Stylesheet Version: 1.1.0

PATENT ASSIGNMENT

SUBMISSION TYPE: NEW ASSIGNMENT

NATURE OF CONVEYANCE: ASSIGNMENT OF ASSIGNOR'S INTEREST

CONVEYING PARTY DATA

Name: Steifman, Eric Execution Date: 11/06/2002

RECEIVING PARTY DATA

Name: Merrill Lynch & Co. Inc.
Street Address: 4 World Financial Center

Internal Address:

City: New York
State: NEW YORK

Country:

Postal Code: 80435

PROPERTY NUMBERS

Application Number:60311574Application Number:10064745Application Number:10218124PCT Number:US0225668PCT Number:US0225923

Number of Properties: 5

The USPTO, Office of Public Records, will send correspondence via facsimile to **FAX NUMBER:** 9704686600

CORRESPONDENCE DATA:

Correspondence will be sent via US Mail when a fax number

has not been provided or the fax attempt is unsuccessful.

When the customer number has been provided, the Office of Public Records will obtain the correspondence data from the official record on file at the USPTO.

CUSTOMER NUMBER: 021121

NAME OF PERSON SIGNING: Carl Oppedahl DATE SIGNED: 01/20/2003

PATENT 800004919 REEL: 013368 FRAME: 0087

Total Attachments: 1

PATENT REEL: 013368 FRAME: 0088

ASSIGNMENT

I, Eric Steifman, assign to Merrill Lynch & Co. Inc. ("Company"), its successors and assigns my entire right, title and interests in Convertible Financial Instruments With Contingent Payments, of which I am a named inventor, as described in the application for United States Patent Application Serial No. 60/311,574 filed on August 10, 2001, and as described in the application for United States Patent Application Serial No. 10/064,745 filed on August 12, 2002, and as described in the application for United States Patent Application Serial No. 10/218,124 filed on August 12, 2002, and as described in International Patent Application Serial No. PCT/US02/25668, filed on August 12, 2002, and as described in International Patent Application Serial No. PCT/US02/25923, filed on August 12, 2002 ("Invention"), and any and all applications for patent and patents therefor in any and all countries, including all divisions, reissues, continuations and extensions thereof, and all rights of priority resulting from the filing of said patent applications, and authorize and request any official whose duty it is to issue patents, to issue any patent on said Invention or resulting therefrom to said Company, or its successors or assigns.

Eric Steifman

Signed before me this of day of November . 2002

Notary public

MARTHA L. SOBEL
Notary Public, State of New York
No. 4810980
Qualified in New York County
Commission Expires Sept. 30, 2006

RECORDED: 01/21/2003

Martha L. Solie

PATENT REEL: 013368 FRAME: 0089