broadway, 17th floor, New York, NY (hereinafter the "assignee"), is desirous of acquiring the entire right, title, and interest in the inventions claimed in the application, and in any Letters Patent or Patents, United States or foreign, to be obtained therefrom.

NOW, THEREFORE, for valuable consideration, receipt of which is hereby acknowledged, the inventor hereby sells, assigns, transfers, and sets over unto the assignee, its successors, legal representatives, and assigns, the entire right, title, and interest in the above-mentioned inventions, application, and any and all Letters Patent or Patents in the United States of America and all foreign countries which may be granted therefrom, and in any and all divisionals, continuations, reissues, and continuations-in-part of the application, and to invoke and claim for any application for patent or other form of protection for the inventions filed by the inventor or the assignee, the benefit of all

rights under the International Convention for the Protection of Industrial Property, as amended, or by any convention which may henceforth be substituted for it, the same to be held and enjoyed by the assignee, for its own use and behoof and that of its successors, legal representatives, and assigns, to the full end of the term or terms for which Letters Patent or Patents may be granted, as fully and entirely as the same would have been held and enjoyed by the inventor had this transfer not been made.

AND for the same consideration, the inventor hereby covenants to the assignee, its successors, legal representatives, and assigns, that, at the time of execution and delivery of this Assignment, the inventor is a joint and lawful owner of the entire right, title, and interest in and to the inventions and the application, and that the same are unencumbered and that the inventor has good and full right and lawful authority to sell and convey the same in the manner set forth herein.

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representatives, and assigns, but at the cost and expense of the assignee, its successors, legal representatives, and assigns.

AND the inventor hereby requests the Commissioner of Patents to issue said Letters Patent of the United States to the assignee as the assignee of the inventions and the Letters Patent to be issued thereon for the sole use and behoof of the assignee, its successors, legal representatives, and assigns.

I hereby consent that a copy of this assignment shall be deemed a full legal and formal equivalent of any assignment, and consent to file this Assignment or like document which may be required in any country for any purpose, and more particularly in proof of the right of the assignee or nominee to claim the aforesaid benefits provided under the International Convention for the Protection of Industrial Property, as amended, or by any convention which may henceforth be substituted for it.

Date: June 29, 2001

Signature of Inventor:


Michael Ryan