

WATTS WATER TECHNOLOGIES INC

Form SC 13D/A

September 23, 2011

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SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
Washington, D.C. 20549

SCHEDULE 13D

Under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (Amendment No. 46)

Watts Water Technologies, Inc.  
(Name of Issuer)

Class A Common Stock, Par Value \$0.10 Per Share  
(Title of Class of Securities)

\_\_\_\_\_942749102\_\_\_\_\_  
(CUSIP Number)

Peter D. Goldstein  
GAMCO Investors, Inc.  
One Corporate Center  
Rye, New York 10580-1435  
(914) 921-5000

(Name, Address and Telephone Number of Person Authorized to Receive Notices and Communications)

\_\_\_\_\_September 22, 2011\_\_\_\_\_  
(Date of Event which Requires Filing of this Statement)

If the filing person has previously filed a statement on Schedule 13G to report the acquisition that is the subject of this Schedule 13D, and is filing this schedule because of §§ 240.13d-1(e), 240.13d-1(f) or 240.13d-1(g), check the following box .

CUSIP No. 942749102

- 1 Names of reporting persons  
 I.R.S. identification nos. of above persons (entities only)  
 Gabelli Funds, LLC I.D. No. 13-4044523
- 2 Check the appropriate box if a member of a group (SEE INSTRUCTIONS) (a)
- (b)
- 3 Sec use only
- 4 Source of funds (SEE INSTRUCTIONS)  
 00-Funds of investment advisory clients
- 5 Check box if disclosure of legal proceedings is required pursuant to items 2 (d) or 2 (e)
- 6 Citizenship or place of organization  
 New York
- |              |     |                          |
|--------------|-----|--------------------------|
| Number Of    | : 7 | Sole voting power        |
|              | :   |                          |
| Shares       | :   | 742,500 (Item 5)         |
|              | :   |                          |
| Beneficially | : 8 | Shared voting power      |
|              | :   |                          |
| Owned        | :   | None                     |
|              | :   |                          |
| By Each      | : 9 | Sole dispositive power   |
|              | :   |                          |
| Reporting    | :   | 742,500 (Item 5)         |
|              | :   |                          |
| Person       | :10 | Shared dispositive power |
|              | :   |                          |
| With         | :   | None                     |
|              | :   |                          |
- 11 Aggregate amount beneficially owned by each reporting person  
 742,500 (Item 5)
- 12 Check box if the aggregate amount in row (11) excludes certain shares  
 (SEE INSTRUCTIONS)
- 13 Percent of class represented by amount in row (11)  
 2.45%
- 14 Type of reporting person (SEE INSTRUCTIONS)

IA

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CUSIP No. 942749102

- 1 Names of reporting persons  
 I.R.S. identification nos. of above persons (entities only)  
 GAMCO Asset Management Inc. I.D. No. 13-4044521
- 2 Check the appropriate box if a member of a group (SEE INSTRUCTIONS) (a)

(b)

- 3 Sec use only
- 4 Source of funds (SEE INSTRUCTIONS)  
 00-Funds of investment advisory clients
- 5 Check box if disclosure of legal proceedings is required pursuant to items 2 (d) or 2 (e)

- 6 Citizenship or place of organization  
 New York

Number Of	: 7	Sole voting power
	:	
Shares	:	2,099,293 (Item 5)
	:	
Beneficially	: 8	Shared voting power
	:	
Owned	:	None
	:	
By Each	: 9	Sole dispositive power
	:	
Reporting	:	2,194,793 (Item 5)
	:	
Person	:10	Shared dispositive power
	:	
With	:	None
	:	

- 11 Aggregate amount beneficially owned by each reporting person  
 2,194,793 (Item 5)
- 12 Check box if the aggregate amount in row (11) excludes certain shares  
 (SEE INSTRUCTIONS)
- 13 Percent of class represented by amount in row (11)  
 7.25%
- 14 Type of reporting person (SEE INSTRUCTIONS)  
 IA, CO



CUSIP No. 942749102

- 1 Names of reporting persons  
 I.R.S. identification nos. of above persons (entities only)  
 Teton Advisors, Inc. I.D. No. 13-4008049
- 2 Check the appropriate box if a member of a group (SEE INSTRUCTIONS) (a)

(b)

- 3 Sec use only
- 4 Source of funds (SEE INSTRUCTIONS)  
 00 – Funds of investment advisory clients
- 5 Check box if disclosure of legal proceedings is required pursuant to items 2 (d) or 2 (e)

- 6 Citizenship or place of organization  
 Delaware

Number Of	: 7	Sole voting power
	:	
Shares	: 500 (Item 5)	
	:	
Beneficially	: 8	Shared voting power
	:	
Owned	: None	
	:	
By Each	: 9	Sole dispositive power
	:	
Reporting	: 500 (Item 5)	
	:	
Person	: 10	Shared dispositive power
	:	
With	: None	
	:	

- 11 Aggregate amount beneficially owned by each reporting person  
 500 (Item 5)

- 12 Check box if the aggregate amount in row (11) excludes certain shares  
 (SEE INSTRUCTIONS)

- 13 Percent of class represented by amount in row (11)  
 0.00%

- 14 Type of reporting person (SEE  
 INSTRUCTIONS)

IA, CO



CUSIP No. 942749102

- 1 Names of reporting persons  
 I.R.S. identification nos. of above persons (entities only)  
 GGCP, Inc. I.D. No. 13-3056041
- 2 Check the appropriate box if a member of a group (SEE INSTRUCTIONS) (a)

(b)

- 3 Sec use only
- 4 Source of funds (SEE INSTRUCTIONS)  
 None
- 5 Check box if disclosure of legal proceedings is required pursuant to items 2 (d) or 2 (e)

- 6 Citizenship or place of organization  
 Wyoming

Number Of	: 7	Sole voting power
	:	
Shares	:	None
	:	
Beneficially	: 8	Shared voting power
	:	
Owned	:	None
	:	
By Each	: 9	Sole dispositive power
	:	
Reporting	:	None
	:	
Person	:10	Shared dispositive power
	:	
With	:	None
	:	

- 11 Aggregate amount beneficially owned by each reporting person

None

- 12 Check box if the aggregate amount in row (11) excludes certain shares  
 (SEE INSTRUCTIONS) X

- 13 Percent of class represented by amount in row (11)

0.00%

- 14 Type of reporting person (SEE INSTRUCTIONS)  
 HC, CO



CUSIP No. 942749102

1 Names of reporting persons  
 I.R.S. identification nos. of above persons (entities only)  
 GAMCO Investors, Inc. I.D.  
 No. 13-4007862

2 Check the appropriate box if a member of a group (SEE INSTRUCTIONS) (a)

(b)

3 Sec use only

4 Source of funds (SEE INSTRUCTIONS)  
 None

5 Check box if disclosure of legal proceedings is required pursuant to items 2 (d) or 2 (e)

6 Citizenship or place of organization  
 New York

Number Of	: 7	Sole voting power
	:	
Shares	:	None
	:	
Beneficially	: 8	Shared voting power
	:	
Owned	:	None
	:	
By Each	: 9	Sole dispositive power
	:	
Reporting	:	None
	:	
Person	:10	Shared dispositive power
	:	
With	:	None
	:	

11 Aggregate amount beneficially owned by each reporting person

None

12 Check box if the aggregate amount in row (11) excludes certain shares  
 (SEE INSTRUCTIONS) X

13 Percent of class represented by amount in row (11)

0.00%

14 Type of reporting person (SEE INSTRUCTIONS)

HC, CO

CUSIP No. 942749102

- 1 Names of reporting persons  
I.R.S. identification nos. of above persons (entities only)  
Mario J. Gabelli
- 2 Check the appropriate box if a member of a group (SEE INSTRUCTIONS) (a)  
  
(b)
- 3 Sec use only
- 4 Source of funds (SEE INSTRUCTIONS)  
None
- 5 Check box if disclosure of legal proceedings is required pursuant to items 2 (d) or 2 (e)

6 Citizenship or place of organization  
USA

Number Of	: 7	Sole voting power
	:	
Shares	:	None
	:	
Beneficially	: 8	Shared voting power
	:	
Owned	:	
	:	
By Each	:	We expect to enter into arrangements or adjust or close out existing transactions to hedge our obligations under the notes. We, the Guarantor or our other affiliates, including MLPF&S, and any other distributors of the notes also may
Reporting	:	
Person	:	PS-16
With	:	

enter into hedging transactions relating to other notes or instruments, some of which may have returns calculated in a manner related to the notes. We may enter into such hedging arrangements with one of our affiliates. Our affiliates or such other distributors may enter into additional hedging transactions with other parties relating to the notes and the Underlier. This hedging activity is expected to result in a profit to those engaging in the hedging activity, which could be more or less than initially expected, or the hedging activity could also result in a loss. We and these other entities will price these hedging transactions with the intent to realize a profit, regardless of whether the value of the notes increases or decreases. Any profit in connection with such hedging activities will be in addition to any other compensation that we or other parties receive for the sale of the notes, which creates an additional incentive to sell the notes to you.

**There May Be Potential Conflicts of Interest Involving the Calculation Agent, Which Is an Affiliate of Ours. We Have the Right to Appoint and Remove the Calculation Agent**

MLPF&S will be the calculation agent for the notes and, as such, will make a variety of determinations relating to the notes, including the amounts that will be paid on the notes. Under some circumstances, these duties could result in a conflict of interest between its status as our affiliate and its responsibilities as calculation agent. These conflicts could occur, for instance, in connection with the calculation agent's determination as to whether a Market Disruption Event has occurred. The calculation agent will be required to carry out its duties in good faith and use its reasonable judgment. However, because we expect that the Guarantor will control the calculation agent, potential conflicts of interest could arise.

**The Market Value of the Notes Will Be Affected by Various Factors That Interrelate in Complex Ways, and Their Market Value May Be Less Than the Face Amount**

If you wish to liquidate your investment in the notes prior to maturity, your only option would be to sell them in the secondary market. At that time, there may be an illiquid

market for your notes or no market at all. Even if you were able to sell your notes, there are many factors outside of our control that may affect their market value, such as the level and the volatility of the Underlier, economic and other conditions generally, interest rates, dividend yields on the securities represented by the Underlier, exchange rate movements and volatility, our and the guarantor's financial condition and creditworthiness, time to maturity. The impact of any one factor may be offset or magnified by the effect of another factor. See "Risk Factors—General Risks Relating to the Notes—The notes are not designed to be short-term trading instruments and if you attempt to sell the notes prior to maturity, their market value, if any, will be affected by various factors that interrelate in complex ways, and their market value may be less than the principal amount" beginning on page PS-8 of product supplement EQUITY-1.

**The U.S. Federal Income Tax Consequences of an Investment in the Notes Are Uncertain, and May Be Adverse to a Holder of the Notes**

No statutory, judicial, or administrative authority directly addresses the characterization of the notes or securities similar to the notes for U.S. federal income tax purposes. As a result, significant aspects of the U.S. federal income tax consequences of an investment in the notes are not certain. Under the terms of the notes, you will have agreed with us to treat the notes as single financial contracts, as described under "U.S. Federal Income Tax Summary—General." If the Internal Revenue Service (the "IRS") were successful in asserting an alternative characterization for the notes, the timing and character of gain or loss with respect to the notes may differ. No ruling will be requested from the IRS with respect to the notes and no assurance can be given that the IRS will agree with the statements made in the section entitled "U.S. Federal Income Tax Summary." You are urged to consult with your own tax advisor regarding all aspects of the U.S. federal income tax consequences of investing in the notes.

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## **THE UNDERLIER**

All disclosures contained in this pricing supplement regarding the Underlier, including, without limitation, its make-up, method of calculation, and changes in its components, have been derived from publicly available sources. The information reflects the policies of, and is subject to change by S&P Dow Jones Indices LLC (“SPDJI” or the “Underlier Sponsor”). The Underlier Sponsor, which licenses the copyright and all other rights to the Underlier, has no obligation to continue to publish, and may discontinue publication of, the Underlier. The consequences of the Underlier Sponsor discontinuing publication of the applicable Underlier are discussed in “Description of the Notes—Discontinuance of an Index” in the accompanying product supplement. None of us, the Guarantor, the calculation agent, or MLPF&S accepts any responsibility for the calculation, maintenance or publication of the Underlier or any successor index.

None of us, the Guarantor, MLPF&S or any of our other affiliates makes any representation to you as to the future performance of the Underlier.

You should make your own investigation into the Underlier.

### **The S&P 500<sup>®</sup> Index**

The Underlier includes a representative sample of 500 companies in leading industries of the U.S. economy. The Underlier is intended to provide an indication of the pattern of common stock price movement. The calculation of the level of the Underlier is based on the relative value of the aggregate market value of the common stocks of 500 companies as of a particular time compared to the aggregate average market value of the common stocks of 500 similar



companies during the base period of the years 1941 through 1943.

Effective March 10, 2017, company additions to the underlier must have an unadjusted company market capitalization of \$6.1 billion or more (an increase from the previous requirement of an unadjusted company market capitalization of \$5.3 billion or more).

The Underlier Sponsor calculates the Underlier by reference to the prices of the constituent stocks of the Underlier without taking account of the value of dividends paid on those stocks. As a result, the return on the notes will not reflect the return you would realize if you actually owned the Underlier constituent stocks and received the dividends paid on those stocks. Additional information is available on the following websites: [us.spindices.com/indices/equity/sp-500](http://us.spindices.com/indices/equity/sp-500) and [spdji.com/](http://spdji.com/). We are not incorporating by reference the websites or any material they include in this pricing supplement.

As of May 31, 2018, the companies included in the Underlier were divided into eleven Global Industry Classification Sectors. The Global Industry Classification Sectors include (with the approximate percentage currently included in such sectors indicated in parentheses): Information Technology (26.0%); Financials (14.2%); Health Care (13.9%); Consumer Discretionary (12.9%); Industrials (9.9%); Consumer Staples (6.7%); Energy (6.3%); Materials (2.8%); Utilities (2.8%); Real Estate (2.7%); and Telecommunication Services (1.8%). (Sector designations are determined by the Underlier Sponsor using criteria it has selected or developed. Index sponsors may use very different standards for determining sector designations. In addition, many companies operate in a number of sectors, but are listed in only one sector and the basis on which that sector is selected may also differ. As a result, sector comparisons between indices with different index sponsors may reflect differences in methodology as well as actual differences in the sector composition of the indices.) SP DJI and MSCI, Inc. have announced that the Global Industry Classification Sector structure is expected to be updated after the close of business on September 28, 2018. Among other things, the update is expected to broaden the current Telecommunications Services sector

and rename it the Communication Services sector. The renamed sector is expected to include the existing Telecommunication Services Industry group, as well as the Media Industry group, which is expected to move from the Consumer Discretionary sector and be renamed the Media & Entertainment Industry group. The Media & Entertainment Industry group is expected to contain three industries: Media, Entertainment and Interactive Media & Services. The Media industry is expected to continue to consist of the Advertising, Broadcasting, Cable & Satellite and Publishing sub-industries. The Entertainment industry is expected to contain the Movies & Entertainment sub-industry (which is expected to include online entertainment streaming companies in addition to companies currently classified in such industry) and the Interactive Home Entertainment sub-industry (which is expected to include companies from the current Home Entertainment Software sub-industry in the Information Technology sector, as well as producers of mobile gaming applications). The Interactive Media & Services industry and sub-industry is expected to include companies engaged in content and information creation or distribution through proprietary platforms, where revenues are derived primarily through pay-per-click advertisements, and will include search engines, social media and networking platforms, online classifieds and online review companies.

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### **Computation of the Underlier**

While the Underlier Sponsor currently employs the following methodology to calculate the Underlier, no assurance can be given that the Underlier Sponsor will not modify or change this methodology in a manner that may affect the Cash Settlement Amount.

Historically, the market value of any component stock of the Underlier was calculated as the product of the market price per share and the number of then outstanding shares of such component stock. In March 2005, the Underlier Sponsor began shifting the Underlier halfway from a market capitalization weighted formula to a float-adjusted formula, before moving the Underlier to full float adjustment on September 16, 2005. The Underlier Sponsor's criteria for selecting stocks for the Underlier did not change with the shift to float adjustment. However, the adjustment affects each company's weight in the Underlier.

Under float adjustment, the share counts used in calculating the Underlier reflect only those shares that are available to investors, not all of a company's outstanding shares. Float adjustment excludes shares that are closely held by control groups, other publicly traded companies or government agencies.

In September 2012, all shareholdings representing more than 5% of a stock's outstanding shares, other than holdings by "block owners," were removed from the float for purposes of calculating the Underlier. Generally, these "control holders" will include officers and directors, private equity, venture capital and special equity firms, other publicly traded companies that hold shares for control, strategic partners, holders of restricted shares, ESOPs, employee and family trusts, foundations associated with the company, holders of unlisted share classes of stock, government entities at all levels (other than government retirement/pension funds) and any individual person who controls a 5% or greater stake in a company as reported in regulatory filings. However, holdings by block owners, such as depositary banks, pension funds, mutual funds and ETF providers, 401(k) plans of the company, government

retirement/pension funds, investment funds of insurance companies, asset managers and investment funds, independent foundations and savings and investment plans, will ordinarily be considered part of the float.

Treasury stock, stock options, restricted shares, equity participation units, warrants, preferred stock, convertible stock, and rights are not part of the float. Shares held in a trust to allow investors in countries outside the country of domicile, such as depositary shares and Canadian exchangeable shares are normally part of the float unless those shares form a control block.

For each stock, an investable weight factor (“IWF”) is calculated by dividing the available float shares by the total shares outstanding. Available float shares are defined as the total shares outstanding less shares held by control holders. This calculation is subject to a 5% minimum threshold for control blocks. For example, if a company’s officers and directors hold 3% of the company’s shares, and no other control group holds 5% of the company’s shares, the Underlier Sponsor would assign that company an IWF of 1.00, as no control group meets the 5% threshold. However, if a company’s officers and directors hold 3% of the company’s shares and another control group holds 20% of the company’s shares, the Underlier Sponsor would assign an IWF of 0.77, reflecting the fact that 23% of the company’s outstanding shares are considered to be held for control. As of July 31, 2017, companies with multiple share class lines are no longer eligible for inclusion in the Underlier. Constituents of the Underlier prior to July 31, 2017 with multiple share class lines will be grandfathered in and continue to be included in the Underlier. If a constituent company of the Underlier reorganizes into a multiple share class line structure, that company will remain in the Underlier at the discretion of the S&P Index Committee in order to minimize turnover.

The Underlier is calculated using a base-weighted aggregate methodology. The level of the Underlier reflects the total market value of all component stocks relative to the base period of the years 1941 through 1943. An indexed number is used to represent the results of this calculation in order to make the level easier to work with and track over time. The actual total market value of the component stocks

during the base period of the years 1941 through 1943 has been set to an indexed level of 10. This is often indicated by the notation 1941- 43 = 10. In practice, the daily calculation of the Underlier is computed by dividing the total market value of the component stocks by the “index divisor.” By itself, the index divisor is an arbitrary number. However, in the context of the calculation of the Underlier, it serves as a link to the original base period level of the Underlier. The index divisor keeps the Underlier comparable over time and is the manipulation point for all adjustments to the Underlier, which is index maintenance.

### **Index Maintenance**

Index maintenance includes monitoring and completing the adjustments for company additions and deletions, share changes, stock splits, stock dividends, and stock price adjustments due to company restructuring or spinoffs. Some corporate actions, such as stock splits and stock dividends, require changes in the common shares outstanding and the stock prices of the companies in the Underlier, and do not require index divisor adjustments.

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To prevent the level of the Underlier from changing due to corporate actions, corporate actions which affect the total market value of the Underlier require an index divisor adjustment. By adjusting the index divisor for the change in market value, the level of the Underlier remains constant and does not reflect the corporate actions of individual companies in the Underlier. Index divisor adjustments are made after the close of trading and after the calculation of the Underlier closing level.

Changes in a company's shares outstanding and IWF due to its acquisition of another public company are made as soon as reasonably possible. At the Underlier Sponsor's discretion, *de minimis* merger and acquisition share changes are accumulated and implemented with the quarterly share rebalancing.

All other changes of less than 5% are accumulated and made quarterly on the third Friday of March, June, September, and December.

Changes in a company's total shares outstanding of 5% or more due to public offerings are made as soon as reasonably possible. Other changes of 5% or more (for example, due to tender offers, Dutch auctions, voluntary exchange offers, company stock repurchases, private placements, acquisitions of private companies or non-index companies that do not trade on a major exchange, redemptions, exercise of options, warrants, conversion of preferred stock, notes, debt, equity participations, at-the-market stock offerings or other recapitalizations) are made weekly, and are generally announced on Fridays for implementation after the close of trading the following Friday (one week later). If a 5% or more share change causes a company's IWF to change by five percentage points or more, the IWF is updated at the same time as the share change. IWF changes resulting from partial tender offers are considered on a case-by-case basis.

Changes in IWFs of more than five percentage points caused by corporate actions (such as merger and acquisition activity, restructurings, or spinoffs) will be made as soon as reasonably possible. Other changes in IWFs will be made annually when IWFs are reviewed.

### **Historical Closing Levels of the Underlier**

The closing level of the Underlier has fluctuated in the past and may, in the future, experience significant fluctuations. Any historical upward or downward trend in the closing level of the Underlier during the period shown below is not an indication that the Underlier is more or less likely to increase or decrease at any time during the life of your notes.

**You should not take the historical levels of the Underlier as an indication of its future performance.** We cannot give you any assurance that the future performance of the Underlier or the Underlier Stocks will result in your receiving an amount greater than the outstanding face amount of your notes on the stated maturity date.

Neither we nor any of our affiliates make any representation to you as to the performance of the Underlier. Before investing in the offered notes, you should consult publicly available information to determine the levels of the Underlier between the date of this pricing supplement and the date of your purchase of the offered notes. The actual performance of the Underlier over the life of the offered notes, as well as the Cash Settlement Amount, may bear little relation to the historical closing levels shown below.

The graph below shows the daily historical closing levels of the Underlier from June 20, 2008 through June 20, 2018. We obtained the closing levels in the graph below from Bloomberg Financial Services, without independent verification.

### **Historical Performance of the S&P 500® Index**

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**SUPPLEMENTAL PLAN OF  
DISTRIBUTION—CONFLICTS OF INTEREST**

BofA Finance expects to agree to sell to MLPF&S, and MLPF&S expects to agree to purchase from BofA Finance, the aggregate face amount of the offered notes specified on the front cover of this pricing supplement. MLPF&S proposes initially to offer the notes to the public at the price to public set forth on the cover page of this pricing supplement.

We expect to deliver the notes against payment therefor in New York, New York on \_\_\_\_\_, 2018, which is expected to be the fifth scheduled business day following the trade date. Under Rule 15c6-1 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, trades in the secondary market generally are required to settle in two business days, unless the parties to any such trade expressly agree otherwise. Accordingly, purchasers who wish to trade the notes on any date prior to two business days before delivery will be required, by virtue of the fact that the notes are initially expected to settle in five business days (T + 5), to specify alternative settlement arrangements to prevent a failed settlement.

MLPF&S, a broker-dealer affiliate of ours, is a member of the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority, Inc. (“FINRA”) and will participate as selling agent in the distribution of the notes. Accordingly, the offering of the notes will conform to the requirements of FINRA Rule 5121. MLPF&S may not make sales in this offering to any of its discretionary accounts without the prior written approval of the account holder.

MLPF&S and any of our other broker-dealer affiliates, may use this pricing supplement, and the accompanying product supplement, prospectus supplement and prospectus for offers and sales in secondary market transactions and market-making transactions in the notes. However, they are not obligated to engage in such secondary market

transactions and/or market-making transactions. The selling agent may act as principal or agent in these transactions, and any such sales will be made at prices related to prevailing market conditions at the time of the sale.

As agreed by MLPF&S and the distribution participants, for approximately a three-month period after the trade date, MLPF&S expects to offer to buy the notes in the secondary market at a price that will exceed the estimated value of the notes at that time; the amount of this excess will decline on a straight line basis over that period. Thereafter, if MLPF&S buys or sells your notes, it will do so at prices that reflect the estimated value determined by reference to its pricing models at that time. Any price at any time after the trade date will be based on then-prevailing market conditions and other considerations, including the performance of the Underlier and the remaining term of the notes. However, none of us, the Guarantor, MLPF&S or any other party is obligated to purchase your notes at any price or at any time, and we cannot assure you that any party will purchase your notes at a price that equals or exceeds the initial estimated value of the notes.

Any price that MLPF&S may pay to repurchase the notes will depend upon then prevailing market conditions, the creditworthiness of us and the Guarantor, and transaction costs. At certain times, this price may be higher than or lower than the initial estimated value of the notes.

No Prospectus (as defined in Directive 2003/71/EC (as amended, the “Prospectus Directive”)) will be prepared in connection with these notes. Accordingly, these notes may not be offered to the public in any member state of the European Economic Area (the “EEA”), and any purchaser of these notes who subsequently sells any of these notes in any EEA member state must do so only in accordance with the requirements of the Prospectus Directive, as implemented in that member state.

The notes are not intended to be offered, sold or otherwise made available to, and should not be offered, sold or otherwise made available to, any retail investor in the EEA. For these purposes, the expression “offer” includes the

communication in any form and by any means of sufficient information on the terms of the offer and the notes to be offered so as to enable an investor to decide to purchase or subscribe the notes, and a “retail investor” means a person who is one (or more) of: (a) a retail client, as defined in point (11) of Article 4(1) of Directive 2014/65/EU (as amended, “MiFID II”); or (b) a customer, within the meaning of Insurance Distribution Directive 2016/97/EU, as amended, where that customer would not qualify as a professional client as defined in point (10) of Article 4(1) of MiFID II; or (c) not a qualified investor as defined in the Prospectus Directive. Consequently, no key information document required by Regulation (EU) No 1286/2014 (as amended, the “PRIIPs Regulation”) for offering or selling the notes or otherwise making them available to retail investors in the EEA has been prepared, and therefore, offering or selling the notes or otherwise making them available to any retail investor in the EEA may be unlawful under the PRIIPs Regulation.

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## STRUCTURING THE NOTES

The notes are our debt securities, the return on which is linked to the performance of the Underlier. The related guarantees are BAC's obligations. As is the case for all of our and BAC's respective debt securities, including our market-linked notes, the economic terms of the notes reflect our and BAC's actual or perceived creditworthiness at the time of pricing. In addition, because market-linked notes result in increased operational, funding and liability management costs to us and BAC, BAC typically borrows the funds under these types of notes at a rate, which we refer to in this pricing supplement as BAC's internal funding rate, that is more favorable to BAC than the rate that it might pay for a conventional fixed or floating rate debt security. This generally relatively lower internal funding rate, which is reflected in the economic terms of the notes, along with the fees and charges associated with market-linked notes, typically results in the initial estimated value of the notes on the trade date being less than their public offering price.

In order to meet our payment obligations on the notes, at the time we issue the notes, we may choose to enter into certain hedging arrangements (which may include call options, put options or other derivatives) with MLPF&S or one of our other affiliates. The terms of these hedging arrangements are determined based upon terms provided by MLP&S and its affiliates, and take into account a number of factors, including our and BAC's creditworthiness, interest rate movements, the volatility of the Underlier, the tenor of the notes and the hedging arrangements. The economic terms of the notes and their initial estimated value depend in part on the terms of these hedging arrangements.

MLPF&S has advised us that the hedging arrangements will include hedging related charges, reflecting the costs associated with, and our affiliates' profit earned from, these hedging arrangements. Since hedging entails risk and may be influenced by unpredictable market forces, actual profits

or losses from these hedging transactions may be more or less than any expected amounts.

For further information, see “Risk Factors” beginning on page PS-13 above and “Supplemental Use of Proceeds” on page PS-16 of product supplement EQUITY-1.

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## U.S. FEDERAL INCOME TAX SUMMARY

The following summary of the material U.S. federal income tax considerations of the acquisition, ownership, and disposition of the notes supplements, and to the extent inconsistent supersedes, the discussions under “U.S. Federal Income Tax Considerations” in the accompanying prospectus and under “U.S. Federal Income Tax Considerations” in the accompanying prospectus supplement and is not exhaustive of all possible tax considerations. In addition, any reference to “Morrison & Foerster LLP” in the aforementioned tax discussions in the accompanying prospectus and prospectus supplement should be read as a reference to “Sidley Austin LLP.” This summary is based upon the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the “Code”), regulations promulgated under the Code by the U.S. Treasury Department (“Treasury”) (including proposed and temporary regulations), rulings, current administrative interpretations and official pronouncements of the IRS, and judicial decisions, all as currently in effect and all of which are subject to differing interpretations or to change, possibly with retroactive effect. No assurance can be given that the IRS would not assert, or that a court would not sustain, a position contrary to any of the tax consequences described below. This summary does not include any description of the tax laws of any state or local governments, or of any foreign government, that may be applicable to a particular holder.

Although the notes are issued by us, they will be treated as if they were issued by Bank of America Corporation for U.S. federal income tax purposes. Accordingly throughout this tax discussion, references to “we,” “our” or “us” are generally to Bank of America Corporation unless the context requires otherwise.

This summary is directed solely to U.S. Holders and Non-U.S. Holders that, except as otherwise specifically noted, will purchase the notes upon original issuance and will hold the notes as capital assets within the meaning of Section 1221 of the Code, which generally means property

held for investment, and that are not excluded from the discussion under “U.S. Federal Income Tax Considerations” in the accompanying prospectus.

*You should consult your own tax advisor concerning the U.S. federal income tax consequences to you of acquiring, owning, and disposing of the notes, as well as any tax consequences arising under the laws of any state, local, foreign, or other tax jurisdiction and the possible effects of changes in U.S. federal or other tax laws.*

### **General**

Although there is no statutory, judicial, or administrative authority directly addressing the characterization of the notes, in the opinion of our counsel, Sidley Austin LLP, and based on certain factual representations received from us, the notes should be treated as single financial contracts with respect to the Underlier and under the terms of the notes, we and every investor in the notes agree, in the absence of an administrative determination or judicial ruling to the contrary, to treat the notes in accordance with such characterization. This discussion assumes that the notes constitute single financial contracts with respect to the Underlier for U.S. federal income tax purposes. If the notes did not constitute single financial contracts, the tax consequences described below would be materially different.

*This characterization of the notes is not binding on the IRS or the courts. No statutory, judicial, or administrative authority directly addresses the characterization of the notes or any similar instruments for U.S. federal income tax purposes, and no ruling is being requested from the IRS with respect to their proper characterization and treatment. Due to the absence of authorities on point, significant aspects of the U.S. federal income tax consequences of an investment in the notes are not certain, and no assurance can be given that the IRS or any court will agree with the characterization and tax treatment described in this supplement. Accordingly, you are urged to consult your tax advisor regarding all aspects of the U.S. federal income tax consequences of an investment in the notes, including possible alternative characterizations.*

Unless otherwise stated, the following discussion is based on the characterization described above. The discussion in this section assumes that there is a significant possibility of a significant loss of principal on an investment in the notes.

We will not attempt to ascertain whether the issuer of any component stocks included in the Underlier would be treated as a “passive foreign investment company” (“PFIC”), within the meaning of Section 1297 of the Code, or a United States real property holding corporation, within the meaning of Section 897(c) of the Code. If the issuer of one or more stocks included in the Underlier were so treated, certain adverse U.S. federal income tax consequences could possibly apply to a holder of the notes. You should refer to information filed with the SEC by the issuers of the component stocks included in the Underlier and consult your tax advisor regarding the possible consequences to you, if any, if any issuer of the component stocks included in the Underlier is or becomes a PFIC or is or becomes a United States real property holding corporation.

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### **U.S. Holders**

Upon receipt of a cash payment at maturity or upon a sale, exchange, or redemption of the notes prior to maturity, a U.S. Holder generally will recognize capital gain or loss equal to the difference between the amount realized and the U.S. Holder's tax basis in the notes. A U.S. Holder's tax basis in the notes will equal the amount paid by that holder to acquire them. This capital gain or loss generally will be long-term capital gain or loss if the U.S. Holder held the notes for more than one year. The deductibility of capital losses is subject to limitations.

*Alternative Tax Treatments.* Due to the absence of authorities that directly address the proper tax treatment of the notes, prospective investors are urged to consult their tax advisors regarding all possible alternative tax treatments of an investment in the notes. In particular, the IRS could seek to subject the notes to the Treasury regulations governing contingent payment debt instruments. If the IRS were successful in that regard, the timing and character of income on the notes would be affected significantly. Among other things, a U.S. Holder would be required to accrue original issue discount every year at a "comparable yield" determined at the time of issuance. In addition, any gain realized by a U.S. Holder at maturity or upon a sale, exchange, or redemption of the notes generally would be treated as ordinary income, and any loss realized at maturity would be treated as ordinary loss to the extent of the U.S. Holder's prior accruals of original issue discount, and as capital loss thereafter.

The IRS released Notice 2008-2 (the "Notice"), which sought comments from the public on the taxation of financial instruments currently taxed as "prepaid forward contracts." This Notice addresses instruments such as the notes. According to the Notice, the IRS and Treasury are considering whether a holder of an instrument such as the notes should be required to accrue ordinary income on a current basis, regardless of whether any payments are made prior to maturity. It is not possible to determine what guidance the IRS and Treasury will ultimately issue, if any. Any such future guidance may affect the amount, timing and character of income, gain, or loss in respect of the notes, possibly with retroactive effect.

The IRS and Treasury are also considering additional issues, including whether additional gain or loss from such instruments should be treated as ordinary or capital, whether foreign holders of such instruments should be subject to withholding tax on any deemed income accruals, whether Section 1260 of the Code, concerning certain “constructive ownership transactions,” generally applies or should generally apply to such instruments, and whether any of these determinations depend on the nature of the underlying asset.

In addition, proposed Treasury regulations require the accrual of income on a current basis for contingent payments made under certain notional principal contracts. The preamble to the regulations states that the “wait and see” method of accounting does not properly reflect the economic accrual of income on those contracts, and requires current accrual of income for some contracts already in existence. While the proposed regulations do not apply to prepaid forward contracts, the preamble to the proposed regulations expresses the view that similar timing issues exist in the case of prepaid forward contracts. If the IRS or Treasury publishes future guidance requiring current economic accrual for contingent payments on prepaid forward contracts, it is possible that you could be required to accrue income over the term of the notes.

Because of the absence of authority regarding the appropriate tax characterization of the notes, it is also possible that the IRS could seek to characterize the notes in a manner that results in tax consequences that are different from those described above. For example, the IRS could possibly assert that any gain or loss that a holder may recognize at maturity or upon the sale, exchange or redemption of the notes should be treated as ordinary gain or loss.

Because the Underlier is an index that periodically rebalances, it is possible that the notes could be treated as a series of single financial contracts, each of which matures on the next rebalancing date. If the notes were properly characterized in such a manner, a U.S. Holder would be treated as disposing of the notes on each rebalancing date in

return for new notes that mature on the next rebalancing date, and a U.S. Holder would accordingly likely recognize capital gain or loss on each rebalancing date equal to the difference between the holder's tax basis in the notes (which would be adjusted to take into account any prior recognition of gain or loss) and the fair market value of the notes on such date.

#### **Non-U.S. Holders**

Except as discussed below, a Non-U.S. Holder generally will not be subject to U.S. federal income or withholding tax for amounts paid in respect of the notes provided that the Non-U.S. Holder complies with applicable certification requirements and that the payment is not effectively connected with the conduct by the Non-U.S. Holder of a U.S. trade or business. Notwithstanding the foregoing, gain from the sale, exchange, or redemption of the notes or their settlement at maturity may be subject to U.S. federal income tax if that Non-U.S. Holder is a non-resident alien

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individual and is present in the U.S. for 183 days or more during the taxable year of the settlement at maturity, sale, exchange, or redemption and certain other conditions are satisfied.

If a Non-U.S. Holder of the notes is engaged in the conduct of a trade or business within the U.S. and if gain realized on the settlement at maturity, or upon sale, exchange, or redemption of the notes, is effectively connected with the conduct of such trade or business (and, if certain tax treaties apply, is attributable to a permanent establishment maintained by the Non-U.S. Holder in the U.S.), the Non-U.S. Holder generally will be subject to U.S. federal income tax on such gain on a net income basis in the same manner as if it were a U.S. Holder. Such Non-U.S. Holders should read the material under the heading “—U.S. Holders,” for a description of the U.S. federal income tax consequences of acquiring, owning, and disposing of the notes. In addition, if such Non-U.S. Holder is a foreign corporation, it may also be subject to a branch profits tax equal to 30% (or such lower rate provided by any applicable tax treaty) of a portion of its earnings and profits for the taxable year that are effectively connected with its conduct of a trade or business in the U.S., subject to certain adjustments.

A “dividend equivalent” payment is treated as a dividend from sources within the United States and such payments generally would be subject to a 30% U.S. withholding tax if paid to a Non-U.S. Holder. Under U.S. Treasury Department regulations, payments (including deemed payments) with respect to equity-linked instruments (“ELIs”) that are “specified ELIs” may be treated as dividend equivalents if such specified ELIs reference an interest in an “underlying security,” which is generally any interest in an entity taxable as a corporation for U.S. federal income tax purposes if a payment with respect to such interest could give rise to a U.S. source dividend. However, Internal Revenue Service guidance provides that withholding on dividend equivalent payments will not apply to specified ELIs that are not delta-one instruments and that are issued before January 1, 2019. Based on our determination that the notes are not delta one instruments, Non-U.S. Holders should not be subject to withholding on dividend equivalent payments, if any, under the notes. However, it is possible

that the notes could be treated as deemed reissued for U.S. federal income tax purposes upon the occurrence of certain events affecting the Underlier or the notes, and following such occurrence the notes could be treated as subject to withholding on dividend equivalent payments. Non-U.S. Holders that enter, or have entered, into other transactions in respect of the Underlier or the notes should consult their tax advisors as to the application of the dividend equivalent withholding tax in the context of the notes and their other transactions. If any payments are treated as dividend equivalents subject to withholding, we (or the applicable paying agent) would be entitled to withhold taxes without being required to pay any additional amounts with respect to amounts so withheld.

As discussed above, alternative characterizations of the notes for U.S. federal income tax purposes are possible. Should an alternative characterization, by reason of change or clarification of the law, by regulation or otherwise, cause payments as to the notes to become subject to withholding tax, tax will be withheld at the applicable statutory rate. As discussed above, the IRS has indicated in the Notice that it is considering whether income in respect of instruments such as the notes should be subject to withholding tax. Prospective Non-U.S. Holders of the notes should consult their own tax advisors in this regard.

*U.S. Federal Estate Tax.* Under current law, while the matter is not entirely clear, individual Non-U.S. Holders, and entities whose property is potentially includible in those individuals' gross estates for U.S. federal estate tax purposes (for example, a trust funded by such an individual and with respect to which the individual has retained certain interests or powers), should note that, absent an applicable treaty benefit, a note is likely to be treated as U.S. situs property, subject to U.S. federal estate tax. These individuals and entities should consult their own tax advisors regarding the U.S. federal estate tax consequences of investing in a note.

### **Backup Withholding and Information Reporting**

Please see the discussion under "U.S. Federal Income Tax Considerations — Taxation of Debt Securities — Backup Withholding and Information Reporting" in the

accompanying prospectus for a description of the applicability of the backup withholding and information reporting rules to payments made on the notes.

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