

POPULAR INC  
Form 424B2  
December 21, 2007  
Table of Contents

Filed Pursuant to Rule 424(b)(2)  
Registration No. 333-135093  
333-135093-04

A filing fee of \$8,442.50 calculated in accordance with Rule 457(r) is payable to the SEC in connection with the offering of \$275,000,000 aggregate principal amount of senior debt securities of Popular North America, Inc. from the Registration Statement (File 333-153093) by means of this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus.

Prospectus Supplement

(to Prospectus dated June 16, 2006)

**\$275,000,000**

## **Popular North America, Inc.**

### **6.85% Senior Notes due 2012**

**Fully and Unconditionally Guaranteed as to Payment of Principal and Interest by**

---

Popular North America, Inc. is offering \$275,000,000 in aggregate principal amount of its 6.85% Senior Notes that will mature on December 21, 2012. Interest on the notes is payable on June 21 and December 21 of each year, beginning June 21, 2008. Interest will accrue from December 21, 2007. Popular North America, Inc. may not redeem the notes in whole or in part at any time prior to their maturity, except in limited circumstances as described in the accompanying prospectus. The notes will be unsecured and will rank equally and ratably with all of Popular North America, Inc.'s other unsecured and unsubordinated debt. Payment of principal and interest on the notes will be fully and unconditionally guaranteed by Popular, Inc., the indirect parent company of Popular North America, Inc.

## Edgar Filing: POPULAR INC - Form 424B2

We have authorized Economic Development Bank Capital Investment ( EDBCI ) to deliver a copy of this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus relating to the notes offered hereby to purchasers of the collateralized notes of EDBCI. This prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus relate only to Popular North America, Inc., Popular, Inc. and the notes and do not relate to EDBCI or the collateralized notes. You should rely on this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus only for a description of Popular North America, Inc., Popular, Inc. and the notes. Our responsibilities, liabilities and obligations are limited solely to the information contained or specifically incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus and to our obligations under the notes.

See **Risk Factors** beginning on page S-5 for a discussion of certain risks that you should consider in connection with an investment in the notes.

The notes will not be listed on any securities exchange. Currently, there is no public market for the notes.

The notes are not deposits or accounts and are not insured or guaranteed by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation or any other governmental agency.

**The notes are being offered ultimately to the purchasers of the collateralized notes of EDBCI, which are being offered by EDBCI directly to a limited number of institutional investors in Puerto Rico. As a result, each placement agent named below, for federal securities law purposes, is a statutory underwriter within the meaning of the Securities Act of 1933 with respect to initial sales of the notes and the EDBCI notes.**

Neither the Securities and Exchange Commission nor any state or Commonwealth of Puerto Rico securities commission has approved or disapproved of these securities or determined if this prospectus supplement or the accompanying prospectus is truthful or complete. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense.

---

|   | <u>Per<br/>Note</u> | <u>Total</u>   |
|---|---------------------|----------------|
| Price to investors  | 100.00%             | \$ 275,000,000 |
| Placement agents' fee                                     | 0.50%               | \$ 1,375,000   |
| Proceeds, before expenses, to Popular North America, Inc. | 99.50%              | \$ 273,625,000 |

Interest on the notes will accrue from December 21, 2007 to the date of delivery.

---

**Popular Securities**

**UBS Financial Services Incorporated of Puerto Rico**

The date of this prospectus supplement is December 21, 2007.

**Table of Contents****TABLE OF CONTENTS****Prospectus Supplement**

|  | <b>Page</b> |
|--|-------------|
| <u>Where You Can Find More Information</u>               | ii          |
| <u>Incorporation of Certain Information by Reference</u> | ii          |
| <u>Special Note Regarding Forward-Looking Statements</u> | iv          |
| <u>Summary</u>   | S-1         |
| <u>Risk Factors</u>                                      | S-5         |
| <u>Use of Proceeds</u>                                   | S-14        |
| <u>Capitalization</u>                                    | S-15        |
| <u>Description of the Notes</u>                          | S-16        |
| <u>Certain U.S. Federal Income Tax Considerations</u>    | S-19        |
| <u>Plan of Distribution</u>                              | S-23        |
| <u>Validity of the Notes and Guarantees</u>              | S-25        |
| <u>Experts</u>   | S-25        |

**Prospectus**

|  |    |
|--|----|
| <u>About This Prospectus</u>                                       | 1  |
| <u>Where You Can Find More Information</u>                         | 2  |
| <u>Incorporation of Certain Information by Reference</u>           | 2  |
| <u>Note Regarding Forward-Looking Statements and Certain Risks</u> | 3  |
| <u>Popular, Inc.</u>   | 4  |
| <u>Popular International Bank, Inc.</u>                            | 4  |
| <u>Popular North America, Inc.</u>                                 | 4  |
| <u>Popular and Popular North America Capital Trusts</u>            | 5  |
| <u>Description of Debt Securities We May Offer</u>                 | 6  |
| <u>Description of Capital Securities We May Offer</u>              | 37 |
| <u>Description of Capital Stock</u>                                | 52 |
| <u>Use of Proceeds</u>   | 55 |
| <u>Validity of the Securities</u>                                  | 55 |
| <u>Experts</u>   | 55 |

---

You should rely only on the information contained or incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus. We have not, and the placement agents have not, authorized any other person to provide you with different information. If anyone provides you with different or inconsistent information, you should not rely on it. We are not, and the placement agents are not, making an offer to sell these securities in any jurisdiction where the offer and sale is not permitted. You should assume that the information appearing in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus is accurate only as of their respective dates. Our business, financial condition, results of operations and prospects may have changed since those dates.

## Edgar Filing: POPULAR INC - Form 424B2

In this prospectus supplement, unless otherwise indicated or required by the context, we use the term Popular North America, Inc. to refer to Popular North America, Inc. and its subsidiaries on a consolidated basis and the terms Popular, Inc. , we , our , us and the Guarantor to refer to Popular, Inc. and its subsidiaries on a consolidated basis.

**Table of Contents**

**WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION**

Popular North America, Inc. is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Popular International Bank, Inc. and an indirect wholly-owned subsidiary of Popular, Inc. Popular, Inc. is required to file annual, quarterly and current reports, proxy statements and other information with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the SEC). You may read and copy any documents filed by us at the SEC's public reference room at 100 F Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20549. Please call the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330 for further information on the public reference room. Popular, Inc.'s filings with the SEC are also available to the public through the SEC's Internet site at <http://www.sec.gov>.

Popular North America, Inc. has filed with the SEC a registration statement on Form S-3 relating to the securities covered by this prospectus supplement. This prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus are a part of the registration statement and do not contain all the information in the registration statement. Whenever a reference is made in this prospectus supplement to a contract or other document of Popular, Inc., the reference is only a summary and you should refer to the exhibits that are a part of the registration statement for a copy of the contract or other document. You may review a copy of the registration statement at the SEC's public reference room in Washington, D.C., as well as through the SEC's Internet site, both of which are referred to above.

**INCORPORATION OF CERTAIN INFORMATION BY REFERENCE**

The SEC's rules allow Popular North America, Inc. to incorporate by reference information into this prospectus supplement. This means that Popular North America, Inc. can disclose important information to you by referring you to another document. Any information referred to in this way is considered part of this prospectus supplement from the date that document is filed. Any reports filed by Popular North America, Inc. or Popular, Inc. with the SEC after the date of this prospectus supplement and before the date that the offering of the securities by means of this prospectus supplement is terminated will automatically update and, where applicable, supersede any information contained in this prospectus supplement or incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement.

Popular North America, Inc. incorporates by reference into this prospectus supplement the following documents or information filed by Popular, Inc. with the SEC (other than, in each case, documents or information deemed to have been furnished and not filed in accordance with SEC rules):

- (1) Annual Report of Popular, Inc. on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2006;
- (2) Quarterly Reports of Popular, Inc. on Form 10-Q for the quarterly periods ended March 31, 2007, June 30, 2007 and September 30, 2007;
- (3) Current Reports of Popular, Inc. on Form 8-K filed on January 9, 2007, January 26, 2007, August 9, 2007, August 31, 2007, September 25, 2007, October 9, 2007, October 22, 2007 and December 21, 2007; and
- (4) All documents filed by Popular, Inc. under Sections 13(a), 13(c), 14 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 on or after the date of this prospectus supplement and before the termination of this offering.

## Edgar Filing: POPULAR INC - Form 424B2

Popular, Inc.'s Current Report on Form 8-K dated October 8, 2007 and filed on October 9, 2007, incorporated by reference above, provides information on a change in Popular, Inc.'s segment reporting relating to Popular, Inc.'s mainland United States operations that was effective in January 2007 and its effects on the historical segment results presented in Popular, Inc.'s Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2006. That Current Report on Form 8-K includes revised audited financial statements of Popular, Inc. and a related Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations that supersede the similarly-titled sections presented in Popular, Inc.'s 2006 Annual Report to Shareholders to reflect the change in segments. Investors should review the revised audited financial statements and related Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations included in Popular,

**Table of Contents**

Inc.'s Current Report on Form 8-K dated October 8, 2007 and filed on October 9, 2007, incorporated by reference above, and not the audited financial statements and related Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations incorporated by reference to Popular, Inc.'s Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2006.

Popular North America, Inc. will provide without charge to each person, including any beneficial owner, to whom this prospectus supplement is delivered, upon his or her written or oral request, a copy of any or all documents referred to above which have been or may be incorporated by reference into this prospectus supplement excluding exhibits to those documents unless they are specifically incorporated by reference into those documents. You can request those documents from Ileana González, Senior Vice President, Popular, Inc., P.O. Box 362708, San Juan, Puerto Rico 009396-2708.



**Table of Contents**

**SPECIAL NOTE REGARDING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS**

Certain statements in this prospectus supplement are forward-looking statements within the meaning of the U.S. Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. These forward-looking statements may relate to our financial condition, results of operations, plans, objectives, future performance and business, including, but not limited to, statements with respect to the adequacy of the allowance for loan losses, market risk, capital markets conditions and the impact of interest rate changes, capital adequacy and liquidity, impacts of restructuring plans and the effect of legal proceedings and new accounting standards on our financial condition and results of operations. All statements contained herein that are not clearly historical in nature are forward-looking, and the words anticipate, believe, continues, expect, estimate, intend, project and similar expressions and future or conditional verbs such as will, would, should, could, might, can, may, or similar expressions are generally intended to identify forward-looking statements.

These forward-looking statements involve certain risks, uncertainties, estimates and assumptions by management. Various factors, some of which are beyond our control, could cause actual results to differ materially from those contemplated by such forward-looking statements. Factors that might cause such a difference include, but are not limited to:

the rate of growth in the economy, as well as general business and economic conditions;

changes in interest rates, as well as the magnitude of such changes;

losses on our sub-prime mortgage loan portfolio;

the fiscal and monetary policies of the federal government and its agencies;

the relative strength or weakness of the consumer and commercial credit sectors and of the real estate markets;

the performance of the stock and bond markets;

competition in the financial services industry;

possible legislative, tax or regulatory changes; and

difficulties in combining the operations of acquired entities.

Moreover, the outcome of legal proceedings is inherently uncertain and depends on judicial interpretations of law and the findings of regulators, judges and juries.

## Edgar Filing: POPULAR INC - Form 424B2

All forward-looking statements included in this prospectus supplement are based upon information available to us as of the date of this document, and we assume no obligation to update or revise any such forward-looking statements.

**Table of Contents**

**SUMMARY**

The following summary highlights information contained elsewhere in this prospectus supplement. It may not contain all of the information that you should consider before investing in the notes. For a more complete discussion of the information you should consider before investing in the notes, you should carefully read this entire prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus and the documents incorporated by reference into this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus.

**Popular North America, Inc.**

Popular North America, Inc. is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Popular International Bank, Inc. and an indirect wholly-owned subsidiary of Popular, Inc. As of September 30, 2007, Popular North America, Inc. and its subsidiaries had \$21.2 billion in assets and accounted for 45% of Popular, Inc.'s consolidated assets. See Popular, Inc. Mainland United States below for more information about our strategy regarding Popular North America, Inc.'s business.

**Popular, Inc.**

Popular, Inc. is a full-service financial institution with operations in Puerto Rico, the mainland United States, the Caribbean and Latin America. Headquartered in San Juan, we offer financial services in Puerto Rico and the mainland United States and processing services in the Caribbean and Latin America. As of September 30, 2007, we had \$47.3 billion in assets, \$26.6 billion in deposits and \$3.8 billion in equity.

We operate in three target markets: Puerto Rico, the mainland United States and processing and other technology services. Our strategic objectives in our target markets consist of the following:

***Puerto Rico:*** strengthen our competitive position in our main market by offering, through our subsidiary Banco Popular de Puerto Rico ( BPPR ), the best and most complete financial services in an efficient and convenient manner. Our services respond to the needs of all segments of the market in order to earn their trust, satisfaction and loyalty.

***Mainland United States:*** increase our profitability in the mainland United States by offering financial services to the communities we serve and targeted products to niche markets while capitalizing on our strengths in the Hispanic market.

***Processing and Other Technology Services:*** provide added value by offering integrated technology solutions and transaction processing through our subsidiary Evertec, Inc. ( EVERTEC ).

Popular, Inc.'s condensed consolidated financial information includes separate columns for Popular, Inc., Popular North America, Inc. and other subsidiaries of Popular, Inc. on a combined basis, and consolidated adjustments and total consolidated amounts are included in the notes to Popular, Inc.'s consolidated financial statements that are incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement.

## Edgar Filing: POPULAR INC - Form 424B2

Popular North America, Inc. s and Popular, Inc. s executive offices are located at 209 Muñoz Rivera Avenue, Hato Rey, Puerto Rico 00918, and our telephone number is (787) 765-9800.

S-1

**Table of Contents**

**Recent Developments**

**Sale of BPNA Retail Bank Branches in Houston, Texas**

In October 2007, we agreed to sell six BPNA retail bank branches located in Houston, Texas to Prosperity Bank, which will pay a premium of 10.1% for approximately \$140 million in deposits, as well as purchase certain loans and other assets attributable to the branches. Prosperity Bank also agreed to retain all branch-based employees of BPNA's Houston locations as part of the transaction. BPNA will continue to operate its mortgage business based in Houston as well as its franchise and small business lending activities in Texas. BPNA will also continue to maintain a retail branch in Arlington, Texas. Subject to customary closing conditions, including receipt of regulatory approvals, the transaction is expected to close in January 2008.

**Acquisition of Citibank Retail Business and Smith Barney's Broker-Dealer Operations in Puerto Rico**

In November 2007, we acquired Citibank, N.A.'s retail business in Puerto Rico, which consists of 17 financial centers, with approximately \$1.1 billion in deposits and \$230 million in loans. In December 2007, we also acquired the Puerto Rico broker-dealer operations of Smith Barney, a division of Citigroup Global Markets Inc. and a leading provider of comprehensive financial planning and advisory services to high net worth investors, institutions, corporations and private businesses, governments and foundations.

**New Committed Financing Facility**

On November 30, 2007, we entered into a new, one-year \$500 million committed financing facility with a leading financial institution. The facility is in the form of a mortgage loan repurchase agreement and is available to our subsidiaries, Popular Financial Services and Equity One. Under the facility, our subsidiaries may sell mortgage loans at purchase prices calculated as a specified percentage of the mortgage loan principal balance to the financial institution counterparty, with an obligation to repurchase those mortgage loans at a fixed price equal to the original sale price plus an interest component on a specified monthly repurchase date. Each sale/repurchase transaction will automatically renew on the specified monthly repurchase date, provided certain conditions are met. Our subsidiaries' obligations under the facility are guaranteed by Popular, Inc. and Popular North America, Inc. and availability under the facility is subject to certain financial covenants (including net worth and capitalization covenants). The facility will not be available if Popular, Inc. fails to maintain an investment grade rating with S&P and Moody's. Any mortgage loan sale/repurchase transactions under the facility will not qualify for sale treatment under applicable accounting standards and will be accounted for as secured borrowings. As a result, the claims of the financial institution counterparty under this facility will be structurally senior to the claims of holders of the notes as to the assets of our subsidiaries that are parties to the facility, including their assets other than the mortgage loans sold under the facilities. There can be no assurances that we will continue to comply with the covenants and maintain the ratings needed to maintain the availability of this facility. If we do not, our liquidity and our credit ratings could be adversely affected. See Risk Factors Reductions in our credit ratings or those of any of our subsidiaries would increase the cost of borrowing funds and make our ability to raise new funds or refinance maturing debt more difficult.

**Table of Contents**

**The Offering**

|                               |  |
|-------------------------------|--|
| <b>Issuer</b>                 | Popular North America, Inc.  |
| <b>Guarantor</b>              | Popular, Inc.  |
| <b>Securities offered</b>     | \$275,000,000 in aggregate principal amount of 6.85% Senior Notes due 2012.  |
| <b>Stated maturity date</b>   | December 21, 2012.   |
| <b>Interest rate</b>          | 6.85% per annum, accruing from December 21, 2007.  |
| <b>Interest payment dates</b> | June 21 and December 21 of each year. The first interest payment will be made on June 21, 2008.  |
| <b>Redemption</b>             | The notes may not be redeemed, in whole or in part, at any time prior to their maturity, except as described in the last paragraph under Description of Notes Redemption and Repayment in the accompanying prospectus.   |
| <b>Security and ranking</b>   | The notes and the guarantees will be unsecured and will rank equally and ratably with the existing and future unsecured senior debt of the issuer thereof.   |
| <b>Covenants</b>              | The notes will be issued under an indenture with The Bank of New York Trust Company, N.A., as trustee. The indenture contains certain restrictive covenants described in the accompanying prospectus.  |
| <b>Sinking fund</b>           | None.  |
| <b>Form and denominations</b> | The notes will be issued in the form of one or more fully registered global securities, without coupons, in denominations of \$100,000 in principal amount and integral multiples of \$1,000 in excess thereof. These global securities will be deposited with or on behalf of DTC and registered in the name of a nominee of DTC. Except in the limited circumstances described under Description of Debt Securities We May Offer Special Considerations for Global Debt Securities Special Situations When a Global Debt Security Will Be Terminated, notes in certificated form will not be issued or exchanged for interests in global securities. |
| <b>Trading</b>                | The notes are a new issue of securities with no established trading market. We do not intend to list the notes for trading on any securities exchange or quotation system. We do not expect that there will be any secondary market for the notes.   |
| <b>Use of proceeds</b>        | We will use the net proceeds of this offering to repay all of our outstanding commercial paper, with varying maturities, and to the extent any funds remain, to repay other short term indebtedness and for general corporate purposes. See Use of Proceeds.   |

**The rights of the holders of EDBCI notes**

The notes will be used as collateral for an offering by Economic Development Bank Capital Investment ( EDBCI ) of its collateralized notes, which we refer to as the EDBCI notes to a limited number of institutional investors in Puerto Rico. Under the note purchase agreement for the EDBCI notes, EDBCI has assigned

S-3

**Table of Contents**

to the holders of the EDBCI notes its rights against us and the placement agents hereunder under the federal and applicable state securities laws with respect to the notes. Accordingly, purchasers of the EDBCI notes may proceed directly against us and the placement agents to enforce those rights without first proceeding against EDBCI or any other entity. We and the placement agents have acknowledged the existence of such assignment and agreed not to contest its enforceability.

**Risk factors**

See Risk Factors and the other information in this prospectus supplement for a discussion of factors you should carefully consider before deciding to invest in the notes.

S-4



**Table of Contents**

**RISK FACTORS**

An investment in the notes is subject to the risks described below. You should read these risk factors and the other information set forth in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus, including the information incorporated by reference, before making an investment decision.

***Risks Related to Our Business***

**A prolonged economic slowdown, a decline in the real estate market in the U.S mainland and disruption in the capital markets has harmed the results of operations of one of our business segments.**

The residential mortgage loan origination business historically has been cyclical, enjoying periods of strong growth and profitability followed by periods of shrinking volumes and industry-wide losses. Any decline in residential mortgage loan originations in the market could also reduce the level of mortgage loans we may produce in the future and adversely impact our business. During periods of rising interest rates, refinancing originations for many mortgage products tends to decrease as the economic incentives for borrowers to refinance their existing mortgage loans are reduced. In addition, the residential mortgage loan origination business is impacted by home values. Over the past several years, residential real estate values in some areas of the mainland United States have increased greatly, which has contributed to the recent rapid growth in the residential mortgage industry, particularly with respect to re-financings. Property values in some areas of the mainland United States have already begun to decline from 2006 levels. If residential real estate values continue to decline, this could lead to lower volumes and higher losses across the industry, adversely impacting our business.

An additional risk factor related to the residential mortgage loan sector is the repricing of adjustable rate mortgage loans (ARMs). In the U.S. mortgage market, a substantial amount of ARMs were originated in recent years. These loans typically have a low fixed rate for an initial period (two or three years) and afterwards the rate floats or adjusts periodically based on a market rate of interest, such as LIBOR. Many of the ARMs currently outstanding are set to float before the end of 2008. It is possible that in some of these loans, when rates start floating, there will be a substantial increase in the underlying loan payment, possibly enough to pressure the cash flow of the underlying debtor.

Because we make loans to borrowers that have FICO® scores below 660 the actual rates of delinquencies, foreclosures and losses on these loans could be higher during economic slowdowns. Rising unemployment, higher interest rates, declines in housing prices and an overall tightening of credit standards by lenders tend to have a greater negative effect on the ability of such borrowers to repay their mortgage loans.

As of September 30, 2007, approximately 69% of Popular Financial Holdings, Inc.'s (PFH) mortgage loan portfolio was sub-prime, meaning that they have a credit score of 660 or below. This represented approximately 37% of our mortgage loans held-in-portfolio as of such date. Of the sub-prime mortgage loans held-in-portfolio, \$1.1 billion or 28% were ARMs. Any sustained period of increased delinquencies, foreclosures or losses could harm our ability to sell loans, the prices we receive for our loans, the values of our mortgage loans held-for-sale or our residual interests in securitizations, which could harm our financial condition and results of operations. In addition, any material decline in real estate values would weaken our collateral coverage ratios and increase the possibility of loss if a borrower defaults. In such event, we will be subject to the risk of loss on such mortgage assets arising from borrower defaults to the extent not covered by third-party credit enhancement.

## Edgar Filing: POPULAR INC - Form 424B2

As of September 30, 2007, a significant portion of PFH's loan portfolio was owned-in-trust, which refers to mortgage loans that have been securitized and sold to third parties, but continue to be reflected in our financial statements. Of the total mortgage loans held-in-portfolio at PFH, \$3.6 billion or 62% was owned-in-trust as of that date. Although these loans are no longer our legal property, under generally accepted accounting principles they must remain included in our financial statements. The implication is that these loans represent to us limited exposure to losses, which is subject to a maximum amount, and any excess losses are borne by the holders of the bonds issued when the underlying loans were securitized. As described in our Current Report on Form 8-K filed on December 21, 2007, on December 19, 2007 provisions of the pooling and servicing agreements for a number of these securitization transactions were amended to delete the provisions that prevented us from removing the loans from our books. As a result, \$3.2 billion out of the \$3.6 billion in PFH mortgage loans owned in trust have been removed from our books.

S-5

## Table of Contents

For more information on PFH's credit exposure associated with its sub-prime mortgage loan portfolio and the restructuring plan executed in 2007, which has reduced our exposure in this industry sector, see our Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended September 30, 2007 incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement.

**We are exposed to greater risk because a significant portion of our business is concentrated in Puerto Rico, which has experienced an economic slowdown.**

A significant portion of our financial activities and credit exposure is concentrated in Puerto Rico (the Island). Consequently, our financial condition and results of operations are highly dependent on the Island's economic conditions. An extended economic slowdown, adverse political or economic developments in Puerto Rico, or natural disasters such as hurricanes affecting the Island, could result in a downturn in loan originations, an increase in the level of non-performing assets, an increase in the rate of foreclosure loss on mortgage loans and a reduction in the value of our loans and loan servicing portfolio, all of which would adversely affect our profitability.

For the fiscal year ended June 30, 2007, Puerto Rico's economy contracted by 1.4%. The Government of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico (the Commonwealth) is projecting a slight recovery of Puerto Rico's economy for fiscal year ending June 30, 2008. The Puerto Rico Planning Board, the public agency in charge of economic analysis for the Commonwealth, projects real growth of 0.8% for fiscal year 2008, which began July 1, 2007. However, monthly economic data suggests that the current cycle has been steeper than in 2001 and 2002. In its monthly Index of Economic Activity, the Puerto Rico Planning Board registered a 0.22% decrease on a monthly basis in June 2007 to mark the 10th monthly reduction in the last 13 months. Other recent Puerto Rico economic data includes:

Retail sales registered a nominal growth rate of 0.3% in July 2007 (the most recent month for which government data is available) when compared with the same month the previous year. For the first seven months of 2007, retail sales increased at a nominal rate of 1.5%, when compared with the same period in the previous year, according to data released by the Commonwealth. In 2006, retail sales fell 3.0% when compared with 2005.

Though the pace of construction, as measured by the value of permits, increased during the first two months of fiscal year 2008 (July and August 2007, the most recent months for which government data is available), the sector continues to reflect weakness in both public and private sectors. The value of building permits increased 13.7% to \$350 million for the first two months of fiscal year 2008 when compared with the same period in the previous year. The value of public permits issued increased \$60 million, or 159% during the same two months, compared with the same period in the previous year. The value of private permits fell \$12 million, or 4%, over the same period. The value of building permits issued by the government fell in fiscal year 2007 by approximately \$626 million, or 22.2%, when compared with the same period in fiscal 2006.

Unemployment remains high in Puerto Rico, reaching 11.1% in September 2007, according to estimates by the Puerto Rico Labor Department. Total non-farm payrolls, which excludes self-employed, reached 1,013,500 jobs in August, a decrease of 17,500 jobs when compared with the same month in the previous year, according to the latest data provided by the Puerto Rico Labor Department.

Data on tourist activity shows fewer visitors during the first ten months of fiscal year 2007 (July 2006 to April 2007, the latest period for which data is available). The tourist registry at hotels in Puerto Rico for the ten-month period amounted to 1,702,018, as registered by the Puerto Rico Tourism Co., a decrease of 5.4% when compared with the same period of the previous fiscal year.

Sustained highs in crude oil prices have also negatively impacted the economy of Puerto Rico, where energy production runs close to 70% on imported oil.

## Edgar Filing: POPULAR INC - Form 424B2

The newly revised Consumer Price Index ( CPI ) calculated by the Puerto Rico Labor Department stood at 103.1 points in June of 2007, an increase of 3.1% over the previous six months. The CPI suggests that the rate of inflation was slightly more than 6% over the previous 12 months.

S-6

## Table of Contents

Though consumers' finances continue to be under stress, the Commonwealth avoided a repeat this year of the partial government shutdown in May 2006 that upset consumption trends and overall confidence. The Governor of Puerto Rico signed on June 30, 2007 the General Budget for the Commonwealth for fiscal year 2008 totaling \$9.2 billion, which was approved by the Legislative Assembly. However, the Commonwealth's fiscal situation still poses a challenge for growth. In general terms, general fund revenue and sales tax receipts have been running below government projections, which increase the risk that revenues will not be sufficient to meet government spending in the current fiscal year, requiring measures to balance the deficit, which could adversely impact business and consumer confidence. In October 2007, the Commonwealth refinanced \$1.0 billion in General Obligation bonds in the U.S. municipal securities market. The Commonwealth also placed in October 2007 over \$1 billion in Tax and Revenue Anticipation Notes (TRANs) to finance operations in anticipation of tax revenues in the second half of the fiscal year. The bond offering will reduce the cost of financing outstanding government debt and is expected to increase the liquidity in the financial system of the Island.

The current state of the economy and uncertainty in the private and public sectors has had an adverse effect on the credit quality of our loan portfolios. The continuation of the economic slowdown could cause those adverse effects to continue, as delinquency rates may increase in the short-term, until more sustainable growth resumes. Also, a potential reduction in consumer spending may also impact growth in other interest and non-interest revenue sources for us.

### **Financial results are constantly exposed to market risk.**

Market risk refers to the probability of variations in the net interest income or the market value of assets and liabilities due to interest rate volatility. Despite the varied nature of market risks, the primary source of this risk to us is the impact of changes in interest rates on net interest income.

Net interest income is the difference between the revenue generated on earning assets and the interest cost of funding those assets. Depending on the duration and repricing characteristics of the assets, liabilities and off-balance sheet items, changes in interest rates could either increase or decrease the level of net interest income. For any given period, the pricing structure of the assets and liabilities is matched when an equal amount of such assets and liabilities mature or reprice in that period. Any mismatch of interest-earning assets and interest-bearing liabilities is known as a gap position. A positive gap denotes asset sensitivity, which means that an increase in interest rates could have a positive effect on net interest income, while a decrease in interest rates could have a negative effect on net interest income.

We are subject to interest rate risk because of the following factors:

Assets and liabilities may mature or reprice at different times. For example, if assets reprice slower than liabilities and interest rates are generally rising, earnings may initially decline.

Assets and liabilities may reprice at the same time but by different amounts. For example, when the general level of interest rates is rising, we may increase rates charged on loans by an amount that is less than the general increase in market interest rates because of intense pricing competition. Also, basis risk occurs when assets and liabilities have similar repricing frequencies but are tied to different market interest rate indices.

Short-term and long-term market interest rates may change by different amounts, i.e., the shape of the yield curve may affect new loan yields and funding costs differently.

## Edgar Filing: POPULAR INC - Form 424B2

The remaining maturity of various assets and liabilities may shorten or lengthen as interest rates change. For example, if long-term mortgage interest rates decline sharply, mortgage-backed securities held in the securities available-for-sale portfolio may prepay significantly earlier than anticipated, which could reduce portfolio income. If prepayment rates increase, we would be required to amortize net premiums into income over a shorter period of time, thereby reducing the corresponding asset yield and net interest

S-7

---

## Table of Contents

income. Prepayment risk also has a significant impact on mortgage-backed securities and collateralized mortgage obligations, since prepayments could shorten the weighted average life of these portfolios.

Interest rates may have an indirect impact on loan demand, credit losses, loan origination volume, the value of securities holdings, including interest-only strips, gains and losses on sales of securities and loans, the value of mortgage servicing rights and other sources of earnings.

In limiting interest rate risk to an acceptable level, management may alter the mix of floating and fixed rate assets and liabilities, change pricing schedules, adjust maturities through sales and purchases of investment securities, and enter into derivative contracts, among other alternatives. We may suffer losses or experience lower spreads than anticipated in initial projections as management implement strategies to reduce future interest rate exposure.

### **The hedging transactions that we enter into may not be effective in managing the exposure to market risk, including interest rate risk.**

We use derivatives, to a limited extent, to manage part of the exposure to market risk caused by changes in interest rates or basis risk. The derivative instruments that we may utilize also have their own risks, which include: (1) basis risk, which is the risk of loss associated with variations in the spread between the asset yield and funding and/or hedge cost; (2) credit or default risk, which is the risk of insolvency or other inability of the counterparty to a particular transaction to perform its obligations thereunder; and (3) legal risk, which is the risk that we are unable to enforce certain terms of such instruments. All or any of such risks could expose us to losses.

### **Reductions in our credit ratings or those of any of our subsidiaries would increase the cost of borrowing funds and make our ability to raise new funds or refinance maturing debt more difficult.**

Credit ratings are an important component of our liquidity profile. Among other factors, credit ratings are based on the financial strength, the credit quality of and concentrations in our loan portfolio, the level and volatility of earnings, capital adequacy, the quality of management, the liquidity of our balance sheet, the availability of a significant base of core retail and commercial deposits, and the ability to access a broad array of wholesale funding sources.

After the end of the third quarter of 2007, Fitch Ratings, Ltd. ( Fitch Ratings ) reduced the short-term credit rating of Popular, Inc. and Popular North America, Inc. to F-2 from F-1 , and placed their long-term senior rating of A- on negative watch. Fitch Ratings mentioned that the rating actions reflected credit quality pressures from our sub-prime loan exposure as well as a more difficult environment for bank holding company funding. In both cases, Fitch Ratings maintained that it believes that both situations are challenging but manageable. In December 2007, Moody's Investor Service, Inc. ( Moody's ) downgraded the senior debt rating of Popular, Inc. and its subsidiaries from A2 to A3 , with a negative outlook. The downgrade reflected Moody's concerns about our ongoing United States mainland sub-prime mortgage exposure and the profitability of our United States mainland operations. Standard & Poor's Ratings Services ( S&P ) currently rates our debt BBB+ for long-term debt and A-2 for short-term obligations with a stable outlook.

Changes in our credit ratings or the credit ratings of any of our subsidiaries to a level below investment grade would adversely affect our ability to raise funds in the capital markets. For example, the availability of the committed financing facility described under Recent Developments is conditioned upon our maintaining investment grade ratings from S&P and Moody's. Our counterparties are also sensitive to the risk of a ratings downgrade. In the event of a further downgrade, the cost of borrowing funds would increase. In addition, our ability to raise new funds in the capital markets or refinance maturing debt may be more difficult.





## **Table of Contents**

Our ability to compete successfully in the marketplace for deposits depends on various factors, including service, convenience and financial stability as reflected by the operating results and credit ratings by nationally recognized credit agencies. A downgrade in credit ratings may impact the ability to raise deposits, but we believe that the impact should not be material. Deposits at all of our banking subsidiaries are federally insured (subject to limitations established by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation), which is expected to mitigate the effect of a downgrade in the credit ratings.

### **Rating downgrades on Commonwealth debt obligations could affect the value of our loans to the Commonwealth and our portfolio of Puerto Rico government securities.**

Even though Puerto Rico's economy is closely integrated to that of the mainland United States and its government and many of its instrumentalities are investment-grade rated borrowers in the capital markets of the United States, the current fiscal situation of the Commonwealth has led nationally recognized rating agencies to downgrade its debt obligations.

In May 2006, Moody's downgraded the Commonwealth general obligation bond rating to Baa3 from Baa2, and put the credit on watch list for possible further downgrades. The Commonwealth's appropriation bonds and some of the subordinated revenue bonds were also downgraded by one notch and are now rated just below investment grade at Ba1. S&P still rates the Commonwealth general obligations two notches above junk at BBB, and the Commonwealth's appropriation bonds and some of the subordinated revenue bonds BBB-, a category that continues to be investment-grade rated.

In July 2006, S&P and Moody's affirmed their credit ratings on the Commonwealth debt, and removed the debt from their respective watch lists, thus reducing the possibility of an immediate additional downgrade. These actions resulted after the Commonwealth approved the budget for the fiscal year 2007, which runs from July 2006 through June 2007, which included the adoption of a new sales tax. Revenues from the sales tax will be dedicated primarily to fund the government's operating expenses, and to a lesser extent, to repay government debt and fund local municipal governments.

In November 2007, Moody's changed the outlook of the Commonwealth's credit ratings to stable from negative. In justifying their change in outlook, Moody's recognized the progress the Commonwealth has made in addressing the fiscal challenges it has faced in recent years. In particular it mentioned the controls imposed on public spending and the implementation of the sales tax as two favorable developments.

Both rating agencies maintained the negative outlook for the Puerto Rico general obligation bonds. Factors such as the government's ability to implement meaningful steps to curb operating expenditures, improve managerial and budgetary controls, and eliminate the government's reliance on operating budget loans from the Government Development Bank of Puerto Rico will be key determinants of future rating stability and restoration of a stable long-term outlook. Also, the inability to agree on future fiscal year Commonwealth budgets could result in ratings pressure from the rating agencies.

It is uncertain how the financial markets may react to any potential future ratings downgrade in Puerto Rico's debt obligations. However, the fallout from recent budgetary crisis and a possible ratings downgrade could adversely affect the value of Commonwealth obligations.

A substantial portion of our credit exposure to the Commonwealth is either collateralized loans or obligations that have a specific source of income or revenues identified for their repayment. Some of these obligations consist of senior and subordinated loans to public corporations that

## Edgar Filing: POPULAR INC - Form 424B2

obtain revenues from rates charged for services or products, such as water and electric power utilities. Public corporations have varying degrees of independence from the central Government and many receive appropriations or other payments from the central Government. We also have loans to various municipalities for which the good faith, credit and unlimited taxing power of the applicable municipality has been pledged to their repayment. These municipalities

S-9

## **Table of Contents**

are required by law to levy special property taxes in such amounts as shall be required for the payment of all of their general obligation bonds and loans. Another portion of these loans consist of special obligations of various municipalities that are payable from the basic real and personal property taxes collected within such municipalities. The full good faith and credit obligations of the municipalities have a first lien on the basic property taxes.

At September 30, 2007, we had \$889 million of credit facilities granted to or guaranteed by the Commonwealth and its political subdivisions, of which \$50 million are uncommitted lines of credit. Of these total credit facilities granted, \$773 million in loans were outstanding at September 30, 2007. A substantial portion of the credit exposure to the Commonwealth has an identified repayment stream, which includes in some cases the good faith, credit and unlimited taxation power of certain municipalities and, an assignment of basic property taxes and other revenues.

Furthermore, as of September 30, 2007, we had outstanding \$178 million in Obligations of Puerto Rico, States and Political Subdivisions as part of its investment portfolio. Of that total, \$155 million is exposed to the creditworthiness of the Commonwealth and its municipalities. Of that portfolio, \$55 million are in the form of Commonwealth's Appropriation Bonds, which are currently rated Ba1, one notch below investment grade, by Moody's and BBB-, the lowest investment grade rating, by S&P, another nationally recognized credit rating agency. At December 31, 2006, the Appropriation Bonds indicated above represented approximately \$3.0 million in unrealized losses in our portfolio of investment securities available-for-sale. We are closely monitoring the political and economic situation of the Island and evaluating the portfolio for any declines in value that management may consider being other-than-temporary. Management has the intent and ability to hold these investments for a reasonable period of time or up to maturity for a forecasted recovery of fair value up to (or beyond) the cost of these investments.

### **We are subject to default risk in our loan portfolio.**

We are subject to the risk of loss from loan defaults and foreclosures with respect to the loans originated or acquired. We establish provisions for loan losses, which lead to reductions in the income from operations, in order to maintain the allowance for future loan losses at a level which is deemed appropriate by management based upon an assessment of the quality of the loan portfolio in accordance with established procedures and guidelines. There can be no assurance that management has accurately estimated the level of future loan losses or that we will not have to increase the provision for loan losses in the future as a result of future increases in non-performing loans or for other reasons beyond our control.

### **A failure to comply with financial covenants in contractual agreements could accelerate payments of related borrowings.**

In the course of borrowing from institutional lenders and other investors, we have entered into contractual agreements to maintain certain levels of debt, capital and asset quality, among other financial covenants. Failing to comply with those agreements may result in an event of default, which could accelerate the repayment of the related borrowings. An event of default would also affect our ability to raise new funds or renew maturing debt.

### **We operate in a highly regulated environment and may be adversely affected by changes in federal and local laws and regulations.**

We are subject to extensive regulation, supervision and examination by federal and Puerto Rico banking authorities. Any change in applicable federal or Puerto Rico laws or regulations could have a substantial impact on our operations. Additional laws and regulations may be enacted or adopted in the future that could significantly affect our powers, authority and operations, which could have a material adverse effect on our

Edgar Filing: POPULAR INC - Form 424B2

financial condition and results of operations. Further, regulators, in the performance of their supervisory and

S-10

## **Table of Contents**

enforcement duties, have significant discretion and power to prevent or remedy unsafe and unsound practices or violations of laws by banks and bank holding companies. The exercise of this regulatory discretion and power may have a negative impact on us.

### **Competition with other financial institutions could adversely affect our profitability.**

We face substantial competition in originating loans and in attracting deposits. The competition in originating loans comes principally from other mainland United States, Puerto Rico and foreign banks, mortgage banking companies, consumer finance companies, insurance companies and other institutional lenders and purchasers of loans. Certain of our competitors are not subject to the same extensive regulation that governs our business.

We anticipate that we will encounter greater competition with the expansion of our operations on the mainland United States. Many institutions with which we compete on the mainland United States have significantly greater assets, capital, name recognition, customer loyalty and other resources. As a result, certain of our competitors may have advantages in conducting certain businesses and providing certain services.

Increased competition could require that we increase the rates offered on deposits or lower the rates charged on loans, which could adversely affect our profitability.

### **We are unable to predict what adverse consequences, if any, or other effects transactions with Doral Financial Corporation or R&G Financial Corporation, the civil litigation related to Doral or R&G matters or the related investigations could have on us.**

As described under Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations - Other Matters in our Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended September 30, 2007, which is incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement, Doral Financial Corporation ( Doral ) has stated that the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Southern District of New York is conducting an investigation of the matters regarding Doral described therein. In addition, R&G Financial Corporation ( R&G ) has announced that the Securities and Exchange Commission is conducting a formal investigation of the matters regarding R&G described therein, and that the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Southern District of New York is also conducting an informal inquiry into these matters. We have had dealings with both Doral and R&G and have provided information in connection with, and are continuing to cooperate with, certain of the investigations of these matters. Although we are not a party to the civil litigation involving Doral or R&G, we are unable to predict what adverse consequences, if any, or other effects our dealings with Doral or R&G, the civil litigation related to Doral or R&G matters or the related investigations could have on us.

**The financial statements and Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations ( MD&A ) from our 2006 Annual Report to Shareholders, incorporated by reference in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2006, have been superseded due to a change in our segment reporting.**

Our Current Report on Form 8-K dated October 8, 2007 and filed on October 9, 2007, incorporated by reference herein, provides information on a change in our segment reporting relating to our mainland United States operations that was effective in January 2007 and its effects on the historical segment results presented in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2006. That Current Report on Form 8-K includes revised audited financial statements of Popular, Inc. and a related MD&A that supersede the similarly-titled sections presented in our 2006 Annual Report to Shareholders to reflect the change in segments. Investors should review the revised audited financial statements and related MD&A included in our Current Report on Form 8-K dated October 8, 2007 and filed on October 9, 2007, incorporated by reference

Edgar Filing: POPULAR INC - Form 424B2

herein, and not the audited financial statements and related MD&A incorporated by reference in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2006 from our 2006 Annual Report to Shareholders.

S-11

## **Table of Contents**

### ***Risks Related to the Notes***

#### **Factors that adversely affect the business, operations or financial position of Popular, Inc. could also adversely affect an investment in the notes.**

A reduction in the credit ratings of Popular, Inc. may lower the market value of the notes. In addition, the number of potential investors that may be willing to purchase the notes, even at a lower price, may decrease, particularly if the notes are rated below investment grade, thereby impairing your ability to sell the notes in any trading market for the notes that may develop.

The cash available to Popular North America, Inc. or Popular, Inc. to pay their debts, including the notes, could be adversely affected if, for example, our revenues declined or our expenses increased relative to our revenues. In addition, we may be unable to raise the funds needed to pay our obligations if our ability to borrow in the credit markets were impaired, either because of a general disruption in those markets or because of a decline in our credit rating due to events affecting our financial position in particular or our industry generally. Similarly, our available cash could be adversely affected if we were unable to sell securities or other assets we hold as needed or if we were unable to obtain sufficient funds from its subsidiaries because of regulatory restrictions or financial problems affecting them. A significant and sustained reduction in the cash available to Popular, Inc. or Popular North America, Inc. could adversely affect their ability to meet their payment obligations on their debt, including the notes, in a timely manner.

#### **Popular North America, Inc. and Popular, Inc. are both holding companies. Popular North America, Inc.'s ability to make payments on the notes, and Popular, Inc.'s ability to make payments on the guarantees, will depend on the performance of their subsidiaries and their ability to make distributions to Popular North America, Inc. and Popular, Inc., respectively.**

Popular North America, Inc. and Popular, Inc. each depends on its subsidiaries for dividends and other payments to generate the funds necessary to meet its financial obligations, including for Popular North America, Inc.'s payments of principal and interest on the notes. However, none of their subsidiaries is obligated to make funds available to Popular North America, Inc. for payment on the notes or to Popular, Inc. for payment on the guarantees. The financial condition and operating requirements of Popular North America, Inc.'s or Popular, Inc.'s subsidiaries (including covenants in any secured or unsecured debt those subsidiaries may incur) may limit their ability to obtain cash from these subsidiaries. Earnings from or other available assets of these subsidiaries may not be sufficient to pay dividends or make distributions or loans to enable Popular North America, Inc. to make payments in respect of the notes when such payments are due. There are regulatory limits on bank subsidiaries' ability to pay dividends or make loans to non-bank affiliates such as Popular, Inc. or Popular North America, Inc. See Item 1. Business Regulation and Supervision in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2006.

The indenture pursuant to which the notes will be issued does not restrict Popular North America, Inc.'s or Popular, Inc.'s ability to incur secured debt. The notes will be effectively subordinated to any secured indebtedness of Popular North America, Inc. and structurally subordinated to all existing and future liabilities of Popular North America, Inc.'s subsidiaries, including all secured or unsecured indebtedness of those subsidiaries. Currently, Popular North America, Inc. does not have any secured indebtedness. Similarly, Popular, Inc.'s obligations under the guarantees will be effectively subordinated to any secured indebtedness of Popular, Inc. and structurally subordinated to all existing and future liabilities of Popular, Inc.'s subsidiaries (other than Popular North America, Inc.). Currently, Popular, Inc. does not have any secured indebtedness.

#### **An active trading market may not develop for the notes.**

## Edgar Filing: POPULAR INC - Form 424B2

The notes are a new issue of securities with no established trading market, and we do not intend to list them on any securities exchange or interdealer market quotations system. We have been informed by the placement agents that they do not intend to make a market in the notes after the offering is completed. In addition, the

S-12



**Table of Contents**

liquidity of the trading market in the notes, and the market price quoted for the notes, may be adversely affected by changes in the overall market for fixed income securities and by changes in our financial performance or prospects or in the prospects for companies in our industry generally. As a result, you cannot be sure that an active trading market will develop for the notes. If no active trading market develops, you may not be able to resell your notes at their fair market value or at all.

**The notes do not restrict our ability to incur additional debt, repurchase our securities or to take other actions that could negatively impact holders of the notes. In addition, the notes do not restrict the ability of our subsidiaries in any manner, including pledging collateral to other creditors or transferring assets.**

We are not restricted under the terms of the indenture that governs the notes from incurring additional debt or repurchasing our securities. In addition, the notes do not restrict the ability of our subsidiaries in any manner, including pledging collateral to other creditors or transferring assets. Furthermore, the indenture does not require us to achieve or maintain any minimum financial results relating to our financial position or results of operations. Our ability and the ability of our subsidiaries to recapitalize, incur additional debt and take a number of other actions that are not limited by the terms of the notes could have the effect of diminishing our ability to make payments on the notes when due.

**Table of Contents**

**USE OF PROCEEDS**

We will use the net proceeds of this offering to repay all of our outstanding commercial paper, with varying maturities, and to the extent any funds remain, to repay other short term indebtedness and for general corporate purposes.

S-14

**Table of Contents****CAPITALIZATION**

The following table sets forth our capitalization at September 30, 2007 on an actual basis and as adjusted to give effect to our offering of the notes and the use of proceeds therefrom to repay all of our outstanding commercial paper, with varying maturities, and to the extent any funds remain, to repay other short term indebtedness and for general corporate purposes. You should read this table in conjunction with the Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations in our Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended September 30, 2007 and the financial statements and the related notes incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement.

|   | September 30, 2007     |               |
|---|------------------------|---------------|
|   | Actual                 | As Adjusted   |
|   | (Dollars in thousands) |               |
| Cash and cash equivalents   | \$ 709,056             | \$ 709,056    |
| Short-term debt   | \$ 7,702,200           | \$ 7,427,200  |
| Long-Term Debt:   |                        |               |
| Notes payable   | \$ 8,314,791           | \$ 8,314,791  |
| 6.85% Senior Notes due 2012 offered hereby  | 0                      | 275,000       |
|   | 8,314,791              | \$ 8,589,791  |
| Stockholders' Equity:   |                        |               |
| Preferred stock (\$25 liquidation value) 30,000,000 shares authorized; 7,475,000 shares outstanding                               | 186,875                | 186,875       |
| Common stock, \$6 par value per share 470,000,000 shares authorized; 292,993,474 shares issued and 279,597,529 shares outstanding | 1,757,961              | 1,757,961     |
| Surplus   | 536,129                | 536,129       |
| Retained earnings   | 1,689,384              | 1,689,384     |
| Treasury stock, at cost, 13,395,945 shares  | (205,567)              | (205,567)     |
| Accumulated other comprehensive loss, net of tax of (\$56,551)  | (161,061)              | (161,061)     |
| Total stockholders' equity  | 3,803,721              | 3,803,721     |
| Total capitalization  | \$ 12,118,512          | \$ 12,393,512 |

**Table of Contents**

**DESCRIPTION OF THE NOTES**

*Because this is a summary, it does not contain all the information that may be important to you. The following description of specific terms of the notes is qualified in its entirety by reference to the provisions of the indenture, including the definitions of certain terms contained therein and those terms made part of the indenture by reference to the Trust Indenture Act of 1939, as amended (the Trust Indenture Act ). Capitalized and other terms not otherwise defined in this prospectus supplement shall have the meanings given to them in the indenture. The indenture is an exhibit to the registration statement of which this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus are part.*

Popular North America, Inc. will issue the notes under a senior indenture among Popular North America, Inc., as issuer, Popular, Inc., as guarantor, and The Bank of New York Trust Company, N.A. (as successor to J.P. Morgan Trust Company, National Association), as trustee.

The notes will be issued in an initial aggregate principal amount of \$275,000,000. The notes will be issued only in registered form, without coupons, in denominations of \$100,000 and integral multiples of \$1,000 in excess thereof. The notes will be Popular North America, Inc.'s unsecured senior obligations and, as such, will rank *pari passu* in right of payment with all its other existing and future senior indebtedness and senior in right of payment to all its existing and future subordinated indebtedness. As of September 30, 2007, on a pro forma basis after giving effect to the offering of the notes and the application of the estimated gross proceeds therefrom, Popular North America, Inc. would have had approximately \$3 billion in aggregate principal amount of indebtedness outstanding which would have ranked *pari passu* in right of payment with the notes, all of which is guaranteed by Popular, Inc. Popular North America, Inc. does not have any debt outstanding that would rank senior to the notes. See Capitalization and Use of Proceeds in this prospectus supplement.

**General**

The specific terms of the notes are set forth below:

Issuer: Popular North America, Inc.

Guarantor: Popular, Inc.

Title: 6.85% Senior Notes due 2012

Initial principal amount being issued: \$275,000,000

Stated maturity date: December 21, 2012

Interest rate: 6.85% per annum

## Edgar Filing: POPULAR INC - Form 424B2

Date interest starts accruing: December 21, 2007

Interest payment dates: June 21 and December 21 of each year.

First interest payment date: June 21, 2008

Regular record dates for interest: June 1 and December 1.

Computation of interest: Interest will be computed on the basis of a 360-day year consisting of twelve 30-day months.

Original issue date: December 21, 2007

Form of notes: The notes will be in the form of one or more global notes that we will deposit with or on behalf of DTC.

Sinking fund: The notes will not be subject to any sinking fund.

Ranking: The notes will constitute a series of our unsecured senior debt securities.

S-16

## **Table of Contents**

### **Guarantee**

Pursuant to the terms of the indenture, Popular, Inc. will fully and unconditionally guarantee Popular North America, Inc.'s obligation to pay principal and interest in respect of the notes. The guarantee will be the unsecured and senior obligation of Popular, Inc. equal in right of payment to all of the other existing and future senior unsecured indebtedness of Popular, Inc. For more information on the guarantee, see "Description of Debt Securities We May Offer - Popular, Inc.'s Guarantee" in the accompanying prospectus.

### **Redemption**

Popular North America, Inc. may not redeem the notes, in whole or in part, at any time prior to the stated maturity date except in limited circumstances described in the last paragraph under "Description of Notes - Redemption and Repayment" in the accompanying prospectus.

### **Certain Covenants**

Other than as described under "Description of Debt Securities We May Offer - Restrictive Covenants" in the accompanying prospectus, the indenture does not contain any provisions that would limit Popular North America, Inc.'s or Popular, Inc.'s ability to incur indebtedness or that would afford holders of notes protection in the event of a sudden and significant decline in their credit quality or a takeover, recapitalization or highly leveraged or similar transaction involving Popular North America, Inc. or Popular, Inc.

### **Events of Default**

Events that would constitute an "Event of Default" under the indenture are described in the accompanying prospectus under "Description of Debt Securities We May Offer - Events of Default".

### **Amendment and Waiver**

Popular North America, Inc., Popular, Inc. and the trustee may enter into supplemental indentures to amend or supplement provisions of the indenture with the consent of a majority of holders of the notes and, in certain cases, without the consent of holders, as described under "Description of Debt Securities We May Offer - Modification and Waiver of the Indentures" in the accompanying prospectus.

### **Governing Law**

The indenture and the notes will be governed by, and construed in accordance with, the laws of the State of New York.

**The Trustee**

The indenture provides that the duties and responsibilities of the trustee will be as provided in the Trust Indenture Act. The indenture and the provisions of the Trust Indenture Act, incorporated by reference therein, contains limitations on the rights of the trustee thereunder should it become a creditor of ours, to obtain payment of claims in certain cases or to realize on certain property received by it in respect of any such claims, as security or otherwise. The trustee is permitted to engage in other transactions; provided, however, that if it acquires any conflicting interest (as defined), it must eliminate such conflict or resign.

S-17

## **Table of Contents**

### **Book Entry; Delivery and Form**

Popular North America, Inc. will initially issue the notes in the form of one more fully registered global notes. Each global note will be deposited with, or on behalf of, DTC and registered in the name of a nominee of DTC. You may hold your beneficial interest in a global note directly through DTC if you are a DTC participant or indirectly through a DTC participant.

Owners of beneficial interests in a global note will receive certificated notes only in the following circumstances:

if DTC notifies Popular North America, Inc. or the book-entry depository that it is unwilling or unable to continue to act as a depository and a successor depository is not appointed by us within 60 days;

if Popular North America, Inc. notifies the trustee that it will terminate the global security, or

if an event of default has occurred with regard to debt securities represented by a global debt security and has not been cured or waived.

Any definitive registered notes will be issued in fully registered form in minimum denominations of \$100,000 principal amount and integral multiples of \$1,000 in excess thereof. To the extent permitted by law, Popular North America, Inc., Popular, Inc., the trustee and any paying agent shall be entitled to treat the person in whose name any definitive registered note is registered as the absolute owner thereof.

### **Payments on the Notes**

Payments of any amounts owing in respect of a global note will be made through one or more paying agents appointed under the indenture to DTC, or its nominee, as the holder of the global note. Initially, the paying agent for the notes will be The Bank of New York Trust Company, N.A. We may change the paying agent or registrar without prior notice to the holders of the notes, and we may act as paying agent or registrar.

Payments of principal or any premium owing in respect of definitive registered notes will be made at the maturity of each note in immediately available funds upon presentation of the note at the office of Popular North America, Inc. maintained for that purpose in the Borough of Manhattan, The City of New York, or at any other place as we may designate. Payment of interest due on definitive registered notes at maturity will be made to the person to whom payment of the principal of the note will be made. Payment of interest due on the definitive registered notes other than at maturity will be made at the corporate trust office of the trustee or, at our option, may be made by check mailed to the address of the person entitled to receive payment as the address appears in the security register.

None of Popular North America, Inc., Popular, Inc., the trustee or any paying agent will have any responsibility or liability for any aspect of the records relating to or payments made on account of book-entry interests or for maintaining, supervising or reviewing any records relating to such book-entry interests or beneficial ownership interests.



**Further Issuances**

Popular North America, Inc. may from time to time, without notice to or the consent of the registered holders of the notes, create and issue further notes ranking equally and ratably with the notes in all respects (or in all respects except for the payment of interest accruing prior to the issue date of such further notes or except for the first payment of interest following the issue date of such further notes), so that such further notes shall be consolidated and form a single series with the notes and shall have the same terms as to status, redemption or otherwise as the notes.

**Information Concerning DTC**

For information concerning DTC, see [Description of Debt Securities We May Offer](#) [Information Relating to DTC](#) in the accompanying prospectus.

S-18

**Table of Contents**

**CERTAIN U.S. FEDERAL INCOME TAX CONSIDERATIONS**

This section describes the material United States federal income tax consequences of owning the notes we are offering. It applies to you only if you acquire notes in the offering at the offering price and you hold your notes as capital assets for tax purposes. This section does not apply to you if you are a member of a class of holders subject to special rules, such as:

- a dealer in securities or currencies,
- a trader in securities that elects to use a mark-to-market method of accounting for your securities holdings,
- a bank,
- a life insurance company,
- a tax-exempt organization,
- an entity classified as a partnership,
- a person that owns notes that are a hedge or that are hedged against interest rate risks,
- a person that owns notes as part of a straddle or conversion transaction for tax purposes, or
- a United States holder (as defined below) whose functional currency for tax purposes is not the U.S. dollar.

If you purchase notes at a price other than the offering price, the amortizable bond premium or market discount rules may also apply to you. You should consult your tax advisor regarding this possibility. If a partnership holds the notes, the tax treatment of a partner in the partnership will generally depend upon the status of the partner and the activities of the partnership. Thus, persons who are partners in a partnership holding the notes should consult their own tax advisors.

This section is based on the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, its legislative history, existing and proposed regulations under the Internal Revenue Code, published rulings and court decisions, all as currently in effect. These laws are subject to change, possibly on a retroactive basis.

***Please consult your own tax advisor concerning the consequences of owning these notes in your particular circumstances under the Internal Revenue Code and the laws of any other taxing jurisdiction.***

**United States Holders**

This subsection describes the tax consequences to a United States holder. You are a United States holder if you are a beneficial owner of a note and you are:

a citizen or resident of the United States,

a domestic corporation,

an estate whose income is subject to United States federal income tax regardless of its source, or

a trust if a United States court can exercise primary supervision over the trust's administration and one or more United States persons are authorized to control all substantial decisions of the trust.

If you are not a United States holder, this subsection does not apply to you and you should refer to **United States Alien Holders** below.

*Payments of Interest.* You will be taxed on interest on your note as ordinary income at the time you receive the interest or when it accrues, depending on your method of accounting for tax purposes.

## **Table of Contents**

*Purchase, Sale and Retirement of the Notes.* Your tax basis in your note generally will be its cost. You will generally recognize capital gain or loss on the sale or retirement of your note equal to the difference between the amount you realize on the sale or retirement, excluding any amounts attributable to accrued but unpaid interest, and your tax basis in your note. Capital gain of a noncorporate United States holder that is recognized in taxable years beginning before January 1, 2011 is generally taxed at a maximum rate of 15% where the holder has a holding period greater than one year.

### **United States Alien Holders**

This subsection describes the tax consequences to a United States alien holder. You are a United States alien holder if you are a beneficial owner of a note and you are, for United States federal income tax purposes:

a nonresident alien individual,

a foreign corporation, including a Puerto Rico corporation, or

an estate or trust that in either case is not subject to United States federal income tax on a net income basis on income or gain from a note.

If you are a United States holder, this subsection does not apply to you.

This discussion assumes that the note is not subject to the rules of Section 871(h)(4)(A) of the Internal Revenue Code, relating to interest payments that are determined by reference to the income, profits, changes in the value of property or other attributes of the debtor or a related party.

Under United States federal income and estate tax law, and subject to the discussion of backup withholding below, if you are a United States alien holder of a note:

we and other U.S. payors generally will not be required to deduct United States withholding tax from payments of principal, premium, if any, and interest, to you if, in the case of payments of interest:

1. you do not actually or constructively own 10% or more of the total combined voting power of all classes of stock of the Popular North America, Inc. entitled to vote,
2. you are not a controlled foreign corporation that is related to the Popular North America, Inc. through stock ownership, and
3. the U.S. payor does not have actual knowledge or reason to know that you are a United States person and:

## Edgar Filing: POPULAR INC - Form 424B2

- a. you have furnished to the U.S. payor an Internal Revenue Service Form W-8BEN or an acceptable substitute form upon which you certify, under penalties of perjury, that you are (or, in the case of a United States alien holder that is a partnership or an estate or trust, such forms certifying that each partner in the partnership or beneficiary of the estate or trust is) a non-United States person,
- b. in the case of payments made outside the United States to you at an offshore account (generally, an account maintained by you at a bank or other financial institution at any location outside the United States), you have furnished to the U.S. payor documentation that establishes your identity and your status as the beneficial owner of the payment for United States federal income tax purposes and as a non-United States person,
- c. the U.S. payor has received a withholding certificate (furnished on an appropriate Internal Revenue Service Form W-8 or an acceptable substitute form) from a person claiming to be:
  - i. a withholding foreign partnership (generally a foreign partnership that has entered into an agreement with the Internal Revenue Service to assume primary withholding responsibility with respect to distributions and guaranteed payments it makes to its partners),

S-20

---

**Table of Contents**

- ii. a qualified intermediary (generally a non-United States financial institution or clearing organization or a non-United States branch or office of a United States financial institution or clearing organization that is a party to a withholding agreement with the Internal Revenue Service), or
- iii. a U.S. branch of a non-United States bank or of a non-United States insurance company,

and the withholding foreign partnership, qualified intermediary or U.S. branch has received documentation upon which it may rely to treat the payment as made to a non-United States person that is, for United States federal income tax purposes, the beneficial owner of the payment on the notes in accordance with U.S. Treasury regulations (or, in the case of a qualified intermediary, in accordance with its agreement with the Internal Revenue Service),

- d. the U.S. payor receives a statement from a securities clearing organization, bank or other financial institution that holds customers' securities in the ordinary course of its trade or business,
  - i. certifying to the U.S. payor under penalties of perjury that an Internal Revenue Service Form W-8BEN or an acceptable substitute form has been received from you by it or by a similar financial institution between it and you, and
  - ii. to which is attached a copy of the Internal Revenue Service Form W-8BEN or acceptable substitute form, or
- e. the U.S. payor otherwise possesses documentation upon which it may rely to treat the payment as made to a non-United States person that is, for United States federal income tax purposes, the beneficial owner of the payments on the notes in accordance with U.S. Treasury regulations; and

no deduction for any United States federal withholding tax will be made from any gain that you realize on the sale or exchange of your note.

Further, a note held by an individual who at death is not a citizen or resident of the United States will not be includible in the individual's gross estate for United States federal estate tax purposes if:

the decedent did not actually or constructively own 10% or more of the total combined voting power of all classes of stock of the Popular North America, Inc. entitled to vote at the time of death and

the income on the note would not have been effectively connected with a United States trade or business of the decedent at the same time.

**Backup Withholding and Information Reporting**

In general, if you are a noncorporate United States holder, we and other payors are required to report to the Internal Revenue Service all payments of principal, any premium and interest on your note. In addition, we and other payors are required to report to the Internal Revenue Service any payment of proceeds of the sale of your note before maturity within the United States. Additionally, backup withholding will apply

## Edgar Filing: POPULAR INC - Form 424B2

to any payments, if you fail to provide an accurate taxpayer identification number, or you are notified by the Internal Revenue Service that you have failed to report all interest and dividends required to be shown on your federal income tax returns.

In general, if you are a United States alien holder, payments of principal, premium or interest, made by us and other payors to you will not be subject to backup withholding and information reporting, provided that the certification requirements described above under "United States Alien Holders" are satisfied or you otherwise establish an exemption. However, we and other payors are required to report payments of interest on your notes on Internal Revenue Service Form 1042-S even if the payments are not otherwise subject to information

S-21

**Table of Contents**

reporting requirements. In addition, payment of the proceeds from the sale of notes effected at a United States office of a broker will not be subject to backup withholding and information reporting provided that:

the broker does not have actual knowledge or reason to know that you are a United States person and you have furnished to the broker:

an appropriate Internal Revenue Service Form W-8 or an acceptable substitute form upon which you certify, under penalties of perjury, that you are not a United States person, or

other documentation upon which it may rely to treat the payment as made to a non-United States person in accordance with U.S. Treasury regulations, or

you otherwise establish an exemption.

If you fail to establish an exemption and the broker does not possess adequate documentation of your status as a non-United States person, the payments may be subject to information reporting and backup withholding. However, backup withholding will not apply with respect to payments made to an offshore account maintained by you unless the broker has actual knowledge that you are a United States person.

In general, payment of the proceeds from the sale of notes effected at a foreign office of a broker will not be subject to information reporting or backup withholding. However, a sale effected at a foreign office of a broker will be subject to information reporting and backup withholding if:

the proceeds are transferred to an account maintained by you in the United States,

the payment of proceeds or the confirmation of the sale is mailed to you at a United States address, or

the sale has some other specified connection with the United States as provided in U.S. Treasury regulations,

unless the broker does not have actual knowledge or reason to know that you are a United States person and the documentation requirements described above (relating to a sale of notes effected at a United States office of a broker) are met or you otherwise establish an exemption.

In addition, payment of the proceeds from the sale of notes effected at a foreign office of a broker will be subject to information reporting if the broker is:

a United States person,

a controlled foreign corporation for United States tax purposes,



## Edgar Filing: POPULAR INC - Form 424B2

a foreign person 50% or more of whose gross income is effectively connected with the conduct of a United States trade or business for a specified three-year period, or

a foreign partnership, if at any time during its tax year:

one or more of its partners are U.S. persons, as defined in U.S. Treasury regulations, who in the aggregate hold more than 50% of the income or capital interest in the partnership, or

such foreign partnership is engaged in the conduct of a United States trade or business,

unless the broker does not have actual knowledge or reason to know that you are a United States person and the documentation requirements described above (relating to a sale of notes effected at a United States office of a broker) are met or you otherwise establish an exemption. Backup withholding will apply if the sale is subject to information reporting and the broker has actual knowledge that you are a United States person.

S-22

**Table of Contents****PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION**

We have entered into an agency agreement with Popular Securities, Inc. and UBS Financial Services Incorporated of Puerto Rico, pursuant to which Popular Securities, Inc. and UBS Financial Services Incorporated of Puerto Rico will act as placement agents in connection with the sale of the notes to EDBCI. Under the agency agreement, we have agreed to sell all the notes directly to EDBCI, and EDBCI has agreed to purchase all the notes from us, at a price equal to 100% of the aggregate principal amount of the notes. The agency agreement provides that we will pay to the placement agents as compensation for acting as placement agents a fee of 0.50% of the aggregate principal amount of the notes, or \$1,375,000 in the aggregate.

The following table shows the per note and total fees to be paid to the placement agents as well as the proceeds received by us from the offering, before deducting expenses:

|   | <u>Per Note</u> | <u>Total</u>   |
|---|-----------------|----------------|
| Public offering price                     | 100.00%         | \$ 275,000,000 |
| Placement agents fee                      | 0.50%           | \$ 1,375,000   |
| Proceeds to the Company (before expenses) | 99.50%          | \$ 273,625,000 |

We have agreed to reimburse EDBCI for reasonable fees and disbursements (including legal expenses) relating to the notes offering and the EDBCI notes offering. In the event that the notes offering is not consummated, we have also agreed to reimburse the placement agents for their out-of-pocket fees and expenses (including legal expenses).

We estimate that the total expenses of this offering payable by us, which is comprised primarily of legal, accounting, trustees fees and printing fees, will be approximately \$2 million.

The agency agreement provides that the obligation of EDBCI to purchase the notes is subject to certain conditions precedent.

Pursuant to the agency agreement, we have agreed to indemnify the placement agents against certain liabilities, including liabilities under the Securities Act of 1933, or contribute to payments the placement agents may make because of any of those liabilities.

We have been informed that EDBCI will obtain the funds to purchase the notes from the sale of the EDBCI notes to a limited number of institutional investors in Puerto Rico. The EDBCI notes will be payable from amounts payable by us on the notes and the notes will be pledged as collateral to secure the EDBCI notes. Purchasers of the EDBCI notes will acquire an indirect interest in the notes pursuant to the terms of the EDBCI notes and, under certain circumstances, may acquire direct interests in the notes. Under the note purchase agreement for the EDBCI notes, EDBCI has assigned to the holders of the EDBCI notes its rights against us and the placement agents hereunder under the federal and applicable state securities laws with respect to the notes. Accordingly, purchasers of the EDBCI notes may proceed directly against us and the placement agents to enforce those rights without first proceeding against EDBCI or any other entity. We and the placement agents have acknowledged the existence of such assignment and agreed not to contest its enforceability.

## Edgar Filing: POPULAR INC - Form 424B2

Under the note purchase agreement for the EDBCI notes, to the extent that a holder of EDBCI notes has obtained, through an action brought under federal or state securities laws in respect of the notes, a final judgment or decree which provides such holder with a right of rescission with respect to such notes, EDBCI, upon due presentment of the final judgment or decree, shall make demand upon us for the principal amount underlying such notes. Upon presentment by such holder of the EDBCI notes so redeemed, EDBCI will provide the holder with the principal therefore.

We are offering these notes ultimately to the purchasers of the EDBCI notes. As a result, each of Popular Securities, Inc. and UBS Financial Services Incorporated of Puerto Rico is considered for securities law purposes to be statutory underwriters within the meaning of the Securities Act of 1933 with respect to initial sales of the notes and the EDBCI notes.

S-23

**Table of Contents**

We have authorized EDBCI to deliver a copy of this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus relating to the notes offered hereby to purchasers of the EDBCI notes. This prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus relate only to Popular, Inc., Popular North America, Inc. and the notes and do not relate to EDBCI or the EDBCI notes. You should rely on this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus only for a description of Popular, Inc., Popular North America, Inc. and the notes.

We have not been involved in the offering and sale of the EDBCI notes or in the preparation of any documents or agreements related to such offering and sale. We are not partners or joint venturers or in any similar relationship with EDBCI. Accordingly, we are not assuming any responsibility for or any liability or obligations with respect to EDBCI or the EDBCI notes.

We reserve the right to withdraw, cancel or modify the offer made by this prospectus supplement without notice.

The notes are a new issue of securities with no established trading market. We do not intend to list the notes for trading on any securities exchange or quotation system. We do not expect that there will be any secondary market for the notes.

The placement agents and their affiliates have from time to time been customers of, engaged in transactions with, or performed services for, Popular, Inc. and its subsidiaries in the ordinary course of business. Such persons may continue to do business with Popular, Inc. in the future.

The maximum commission or discount, together with all other underwriting compensation, to be received by members of the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority in connection with the sale of our securities that are registered pursuant to the registration statement of which this prospectus supplement is a part will not be greater than 8% of the net proceeds to us in the aggregate.

One of Popular, Inc.'s wholly-owned subsidiaries, Popular Securities, Inc., will participate as a placement agent in the offering of the notes. Consequently, this offering will comply with the provisions of FINRA Rule 2720.

**Table of Contents**

**VALIDITY OF THE NOTES AND GUARANTEES**

The validity of the notes and the guarantees will be passed upon for Popular North America, Inc. and Popular, Inc. by Sullivan & Cromwell LLP, New York, New York. Sullivan & Cromwell LLP will rely upon Brunilda Santos de Alvarez, Executive Vice President and Chief Legal Officer of Popular, Inc., for all matters of Puerto Rico law. The placement agents for the notes were represented by Pietrantonio Mendez & Alvarez LLP, San Juan, Puerto Rico.

**EXPERTS**

The financial statements and management's assessment of the effectiveness of the internal control over financial reporting (which is included in Management's Assessment of Internal Control over Financial Reporting) incorporated in this prospectus by reference to our Current Report on Form 8-K dated October 8, 2007 and filed with the SEC on October 9, 2007, have been so incorporated in reliance on the report of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP, an independent registered public accounting firm, given on the authority of said firm as experts in auditing and accounting.

S-25

Table of Contents**POPULAR, INC.**

|                              |                        |                                 |                          |
|------------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Senior Debt Securities       | Senior Debt Securities | Capital Securities              | Capital Securities       |
| Subordinated Debt            | Subordinated Debt      | of                              | of                       |
| Securities                   | Securities             | <b>Popular Capital</b>          | <b>Popular North</b>     |
| of                           | Preferred Stock        | <b>Trust III</b> and            | <b>America Capital</b>   |
| <b>Popular International</b> | Common Stock           | <b>Popular Capital Trust IV</b> | <b>Trust II</b> and      |
| <b>Bank, Inc.,</b> and       | Warrants               | Fully and                       | <b>Popular North</b>     |
| <b>Popular North</b>         | Purchase Contracts     | unconditionally                 | <b>America Capital</b>   |
| <b>America, Inc.</b>         | Depository Shares      | guaranteed as                   | <b>Trust III</b>         |
| Fully and                    | Units                  | described herein by             | Fully and                |
| unconditionally              | of                     | <b>Popular, Inc.</b>            | unconditionally          |
| guaranteed as                | <b>Popular, Inc.</b>   |                                 | guaranteed as            |
| described herein by          |                        |                                 | described herein by      |
| <b>Popular, Inc.</b>         |                        |                                 | <b>Popular North</b>     |
|                              |                        |                                 | <b>America, Inc.</b> and |
|                              |                        |                                 | <b>Popular, Inc.</b>     |

Popular, Inc. from time to time may offer to sell senior or subordinated debt securities, preferred stock, either separately or represented by depository shares, common stock, warrants and purchase contracts, as well as units that include any of these securities or securities of other entities. The debt securities, preferred stock, warrants and purchase contracts may be convertible into or exercisable or exchangeable for common or preferred stock or other securities of Popular, Inc. or debt or equity securities of one or more other entities. Popular, Inc.'s common stock is listed on the Nasdaq Stock Market and trades under the ticker symbol BPOP.

Popular Capital Trust III, Popular Capital Trust IV, Popular North America Capital Trust II and Popular North America Capital Trust III may offer and sell capital securities, in one or more offerings. Capital securities are preferred securities representing preferred beneficial interests in the applicable issuer trust.

These securities may be offered and sold to or through one or more underwriters, dealers and agents, or directly to purchasers, on a continuous or delayed basis.

This prospectus describes some of the general terms that may apply to these securities. The specific terms of any securities to be offered will be described in a supplement to this prospectus.

---

**Neither the Securities and Exchange Commission nor any other regulatory body has approved or disapproved of these securities or passed upon the accuracy or adequacy of this prospectus. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense.**

---

**Prospectus dated June 16, 2006**

**Table of Contents**

**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

|  | <b>Page</b> |
|--|-------------|
| <u>ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS</u>                                       | 1           |
| <u>WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION</u>                         | 2           |
| <u>INCORPORATION OF CERTAIN INFORMATION BY REFERENCE</u>           | 2           |
| <u>NOTE REGARDING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS AND CERTAIN RISKS</u> | 3           |
| <u>POPULAR, INC.</u>   | 4           |
| <u>POPULAR INTERNATIONAL BANK, INC.</u>                            | 4           |
| <u>POPULAR NORTH AMERICA, INC.</u>                                 | 4           |
| <u>POPULAR AND POPULAR NORTH AMERICA CAPITAL TRUSTS</u>            | 5           |
| <u>DESCRIPTION OF DEBT SECURITIES WE MAY OFFER</u>                 | 6           |
| <u>DESCRIPTION OF CAPITAL SECURITIES WE MAY OFFER</u>              | 37          |
| <u>DESCRIPTION OF CAPITAL STOCK</u>                                | 52          |
| <u>USE OF PROCEEDS</u>   | 55          |
| <u>VALIDITY OF THE SECURITIES</u>                                  | 55          |
| <u>EXPERTS</u>   | 55          |



---

**Table of Contents**

**ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS**

This prospectus is part of a registration statement that we filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission, which we refer to as the SEC, utilizing a shelf registration or continuous offering process. Under this shelf registration or continuous offering process, we or the trusts may sell any combination of the securities described in this prospectus in one or more offerings.

This prospectus gives you a general description of the securities that we or the trusts may offer. Each time we or the trusts sell securities, we or the trusts will provide a prospectus supplement containing specific information about the terms of the securities being offered. A prospectus supplement may include a discussion of any risk factors or other special considerations applicable to those securities or to us and may also include, if applicable, a discussion of material United States federal income tax considerations and considerations under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, as amended, which we refer to as ERISA. A prospectus supplement may also add, update or change information in this prospectus. If there is any inconsistency between the information in this prospectus and the applicable prospectus supplement, you must rely on the information in the prospectus supplement. You should read both this prospectus and any prospectus supplement together with additional information described under Where You Can Find More Information.

The registration statement containing this prospectus, including exhibits to the registration statement, provides additional information about us and the securities offered under this prospectus. The registration statement can be read at the SEC's web site or at the SEC's public reference room described under Where You Can Find More Information.

When you acquire any securities discussed in this prospectus, you should rely only on the information provided in this prospectus and in the applicable prospectus supplement, including the information incorporated by reference herein and therein. Reference to a prospectus supplement means the prospectus supplement describing the specific terms of the securities you purchase. The terms used in your prospectus supplement will have the meanings described in this prospectus, unless otherwise specified. Neither we nor the trusts, nor any underwriters or agents whom we may from time to time retain, have authorized anyone to provide you with different information. Neither we nor the trusts are offering the securities in any jurisdiction where the offer is prohibited. You should not assume that the information in this prospectus, any prospectus supplement, or any document incorporated by reference, is truthful or complete at any date other than the date mentioned on the cover page of these documents.

We or the trusts may sell securities to underwriters who will sell the securities to the public on terms fixed at the time of sale. In addition, we or the trusts may sell the securities directly or through dealers or agents designated from time to time. If we or the trusts, directly or through agents, solicit offers to purchase the securities, we and the trusts reserve the sole right to accept and, together with any agents, to reject, in whole or in part, any of those offers. In addition, selling securityholders may sell the securities on terms described in the applicable prospectus supplement.

Any prospectus supplement will contain the names of the underwriters, dealers or agents, if any, together with the terms of offering, the compensation of those underwriters and the net proceeds to us. Any underwriters, dealers or agents participating in the offering may be deemed underwriters within the meaning of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, which we refer to as the Securities Act.

References in this prospectus to the Company, Popular, Popular, Inc, we, us or our refer to Popular, Inc. and its subsidiaries.

Unless otherwise stated, currency amounts in this prospectus and any prospectus supplement are stated in United States dollars, or \$.

---

**Table of Contents**

**WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION**

We are required to file annual, quarterly and current reports, proxy statements and other information with the SEC. You may read and copy any documents filed by us at the SEC's public reference room at 100 F Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20549. Please call the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330 for further information on the public reference room. Our filings with the SEC are also available to the public through the SEC's Internet site at <http://www.sec.gov>.

We have filed with the SEC a registration statement on Form S-3 relating to the securities covered by this prospectus. This prospectus is a part of the registration statement and does not contain all the information in the registration statement. Whenever a reference is made in this prospectus to a contract or other document of the Company, the reference is only a summary and you should refer to the exhibits that are a part of the registration statement for a copy of the contract or other document. You may review a copy of the registration statement at the SEC's public reference room in Washington, D.C., as well as through the SEC's Internet site.

**INCORPORATION OF CERTAIN INFORMATION BY REFERENCE**

The SEC's rules allow us to incorporate by reference information into this prospectus. This means that we can disclose important information to you by referring you to another document. Any information referred to in this way is considered part of this prospectus from the date we file that document. Any reports filed by us with the SEC after the date of this prospectus and before the date that the offering of the securities by means of this prospectus is terminated will automatically update and, where applicable, supersede any information contained in this prospectus or incorporated by reference in this prospectus.

We incorporate by reference into this prospectus the following documents or information filed with the SEC (other than, in each case, documents or information deemed to have been furnished and not filed in accordance with SEC rules):

- (1) Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2005;
- (2) Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarterly period ended March 31, 2006;
- (3) Current Reports on Form 8-K filed on March 15, 2006, April 28, 2006 and May 3, 2006;
- (4) All documents filed by the Company under Sections 13(a), 13(c), 14 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 on or after the date of this prospectus and before the termination of this offering.

We will provide without charge to each person, including any beneficial owner, to whom this prospectus is delivered, upon his or her written or oral request, a copy of any or all documents referred to above which have been or may be incorporated by reference into this prospectus excluding exhibits to those documents unless they are specifically incorporated by reference into those documents. You can request those documents from Ileana González, Senior Vice President, Popular, Inc., P.O. Box 362708, San Juan, Puerto Rico 009396-2708.

We have not included or incorporated by reference in this prospectus any separate financial statements of the trusts. We do not believe that these financial statements would provide holders of preferred securities with any important information for the following reasons:

we will own all of the voting securities of the trusts;

the trusts do not and will not have any independent operations other than to issue securities and to purchase and hold our debt securities; and

## Edgar Filing: POPULAR INC - Form 424B2

we are fully and unconditionally guaranteeing the obligations of the trusts as described in this prospectus. We do not expect that the trusts will be required to file information with the SEC on an ongoing basis for as long as we continue to file our information with the SEC.

**Table of Contents**

**NOTE REGARDING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS AND CERTAIN RISKS**

Certain statements in this prospectus are forward-looking statements within the meaning of the U.S. Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. These forward-looking statements may relate to Popular's financial condition, results of operations, plans, objectives, future performance and business, including, but not limited to, statements with respect to the adequacy of the allowance for loan losses, market risk and the impact of interest rate changes, capital adequacy and liquidity, and the effect of legal proceedings and new accounting standards on Popular's financial condition and results of operations. All statements contained herein that are not clearly historical in nature are forward-looking, and the words anticipate, believe, continues, expect, estimate, intend, project and similar expressions and future or conditional verbs such as will, should, could, might, can, may, or similar expressions are generally intended to identify forward-looking statements.

These forward-looking statements involve certain risks, uncertainties, estimates and assumptions by management. Various factors, some of which are beyond Popular's control, could cause actual results to differ materially from those contemplated by such forward-looking statements. Factors that might cause such a difference include, but are not limited to:

the rate of growth in the economy, as well as general business and economic conditions;

changes in interest rates, as well as the magnitude of such changes;

the fiscal and monetary policies of the federal government and its agencies;

the relative strength or weakness of the consumer and commercial credit sectors and of the real estate markets;

the performance of the stock and bond markets;

competition in the financial services industry;

possible legislative or regulatory changes; and

difficulties in combining the operations of acquired entities.

All forward-looking statements included in this prospectus are based upon information available to Popular as of the date of this document, and we assume no obligation to update or revise any such forward-looking statements.

---

**Table of Contents**

**POPULAR, INC.**

Popular, Inc. is a diversified, publicly owned bank holding company, registered under the Bank Holding Company Act of 1956, as amended (the BHC Act ), and, accordingly, subject to the supervision and regulation of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System ( the Federal Reserve Board ). Popular, Inc. was incorporated in 1984 under the laws of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico and is the largest financial institution based in Puerto Rico, with consolidated assets of \$48.6 billion, total deposits of \$23.4 billion and stockholders' equity of \$3.45 billion at March 31, 2006. At March 31, 2006, Popular, Inc. ranked 22<sup>nd</sup> in assets and 30<sup>rd</sup> in market value of its common stock among U.S. bank holding companies based on public information gathered and published by SNL Securities. Our executive offices are located at 209 Muñoz Rivera Avenue, Hato Rey, Puerto Rico 00918, and our telephone number is (787) 765-9800.

**Banco Popular De Puerto Rico**

Our principal bank subsidiary, Banco Popular de Puerto Rico ( Banco Popular or the Bank ), was organized in 1893 and is Puerto Rico's largest bank with consolidated total assets of \$26.1 billion, deposits of \$15.0 billion and stockholders' equity of \$1.6 billion at March 31, 2006. The Bank accounted for 54% of the total consolidated assets of the Company at March 31, 2006. Banco Popular has the largest retail franchise in Puerto Rico, with 194 branches and over 580 automated teller machines, and has the largest trust operation in Puerto Rico. The Bank also operates seven branches in the U.S. Virgin Islands, one branch in the British Virgin Islands and one branch in New York. Banco Popular's deposits are insured under the Bank Insurance Fund ( BIF ) of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (the FDIC ). Banco Popular has three subsidiaries, Popular Auto, Inc., Puerto Rico's largest vehicle financing, leasing and daily rental company, Popular Finance, Inc., a small personal loan and mortgage company with 43 offices and seven mortgage centers in Puerto Rico, and Popular Mortgage, Inc., a mortgage loan company with 34 offices in Puerto Rico.

**Other Principal Subsidiaries**

We have three other principal subsidiaries: Popular Securities, Inc., Popular International Bank, Inc. ( PIB ) and EVERTEC, Inc. (formerly GM Group, Inc.).

**POPULAR INTERNATIONAL BANK, INC.**

PIB is a wholly owned subsidiary of the Popular, Inc. organized in 1992 that operates as an international banking entity under the International Banking Center Regulatory Act of Puerto Rico (the IBC Act ). PIB is a registered bank holding company under the BHC Act and is principally engaged in providing managerial services to its subsidiaries.

Condensed consolidated financial information of Popular, Inc. with separate columns for Popular, Inc., Popular International Bank, Inc., other subsidiaries of Popular, Inc. on a combined basis, consolidated adjustments and the total consolidated amounts are included in the notes to Popular, Inc.'s consolidated financial statements that are incorporated by reference herein.

Popular International Bank, Inc.'s principal executive offices are located at 209 Muñoz Rivera Avenue, San Juan, Puerto Rico 00918, and its telephone number is (787) 765-9800.

**POPULAR NORTH AMERICA, INC.**

Popular North America, Inc. ( PNA ), a wholly owned subsidiary of PIB and an indirect wholly owned subsidiary of Popular, Inc., was organized in 1991 under the laws of the State of Delaware and is a registered bank holding company under the BHC Act. PNA functions as a holding company for Popular, Inc.'s mainland

**Table of Contents**

U.S. operations. As of December 31, 2005, PNA had six direct subsidiaries, all of which were wholly owned: Banco Popular North America ( BPNA ), a full service commercial bank incorporated in the State of New York; Popular Financial Holdings, Inc., a diversified consumer finance company; Popular Cash Express, Inc. ( PCE ), a retail financial services company; BanPonce Trust I and Popular North America Capital Trust I, statutory business trusts; and Banco Popular, National Association ( Banco Popular, N.A. ), a federally chartered national bank with its main office in Orlando, Florida.

Condensed consolidated financial information of Popular, Inc. with separate columns for Popular, Inc., Popular North America, Inc., other subsidiaries of Popular, Inc. on a combined basis, consolidated adjustments and the total consolidated amounts are included in the notes to Popular, Inc.'s consolidated financial statements that are incorporated by reference.

Popular North America, Inc.'s principal executive offices are located at 209 Muñoz Rivera Avenue, San Juan, Puerto Rico 00918, and its telephone number is (787) 765-9800.

**POPULAR AND POPULAR NORTH AMERICA CAPITAL TRUSTS**

Popular Capital Trust III, Popular Capital Trust IV, Popular North America Capital Trust II and Popular North America Capital Trust III are statutory trusts formed under Delaware law by:

the execution of a declaration of trust and trust agreement by Popular or Popular North America, as depositor, and certain of the trustees of the trusts, and

the filing of a certificate of trust with the Secretary of State of the State of Delaware.

The capital securities offered hereby will constitute all of the capital securities of the trusts. Popular, or one of its affiliates, will acquire all of the common securities of the trusts.

Popular or one of its affiliates will pay all fees and expenses related to the trusts and the offering of the common securities and the capital securities.

---

**Table of Contents**

**DESCRIPTION OF DEBT SECURITIES WE MAY OFFER**

**Information About Our Debt Securities**

Three different issuers may offer debt securities using this prospectus: Popular, Inc., Popular International Bank, Inc. and Popular North America, Inc. In this section, we use *we* when referring to the issuers collectively and *the issuer* when referring to the particular company that issues a particular debt security or series of debt securities.

As required by U.S. federal law for all debt securities of companies that are publicly offered, the debt securities issued under this prospectus are governed by documents called indentures. The indentures are contracts between us and J.P. Morgan Trust Company, National Association, which currently acts as trustee under each of the indentures. The trustee has two main roles:

First, the trustee can enforce your rights against us if we default. There are some limitations on the extent to which the trustee acts on your behalf, described later under *Default and Remedies* ; and

Second, the trustee performs administrative duties for us, such as sending you interest payments, transferring your debt security to a new buyer if you sell and sending you notices.

The indentures permit us to issue different series of debt securities from time to time. We may issue debt securities in such amounts, at such times and on such terms as we wish. The debt securities will differ from one another in their terms.

Popular, Inc. may issue senior debt securities under an indenture dated as of February 15, 1995, as supplemented by the First Supplemental Indenture dated as of May 8, 1997 and as further supplemented by the Second Supplemental Indenture dated as of August 5, 1999, in each case between Popular, Inc. and the trustee. Popular, Inc. may issue subordinated debt securities under an indenture dated as of November 30, 1995 between Popular, Inc. and the trustee. Popular North America, Inc. may issue senior debt securities under an indenture dated as of October 1, 1991, as supplemented by the First Supplemental Indenture dated as of February 28, 1995, the Second Supplemental Indenture dated as of May 8, 1997 and the Third Supplemental Indenture dated as of August 5, 1999, in each case among Popular, Inc., Popular North America, Inc. and the trustee. If Popular International Bank, Inc. issues either senior or subordinated debt securities or if Popular North America, Inc. issues subordinated debt securities, it will enter into an appropriate indenture with a trustee.

The indentures mentioned in the previous paragraph are referred to collectively as the indentures. The debt securities issued under the indentures referred to in the previous paragraph are referred to collectively as the debt securities. The senior debt securities of Popular, Inc., Popular International Bank, Inc. and Popular North America, Inc. are referred to collectively as the senior debt securities and the subordinated debt securities of Popular, Inc., Popular International Bank, Inc. and Popular North America, Inc. are referred to collectively as the subordinated debt securities. A copy or form of each indenture is filed as an exhibit to the registration statement relating to the debt securities.

Unless otherwise indicated in the applicable prospectus supplement, the covenants contained in the indentures and the debt securities will not afford holders of the debt securities protection in the event of a recapitalization, restructuring or other highly leveraged transaction.

This section summarizes the material terms that will apply generally to a series of debt securities. Each particular debt security will have financial and other terms specific to it, and the specific terms of each debt security will be described in a prospectus supplement attached to the front of this prospectus. Those terms may vary from the terms described here. As you read this section, therefore, please remember that the specific terms of your debt security as described in your prospectus supplement will supplement and, if applicable, may modify or replace the general terms described in this section. The statements we make in this section may not apply to your debt security.

## **Table of Contents**

### ***Amounts That We May Issue***

The indentures do not limit the aggregate amount of debt securities that we may issue, nor do they limit the aggregate amount of any particular series. We have initially authorized the issuance of debt securities and preferred stock having an initial offering price no greater than \$2,500,000,000, or an equivalent amount in any other currencies or composite currencies. We may, however, increase this authorized amount at any time without your consent.

The indentures and the debt securities do not limit our ability to incur other indebtedness or to issue other securities. Also, we are not subject to financial or similar restrictions by the terms of the debt securities, except as described under **Restrictive Covenants** below.

### ***How the Debt Securities Rank Against Other Debt***

Unless otherwise specified in the prospectus supplement, the debt securities will not be secured by any property or assets of the issuers. Thus, by owning a debt security, you are one of the unsecured creditors of the issuer of your debt security. The senior debt securities will not be subordinated to any of our other debt obligations. This means that in a bankruptcy or liquidation proceeding against the issuer, the senior debt securities would rank equally in right of payment with all other unsecured and unsubordinated indebtedness of the issuer. The subordinated debt securities may be subordinated to any of our other debt obligations as described in **Special Terms Relating to the Subordinated Debt Securities** below.

### ***This Section Is Only a Summary***

The indentures and their associated documents, including your debt security, contain the full legal text of the matters described in this section and your prospectus supplement. The indentures and the debt securities are governed by New York law. A copy of each indenture or form of indenture has been filed with the SEC as part of our registration statement.

Because this section and your prospectus supplement provide only a summary, they do not describe every aspect of the indentures and your debt security. This summary is subject to and qualified in its entirety by reference to all the provisions of the indentures, including definitions of certain terms used in the indentures. For example, in this section and your prospectus supplement, we use terms that have been given special meaning in the indentures. In this section, however, we describe the meaning for only the more important of those terms.

### **Features Common to All Debt Securities**

#### ***Stated Maturity and Maturity***

The day on which the principal amount of your debt security is scheduled to become due and payable is called the stated maturity of the principal and is specified in your prospectus supplement. The principal may become due sooner, by reason of redemption or acceleration after a default. The day on which the principal actually becomes due, whether at the stated maturity or earlier, is called the maturity of the principal.

We also use the terms **stated maturity** and **maturity** to refer to the dates when other payments become due. For example, we may refer to a regular interest payment date when an installment of interest is scheduled to become due as the **stated maturity** of that installment. When we refer to the **stated maturity** or the **maturity** of a debt security without specifying a particular payment, we mean the stated maturity or maturity, as the case may be, of the principal.

#### ***Currency of Debt Securities***

Amounts that become due and payable on your debt security will be payable in a currency, composite currency or basket of currencies specified in your prospectus supplement.



## **Table of Contents**

We call this currency, composite currency or basket of currencies a specified currency. The specified currency for your debt security will be U.S. dollars unless your prospectus supplement states otherwise. A specified currency may include the euro. Some debt securities may have different specified currencies for principal and interest.

You will have to pay for your debt securities by delivering the requisite amount of the specified currency for the principal to the dealer or dealers that we name in your prospectus supplement, unless other arrangements have been made between you and us or between you and that dealer or dealers. We will make payments on your debt securities in the specified currency, except as otherwise described in your prospectus supplement.

### ***Types of Debt Securities***

We may issue the following types of debt securities:

*Fixed Rate Debt Securities.* A debt security of this type will bear interest at a fixed rate described in the applicable prospectus supplement. This type includes zero coupon debt securities, which bear no interest and are instead issued at a price lower than the principal amount.

*Floating Rate Debt Securities.* A debt security of this type will bear interest at rates that are determined by reference to an interest rate formula. In some cases, the rates may also be adjusted by adding or subtracting a spread or multiplying by a spread multiplier and may be subject to a minimum rate or a maximum rate. If your debt security is a floating rate debt security, the formula and any adjustments that apply to the interest rate will be described in your prospectus supplement.

*Indexed Debt Securities.* A debt security of this type provides that the principal amount payable at its maturity, and/or the amount of interest payable on an interest payment date, will be determined by reference to one or more currencies, commodities or stocks, including baskets of stocks and stock indices, or to any other index described in the applicable prospectus supplement. If you are a holder of an indexed debt security, you may receive a principal amount at maturity that is greater than or less than the face amount of your debt security depending upon the value of the applicable index at maturity. That value may fluctuate over time. Some indexed debt securities may also be exchangeable, at the option of the holder or the applicable issuer, into stock of an issuer other than the issuer of the indexed debt securities. If you purchase an indexed debt security, your prospectus supplement will include information about the relevant index and about how amounts that are to become payable will be determined by reference to that index. If you purchase a security exchangeable into stock of an issuer other than the issuer of the indexed debt securities, your prospectus supplement will include information about the issuer and may also tell you where additional information about the issuer is available.

A fixed rate debt security, a floating rate debt security or an indexed debt security may be an original issue discount debt security. A debt security of this type is issued at a price lower than its principal amount and provides that, upon redemption or acceleration of its maturity, an amount less than its principal amount will be payable. A debt security issued at a discount to its principal may, for U.S. federal income tax purposes, be considered an original issue discount debt security, regardless of the amount payable upon redemption or acceleration of maturity.

### ***Information in your Prospectus Supplement***

Your prospectus supplement will describe one or more of the following terms of your debt security:

the issuer of the series of debt securities;

the title of the series of debt securities;

the stated maturity;

whether your debt security is a senior or subordinated debt security;

## Table of Contents

the specified currency or currencies for principal and interest, if not U.S. dollars; and

the price at which we originally issue your debt security, expressed as a percentage of the principal amount, and the original issue date.

whether your debt security is a fixed rate debt security, a floating rate debt security or an indexed debt security, and also whether it is an original issue discount debt security;

if your debt security is a fixed rate debt security, the rate at which your debt security will bear interest, if any, the regular record dates and the interest payment dates;

if your debt security is a floating rate debt security, the interest rate basis; any applicable index, currency or maturity, spread or spread multiplier or initial, maximum or minimum rate; the interest reset, determination, calculation and payment dates; and the calculation agent;

if your debt security is an original issue discount debt security, the yield to maturity;

if your debt security is an indexed debt security, the principal amount the issuer will pay you at maturity, the amount of interest, if any, the issuer will pay you on an interest payment date or the formula the issuer will use to calculate these amounts, if any, and whether your debt security will be exchangeable for or payable in stock of an issuer other than the issuer of the indexed debt security or other property;

whether your debt security may be redeemed or repaid by the issuer at our or the holder's option before the stated maturity and, if so, other relevant terms such as the redemption or repayment commencement date, specific redemption or repayment date(s), redemption or repayment period(s) and redemption or repayment price(s), all of which we describe under "Redemption and Repayment" below;

whether we will issue or make available your debt security in non-book-entry form;

the denominations in which securities will be issued (if other than integral multiples of U.S. \$1,000); and

any other terms of your debt security that are consistent with the provisions of the indentures.

If you purchase your note in a market-making transaction, you will receive information about the price you pay and your trade and settlement dates in a separate confirmation of sale. A market-making transaction is one in which Popular Securities, Inc. or another of our affiliates resells a note that it has previously acquired from another holder. A **market-making transaction** in a particular note occurs after the original issuance and sale of the note.

## **Legal Ownership of Securities**

Please note that in this prospectus, the term **holders** means those who own securities registered in their own names on the books that we or the trustee maintain for this purpose and not those who own beneficial interests in securities registered in street name or in securities issued in book-entry form through The Depository Trust Company.

We refer to those who have securities registered in their own names, on the books that we or the trustee maintain for this purpose, as the holders of those securities. These persons are the legal holders of the securities. We refer to those who, indirectly through others, own beneficial interests

## Edgar Filing: POPULAR INC - Form 424B2

in securities that are not registered in their own names as indirect owners of those securities. As we discuss below, indirect owners are not legal holders, and investors in securities issued in book-entry form, which we refer to as book-entry securities, or in street name will be indirect owners.

---

## **Table of Contents**

### ***Book-Entry Owners***

Securities represented by one or more global securities are registered in the name of a financial institution that holds them as depositary on behalf of other financial institutions that participate in the depositary's book-entry system. These participating institutions, in turn, hold beneficial interests in the securities on behalf of themselves or their customers.

Under the indentures, only the person in whose name a security is registered is recognized as the holder of that security. Consequently, for book-entry securities, we will recognize only the depositary as the holder of the securities, and we will make all payments on the securities to the depositary. The depositary passes along the payments it receives to its participants, which in turn pass the payments along to their customers who are the beneficial owners. The depositary and its participants make these payments under agreements they have made with one another or with their customers; they are not obligated to do so under the terms of the securities.

As a result, investors in global securities will not own debt securities directly. Instead, they will own beneficial interests in a global security, through a bank, broker or other financial institution that participates in the depositary's book-entry system or holds an interest through a participant. As long as debt securities are issued in global form, investors will be indirect owners, and not holders, of the securities. More information regarding the depositary, participants and indirect owners is described under [Special Considerations for Global Debt Securities Information Relating to DTC](#).

### ***Street Name Owners***

We may terminate a global security or issue securities initially in non-global form. In these cases, investors may choose to hold their securities in their own names or in street name. Securities held by an investor in street name would be registered in the name of a bank, broker or other financial institution that the investor chooses, and the investor would hold only a beneficial interest in those securities through an account he or she maintains at that institution.

For securities held in street name, we will recognize only the intermediary banks, brokers and other financial institutions in whose names the securities are registered as the holders of those securities, and we will make all payments on those securities to them. These institutions pass along the payments they receive to their customers who are the beneficial owners, but only because they agree to do so in their customer agreements or because they are legally required to do so. Investors who hold securities in street name will be indirect owners, not holders, of those securities.

If you hold debt securities through a bank, broker or other financial institution, either in book-entry form or in street name, you should check with your own institution to find out:

how it handles securities payments and notices;

whether it imposes fees or charges;

how it would handle a request for the holder's consent, if ever required;

whether and how you can instruct it to send you debt securities registered in your own name so you can be a holder, if that is permitted in the future;

how it would exercise rights under the debt securities if there were a default or other event triggering the need for holders to act to protect their interests; and

if the debt securities are in book-entry form, how the depositary's rules and procedures will affect these matters.



---

## **Table of Contents**

### ***Legal Holders***

Our obligations, as well as the obligations of the trustee and those of any third parties employed by us or the trustee, run only to the holders of securities. We do not have obligations to investors who hold beneficial interests in street name, in global securities or by any other indirect means. This will be the case whether an investor chooses to be an indirect owner of a security or has no choice because we issue the securities only in global form.

For example, once we make payment or give a notice to the holder, we have no further responsibility for that payment or notice even if that holder is required, under agreements with depository participants or customers or by law, to pass it along to the indirect owners but does not do so. Similarly, if we want to obtain the approval of the holders for any purpose e.g., to amend the indentures or to relieve us of the consequences of a default or of our obligation to comply with a particular provision of the indenture we would seek the approval only from the holders, and not the indirect owners, of the securities. Whether and how the holders contact the indirect owners is up to the holders.

### **What Is a Global Debt Security?**

We may issue each debt security only in book-entry form. Each debt security issued in book-entry form will be represented by a global debt security that we will deposit with and register in the name of a financial institution, or its nominee, that we select. The financial institution that we select for this purpose is called the depository. Unless we say otherwise in the applicable prospectus supplement, The Depository Trust Company, New York, New York, known as DTC, will be the depository for all debt securities issued in book-entry form.

A global debt security may represent one or any other number of individual debt securities. Generally, all debt securities represented by the same global debt security will have the same terms. We may, however, issue a global debt security that represents multiple debt securities that have different terms and are issued at different times. We call this kind of global debt security a master global debt security.

A global debt security may not be transferred to or registered in the name of anyone other than the depository or its nominee, unless special termination situations arise. We describe those situations below under Special Considerations for Global Debt Securities Special Situations When a Global Debt Security Will Be Terminated . As a result of these arrangements, the depository, or its nominee, will be the sole registered owner and holder of all debt securities represented by a global debt security, and investors will be permitted to own only beneficial interests in a global debt security. Beneficial interests must be held by means of an account with a broker, bank or other financial institution that in turn has an account with the depository or with another institution that does. Thus, an investor whose debt security is represented by a global debt security will not be a legal holder of the debt security, but only an indirect owner of a beneficial interest in the global debt security.

If the prospectus supplement for a particular debt security indicates that the debt security will be issued in global form only , then the debt security will be represented by a global debt security at all times unless and until the global debt security is terminated under one of the special situations described below under Special Considerations for Global Debt Securities Special Situations When a Global Debt Security Will Be Terminated . The global debt security may be a master global debt security, although your prospectus supplement will not indicate whether it is a master global debt security.

### **Special Considerations for Global Debt Securities**

As an indirect owner, an investor's rights relating to a global debt security will be governed by the account rules of the investor's financial institution and of the depository, as well as general laws relating to securities transfers. We do not recognize this type of investor as a legal holder of debt securities and instead deal only with the depository, or its nominee, that holds the global debt security.

## **Table of Contents**

If debt securities are issued only in the form of a global debt security, an investor should be aware of the following:

An investor cannot get the debt securities registered in his or her own name and cannot get non-global certificates for his or her interest in the debt securities, except in the special situations we describe below;

An investor will be an indirect owner and must look to his or her own bank or broker for payments on the debt securities and protection of his or her legal rights relating to the debt securities, as we describe under "Legal Ownership of Securities" above;

An investor may not be able to sell interests in the debt securities to some insurance companies and other institutions that are required by law to own their securities in non-book-entry form;

The depository's policies, which may change from time to time, will govern payments, transfers, exchanges and other matters relating to the investor's interest in a global debt security. We and the trustee have no responsibility for any aspect of the depository's actions or for its records of ownership interests in a global debt security. We and the trustee also do not supervise the depository in any way;

The depository may require that those who purchase and sell interests in a global debt security within its book-entry system use immediately available funds, and your broker or bank may require you to do so as well; and

Financial institutions that participate in the depository's book-entry system, and through which an investor holds its interest in the global debt securities, may also have their own policies affecting payments, notices and other matters relating to the debt securities. There may be more than one financial intermediary in the chain of ownership for an investor. We do not monitor and are not responsible for the actions of any of those intermediaries.

### ***Information Relating to DTC***

DTC will act as securities depository for the book-entry securities. The book-entry securities will be issued as fully registered securities registered in the name of Cede & Co. (DTC's partnership nominee). One fully registered global debt security will be issued for each issue of book-entry securities, each in the aggregate principal amount of that issue, and will be deposited with DTC. If, however, the aggregate principal amount of any issue exceeds \$500,000,000, one global debt security will be issued with respect to each \$500,000,000 of principal amount and an additional global debt security will be issued with respect to any remaining principal amount of that issue.

DTC is a limited-purpose trust company organized under the New York Banking Law, a banking organization within the meaning of the New York Banking Law, a member of the Federal Reserve System, a clearing corporation within the meaning of the New York Uniform Commercial Code, and a clearing agency registered under the provisions of Section 17A of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934. DTC holds securities that its participants deposit with DTC. DTC also facilitates the settlement among participants of securities transactions, such as transfers and pledges, in deposited securities through electronic computerized book-entry changes in participants' accounts, thereby eliminating the need for physical movement of securities certificates. Direct participants of DTC include securities brokers and dealers (including the agents), banks, trust companies, clearing corporations and certain other organizations. DTC is owned by a number of its direct participants and by the New York Stock Exchange, Inc., the American Stock Exchange LLC, and the National Association of Securities Dealers, Inc. Access to DTC's system is also available to others such as securities brokers and dealers, banks and trust companies that clear through or maintain a custodial relationship with a direct participant, either directly or indirectly. The rules applicable to DTC and its participants are on file with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

Purchases of book-entry securities under DTC's system must be made by or through direct participants, which will receive a credit for the book-entry securities on DTC's records. The ownership interest of each actual





---

**Table of Contents**

purchaser of each book-entry note represented by a global debt security, which we refer to as an indirect owner, is in turn to be recorded on the records of direct participants and indirect participants. Indirect owners will not receive written confirmation from DTC of their purchase, but they are expected to receive written confirmations providing details of the transaction, as well as periodic statements of their holdings, from the direct participants or indirect participants through which such indirect owners entered into the transaction. Transfers of ownership interests in a global debt security representing book-entry securities are to be accomplished by entries made on the books of participants acting on behalf of indirect owners. Indirect owners of a global debt security representing book-entry securities will not receive non-global certificates representing their ownership interests in the book-entry securities, except if use of the book-entry system for the book-entry securities is discontinued.

To facilitate subsequent transfers, all global debt securities representing book-entry securities which are deposited with, or on behalf of, DTC are registered in the name of DTC's nominee, Cede & Co. The deposit of global debt securities with, or on behalf of, DTC and their registration in the name of Cede & Co. effect no change in beneficial ownership. DTC has no knowledge of the actual indirect owners of the global debt securities representing the book-entry securities; DTC's records reflect only the identity of the direct participants to whose accounts the book-entry securities are credited, which may or may not be the indirect owners. The participants will remain responsible for keeping account of their holdings on behalf of their customers.

Conveyance of notices and other communications by DTC to direct participants, by direct participants to indirect participants, and by direct participants and indirect participants to indirect owners will be governed by arrangements among them, subject to any statutory or regulatory requirements as may be in effect from time to time.

Neither DTC nor Cede & Co. will consent or vote with respect to the global debt securities representing the book-entry securities. Under its usual procedures, DTC mails an omnibus proxy to a company as soon as possible after the applicable record date. The omnibus proxy assigns Cede & Co.'s consenting or voting rights to those direct participants to whose accounts the book-entry securities are credited on the applicable record date (identified in a listing attached to the omnibus proxy).

Principal, premium, if any, and/or interest, if any, payments on the global debt securities representing the book-entry securities will be made in immediately available funds to DTC. DTC's practice is to credit direct participants' accounts on the applicable payment date in accordance with their respective holdings shown on DTC's records unless DTC has reason to believe that it will not receive payment on that date. Payments by participants to indirect owners will be governed by standing instructions and customary practices, as is the case with securities held for the accounts of customers in bearer form or registered in street name, and will be the responsibility of those participants and not of DTC, the trustee or us, subject to any statutory or regulatory requirements as may be in effect from time to time. Payment of principal, premium, if any, and/or interest, if any, to DTC is the responsibility of the issuer and the trustee, disbursement of the payments to direct participants will be the responsibility of DTC, and disbursement of such payments to the indirect owners will be the responsibility of direct participants and indirect participants.

If applicable, redemption notices will be sent to Cede & Co. If less than all of the book-entry securities of like tenor and terms are being redeemed, DTC's practice is to determine by lot the amount of the interest of each direct participant in the issue to be redeemed.

An indirect owner will give notice of any option to elect to have its book-entry securities repaid by us, through its participant, to the trustee, and will effect delivery of the book-entry securities by causing the direct participant to transfer the participant's interest in the global debt security or securities representing the book-entry securities, on DTC's records, to the trustee. The requirement for physical delivery of book-entry securities in connection with a demand for repayment will be deemed satisfied when the ownership rights in the global debt security or securities representing the book-entry securities are transferred by direct participants on DTC's records.

---

## **Table of Contents**

DTC may discontinue providing its services as securities depository with respect to the book-entry securities at any time by giving reasonable notice to us or the trustee. Under these circumstances, if a successor securities depository is not obtained, non-global certificates are required to be printed and delivered.

We may decide to discontinue use of the system of book-entry transfers through DTC (or a successor securities depository). In that event, non-global certificates will be printed and delivered.

The information in this section concerning DTC and DTC's system has been obtained from sources that we believe to be reliable, but neither we nor any agent takes any responsibility for the accuracy of this information.

### **Special Situations When a Global Debt Security Will Be Terminated**

In a few special situations described below, a global debt security will be terminated and interests in it will be exchanged for certificates in non-global form representing the debt securities it represented. After that exchange, the choice of whether to hold the debt securities directly or in street name will be up to the investor. Investors must consult their own banks or brokers to find out how to have their interests in a global debt security transferred on termination to their own names, so that they will be legal holders. We have described the rights of holders and street name investors above under "Legal Ownership of Securities".

The special situations for termination of a global debt security are:

when the depository notifies us that it is unwilling, unable or no longer qualified to continue as depository for that global debt security and we do not appoint another institution to act as depository within 60 days;

when we notify the trustee that we wish to terminate that global debt security; or

when an event of default has occurred with regard to debt securities represented by that global debt security and has not been cured or waived; we discuss defaults below under "Default and Remedies".

When a global debt security is terminated, only the depository, and not we or the trustee, is responsible for deciding the names of the institutions in whose names the debt securities represented by the global debt security will be registered and, therefore, who will be the holders of those debt securities.

### **Notices**

Notices to be given to holders of a global note will be given only to the depository, in accordance with its applicable policies as in effect from time to time. Notices to be given to holders of notes not in global form will be sent by mail to the respective addresses of the holders as they appear in the trustee's records, and will be deemed given when mailed. Neither the failure to give any notice to a particular holder, nor any defect in a notice given to a particular holder, will affect the sufficiency of any notice given to another holder.

***IN THE REMAINDER OF THIS DESCRIPTION YOU MEANS DIRECT HOLDERS AND NOT BOOK ENTRY, STREET NAME OR OTHER INDIRECT OWNERS OF DEBT SECURITIES.***

### **Form, Exchange, Registration and Transfer**

Debt securities may be issued:

only in fully registered form; and

## Edgar Filing: POPULAR INC - Form 424B2

without interest coupons.

Holders may exchange their non-global debt securities for debt securities of smaller denominations or combined into fewer debt securities of larger denominations, as long as the total principal amount is not changed. This is called an exchange .

## **Table of Contents**

Holders may exchange or transfer their certificated debt securities at the office of the trustee. We will initially appoint the trustee to act as our agent for registering debt securities in the names of holders and transferring debt securities. We may appoint another entity to perform these functions or perform them ourselves. The entity performing the role of maintaining the list of registered holders is called the security registrar. It will also perform transfers.

Holders will not be required to pay a service charge to transfer or exchange their debt securities, but they may be required to pay for any tax or other governmental charge associated with the exchange or transfer. The transfer or exchange will be made only if our transfer agent is satisfied with the holder's proof of legal ownership.

If we have designated additional transfer agents for your debt security, they will be named in your prospectus supplement. We may appoint additional transfer agents or cancel the appointment of any particular transfer agent. We may also approve a change in the office through which any transfer agent acts.

If any debt securities are redeemable and we redeem less than all those debt securities, we may prohibit the transfer or exchange of those debt securities during the period beginning 15 days before the day we mail the notice of redemption and ending on the day of that mailing, in order to freeze the list of holders to prepare the mailing. We may also refuse to register transfers or exchanges of any debt security selected for redemption, except that we will continue to permit transfers and exchanges of the unredeemed portion of any debt security being partially redeemed.

If a debt security is issued as a global debt security, only the depository will be entitled to transfer and exchange the debt security as described in this subsection because it will be the sole holder of the debt security.

## **Payment and Paying Agent**

The issuer will only be required to make payment of the principal on a debt security if you surrender the debt security to the paying agent for that debt security. The issuer will only be required to make payment of principal and interest at the office of the paying agent, except that at its option, it may pay interest by mailing a check to the holder. Unless we indicate otherwise in the applicable prospectus supplement, the issuer will pay interest to the person who is the holder at the close of business on the record date for that interest payment, even if that person no longer owns the debt security on the interest payment date.

We will specify in the applicable prospectus supplement the regular record date relating to an interest payment date for any fixed rate debt security and for any floating rate debt security.

### ***Payment When Offices Are Closed***

If any payment is due on a debt security on a day that is not a business day, we will make the payment on the next day that is a business day. Payments postponed to the next business day in this situation will be treated under the indentures as if they were made on the original due date. Postponement of this kind will not result in a default under any debt security or indenture, and no interest will accrue on the postponed amount from the original due date to the next day that is a business day unless the applicable prospectus supplement specifies otherwise.

### ***Paying Agent***

We will specify the paying agent for payments with respect to debt securities of each series of debt securities in the applicable prospectus supplement. We may at any time designate additional paying agents, rescind the designation of any paying agent or approve a change in the office through which any paying agent acts, except that we must maintain a paying agent in each place of payment for each series of debt securities.

## **Table of Contents**

### ***Unclaimed Payments***

Regardless of who acts as paying agent, all money paid by us to a paying agent that remains unclaimed at the end of two years after the amount is due to a holder will be repaid to us. After that two-year period, the holder may look only to the issuer (or any guarantor) for payment and not to the trustee, any other paying agent or anyone else.

### **Redemption and Repayment**

Unless otherwise indicated in your prospectus supplement, your debt security will not be entitled to the benefit of any sinking fund—that is, we will not deposit money on a regular basis into any separate custodial account to repay your debt securities. In addition, except as described below, we will not be entitled to redeem your debt security before its stated maturity unless your prospectus supplement specifies a redemption commencement date. You will not be entitled to require us to buy your debt security from you, before its stated maturity, unless your prospectus supplement specifies one or more repayment dates.

If your prospectus supplement specifies a redemption commencement date or a repayment date, it will also specify one or more redemption prices or repayment prices, which will be expressed as a percentage of the principal amount of your debt security. It may also specify one or more redemption periods during which the redemption prices relating to a redemption of debt securities will apply.

If your prospectus supplement specifies a redemption commencement date, your debt security will be redeemable at our option at any time on or after that date. If we redeem your debt security, we will do so at the specified redemption price, together with interest accrued to the redemption date. If different prices are specified for different redemption periods, the price we pay will be the price that applies to the redemption period during which your debt security is redeemed.

If your prospectus supplement specifies a repayment date, your debt security will be repayable at your option on the specified repayment date at the specified repayment price, together with interest accrued to the repayment date.

In the event that we exercise an option to redeem any debt security, we will give to the trustee and the holder written notice of the principal amount of the debt security to be redeemed, not less than 30 days nor more than 60 days before the applicable redemption date. Notice of this redemption will be mailed to holders at the address that appears on the register of the redeemed debt securities.

If a debt security represented by a global debt security is repayable at the holder's option, the depositary or its nominee, as the holder, will be the only person that can exercise the rights to repayment. Any indirect owners who own beneficial interests in the global debt security and wish to exercise a repayment right must give proper and timely instructions to their banks or brokers through which they hold their interests, requesting that they notify the depositary to exercise the repayment right on their behalf. Different firms have different deadlines for accepting instructions from their customers, and you should take care to act promptly enough to ensure that your request is given effect by the depositary before the applicable deadline for exercise.

Street name and other indirect owners should contact their banks or brokers for information about how to exercise a repayment right in a timely manner.

If the option of the holder to elect repayment as described above is deemed to be a tender offer within the meaning of Rule 14e-1 under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, we will comply with Rule 14e-1 as then in effect to the extent applicable.

We or our affiliates may purchase debt securities from investors who are willing to sell from time to time, either in the open market at prevailing prices or in private transactions at negotiated prices. Debt securities that we or they purchase may, at our discretion, be held, resold or canceled.

---

## **Table of Contents**

A change in law, regulation or interpretation could oblige Popular, Inc. or Popular International Bank, Inc. to pay the additional amounts that are discussed in Taxation by the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico below. If this happens, we will have the option of redeeming or repaying an entire series of the debt securities at our discretion after giving between 30 and 60 days' notice to the holders at a redemption price of 100% of the principal amount of the notes with the accrued interest to the redemption date, or another redemption price specified in the applicable prospectus supplement.

### **Mergers and Similar Transactions**

Each issuer is generally permitted to merge or consolidate with another entity. Each issuer is also permitted to sell its assets substantially as an entirety to another firm. An issuer may not take any of these actions, however, unless all the following conditions are met:

If the successor firm in the transaction is not the applicable issuer, the successor firm must expressly assume that issuer's obligations under the debt securities, the guarantees and the indentures.

Immediately after the transaction, no default under the indentures or debt securities of that issuer has occurred and is continuing. For this purpose, default under the indentures or debt securities means an event of default or any event that would be an event of default if the requirements for giving us default notice and for the issuer's default having to continue for a specific period of time were disregarded. We describe these matters below under Default and Remedies.

These conditions will apply only if an issuer wishes to merge, consolidate or sell its assets substantially as an entirety. An issuer will not need to satisfy these conditions if it enters into other types of transactions, including any transaction in which it acquires the stock or assets of another firm, any transaction that involves a change of control of it but in which it does not merge or consolidate and any asset sale that does not constitute a sale of its assets substantially as an entirety.

The meaning of the phrase substantially as an entirety as used above will be interpreted in connection with the facts and circumstances of the subject transaction and is subject to judicial interpretation. Accordingly, in certain circumstances, there may be a degree of uncertainty in ascertaining whether a particular transaction would involve a disposition of the assets of the issuer substantially as an entirety.

### **Restrictive Covenants**

In the senior indentures, Popular, Inc. promises not to sell, transfer or otherwise dispose of any voting stock of Banco Popular or permit Banco Popular to issue, sell or otherwise dispose of any of its voting stock, unless, after giving effect to the transaction, Banco Popular, Inc. remains a controlled subsidiary (as defined below), except as provided above under Mergers and Similar Transactions.

In addition, Popular, Inc. may not permit Banco Popular to:

merge or consolidate, unless the survivor is a controlled subsidiary, or

convey or transfer its properties and assets substantially as an entirety, except to a controlled subsidiary.

The senior indentures define voting stock as the stock of the class or classes having general voting power under ordinary circumstances to elect a majority of the board of directors, managers or trustees of a corporation. Stock that may vote only if an event occurs that is beyond the control of its holders is not considered voting stock under the senior indentures, whether or not the event has happened. Controlled subsidiary means any corporation of which an issuer owns more than 80% of the outstanding voting stock.

Popular, Inc. also promises in the senior indentures not to, nor to permit any material banking subsidiary to, create, incur or permit to exist any indebtedness for borrowed money secured by a lien or other encumbrance on the voting stock of any material banking subsidiary unless Popular, Inc.'s senior debt securities, Popular, Inc.'s





## **Table of Contents**

guarantees of Popular North America, Inc.'s senior debt securities and, at Popular, Inc.'s discretion, any other indebtedness with a right of payment equal to Popular, Inc.'s senior debt securities and Popular, Inc.'s guarantees of Popular North America, Inc.'s senior debt securities are secured on an equal basis. **Material banking subsidiary** means any controlled subsidiary chartered as a banking corporation under federal, state or Puerto Rico law that is a significant subsidiary of Popular, Inc. as defined in Rule 1-02 of Regulation S-X of the SEC. As of the date of this prospectus, Banco Popular de Puerto Rico and Banco Popular North America are the only material banking subsidiaries of Popular, Inc.

Liens imposed to secure taxes, assessments or governmental charges or levies are not restricted, however, provided they are:

not then due or delinquent;

being contested in good faith;

are less than \$10,000,000 in amount;

the result of any litigation or legal proceeding which is currently being contested in good faith or which involves claims of less than \$10,000,000; or

deposits to secure surety, stay, appeal or customs bonds.

The subordinated indentures do not contain similar restrictions.

## **Default and Remedies**

Every year each issuer is required to send the trustee for its debt securities a report on its performance of its obligations under the senior indentures and the subordinated indentures and on any default. You will have special rights if an event of default with respect to your senior debt security occurs and is not cured, as described in this subsection.

## **Events of Default**

**Senior Indentures.** With respect to your senior debt security, the term **event of default** means any of the following:

The issuer does not pay the principal or any premium, if any, on any senior debt security of that issuer on its due date;

The issuer does not pay interest on any senior debt security of that issuer within 30 days after its due date;

The issuer does not deposit a sinking fund payment with regard to any senior debt security of that issuer on its due date, but only if the payment is required in the applicable prospectus supplement;

The issuer remains in breach of its covenants described under **Restrictive Covenants** above, or any other covenant it makes in the senior indentures for the benefit of the debt securities of that issuer, for 60 days after it receives a notice of default stating that it is in breach. However, the breach of a covenant that the senior indentures expressly impose only on a different series of senior debt securities than the series of which your senior debt security is a part will not be an event of default with respect to your senior debt security;

## Edgar Filing: POPULAR INC - Form 424B2

The issuer, the guarantor (when other than the issuer) or any material banking subsidiary of the issuer defaults under borrowed money debt (see below) totaling in excess of \$10,000,000, its obligation to repay that debt is accelerated by our lenders and its repayment obligation remains accelerated, unless the debt is paid, the default is cured or waived or the acceleration is rescinded within 30 days after it receives a notice of default;

---

## **Table of Contents**

The issuer, the guarantor (when other than the issuer) or any material banking subsidiary of the issuer files for bankruptcy, or other events of bankruptcy, insolvency or reorganization relating to an issuer, the guarantor (when other than the issuer) or material banking subsidiary of the issuer occur; or

If your prospectus supplement states that any additional event of default applies to your senior debt security, that event of default occurs.

However, a notice of default as described in the fourth and fifth bullet points above must be sent by the trustee or the holders of at least 25% of the principal amount of senior debt securities of the series for those events to be events of default.

Borrowed money debt means any of the issuer's indebtedness for borrowed money or the indebtedness of a material banking subsidiary of the issuer, other than the series of which your senior debt security is a part.

The trustee shall give notice of any default, but notice of a default with respect to a covenant as described in the fourth bullet point above will not be given until at least 30 days after it occurs.

*Subordinated Indentures.* With respect to your subordinated debt security, the term event of default means that a filing for bankruptcy or other events of bankruptcy, insolvency or reorganization relating to the issuer occurs. The subordinated indentures do not provide for any right of acceleration of the payment of principal upon a default in the payment of principal, premium or interest or in the performance of any covenant or agreement on a series of subordinated debt securities or on the subordinated indentures.

### ***Remedies If an Event of Default Occurs***

Under certain circumstances, the holders of not less than a majority in principal amount of the debt securities of any series may waive a default for all the debt securities of that series. If this happens, the default will be treated as if it had not occurred.

*Senior Indentures.* If an event of default on the senior debt securities of any series has occurred and has not been cured or waived, the trustee or the holders of at least 25% in principal amount of the outstanding senior debt securities of that series may declare the entire principal amount of the senior debt securities of that series to be due immediately.

This situation is called an acceleration of the maturity of the senior debt securities. If the maturity of any senior debt securities of any series is accelerated, the holders of a majority in principal amount of the senior debt securities of that series affected by the acceleration may cancel the acceleration for all of those senior debt securities if the issuer has paid all amounts due with respect to those securities, other than amounts due because of the acceleration of the maturity, and all events of default, other than nonpayment of their accelerated principal, have been cured or waived.

*Subordinated Indentures.* If an event of default on the subordinated debt securities of any series has occurred and has not been cured or waived, the trustee or the holders of at least 25% in principal amount of the outstanding subordinated debt securities of that series may declare the entire principal amount of that series of subordinated debt securities to be due immediately. This situation is called an acceleration of the maturity of those subordinated debt securities. If the maturity of any subordinated debt securities of any series is accelerated, the holders of at least a majority in principal amount of the subordinated debt securities of that series affected by the acceleration may cancel the acceleration for all the affected subordinated debt securities.

### ***Trustee's Indemnity***

If an event of default on any series of debt securities occurs, the trustee for those securities will have special duties. In that situation, the trustee will be obligated to use those of its rights and powers under the indenture, and to use the same degree of care and skill in doing so, that a prudent person would use in that situation in conducting his or her own affairs.

## **Table of Contents**

Except as described in the prior paragraph, the trustee is not required to take any action under any of the indentures at the request of any holders unless the holders of that series offer the trustee reasonable protection from expenses and liability. This is called an indemnity. If reasonable indemnity is provided, the holders of a majority in principal amount of all of the outstanding debt securities of that series may direct the time, method and place of conducting any lawsuit or other formal legal action seeking any remedy available to the trustee. These majority holders of that series may also direct the trustee in performing any other action under the indenture with respect to the debt securities of that series.

Before you can bypass the trustee and bring your own lawsuit or other formal legal action or take other steps to enforce your rights or protect your interests relating to your debt securities, the following must occur:

You must give the trustee written notice that an event of default has occurred, and the event of default must not have been cured or waived;

The holders of not less than 25% in principal amount of all debt securities of that series must make a written request that the trustee take action because of the default, and they or you must offer reasonable indemnity to the trustee against the cost and other liabilities of taking that action;

The trustee must not have taken action for 60 days after receipt of the above notice and offer of indemnity; and

During those 60 days, the holders of a majority in principal amount of the debt securities of that series must not have given the trustee directions that are inconsistent with the written request of the holders of not less than 25% in principal amount of the debt securities of that series.

You are, however, entitled at any time to bring a lawsuit for the payment of money due on your debt security on or after its due date.

Book-entry, street name and other indirect owners should consult their banks or brokers for information on how to give notice or direction to or make a request of the trustee and how to declare or cancel an acceleration of the maturity.

## **Modification and Waiver of the Indentures**

There are three types of changes we can make to the indentures and the debt securities.

### ***Changes Requiring Your Approval***

First, there are changes that cannot be made without the approval of each holder of a debt security affected by the change. Here is a list of this type of change:

change the stated maturity for any principal or interest on a debt security;

reduce the principal amount, the amount of principal of an original issue discount security payable on acceleration of the maturity after a default, the interest rate or the redemption price of a debt security;

change the currency of any payment on a debt security;

change the place of payment on a debt security;

impair a holder's right to sue for payment of any amount due on its debt security;

reduce the percentage in principal amount of the debt securities of any series of debt securities, the approval of whose holders is needed to change the indentures;

reduce the percentage in principal amount of the debt securities of any series, the consent of whose holders is needed to modify or amend the indenture or waive an issuer's compliance with the indenture or to waive defaults;

## **Table of Contents**

modify the subordination provision of the subordinated indentures, unless the change would not adversely affect the interests of the holders of that series of debt securities; and

in the case of Popular North America, Inc.'s and Popular International Bank's indentures, modify the terms and conditions of the guarantor's obligations regarding the due and punctual payment of principal or any premium, interest, additional amounts we describe below under "Taxation by the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico" or sinking fund payment.

### ***Changes Not Requiring Approval***

The second type of change does not require any approval by holders of debt securities. This type is limited to clarifications and changes that would not adversely affect the interests of the holders of the debt securities in any material respect, nor do we need your consent to make changes that affect only other debt securities to be issued after the changes take effect.

We may also make changes or obtain waivers that do not adversely affect a particular debt security, even if they affect other debt securities or series of debt securities. In those cases, we do not need to obtain the approval of the holder of that debt security; we need only obtain any required approvals from the holders of the affected debt securities or other debt securities.

### ***Changes Requiring Majority Approval***

Any other changes to the indentures and the debt securities would require the following approval:

If the change affects only one series of debt securities, it must be approved by the holders of at least a majority in principal amount of that series.

If the change affects more than one series of debt securities, it must be approved by the holders of at least a majority in principal amount of each series of the particular issuer's debt securities affected by the change.

In each case, the required approval may be given by written consent.

The approval of at least a majority in principal amount of the debt securities of each affected series of an issuer would be required for the issuer to obtain a waiver of any of its covenants in the indentures. The covenants include the promises about merging and putting liens on the issuer's interests, which we describe above under "Mergers and Similar Transactions" and "Restrictive Covenants". If the required holders approve a waiver of a covenant, we will not have to comply with it. The holders, however, cannot approve a waiver of any provision in a particular debt security, or in the indenture as it affects that debt security, that we cannot change without the approval of the holder of that debt security as described above in "Changes Requiring Your Approval", unless that holder approves the waiver.

Book-entry, street name and other indirect owners should consult their banks or brokers for information on how approval may be granted or denied if we seek to change the indentures or the debt securities or request a waiver.

### ***Further Details Concerning Voting***

When taking a vote, we will use the following rules to decide how much principal amount to attribute to a debt security:

For original issue discount securities, we will use the principal amount that would be due and payable on the voting date if the maturity of those debt securities were accelerated to that date because of a default.

## **Table of Contents**

For debt securities whose principal amount is not known, for example, because it is based on an index, we will use a special rule for that debt security determined by our board of directors or described in the prospectus supplement.

For debt securities denominated in one or more foreign currencies or composite currencies, we will use the U.S. dollar equivalent. Debt securities will not be considered outstanding, and therefore will not be eligible to vote, if we have deposited or set aside in trust for you money for their payment or redemption.

We will generally be entitled to set any day as a record date for the purpose of determining the holders of outstanding debt securities that are entitled to vote or take other action under the indenture.

## **Taxation by the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico**

We will not withhold or deduct any present or future taxes, duties, assessments or governmental charges that are imposed or levied by or on behalf of Puerto Rico or by or with any district, municipality or other political subdivision of Puerto Rico from payments to holders of the debt securities and all payments made under the guarantees unless the law requires us to withhold or deduct these taxes, duties, assessments or governmental charges.

In the event that law requires the issuer to deduct or withhold any amounts in respect of these taxes, duties, assessments or governmental charges, the issuer will pay these additional amounts of principal, premium and interest (after deduction of these taxes, duties, assessments or governmental charges) in the payment to the holders of the debt securities, of the amounts which we would otherwise have paid in respect to the debt securities in the absence of deductions or withholding, which we refer to as additional amounts, except that we will not pay any additional amounts:

to a holder of a debt security or an interest in or rights in a debt security where deduction or withholding is required because the holder has some connection with Puerto Rico or any political subdivision or taxing authority of Puerto Rico or any political subdivision other than the mere holding of and payment in respect of the debt security;

to a holder of a debt security when any deduction or withholding would not have been required but for the holder's presentation for payment on a date more than 30 days after maturity or the date on which payment is duly provided for, whichever occurs later; or

to a holder when any deduction or withholding would not have been required but for the holder's failure to comply with any certification, identification or other reporting requirements concerning the nationality, residence, identity or connection with Puerto Rico, or any political subdivision or taxing authority of Puerto Rico if law requires compliance as a precondition to exemption from deduction or withholding.

## **Special Terms Relating to the Subordinated Debt Securities**

Unless otherwise indicated in the applicable prospectus supplement, the following provisions apply to the subordinated debt securities and Popular, Inc.'s guarantees of the subordinated debt securities of Popular International Bank, Inc. and Popular North America, Inc.

The right of a holder of subordinated debt securities to payment from any distribution of an issuer's assets resulting from any dissolution, winding up, liquidation, bankruptcy or reorganization of the issuer are subordinated to the prior right to payment in full of all of that issuer's senior indebtedness (as defined below). The issuer's obligation to make payments on the subordinated debt securities will not otherwise be affected. No payment on the issuer's subordinated debt securities may be made during a default on any senior indebtedness of the issuer. Because the subordinated debt securities are subordinated in right of payment to any senior

---

**Table of Contents**

indebtedness of the issuer, in the event of a distribution of assets upon insolvency, some of the issuer's creditors may recover more, ratably, than holders of subordinated debt securities of the issuer.

In addition, any amounts of cash, property or securities available after satisfaction of the rights to payment of senior indebtedness will be applied first to pay for the full payment of the issuer's other financial obligations (as defined below) before any payment will be made to holders of the subordinated debt securities. If the maturity of any subordinated debt securities is accelerated, all senior indebtedness of the issuer would have to be repaid before any payment could be made to holders of the issuer's subordinated debt securities. Because of this subordination, if an issuer becomes insolvent, its creditors who are not holders of senior indebtedness or subordinated debt securities may recover ratably less than holders of its senior indebtedness and may recover ratably more than holders of its subordinated debt securities.

Senior indebtedness of an issuer means an issuer's indebtedness for money borrowed, except indebtedness that by its terms is not superior in right of payment to the subordinated debt securities.

Other financial obligations of an issuer are defined in the subordinated indenture of that issuer to mean obligations of that issuer to make payment pursuant to the terms of financial instruments, such as:

securities contracts and foreign currency exchange contracts,

derivative instruments or

similar financial instruments.

Other financial obligations shall not include:

obligations on account of an issuer's senior indebtedness and

obligations on account of indebtedness for money borrowed ranking equally in their priority of claim to payment with or subordinate to the claim of subordinated debt securities.

As of March 31, 2006, Popular, Inc. had \$20.0 billion principal amount of senior indebtedness, which includes \$3.0 billion in senior indebtedness of Popular North America, Inc. and \$643 million in repurchase agreements of Popular Securities, Inc. that are guaranteed by Popular, Inc. and no senior indebtedness of Popular International Bank, Inc. Also, Popular, Inc. has \$3.8 million in other financial obligations. Also, Popular, Inc. fully and unconditionally guaranteed \$824 million of capital securities issued by four wholly-owned issuing trust that are not consolidated based on FIN No. 46R. Popular North America, Inc. had \$3.2 billion principal amount of senior indebtedness and Popular International Bank, Inc. had no senior indebtedness and no other financial obligations.

**Popular, Inc.'s Guarantee**

Popular, Inc. will guarantee punctual payment on the Popular International Bank, Inc. and Popular North America, Inc. senior debt securities, when and as payments are due and payable. Popular, Inc.'s guarantee is absolute and unconditional, without regard for any circumstance that might otherwise constitute a legal or equitable discharge of a surety or guarantor. A guarantee executed by Popular, Inc. will evidence the guarantee and will appear on each Popular International Bank, Inc. and Popular North America senior debt security. Holders of the Popular International Bank, Inc. and Popular North America senior debt securities may proceed directly against Popular, Inc. in the event of default under the Popular International Bank, Inc. and Popular North America senior debt securities without first proceeding against Popular International Bank, Inc. or Popular North America, Inc. The guarantees will rank equally in right of payment with all other unsecured and unsubordinated obligations of Popular, Inc.

Popular, Inc. will guarantee the punctual payment of rights of payment under the Popular International Bank, Inc. and Popular North America subordinated debt securities on a subordinated basis and otherwise on the same terms as the Popular International Bank, Inc. and Popular North



America senior debt securities.

## **Table of Contents**

### **Junior Subordinated Debt Securities**

This section describes the general terms and provisions of our junior subordinated debt securities. The applicable prospectus supplement will describe the terms of the series of junior subordinated debt securities, which are sometimes referred to in this prospectus as debt securities, offered through that prospectus supplement and any general terms outlined in this section that will not apply to those debt securities. Unless otherwise stated in the applicable prospectus supplement, the junior subordinated debt securities will be issued under a junior subordinated indenture, which is sometimes referred to in this prospectus as an indenture, dated as of October 1, 2003, between us and J.P. Morgan Trust Company, National Association (formerly Bank One Trust Company, N.A.), as junior subordinated trustee.

We have summarized the material terms and provisions of the junior subordinated indenture in this section. We have also incorporated by reference the junior subordinated indenture as an exhibit to the registration statement. You should read the junior subordinated indenture for additional information before you purchase any trust preferred securities. The summary that follows includes references to section numbers of the junior subordinated indenture so that you can more easily locate these provisions.

#### **General**

The junior subordinated debt securities will be our direct unsecured obligations. The junior subordinated indenture does not limit the principal amount of junior subordinated debt securities that we may issue. The junior subordinated indenture permits us to issue junior subordinated debt securities from time to time and junior subordinated debt securities issued under such indenture will be issued as part of a series that has been established by us under such indenture.

The junior subordinated debt securities will be unsecured and will rank equally with all of our other junior subordinated debt securities and, together with such other junior subordinated debt securities, will be subordinated to all of our existing and future Senior Debt. See Subordination below.

The junior subordinated debt securities are our unsecured junior subordinated debt securities, but our assets consist primarily of equity in our subsidiaries. As a result, our ability to make payments on our junior subordinated debt securities depends on our receipt of dividends, loan payments and other funds from our subsidiaries. In addition, if any of our subsidiaries becomes insolvent, the direct creditors of that subsidiary will have a prior claim on its assets. Our rights and the rights of our creditors will be subject to that prior claim, unless we are also a direct creditor of that subsidiary. This subordination of creditors of a parent company to prior claims of creditors of its subsidiaries is commonly referred to as structural subordination.

A prospectus supplement relating to a series of junior subordinated debt securities being offered will include specific terms relating to the offering. These terms will include some or all of the following:

the title and type of the debt securities;

any limit on the total principal amount of the debt securities of that series;

the price at which the debt securities will be issued;

the date or dates on which the principal of and any premium on the debt securities will be payable;

the maturity date or dates of the debt securities or the method by which those dates can be determined;

if the debt securities will bear interest;

Edgar Filing: POPULAR INC - Form 424B2

the interest rate on the debt securities or the method by which the interest rate may be determined;

the date from which interest will accrue;

the record and interest payment dates for the debt securities;

**Table of Contents**

the first interest payment date; and

any circumstances under which we may defer interest payments;

the place or places where:

we can make payments on the debt securities;

the debt securities can be surrendered for registration of transfer or exchange; and

notices and demands can be given to us relating to the debt securities and under the indenture;

any optional redemption provisions that would permit us or the holders of debt securities to elect redemption of the debt securities before their final maturity;

any sinking fund provisions that would obligate us to redeem the debt securities before their final maturity;

whether the debt securities will be convertible into shares of common stock, shares of preferred stock or depositary shares and, if so, the terms and conditions of any such conversion, and, if convertible into shares of preferred stock or depositary shares, the terms of such preferred stock or depositary shares;

if the debt securities will be issued in bearer form, the terms and provisions contained in the bearer securities and in the indenture specifically relating to the bearer securities;

the currency or currencies in which the debt securities will be denominated and payable, if other than U.S. dollars and, if a composite currency, any special provisions relating thereto;

any circumstances under which the debt securities may be paid in a currency other than the currency in which the debt securities are denominated and any provisions relating thereto;

whether the provisions described below under **Defeasance and Discharge** apply to the debt securities;

any events of default which will apply to the debt securities in addition to those contained in the indenture and any events of default contained in the indenture which will not apply to the debt securities;

any additions or changes to or deletions of the covenants contained in the indenture and the ability, if any, of the holders to waive our compliance with those additional or changed covenants;

## Edgar Filing: POPULAR INC - Form 424B2

whether all or part of the debt securities will be issued in whole or in part as temporary or permanent global securities and, if so, the depositary for those global securities and a description of any book-entry procedures relating to the global securities a global security is a debt security that we issue in accordance with the junior subordinated indenture to represent all or part of a series of debt securities;

if we issue temporary global securities, any special provisions dealing with the payment of interest and any terms relating to the ability to exchange interests in a temporary global security for interests in a permanent global security or for definitive debt securities;

the identity of the security registrar and paying agent for the debt securities if other than the junior subordinated trustee;

any special tax implications of the debt securities;

any special provisions relating to the payment of any additional amounts on the debt securities;

the terms of any securities being offered together with or separately from the debt securities;

the terms and conditions of any obligation or right of Popular or a holder to convert or exchange the debt securities into trust preferred securities or other securities; and

any other terms of the debt securities.

When we use the term holder in this prospectus with respect to a registered debt security, we mean the person in whose name such debt security is registered in the security register.

---

**Table of Contents**

**Additional Sums**

If a trust is required to pay any taxes, duties, assessments or governmental charges of whatever nature, other than withholding taxes, imposed by the United States, any political subdivision thereof or Puerto Rico or any other taxing authority of the United States or Puerto Rico, then we will be required to pay additional sums on the related junior subordinated debt securities. The amount of any additional sum will be an amount sufficient so that the net amounts received and retained by such trust after paying any such taxes, duties, assessments or other governmental charges will be not less than the amounts that such trust would have received had no such taxes, duties, assessments or other governmental charges been imposed. This means that the trust will be in the same position it would have been in if it did not have to pay such taxes, duties, assessments or other charges.

**Payment; Exchange; Transfer**

We will designate a place of payment where holders can receive payment of the principal of and any premium and interest on the junior subordinated debt securities. Even though we will designate a place of payment, we may elect to pay any interest on the junior subordinated debt securities by mailing a check to the person listed as the owner of the junior subordinated debt securities in the security register or by wire transfer to an account designated by that person in writing not less than ten days before the date of the interest payment. Unless we state otherwise in the applicable prospectus supplement, we will pay interest on a junior subordinated debt security:

on an interest payment date, to the person in whose name that junior subordinated debt security is registered at the close of business on the record date relating to that interest payment date; and

on the date of maturity or earlier redemption or repayment, to the person who surrenders such debt security at the office of our appointed paying agent.

Any money that we pay to a paying agent for the purpose of making payments on the junior subordinated debt securities and that remains unclaimed two years after the payments were due will, at our request, be returned to us and after that time any holder of such debt security can only look to us for the payments on such debt security.

Any junior subordinated debt securities of a series can be exchanged for other junior subordinated debt securities of that series so long as such other debt securities are denominated in authorized denominations and have the same aggregate principal amount and same terms as the junior subordinated debt securities that were surrendered for exchange. The junior subordinated debt securities may be presented for registration of transfer, duly endorsed or accompanied by a satisfactory written instrument of transfer, at the office or agency maintained by us for that purpose in a place of payment. There will be no service charge for any registration of transfer or exchange of the junior subordinated debt securities, but we may require holders to pay any tax or other governmental charge payable in connection with a transfer or exchange of the junior subordinated debt securities. If the applicable prospectus supplement refers to any office or agency, in addition to the security registrar, initially designated by us where holders can surrender the junior subordinated debt securities for registration of transfer or exchange, we may at any time rescind the designation of any such office or agency or approve a change in the location. However, we will be required to maintain an office or agency in each place of payment for that series.

In the event of any redemption, neither we nor the junior subordinated trustee will be required to:

issue, register the transfer of, or exchange, junior subordinated debt securities of any series during a period beginning at the opening of business 15 days before the day of publication or mailing of the notice of redemption and ending at the close of business on the day of such publication or the mailing of such notice; or

transfer or exchange any junior subordinated debt securities so selected for redemption, except, in the case of any junior subordinated debt securities being redeemed in part, any portion thereof not to be redeemed.

## **Table of Contents**

### **Denominations**

Unless we state otherwise in the applicable prospectus supplement, the junior subordinated debt securities will be issued only in registered form, without coupons, in denominations of \$1,000 each or multiples of \$1,000.

### **Bearer Debt Securities**

If we ever issue bearer debt securities, the applicable prospectus supplement will describe all of the special terms and provisions of junior subordinated debt securities in bearer form, and the extent to which those special terms and provisions are different from the terms and provisions which are described in this prospectus, which generally apply to junior subordinated debt securities in registered form, and will summarize provisions of the junior subordinated indenture that relate specifically to bearer debt securities.

### **Original Issue Discount**

Junior subordinated debt securities may be issued under the junior subordinated indenture as original issue discount securities and sold at a substantial discount below their stated principal amount. If a junior subordinated debt security is an original issue discount security, that means that an amount less than the principal amount of such debt security will be due and payable upon a declaration of acceleration of the maturity of such debt security under the junior subordinated indenture. The applicable prospectus supplement will describe the Puerto Rico income tax consequences and other special factors you should consider before purchasing any original issue discount securities.

### **Option to Defer Interest Payments**

If provided in the applicable prospectus supplement, we will have the right from time to time to defer payment of interest on a series of junior subordinated debt securities for up to such number of consecutive interest payment periods as may be specified in the applicable prospectus supplement, subject to the terms, conditions and covenants, if any, specified in such prospectus supplement. Such deferral, however, may not extend beyond the stated maturity of such junior subordinated debt securities. Certain Puerto Rico and United States federal income tax consequences and special considerations applicable to any such debt securities will be described in the applicable prospectus supplement.

### **Redemption**

Unless otherwise specified in the applicable prospectus supplement, the junior subordinated debt securities will not be subject to any sinking fund and will not be redeemable at the option of the holder.

Unless otherwise specified in the applicable prospectus supplement, we may, at our option and subject to receipt of prior approval by the Federal Reserve or its district reserve bank (the "Federal Reserve"), if required, redeem the junior subordinated debt securities of any series in whole at any time or in part from time to time. If the junior subordinated debt securities of any series are redeemable only on or after a specified date or upon the satisfaction of additional conditions, the applicable prospectus supplement will specify such date or describe such conditions. Except as otherwise specified in the applicable prospectus supplement, the redemption price for any junior subordinated debt security so redeemed will equal 100% of the principal amount of such junior subordinated debt security plus accrued and unpaid interest to the redemption date.

Except as otherwise specified in the applicable prospectus supplement, we may, at our option and subject to receipt of prior approval by the Federal Reserve, if required, redeem a series of junior subordinated debt securities in whole, but not in part, at any time within 90 days after the occurrence of a tax event, investment company event or capital treatment event, each as defined below, at a redemption price equal to 100% of the principal amount of such junior subordinated debt securities then outstanding plus accrued and unpaid interest to the redemption date.

---

**Table of Contents**

**Tax Event** means the receipt by a trust of an opinion of counsel experienced in such matters to the effect that, as a result of any amendment to, or change in, including any announced proposed change in, the laws or regulations of the United States, any political subdivision thereof or Puerto Rico, or any taxing authority thereof or therein, or as a result of any official administrative pronouncement or judicial decision interpreting or applying such laws or regulations, which amendment or change is effective or which proposed change, pronouncement or decision is announced on or after the date of the prospectus supplement relating to the issuance of trust preferred securities by such trust, there is more than an insubstantial risk that:

such trust is, or will be within 90 days of the date of such opinion, subject to United States federal or Puerto Rico income tax with respect to income received or accrued on the junior subordinated debt securities;

interest payable by Popular on the junior subordinated debt securities is not, or within 90 days of the date of such opinion, will not be, deductible by Popular, in whole or in part, for Puerto Rico income tax purposes; or

such trust is, or will be within 90 days of the date of such opinion, subject to more than an immaterial amount of other taxes, duties or other governmental charges.

**Investment Company Event** means the receipt by a trust of an opinion of counsel experienced in such matters to the effect that, as a result of the occurrence of a change in law or regulation or a written change, including any announced prospective change, in interpretation or application of law or regulation by any legislative body, court, governmental agency or regulatory authority, there is more than an insubstantial risk that such trust is or will be considered an investment company that is required to be registered under the Investment Company Act of 1940, which change or prospective change becomes effective or would become effective, as the case may be, on or after the date of the prospectus supplement relating to the issuance of the trust preferred securities.

**Capital Treatment Event** means our reasonable determination that, as a result of any amendment to, or change in, including any announced proposed change in, the laws or regulations of the United States or any political subdivision thereof or Puerto Rico, or as a result of any official or administrative pronouncement or action or judicial decision interpreting or applying such laws or regulations, which amendment or change is effective or which proposed change, pronouncement, action or decision is announced on or after the date of the prospectus supplement relating to issuance of trust preferred securities by such trust, there is more than an insubstantial risk that Popular will not be entitled to treat an amount equal to the liquidation amount of such trust preferred securities as Tier I capital, or the then-equivalent thereof, for purposes of the capital adequacy guidelines of the Federal Reserve, as then in effect and applicable to Popular.

Notice of any redemption will be mailed at least 30 days but not more than 60 days before the redemption date to each holder of junior subordinated debt securities to be redeemed at its registered address. However, if the debt securities are held by a trust, notice shall be mailed at least 45 days but not more than 75 days before the redemption date. Unless we default in payment of the redemption price, on and after the redemption date, interest will cease to accrue on such junior subordinated debt securities or portions thereof called for redemption.

**Restrictions on Certain Payments**

Unless otherwise specified in the applicable prospectus supplement, if:

there shall have occurred and be continuing an event of default with respect to a series of junior subordinated debt securities of which we have actual knowledge and which we have not taken reasonable steps to cure;

the junior subordinated debt securities of a series are held by a trust and we shall be in default relating to our payment of any obligations under our guarantee of the trust preferred securities issued by such trust; or



## **Table of Contents**

we shall have given notice of our election to defer payments of interest on a series of junior subordinated debt securities by extending the interest payment period and such period, or any extension of such period, shall be continuing;

then:

we shall not declare or pay any dividends or distributions on, or redeem, purchase, acquire or make a liquidation payment with respect to, any shares of our capital stock, including our preferred stock; and

we shall not make any payment of principal of or interest or premium, if any, on or repay, repurchase or redeem any debt securities issued by us that rank equally with or junior to the junior subordinated debt securities (except for partial payments of interest with respect to the junior subordinated debt securities).

The restrictions listed above do not apply to:

any repurchase, redemption or other acquisition of shares of our capital stock in connection with (1) any employment contract, benefit plan or other similar arrangement with or for the benefit of any one or more employees, officers, directors, consultants or independent contractors, (2) a dividend reinvestment or stockholder purchase plan, or (3) the issuance of our capital stock, or securities convertible into or exercisable for such capital stock, as consideration in an acquisition transaction entered into prior to the applicable extension period;

any exchange, redemption or conversion of any class or series of our capital stock, or the capital stock of one of our subsidiaries, for any other class or series of our capital stock, or of any class or series of our indebtedness for any class or series of our capital stock;

any purchase of fractional interests in shares of our capital stock pursuant to the conversion or exchange provisions of such capital stock or the securities being converted or exchanged;

any declaration of a dividend in connection with any rights plan, or the issuance of rights, stock or other property under any rights plan, or the redemption or repurchase of rights pursuant thereto;

payments by us under any guarantee agreement executed for the benefit of the trust preferred securities; or

any dividend in the form of stock, warrants, options or other rights where the dividend stock or stock issuable upon exercise of such warrants, options or other rights is the same stock as that on which the dividend is being paid or ranks equally with or junior to such stock.

### **Limitation on Mergers and Sales of Assets**

The junior subordinated indenture generally permits a consolidation or merger between us and another entity. It also permits the sale or transfer by us of all or substantially all of our property and assets. These transactions are permitted if:

the resulting or acquiring entity, if other than us, is organized and existing under the laws of the United States or any state, the District of Columbia or the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico and assumes all of our responsibilities and liabilities under the junior subordinated indenture, including the payment of all amounts due on the debt securities and performance of the covenants in the junior subordinated indenture; and

immediately after the transaction, and giving effect to the transaction, no event of default under the junior subordinated indenture exists.

If we consolidate or merge with or into any other entity or sell or lease all or substantially all of our assets according to the terms and conditions of the junior subordinated indenture, the resulting or acquiring entity will be substituted for us in such indenture with the same effect as if it had been an original party to the indenture. As

## **Table of Contents**

a result, such successor entity may exercise our rights and powers under the junior subordinated indenture, in our name and, except in the case of a lease of all or substantially all of our properties, we will be released from all our liabilities and obligations under such indenture and under the junior subordinated debt securities.

### **Events of Default, Waiver and Notice**

Unless otherwise specified in the applicable prospectus supplement, an event of default, when used in the junior subordinated indenture with respect to any series of junior subordinated debt securities, means any of the following:

failure to pay interest on a junior subordinated debt security of that series for 30 days after the payment is due (subject to the deferral of any due date in the case of an extension period);

failure to pay the principal of or any premium on any junior subordinated debt security of that series when due;

failure to deposit any sinking fund payment on junior subordinated debt securities of that series when due;

failure to perform any other covenant in the junior subordinated indenture that applies to junior subordinated debt securities of that series for 90 days after we have received written notice of the failure to perform in the manner specified in the junior subordinated indenture;

certain events relating to a bankruptcy, insolvency or reorganization of Popular; or

any other event of default that may be specified for the junior subordinated debt securities of that series when that series is created.

If an event of default under the junior subordinated indenture occurs and continues, the junior subordinated trustee or the holders of at least 25% in aggregate principal amount of the outstanding junior subordinated debt securities of that series may declare the entire principal and all accrued but unpaid interest of all debt securities of that series to be due and payable immediately. If the trustee or the holders of junior subordinated debt securities do not make such declaration and the junior subordinated debt securities of that series are held by a trust or trustee of such trust, the property trustee or the holders of at least 25% in aggregate liquidation amount of the related trust preferred securities shall have the right to make such declaration. If an event of default under the junior subordinated indenture occurs and continues and the junior subordinated debt securities of that series are held by a trust or trustee of such trust, the property trustee may also declare the principal of and the interest on the junior subordinated debt securities to be due and payable and may enforce its other rights as a creditor with respect to the junior subordinated debt securities.

If such a declaration occurs, the holders of a majority of the aggregate principal amount of the outstanding junior subordinated debt securities of that series can, subject to certain conditions (including, if the junior subordinated debt securities of that series are held by a trust or a trustee of such trust, the consent of the holders of at least a majority in aggregate liquidation amount of the related trust preferred securities), rescind the declaration. If the holders of such junior subordinated debt securities do not rescind such declaration and such junior subordinated debt securities are held by a trust or trustee of such trust, the holders of at least a majority in aggregate liquidation amount of the related trust preferred securities shall have the right to rescind the declaration.

The holders of a majority in aggregate principal amount of the outstanding junior subordinated debt securities of any series may, on behalf of all holders of that series, waive any past default, except:

a default in payment of principal of or any premium or interest; or

Edgar Filing: POPULAR INC - Form 424B2

a default under any provision of the junior subordinated indenture which itself cannot be modified or amended without the consent of the holder of each outstanding junior subordinated debt security of that series.

## **Table of Contents**

If the junior subordinated debt securities of that series are held by a trust or a trustee of such trust, any such waiver shall require the consent of the holders of at least a majority in aggregate liquidation amount of the related trust preferred securities. If the holders of junior subordinated debt securities do not waive such default, the holders of a majority in aggregate liquidation amount of the related trust preferred securities shall have the right to waive such default.

The holders of a majority in principal amount of the junior subordinated debt securities of any series affected shall have the right to direct the time, method and place of conducting any proceeding for any remedy available to the junior subordinated trustee under the junior subordinated indenture.

We are required to file an officers' certificate with the junior subordinated trustee each year that states, to the knowledge of the certifying officer, whether or not any defaults exist under the terms of the junior subordinated indenture.

If the junior subordinated debt securities of any series are held by a trust or a trustee of such trust, a holder of the related trust preferred securities may institute a direct action if we fail to make interest or other payments on the junior subordinated debt securities when due, taking account of any extension period. A direct action may be brought without first:

directing the property trustee to enforce the terms of the junior subordinated debt securities, or

suing us to enforce the property trustee's rights under such junior subordinated debt securities.

This right of direct action cannot be amended in a manner that would impair the rights of the holders of trust preferred securities thereunder without the consent of all holders of affected trust preferred securities.

## **Junior Subordinated Indenture Does Not Restrict Our Ability to Take Certain Actions That May Affect the Junior Subordinated Debt Securities**

The junior subordinated indenture does not contain restrictions on our ability to:

incur, assume or become liable for any type of debt or other obligation;

create liens on our property for any purpose; or

pay dividends or make distributions on our capital stock or repurchase or redeem our capital stock, except as set forth under Restrictions on Certain Payments above.

The junior subordinated indenture does not require the maintenance of any financial ratios or specified levels of net worth or liquidity. In addition, the junior subordinated indenture does not contain any provisions which would require us to repurchase or redeem or modify the terms of any of the junior subordinated debt securities upon a change of control or other event involving us which may adversely affect the creditworthiness of such debt securities.

## **Distribution**

Under circumstances involving the dissolution of a trust, which will be discussed more fully in the applicable prospectus supplement, the junior subordinated debt securities may be distributed to the holders of the trust securities in liquidation of that trust, provided that any required regulatory approval is obtained. See Description of Capital Securities We May Offer Trust Preferred Securities Liquidation Distribution upon Dissolution.

## **Modification of Junior Subordinated Indenture**

## Edgar Filing: POPULAR INC - Form 424B2

Under the junior subordinated indenture, certain of our rights and obligations and certain of the rights of holders of the junior subordinated debt securities may be modified or amended with the consent of the holders of at least a majority of the aggregate principal amount of the outstanding junior subordinated debt securities of all

## **Table of Contents**

series affected by the modification or amendment, acting as one class. However, the following modifications and amendments will not be effective against any holder without its consent:

a change in the stated maturity date of any payment of principal or interest, including any additional interest (other than to the extent set forth in the applicable junior subordinated debt security);

a reduction in payments due on the junior subordinated debt securities;

a change in the place of payment or currency in which any payment on the junior subordinated debt securities is payable;

a limitation of a holder's right to sue us for the enforcement of payments due on the junior subordinated debt securities;

a reduction in the percentage of outstanding junior subordinated debt securities required to consent to a modification or amendment of the junior subordinated indenture or required to consent to a waiver of compliance with certain provisions of such indenture or certain defaults under such indenture;

a reduction in the requirements contained in the junior subordinated indenture for quorum or voting;

a limitation of a holder's right, if any, to repayment of junior subordinated debt securities at the holder's option;

in the case of junior subordinated debt securities convertible into common stock, a limitation of any right to convert such debt securities; and

a modification of any of the foregoing requirements contained in the junior subordinated indenture.

Under the junior subordinated indenture, the holders of at least a majority of the aggregate principal amount of the outstanding junior subordinated debt securities of all series affected by a particular covenant or condition, acting as one class, may, on behalf of all holders of such series of debt securities, waive compliance by us with any covenant or condition contained in the junior subordinated indenture unless we specify that such covenant or condition cannot be so waived at the time we establish the series.

If the junior subordinated debt securities are held by a trust or the trustee of such trust, no modification may be made that adversely affects the holders of the related trust preferred securities, and no termination of the junior subordinated indenture may occur, and no waiver of any compliance with any covenant will be effective without the prior consent of a majority in liquidation amount of the trust preferred securities of such trust. If the consent of the holder of each outstanding junior subordinated debt security is required for such modification or waiver, no such modification or waiver shall be effective without the prior consent of each holder of trust preferred securities of such trust.

We and the junior subordinated trustee may execute, without the consent of any holder of junior subordinated debt securities, any supplemental junior subordinated indenture for the purpose of creating any new series of junior subordinated debt securities.

## **Defeasance and Discharge**

Defeasance and Discharge. At the time that we establish a series of junior subordinated debt securities under the junior subordinated indenture, we can provide that the debt securities of that series are subject to the defeasance and discharge provisions of that indenture. If we so provide, we will be discharged from our obligations on the debt securities of that series if:

we deposit with the junior subordinated trustee, in trust, sufficient money or, if the junior subordinated debt securities of that series are denominated and payable in U.S. dollars only, Eligible Instruments, to pay the principal, any interest, any premium and any other sums due on the debt securities of that series, such as sinking fund payments, on the dates the payments are due under the junior subordinated indenture and the terms of such debt securities;



---

**Table of Contents**

we deliver to the junior subordinated trustee an opinion of counsel that states that the holders of the junior subordinated debt securities of that series will not recognize income, gain or loss for Puerto Rico or United States federal income tax purposes as a result of the deposit and will be subject to Puerto Rico or United States federal income tax on the same amounts and in the same manner and at the same times as would have been the case if no deposit had been made; and

if the junior subordinated debt securities of that series are listed on any domestic or foreign securities exchange, such debt securities will not be delisted as a result of the deposit.

When we use the term **Eligible Instruments** in this section, we mean monetary assets, money market instruments and securities that are payable in dollars only and are essentially risk free as to collection of principal and interest, including:

direct obligations of the United States backed by the full faith and credit of the United States; or

any obligation of a person controlled or supervised by and acting as an agency or instrumentality of the United States if the timely payment of the obligation is unconditionally guaranteed as a full faith and credit obligation by the United States.

In the event that we deposit money or Eligible Instruments, or a combination of both, in trust and discharge our obligations under a series of junior subordinated debt securities as described above, then:

the junior subordinated indenture, including the subordination provisions contained in the junior subordinated indenture, will no longer apply to the junior subordinated debt securities of that series; however, certain obligations to compensate, reimburse and indemnify the junior subordinated trustee, to register the transfer and exchange of junior subordinated debt securities, to replace lost, stolen or mutilated junior subordinated debt securities, to maintain paying agencies and the trust funds and to pay additional amounts, if any, required as a result of withholding taxes imposed on payments to non-U.S. persons will continue to apply; and

holders of junior subordinated debt securities of that series can only look to the trust fund for payment of principal, any premium and any interest on such debt securities of that series.

*Defeasance of Certain Covenants and Certain Events of Default.* At the time that we establish a series of junior subordinated debt securities under the junior subordinated indenture, we can provide that the debt securities of that series are subject to the covenant defeasance provisions of such indenture. If we so provide and we make the deposit and deliver the opinion of counsel described above in this section under **Defeasance and Discharge** we will not have to comply with any covenant we designate when we establish the series of debt securities. In the event of a covenant defeasance, our obligations under the junior subordinated indenture and the junior subordinated debt securities, other than with respect to the covenants specifically referred to above, will remain in effect.

If we exercise our option not to comply with the covenants listed above and the junior subordinated debt securities of that series become immediately due and payable because an event of default under the junior subordinated indenture has occurred, other than as a result of an event of default specifically referred to above, the amount of money and Eligible Instruments on deposit with the junior subordinated trustee will be sufficient to pay the principal, any interest, any premium and any other sums due on the debt securities of that series, such as sinking fund payments, on the date the payments are due under the junior subordinated indenture and the terms of the junior subordinated debt securities, but may not be sufficient to pay amounts due at the time of acceleration. However, we would remain liable for the balance of the payments.

**Conversion or Exchange**

The junior subordinated debt securities may be convertible or exchangeable into junior subordinated debt securities of another series or into trust preferred securities of any of our trusts, on the terms provided in the

---

**Table of Contents**

applicable prospectus supplement. Such terms may include provisions for conversion or exchange, either mandatory, at the option of the holder, or at our option, in which case the number of shares of trust preferred securities or other securities to be received by the holders of junior subordinated debt securities would be calculated as of a time and in the manner stated in the applicable prospectus supplement.

**Subordination**

The junior subordinated debt securities will be subordinated to all of our existing and future Senior Debt, as defined below. Our Senior Debt includes our senior debt securities and our subordinated debt securities and means:

any of our indebtedness for borrowed or purchased money, whether or not evidenced by bonds, debt securities, notes or other written instruments,

our obligations under letters of credit,

any of our indebtedness or other obligations with respect to commodity contracts, interest rate and currency swap agreements, cap, floor and collar agreements, currency spot and forward contracts, and other similar agreements or arrangements designed to protect against fluctuations in currency exchange or interest rates, and

any guarantees, endorsements (other than by endorsement of negotiable instruments for collection in the ordinary course of business) or other similar contingent obligations in respect of obligations of others of a type described above, whether or not such obligation is classified as a liability on a balance sheet prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles, whether outstanding on the date of execution of the junior subordinated indenture or thereafter incurred, other than obligations expressly on a parity with or junior to the junior subordinated debt securities. The junior subordinated debt securities will rank on a parity with obligations evidenced by any debt securities, and guarantees in respect of those debt securities, initially issued to any trust, partnership or other entity affiliated with us, that is, directly or indirectly, our financing vehicle in connection with the issuance by such entity of capital securities or other similar securities.

If certain events relating to a bankruptcy, insolvency or reorganization of Popular occur, we will first pay all Senior Debt, including any interest accrued after the events occur, in full before we make any payment or distribution, whether in cash, securities or other property, on account of the principal of or interest on the junior subordinated debt securities. In such an event, we will pay or deliver directly to the holders of Senior Debt any payment or distribution otherwise payable or deliverable to holders of the junior subordinated debt securities. We will make the payments to the holders of Senior Debt according to priorities existing among those holders until we have paid all Senior Debt, including accrued interest, in full. Notwithstanding the subordination provisions discussed in this paragraph, we may make payments or distributions on the junior subordinated debt securities so long as:

the payments or distributions consist of securities issued by us or another company in connection with a plan of reorganization or readjustment; and

payment on those securities is subordinate to outstanding Senior Debt and any securities issued with respect to Senior Debt under such plan of reorganization or readjustment at least to the same extent provided in the subordination provisions of the junior subordinated debt securities.

If such events relating to a bankruptcy, insolvency or reorganization of Popular occur, after we have paid in full all amounts owed on Senior Debt, the holders of junior subordinated debt securities, together with the holders of any of our other obligations ranking equal with those junior subordinated debt securities, will be entitled to receive from our remaining assets any principal, premium or interest due at that time on the junior subordinated debt securities and such other obligations before we make any payment or other distribution on account of any of our capital stock or obligations ranking junior to those junior subordinated debt securities.



## **Table of Contents**

If we violate the junior subordinated indenture by making a payment or distribution to holders of the junior subordinated debt securities before we have paid all the Senior Debt in full, then such holders of the junior subordinated debt securities will be deemed to have received the payments or distributions in trust for the benefit of, and will have to pay or transfer the payments or distributions to, the holders of the Senior Debt outstanding at the time. The payment or transfer to the holders of the Senior Debt will be made according to the priorities existing among those holders. Notwithstanding the subordination provisions discussed in this paragraph, holders of junior subordinated debt securities will not be required to pay, or transfer payments or distributions to, holders of Senior Debt so long as:

the payments or distributions consist of securities issued by us or another company in connection with a plan of reorganization or readjustment; and

payment on those securities is subordinate to outstanding Senior Debt and any securities issued with respect to Senior Debt under such plan of reorganization or readjustment at least to the same extent provided in the subordination provisions of those junior subordinated debt securities.

Because of the subordination, if we become insolvent, holders of Senior Debt may receive more, ratably, and holders of the junior subordinated debt securities may receive less, ratably, than our other creditors. This type of subordination will not prevent an event of default from occurring under the junior subordinated indenture in connection with the junior subordinated debt securities.

We may modify or amend the junior subordinated indenture as provided under Modification of Junior Subordinated Indenture above. However, the modification or amendment may not, without the consent of the holders of all Senior Debt outstanding, modify any of the provisions of the junior subordinated indenture relating to the subordination of the junior subordinated debt securities in a manner that would adversely affect the holders of Senior Debt.

The junior subordinated indenture places no limitation on the amount of Senior Debt that we may incur. We expect from time to time to incur additional indebtedness and other obligations constituting Senior Debt.

## **Governing Law**

The junior subordinated indenture and the junior subordinated debt securities will be governed by, and construed in accordance with, the internal laws of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico.

## **The Trustee**

The junior subordinated trustee will have all of the duties and responsibilities specified under the Trust Indenture Act. Other than its duties in case of a default, the trustee is under no obligation to exercise any of the powers under the junior subordinated indenture at the request, order or direction of any holders of junior subordinated debt securities unless offered reasonable indemnification.

## **Correspondence Between Junior Subordinated Debt Securities and Trust Preferred Securities**

Popular may issue one or more series of junior subordinated debt securities under the junior subordinated indenture with terms corresponding to the terms of a series of trust preferred securities. In each such instance, concurrently with the issuance of a trust's preferred securities, such trust will invest the proceeds from that issuance, together with the consideration paid by Popular for the common securities of such trust, in that series of junior subordinated debt securities. Each series of junior subordinated debt securities will be in a principal amount equal to the aggregate stated liquidation amount of the related trust preferred securities and the common securities of such trust and will rank equally with all other series of junior subordinated debt securities. Holders of the trust preferred securities will have the rights, in connection with modifications to the junior subordinated indenture or upon occurrence of an event of default, as described under Modification of Junior Subordinated Indenture and Events of Default, Waiver and Notice.

**Table of Contents**

Unless otherwise specified in the applicable prospectus supplement, if a tax event, investment company event or capital treatment event relating to a trust occurs and continues, we may, at our option and subject to any required prior approval of the Federal Reserve, redeem the junior subordinated debt securities at any time within 90 days of the occurrence of such event, in whole but not in part, subject to the provisions of the junior subordinated indenture and whether or not such junior subordinated debt securities are then redeemable at our option.

The redemption price for any junior subordinated debt security shall be equal to 100% of the principal amount of such junior subordinated debt security then outstanding plus accrued and unpaid interest to the redemption date. As long as a trust is the holder of all the outstanding junior subordinated debt securities of a series, the proceeds of any redemption will be used by such trust to redeem the related trust securities in accordance with their terms.

We will covenant, as to each series of junior subordinated debt securities:

to directly or indirectly maintain 100% ownership of the common securities of the applicable trust unless a permitted successor succeeds to ownership of the common securities;

not to voluntarily terminate, wind up or liquidate any trust, except:

in connection with a distribution of junior subordinated debt securities to the holders of trust preferred securities in exchange therefor upon liquidation of such trust, or

in connection with certain mergers, consolidations or amalgamations permitted by the applicable trust agreement, in either such case, if so specified in the applicable prospectus supplement and upon any required prior approval of the Federal Reserve; and

to use our reasonable efforts, consistent with the terms and provisions of the applicable trust agreement, to cause such trust to remain classified as a grantor trust and not as an association taxable as a corporation for United States federal or Puerto Rico income tax purposes.

---

**Table of Contents**

**DESCRIPTION OF CAPITAL SECURITIES WE MAY OFFER**

**Trust Preferred Securities**

The trust preferred securities will be issued by a trust under the terms of a trust agreement. Each trust agreement will be qualified as an indenture under the Trust Indenture Act. Each trust may issue only one series of trust preferred securities. The property trustee will act as trustee for each series of trust preferred securities under the applicable trust agreement for purposes of compliance with the provisions of the Trust Indenture Act. The terms of each series of trust preferred securities will include those stated in the applicable trust agreement and those made part of such trust agreement by the Trust Indenture Act.

We have summarized material terms and provisions of the trust preferred securities in this section. This summary is not intended to be complete and is qualified by the trust agreement, the form of which we filed as an exhibit to the registration statement, the Delaware Statutory Trust Act and the Trust Indenture Act.

As used in this section, we, us, our and similar terms mean Popular, Inc. with respect to Popular Capital Trust III, Popular Capital Trust IV and Popular, Inc. and Popular North America, Inc. with respect to Popular North America Capital Trust II and Popular North America Capital Trust III. References in this prospectus to the Trusts refer to Popular Capital Trust III, Popular Capital Trust IV, Popular North America Capital Trust II and Popular North America Capital Trust III.

Each trust agreement authorizes the trustees of the applicable trust to issue trust securities on behalf of such trust. The trust securities represent undivided beneficial interests in the assets of such trust. We will own, directly or indirectly, all of a trust's common securities. The common securities rank equally, and payments will be made on a pro rata basis, with the trust preferred securities except as set forth under Ranking of Trust Securities.

Each trust agreement does not permit a trust to issue any securities other than the trust securities or to incur any indebtedness. Under each trust agreement, the property trustee will own the junior subordinated debt securities purchased by such trust for the benefit of the holders of the trust securities.

The guarantee agreement we execute for the benefit of the holders of trust preferred securities will be a guarantee on a subordinated basis with respect to the related trust securities. However, such guarantee will not guarantee payment of distributions or amounts payable on redemption or liquidation of such trust securities when a trust does not have funds on hand available to make such payments. See Description of Guarantees.

**Distributions**

Distributions on each series of trust preferred securities:

will be cumulative;

will accumulate from the date of original issuance; and

will be payable on such dates as specified in the applicable prospectus supplement.

In the event that any date on which distributions are payable on the trust preferred securities is not a business day, then payment of the distribution will be made on the next succeeding business day, and without any interest or other payment in respect to any such delay. Each date on which distributions are payable in accordance with the foregoing is referred to as a distribution date. The term distribution includes any interest payable on unpaid distributions unless otherwise stated. Unless otherwise specified in the applicable prospectus supplement, a business day is a day other than a Saturday, a Sunday, or any other day on which banking institutions in Puerto Rico, Wilmington, Delaware and New York, New York are authorized or required by law, regulation or executive order to remain closed or are customarily closed.

The amount of distributions payable for any period will be computed on the basis of a 360-day year of twelve 30-day months. The amount of distributions payable for any period shorter than a full distribution period



**Table of Contents**

will be computed on the basis of the actual number of days elapsed in a partial month in that period. Distributions to which holders of trust preferred securities are entitled but are not paid will accumulate additional distributions at the annual rate if and as specified in the applicable prospectus supplement.

If provided in the applicable prospectus supplement, we have the right under the junior subordinated indenture and the junior subordinated debt securities to which the prospectus supplement relates to defer the payment of interest on the junior subordinated debt securities for up to a number of consecutive interest payment periods that will be specified in the applicable prospectus supplement. We refer to this period as an extension period. No extension period may extend beyond the stated maturity of the junior subordinated debt securities to which the extension period relates.

As a consequence of any such deferral, distributions on the trust preferred securities would be deferred by the related trust during any extension period, but would continue to accumulate additional distributions at the annual rate set forth in the prospectus supplement for such trust preferred securities.

Unless otherwise specified in the applicable prospectus supplement, if we exercise our deferral right, then during any extension period, we may not:

make any payment of principal of or interest or premium, if any, on or repay, repurchase or redeem any debt securities issued by us that rank equally with or junior to the junior subordinated debt securities (except for partial payments of interest with respect to the junior subordinated debt securities); or

declare or pay any dividends or distributions on, or redeem, purchase, acquire or make a liquidation payment with respect to, any shares of our capital stock, other than:

any repurchase, redemption or other acquisition of shares of our capital stock (1) in connection with any employment contract, benefit plan or other similar arrangement with or for the benefit of any one or more employees, officers, directors, consultants or independent contractors, (2) in connection with a dividend reinvestment or stockholder stock purchase plan or (3) in connection with the issuance of our capital stock, or securities convertible into or exercisable for such capital stock, as consideration in an acquisition transaction entered into before the applicable extension period;

any exchange, redemption or conversion of any class or series of our capital stock, or any capital stock of one of our subsidiaries, for any other class or series of our capital stock, or of any class or series of our indebtedness for any class or series of our capital stock;

any purchase of fractional interests in shares of our capital stock pursuant to the conversion or exchange provisions of such capital stock or the securities being converted or exchanged;

any declaration of a dividend in connection with any rights plan, or the issuance of rights, stock or other property under any rights plan, or the redemption or repurchase of rights pursuant thereto;

payments by us under any guarantee agreement executed for the benefit of the trust preferred securities; or

any dividend in the form of stock, warrants, options or other rights where the dividend stock or the stock issuable upon exercise of such warrants, options or other rights is the same stock as that on which the dividend is being paid or ranks equally with or junior to such stock.



## Edgar Filing: POPULAR INC - Form 424B2

The funds available to each trust for distribution to holders of its trust preferred securities will be limited to payments under the junior subordinated debt securities in which such trust invests the proceeds from the issuance and sale of its trust securities. See Description of Debt Securities We May Offer Junior Subordinated Debt Securities Correspondence Between Junior Subordinated Debt Securities and Trust Preferred Securities. If we do not make interest payments on such junior subordinated debt securities, the property trustee will not have funds available to pay distributions on the related trust preferred securities. To the extent a trust has funds legally available for the payment of such distributions and cash sufficient to make such payments, the payment of distributions is guaranteed by us on the basis set forth under Description of Guarantees.

---

**Table of Contents**

Distributions on the trust preferred securities will be payable to the holders of such securities as they appear on the register of the applicable trust on the relevant record dates, which shall be the 15th calendar day, whether or not a business day, before the distribution date.

**Redemption or Exchange**

***Mandatory Redemption***

Upon the repayment or redemption, in whole or in part, of any junior subordinated debt securities, whether at stated maturity or upon earlier redemption as provided in the junior subordinated indenture, the property trustee will apply the proceeds from such repayment or redemption to redeem a like amount, as defined below, of the related trust securities, upon not less than 30 nor more than 60 days' notice. The redemption price will equal the aggregate liquidation amount of such trust securities, as defined below, plus accumulated but unpaid distributions to the date of redemption and the amount of the premium, if any, paid by us upon the concurrent redemption of such junior subordinated debt securities. See Description of Debt Securities We May Offer Junior Subordinated Debt Securities Redemption. If less than all of any series of junior subordinated debt securities are to be repaid or redeemed on a redemption date, then the proceeds from such repayment or redemption will be allocated pro rata to the redemption of the related trust preferred securities and the common securities, except as set forth under Ranking of Trust Securities.

The amount of premium, if any, paid by us upon the redemption or repayment of all or any part of any series of junior subordinated debt securities will be allocated pro rata to the redemption of the related trust preferred securities and common securities, except as set forth under Ranking of Trust Securities.

We will have the right to redeem any series of junior subordinated debt securities:

on or after such date as may be specified in the applicable prospectus supplement, in whole at any time or in part from time to time; or

at any time, in whole but not in part, upon the occurrence of a tax event, investment company event or capital treatment event, in any case subject to receipt of any required prior approval by the Federal Reserve. See Description of Debt Securities We May Offer Junior Subordinated Debt Securities Redemption.

Within 90 days after any tax event, investment company event or capital treatment event occurs and continues, we will have the right to redeem the junior subordinated debt securities in whole, but not in part, and thereby cause a mandatory redemption of the related trust preferred securities and common securities in whole, but not in part, at the redemption price described above. In the event:

a tax event, investment company event or capital treatment event occurs and continues, and

we do not elect to redeem the junior subordinated debt securities and thereby cause a mandatory redemption of the related trust preferred securities and common securities or to dissolve the related trust and cause the junior subordinated debt securities to be distributed to holders of such trust preferred securities and common securities in exchange therefor upon liquidation of the trust as described below, the related trust preferred securities will remain outstanding.

Like Amount means:

with respect to a redemption of any series of trust securities, trust securities of such series having a liquidation amount equal to that portion of the principal amount of junior subordinated debt securities to be contemporaneously redeemed in accordance with the junior subordinated indenture, the proceeds of which will be used to pay the redemption price of such trust securities; and

## Edgar Filing: POPULAR INC - Form 424B2

with respect to a distribution of junior subordinated debt securities to holders of any series of trust securities in exchange therefor in connection with a dissolution or liquidation of a trust, junior subordinated debt securities having a principal amount equal to the liquidation amount of the trust securities of the holder to whom such junior subordinated debt securities would be distributed.

---

**Table of Contents**

Liquidation Amount means the stated amount per trust security as set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement.

***Distribution of Junior Subordinated Debt Securities***

We will have the right at any time to liquidate a trust and cause the junior subordinated debt securities to be distributed to the holders of the related trust securities. This may require the prior approval of the Federal Reserve. Upon liquidation of the trust and after satisfaction of the liabilities of creditors of such trust as provided by applicable law, the junior subordinated debt securities held by such trust will be distributed to the holders of the trust securities of such trust in exchange therefor.

After the liquidation date fixed for any distribution of junior subordinated debt securities for any series of trust preferred securities:

such series of trust preferred securities will no longer be deemed to be outstanding;

the depository or its nominee, as the record holder of such series of trust preferred securities, will receive a registered global certificate or certificates representing the junior subordinated debt securities to be delivered upon such distribution;

any certificates representing such series of trust preferred securities not held by The Depository Trust Company, or DTC, or its nominee, or surrendered to the exchange agent will be deemed to represent the junior subordinated debt securities to be delivered in the exchange, having a principal amount equal to the stated liquidation amount of such series of trust preferred securities, and bearing accrued and unpaid interest in an amount equal to the accrued and unpaid distributions on such series of trust preferred securities until such certificates are so surrendered for transfer or reissuance; and

all rights of the holders of such trust preferred securities will cease, except the right to receive junior subordinated debt securities, in the principal amount set forth above, upon such surrender.

***Redemption Procedures***

Trust preferred securities redeemed on any redemption date will be redeemed at the redemption price, as described in the applicable prospectus supplement, with the proceeds from the contemporaneous redemption of the junior subordinated debt securities. Redemptions of trust preferred securities shall be made and the redemption price shall be payable on each redemption date only to the extent that the applicable trust has funds on hand available for the payment of such redemption price. See also Ranking of Trust Securities. Redemptions of trust preferred securities may require prior approval of the Federal Reserve.

If a trust gives a notice of redemption of its trust preferred securities, then, by 12:00 noon, New York time, on the redemption date, to the extent funds are available, the property trustee will deposit irrevocably with DTC funds sufficient to pay the redemption price and will give DTC irrevocable instructions and authority to pay the redemption price to the holders of such trust preferred securities. If such trust preferred securities are no longer in book-entry form, the property trustee, to the extent funds are available, will irrevocably deposit with the paying agent for such trust preferred securities funds sufficient to pay the redemption price and will give such paying agent irrevocable instructions and authority to pay the redemption price to the holders thereof upon surrender of their certificates evidencing such trust preferred securities.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, distributions payable on or before the redemption date for any trust preferred securities called for redemption will be payable to the holders of such trust preferred securities on the relevant record dates for the related distribution dates. If notice of redemption shall have been given and funds deposited as required, then upon the date of such deposit:

all rights of the holders of such trust preferred securities will cease, except the right to receive the redemption price on the redemption date, but without interest on such redemption price after the date of redemption; and



## **Table of Contents**

such trust preferred securities will cease to be outstanding.

In the event that any date fixed for redemption of trust preferred securities is not a business day, then payment of the redemption price will be made on the next succeeding business day, without any interest or any other payment in respect of any such delay. In the event that payment of the redemption price in respect of trust preferred securities called for redemption is improperly withheld or refused and not paid either by the applicable trust or by us pursuant to the guarantee as described under Description of Guarantees, distributions on such trust preferred securities will continue to accrue at the then-applicable rate, from the redemption date originally established by such trust for such trust preferred securities to the date such redemption price is actually paid, in which case the actual payment date will be the date fixed for redemption for purposes of calculating the redemption price.

If less than all of the trust securities issued by a trust are to be redeemed on a redemption date, then the aggregate liquidation amount of such trust securities to be redeemed shall be allocated pro rata to the trust preferred securities and the common securities based upon the relative liquidation amounts of such classes, except as set forth under Ranking of Trust Securities. The property trustee will select the particular trust preferred securities to be redeemed not more than 60 days before the redemption date from the outstanding trust preferred securities not previously called for redemption by any method the property trustee deems fair and appropriate, or, if the trust preferred securities are in book-entry only form, in accordance with the procedures of the depository. The property trustee shall promptly notify the securities registrar in writing of the trust preferred securities selected for redemption and the liquidation amount to be redeemed. For all purposes of the applicable trust agreement, unless the context otherwise requires, all provisions relating to the redemption of trust preferred securities shall relate, in the case of any trust preferred securities redeemed or to be redeemed only in part, to the portion of the aggregate liquidation amount of trust preferred securities which has been or is to be redeemed.

Notice of any redemption will be mailed at least 30 days but not more than 60 days before the redemption date to the registered address of each holder of trust securities to be redeemed.

Subject to applicable law, including, without limitation, United States federal securities laws, we or our subsidiaries may at any time and from time to time purchase outstanding trust preferred securities by tender, in the open market or by private agreement.

### **Ranking of Trust Securities**

Payment of distributions on, and the redemption price of and the liquidation distribution in respect of, trust preferred securities and common securities, as applicable, shall be made pro rata based on the relative liquidation amount of such trust preferred securities and common securities, except that upon certain events of default under the applicable trust agreement relating to payment defaults on the junior subordinated debt securities, the rights of the holders of the common securities to payment in respect of distributions and payments upon liquidation, redemption and otherwise will be subordinated to the rights of the holders of the trust preferred securities.

In the case of any event of default under a trust agreement resulting from an event of default under the junior subordinated indenture, we, as holder of a trust's common securities, will be deemed to have waived any right to act with respect to any such event of default under such trust agreement until all such events of default have been cured, waived or otherwise eliminated. Until all events of default under such trust agreement have been so cured, waived or otherwise eliminated, the property trustee shall act solely on behalf of the holders of such trust preferred securities and not on our behalf, and only the holders of such trust preferred securities will have the right to direct the property trustee to act on their behalf.

---

**Table of Contents**

**Liquidation Distribution Upon Dissolution**

Pursuant to a trust agreement, a trust shall automatically dissolve upon expiration of its term and shall dissolve on the first to occur of:

certain events of bankruptcy, dissolution or liquidation of Popular or, for Popular North America Capital Trust II and Popular North America Capital Trust III, Popular North America;

the written direction from us, as holder of the trust's common securities, to the property trustee to dissolve the trust and distribute a like amount of junior subordinated debt securities to the holders of its trust securities, subject to our having received any required prior approval of the Federal Reserve;

redemption of all of its trust preferred securities as described under Redemption or Exchange Mandatory Redemption; and

the entry of an order for the dissolution of the trust by a court of competent jurisdiction.

Except as set forth in the next sentence, if an early dissolution occurs as described above, the property trustee will liquidate the trust as expeditiously as possible by distributing, after satisfaction of liabilities to creditors of such trust as provided by applicable law, to the holders of such trust securities a like amount of junior subordinated debt securities. If the property trustee determines that such distribution is not practical or if the early dissolution occurs as a result of the redemption of trust preferred securities, then the holders will be entitled to receive out of the assets of such trust available for distribution to holders and after satisfaction of liabilities to creditors of such trust as provided by applicable law, an amount equal to the aggregate liquidation amount plus accrued and unpaid distributions to the date of payment. If such trust has insufficient assets available to pay in full such aggregate liquidation distribution, then the amounts payable directly by such trust on its trust securities shall be paid on a pro rata basis, except as set forth under Ranking of Trust Securities.

**Events of Default; Notice**

Any one of the following events constitutes an event of default under the applicable trust agreement, or a trust event of default, regardless of the reason for such event of default and whether it shall be voluntary or involuntary or be effected by operation of law or pursuant to any judgment, decree or order of any court or any order, rule or regulation of any administrative or governmental body:

the occurrence of an event of default under the junior subordinated indenture with respect to the junior subordinated debt securities held by such trust (see Description of Debt Securities We May Offer Junior Subordinated Debt Securities Events of Default, Waiver and Notice ); or

the default by the property trustee in the payment of any distribution on any trust security of such trust when such distribution becomes due and payable, and continuation of such default for a period of 30 days; or

the default by the property trustee in the payment of any redemption price of any trust security of such trust when such redemption price becomes due and payable; or

the failure to perform or the breach, in any material respect, of any other covenant or warranty of the trustees in the applicable trust agreement for 90 days after the defaulting trustee or trustees have received written notice of the failure to perform or breach of warranty in the manner specified in such trust agreement; or

## Edgar Filing: POPULAR INC - Form 424B2

the occurrence of certain events of bankruptcy or insolvency with respect to the property trustee and our failure to appoint a successor property trustee within 90 days.

Within ten days after any event of default actually known to the property trustee occurs, the property trustee will transmit notice of such event of default to the holders of the trust securities and to the administrative trustees, unless such event of default shall have been cured or waived. We, as depositor, and the administrative



## **Table of Contents**

trustees are required to file annually with the property trustee a certificate as to whether or not we or they are in compliance with all the conditions and covenants applicable to us and to them under the trust agreement.

The existence of an event of default under the trust agreement, in and of itself, with respect to the junior subordinated debt securities does not entitle the holders of the related trust preferred securities to accelerate the maturity of such junior subordinated debt securities.

### **Removal of Trustees**

Unless an event of default under the junior subordinated indenture has occurred and is continuing, the property trustee and the Delaware trustee of a trust may be removed at any time by the holder of the common securities of such trust. The property trustee and the Delaware trustee may be removed by the holders of a majority in liquidation amount of the outstanding trust preferred securities of such trust for cause or if an event of default under the junior subordinated indenture has occurred and is continuing. In no event will the holders of such trust preferred securities have the right to vote to appoint, remove or replace the administrative trustees, which voting rights are vested exclusively in us, as the holder of the common securities. No resignation or removal of a trustee and no appointment of a successor trustee shall be effective until the acceptance of appointment by the successor trustee in accordance with the provisions of the trust agreement.

### **Co-Trustees and Separate Property Trustee**

Unless an event of default under the junior subordinated indenture shall have occurred and be continuing, at any time or from time to time, for the purpose of meeting the legal requirements of the Trust Indenture Act or of any jurisdiction in which any part of the trust property may at the time be located, we, as the holder of the common securities, and the administrative trustees shall have the power to appoint one or more persons either to act as a co-trustee, jointly with the property trustee, of all or any part of such trust property, or to act as separate trustee of any such property, in either case with such powers as may be provided in the instrument of appointment, and to vest in such person or persons in such capacity any property, title, right or power deemed necessary or desirable, subject to the provisions of such trust agreement. If an event of default under the junior subordinated indenture has occurred and is continuing, the property trustee alone shall have power to make such appointment.

### **Merger or Consolidation of Trustees**

Any person into which the property trustee or the Delaware trustee, if not a natural person, may be merged or converted or with which it may be consolidated, or any person resulting from any merger, conversion or consolidation to which such trustee shall be a party, or any person succeeding to all or substantially all the corporate trust business of such trustee, shall be the successor of such trustee under the trust agreement, provided such person shall be otherwise qualified and eligible.

### **Mergers, Consolidations, Amalgamations or Replacements of the Trusts**

A trust may not merge with or into, consolidate, amalgamate, or be replaced by, or convey, transfer or lease its properties and assets substantially as an entirety to us or any other person, except as described below or as otherwise described in the applicable trust agreement. Such trust may, at our request, with the consent of the administrative trustees but without the consent of the holders of the trust preferred securities, the property trustee or the Delaware trustee, merge with or into, consolidate, amalgamate, or be replaced by, or convey, transfer or lease its properties and assets substantially as an entirety to, a trust organized as such under the laws of any state, the District of Columbia or the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico if:

such successor entity either:

expressly assumes all of the obligations of such trust with respect to the trust preferred securities, or

## **Table of Contents**

substitutes for the trust preferred securities other securities having substantially the same terms as the trust preferred securities, or the successor securities, so long as the successor securities rank the same as the trust preferred securities in priority with respect to distributions and payments upon liquidation, redemption and otherwise;

we expressly appoint a trustee of such successor entity possessing the same powers and duties as the property trustee as the holder of the junior subordinated debt securities;

such merger, consolidation, amalgamation, replacement, conveyance, transfer or lease does not cause the trust preferred securities, including any successor securities, to be downgraded by any nationally recognized statistical rating organization;

such merger, consolidation, amalgamation, replacement, conveyance, transfer or lease does not adversely affect the rights, preferences and privileges of the holders of the trust preferred securities, including any successor securities, in any material respect;

such successor entity has a purpose substantially identical to that of such trust;

prior to such merger, consolidation, amalgamation, replacement, conveyance, transfer or lease, we have received an opinion from independent counsel to such trust experienced in such matters to the effect that:

such merger, consolidation, amalgamation, replacement, conveyance, transfer or lease does not adversely affect the rights, preferences and privileges of the holders of the trust preferred securities, including any successor securities, in any material respect, and

following such merger, consolidation, amalgamation, replacement, conveyance, transfer or lease, neither such trust nor such successor entity will be required to register as an investment company under the Investment Company Act; and

we or any permitted successor or assignee owns all of the common securities of such successor entity and guarantees the obligations of such successor entity under the successor securities at least to the extent provided by the applicable guarantee. Notwithstanding the foregoing, a trust may not, except with the consent of holders of 100% in liquidation amount of its trust preferred securities, consolidate, amalgamate, merge with or into, or be replaced by or convey, transfer or lease its properties and assets substantially as an entirety to any other entity or permit any other entity to consolidate, amalgamate, merge with or into, or replace it if such consolidation, amalgamation, merger, replacement, conveyance, transfer or lease would cause the trust or the successor entity to be classified as other than a grantor trust for United States federal or Puerto Rico income tax purposes.

## **Voting Rights; Amendment of the Trust Agreement**

Except as provided below and under Description of Guarantees Amendments and Assignment and as otherwise required by law and the applicable trust agreement, the holders of trust preferred securities will have no voting rights.

We and the administrative trustees may amend a trust agreement without the consent of the holders of its trust preferred securities, unless such amendment will materially and adversely affect the interests of any holder of trust preferred securities, to:

cure any ambiguity, correct or supplement any provisions in such trust agreement that may be inconsistent with any other provision, or to make any other provisions with respect to matters or questions arising under such trust agreement, which may not be inconsistent with the other provisions of such trust agreement; or

modify, eliminate or add to any provisions of such trust agreement to such extent as shall be necessary to ensure that such trust will be classified for United States federal or Puerto Rico income tax purposes

**Table of Contents**

as a grantor trust at all times that any trust securities are outstanding or to ensure that such trust will not be required to register as an investment company under the Investment Company Act.

We, the administrative trustees and the property trustee may generally amend a trust agreement with:

the consent of holders representing not less than a majority, based upon liquidation amounts, of the outstanding trust preferred securities; and

receipt by the trustees of an opinion of counsel to the effect that such amendment or the exercise of any power granted to the trustees in accordance with such amendment will not affect such trust's status as a grantor trust for United States federal or Puerto Rico income tax purposes or the trust's exemption from status as an investment company under the Investment Company Act.

However, without the consent of each holder of trust securities, a trust agreement may not be amended to:

change the amount or timing of any distribution required to be made in respect of such trust securities as of a specified date; or

restrict the right of a holder of such trust securities to institute a suit for the enforcement of any such payment on or after such date.

So long as the property trustee of a trust holds any junior subordinated debt securities, the trustees may not, without obtaining the prior approval of the holders of a majority in aggregate liquidation amount of all outstanding trust preferred securities of such trust:

direct the time, method and place of conducting any proceeding for any remedy available to the junior subordinated trustee, or executing any trust or power conferred on the junior subordinated trustee with respect to such junior subordinated debt securities;

waive any past default that is waivable under the junior subordinated indenture;

exercise any right to rescind or annul a declaration that the principal of all the junior subordinated debt securities is due and payable; or

consent to any amendment, modification or termination of the junior subordinated indenture or such junior subordinated debt securities, where such consent shall be required.

If a consent under the junior subordinated indenture would require the consent of each holder of junior subordinated debt securities affected thereby, no such consent may be given by the property trustee of any trust without the prior consent of each holder of the trust preferred securities of such trust. The property trustee may not revoke any action previously authorized or approved by a vote of the holders of the trust preferred securities except by subsequent vote of the holders of the trust preferred securities. The property trustee will notify each holder of the trust preferred securities of any notice of default with respect to the junior subordinated debt securities. In addition to obtaining the foregoing approvals of the holders of the trust preferred securities, before taking any of the foregoing actions, the trustees will obtain an opinion of counsel experienced in such matters to the effect that such action would not cause such trust to be classified as other than a grantor trust for United States federal or Puerto Rico income tax purposes.

Any required approval of holders of trust preferred securities may be given at a meeting of holders of trust preferred securities convened for such purpose or pursuant to written consent. The property trustee will cause a notice of any meeting at which holders of trust preferred securities are entitled to vote, or of any matter upon which action by written consent of such holders is to be taken, to be given to each holder of record of trust preferred securities in the manner set forth in the applicable trust agreement.

Edgar Filing: POPULAR INC - Form 424B2

No vote or consent of the holders of trust preferred securities will be required for a trust to redeem and cancel its trust preferred securities in accordance with the applicable trust agreement.

## **Table of Contents**

Notwithstanding that holders of trust preferred securities are entitled to vote or consent under any of the circumstances described above, any of the trust preferred securities that are owned by us or our affiliates or the trustees or any of their affiliates, shall, for purposes of such vote or consent, be treated as if they were not outstanding.

### **Payment and Paying Agent**

Payments on the trust preferred securities shall be made to the depository, which shall credit the relevant accounts at the depository on the applicable distribution dates. If any trust preferred securities are not held by the depository, such payments shall be made by check mailed to the address of the holder as such address shall appear on the register.

Unless otherwise specified in the applicable prospectus supplement, the paying agent shall initially be Banco Popular de Puerto Rico. The paying agent shall be permitted to resign as paying agent upon 30 days' written notice to the administrative trustees and to the property trustee. In the event that Banco Popular de Puerto Rico shall no longer be the paying agent, the property trustee will appoint a successor to act as paying agent, which will be a bank or trust company acceptable to the administrative trustees and to us.

### **Registrar and Transfer Agent**

Unless otherwise specified in the applicable prospectus supplement, Banco Popular de Puerto Rico Trust Division will act as registrar and transfer agent for the trust preferred securities.

Registration of transfers of trust preferred securities will be effected without charge by or on behalf of a trust, but upon payment of any tax or other governmental charges that may be imposed in connection with any transfer or exchange. A trust will not be required to register or cause to be registered the transfer of its trust preferred securities after such trust preferred securities have been called for redemption.

### **Information Concerning the Property Trustee**

Other than during the occurrence and continuance of an event of default under the trust agreement, the property trustee undertakes to perform only the duties that are specifically set forth in the applicable trust agreement. After an event of default under the trust agreement, the property trustee must exercise the same degree of care and skill as a prudent individual would exercise or use in the conduct of his or her own affairs. Subject to this provision, the property trustee is under no obligation to exercise any of the powers vested in it by the applicable trust agreement at the request of any holder of trust preferred securities unless it is offered indemnity satisfactory to it by such holder against the costs, expenses and liabilities that might be incurred. If no event of default under the trust agreement has occurred and is continuing and the property trustee is required to decide between alternative courses of action, construe ambiguous provisions in such trust agreement or is unsure of the application of any provision of such trust agreement, and the matter is not one upon which holders of trust preferred securities are entitled under the applicable trust agreement to vote, then the property trustee will take any action that we direct. If we do not provide direction, the property trustee may take any action that it deems advisable and in the best interests of the holders of the trust securities and will have no liability except for its own bad faith, negligence or willful misconduct.

We and our affiliates maintain certain accounts and other banking relationships with the property trustee and its affiliates in the ordinary course of business.

### **Trust Expenses**

Pursuant to the applicable trust agreement, we, as depositor, agree to pay:

all debts and other obligations of the trust (other than with respect to the trust preferred securities);

## **Table of Contents**

all costs and expenses of the trust, including costs and expenses relating to the organization of the trust, the fees and expenses of the trustees and the cost and expenses relating to the operation of the trust; and

any and all taxes and costs and expenses with respect thereto, other than withholding taxes, to which the trust might become subject.

### **Governing Law**

The trust agreements will be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of Delaware.

### **Miscellaneous**

The administrative trustees are authorized and directed to conduct the affairs of and to operate the applicable trust in such a way that it will not be required to register as an investment company under the Investment Company Act or characterized as other than a grantor trust for United States federal or Puerto Rico income tax purposes. The administrative trustees are authorized and directed to conduct their affairs so that the junior subordinated debt securities will be treated as indebtedness of Popular or Popular North America, as applicable, for Puerto Rico income tax purposes.

In this regard, we and the administrative trustees are authorized to take any action, not inconsistent with applicable law, the certificate of trust of the applicable trust or the applicable trust agreement, that we and the administrative trustees determine to be necessary or desirable to achieve such end, as long as such action does not materially and adversely affect the interests of the holders of the applicable trust preferred securities.

Holders of the trust preferred securities have no preemptive or similar rights.

No trust may borrow money or issue debt or mortgage or pledge any of its assets.

### **Common Securities**

In connection with the issuance of trust preferred securities, the applicable trust will issue one series of common securities. The prospectus supplement relating to such issuance will specify the terms of such common securities, including distributions, redemption, voting and liquidation rights. Except for voting rights, the terms of the common securities will be substantially identical to the terms of the trust preferred securities. The common securities will rank equally, and payments will be made on the common securities pro rata, with the trust preferred securities, except as set forth under **Description of Trust Preferred Securities** **Ranking of Trust Securities**. Except in limited circumstances, the common securities of a trust carry the right to vote to appoint, remove or replace any of the trustees of that trust. We will own, directly or indirectly, all of the common securities of the trusts.

### **Description of Guarantees**

Set forth below is a summary of information concerning the guarantee that we will execute and deliver for the benefit of the holders of trust preferred securities when a trust issues trust securities. Each trust preferred securities guarantee will be qualified as an indenture under the Trust Indenture Act. The guarantee trustee for purposes of the Trust Indenture Act will be named in the applicable prospectus supplement. The guarantee trustee will hold the trust preferred securities guarantee for the benefit of the holders of the trust preferred securities.

### **General**

Under a trust preferred securities guarantee, we will irrevocably and unconditionally agree to pay in full to the holders of the trust securities, except to the extent paid by the applicable trust, as and when due, regardless of any defense, right of set-off or counterclaim which such trust may have or assert, the following payments, which are referred to as **guarantee payments**, without duplication:

any accrued and unpaid distributions that are required to be paid on the trust preferred securities, to the extent such trust has funds available for distributions;

## **Table of Contents**

the redemption price, plus all accrued and unpaid distributions relating to any trust preferred securities called for redemption by such trust, to the extent such trust has funds available for redemptions; and

upon a voluntary or involuntary dissolution, winding-up or termination of such trust, other than in connection with the distribution of junior subordinated debt securities to the holders of trust preferred securities or the redemption of all of the trust preferred securities, the lesser of:

the aggregate of the liquidation amount and all accrued and unpaid distributions on the trust preferred securities to the date of payment to the extent such trust has funds available; and

the amount of assets of such trust remaining for distribution to holders of the trust preferred securities in liquidation of such trust. The redemption price and liquidation amount will be fixed at the time the trust preferred securities are issued.

Our obligation to make a guarantee payment may be satisfied by direct payment of the required amounts to the holders of trust preferred securities or by causing the applicable trust to pay such amounts to such holders.

A trust preferred securities guarantee will not apply to any payment of distributions except to the extent a trust shall have funds available for such payments. If we do not make interest payments on the junior subordinated debt securities purchased by a trust, such trust will not pay distributions on the trust preferred securities and will not have funds available for such payments. See Status of the Guarantees. Because we are a holding company, our rights to participate in the assets of any of our subsidiaries upon the subsidiary's liquidation or reorganization will be subject to the prior claims of the subsidiary's creditors except to the extent that we may ourselves be a creditor with recognized claims against the subsidiary. Except as otherwise described in the applicable prospectus supplement, the trust preferred securities guarantees do not limit the incurrence or issuance by us of other secured or unsecured debt.

A trust preferred securities guarantee, when taken together with our obligations under the junior subordinated debt securities, the junior subordinated indenture and the applicable trust agreement, including our obligations to pay costs, expenses, debts and liabilities of the applicable trust, other than those relating to trust securities, will provide a full and unconditional guarantee on a subordinated basis of payments due on the trust preferred securities.

Unless otherwise specified in the applicable prospectus supplement, we will also agree separately to irrevocably and unconditionally guarantee the obligations of each trust with respect to the common securities to the same extent as the trust preferred securities guarantees.

## **Status of the Guarantees**

A guarantee will be unsecured and will rank:

subordinate and junior in right of payment to all our other liabilities in the same manner as the junior subordinated debt securities as set forth in the junior subordinated indenture; and

equally with all other trust preferred security guarantees that we issue.

A guarantee will constitute a guarantee of payment and not of collection, which means that the guaranteed party may sue the guarantor to enforce its rights under the guarantee without suing any other person or entity. A guarantee will be held by the guarantee trustee for the benefit of the holders of the related trust securities. A guarantee will be discharged only by payment of the guarantee payments in full to the extent not paid by the trust or upon the distribution of the junior subordinated debt securities.



## **Table of Contents**

### **Amendments and Assignment**

A trust preferred securities guarantee may be amended only with the prior approval of the holders of not less than a majority in aggregate liquidation amount of the outstanding relevant trust preferred securities. No vote will be required, however, for any changes that do not adversely affect the rights of holders of such trust preferred securities in any material respect. All guarantees and agreements contained in a trust preferred securities guarantee will bind our successors, assignees, receivers, trustees and representatives and will be for the benefit of the holders of the trust preferred securities then outstanding.

### **Termination of the Guarantees**

A trust preferred securities guarantee will terminate (1) upon full payment of the redemption price of all related trust preferred securities, (2) upon distribution of the junior subordinated debt securities to the holders of the related trust securities or (3) upon full payment of the amounts payable in accordance with the applicable trust agreement upon liquidation of the trust. A trust preferred securities guarantee will continue to be effective or will be reinstated, as the case may be, if at any time any holder of trust preferred securities must restore payment of any sums paid under the trust preferred securities or the trust preferred securities guarantee.

### **Events of Default**

An event of default under a trust preferred securities guarantee will occur if we fail to perform any payment obligation or other obligation under such guarantee.

The holders of a majority in liquidation amount of the trust preferred securities of a trust have the right to direct the time, method and place of conducting any proceeding for any remedy available to the guarantee trustee of such trust in respect of the applicable trust preferred securities guarantee or to direct the exercise of any trust or power conferred upon the guarantee trustee under the guarantee. Any holder of trust preferred securities may institute a legal proceeding directly against us to enforce the guarantee trustee's rights and our obligations under the applicable trust preferred securities guarantee, without first instituting a legal proceeding against such trust, the guarantee trustee or any other person or entity.

As guarantor, we are required to file annually with the guarantee trustee a certificate as to whether or not we are in compliance with all applicable conditions and covenants under the trust preferred securities guarantee.

### **Information Concerning the Guarantee Trustee**

Prior to the occurrence of an event of default relating to a trust preferred securities guarantee, the guarantee trustee is required to perform only the duties that are specifically set forth in such trust preferred securities guarantee. Following the occurrence of an event of default, the guarantee trustee will exercise the same degree of care as a prudent individual would exercise in the conduct of his or her own affairs. Provided that the foregoing requirements have been met, the guarantee trustee is under no obligation to exercise any of the powers vested in it by the trust preferred securities guarantee at the request of any holder of trust preferred securities unless offered indemnity satisfactory to it against the costs, expenses and liabilities which might be incurred thereby.

We and our affiliates maintain certain accounts and other banking relationships with the guarantee trustee and its affiliates in the ordinary course of business.

### **Governing Law**

The trust preferred securities guarantees will be governed by and construed in accordance with the internal laws of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico.

## **Table of Contents**

### **Relationship Among Trust Preferred Securities**

#### **Junior Subordinated Debt Securities And Guarantees**

As set forth in the applicable trust agreement, the sole purpose of a trust is to issue the trust securities and to invest the proceeds in junior subordinated debt securities.

As long as payments of interest and other payments are made when due on a series of junior subordinated debt securities, those payments will be sufficient to cover the distributions and payments due on the related trust securities. This is due to the following factors:

the aggregate principal amount of such junior subordinated debt securities will be equal to the sum of the aggregate stated liquidation amount of such trust securities;

the interest rate and the interest and other payment dates on such junior subordinated debt securities will match the distribution rate and distribution and other payment dates for such trust securities;

under the junior subordinated indenture, we will pay, and the applicable trust will not be obligated to pay, directly or indirectly, all costs, expenses, debts and obligations of such trust, other than those relating to such trust securities; and

the applicable trust agreement further provides that the trustees may not cause or permit the trust to engage in any activity that is not consistent with the purposes of the trust.

To the extent that funds are available, we guarantee payments of distributions and other payments due on trust preferred securities to the extent described in this prospectus. If we do not make interest payments on a series of junior subordinated debt securities, the related trust will not have sufficient funds to pay distributions on the trust preferred securities. A trust preferred securities guarantee is a subordinated guarantee in relation to the trust preferred securities. A trust preferred securities guarantee does not apply to any payment of distributions unless and until such trust has sufficient funds for the payment of such distributions. See Description of Guarantees.

We have the right to set off any payment that we are otherwise required to make under the junior subordinated indenture with any payment that we have previously made or are concurrently on the date of such payment making under a related guarantee.

A trust preferred securities guarantee covers the payment of distributions and other payments on the trust preferred securities of a trust only if and to the extent that we have made a payment of interest or principal or other payments on the junior subordinated debt securities. A trust preferred securities guarantee, when taken together with our obligations under the junior subordinated debt securities and the junior subordinated indenture and our obligations under the applicable trust agreement, will provide a full and unconditional guarantee of distributions, redemption payments and liquidation payments on the related trust preferred securities.

If we fail to make interest or other payments on the junior subordinated debt securities when due, taking account of any extension period, the applicable trust agreement allows the holders of the related trust preferred securities to direct the property trustee to enforce its rights under the junior subordinated debt securities. If the property trustee fails to enforce these rights, any holder of such trust preferred securities may directly sue us to enforce such rights without first suing the property trustee or any other person or entity. See Trust Preferred Securities Voting Rights; Amendment of the Trust Agreement.

A holder of trust preferred securities may institute a direct action if we fail to make interest or other payments on the junior subordinated debt securities when due, taking account of any extension period. A direct action may be brought without first:

directing the property trustee to enforce the terms of the junior subordinated debt securities, or



---

## **Table of Contents**

suing us to enforce the property trustee's rights under the junior subordinated debt securities. In connection with such direct action, we will be subrogated to the rights of such holder of trust preferred securities under the applicable trust agreement to the extent of any payment made by us to such holder of trust preferred securities. Consequently, we will be entitled to payment of amounts that a holder of trust preferred securities receives in respect of an unpaid distribution to the extent that such holder receives or has already received full payment relating to such unpaid distribution from such trust.

We acknowledge that the guarantee trustee will enforce the trust preferred securities guarantees on behalf of the holders of the trust preferred securities. If we fail to make payments under the trust preferred securities guarantee, the holders of the related trust preferred securities may direct the guarantee trustee to enforce its rights under such guarantee. If the guarantee trustee fails to enforce the trust preferred securities guarantee, any holder of trust preferred securities may directly sue us to enforce the guarantee trustee's rights under the trust preferred securities guarantee. Such holder need not first sue the trust, the guarantee trustee, or any other person or entity. A holder of trust preferred securities may also directly sue us to enforce such holder's right to receive payment under the trust preferred securities guarantees. Such holder need not first direct the guarantee trustee to enforce the terms of the trust preferred securities guarantee or sue such trust or any other person or entity.

We and each trust believe that the above mechanisms and obligations, taken together, are equivalent to a full and unconditional guarantee by us of payments due on the trust preferred securities. See Description of Guarantees General.

### **Limited Purpose of Trust**

Each trust's preferred securities evidence a beneficial interest in the assets such trust, and such trust exists for the sole purpose of issuing its trust preferred securities and common securities and investing the proceeds in junior subordinated debt securities issued by Popular or Popular North America, as applicable. A principal difference between the rights of a holder of a trust preferred security and a holder of a junior subordinated debt security is that a holder of a junior subordinated debt security is entitled to receive from us the principal amount of and interest accrued on such junior subordinated debt securities, while a holder of trust preferred securities is entitled to receive distributions from such trust, or from us under the related guarantee, if and to the extent such trust has funds available for the payment of such distributions.

### **Rights Upon Dissolution**

Upon any voluntary or involuntary dissolution, winding up or liquidation of a trust involving the liquidation of the junior subordinated debt securities, after satisfaction of liabilities to creditors of such trust, the holders of the trust preferred securities of such trust will be entitled to receive, out of the assets held by such trust, the liquidation distribution in cash. See Trust Preferred Securities Liquidation Distribution Upon Dissolution. Upon any voluntary or involuntary liquidation or bankruptcy of Popular or Popular North America, as applicable, the property trustee, as holder of the junior subordinated debt securities, would be a subordinated creditor of Popular or Popular North America, as applicable, subordinated in right of payment to all Senior Debt as set forth in the junior subordinated indenture, but entitled to receive payment in full of principal and interest before any of our stockholders receive distributions. Since we are the guarantor under the guarantee and have agreed to pay for all costs, expenses and liabilities of each trust, other than such trust's obligations to the holders of its trust preferred securities, the positions of a holder of such trust preferred securities and a holder of such junior subordinated debt securities relative to other creditors and to our stockholders in the event of liquidation or bankruptcy are expected to be substantially the same.

---

**Table of Contents**

**DESCRIPTION OF CAPITAL STOCK**

**Capital Stock**

Our authorized capital stock consists of 470,000,000 shares of common stock, par value \$6.00 per share, and 30,000,000 shares of preferred stock, without par value. The preferred stock is issuable in one or more series, with such terms, and at such times and for such consideration as our Board of Directors determines. As of March 31, 2006, there were issued and outstanding 7,475,000 shares of preferred stock and 278,072,323 shares of common stock. Shares of our common stock are traded on the National Association of Securities Dealers Automated Quotation System (NASDAQ) National Market System under the symbol BPOP .

The following description summarizes the material provisions of our common stock. It does not purport to be complete and is subject in all respects to the applicable provisions of the Puerto Rico General Corporations Law, our Composite Articles of Incorporation (the Certificate ), the Rights Agreement (defined below) and the Certificate of Designation describing the Series A Participating Cumulative Preferred Stock.

**Common Stock**

Subject to the rights of holders of any preferred stock outstanding, holders of our common stock are entitled to receive ratably such dividends, if any, as our Board of Directors may in its discretion declare out of legally available funds.

The holders of our common stock are entitled to one vote per share on all matters brought before the stockholders. The holders of our common stock do not have the right to cumulate their shares of our common stock in the election of directors. The Certificate provides that the approval of our merger, reorganization, or consolidation or the sale, lease or hypothecation of substantially all of our assets or the approval of our voluntary dissolution requires the vote of the holders of 75% of the total number of our outstanding shares of common stock.

In the event of our liquidation, holders of our common stock will be entitled to receive pro rata any assets distributable to stockholders with respect to the shares held by them, after payment of liabilities and such preferential amounts as may be required to be paid to the holders of our outstanding series of preferred stock and any preferred stock we hereafter issue.

The Certificate provides that the members of our Board of Directors are divided into three classes as nearly equal as possible. Each class is elected for a three-year term. At each annual meeting of stockholders, one-third of the members of our Board of Directors will be elected for a three-year term, and the other directors will remain in office until their three-year terms expire. Therefore, control of our Board of Directors cannot be changed in one year, and at least two annual meetings must be held before a majority of the members of our Board of Directors can be changed.

The Certificate provides that a director, or the entire Board of Directors, may be removed by the stockholders only for cause. The Certificate and our Bylaws also provide that the affirmative vote of the holders of at least two-thirds of the combined voting power of the outstanding capital stock entitled to vote generally for the election of directors is required to remove a director or the entire Board of Directors from office for cause. Certain portions of the Certificate described in certain of the preceding paragraphs, including those related to the classified Board of Directors, may be amended only by the affirmative vote of the holders of two-thirds of the total number of our outstanding shares of common stock.

Certain of the provisions contained in the Certificate have the effect of making it more difficult to change our Board of Directors, and may make our Board of Directors less responsive to stockholder control. These provisions also may tend to discourage attempts by third parties to acquire us because of the additional time and

---

## **Table of Contents**

expense involved and a greater possibility of failure, and, as a result, may adversely affect the price that a potential purchaser would be willing to pay for our capital stock, thereby reducing the amount a stockholder might realize in, for example, a tender offer for our capital stock.

Pursuant to the Certificate, holders of our common stock are entitled to preferential rights to subscribe for newly issued shares of our common stock on a pro rata basis unless, in approving the issuance of our common stock, or any transaction resulting in the issuance of any of our common stock, our Board of Directors unanimously resolves otherwise. The stockholders have no preference to subscribe therefor in the event of new issues of shares of stock which may be authorized pursuant to any dividend reinvestment and stock purchase plan or which may be authorized in order to exchange such new shares of stock for property which our Board of Directors may consider convenient or necessary for us to acquire, nor shall the stockholders have any right of preference therefor in the event of new issues of stock in payment of services rendered to us, or of shares of stock to be issued for sale to officers or employees, on the basis of options, as an incentive either to commence or to continue rendering services to us. There are no redemption or call provisions applicable to shares of our common stock.

The outstanding shares of our common stock are, and shares of our common stock offered hereby upon their due issuance, delivery and the receipt of payment therefor will be, validly issued, fully paid and nonassessable.

The Registrar and Transfer Agent for our common stock is Banco Popular de Puerto Rico.

### **Stockholder Protection Rights Agreement**

Pursuant to a Stockholder Protection Rights Agreement, dated as of August 13, 1998, holders of shares of our common stock outstanding at the close of business on August 28, 1998 received the right, or a Preferred Right, to purchase one one-hundredth of a share of our Series A Participating Cumulative Preferred Stock on the terms set forth in the Stockholder Protection Rights Agreement. There is one Preferred Right attached to each share of our common stock outstanding. In addition, as long as the Preferred Rights are attached to our common stock, one Preferred Right will be issued with each new share of our common stock issued. At the time the Preferred Rights become exercisable, separate certificates will be issued and the Preferred Rights could begin to trade separately from our common stock. Preferred Rights become exercisable (i) on the first date we announce that a person or group has acquired 10% or more of the shares of our common stock then outstanding, or (ii) on the close of business on the tenth business day after the commencement of a tender or exchange offer which, if consummated, would result in such person becoming the beneficial owner of 10% or more of our common stock. The Preferred Rights may be deemed to have an anti-takeover effect and generally may cause substantial dilution to a person or group that attempts to acquire us under circumstances not approved by our Board of Directors.

### **Preferred Stock**

Our Board of Directors is authorized to provide for the issuance of shares of preferred stock in one or more series, with such voting powers, full or limited but not to exceed one vote per share, or without voting powers, and with such designations, preferences and relative participating, optional or other special rights, and qualifications, limitations or restrictions thereof, as shall be expressed in the resolution or resolutions providing for the issuance thereof to be adopted by our Board of Directors, except as otherwise provided in the Certificate or any amendment thereto.

Our only outstanding class of preferred stock is our 6.375% noncumulative monthly income preferred stock, 2003 Series A. These shares of preferred stock are nonconvertible and are redeemable solely at our option beginning on March 31, 2008. The redemption price per share is \$25.50 from March 31, 2008 through March 30, 2009, \$25.25 from March 31, 2009 through March 30, 2010 and \$25.00 from March 31, 2010 and thereafter. Holders of shares of our 6.375% noncumulative monthly income preferred stock, 2003 Series A have the right to elect two directors to our Board of Directors if we do not pay dividends in full for 18 monthly dividend periods,

**Table of Contents**

whether or not consecutive. If we resume payment of dividends and pay dividends in full for 12 consecutive monthly dividend periods, the directors elected by holders of shares of our 6.375% noncumulative monthly income preferred stock, 2003 Series A are required to vacate office. The terms of our 6.375% noncumulative monthly income preferred stock, 2003 Series A do not permit us to declare or pay any dividends on our common stock (1) unless all accrued and unpaid dividends on our 6.375% noncumulative monthly income preferred stock, 2003 Series A for the 12 dividend periods ending on the immediately preceding dividend payment date have been paid and the full dividend on our 6.375% noncumulative monthly income preferred stock, 2003 Series A for the current monthly dividend period is contemporaneously declared and paid or set aside for payment or (2) if we have defaulted in the payment of the redemption price of any shares of our 6.375% noncumulative monthly income preferred stock, 2003 Series A called for redemption.

The issuance of shares of preferred stock could make it more difficult and more expensive for another person or entity to obtain control of us in a merger, tender offer, proxy fight or similar transaction. The ability of our Board of Directors to issue shares of preferred stock in such a situation could have the effect of discouraging a potential acquiror and may have an adverse effect on stockholders wishing to participate in a merger, tender offer or proxy fight. Our management is not aware of any person or entity currently seeking control of us.

**Table of Contents**

**USE OF PROCEEDS**

We intend to use the net proceeds from the sales of the securities as set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement.

**VALIDITY OF THE SECURITIES**

In connection with particular offerings of the securities in the future, and if stated in the applicable prospectus supplements, the validity of the securities may be passed upon for us by Brunilda Santos de Álvarez, our Executive Vice President and Chief Legal Officer, or by Sullivan & Cromwell LLP and for any underwriters or agents by counsel named in the applicable prospectus supplement.

**EXPERTS**

The financial statements and management's assessment of the effectiveness of the internal control over financial reporting (which is included in Management's Assessment of Internal Control over Financial Reporting) incorporated in this prospectus by reference to Popular Inc.'s Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2005 have been so incorporated in reliance on the report (which contains an adverse opinion on the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting related to the presentation and classification of certain cash flows in the statements of cash flows) of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP, an independent registered public accounting firm, given on the authority of said firm as experts in auditing and accounting.



---

Table of Contents

---

**\$275,000,000**

**Popular North America, Inc.**

**6.85% Senior Notes due 2012**

Fully and Unconditionally Guaranteed as to Payment of Principal and Interest by

---

**PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT**

December 21, 2007

---

**Popular Securities**

**UBS Financial Services Incorporated of Puerto Rico**

---