

HUDSON HIGHLAND GROUP INC

Form S-3

December 09, 2009

Table of Contents

As filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on December 9, 2009

Registration No. 333-\_\_\_\_\_

**UNITED STATES**  
**SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION**

Washington, D.C. 20549

**FORM S-3**  
**REGISTRATION STATEMENT**

*Under*

*THE SECURITIES ACT OF 1933*

**HUDSON HIGHLAND GROUP, INC.**

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Delaware  
(State or other jurisdiction of

59-3547281  
(I.R.S. Employer

Edgar Filing: HUDSON HIGHLAND GROUP INC - Form S-3

incorporation or organization)

Identification No.)

560 Lexington Avenue

New York, New York 10022

(212) 351-7300

(Address, including zip code, and telephone number, including area code, of registrant's principal executive offices)

Latham Williams

Senior Vice President, Legal Affairs and Administration,

with a copy to:

Corporate Secretary

Hudson Highland Group, Inc.

Benjamin F. Garmer, III

560 Lexington Avenue

John K. Wilson

Foley & Lardner LLP

New York, New York 10022

777 East Wisconsin Avenue

Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53202

(212) 351-7300

(414) 271-2400

(Name, address, including zip code, and  
telephone number, including area code, of agent for service)

**Approximate date of commencement of proposed sale to the public:** From time to time after this registration statement becomes effective.

If the only securities being registered on this Form are being offered pursuant to dividend or interest reinvestment plans, please check the following box.

If any of the securities being registered on this Form are to be offered on a delayed or continuous basis pursuant to Rule 415 under the Securities Act of 1933, other than securities offered only in connection with dividend or interest reinvestment plans, please check the following box.

If this Form is filed to register additional securities for an offering pursuant to Rule 462(b) under the Securities Act, please check the following box and list the Securities Act registration statement number of the earlier effective registration statement for the same offering.

If this Form is a post-effective amendment filed pursuant to Rule 462(c) under the Securities Act, check the following box and list the Securities Act registration statement number of the earlier effective registration statement for the same offering.

If this Form is a registration statement pursuant to General Instruction I.D. filed to register additional securities or additional classes of securities pursuant to Rule 462(e) under the Securities Act, check the following box.

If this form is a post-effective amendment to a registration statement filed pursuant to General Instruction I.D. filed to register additional securities or additional classes of securities pursuant to Rule 413(b) under the Securities Act, check the following box.

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a large accelerated filer, an accelerated filer, a non-accelerated filer, or a smaller reporting company. See the definitions of large accelerated filer, accelerated filer and smaller reporting company in Rule 12b-2 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934. (Check one):

|                         |    |                           |    |
|-------------------------|----|---------------------------|----|
| Large accelerated filer | .. | Accelerated filer         | x  |
| Non-accelerated filer   | .. | Smaller reporting company | .. |

### CALCULATION OF REGISTRATION FEE

| Title of Each Class of<br>Securities to Be Registered                           | Proposed<br>Maximum<br>Aggregate<br>Offering Price(1)(2)(3) | Amount of<br>Registration Fee |
|---|---|-------------------------------|
| Debt Securities (4)   | (10)  |                               |
| Common Stock, \$.001 par value, and related Preferred Share Purchase Rights (5) | (10)  |                               |
| Preferred Stock, \$.001 par value (6)   | (10)  |                               |
| Warrants (7)  | (10)  |                               |
| Stock Purchase Contracts (8)  | (10)  |                               |
| Stock Purchase Units (9)  | (10)  |                               |
| Total   | \$30,000,000  | \$1,674.00                    |

- (1) In no event will the aggregate offering price of all securities issued from time to time pursuant to this registration statement exceed \$30,000,000 or the equivalent thereof in foreign currencies, foreign currency units or composite currencies. Such amount represents the principal amount of any debt securities issued at their stated principal amount, the offering price rather than the principal amount of any debt securities issued at an original issue discount, the offering price of any common stock and the offering price of any securities issued upon settlement of the stock purchase contracts or stock purchase units. The aggregate principal amount of the debt securities may be increased if any debt securities are issued at an original issue discount by an amount such that the offering price to be received by the registrant shall be equal to the above amount to be registered.
- (2) Estimated solely for the purpose of calculating the registration fee in accordance with Rule 457(o) under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended.
- (3) Subject to note (1) above, this registration statement also covers such indeterminate amount of securities as may be issued in exchange for, or upon conversion or exercise of, as the case may be, the debt securities, preferred stock or warrants registered hereunder and such indeterminate amount of securities as may be issued upon settlement of the stock purchase contracts or stock purchase units registered hereunder. Any securities registered hereunder may be sold separately or as units with other securities registered hereunder. No separate consideration will be received for any securities registered hereunder that are issued in exchange for, or upon conversion of, as the case may be, the debt securities, preferred stock or warrants.
- (4) Subject to note (1) above, there is being registered hereunder an indeterminate principal amount of debt securities. Any offering of debt securities denominated other than in U.S. dollars will be treated as the equivalent of U.S. dollars based on the exchange rate applicable to the purchase of such debt securities at the time of initial offering.
- (5) Subject to note (1) above, there is being registered hereunder an indeterminate number of shares of common stock and related rights to purchase shares of the registrant's series A junior participating preferred stock, which rights are attached to all shares of common stock. Until the occurrence of certain prescribed events, the rights are not exercisable, are evidenced by the certificates representing the common stock and are transferred with and only with the common stock. The value attributable to the rights, if any, is reflected in the value of the common stock and no separate consideration is to be received for the rights.
- (6) Subject to note (1) above, there is being registered hereunder an indeterminate number of shares of preferred stock.
- (7) Subject to note (1) above, there is being registered hereunder an indeterminate amount and number of warrants, representing rights to purchase debt securities, preferred stock or common stock.
- (8) Subject to note (1) above, there is being registered hereunder an indeterminate amount and number of stock purchase contracts, representing obligations to purchase common stock or other securities.
- (9) Subject to note (1) above, there is being registered hereunder an indeterminate amount and number of stock purchase units, consisting of stock purchase contracts together with debt securities, preferred stock, warrants or other securities or debt obligations of third parties securing the holders' obligations to purchase the securities under the stock purchase contracts.
- (10) Not specified as to each class of securities to be registered hereunder pursuant to General Instruction II.D. of Form S-3.

**The Registrant hereby amends this Registration Statement on such date or dates as may be necessary to delay its effective date until the Registrant shall file a further amendment which specifically states that this Registration Statement shall thereafter become effective in accordance with Section 8(a) of the Securities Act of 1933 or until this Registration Statement shall become effective on such date as the Commission, acting pursuant to said Section 8(a), may determine.**

**Table of Contents**

**The information in this prospectus is not complete and may be changed. We may not sell these securities until the registration statement filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission is effective. This prospectus is not an offer to sell these securities and it is not soliciting an offer to buy these securities in any state where this offer or sale is not permitted.**

**SUBJECT TO COMPLETION, DATED DECEMBER 9, 2009**

Prospectus

**Hudson Highland Group, Inc.**

**\$30,000,000 Aggregate Amount**

**Debt Securities**

**Common Stock**

**Preferred Stock**

**Warrants**

**Stock Purchase Contracts**

**Stock Purchase Units**

We may offer and sell from time to time up to an aggregate initial offering price of \$30,000,000 of our securities in one or more classes or series and in amounts, at prices and on terms that we will determine at the times of the offerings.

We will provide specific terms of the securities, including the offering prices, in one or more supplements to this prospectus or possibly other offering material. The supplements or other offering material may also add, update or change information contained in this prospectus. You should read this prospectus, any supplement and any other offering material relating to the specific issue of securities carefully before you invest.

Our common stock is listed on the Nasdaq Global Market under the symbol HHGP.

**An investment in our securities involves risk. Prior to making a decision about purchasing any securities, you should carefully consider the risks and uncertainties specifically set forth in the Risk Factors section in our Annual Report on Form 10-K and Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q and in any applicable prospectus supplement or other offering material or in such other document we refer you to in any prospectus supplement or other offering material.**

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

The date of this prospectus is \_\_\_\_\_, 2009.

**Table of Contents**

**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

|   | <b>Page</b> |
|---|-------------|
| <u>About This Prospectus</u>  | 2           |
| <u>Special Note Regarding Forward-Looking Statements</u>                | 3           |
| <u>Hudson Highland Group, Inc.</u>                                      | 3           |
| <u>Use of Proceeds</u>  | 4           |
| <u>Ratio of Earnings to Fixed Charges</u>                               | 4           |
| <u>Description of Debt Securities</u>                                   | 5           |
| <u>Description of Capital Stock</u>                                     | 14          |
| <u>Description of Warrants</u>  | 17          |
| <u>Description of Stock Purchase Contracts and Stock Purchase Units</u> | 18          |
| <u>Global Securities</u>  | 19          |
| <u>Plan of Distribution</u>   | 20          |
| <u>Where You Can Find More Information</u>                              | 22          |
| <u>Legal Matters</u>  | 22          |
| <u>Experts</u>  | 23          |

**ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS**

Unless otherwise indicated or unless the context requires otherwise, all references in this prospectus to Hudson , our company , we , our , us or similar references mean Hudson Highland Group, Inc.

This prospectus is part of a registration statement that we filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission, or SEC, utilizing a shelf registration process. Under this shelf registration process, we may, from time to time, sell the securities or combinations of the securities described in this prospectus in one or more offerings with a maximum aggregate offering price of up to \$30,000,000. This prospectus provides you with a general description of the securities that we may offer. Each time we offer securities, we will provide a prospectus supplement and/or other offering material that will contain specific information about the terms of that offering. The prospectus supplement and/or other offering material may also add, update or change information contained in this prospectus. You should read this prospectus, any prospectus supplement and any other offering material together with additional information described under the heading Where You Can Find More Information.

You should rely only on the information contained or incorporated by reference in this prospectus, in any prospectus supplement and in any other offering material. We 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 making offers to sell or solicitations to buy the securities in any jurisdiction in which an offer or solicitation is not authorized or in which the person making that offer or solicitation is not qualified to do so or to anyone to whom it is unlawful to make an offer or solicitation.

You should not assume that the information in this prospectus, any prospectus supplement or any other offering material, or the information we previously filed with the SEC that we incorporate by reference in this prospectus, any prospectus supplement and/or other offering material, is accurate as of any date other than its respective date. Our business, financial condition, results of operations and prospects may have changed since those dates.

**Table of Contents**

**SPECIAL NOTE REGARDING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS**

This prospectus, any supplement to this prospectus and/or other offering material and the information incorporated by reference in this prospectus, any prospectus supplement and/or other offering material may contain forward-looking statements within the meaning of Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. We intend these forward-looking statements to be covered by the safe harbor provisions for forward-looking statements in the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. Forward-looking statements include information concerning possible or assumed future risks and may be preceded by or include forward-looking words such as believes, expects, may, anticipates, or similar expressions. All statements other than statements of historical facts included in this prospectus or any supplement to this prospectus and/or other offering material, including those regarding our financial position, business strategy and plans and objectives of management for future operations, are forward-looking statements. We caution that these statements and any other forward-looking statements in this prospectus, any supplement to this prospectus and the information incorporated by reference in this prospectus or any prospectus supplement and/or other offering material only reflect our expectations and are not guarantees of performance. These statements involve risks, uncertainties and assumptions, including, among others, those we identify from time to time in materials that we file with the SEC that are incorporated by reference into this prospectus. Numerous important factors described in this prospectus, or any supplement to this prospectus and/or other offering material and the information incorporated by reference in this prospectus or any prospectus supplement and/or other offering material could affect these statements and could cause actual results to differ materially from our expectations. We undertake no obligation to update or revise publicly any forward-looking statements, whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise.

**HUDSON HIGHLAND GROUP, INC.**

We are one of the world's largest specialized professional staffing and talent management solutions providers. We provide professional staffing services on a permanent and contract consulting basis and a range of talent management services to businesses operating in many industries. We help our clients in recruiting and developing employees for professional level functional and managerial positions. We are organized into three reportable segments, Hudson Americas, Hudson Europe and Hudson Asia Pacific.

Our three regional businesses provide professional contract consultants and permanent recruitment services to a wide range of clients. With respect to temporary and contract personnel, we focus on providing candidates with specialized functional skills and competencies, such as accounting and finance, legal and information technology. The length of a contract assignment can vary, but engagements at the professional level tend to be longer than those in the general clerical or industrial sectors. With respect to permanent recruitment, we focus on mid-level professionals typically earning between \$50,000 and \$150,000 annually and possessing the professional skills and/or profile required by clients. We provide permanent recruitment services on both a retained and contingent basis. In larger markets, our sales strategy focuses on both clients operating in particular industry sectors, such as financial services, or technology, and candidates possessing particular professional skills, such as accounting and finance, information technology, legal and human resources. We use both traditional and interactive methods to select potential candidates for our clients, employing a suite of products that assesses talent and helps predict whether a candidate will be successful in a given role.

Our regional businesses also provide organizational effectiveness and development services through their talent management units. These services encompass candidate assessment, competency modeling, leadership development, performance management, and career transition. These services enable us to offer clients a comprehensive set of management services, across the entire employment life cycle from attracting, assessing and selecting best-fit employees to engaging and developing those individuals to help build a high-performance organization.

Our principal offices are located at 560 Lexington Avenue, New York, New York 10022, and our telephone number is (212) 351-7300.



**Table of Contents****USE OF PROCEEDS**

Unless otherwise indicated in the applicable prospectus supplement or other offering material, we expect to use the net proceeds from the sale of any securities offered by this prospectus for some or all of the following purposes:

repayment or refinancing of a portion of our existing short-term and long-term debt;

capital expenditures;

additional working capital;

acquisitions; and

other general corporate purposes.

Pending such uses, we anticipate that we will invest the net proceeds in interest-bearing instruments or other investment-grade securities or use the net proceeds to reduce our short-term debt.

**RATIO OF EARNINGS TO FIXED CHARGES**

The following table sets forth our ratio of consolidated earnings to fixed charges for the periods indicated:

|                                    | <b>Nine Months Ended</b> |             | <b>Year Ended December 31,</b> |             |             |             |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|--------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
|                                    | <b>September 30,</b>     | <b>2008</b> | <b>2007</b>                    | <b>2006</b> | <b>2005</b> | <b>2004</b> |
| Ratio of earnings to fixed charges | (a)                      | (a)         | 3.2                            | (a)         | (a)         | (a)         |

(a) The earnings for the nine months ended September 30, 2009 and the years ended December 31, 2008, 2006, 2005, and 2004 were inadequate to cover total fixed charges. The coverage deficiencies in earnings available for fixed charges for a one-to-one ratio for the nine months ended September 30, 2009 and the years ended December 31, 2008, 2006, 2005, and 2004 were (in thousands) \$40,257, \$66,415, \$5,900, \$12,486, and \$34,448 respectively.

For purposes of calculating the ratio of earnings to fixed charges, earnings (losses) represent income (loss) from continuing operations before provision for (benefit of) income taxes, cumulative effect of accounting changes and fixed charges; and fixed charges represent interest expenses and estimated interest portions of operating leases.

## **Table of Contents**

### **DESCRIPTION OF DEBT SECURITIES**

The following description of the terms of the debt securities sets forth general terms that may apply to the debt securities and provisions of the indentures that will govern the debt securities, and is not complete. We will describe the particular terms of any debt securities in the prospectus supplement and/or other offering material relating to those debt securities.

The debt securities will be either our senior debt securities or our subordinated debt securities. The senior debt securities will be issued under an indenture dated as of November 25, 2003, between us and The Bank of New York Mellon (formerly known as The Bank of New York), as trustee. We refer to this indenture as the senior indenture. The subordinated debt securities will be issued under an indenture dated as of November 25, 2003 between us and The Bank of New York Mellon (formerly known as The Bank of New York), as trustee. We refer to this indenture as the subordinated indenture and the senior indenture and the subordinated indenture together as the indentures.

The following is a summary of some provisions of the indentures. The following summary does not purport to be complete, and is subject to, and qualified in its entirety by reference to, all of the provisions of each indenture. Copies of the entire indentures are exhibits to the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part. See *Where You Can Find More Information*. We encourage you to read our indentures because the applicable indenture, and not this description, sets forth your rights as a holder of our debt securities. We will describe the particular terms of any debt securities in the prospectus supplement relating to those debt securities. Parenthetical section references under this heading are references to sections to each of the indentures unless we indicate otherwise.

#### **General Terms**

Neither indenture limits the amount of debt securities that we may issue. (Section 301). Each indenture provides that debt securities may be issued up to the principal amount authorized by us from time to time. The senior debt securities will be unsecured and will have the same rank as all of our other unsecured and unsubordinated debt. The subordinated debt securities will be unsecured and will be subordinated to all senior indebtedness as set forth below. None of our subsidiaries will have any obligations with respect to the debt securities. Therefore, our rights and the rights of our creditors, including holders of senior debt securities and subordinated debt securities, to participate in the assets of any subsidiary will be subject to the prior claims of the creditors of our subsidiaries.

We may issue the debt securities in one or more separate series of senior debt securities and/or subordinated debt securities. (Section 301). The prospectus supplement relating to the particular series of debt securities being offered will specify the particular amounts, prices and terms of those debt securities. These terms may include:

the title of the debt securities and the series in which the debt securities will be included;

the authorized denominations and aggregate principal amount of the debt securities;

the date or dates on which the principal and premium, if any, are payable;

the rate or rates per annum at which the debt securities will bear interest, if there is any interest, or the method or methods of calculating interest and the date from which interest will accrue;

the place or places where the principal of and any premium and interest on the debt securities will be payable;

the dates on which the interest will be payable and the corresponding record dates;

## Edgar Filing: HUDSON HIGHLAND GROUP INC - Form S-3

the period or periods within which, the price or prices at which, and the terms and conditions on which, the debt securities may be redeemed, in whole or in part, at our option;

any obligation to redeem, repay or purchase debt securities pursuant to any sinking fund or analogous provisions or at the option of a holder;

**Table of Contents**

the portion of the principal amount of the debt securities payable upon declaration of the acceleration of the maturity of the debt securities;

the person to whom any interest on any debt security will be payable if other than the person in whose name the debt security is registered on the applicable record date;

any events of default, covenants or warranties applicable to the debt securities;

if applicable, provisions related to the issuance of debt securities in book-entry form;

the currency, currencies or composite currency of denomination of the debt securities;

the currency, currencies or composite currencies in which payments on the debt securities will be payable and whether the holder may elect payment to be made in a different currency;

whether and under what conditions we will pay additional amounts to holders of the debt securities;

the terms and conditions of any conversion or exchange provisions in respect of the debt securities;

the terms pursuant to which our obligation under the indenture may be terminated through the deposit of money or government obligations;

whether the debt securities will be subordinated in right of payment to senior indebtedness and the terms of any such subordination; and

any other specific terms of the debt securities not inconsistent with the applicable indenture. (Section 301).

Unless otherwise specified in the applicable prospectus supplement, the debt securities will not be listed on any securities exchange.

Unless the applicable prospectus supplement specifies otherwise, we will issue the debt securities in fully registered form without coupons. If we issue debt securities of any series in bearer form, the applicable prospectus supplement will describe the special restrictions and considerations, including special offering restrictions and special federal income tax considerations, applicable to those debt securities and to payment on and transfer and exchange of those debt securities.

**U.S. Federal Income Tax Considerations**

We may issue the debt securities as original issue discount securities, bearing no interest or bearing interest at a rate, which, at the time of issuance, is below market rates, to be sold at a substantial discount below their principal amount. We will describe some special U.S. federal income tax and other considerations applicable to any debt securities that are issued as original issue discount securities in the applicable prospectus supplement. We encourage you to consult with your own competent tax and financial advisors on these important matters.

**Payment, Registration, Transfer and Exchange**

## Edgar Filing: HUDSON HIGHLAND GROUP INC - Form S-3

Subject to any applicable laws or regulations, we will make payments on the debt securities at a designated office or agency, unless the applicable prospectus supplement otherwise sets forth. At our option, however, we may also make interest payments on the debt securities in registered form:

by checks mailed to the persons entitled to interest payments at their registered addresses; or

by wire transfer to an account maintained by the person entitled to interest payments as specified in the security register.

## **Table of Contents**

Unless the applicable prospectus supplement otherwise indicates, we will pay any installment of interest on debt securities in registered form to the person in whose name the debt security is registered at the close of business on the regular record date for that installment of interest. (Section 307). If a holder wishes to receive a payment by wire transfer, the holder should provide the paying agent with written wire transfer instructions at least 15 days prior to the payment date.

Unless the applicable prospectus supplement otherwise sets forth, debt securities issued in registered form will be transferable or exchangeable at the agency we may designate from time to time. Debt securities may be transferred or exchanged without service charge, other than any tax or other governmental charge imposed in connection with the transfer or exchange. (Section 305).

### **Consolidation, Merger or Sale by the Company**

Each indenture generally permits a consolidation or merger between us and another U.S. corporation. It also permits the sale or transfer by us of all or substantially all of our property and assets and the purchase by us of all or substantially all of the property and assets of another corporation. These transactions are permitted if:

the resulting or acquiring corporation, if other than us, assumes all of our responsibilities and liabilities under the indenture, including the payment of all amounts due on the debt securities and performance of the covenants in the indenture; and

immediately after the transaction, no event of default exists. (Section 801).

Even though each indenture contains the provisions described above, we are not required by either indenture to comply with those provisions if we sell all of our property and assets to another U.S. corporation if, immediately after the sale, that corporation is one of our wholly-owned subsidiaries. (Section 801).

If we consolidate or merge with or into any other corporation or sell all or substantially all of our assets according to the terms and conditions of each indenture, the resulting or acquiring corporation will be substituted for us in the indentures with the same effect as if it had been an original party to the indentures. As a result, the successor corporation may exercise our rights and powers under each indenture, in our name or in its own name and we will be released from all our liabilities and obligations under each indenture and under the debt securities. (Section 801).

### **Events of Default, Notice and Certain Rights on Default**

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

failure to pay interest on any debt security of that series for 30 days after the payment is due;

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

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

failure to perform any other covenant in the applicable indenture that applies to 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 indenture;

default under any debt, including other series of debt securities, or under any mortgage, lien or other similar encumbrance, indenture or instrument, including the indentures, which secures any debt, and which results in acceleration of the maturity of an outstanding principal amount of debt greater than \$50 million, unless the acceleration is rescinded, or the debt is discharged, within 10 days after

## Edgar Filing: HUDSON HIGHLAND GROUP INC - Form S-3

we have received written notice of the default in the manner specified in the indenture;

certain events in bankruptcy, insolvency or reorganization; or

any other event of default that may be specified for the debt securities of that series when that series is created. (Section 502).  
If an event of default for any series of debt securities occurs and continues, the trustee or the holders of at least 25% in aggregate principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of the series may declare the entire principal of all

## **Table of Contents**

the debt securities of that series to be due and payable immediately. If a declaration occurs, the holders of a majority of the aggregate principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of that series can, subject to certain conditions, rescind the declaration. (Section 502).

The prospectus supplement relating to each series of debt securities which are original issue discount securities will describe the particular provisions that relate to the acceleration of maturity of a portion of the principal amount of that series when an event of default occurs and continues.

An event of default for a particular series of debt securities does not necessarily constitute an event of default for any other series of debt securities issued under either indenture.

Each indenture requires us to file an officers' certificate with the trustee each year that states that certain defaults do not exist under the terms of the indenture. The trustee will transmit by mail to the holders of debt securities of a series notice of any default.

Other than its duties in the case of a default, a trustee is not obligated to exercise any of its rights or powers under an indenture at the request, order or direction of any holders, unless the holders offer the trustee indemnification satisfactory to the trustee. (Section 603). If indemnification satisfactory to the trustee is provided, then, subject to certain other rights of the trustee, the holders of a majority in principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of any series may, with respect to the debt securities of that series, direct the time, method and place of:

conducting any proceeding for any remedy available to the trustee; or

exercising any trust or power conferred upon the trustee. (Section 512).

The holder of a debt security of any series will have the right to begin any proceeding with respect to the applicable indenture or for any remedy only if:

the holder has previously given the trustee written notice of a continuing event of default with respect to that series;

the holders of at least 25% in aggregate principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of that series have made a written request of, and offered reasonable indemnification to, the trustee to begin the proceeding;

the trustee has not started the proceeding within 60 days after receiving the request; and

the trustee has not received directions inconsistent with the request from the holders of a majority in aggregate principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of that series during those 60 days. (Section 507).

The holders of not less than a majority in aggregate principal amount of any series of debt securities, by notice to the trustee for that series, may waive, on behalf of the holders of all debt securities of that series, any past default or event of default with respect to that series and its consequences. (Section 513). A default or event of default in the payment of the principal of, or premium or interest on, any debt security and certain other defaults may not, however, be waived. (Sections 508 and 513).

## **Modification of the Indentures**

We, as well as the trustee for a series of debt securities, may enter into one or more supplemental indentures, without the consent of the holders of any of the debt securities, in order to:



Edgar Filing: HUDSON HIGHLAND GROUP INC - Form S-3

evidence the succession of another corporation to us and the assumption of our covenants by a successor;

add to our covenants or surrender any of our rights or powers;

add additional events of default for any series;

add, change or eliminate any provision affecting debt securities that are not yet issued;

**Table of Contents**

secure the debt securities;

establish the form or terms of debt securities not yet issued;

evidence and provide for successor trustees;

add, change or eliminate any provision affecting registration as to principal of debt securities;

permit the exchange of debt securities;

change or eliminate restrictions on payment in respect of debt securities;

change or eliminate provisions or add any other provisions that are required or desirable in accordance with any amendments to the Trust Indenture Act, on the condition that this action does not adversely affect the interests of any holder of debt securities of any series issued under the indenture in any material respect; or

cure any ambiguity or correct any mistake. (Section 901).

In addition, with the consent of the holders of not less than a majority in aggregate principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of all series affected by the supplemental indenture, we and the trustee may execute supplemental indentures adding any provisions to or changing or eliminating any of the provisions of the applicable indenture or any supplemental indenture or modifying the rights of the holders of debt securities of that series. No such supplemental indenture may, however, without the consent of the holder of each debt security that is affected:

change the time for payment of principal or interest on any debt security;

reduce the principal of, or any installment of principal of, or interest on, any debt security;

reduce the amount of premium, if any, payable upon the redemption of any debt security;

reduce the amount of principal payable upon acceleration of the maturity of an original issue discount debt security;

impair the right to institute suit for the enforcement of any payment on or for any debt security;

reduce the percentage in principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of any series the consent of whose holders is required for modification or amendment of the indenture or for waiver of compliance with certain provisions of the indenture or for waiver of certain defaults;

modify the provisions relating to waiver of some defaults or any of the foregoing provisions;

change the currency of payment;

adversely affect the right to repayment of debt securities of any series at the option of the holders of those debt securities; or

change the place of payment. (Section 902).

Any supplemental indenture will be filed with the SEC as an exhibit to:

a post-effective amendment to the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part;

an annual report on Form 10-K;

a quarterly report on Form 10-Q; or

a current report on Form 8-K.

## **Table of Contents**

### **Defeasance and Covenant Defeasance**

When we use the term defeasance, we mean discharge from some or all of our obligations under an indenture. If we deposit with the trustee sufficient cash or government obligations to pay the principal, interest, any premium and any mandatory sinking fund or analogous payments due to the stated maturity or a redemption date of the debt securities of a particular series, then at our option:

we will be discharged from our obligations for the debt securities of that series, the holders of the debt securities of the affected series will no longer be entitled to the benefits of the indenture, except for registration of transfer and exchange of debt securities and replacement of lost, stolen or mutilated debt securities, and those holders may look only to the deposited funds or obligations for payment, which is referred to as defeasance ; or

we will no longer be under any obligation to comply with certain covenants under the applicable indenture as it relates to that series, and some events of default will no longer apply to us, which is referred to as covenant defeasance. (Sections 403 and 1501).

Unless the applicable prospectus supplement specifies otherwise and except as described below, the conditions to both defeasance and covenant defeasance are as follows:

it must not result in a breach or violation of, or constitute a default or event of default under, the applicable indenture, or result in a breach or violation of, or constitute a default under, any other of our material agreements or instruments;

certain bankruptcy-related defaults or events of default with respect to us must not have occurred and be occurring during the period commencing on the date of the deposit of the trust funds to defease the debt securities and ending on the 91st day after that date;

we must deliver to the trustee an officer's certificate and an opinion of counsel addressing compliance with the conditions of the defeasance or covenant defeasance; and

we must comply with any additional conditions to the defeasance or covenant defeasance that the applicable indenture may impose on us. (Sections 403 and 1501).

In the event that government obligations deposited with the trustee for the defeasance of such debt securities decrease in value or default subsequent to their being deposited, we will have no further obligation, and the holders of the debt securities will have no additional recourse against us, for any decrease in value or default. If indicated in the prospectus supplement, in addition to obligations of the United States or an agency or instrumentality of the United States, government obligations may include obligations of the government or an agency or instrumentality of the government issuing the currency in which debt securities of such series are payable.

We may exercise our defeasance option for the debt securities even if we have already exercised our covenant defeasance option. If we exercise our defeasance option, payment of the debt securities may not be accelerated because of default or an event of default. If we exercise our covenant defeasance option, payment of the debt securities may not be accelerated because of default or an event of default with respect to the covenants to which the covenant defeasance is applicable. If, however, acceleration occurs, the realizable value at the acceleration date of the money and government obligations in the defeasance trust could be less than the principal and interest then due on the debt securities, because the required deposit in the defeasance trust is based on scheduled cash flow rather than market value, which will vary depending on interest rates and other factors.

### **Conversion and Exchange Rights**

The debt securities of any series may be convertible into or exchangeable for other securities of our company or another issuer or property or cash on the terms and subject to the conditions set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement. (Section 301).

**Governing Law**

The indentures and the debt securities will be governed by, and construed under, the laws of the State of New York without regard to conflicts of laws principles thereof.

**Regarding the Trustee**

We may from time to time maintain lines of credit, and have other customary banking relationships, with the trustee under the senior indenture or the trustee under the subordinated indenture.

## **Table of Contents**

The indentures and provisions of the Trust Indenture Act of 1939, which we refer to in this prospectus as the Trust Indenture Act, that are incorporated by reference therein, contain limitations on the rights of the trustee, should it become one of our creditors, to obtain payment of claims in certain cases or to realize on certain property received by it in respect of any such claim as security or otherwise. The trustee is permitted to engage in other transactions with us or any of our affiliates; provided, however, that if it acquires any conflicting interest (as defined under the Trust Indenture Act), it must eliminate such conflict or resign.

### **Additional Terms Applicable to Subordinated Debt Securities**

The subordinated debt securities will be unsecured. The subordinated debt securities will be subordinate to the prior payment in full in cash of all senior indebtedness.

The term `senior indebtedness` is defined as:

any of our indebtedness, whether outstanding on the issue date of the subordinated debt securities of a series or incurred later;

accrued and unpaid interest, including interest accruing on or after the filing of any petition in bankruptcy or for reorganization relating to us to the extent post-filing interest is allowed in such proceeding, in respect of:

our indebtedness for money borrowed; and

indebtedness evidenced by notes, debentures, bonds or other similar instruments for the payment of which we are responsible or liable;

contingent reimbursement obligations with respect to letters of credit issued or supported by our working capital lenders for our account; and

obligations, liabilities, fees and expenses that we owe to our working capital lenders; unless the instrument creating or evidencing these obligations provides that these obligations are not senior or prior in right of payment to the subordinated debt securities. Notwithstanding the foregoing, `senior indebtedness` will not include:

any of our obligations to our subsidiaries;

any liability for Federal, state, local or other taxes that we owe;

any accounts payable or other liability to trade creditors arising in the ordinary course of business, including guarantees of these obligations or instruments evidencing such liabilities;

any of our indebtedness, and any accrued and unpaid interest in respect of our indebtedness, that is subordinate or junior in any respect to any other of our indebtedness or other obligations; or

## Edgar Filing: HUDSON HIGHLAND GROUP INC - Form S-3

the subordinated debt securities. (Section 101 of the subordinated indenture).

There is no limitation on our ability to issue additional senior indebtedness. The senior debt securities constitute senior indebtedness under the subordinated indenture.

Under the subordinated indenture, no payment may be made on the subordinated debt securities and no purchase, redemption or retirement of any subordinated debt securities may be made in the event:

any senior indebtedness is not paid in full in cash when due; or

**Table of Contents**

the maturity of any senior indebtedness is accelerated as a result of a default, unless the default has been cured or waived and the acceleration has been rescinded or that senior indebtedness has been paid in full in cash.

We may, however, pay the subordinated debt securities without regard to the above restriction if the representatives of the holders of the applicable senior indebtedness approve the payment in writing to us and the trustee. (Section 1603 of the subordinated indenture).

The representatives of the holders of senior indebtedness may notify us and the trustee in writing (a payment blockage notice) of a default which can result in the acceleration of that senior indebtedness maturity without further notice, except such notice as may be required to effect such acceleration, or the expiration of any grace periods. In this event, we may not pay the subordinated debt securities for 179 days after receipt of that notice. The payment blockage period will end earlier if such payment blockage period is terminated:

by written notice to the trustee and us from the person or persons who gave such payment blockage notice;

because the default giving rise to such payment blockage notice is cured, waived or otherwise no longer continuing; or

because such senior debt has been discharged or repaid in full in cash.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, if the holders of senior indebtedness or their representatives have not accelerated the maturity of the senior indebtedness at the end of the 179-day period, we may resume payments on the subordinated debt securities. Not more than one payment blockage notice may be given in any consecutive 360-day period, irrespective of the number of defaults with respect to senior indebtedness during that period. No default existing on the beginning date of any payment blockage period initiated by a person or persons may be the basis of a subsequent payment blockage period with respect to the senior indebtedness held by that person unless that default has been cured or waived for a period of not fewer than 90 consecutive days.

If we pay or distribute our assets to creditors upon a total or partial liquidation, dissolution or reorganization of or similar proceeding relating to us or our property, then:

the holders of senior indebtedness will be entitled to receive payment in full in cash of the senior indebtedness before the holders of subordinated debt securities are entitled to receive any payment; and

until the senior indebtedness is paid in full in cash, any payment or distribution to which holders of subordinated debt securities would be entitled but for the subordination provisions of the subordinated indenture will be made to holders of the senior indebtedness, except that holders of subordinated debt securities may receive certain capital stock and subordinated debt. (Section 1602 of the subordinated indenture).

If a distribution is made to holders of subordinated debt securities that, due to the subordination provisions, should not have been made to them, those holders of subordinated debt securities are required to hold it in trust for the holders of senior indebtedness, and pay it over to them as their interests may appear. (Section 1605 of the subordinated indenture).

After all senior indebtedness is paid in full and until the subordinated debt securities are paid in full, holders of subordinated debt securities will be subrogated to the rights of holders of senior indebtedness to receive distributions applicable to such senior indebtedness. (Section 1606 of the subordinated indenture).

As a result of the subordination provisions contained in the subordinated indenture, in the event of insolvency, our creditors who are holders of senior indebtedness may recover more, ratably, than the holders of subordinated debt securities. In addition, our creditors who are not holders of senior indebtedness may recover less, ratably, than holders of senior indebtedness and may recover more, ratably, than the holders of subordinated indebtedness. Furthermore,



**Table of Contents**

claims of our subsidiaries creditors generally will have priority with respect to the assets and earnings of the subsidiaries over the claims of our creditors, including holders of the subordinated debt securities, even though those obligations may not constitute senior indebtedness. The subordinated debt securities, therefore, will be effectively subordinated to creditors, including trade creditors, of our subsidiaries. It is important to keep this in mind if you decide to hold our subordinated debt securities.

The terms of the subordination provisions described above will not apply to payments from money or the proceeds of government securities held in trust by the trustee for any series of subordinated debt securities for the payment of principal and interest on such subordinated debt securities pursuant to the defeasance procedures described under Defeasance and Covenant Defeasance.

---

**Table of Contents**

**DESCRIPTION OF CAPITAL STOCK**

The following description of our capital stock summarizes general terms and provisions that apply to our capital stock. Since this is only a summary, it does not contain all of the information that may be important to you. The summary is subject to and qualified in its entirety by reference to our certificate of incorporation, by-laws and rights agreement, which are filed as exhibits to the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part. See [Where You Can Find More Information](#).

**General**

Our certificate of incorporation provides us with the authority to issue 100,000,000 shares of common stock, \$.001 par value per share, and 10,000,000 shares of preferred stock, \$.001 par value per share. We will disclose in an applicable prospectus supplement the number of shares of our common stock then outstanding. As of the date of this prospectus, no shares of our preferred stock were outstanding.

**Common Stock**

Each share of our common stock is entitled to dividends if, as and when dividends are declared by our board of directors and paid. Under Delaware corporate law, we may declare and pay dividends only out of our surplus, or in case there is no such surplus, out of our net profits for the fiscal year in which the dividend is declared and/or the preceding year. We will pay any dividend so declared and payable in cash, capital stock or other property equally, share for share, on our common stock. We may not declare dividends, however, if our capital has been diminished by depreciation, losses or otherwise to an amount less than the aggregate amount of capital represented by any issued and outstanding stock having a preference on distribution. In addition, the terms of our credit facility prohibit us from paying any dividends.

Each share of our common stock is entitled to one vote on all matters. No holder of our common stock has preemptive or other rights to subscribe for additional shares of our common stock. In the event of our liquidation, dissolution or winding up, holders of the shares of our common stock are entitled to share equally, share for share, in the assets available for distribution, subject to any liquidation preference on any outstanding shares of our preferred stock.

**Preferred Stock**

We may issue our preferred stock from time to time in one or more series as determined by our board of directors. Our board of directors is authorized to issue the shares of our preferred stock in one or more series and to fix the rights, preferences, privileges and restrictions thereof, including dividend rights, dividend rates, conversion rights, voting rights, terms of redemption, redemption prices, liquidation preferences and the number of shares constituting any series or the designation of such series, without further vote or action by the stockholders.

Our board of directors has designated 1,000,000 shares of our preferred stock as Series A Junior Participating Preferred Stock in connection with the adoption of our stockholder rights plan, as described below. Each holder of Series A preferred shares will be entitled to a minimum preferential quarterly dividend payment of \$1.00 per share, but will be entitled to an aggregate dividend of 100 times the dividend declared per share of our common stock. In the event of liquidation, the holders of the Series A preferred shares will be entitled to a minimum preferential liquidation payment of \$100 per share, but will be entitled to an aggregate payment of 100 times the payment made per share of our common stock. Each Series A preferred share will have 100 votes, voting together with shares of our common stock. In the event of any merger, consolidation or other transaction in which shares of our common stock are exchanged, each Series A preferred share will be entitled to receive 100 times the amount received per share of our common stock. As of the date of this prospectus, no shares of our Series A Junior Participating Preferred Stock were outstanding.

If we offer preferred stock, we will file the terms of the preferred stock with the SEC and the prospectus supplement and/or other offering material relating to that offering will include a description of the specific terms of the offering, including the following specific terms:

the series, the number of shares offered and the liquidation value of the preferred stock;

**Table of Contents**

the price at which the preferred stock will be issued;

the dividend rate, the dates on which the dividends will be payable and other terms relating to the payment of dividends on the preferred stock;

the liquidation preference of the preferred stock;

the voting rights of the preferred stock;

whether the preferred stock is redeemable or subject to a sinking fund, and the terms of any such redemption or sinking fund;

whether the preferred stock is convertible or exchangeable for any other securities, and the terms of any such conversion; and

any additional rights, preferences, qualifications, limitations and restrictions of the preferred stock.

It is not possible to state the actual effect of the issuance of any shares of preferred stock upon the rights of holders of our common stock until the board of directors determines the specific rights of the holders of the preferred stock. However, these effects might include:

restricting dividends on the common stock;

diluting the voting power of the common stock;

impairing the liquidation rights of the common stock; and

delaying or preventing a change in control of our company.

**Preferred Share Purchase Rights**

We have entered into a rights agreement pursuant to which each share of our common stock outstanding on February 28, 2005 received a dividend of a right to purchase from us one one-hundredth of a share of our Series A Junior Participating Preferred Stock. Each share of our common stock subsequently issued by us prior to the expiration of the rights agreement will likewise have attached one right. Unless the context requires otherwise, all references in this prospectus to our common stock include the accompanying rights.

Currently, the rights are not exercisable and trade with our common stock. If the rights become exercisable, then each full right, unless held by a person or group that beneficially owns more than 15% of our outstanding common stock, will initially entitle the holder to purchase one one-hundredth of a Series A preferred share at a purchase price of \$60 per one one-hundredth of a Series A preferred share, subject to adjustment. The rights will become exercisable only if a person or group has acquired, or announced an intention to acquire, 15% or more of our outstanding common stock. Under some circumstances, including the existence of a 15% acquiring party, each holder of a right, other than the acquiring party, will be entitled to purchase at the right's then-current exercise price, shares of our common stock having a market value of two times the exercise price. If another corporation acquires our company after a party acquires 15% or more of our common stock, then each holder of a right will be entitled to receive the acquiring corporation's common shares having a market value of two times the exercise price.

The rights may be redeemed at a price of \$.001 until a party acquires 15% or more of our common stock and, after that time, may be exchanged until a party acquires 50% or more of our common stock at a ratio of one share of common stock, or one one-hundredth of a Series A preferred

## Edgar Filing: HUDSON HIGHLAND GROUP INC - Form S-3

share, per right, subject to adjustment. Series A preferred shares purchased upon the exercise of rights will not be redeemable. The rights expire on February 23, 2015, subject to extension. Under the rights agreement, our board of directors may reduce the thresholds applicable to the rights from 15% to not less than 10%. The rights do not have voting or dividend rights and, until they become exercisable, have no dilutive effect on our earnings.

The rights have certain anti-takeover effects, in that they could have the effect of delaying, deferring or preventing a change of control of our company by causing substantial dilution to a person or group that attempts to acquire a significant interest in our company on terms not approved by our board of directors.

## **Table of Contents**

### **Delaware Anti-Takeover Law and Charter and By-law Provisions**

We are subject to the provisions of Section 203 of the Delaware General Corporation Law. In general, the statute prohibits a publicly held Delaware corporation from engaging in a business combination with an interested stockholder for a period of three years after the date of the transaction in which the person became an interested stockholder, unless the business combination or the transaction by which the person became an interested stockholder is approved by the corporation's board of directors and/or stockholders in a prescribed manner or the person owns at least 85% of the corporation's outstanding voting stock after giving effect to the transaction in which the person became an interested stockholder. The term business combination includes mergers, asset sales and other transactions resulting in a financial benefit to the interested stockholder. Subject to certain exceptions, an interested stockholder is a person who, together with affiliates and associates, owns, or within three years did own, 15% or more of the corporation's voting stock. A Delaware corporation may opt out from the application of Section 203 through a provision in its certificate of incorporation or by-laws. We have not opted out from the application of Section 203.

Our certificate of incorporation and by-laws divide our board of directors into three equal classes with staggered terms. In addition, our certificate of incorporation and by-laws provide that directors may only be removed by stockholders for cause and only upon the affirmative vote of the holders of at least 70% of the voting power of our outstanding capital stock.

Further, our by-laws provide that stockholders may nominate candidates for election to the board of directors or bring other business before a meeting of stockholders only by complying with advance notice provisions described in the by-laws and that special meetings of stockholders may not be called by stockholders. In addition, our certificate of incorporation and by-laws provide that any action to be taken by our stockholders must be effected at a duly called annual or special meeting of stockholders.

The foregoing provisions of Section 203 of the Delaware General Corporation Law and the provisions of our certificate of incorporation and by-laws could have the effect of delaying, deferring or preventing a change of control of our company.

### **Liability and Indemnification of Officers and Directors**

Our certificate of incorporation provides that our directors will not be personally liable to us or our stockholders for monetary damages for breach of fiduciary duty as a director, except for liability (1) for any breach of a director's duty of loyalty to us or our stockholders, (2) for acts or omissions not in good faith or which involve intentional misconduct or a knowing violation of law, (3) under Section 174 of the Delaware General Corporation Law, or (4) for any transaction from which the director derives an improper personal benefit. Moreover, the provisions do not apply to claims against a director for violations of certain laws, including federal securities laws. If the Delaware General Corporation Law is amended to authorize the further elimination or limitation of directors' liability, then the liability of our directors will automatically be limited to the fullest extent provided by law. Our certificate of incorporation and by-laws also contain provisions to indemnify our directors and officers to the fullest extent permitted by the Delaware General Corporation Law. In addition, we may enter into indemnification agreements with our directors and officers. These provisions and agreements may have the practical effect in certain cases of eliminating the ability of stockholders to collect monetary damages from our directors and officers. We believe that these contractual agreements and the provisions in our certificate of incorporation and by-laws are necessary to attract and retain qualified persons as directors and officers.

### **Transfer Agent and Registrar**

The transfer agent and registrar for our common stock is BNY Mellon Shareowner Services.

**Table of Contents**

**DESCRIPTION OF WARRANTS**

We may issue warrants for the purchase of debt securities, preferred stock, common stock or other securities. Warrants may be issued independently or together with debt securities, preferred stock or common stock offered by any prospectus supplement and/or other offering material and may be attached to or separate from any such offered securities. Each series of warrants will be issued under a separate warrant agreement to be entered into between us and a bank or trust company, as warrant agent, all as will be set forth in the prospectus supplement and/or other offering material relating to the particular issue of warrants. The warrant agent will act solely as our agent in connection with the warrants and will not assume any obligation or relationship of agency or trust for or with any holders of warrants or beneficial owners of warrants.

The following summary of certain provisions of the warrants does not purport to be complete and is subject to, and is qualified in its entirety by reference to, all provisions of the warrant agreements.

Reference is made to the prospectus supplement and/or other offering material relating to the particular issue of warrants offered pursuant to such prospectus supplement and/or other offering material for the terms of and information relating to such warrants, including, where applicable:

the designation, aggregate principal amount, currencies, denominations and terms of the series of debt securities purchasable upon exercise of warrants to purchase debt securities and the price at which such debt securities may be purchased upon such exercise;

the number of shares of common stock purchasable upon the exercise of warrants to purchase common stock and the price at which such number of shares of common stock may be purchased upon such exercise;

the number of shares and series of preferred stock purchasable upon the exercise of warrants to purchase preferred stock and the price at which such number of shares of such series of preferred stock may be purchased upon such exercise;

the designation and number of units of other securities purchasable upon the exercise of warrants to purchase other securities and the price at which such number of units of such other securities may be purchased upon such exercise;

the date on which the right to exercise such warrants shall commence and the date on which such right shall expire;

United States federal income tax consequences applicable to such warrants;

the amount of warrants outstanding as of the most recent practicable date; and

any other terms of such warrants.

Warrants will be issued in registered form only. The exercise price for warrants will be subject to adjustment in accordance with the applicable prospectus supplement and/or other offering material.

Each warrant will entitle the holder thereof to purchase such principal amount of debt securities or such number of shares of preferred stock, common stock or other securities at such exercise price as shall in each case be set forth in, or calculable from, the prospectus supplement and/or other offering material relating to the warrants, which exercise price may be subject to adjustment upon the occurrence of certain events as set forth in such prospectus supplement and/or other offering material. After the close of business on the expiration date, or such later date to which such expiration date may be extended by us, unexercised warrants will become void. The place or places where, and the manner in which, warrants may be exercised shall be specified in the prospectus supplement and/or other offering material relating to such warrants.

## Edgar Filing: HUDSON HIGHLAND GROUP INC - Form S-3

Prior to the exercise of any warrants to purchase debt securities, preferred stock, common stock or other securities, holders of such warrants will not have any of the rights of holders of debt securities, preferred stock, common stock or other securities, as the case may be, purchasable upon such exercise, including the right to receive payments of principal of, premium, if any, or interest, if any, on the debt securities purchasable upon such exercise or to enforce covenants in the applicable Indenture, or to receive payments of dividends, if any, on the preferred stock, or common stock purchasable upon such exercise, or to exercise any applicable right to vote.

**Table of Contents**

**DESCRIPTION OF STOCK PURCHASE CONTRACTS AND STOCK PURCHASE UNITS**

We may issue stock purchase contracts, including contracts obligating holders to purchase from us, and obligating us to sell to the holders, a specified number of shares of common stock or other securities at a future date or dates, which we refer to in this prospectus as stock purchase contracts. The price per share of the securities and the number of shares of the securities may be fixed at the time the stock purchase contracts are issued or may be determined by reference to a specific formula set forth in the stock purchase contracts. The stock purchase contracts may be issued separately or as part of units consisting of a stock purchase contract and debt securities, preferred stock, warrants or other securities or debt obligations of third parties, including U.S. treasury securities, securing the holders' obligations to purchase the securities under the stock purchase contracts, which we refer to herein as stock purchase units. The stock purchase contracts may require holders to secure their obligations under the stock purchase contracts in a specified manner. The stock purchase contracts also may require us to make periodic payments to the holders of the stock purchase units or vice versa, and those payments may be unsecured or refunded on some basis.

The stock purchase contracts, and, if applicable, collateral or depositary arrangements, relating to the stock purchase contracts or stock purchase units, will be filed with the SEC in connection with the offering of stock purchase contracts or stock purchase units. The prospectus supplement and/or other offering material relating to a particular issue of stock purchase contracts or stock purchase units will describe the terms of those stock purchase contracts or stock purchase units, including the following:

if applicable, a discussion of material United States Federal income tax considerations; and

any other information we think is important about the stock purchase contracts or the stock purchase units.



---

**Table of Contents**

**GLOBAL SECURITIES**

We may issue the securities in whole or in part in the form of one or more global certificates or notes, which we refer to as global securities, that we will deposit with a depository or its nominee that we identify in the applicable prospectus supplement.

We will describe the specific terms of the depository arrangement covering the securities in the prospectus supplement and/or other offering material relating to that series. We anticipate that the following provisions will apply to all depository arrangements.

Upon the issuance of the securities in the form of one or more global securities, the depository or its custodian will credit, on its book-entry registration and transfer system, the number of shares or principal amount of securities of the individual beneficial interests represented by these global securities to the respective accounts of persons who have accounts with the depository. Ownership of beneficial interests in the global securities will be shown on, and the transfer of this ownership will be effected only through, records maintained by the depository or its nominee with respect to interests of participants and the records of participants with respect to interests of persons other than participants. These accounts initially will be designated by or on behalf of the underwriters, initial purchasers or agents, or by us if we offer and sell the securities directly, and ownership of beneficial interests in the global securities will be limited to participants or persons who hold interests through participants. Qualified institutional buyers may hold their interests in the global securities directly through the depository if they are participants in this system, or indirectly through organizations which are participants in this system. The laws of some states of the United States may require that some purchasers of securities take physical delivery of the securities in definitive registered form. These limits and the laws may impair your ability to own, transfer or pledge interests in the global securities.

So long as the depository, or its nominee, is the registered owner or holder of the securities, the depository or its nominee, as the case may be, will be considered the sole owner or holder of the securities represented by the global securities for all purposes. No beneficial owner of an interest in the global securities will be able to transfer that interest except in accordance with the depository's procedures.

We will make dividend payments on, or payments of the principal of, and premium, if any, and interest on, the global securities to the depository or its nominee, as the case may be, as the registered owner of the global securities. We will not have any responsibility or liability for any aspect of the records relating to or payments made on account of beneficial ownership interests in the global securities or for maintaining, supervising or reviewing any records relating to the beneficial ownership interest.

We expect that the depository or its nominee, upon receipt of any dividend payment on, or payment of the principal of, and premium, if any, and interest on, the global securities, will credit participants' accounts with payments in amounts proportionate to their respective beneficial interests in the securities as shown on the records of the depository or its nominee. We also expect that payments by participants to owners of beneficial interests in the global securities held through the participants will be governed by standing instructions and customary practice, as is now the case with securities held for the accounts of customers registered in the names of nominees for their customers. These payments will be the responsibility of the participants. Transfers between participants in the depository will be effected in the ordinary way through the depository's settlement system in accordance with the depository rules and will be settled in same day funds.

We will issue securities in certificated form in exchange for global securities (subject, in the case of the third bullet point, to the procedures of the depository) if:

the depository notifies us that it is unwilling or unable to continue as a depository for the global securities or ceases to be a clearing agency registered under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and a successor depository is not appointed by us within 90 days of the notice;

an event of default under the instrument governing the securities has occurred and is continuing; or

we determine that the securities will no longer be represented by global securities.

**Table of Contents**

**PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION**

We may sell our securities in any one or more of the following ways from time to time: (1) through agents; (2) to or through underwriters; (3) through brokers or dealers; (4) directly by us to purchasers, including through a specific bidding, auction or other process; or (5) through a combination of any of these methods of sale. The applicable prospectus supplement and/or other offering materials will contain the terms of the transaction, name or names of any underwriters, dealers, agents and the respective amounts of securities underwritten or purchased by them, the initial public offering price of the securities, and the applicable agent's commission, dealer's purchase price or underwriter's discount. Any dealers and agents participating in the distribution of the securities may be deemed to be underwriters, and compensation received by them on resale of the securities may be deemed to be underwriting discounts.

Any initial offering price, dealer purchase price, discount or commission may be changed from time to time.

The securities may be distributed from time to time in one or more transactions, at negotiated prices, at a fixed price or fixed prices (that may be subject to change), at market prices prevailing at the time of sale, at various prices determined at the time of sale or at prices related to prevailing market prices.

Offers to purchase securities may be solicited directly by us or by agents designated by us from time to time. Any such agent may be deemed to be an underwriter, as that term is defined in the Securities Act of 1933, of the securities so offered and sold.

If underwriters are utilized in the sale of any securities in respect of which this prospectus is being delivered, such securities will be acquired by the underwriters for their own account and may be resold from time to time in one or more transactions, including negotiated transactions, at fixed public offering prices or at varying prices determined by the underwriters at the time of sale. Securities may be offered to the public either through underwriting syndicates represented by managing underwriters or directly by one or more underwriters. If any underwriter or underwriters are utilized in the sale of securities, unless otherwise indicated in the applicable prospectus supplement and/or other offering material, the obligations of the underwriters are subject to certain conditions precedent, and the underwriters will be obligated to purchase all such securities if they purchase any of them.

If a dealer is utilized in the sale of the securities in respect of which this prospectus is delivered, we will sell such securities as principal. The dealer may then resell such securities to the public at varying prices to be determined by such dealer at the time of resale. Transactions through brokers or dealers may include block trades in which brokers or dealers will attempt to sell shares as agent but may position and resell as principal to facilitate the transaction or in cross trades, in which the same broker or dealer acts as agent on both sides of the trade. Any such dealer may be deemed to be an underwriter, as such term is defined in the Securities Act of 1933, of the securities so offered and sold.

Offers to purchase securities may be solicited directly by us and the sale thereof may be made by us directly to institutional investors or others, who may be deemed to be underwriters within the meaning of the Securities Act of 1933 with respect to any resale thereof.

Agents, underwriters and dealers may be entitled under relevant agreements with us to indemnification by us against certain liabilities, including liabilities under the Securities Act of 1933, or to contribution with respect to payments which such agents, underwriters and dealers may be required to make in respect thereof. The terms and conditions of any indemnification or contribution will be described in the applicable prospectus supplement and/or other offering material.

We may also sell shares of our common stock through various arrangements involving mandatorily or optionally exchangeable securities, and this prospectus may be delivered in connection with those sales.

We may enter into derivative, sale or forward sale transactions with third parties, or sell securities not covered by this prospectus to third parties in privately negotiated transactions. If the applicable prospectus supplement and/or other offering material indicates, in connection with those transactions, the third parties may sell securities covered by this prospectus and the applicable prospectus supplement and/or other offering material, including in short sale transactions and by issuing securities not covered by this prospectus but convertible into, exchangeable for or representing beneficial interests in securities covered by this prospectus, or the return of which is derived in whole or in part from the value of such securities. The third parties may use securities received under derivative, sale or forward

**Table of Contents**

sale transactions or securities pledged by us or borrowed from us or others to settle those sales or to close out any related open borrowings of stock, and may use securities received from us in settlement of those transactions to close out any related open borrowings of stock. The third party in such sale transactions will be an underwriter and will be identified in the applicable prospectus supplement (or a post-effective amendment) and/or other offering material.

Underwriters, broker-dealers or agents may receive compensation in the form of commissions, discounts or concessions from us. Underwriters, broker-dealers or agents may also receive compensation from the purchasers of shares for whom they act as agents or to whom they sell as principals, or both. Compensation as to a particular underwriter, broker-dealer or agent will be in amounts to be negotiated in connection with transactions involving shares and might be in excess of customary commissions. In effecting sales, broker-dealers engaged by us may arrange for other broker-dealers to participate in the resales.

Any securities offered other than common stock will be a new issue and, other than the common stock, which is listed on the Nasdaq National Market, will have no established trading market. We may elect to list any series of securities on an exchange, and in the case of the common stock, on any additional exchange, but, unless otherwise specified in the applicable prospectus supplement and/or other offering material, we shall not be obligated to do so. No assurance can be given as to the liquidity of the trading market for any of the securities.

Agents, underwriters and dealers may engage in transactions with, or perform services for, us or our subsidiaries in the ordinary course of business.

Any underwriter may engage in overallotment, stabilizing transactions, short covering transactions and penalty bids in accordance with Regulation M under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934. Overallotment involves sales in excess of the offering size, which create a short position. Stabilizing transactions permit bids to purchase the underlying security so long as the stabilizing bids do not exceed a specified maximum. Short covering transactions involve purchases of the securities in the open market after the distribution is completed to cover short positions. Penalty bids permit the underwriters to reclaim a selling concession from a dealer when the securities originally sold by the dealer are purchased in a covering transaction to cover short positions. Those activities may cause the price of the securities to be higher than it would otherwise be. If commenced, the underwriters may discontinue any of the activities at any time. An underwriter may carry out these transactions on a national securities exchange, in the over-the-counter market or otherwise.

The place and time of delivery for securities will be set forth in the accompanying prospectus supplement and/or other offering material for such securities.

**Table of Contents**

**WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION**

We file annual, quarterly and current reports, proxy statements and other information with the SEC. We also filed a registration statement on Form S-3, including exhibits, under the Securities Act of 1933 with respect to the securities offered by this prospectus. This prospectus is a part of the registration statement, but does not contain all of the information included in the registration statement or the exhibits. You may read and copy the registration statement and any other document that we file at the SEC's public reference room at 100 F Street N.E., Washington D.C., 20549. You can call the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330 for further information on the operation of the public reference room. You can also find our public filings with the SEC on the internet at a web site maintained by the SEC located at <http://www.sec.gov>.

We are incorporating by reference specified documents that we file with the SEC, which means:

incorporated documents are considered part of this prospectus;

we are disclosing important information to you by referring you to those documents; and

information we file with the SEC will automatically update and supersede information contained in this prospectus.

We incorporate by reference the documents listed below:

our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2008 (filed with the SEC on March 3, 2009 and as updated by our Current Report on Form 8-K filed with the SEC on December 9, 2009, as referred to below);

our Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarters ended March 31, 2009, June 30, 2009 and September 30, 2009;

our Current Reports on Form 8-K, dated February 9, 2009, February 10, 2009, May 12, 2009, May 13, 2009, and December 9, 2009; and

the description of our common stock contained in our Registration Statement on Form 10, dated March 14, 2003, and any amendment or report updating that description;

the description of our preferred share purchase rights contained in our Registration Statement on Form 8-A, dated February 3, 2005, and any amendment or report updating that description; and

any future filings we make with the SEC under Sections 13(a), 13(c), 14 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (i) after the date of the registration statement on Form S-3 filed under the Securities Act of 1933 with respect to securities offered by this prospectus and prior to the effectiveness of such registration statement and (ii) after the date of this prospectus and before the end of the offering of the securities pursuant to this prospectus.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, information furnished under Items 2.02 and 7.01 of any Current Report on Form 8-K, including the related exhibits under Item 9.01, is not incorporated by reference in this prospectus.

You may request a copy of any of these filings, at no cost, by request directed to us at the following address or telephone number:

Hudson Highland Group, Inc.

Edgar Filing: HUDSON HIGHLAND GROUP INC - Form S-3

560 Lexington Avenue, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor

New York, New York 10022

(212) 351-7300

Attention: Corporate Secretary

**LEGAL MATTERS**

The validity of the securities offered by this prospectus will be passed upon for us by Foley & Lardner LLP.

**Table of Contents**

**EXPERTS**

The consolidated financial statements as of and for the year ended December 31, 2008 incorporated in this prospectus by reference to our Current Report on Form 8-K dated December 9, 2009 and management's assessment of the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting, which is included in management's report on internal control over financial reporting, incorporated in this prospectus by reference to our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2008, have been so incorporated by reference herein, in reliance upon the reports of KPMG LLP, independent registered public accounting firm, which are also incorporated by reference herein, and upon the authority of said firm as experts in auditing and accounting.

The consolidated financial statements as of and for the year ended December 31, 2007 and for the year ended December 31, 2006 incorporated in this prospectus by reference to our Current Report on Form 8-K dated December 9, 2009 and Schedule II Valuation and Quality Accounts and Reserves for the fiscal years ended December 31, 2007 and 2006 incorporated in this prospectus by reference to our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2008, have been so incorporated in reliance on the reports of BDO Seidman, LLP, an independent registered public accounting firm, given on the authority of said firm as experts in auditing and accounting.

**Table of Contents****PART II****INFORMATION NOT REQUIRED IN PROSPECTUS****Item 14. Other Expenses of Issuance and Distribution.**

The following table sets forth the costs and expenses, other than underwriting discounts and commissions, payable by us (the Registrant) in connection with the issuance and distribution of the securities being registered.

|   |            |
|---|------------|
| Securities and Exchange Commission filing fee   | \$ 1,674   |
| Legal fees and expenses   | 200,000    |
| Accounting fees and expenses  | 75,000     |
| Printing expenses   | 50,000     |
| Miscellaneous, including any rating agency fees and trustee's and transfer agent's fees | 48,326     |
| Total expenses  | \$ 375,000 |

All of the above fees and expenses will be paid by the Registrant. Other than the Securities and Exchange Commission filing fee, all fees and expenses are estimated.

**Item 15. Indemnification of Directors and Officers.**

Under the provisions of Section 145 of the Delaware General Corporation Law, the Registrant is required to indemnify any present or former officer or director against expenses arising out of legal proceedings in which the director or officer becomes involved by reason of being a director or officer if the director or officer is successful in the defense of such proceedings. Section 145 also provides that the Registrant may indemnify a director or officer in connection with a proceeding in which he is not successful in defending if it is determined that he acted in good faith and in a manner reasonably believed to be in or not opposed to the best interests of the Registrant or, in the case of a criminal action, if it is determined that he had no reasonable cause to believe his conduct was unlawful. Liabilities for which a director or officer may be indemnified include amounts paid in satisfaction of settlements, judgments, fines and other expenses (including attorneys' fees incurred in connection with such proceedings). In a stockholder derivative action, no indemnification may be paid in respect of any claim, issue or matter as to which the director or officer has been adjudged to be liable to the Registrant (except for expenses allowed by a court).

The Registrant's Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation provides for indemnification of directors and officers of the Registrant to the full extent permitted by applicable law. Under the provisions of the Registrant's Amended and Restated By-laws, the Registrant is required to indemnify officers or directors to a greater extent than under the current provisions of Section 145 of the Delaware General Corporation Law. Except with respect to stockholder derivative actions, the By-law provisions generally state that the director or officer will be indemnified against expenses, amounts paid in settlement and judgments, fines, penalties and/or other amounts incurred with respect to any threatened, pending or completed proceeding, provided that (i) such person acted in good faith and in a manner such person reasonably believed to be in or not opposed to the best interests of the Registrant, and (ii) with respect to any criminal action or proceeding, such person had no reasonable cause to believe his conduct was unlawful.

The foregoing standards also apply with respect to the indemnification of expenses incurred in a stockholder derivative suit. However, a director or officer may only be indemnified for settlement amounts or judgments incurred in a derivative suit to the extent that the Court of Chancery or the court in which such action or suit was brought shall determine upon application that, despite the adjudication of liability but in view of all the circumstances of the case, such person is fairly and reasonably entitled to indemnity for such expenses which the Court of Chancery or such other court shall deem proper.

In accordance with the Delaware General Corporation Law, the Registrant's Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation contains a provision to limit the personal liability of the directors of the Registrant for violations of their fiduciary duties. This provision eliminates each director's liability to the Registrant or its stockholders for monetary damages except (i) for breach of the director's duty of loyalty to the Registrant or its stockholders, (ii) for acts or omissions not in good faith or which involve intentional misconduct or a knowing violation of law,

Edgar Filing: HUDSON HIGHLAND GROUP INC - Form S-3

(iii) under Section 174 of the Delaware General Corporation Law providing for liability of directors for unlawful payment of

II-1



## **Table of Contents**

dividends or unlawful stock purchases or redemptions or (iv) for any transaction from which a director derived an improper personal benefit. The effect of this provision is to eliminate the personal liability of directors for monetary damages for actions involving a breach of their fiduciary duty of care, including any such actions involving gross negligence.

The Registrant maintains insurance policies that provide coverage to its directors and officers against certain liabilities.

### **Item 16. Exhibits and Financial Statement Schedules.**

The exhibits listed in the accompanying Exhibit Index are filed or incorporated by reference as part of this Registration Statement.

### **Item 17. Undertakings.**

(a) The Registrant hereby undertakes:

(1) To file, during any period in which offers or sales are being made, a post-effective amendment to this Registration Statement:

(i) To include any prospectus required by Section 10(a)(3) of the Securities Act of 1933;

(ii) To reflect in the prospectus any facts or events arising after the effective date of the Registration Statement (or the most recent post-effective amendment thereof) which, individually or in the aggregate, represent a fundamental change in the information set forth in the Registration Statement. Notwithstanding the foregoing, any increase or decrease in volume of securities offered (if the total dollar value of securities offered would not exceed that which was registered) and any deviation from the low or high end of the estimated maximum offering range may be reflected in the form of prospectus filed with the Commission pursuant to Rule 424(b) if, in the aggregate, the changes in volume and price represent no more than a 20% change in the maximum aggregate offering price set forth in the Calculation of Registration Fee table in the effective Registration Statement;

(iii) To include any material information with respect to the plan of distribution not previously disclosed in the Registration Statement or any material change to such information in the Registration Statement;

provided, however, that paragraphs (a)(1)(i) and (a)(1)(ii) do not apply if the information required to be included in a post-effective amendment by those paragraphs is contained in periodic reports filed by the Registrant pursuant to Section 13 or Section 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 that are incorporated by reference in the Registration Statement.

(2) That, for the purpose of determining any liability under the Securities Act of 1933, each such post-effective amendment shall be deemed to be a new Registration Statement relating to the securities offered therein, and the offering of such securities at that time shall be deemed to be the initial bona fide offering thereof.

(3) To remove from registration by means of a post-effective amendment any of the securities being registered which remain unsold at the termination of the offering.

---

**Table of Contents**

- (5) That, for the purpose of determining liability under the Securities Act of 1933 to any purchaser:
- (i) If the Registrant is relying on Rule 430B:
    - (A) Each prospectus filed by the Registrant pursuant to Rule 424(b)(3) shall be deemed to be part of the registration statement as of the date the filed prospectus was deemed part of and included in the registration statement; and
    - (B) Each prospectus required to be filed pursuant to Rule 424(b)(2), (b)(5), or (b)(7) as part of a registration statement in reliance on Rule 430B relating to an offering made pursuant to Rule 415(a)(1)(i), (vii), or (x) for the purpose of providing the information required by section 10(a) of the Securities Act of 1933 shall be deemed to be part of and included in the registration statement as of the earlier of the date such form of prospectus is first used after effectiveness or the date of the first contract of sale of securities in the offering described in the prospectus. As provided in Rule 430B, for liability purposes of the issuer and any person that is at that date an underwriter, such date shall be deemed to be a new effective date of the registration statement relating to the securities in the registration statement to which that prospectus relates, and the offering of such securities at that time shall be deemed to be the initial bona fide offering thereof. Provided, however, that no statement made in a registration statement or prospectus that is part of the registration statement or made in a document incorporated or deemed incorporated by reference into the registration statement or prospectus that is part of the registration statement will, as to a purchaser with a time of contract of sale prior to such effective date, supersede or modify any statement that was made in the registration statement or prospectus that was part of the registration statement or made in any such document immediately prior to such effective date; or
  - (ii) If the Registrant is subject to Rule 430C, each prospectus filed pursuant to Rule 424(b) as part of a registration statement relating to an offering, other than registration statements relying on Rule 430B or other than prospectuses filed in reliance on Rule 430A, shall be deemed to be part of and included in the registration statement as of the date it is first used after effectiveness. Provided, however, that no statement made in a registration statement or prospectus that is part of the registration statement or made in a document incorporated or deemed incorporated by reference into the registration statement or prospectus that is part of the registration statement will, as to a purchaser with a time of contract of sale prior to such first use, supersede or modify any statement that was made in the registration statement or prospectus that was part of the registration statement or made in any such document immediately prior to such date of first use.
- (6) That, for the purpose of determining liability of the Registrant under the Securities Act of 1933 to any purchaser in the initial distribution of the securities, the Registrant undertakes that in a primary offering of securities of the Registrant pursuant to this Registration Statement, regardless of the underwriting method used to sell the securities to the purchaser, if the securities are offered or sold to such purchaser by means of any of the following communications, the Registrant will be a seller to the purchaser and will be considered to offer or sell such securities to such purchaser:
- (i) Any preliminary prospectus or prospectus of the Registrant relating to the offering required to be filed pursuant to Rule 424 of the Securities Act of 1933;
  - (ii) Any free writing prospectus relating to the offering prepared by or on behalf of the Registrant or used or referred to by the Registrant;
  - (iii) The portion of any other free writing prospectus relating to the offering containing material information about the Registrant or its securities provided by or on behalf of the Registrant; and



**Table of Contents**

- (iv) Any other communication that is an offer in the offering made by the Registrant to the purchaser.
  
- (b) The Registrant hereby undertakes that, for purposes of determining any liability under the Securities Act of 1933, each filing of the Registrant's annual report pursuant to Section 13(a) or Section 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 that is incorporated by reference in the Registration Statement shall be deemed to be a new Registration Statement relating to the securities offered therein, and the offering of such securities at that time shall be deemed to be the initial bona fide offering thereof.
  
- (c) Insofar as indemnification for liabilities arising under the Securities Act of 1933 may be permitted to directors, officers and controlling persons of the Registrants pursuant to the provisions set forth or described in Item 15 of this Registration Statement, or otherwise, the Registrants have been advised that in the opinion of the Securities and Exchange Commission such indemnification is against public policy as expressed in the Securities Act of 1933 and is, therefore, unenforceable. In the event that a claim for indemnification against such liabilities (other than the payment by a Registrant of expenses incurred or paid by a director, officer or controlling person of the Registrant in the successful defense of any action, suit or proceeding) is asserted by such director, officer or controlling person in connection with the securities being registered, each of the Registrants will, unless in the opinion of its counsel the matter has been settled by controlling precedent, submit to a court of appropriate jurisdiction the question whether such indemnification by it is against public policy as expressed in the Securities Act of 1933 and will be governed by the final adjudication of such issue.

**Table of Contents**

**SIGNATURES**

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act of 1933, the Registrant certifies that it has reasonable grounds to believe that it meets all of the requirements for filing on Form S-3 and has duly caused this Registration Statement to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized, in the City of New York, State of New York, on December 9, 2009.

HUDSON HIGHLAND GROUP, INC.

By: */s/* JON F. CHAIT  
**Jon F. Chait**  
**Chairman and Chief Executive Officer**

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act of 1933, this Registration Statement has been signed by the following persons in the capacities indicated below on December 9, 2009.

| <b>Signature</b>   | <b>Title</b>  |
|--|---|
| <i>/s/</i> JON F. CHAIT<br><br><b>Jon F. Chait</b>             | Chairman and Chief Executive Officer and Director<br><br>(Principal Executive Officer)    |
| <i>/s/</i> MARY JANE RAYMOND<br><br><b>Mary Jane Raymond</b>   | Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer<br><br>(Principal Financial Officer) |
| <i>/s/</i> FRANK P. LANUTO<br><br><b>Frank P. Lanuto</b>       | Vice President, Corporate Controller<br><br>(Principal Accounting Officer)                |
| <i>/s/</i> ROBERT B. DUBNER<br><br><b>Robert B. Dubner</b>     | Director  |
| <i>/s/</i> JOHN J. HALEY<br><br><b>John J. Haley</b>           | Director  |
| <i>/s/</i> JENNIFER LAING<br><br><b>Jennifer Laing</b>         | Director  |
| <i>/s/</i> DAVID G. OFFENSEND<br><br><b>David G. Offensend</b> | Director  |
| <i>/s/</i> RICHARD J. STOLZ<br><br><b>Richard J. Stolz</b>     | Director  |

**Table of Contents****EXHIBIT INDEX**

| <b>Exhibit Number</b> | <b>Document Description</b>   |
|-----------------------|---|
| (1.1)                 | Form of Underwriting Agreement.*  |
| (4.1)                 | Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation of Hudson Highland Group, Inc. (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3.1 to Hudson Highland Group, Inc.'s Registration Statement on Form 10 filed March 14, 2003).  |
| (4.2)                 | Certificate of Designations of the Board of Directors Establishing the Series and Fixing the Relative Rights and Preferences of Series A Junior Participating Preferred Stock (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3.1 to Hudson Highland Group, Inc.'s Current Report on Form 8-K dated February 2, 2005).  |
| (4.3)                 | Amended and Restated Credit Agreement, dated as of July 31, 2007, by and among Hudson Highland Group, Inc. and each of its subsidiaries that are signatories thereto, as Borrowers, the lenders that are signatories thereto, as the Lenders, and Wells Fargo Foothill, Inc., as the Arranger and Administrative Agent (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.1 to Hudson Highland Group, Inc.'s Current Report on Form 8-K dated July 31, 2007).                          |
| (4.4)                 | Amendment No. 2 to Amended and Restated Credit Agreement, dated as of December 30, 2008, by and among Hudson Highland Group, Inc. and each of its subsidiaries that are signatories thereto, as Borrowers, the lenders that are signatories thereto, as the Lenders, and Wells Fargo Foothill, Inc., as the Arranger and Administrative Agent (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.1 to Hudson Highland Group, Inc.'s Current Report on Form 8-K dated January 2, 2009). |
| (4.5)                 | Rights Agreement, dated as of February 2, 2005, between Hudson Highland Group, Inc. and The Bank of New York (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.1 to the Registration Statement on Form 8-A of Hudson Highland Group, Inc. dated February 3, 2005).  |
| (4.6)                 | Indenture, dated November 25, 2003, between Hudson Highland Group, Inc. and The Bank of New York Mellon (formerly known as The Bank of New York), as trustee (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.4 to Hudson Highland Group, Inc.'s Registration Statement on Form S-3 filed on November 26, 2003 (Reg. No. 333-110765)).   |
| (4.7)                 | Subordinated Indenture, dated November 25, 2003, between Hudson Highland Group, Inc. and The Bank of New York Mellon (formerly known as The Bank of New York), as trustee (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.5 to Hudson Highland Group, Inc.'s Registration Statement on Form S-3 filed on November 26, 2003 (Reg. No. 333-110765)).  |
| (4.8)                 | Form of Supplemental Indenture.*  |
| (4.9)                 | Form of Supplemental Subordinated Indenture.*   |
| (4.10)                | Form of Stock Purchase Contract.*   |
| (4.11)                | Form of Warrant.*   |
| (4.12)                | Form of Warrant Agreement.*   |
| (5)                   | Opinion of Foley & Lardner LLP (including consent of counsel).  |
| (12)                  | Computation of ratios of earnings to fixed charges.   |
| (23.1)                | Consent of Foley & Lardner LLP (filed as part of Exhibit (5)).  |

\* To be filed by amendment or under subsequent Current Report on Form 8-K.

**Table of Contents**

| <b>Exhibit<br/>Number</b> | <b>Document Description</b>  |
|---------------------------|--|
| (23.2)                    | Consent of KPMG LLP.   |
| (23.3)                    | Consent of BDO Seidman, LLP.   |
| (25.1)                    | Form T-1 Statement of Eligibility of Trustee for Indenture under the Trust Indenture Act of 1939.              |
| (25.2)                    | Form T-1 Statement of Eligibility of Trustee for Subordinated Indenture under the Trust Indenture Act of 1939. |

Documents incorporated by reference to filings made by Hudson Highland Group, Inc. under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, are under File No. 000-50129.