

# PIPER JAFFRAY COMPANIES AUDIT COMMITTEE CHARTER

As Amended by the Board of Directors  
on November 2, 2010

## I. PURPOSE

The Audit Committee (the “Committee”) is established pursuant to the Bylaws of Piper Jaffray Companies (the “Company”). The purpose of the Committee is to oversee (1) the independent auditor’s qualifications and independence, (2) the integrity of the Company’s financial statements, (3) the performance of the Company’s internal audit function and independent auditor and (4) the Company’s compliance with legal and regulatory requirements, and to prepare an audit committee report for inclusion in the Company’s proxy statement for its annual shareholders meeting.

## II. MEMBERSHIP

The Committee shall consist of three or more members of the Board appointed from time to time by the Board. All of the members of the Committee shall be non-employee directors who meet the independence and experience requirements of the New York Stock Exchange (“NYSE”), Section 10A(m)(3) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (the “Exchange Act”) and the rules and regulations of the Securities and Exchange Commission (the “SEC”). Each of the members of the Committee shall be financially literate or shall become so within a reasonable period of time after his or her appointment to the Committee. At least one member of the Committee shall be an “audit committee financial expert” as defined by SEC rules. The Committee Chairperson shall be appointed by the Board. The Committee may appoint a Secretary, who need not be a director. Committee members are subject to removal at any time by a majority of the Board. Any resulting vacancy may be filled by the Board.

## III. MEETINGS

The Committee shall meet as often as it determines, but not less frequently than quarterly. The Committee may request any officer or employee of the Company or external legal, accounting or other advisors to attend a meeting of the Committee or to meet with any members of, or consultants to, the Committee. In addition, the Committee shall have such other direct and independent interaction with management, the internal auditor and the independent auditor from time to time as the members of the Committee deem appropriate.

## IV. RESOURCES AND AUTHORITY

The Committee shall have the resources and authority appropriate to discharge its responsibilities, including the authority to use internal personnel and to obtain advice and assistance from internal or external legal, accounting, tax or other advisors and the funding to compensate any such external advisors. In addition, the Committee shall have sole authority to retain and terminate the independent auditor (subject to shareholder ratification, if such

ratification is required or sought) and to approve the fees and other retention terms related to the appointment of the independent auditor, who shall report directly to the Committee. It is the sense of the Committee that the Committee generally will recommend to the Board that the selection of the independent auditor be submitted to shareholders for ratification at the annual meeting of shareholders.

The Committee may delegate its authority to subcommittees established from time to time by the Committee, which subcommittees shall consist of one or more members of the Committee and shall report to the Committee; *provided, however*, that in the event the Committee delegates to a subcommittee its authority to pre-approve audit and permitted non-audit services, any determination by the subcommittee to grant such pre-approvals shall be presented to the full Committee at its next scheduled meeting.

## V. DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The Committee shall:

### Oversee the Relationship with the Independent Auditor

1. Appoint, determine the compensation and retention terms for, and oversee the work of any independent auditor engaged for the purpose of preparing or issuing an audit report or performing other audit, review or attest services for the Company.
2. Resolve disagreements between management and the independent auditor regarding financial reporting.
3. At least annually, obtain and review a report by the independent auditor describing (a) its internal quality-control procedures, (b) any material issues raised by the most recent internal quality-control review, or peer review, of the firm, or by any inquiry or investigation by governmental or professional authorities, within the preceding five years, respecting one or more independent audits carried out by the firm, and any steps taken to deal with any such issues, and (c) all relationships between the independent auditor and the Company, in order to assess the auditor's independence.
4. Annually receive written notice from the independent auditor required by applicable requirements of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board regarding the independent auditor's communications with the Committee concerning independence and discuss with the independent auditor its independence.
5. At least annually, evaluate the qualifications, performance and independence of the independent auditor, considering (a) whether the auditor's quality controls are adequate, (b) whether the provision of permitted non-audit services is compatible with maintaining the auditor's independence, and (c) the opinions of

the Company's management and its internal auditor. The Committee shall present its conclusions with respect to the independent auditor to the Board.

6. Review and evaluate the lead partner of the independent auditor team.
7. Ensure the regular rotation of the lead audit partner having primary responsibility for the audit and the audit partner responsible for reviewing the audit, as required by law.
8. Review the Company's hiring policies with respect to employees and former employees of the independent auditor who participated in any capacity in the audit of the Company to ensure such hiring policies do not compromise the independence of the independent auditor.
9. Confirm that none of the independent auditor's audit partners earn or receive compensation based on procuring engagements with the Company for providing products or services, other than audit review or attest services.
10. Meet with the independent auditor prior to the audit to discuss the planning and staffing of the audit.
11. Pre-approve all audit and permitted non-audit services (including the fees and terms thereof) to be performed for the Company by the independent auditor, subject to the de minimis exceptions for non-audit services described in Section 10A(i)(1)(B) of the Exchange Act that are approved by the Committee prior to the completion of the audit, considering whether the provision of any non-audit services is compatible with maintaining the independent auditor's independence.
12. Discuss with the independent auditor issues on which the national office was consulted by the Company's audit team and matters of audit quality and consistency.

#### Oversee the Integrity of the Company's Financial Statements and Disclosures

13. Meet to review and discuss with management and the independent auditor the Company's annual audited financial statements, including reviewing the Company's specific disclosures under "Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations," and recommend to the Board whether the annual audited financial statements should be included in the Company's Form 10-K.
14. Meet to review and discuss with management and the independent auditor the Company's quarterly financial statements, including reviewing the Company's specific disclosures under "Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations," prior to the filing of the Company's Form 10-Q.

15. Discuss with management and the independent auditor significant financial reporting issues and judgments made in connection with the preparation of the Company's financial statements, including any significant changes in the Company's selection or application of accounting principles.
16. Review and discuss with management and the independent auditor any major issues as to the adequacy of the Company's internal controls, any special steps adopted in light of material control deficiencies and the adequacy of disclosures about changes in internal control over financial reporting.
17. Review and discuss with management (including the senior internal audit executive) and the independent auditor the Company's internal controls report and the independent auditor's attestation of the report, prior to the filing of the Company's Form 10-K.
18. Review and discuss with the independent auditor (a) all critical accounting policies and practices to be used; (b) all alternative treatments of financial information within generally accepted accounting principles ("GAAP") that have been discussed with management, ramifications of the use of such alternative disclosures and treatments, and the treatment preferred by the independent auditor; and (c) other material written communications between the independent auditor and management, such as any management letter or schedule of unadjusted differences.
19. Discuss generally with management the types of information to be disclosed and the types of presentations to be made with respect to the Company's earnings press releases, including the use of "pro forma" or "adjusted" non-GAAP information, and any financial information and earnings guidance provided to analysts and rating agencies.
20. Discuss with management and the independent auditor the effect of regulatory and accounting initiatives, as well as off-balance sheet structures, on the Company's financial statements.
21. Review disclosures made to the Committee by the Company's chief executive officer and chief financial officer during their certification process for the Form 10-K and Forms 10-Q about any significant deficiencies in the design or operation of internal controls or material weaknesses therein and any fraud involving management or other employees who play a significant role in the Company's internal controls.
22. Discuss with the independent auditor the matters required to be discussed by Statement on Auditing Standards No. 61 relating to the conduct of the audit, and review with the independent auditor any difficulties encountered in the course of the audit work, including any restrictions on the scope of the independent auditor's activities or on its access to requested information, and

any significant disagreements with management, and management's response to such problems or difficulties.

#### Oversee the Company's Internal Audit Function

23. Review the appointment and replacement of the senior internal audit executive.
24. Review the significant reports to management prepared by the internal auditor and management's responses.
25. Discuss with the independent auditor and management the responsibilities, budget and staffing of the Company's internal audit function and the planned scope of the internal audit.

#### Oversee the Company's Compliance with Legal and Regulatory Requirements

26. Obtain from the independent auditor assurance that Section 10A(b) of the Exchange Act has not been implicated.
27. Annually review the responsibilities, budget and staffing of the Company's compliance department.
28. Review the Company's annual report to management regarding supervisory systems and procedures required by the NYSE.
29. Establish procedures for the receipt, retention and treatment of complaints regarding the Company's accounting, internal accounting controls or auditing matters, and the confidential, anonymous submission by Company employees of concerns regarding questionable accounting or auditing matters.
30. Discuss with management and the independent auditor any correspondence with regulators or governmental agencies and any published reports that raise material issues regarding the Company's financial statements or accounting policies.
31. Discuss with the Company's General Counsel legal matters that may have a material impact on the financial statements or the Company's compliance with legal or regulatory requirements.
32. Produce an annual report for inclusion in the Company's proxy statement for its annual shareholders meeting, in accordance with applicable rules and regulations.

### Other Duties and Responsibilities

33. Regularly discuss the Company's major risk exposures, the steps management has taken to monitor and control such exposures, and guidelines and policies to govern the Company's risk assessment and risk management processes.
34. Regularly meet with management (including the chief financial and accounting officers), the internal auditor and the independent auditor in separate executive sessions.
35. Annually review and reassess the adequacy of this Charter and recommend to the Board any proposed changes to this Charter.
36. Annually review and evaluate the Committee's own performance.
37. Report regularly to the Board on the Committee's activities, specifically including a review of any issues that arise with respect to the quality or integrity of the Company's financial statements, the Company's compliance with legal or regulatory requirements, the performance and independence of the Company's independent auditor, or the performance of the Company's internal audit function.

### **VI. LIMITATION OF COMMITTEE'S ROLE**

The Committee is not responsible for preparing financial statements, planning or conducting audits, or determining that the Company's financial statements and disclosures are complete and accurate and are in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles and applicable legal and other requirements. These are the responsibilities of management and the independent auditor.