

STATE OF ALABAMA  
ALABAMA SECURITIES COMMISSION

IN RE: )  
 )  
JPMORGAN CHASE & CO., ) ADMINISTRATIVE CONSENT ORDER  
 ) NO. CO-2009-0023  
Respondent )  
\_\_\_\_\_ )

WHEREAS, certain affiliates of JPMorgan Chase & Co. are dealers registered in the state of Alabama; and

WHEREAS, an investigation into the activities of JPMorgan Chase & Co. and its subsidiaries and affiliates, including J.P. Morgan Securities Inc., Chase Investment Services Corporation, and Bear Stearns & Co. and affiliates, with the exception of WaMu Investments Inc., which JPMorgan acquired on September 25, 2008 (hereinafter "JPMorgan") in connection with certain of its marketing and sale of auction rate securities practices during the period of approximately January 2006 through the present has been conducted under the auspices of a multistate task force; and

WHEREAS, JPMorgan has cooperated with regulators conducting the investigation by responding to inquiries, providing documentary evidence and other materials, and providing regulators with access to facts relating to the investigation; and

WHEREAS, JPMorgan has advised regulators that it desires to settle and resolve the investigations without admitting or denying the allegations set forth below; and

WHEREAS, JPMorgan agrees to take certain actions described herein and to make certain payments; and

WHEREAS, JPMorgan elects to permanently waive any right to a hearing and appeal under Section 8-6-3 (j) (7), Code of Alabama 1975, with respect to this Administrative Consent Order (the "Consent Order");

NOW, THEREFORE, the Alabama Securities Commission ("Commission"), as administrator of Title 8, Chapter 6, Code of Alabama 1975, the Alabama Securities Act ("Act"), hereby enters this Consent Order.

**I.**

**FINDINGS OF FACT**

1. JPMorgan admits the jurisdiction of the Commission, neither admits nor denies the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law contained in this Consent Order, and consents to the entry of this Consent Order by the Commission.

2. Auction rate securities are financial instruments that include auction preferred shares of closed-end funds, municipal auction rate bonds, and student loan-backed auction rate bonds (collectively referred to herein as "ARS"). While ARS are all long-term instruments, one significant feature of ARS (which historically provided the potential for short-term liquidity) is the interest/dividend reset through periodic auctions. If an auction is successful (i.e., there are enough buyers for every ARS being offered for sale at the auction), investors are able to sell their ARS on a short-term basis. If, however, auctions "fail" (i.e., there are not enough buyers for every ARS being offered for sale), investors may be required to hold all or some of their ARS until the next successful auction in order to liquidate their funds.

**Marketing and Sales of ARS to Investors**

3. Although JPMorgan was aware of increasing strains in areas of the ARS market during the approximate six (6) months prior to the mass failure, JPMorgan failed to ensure that all of its registered representatives made appropriate disclosures to customers regarding the nature and

risks of auction rate securities. Certain JPMorgan employees stated that auction rate securities were liquid, safe, short-term investments and did not highlight the risk that, in the event of a failed auction, the securities might become illiquid.

4. JPMorgan used the proprietary name, M-Stars or Municipal Short Term Auction Rate Securities, in marketing ARS. This could have led certain investors to conclude that ARS were short-term instruments. In fact, ARS were not simply "short-term" instruments. For example, certain student loan MSTARS had maturities in the year 2039 and full liquidity was only available at an auction if the auction was successful.

5. Starting in the Fall of 2007, demand for certain auction rate securities continued to erode and JPMorgan's auction rate securities inventory grew significantly. JPMorgan did not discuss the increasing risks of owning or purchasing auction rate securities with all of its customers.

6. In February 2008, JPMorgan stopped uniformly supporting auctions for which it acted as the sole or lead broker. Without the benefit of support bids from broker-dealers, the auction rate securities market collapsed, leaving certain investors who had believed that these securities were liquid, safe, short-term investments appropriate for managing short-term cash needs, holding long-term securities that could not be sold at par value.

7. JPMorgan engaged in practices prohibited by the Act by engaging in prohibited business practices of a dealer pursuant to the Act.

#### **Failure to Supervise Agents who Sold ARS**

8. JPMorgan did not provide all its sales or marketing staff with the training and information necessary to adequately explain these products or the mechanics of the auction process to their customers.

9. Not all of JPMorgan's registered associated persons were adequately educated in the ARS products they were selling.

10. JPMorgan failed to reasonably supervise all its employees, by among other things:

- a. failing to provide adequate training to all its registered agents regarding ARS by, among other things:
  - i failing to provide to all of its registered agents timely and comprehensive sales and marketing literature regarding ARS and the mechanics of the auction process;
  - ii failing to provide to all of its registered agents all pertinent information concerning the ARS product;
  - iii failing to provide to all of its registered agents all pertinent information regarding the state of the market prior to the mass auction failures in mid-February, 2008; and
- b. failing to review ARS transactions in accounts of certain customers who needed liquidity; and
- c. failing to ensure that all its registered personnel were providing adequate information regarding ARS to its customers.

## II.

### **CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

The Commission has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to Section 8-6-3 and 8-6-4 Code of Alabama 1975, the Alabama Securities Act.

1. As described in the Findings of Fact above, JPMorgan failed to supervise all its agents and employees and engaged in other practices in violation of Section 8-6-3 (j) (10) of the, Code of Alabama 1975, the Alabama Securities Act.

2. As a result, the Commission finds this Consent Agreement and the following relief appropriate, in the public interest, and consistent with the Act.

### III.

#### ORDER

On the basis of the Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, and JPMorgan's consent to the entry of this Consent Order,

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED:

1. Entry of this Consent Order concludes the investigation by the Commission and any other action that the Commission could commence under applicable Alabama law on behalf of the Commission as it relates to JPMorgan, relating to certain sale and marketing of auction rate securities at JPMorgan; provided, however, that excluded from and not covered by this paragraph are any claims by the Commission arising from or relating to violations of the provisions contained in this Consent Order.

2. This Consent Order is entered into solely for the purpose of resolving the referenced multistate investigation and is not intended to be used for any other purpose.

3. JPMorgan will CEASE AND DESIST from violating the Act, and will comply with the Act.

1. Within ten days of the date of this Consent Order, JPMorgan shall pay the sum of \$96,462.21 to the State of Alabama. Those funds shall be paid in three (3) separate checks as follows: 1.) Respondent shall pay \$40,000.00 to the Alabama District Attorney Association, a non-profit corporation; 2.) Respondent shall pay \$46,462.21 to the Alabama Securities Commission as reimbursement of direct and indirect costs and expenses of the Commission's cost for investigating this matter in accordance with Section 8-6-19 (k) (1), Code of Alabama 1975; 3.) Respondent shall pay \$10,000.00 to the Investor Protection Trust, a non-profit

corporation and such funds are designated specifically for investor education and investor protection in the state of Alabama as directed by the Alabama Securities Commission in its sole discretion. All checks shall be delivered to the office of the Alabama Securities Commission. This amount constitutes the state of Alabama's proportionate share of the state settlement amount of \$25 Million Dollars (\$25,000,000.00).

4. In the event another state securities regulator determines not to accept the recommendation of the NASAA Task Force and does not enter into a settlement with JPMorgan that follows the terms of the Settlement Term Sheet signed by JPMorgan, the North American Securities Administrators' Association, and the state of Florida, Office of Financial Regulation, on August 14, 2008, the total amount of the Commission's payment shall not be affected, and shall remain at \$96,462.21.

5. JPMorgan shall comply (and, to the extent the Settlement Term sheet described herein required action to be take prior to the date of this Consent Order, has already complied) with the requirements of the Settlement Term Sheet executed August 14, 2008, which provides:

a. Individual Investors

As soon as practicable following the execution of the Settlement Term Sheet, JPMorgan will offer to buy back at par auction rate securities that since February 12, 2008, have not been auctioning from individual investors who purchased those auction rate securities from JPMorgan prior to February 12, 2008 ("Individual Investors"). For purposes of the Settlement, charities and small to medium-sized businesses with account values and household values up to \$10 million will also be treated as JPMorgan Individual Investors. The term Individual Investors does not include senior management of JPMorgan and its predecessors and JPMorgan financial advisors/registered representatives.

The buybacks will be completed no later than November 12, 2008.

JPMorgan will provide notice to customers of the settlement terms and JPMorgan will establish a dedicated telephone assistance line, with appropriate staff, to respond to questions from customers concerning the terms of the settlement.

b.      Relief for Investors Who Sold Below Par

No later than November 12, 2008, any JPMorgan Individual Investor that JPMorgan can reasonably identify who sold auction rate securities below par between February 12, 2008, and announcement of the Settlement will be paid the difference between par and the price at which the investor sold the auction rate securities.

c.      Consequential Damages Claims

No later than November 12, 2008, JPMorgan shall notify those JPMorgan clients who own auction rate securities, pursuant to the terms of the Settlement, that a public arbitrator (as defined by Section 12100(u) of the NASD Code of Arbitration Procedures for Customer Disputes, eff. April 16, 2007), under the auspices of FINRA, will be available for the exclusive purpose of arbitrating any JPMorgan Individual Investor's consequential-damages claim.

Arbitration shall be conducted by public arbitrators and JPMorgan will pay all applicable forum and filing fees. Any JPMorgan Individual Investors who choose to pursue such claims shall bear the burden of proving that they suffered consequential damages and that such damages were caused by investors' inability to access funds consisting of investors' auction rate securities holdings at JPMorgan. JPMorgan shall be able to defend itself against such claims; provided, however, that JPMorgan shall not contest in these arbitrations liability related to the sale of auction rate securities. Special or punitive damages shall not be available in the arbitration proceedings.

d. Institutional Investors

JPMorgan shall endeavor to continue to work with issuers and other interested parties, including regulatory and governmental entities, to expeditiously provide liquidity solutions for institutional investors not covered by paragraph 6.a. above, that continue to hold auction rate securities purchased from JPMorgan ("Institutional Investors").

Within 45 days of the end of each quarter beginning with a report covering the quarter ended December 31, 2008 (due on February 14, 2009), and continuing through and including a report covering the quarter ended December 31, 2009 (due on February 14, 2010), JPMorgan shall submit a quarterly written report detailing JPMorgan's progress with respect to its obligations pursuant to this Consent Order and outlining the efforts in which JPMorgan has engaged and the results of those efforts with respect to JPMorgan's institutional investors' holdings in auction rate securities. JPMorgan shall confer with William F. Reilly, Bureau Chief, Bureau of Securities Regulation, of the state of Florida, Office of Financial Regulation, as the lead NASAA member on behalf of all the states, on a quarterly basis to discuss JPMorgan's progress to date. Such quarterly reports and conferences/meetings shall continue until the first quarter of 2010. Following every quarterly meeting, the state of Florida, Office of Financial Regulation, shall advise JPMorgan of any concerns regarding JPMorgan's progress in providing liquidity solutions for Institutional Investors and, in response, JPMorgan shall detail the steps that JPMorgan plans to implement to address such concerns. The reporting or meeting deadlines set forth above may be amended with written permission from the state of Florida, Office of Financial Regulation.

e. Relief for Municipal Issuers

JPMorgan shall refund underwriting fees JPMorgan has received from municipal auction rate issuers that issued such securities through JPMorgan in the initial primary market between August 1, 2007, and February 12, 2008, and refinanced those securities through

JPMorgan after February 12, 2008, through the date this Consent Order is executed by JPMorgan.

f. In consideration of the Settlement

The Commission will:

i. Terminate its investigation with respect to JPMorgan's marketing and sale of auction rate securities to Individual Investors defined in paragraph 6.a. above. However, nothing herein limits the ability of the Commission in pursuing any investigation relating to any party other than JPMorgan.

ii. Refrain from taking legal action, excluding entry of this Consent Order, against JPMorgan with respect to its institutional investors until November 12, 2008; the Commission shall issue continuances of that period as it deems appropriate; and

iii. Accept payment of \$96,462.21 as its portion of the above-mentioned \$25 million penalty, to address all underlying conduct relating to the marketing and sale of auction rate securities. The Commission will not seek additional monetary penalties from JPMorgan relating to such conduct.

6. If payment is not made by JPMorgan or if JPMorgan materially defaults in any of its obligations set forth in this Consent Order and fails to cure such a default reasonably after ten (10) days notice from the Commission, notwithstanding any other provision of Alabama law, the Commission may vacate this Consent Order at its sole discretion and without opportunity for administrative hearing.

7. This Consent Order is not intended to indicate that JPMorgan or any of its affiliates or current or former employees shall be subject to any disqualifications contained in the federal securities law, the rules and regulations thereunder, the rules and regulations of self

regulatory organizations, or various states' securities laws including any disqualifications from relying upon the registration exemptions or safe harbor provisions. In addition, this Consent Order is not intended to form the basis for any such disqualifications.

10. Nothing herein shall preclude the state of Alabama , its departments, agencies, boards, commissions, authorities, political subdivisions, and corporations (collectively "State Entities"), other than the Commission and only to the extent set forth in paragraph 1 above, and the officers, agents, or employees of State Entities from asserting any claims, causes of action, or applications for compensatory, nominal and/or punitive damages, administrative, civil, criminal, or injunctive relief against JPMorgan in connection with certain marketing and sales practices of auction rate securities at JPMorgan.

11. Except in an action by the Commission to enforce the obligations of JPMorgan in this Consent Order, this Consent Order may neither be deemed nor used as an admission of or evidence of any alleged fault, omission, or liability of JPMorgan in any civil, criminal, arbitration, or administrative proceeding in any court, administrative agency, or tribunal. For any person or entity not a party to this Consent Order, this Consent Order does not limit or create any private rights or remedies against JPMorgan including, without limitation with respect to the use of any e-mails or other documents of JPMorgan or of others concerning the marketing and/or sales of auction rate securities, limit or create liability of JPMorgan, or limit or create defenses of JPMorgan to any claims.

12. This Consent Order shall not disqualify JPMorgan or any of its affiliates or current or former employees from any business that they otherwise are qualified or licensed to perform under applicable state law and is not intended to form the basis for any disqualification.

13. Any dispute related to this Consent Order shall be construed and enforced in accordance with, and governed by, the laws of the state of Alabama without regard to any choice of law principles.

14. Respondent, JPMorgan, through its execution of the Consent to this Consent Order, voluntarily waives its right to a hearing on this matter and to judicial review of the Consent Order under Section 8-6-25 Code of Alabama 1975.

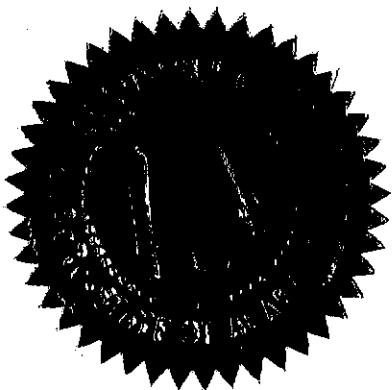
15. Respondent, JPMorgan, enters into this Consent Order voluntarily and represents that no threats, offers, promises, or inducements of any kind have been made by the Commission or any member, officer, employee, agent, or representative of the Commission to induce JPMorgan to enter into this Consent Order other than as set forth in this Consent Order.

16. This Consent Order shall be binding upon JPMorgan and its successors and assigns as well as to successors and assigns of relevant affiliates with respect to all conduct subject to the provisions above and all future obligations, responsibilities, undertakings, commitments, limitations, restrictions, events, and conditions.

Dated this 18TH day of AUGUST, 2009.

BY ORDER OF  
ALABAMA SECURITIES COMMISSION

JOSEPH P BORG  
DIRECTOR



## CONSENT TO ENTRY OF ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER BY JPMORGAN

1. JPMorgan hereby acknowledges that it has been served with a copy of the foregoing Consent Order, has read the foregoing, is aware of its right to a hearing and appeal in this matter, and has waived the same.

2. JPMorgan admits the jurisdiction of the Commission, neither admits nor denies the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law contained in the foregoing Consent Order, and consents to entry of this Consent Order by the Commission as settlement of the issues contained in the foregoing Consent Order.

3. JPMorgan agrees that it shall not claim, assert, or apply for a tax deduction or tax credit with regard to any state, federal, or local tax for any administrative monetary penalty that JPMorgan shall pay pursuant to this Consent Order.

4. JPMorgan states that no promise of any kind or nature whatsoever that is not reflected in this Consent Order was made to it to induce it to enter into this Consent Order and that it has entered into this Consent Order voluntarily.

5. Lawrence Chanen represents that he/she is Senior Vice President and Associate General Counsel of JPMorgan and that, as such, has been authorized by JPMorgan to enter into this Consent Order for and on behalf of JPMorgan.

Dated this 7<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2009.

JPMORGAN

By Lawrence N. Chanen  
Its Senior Vice President  
and Associate General Counsel