

**CHARTER OF THE AUDIT COMMITTEE
OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF
COWEN GROUP, INC.
ADOPTED AS OF NOVEMBER 2, 2009**

I. PURPOSE OF THE COMMITTEE

The purpose of the Audit Committee (the “Committee”) of the Board of Directors (the “Board”) of Cowen Group, Inc. (the “Corporation”) is to oversee the accounting and financial reporting processes of the Corporation and its subsidiaries and the audits of the financial statements of the Corporation.

II. COMPOSITION OF THE COMMITTEE

The Committee shall consist of three or more directors, as determined from time to time by the Board upon the recommendation of the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee. Each member of the Committee shall be qualified to serve on the Committee pursuant to the requirements of The Nasdaq Stock Market LLC (“Nasdaq”), and any additional requirements that the Board deems appropriate.

No director may serve as a member of the Committee if such director serves on the audit committee of more than two other public companies, unless the Board determines that such simultaneous service would not impair the ability of such director to effectively serve on the Committee.

The chairperson of the Committee shall be designated by the Board, *provided* that if the Board does not so designate a chairperson, the members of the Committee, by a majority vote, may designate a chairperson.

Any vacancy on the Committee shall be filled by majority vote of the Board. No member of the Committee shall be removed except by majority vote of the Board.

Each member of the Committee must be able to read and understand fundamental financial statements, including the Corporation’s balance sheet, income statement and cash flow statement. In addition, at least one member of the Committee must be designated by the Board to be the “audit committee financial expert,” as defined by the Securities and Exchange Commission (“SEC”) pursuant to the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 (the “Act”).

III. MEETINGS OF THE COMMITTEE

The Committee shall meet as often as it determines necessary to carry out its duties and responsibilities, but no less frequently than once every fiscal quarter. The Committee, in its discretion, may ask members of management or others to attend its meetings (or portions thereof) and to provide pertinent information as necessary. The Committee should meet separately on a periodic basis with (i) management, (ii) the head of the Corporation’s internal auditing department or other person responsible for the internal audit function and (iii) the

Corporation's independent auditors, in each case to discuss any matters that the Committee or any of the above persons or firms believe warrant Committee attention.

A majority of the members of the Committee present in person or by means of a conference telephone or other communications equipment by means of which all persons participating in the meeting can hear each other shall constitute a quorum.

The Committee may delegate its authority to subcommittees consisting of one or more members of the Committee, including authority to pre-approve audit and permitted non-audit services, when it deems it appropriate and in the best interests of the Company. The Committee shall not delegate to a subcommittee any power or authority required by any law, regulation or listing standard to be exercised by the Committee as a whole.

The Committee shall maintain minutes of its meetings and records relating to those meetings and shall report regularly to the Board on its activities, as appropriate.

IV. DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE COMMITTEE

In carrying out its duties and responsibilities, the Committee's policies and procedures should remain flexible, so that it may be in a position to best address, react or respond to changing circumstances or conditions. The following duties and responsibilities are within the authority of the Committee and the Committee shall, consistent with and subject to applicable law and rules and regulations promulgated by the SEC, Nasdaq, the New York Stock Exchange, or any other applicable regulatory authority:

Selection, Evaluation, and Oversight of the Auditors

(a) Be directly responsible for the appointment, compensation, retention and oversight of the work of any registered public accounting firm engaged for the purpose of preparing or issuing an audit report or performing other audit, review or attest services for the Corporation, and each such registered public accounting firm must report directly to the Committee (the registered public accounting firm engaged for the purpose of preparing or issuing an audit report for inclusion in the Corporation's Annual Report on Form 10-K is referred to herein as the "independent auditors");

(b) Review and, in its sole discretion, approve in advance the Corporation's independent auditors' annual engagement letter, including the proposed fees contained therein, as well as all audit and, as provided in the Act and the SEC rules and regulations promulgated thereunder, all permitted non-audit engagements and relationships between the Corporation and such independent auditors (which approval should be made after receiving input from the Corporation's management, if desired). Approval of audit and permitted non-audit services will be made by the Committee or by one or more members of the Committee as shall be designated by the Committee and the person[s] granting such approval shall report such approval to the Committee at the next scheduled meeting;

(c) Review the performance of the Corporation's independent auditors, including the lead partner and reviewing partner of the independent auditors, and, in its sole discretion (subject,

if applicable, to shareholder ratification), make decisions regarding the replacement or termination of the independent auditors or the lead partner when circumstances warrant;

- (d) Evaluate the independence of the Corporation's independent auditors by, among other things:
 - (i) obtaining and reviewing from the Corporation's independent auditors a formal written statement delineating all relationships between the independent auditors and the Corporation, consistent with Independence Standards Board Standard 1;
 - (ii) actively engaging in a dialogue with the Corporation's independent auditors with respect to any disclosed relationships or services that may impact the objectivity and independence of the independent auditors;
 - (iii) taking, or recommending that the Board take, appropriate action to oversee the independence of the Corporation's independent auditors;
 - (iv) monitoring compliance by the Corporation's independent auditors with the audit partner rotation requirements contained in the Act and the rules and regulations promulgated by the SEC thereunder;
 - (v) monitoring compliance by the Corporation of the employee conflict of interest requirements contained in the Act and the rules and regulations promulgated by the SEC thereunder; and
 - (vi) engaging in a dialogue with the independent auditors to confirm that audit partner compensation is consistent with applicable SEC rules;

Oversight of Annual Audit and Quarterly Reviews

(e) Review and discuss with the independent auditors their annual audit plan, including the timing and scope of audit activities, and monitor such plan's progress and results during the year;

(f) Review with management, the Corporation's independent auditors and the head of the Corporation's internal auditing department, the following information which is required to be reported by the independent auditor:

- (i) all critical accounting policies and practices to be used;
- (ii) all alternative treatments of financial information that have been discussed by the independent auditors and management, ramifications of the use of such alternative disclosures and treatments, and the treatment preferred by the independent auditors;

- (iii) all other material written communications between the independent auditors and management, such as any management letter and any schedule of unadjusted differences; and
- (iv) any material financial arrangements of the Corporation which do not appear on the financial statements of the Corporation;

(g) Resolve all disagreements between the Corporation's independent auditors and management regarding financial reporting;

Oversight of Financial Reporting Process and Internal Controls

(h) Review:

- (i) the adequacy and effectiveness of the Corporation's accounting and internal control policies and procedures on a regular basis, including the responsibilities, budget, compensation and staffing of the Corporation's internal audit function, through inquiry and periodic meetings with the Corporation's independent auditors, management and the head of the Corporation's internal auditing department;
- (ii) the yearly report prepared by management, and attested to by the Corporation's independent auditors, assessing the effectiveness of the Corporation's internal control over financial reporting and stating management's responsibility for establishing and maintaining adequate internal control over financial reporting prior to its inclusion in the Corporation's Annual Report on Form 10-K; and
- (iii) the Committee's level of involvement and interaction with the Corporation's internal audit function, as well as interaction with key members of financial management, including the chief financial officer and the chief accounting officer;

(i) Review with the chief executive officer, chief financial officer and independent auditors, periodically, the following:

- (i) all significant deficiencies and material weaknesses in the design or operation of internal control over financial reporting which are reasonably likely to adversely affect the Corporation's ability to record, process, summarize and report financial information; and
- (ii) any fraud, whether or not material, that involves management or other employees who have a significant role in the Corporation's internal control over financial reporting;

(j) Discuss guidelines and policies governing the process by which senior management of the Corporation and the relevant departments of the Corporation, including the internal auditing department, assess and manage the Corporation's exposure to risk, including

market, credit, liquidity and operational risks, as well as the Corporation's major financial risk exposures and the steps management has taken to monitor and control such exposures;

(k) Review with management the progress and results of all internal audit projects, and, when deemed necessary or appropriate by the Committee, assign additional internal audit projects to the head of the Corporation's internal auditing department;

(l) Receive periodic reports from the Corporation's independent auditors, management and the head of the Corporation's internal auditing department to assess the impact on the Corporation of significant accounting or financial reporting developments that may have a bearing on the Corporation;

(m) Review and discuss with the independent auditors the results of the year-end audit of the Corporation, including any comments or recommendations of the Corporation's independent auditors and, based on such review and discussions and on such other considerations as it determines appropriate, recommend to the Board whether the Corporation's financial statements should be included in the Annual Report on Form 10-K;

(n) Establish and maintain free and open means of communication between and among the Committee, the Corporation's independent auditors, the Corporation's internal auditing department and management, including providing such parties with appropriate opportunities to meet separately and privately with the Committee on a periodic basis;

(o) Review the type and presentation of information to be included in the Corporation's earnings press releases (especially the use of "pro forma" or "adjusted" information not prepared in compliance with generally accepted accounting principles), as well as financial information and earnings guidance provided by the Corporation to analysts and rating agencies, which review may be done generally (i.e., discussion of the type of information to be disclosed and type of presentations to be made), and the Committee need not discuss in advance each earnings release or each instance in which the Corporation may provide earnings guidance;

Miscellaneous

(p) Establish and implement policies and procedures for the Committee's review and approval or disapproval of proposed transactions or courses of dealings with respect to which executive officers or directors or members of their immediate families have an interest (including all transactions required to be disclosed by Item 404(a) of Regulation S-K);

(q) Meet periodically with the general counsel, and outside counsel when appropriate, to review legal and regulatory matters, including (i) any matters that may have a material impact on the financial statements of the Corporation and (ii) any matters involving potential or ongoing material violations of law or breaches of fiduciary duty by the Corporation or any of its directors, officers, employees, or agents or breaches of fiduciary duty to the Corporation;

(r) Prepare the report required by the rules of the SEC to be included in the Corporation's annual proxy statement;

(s) Review the Corporation's policies relating to the ethical handling of conflicts of interest and review past or proposed transactions between the Corporation and members of management as well as policies and procedures with respect to officers' expense accounts and perquisites, including the use of corporate assets. The Committee shall consider the results of any review of these policies and procedures by the Corporation's independent auditors;

(t) Establish procedures for (i) the receipt, retention and treatment of complaints received by the Corporation regarding accounting, internal accounting controls or auditing matters, and (ii) the confidential, anonymous submission by employees of the Corporation of concerns regarding questionable accounting or auditing matters;

(u) Secure independent expert advice to the extent the Committee determines it to be appropriate, including retaining, with or without Board approval, independent counsel, accountants, consultants or others, to assist the Committee in fulfilling its duties and responsibilities, the cost of such independent expert advisors to be borne by the Corporation;

(v) Review and monitor the integrity of the policies and procedures that the Corporation and its subsidiaries have developed to assure the integrity of its equity research department;

(w) Review and assess the adequacy of this Charter on an annual basis; and

(x) Perform such additional activities, and consider such other matters, within the scope of its responsibilities, as the Committee or the Board deems necessary or appropriate.

V. EVALUATION OF THE COMMITTEE

The Committee shall, on an annual basis, evaluate its performance. In conducting this review, the Committee shall evaluate whether this Charter appropriately addresses the matters that are or should be within its scope and shall recommend such changes as it deems necessary or appropriate. The Committee shall address all matters that the Committee considers relevant to its performance, including at least the following: the adequacy, appropriateness and quality of the information and recommendations presented by the Committee to the Board, the manner in which they were discussed or debated, and whether the number and length of meetings of the Committee were adequate for the Committee to complete its work in a thorough and thoughtful manner.

The Committee shall deliver to the Board a report, which may be oral, setting forth the results of its evaluation, including any recommended amendments to this Charter and any recommended changes to the Corporation's or the Board's policies or procedures.

VI. INVESTIGATIONS AND STUDIES; OUTSIDE ADVISERS

The Committee may conduct or authorize investigations into or studies of matters within the Committee's scope of responsibilities, and may retain, at the Corporation's expense, such independent counsel or other consultants or advisers as it deems necessary.

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While the Committee has the duties and responsibilities set forth in this charter, the Committee is not responsible for preparing or certifying the financial statements, for planning or conducting the audit, or for determining whether the Corporation's financial statements are complete and accurate and are in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. In fulfilling their responsibilities hereunder, it is recognized that it is not the duty or responsibility of the Committee or its members to conduct "field work" or other types of auditing or accounting reviews or procedures or to set auditor independence standards.

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