

LINCOLN NATIONAL CAPITAL VII
Form S-3ASR
January 09, 2012

As filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on January 9, 2012.

Registration No. 333-

UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20549

FORM S-3
REGISTRATION STATEMENT
UNDER
THE SECURITIES ACT OF 1933

Lincoln National Corporation
(Exact name of registrant as specified in its
charter)
Indiana
(State or other jurisdiction of
incorporation or organization)

35-1140070
(I.R.S. Employer Identification Number)

150 N. Radnor Chester Road
Radnor, PA 19087
(484) 583-1400
(Address, including zip code, and telephone
number,

Lincoln National Capital VII
Lincoln National Capital VIII
Lincoln National Capital IX
(Exact name of each registrant as specified in
its Trust Agreement)
Delaware
(State or other jurisdiction of
incorporation or organization of each
registrant)

Each to be Applied for
(I.R.S. Employer Identification No.)
c/o Lincoln National Corporation
150 N. Radnor Chester Road
Radnor, PA 19087
(484) 583-1400

(Address, including zip code, and
telephone number, including area code, of each

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including area code, of registrant's principal executive offices) registrant's principal executive offices)

Charles A. Brawley, III
Senior Vice President, Associate General Counsel and Secretary
Lincoln National Corporation
150 N. Radnor Chester Road
Radnor, PA 19087
484-583-1400

(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 the effective date of this registration statement.

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, 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. or a post-effective amendment thereto that shall become effective upon filing with the Commission 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 Exchange Act.

Large accelerated filer (Do not check if a smaller reporting
Non-accelerated filer company)

Accelerated filer
Smaller reporting company

(Calculation table on following page)

CALCULATION OF REGISTRATION FEE

Title of each class of securities to be registered	Amount to be registered/Proposed maximum offering price per unit/ Proposed maximum offering price/ Amount of registration fee
Securities of Lincoln National Corporation:	
Debt Securities	
Common Stock, no par value	
Preferred Stock	
Warrants (3)	
Stock Purchase Contracts (4)	
Depository Shares (5)	
Stock Purchase Units (6)	(1)(2)
Guarantees of Trust Preferred Securities of Lincoln National Capital VII, Lincoln National Capital VIII and Lincoln National Capital IX (7)	
Trust Preferred Securities Lincoln National Capital VII	
Lincoln National Capital VIII	
Lincoln National Capital IX	

- (1) An indeterminate number of the securities of each identified class is being registered as may from time to time be offered and sold at indeterminate prices. In accordance with Rules 456(b) and 457(r) of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, Lincoln National Corporation (“LNC”) is deferring payment of the entire registration fee.
- (2) In addition, this Registration Statement includes such presently indeterminate number of offered securities as may be issuable from time to time upon conversion or exchange of the offered securities being offered hereunder, including upon the exercise of warrants or delivery upon settlement of stock purchase contracts. Separate consideration may or may not be received for securities that are issuable on exercise, conversion or exchange of other securities or that are issued in units or represented by depository shares.
- (3) Including such indeterminate number of warrants as may, from time to time, be issued at indeterminate prices, representing rights to purchase debt securities, preferred stock, common stock or other securities registered hereunder. Warrants may be sold separately or with debt

securities, preferred stock, common stock or other securities registered hereunder.

- (4) Each stock purchase contract obligates the registrant to sell, and the holder thereof to purchase, an indeterminate number of shares of common stock or preferred stock.
 - (5) Each depository share will be issued under a deposit agreement, will represent an interest in a fractional share or multiple shares of preferred stock and will be evidenced by a depository receipt.
 - (6) Each stock purchase unit will be issued under a unit agreement or indenture and will represent an interest in two or more debt securities or purchase contracts, which may or may not be separable from one another.
 - (7) LNC is registering under this registration statement guarantees and all other obligations that it may have with respect to trust preferred securities issued by Lincoln National Capital VII, Lincoln National Capital VIII and Lincoln National Capital IX. No separate consideration will be received for any guarantee or any such other obligations.
-

PROSPECTUS

LINCOLN NATIONAL CORPORATION

Debt Securities
Common Stock
Preferred Stock
Warrants
Stock Purchase Contracts
Depository Shares
Stock Purchase Units

Lincoln National Capital VII
Lincoln National Capital VIII
Lincoln National Capital IX
Trust Preferred Securities
fully and unconditionally guaranteed, as described herein,
by Lincoln National Corporation

We will provide you with more specific terms of these securities in supplements to this prospectus. The securities we may offer may be convertible into or exercisable or exchangeable for our other securities.

By this prospectus, we or the selling securityholders may offer, from time to time, the securities described in this prospectus separately or together in any combination. Lincoln National Capital VII, Lincoln National Capital VIII and Lincoln National Capital IX are Delaware statutory trusts which may offer from time to time trust preferred securities representing preferred undivided beneficial interests in the assets of the applicable trust.

We, the selling securityholders or the trusts may offer and sell these securities to or through one or more underwriters, dealers and agents, or directly to purchasers, on a continuous or delayed basis, at prices and on other terms to be determined at the time of offering. We, the selling securityholders or the trusts reserve the sole right to accept, and together with any agents, dealers and underwriters, reserve the right to reject, in whole or in part, any proposed purchase of securities. If any agents, dealers or underwriters are involved in the sale of any securities, the applicable prospectus supplement will set forth any applicable commissions or discounts. The net proceeds to us, the selling securityholders or the trusts from the sale of securities also will be set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement.

Unless otherwise stated in a prospectus supplement, none of these securities will be listed on any securities exchange. Our common stock is listed on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol "LNC."

Before you invest, you should carefully read this prospectus, any applicable prospectus supplement and information described under the headings "Where You Can Find More Information" and "Documents Incorporated by Reference."

Investing in our securities involves risks. See "Risk Factors" beginning on page 6 of this prospectus.

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For North Carolina Residents: The Commissioner of Insurance for the State of North Carolina has not approved or disapproved these securities nor has the Commissioner ruled upon the accuracy or adequacy of this prospectus.

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

The date of this prospectus is January 9, 2012.

Table of Contents

	Page
About this Prospectus	1
Where You Can Find More Information	1
Documents Incorporated by Reference	2
LNC	3
The Lincoln Trusts	3
Ratio of Earnings to Fixed Charges	5
Risk Factors	6
Use of Proceeds	6
Description of Securities We May Sell	6
Senior and Subordinated Debt Securities	6
Junior Subordinated Debt Securities	16
Common Stock and Preferred Stock	28
Depository Shares	31
Warrants	34
Stock Purchase Contracts and Stock Purchase Units	35
Trust Preferred Securities	35
Guarantees of Trust Preferred Securities	46
Relationship among the Trust Preferred Securities, the Corresponding Junior Subordinated Debt Securities and the Guarantees	49
Plan of Distribution	50
Validity of Securities	50
Experts	51

ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS

This prospectus is one part of a “shelf” registration statement that we have filed on Form S-3 with the Securities and Exchange Commission, or the SEC, under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, or the Securities Act. Under the shelf registration statement, we, the selling security holders, and the trusts are registering an unspecified amount of each class of the securities described in this prospectus, as applicable, and we and the selling security holders may sell, from time to time, in one or more offerings, any combination of the securities described in this prospectus and the trusts may sell the trust preferred securities. In addition, we or the trusts or any of their respective affiliates may use this prospectus and the applicable prospectus supplement in a remarketing or other sale transaction involving the securities after their initial sale.

This prospectus provides you with a general description of the securities we or the trusts may offer. Each time we, the selling security holders, or the trusts sell securities, we, the selling security holders, or the trusts will provide a prospectus supplement that will contain specific information about the terms of that offering. The prospectus supplement may also add to, update, supplement or clarify information contained in this prospectus. This prospectus does not contain all of the information set forth in the registration statement and the exhibits to the registration statement. For further information concerning us, the trusts and the securities, you should read the entire registration statement and the additional information described under “Documents Incorporated by Reference” below.

You should rely only on the information contained or incorporated by reference in this prospectus. We have not, and any underwriter, dealer, agent or remarketing firm has not, authorized any person to provide you with different information. If anyone provides you with different or inconsistent information, you should not rely on it. We are not, and any underwriter, dealer, agent or remarketing firm is not, making an offer to sell these securities in any jurisdiction where the offer or sale is not permitted or in which the person making such offer or solicitation is not qualified to do so or to any person to whom it is unlawful to make such offer or solicitation. You should assume that the information appearing in this prospectus is accurate as of the date on the front cover. Our business, financial condition, results of operations and prospects may have changed since that date.

Unless otherwise indicated, or the context otherwise requires, all references in this prospectus to “LNC,” “we,” “our,” “us,” or similar terms refer to Lincoln National Corporation. Unless otherwise indicated, or the context otherwise requires, references in this prospectus to the “trusts” are to Lincoln National Capital VII, Lincoln National Capital VIII and Lincoln National Capital IX, collectively, and, references to a “trust” are to Lincoln National Capital VII, Lincoln National Capital VIII and Lincoln National Capital IX, individually.

WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION

We file annual, quarterly and current reports, proxy statements and other information and documents with the SEC. You may read and copy any document we file with the SEC:

- in the public reference room maintained by the SEC in Washington, D.C. (100 F Street, N.E., Room 1580, Washington, D.C. 20549). Copies of such materials can be obtained from the SEC’s public reference section at prescribed rates. You may obtain information on the operation of the public reference room by calling the SEC at (800) SEC-0330, or
- on the SEC website located at www.sec.gov.

This Prospectus is part of a Registration Statement filed on Form S-3 with the SEC under the Securities Act. This prospectus does not contain all of the information set forth in the Registration Statement and the exhibits and schedules to the Registration Statement. For further information concerning us, the trusts and the securities, you should read the entire Registration Statement and the additional information described under “Documents Incorporated by Reference” below. The Registration Statement has been filed electronically and may be obtained in any manner listed above. Any statements contained in this prospectus concerning the provisions of any document are not necessarily complete, and, in each instance, reference is made to the copy of such document filed as an exhibit to the Registration Statement or otherwise filed with the SEC. Each such statement is qualified in its entirety by such reference.

Information about us is also available on our website at <http://www.lincolnfinancial.com>. This URL and the SEC’s URL above are intended to be inactive textual references only. Information on our or the SEC’s website is not a part of this prospectus.

DOCUMENTS INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE

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

We incorporate by reference into this prospectus the following documents or information filed (File No. 1-6028) with the SEC (other than, in each case, information deemed to have been furnished or not filed in accordance with the SEC rules):

- Those portions of our Proxy Statement for our 2011 Annual Meeting of Shareholders which were also incorporated by reference into Part III of our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2010;
- Our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2010;
- Our Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q for the quarters ended March 31, June 30, and September 30, 2011; and
- Our Current Reports on Form 8-K filed with the SEC on May 31, June 15, June 24, as amended on June 28, and November 15, 2011, except that Items 2.02 and 7.01 in the Current Report on Form 8-K dated November 18, 2011 shall not be incorporated herein by reference; and
- The description of our Common Stock contained in Form 10 filed with the SEC on April 28, 1969, including any amendments or reports filed for the purpose of updating that description.

Each document filed subsequent to the date of this Registration Statement pursuant to Sections 13(a), 13(c), 14 and 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, prior to the filing of a post-effective amendment which indicates that all securities offered have been sold or which deregisters all securities then remaining unsold, shall be deemed to be incorporated by reference in this Registration Statement and to be a part hereof from the date of the filing of such documents. Any statement contained in a document incorporated or deemed to be incorporated herein by reference shall be deemed to be modified or superseded for purposes of this Registration Statement to the extent that a statement contained herein (or in any other subsequently filed document which also is or is deemed to be incorporated by reference herein) modifies or supersedes such statement. Any such statement so modified or superseded shall not be deemed, except as so modified or superseded, to constitute part of this Registration Statement.

We will provide without charge to each person to whom this prospectus is delivered, upon the written or oral request of such person, a copy of the documents incorporated by reference as described above (other than exhibits to such documents unless such exhibits are specifically incorporated by reference into such documents). Please direct your oral or written request to:

Charles A. Brawley, III
Senior Vice President, Associate General Counsel & Secretary

150 N. Radnor Chester Road
Radnor, PA 19087
484-583-1400

LNC

LNC is a holding company which operates multiple insurance and retirement businesses through subsidiary companies. Through our business segments, we sell a wide range of wealth protection, accumulation and retirement income products and solutions. These products include fixed and indexed annuities, variable annuities, universal life insurance ("UL"), variable universal life insurance, linked-benefit UL, term life insurance, employer-sponsored retirement plan services and group life, disability and dental. LNC was organized under the laws of the state of Indiana in 1968. We currently maintain our principal executive offices at 150 N. Radnor Chester Road, Radnor, Pennsylvania 19087, and our telephone number is (484) 583-1400. "Lincoln Financial Group" is the marketing name for LNC and its subsidiary companies. As of September 30, 2011, LNC had consolidated assets of \$197.7 billion and consolidated stockholders' equity of \$14.9 billion. For the year ended December 31, 2010, LNC had total revenue of \$10.4 billion and net income of \$980 million.

We provide products and services and report results through four business segments, as follows:

- Annuities
- Defined Contribution
 - Life Insurance
 - Group Protection

We also have Other Operations, which includes the financial data for operations that are not directly related to the business segments.

THE LINCOLN TRUSTS

We created Lincoln National Capital VII, Lincoln National Capital VIII and Lincoln National Capital IX. Each trust is a statutory trust formed under Delaware law pursuant to a trust agreement executed by LNC, as sponsor of the trust, and the Delaware trustee described below, and the filing of a certificate of trust with the Delaware Secretary of State. We will execute amended and restated trust agreements for the trusts substantially in the form filed as an exhibit to the registration statement that includes this prospectus. We refer to the trust agreements, each as amended and restated, in this prospectus as the "trust agreements." These trust agreements will state the terms and conditions for the trusts to issue and sell their trust preferred securities and common securities, which we refer to collectively in this prospectus as the "trust securities." Each trust agreement will be qualified as an indenture under the Trust Indenture Act of 1939.

Each trust exists for the exclusive purposes of:

- issuing and selling its trust securities;
- using the proceeds from the sale of its trust securities to acquire a series of corresponding junior subordinated debt securities issued by LNC, which we refer to as "corresponding junior subordinated debt securities;" and
- engaging in only those other activities necessary, convenient or incidental to the above purposes.

Unless otherwise specified in the applicable prospectus supplement, each trust has a term of approximately 55 years, but may terminate earlier as provided in the applicable trust agreement. Each trust's business and affairs are conducted by its trustees, each appointed by LNC as holder of the trust's common securities. Unless otherwise specified in the applicable prospectus supplement, there are four trustees of each trust, which we collectively refer to as the issuer

trustees, as follows:

- Administrative Trustees: Two of the trustees, whom we refer to as “administrative trustees,” are persons who are employees or officers of or who are affiliated with LNC.
- Property, Guarantee and Indenture Trustee: The third trustee is The Bank of New York Mellon (as successor in interest to Bank One Trust Company, National Association), a financial institution that is unaffiliated with LNC, and which serves as the property trustee under the trust agreement. The Bank of New York Mellon (as successor in interest to Bank One Trust Company, National Association) also acts as the guarantee trustee under the guarantee agreement, and the indenture trustee under a junior subordinated indenture.
- Delaware Trustee: The fourth trustee, BNY Mellon Trust of Delaware (as successor in interest to Bank One Trust Company, National Association), that is unaffiliated with LNC, serves as the Delaware trustee under the

trust agreement.

LNC will hold directly or indirectly all of the common securities of each of the trusts. Unless otherwise indicated in the applicable prospectus supplement, the common securities will represent an aggregate liquidation amount equal to at least 3% of each trust's total capital. As the direct or indirect holder of the common securities of a trust, LNC will generally have the sole right to appoint, remove or replace the property trustee and/or the Delaware trustee for the trust. However, if a subordinated debt security event of default under the trust agreement for the trust has occurred and is continuing, the holders of a majority in liquidation preference of the related trust preferred securities will be entitled to appoint, remove or replace the property trustee and/or the Delaware trustee for the trust. In no event will the holders of the trust preferred securities have the right to vote to appoint, remove or replace the administrative trustees; such voting rights are vested exclusively in LNC, as the direct or indirect owner of the common securities of the trust. The duties and obligations of each issuer trustee are governed by the applicable trust agreement. LNC will pay all fees and expenses related to each trust and the offering of the trust preferred securities and will pay, directly or indirectly, all ongoing costs, expenses and liabilities of each trust.

The common securities of a trust owned directly or indirectly by LNC will rank equally, and payments will be made on such common securities proportionately with the trust preferred securities of the trust, except as provided below. Upon the occurrence and continuance of an event of default under a trust agreement resulting from a subordinated debt security event of default, periodic cash distributions (which we refer to as "distributions") and payments upon liquidation, redemption or otherwise with respect to the trust securities of a trust must be paid or delivered to the holders of the trust preferred securities of that trust before the holders of the common securities of that trust. See "Description of Securities We May Sell—Trust Preferred Securities—Subordination of Common Securities."

Except as otherwise provided in the applicable prospectus supplement:

- each trust will sell its trust preferred securities to the public and its common securities to LNC;
- concurrently with the issuance by a trust of its trust preferred securities, the trust will use the proceeds from these sales to buy a series of corresponding junior subordinated debt securities from LNC with the same financial terms as the trust preferred securities;
- LNC will pay interest on the corresponding junior subordinated debt securities at the same rate and at the same times as the trust makes payments on the trust preferred securities. The trust will use the payments it receives on the corresponding subordinated debt securities to make the corresponding payments on the trust preferred securities;
- LNC will, on a subordinated basis, fully and unconditionally guarantee the payment by the trust of the trust preferred securities to the extent described in this prospectus. We refer to this as the "guarantee." Both the corresponding subordinated debt securities and the guarantee will be subordinated to LNC's existing and future senior indebtedness, and will effectively be subordinated to existing and future obligations of LNC's subsidiaries;
- the corresponding junior subordinated debt securities will be the sole assets of each trust; and
- payments under the corresponding junior subordinated debt securities and the related expense agreement with LNC will be the only revenue of each trust.

LNC may redeem the corresponding subordinated debt securities (and cause the redemption of the trust securities) or may terminate each trust and cause the corresponding subordinated debt securities to be distributed to the holders of trust preferred securities in liquidation of their interests in such trust in certain circumstances. See “Description of Securities We May Sell—Trust Preferred Securities—Liquidation Distribution Upon Termination.”

The rights of the holders of trust preferred securities are described in the applicable trust agreement and the Delaware Statutory Trust Act. The principal executive office of each trust is located at 150 N. Radnor Chester Road, Radnor, Pennsylvania 19087, and its telephone number is (484) 583-1400.

RATIO OF EARNINGS TO FIXED CHARGES

Lincoln National Corporation and Subsidiaries
Historical Ratio of Earnings to Fixed Charges
(dollars in millions)

(dollars in millions)	For the Nine Months Ended September 30,		For the Years Ended December 31,				
	2011	2010	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006
Income (loss) from continuing operations before taxes	\$ 1,050	\$ 982	\$ 1,234	\$ (521)	\$ (137)	\$ 1,675	\$ 1,631
Sub-total of fixed charges	232	227	307	292	303	325	242
Sub-total of adjusted income (loss)	1,282	1,209	1,541	(229)	166	2,000	1,873
Interest on annuities and financial products	1,860	1,873	2,496	2,512	2,532	2,519	2,260
Adjusted income (loss) base	\$ 3,142	\$ 3,082	\$ 4,037	\$ 2,283	\$ 2,698	\$ 4,519	\$ 4,133
Fixed Charges							
Interest and debt expense (1)	\$ 215	\$ 212	\$ 286	\$ 261	\$ 281	\$ 284	\$ 223
Interest expense related to uncertain tax positions	7	4	7	13	2	21	—
Portion of rent expense representing interest	10	11	14	18	20	20	19
Sub-total of fixed charges excluding interest on annuities and financial	232	227	307	292	303	325	242

products							
Interest on annuities and financial products	1,860	1,873	2,496	2,512	2,532	2,519	2,260
Total fixed charges	\$ 2,092	\$2,100	\$ 2,803	\$ 2,804	\$ 2,835	\$ 2,844	\$ 2,502
Ratio of sub-total of adjusted income to sub-total of fixed charges excluding interest on annuities and financial products (2)	5.53	5.33	5.02	—	—	6.15	7.74
Ratio of adjusted income base to total fixed charges (2)	1.50	1.47	1.44	—	—	1.59	1.65

(1) Interest and debt expense for the years ended December 31, 2010, 2009 and 2006 excludes (i) a \$5 million loss, (ii) a \$64 million gain and (iii) a \$5 million gain, respectively, and for the nine months ended September 30, 2011 an \$8 million loss, each related to the early retirement of debt.

(2) The ratios of earnings to fixed charges for the years ended December 31, 2009 and 2008 indicated less than one-to-one coverage and are therefore not presented. Additional earnings of \$521 million and \$137 million would have been required for the years ended December 31, 2009 and 2008, respectively, to achieve ratios of one-to-one coverage.

RISK FACTORS

Investing in our securities involves risks. You should carefully consider the risks described in any prospectus supplement and those incorporated by reference into this prospectus before making an investment decision. The risks and uncertainties described in any prospectus supplement and incorporated by reference into this prospectus are not the only ones facing our company. Additional risks and uncertainties not presently known to us or that we currently deem immaterial may also impair our business operations. If any of these risks actually occur, our business, financial condition and results of operations could be materially affected. In that case, the value of our securities could decline substantially.

USE OF PROCEEDS

We intend to use the net proceeds from the sales of the securities as set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement.

DESCRIPTION OF SECURITIES WE MAY SELL

Senior and Subordinated Debt Securities

General

We may issue senior debt securities in one or more series under the indenture, dated as of March 10, 2009, between LNC and The Bank of New York Mellon, as trustee, which we refer to as the “senior indenture.” We may also issue subordinated debt securities in one or more series under the indenture to be entered into between LNC and The Bank of New York Mellon, as trustee, which we refer to as the “subordinated indenture” and together with the senior indenture as the “indentures” or each of the senior indenture and the subordinated indenture individually, as the “applicable indenture.” For purposes of this section, we refer to: (i) the senior debt securities together with the subordinated debt securities as the “debt securities;” and (ii) The Bank of New York Mellon, or any successor or additional trustee, in its respective capacity as trustee under the applicable indenture, as the “trustee.” The indentures are filed as exhibits to the registration statement that includes this prospectus. See “Where You Can Find More Information” for information on how to obtain copies of the indentures. The indentures have been qualified under the Trust Indenture Act of 1939, as amended, which we refer to as the “Trust Indenture Act.”

This summary of the indentures and the debt securities relates to terms and conditions applicable to the debt securities generally. We will summarize the particular terms of any series of debt securities in the applicable prospectus supplement. If indicated in the prospectus supplement, the terms of any series may differ from the terms summarized below. Because the summary of the material provisions of the indentures and the debt securities set forth below and the summary of the material terms of a particular series of debt securities set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement are not complete, you should refer to the indentures and the debt securities for complete information regarding the terms and provisions of the indentures (including defined terms) and the debt securities. Wherever we refer to particular articles, sections or defined terms of the indentures in this prospectus or in a prospectus supplement, those articles, sections or defined terms are incorporated in this prospectus and the prospectus supplement by reference, and the statement with respect to which such reference is made is qualified in its entirety by such reference. In addition, unless specified otherwise, references to such particular articles, sections or defined terms are applicable to both the senior indenture and the subordinated indenture.

The senior debt securities will be unsecured and will rank on parity with all of our other unsecured and unsubordinated obligations. Unless otherwise provided in the prospectus supplement, each series of subordinated debt

securities will rank equally with all other series of subordinated debt securities issued under the subordinated indenture and will be unsecured and subordinate and junior in right of payment to all of our senior debt (as defined below). See “—Subordination Under Subordinated Indenture.”

We are a non-operating holding company and our consolidated subsidiaries own almost all of our operating assets. We rely primarily on dividends from our subsidiaries to meet our obligations. The payment of dividends by our insurance company subsidiaries is limited under the insurance company holding company laws of the states in which those subsidiaries are domiciled. Accordingly, the debt securities will be effectively subordinated to all existing and future liabilities of our subsidiaries, and holders of debt securities should look only to our assets for payments on the debt securities.

Unless we state otherwise in the applicable prospectus supplement, the indentures do not limit us in incurring or issuing other secured or unsecured debt under either of the indentures or any other indenture that we may have entered into or enter into in the future.

Terms of Debt Securities

We may issue the debt securities in one or more series through an indenture that supplements the senior indenture or the subordinated indenture, as applicable, or through a resolution of our board of directors, an authorized committee of our board of directors or any of our officers delegated the power of either our board of directors or an authorized committee of our board of directors.

You should refer to the applicable prospectus supplement for the specific terms of the debt securities. These terms may include the following:

- title of the debt securities of the series;
- any limit upon the aggregate principal amount of the debt securities of the series;
- maturity date(s) or the method of determining the maturity date(s);
- interest rate(s), if any, or the method of determining the interest rate(s);
- date(s) from which interest will accrue;
- date(s) on which interest will be payable;
- place(s) where we may pay principal, premium, if any, and interest, if any, and where you may present the debt securities for registration of transfer or exchange;
- place(s) where notices and demands relating to the debt securities and the applicable indenture may be made;
- redemption or early payment provisions;
- sinking fund or similar provisions;
- attachment to the debt securities of the series of warrants, options or other rights to purchase or sell our stock or other securities;
- authorized denominations if other than denominations of \$1,000;
- if other than the principal amount of the debt securities, the portion of the principal amount of the debt securities that is payable upon declaration of acceleration of maturity;
- any deletions or modifications of or additions to the events of default or covenants specified in the applicable indenture;
- form(s) of the debt securities of the series;

- currency, currencies, or currency unit(s), if other than U.S. dollars, in which the debt securities are denominated and/or in which the principal of, premium, if any, and interest, if any, on the debt securities is payable;
- if the principal of and premium, if any, or interest, if any, on any of the debt securities of the series is to be payable, at our election or at the election of the holder of the debt securities, in a currency or currencies, or currency unit(s), other than that in which the debt securities are denominated, the period(s) within which, and the terms and conditions upon which, such election may be made, or the other circumstances under which any of the debt securities are to be so payable;
- if the amount of payments of principal of and premium, if any, or interest, if any, on any of the debt securities of the series may be determined with reference to an index or indices, the manner in which such amounts are determined;
- any additions or changes to the applicable indenture relating to a series of debt securities necessary to permit or facilitate the issuance of the debt securities in bearer form, registrable or not registrable as to principal, and with or without interest coupons;

- whether any debt securities of the series are to be issuable initially in temporary global form or definitive global form and, if so, whether beneficial owners of interests in any such definitive global debt security may exchange such interests for debt securities of such series and of like tenor of any authorized form and denomination and the circumstances under which and the place or places where any such exchanges may occur, if other than in the manner set forth in the applicable indenture;
- if the debt securities of the series are to be issued upon the exercise of warrants, the time, manner and place for such debt securities to be authenticated and delivered;
- whether and under what circumstances and with what procedures and documentation we will pay additional amounts on any of the debt securities of the series to any holder who is not a U.S. person, in respect of any tax assessment or governmental charge withheld or deducted and, if so, whether we will have the option to redeem such debt securities rather than pay additional amounts;
- the person to whom any interest on any debt security of the series is payable, if other than the person in whose name that debt security is registered and the extent to which any interest payable on a temporary global debt security will be paid if other than in the manner provided in the applicable indenture;
- the terms and conditions of any right or obligation we would have, or any option you would have, to convert or exchange the debt securities into cash or any other securities or property of our company or any other person and any changes to the applicable indenture with respect to the debt securities to permit or facilitate such conversion or exchange;
- in the case of the subordinated indenture, any provisions regarding subordination; and
- additional terms not inconsistent with the provisions of the applicable indenture.

Debt securities may also be issued under the indentures upon the exercise of warrants. See “Warrants.”

We may, in certain circumstances, without notice to or consent of the holders of the debt securities, issue additional debt securities having the same terms and conditions as the debt securities previously issued under this prospectus and any applicable prospectus supplement, so that such additional debt securities and the debt securities previously offered under this prospectus and any applicable prospectus supplement form a single series, and references in this prospectus and any applicable prospectus supplement to the debt securities shall include, unless the context otherwise requires, any further debt securities issued as described in this paragraph.

Special Payment Terms of Debt Securities

We may issue one or more series of debt securities at a discount below their stated principal amount. These may bear no interest or interest at a rate which at the time of issuance is below market rates. We will describe U.S. federal tax consequences and special considerations relating to any series in the applicable prospectus supplement.

The purchase price of any of the debt securities may be payable in one or more foreign currencies or currency units. The debt securities may be denominated in one or more foreign currencies or currency units, or the principal of, premium, if any, or interest, if any, on any debt securities may be payable in one or more foreign currencies or currency units. We will describe the restrictions, elections, U.S. federal income tax considerations, specific terms and

other information relating to the debt securities and any foreign currencies or currency units in the applicable prospectus supplement.

If we use any index to determine the amount of payments of principal of, premium, if any, or interest, if any, on any series of debt securities, we will also describe in the applicable prospectus supplement the special U.S. federal income tax, accounting and other considerations applicable to the debt securities.

Payment and Paying Agents

Unless we state otherwise in an applicable prospectus supplement, we will pay principal of, premium, if any, and interest, if any, on your debt securities at the office of the trustee for your debt securities in the City of New York or at the office of any other paying agent that we may designate.

Unless we state otherwise in an applicable prospectus supplement, we will pay any interest on debt securities to the registered owner of the debt security at the close of business on the record date for the interest, except in the case of defaulted interest.

Any moneys or U.S. government obligations (including the proceeds thereof) deposited with the trustee or any paying agent, or then held by us in trust, for the payment of the principal of, premium, if any, or interest, if any, on any debt security that remains unclaimed for two years after the principal, premium or interest has become due and payable will be repaid to us. After repayment to us, you are entitled to seek payment only from us as a general unsecured creditor.

Denominations, Registration and Transfer

Except as we may describe in the applicable prospectus supplement, we will issue debt securities in fully registered form without coupons and in denominations of \$1,000 and any integral multiple of \$1,000.

Debt securities of any series will be exchangeable for other debt securities of the same series, in any authorized denominations, of a like tenor and aggregate principal amount and having the same terms. You may present debt securities for exchange, as described above, or for registration of transfer, at the office of the security registrar or at the office of any transfer agent we designate for that purpose. You will not incur a service charge but you must pay any taxes, assessments and other governmental charges as described in the applicable indenture. We will appoint the trustee as the initial security registrar under the applicable indenture. We may at any time rescind the designation of any transfer agent that we initially designate or approve a change in the location through which the transfer agent acts. We will specify the transfer agent in the applicable prospectus supplement. We may at any time designate additional transfer agents.

Global Debt Securities

We may issue all or any part of a series of debt securities in the form of one or more global debt securities. We will appoint the depository holding the global debt securities. Unless we otherwise state in the applicable prospectus supplement, the depository will be The Depository Trust Company, or DTC. We will issue global debt securities in registered form and in either temporary or definitive form. Unless it is exchanged for individual debt securities, a global debt security may not be transferred except:

- by the depository to its nominee;
- by a nominee of the depository to the depository or another nominee; or
- by the depository or any nominee to a successor of the depository, or a nominee of the successor.

We will describe the specific terms of the depository arrangement in the applicable prospectus supplement. We expect that the following provisions will generally apply to these depository arrangements.

Beneficial Interests in a Global Debt Security

If we issue a global debt security, the depository for the global debt security or its nominee will credit on its book-entry registration and transfer system the principal amounts of the individual debt securities represented by the global debt security to the accounts of persons that have accounts with it. We refer to those persons as “participants” in this prospectus. The accounts will be designated by the dealers, underwriters or agents for the debt securities, or by us if the debt securities are offered and sold directly by us. Ownership of beneficial interests in a global debt security will

be limited to participants or persons who may hold interests through participants. Ownership and transfers of beneficial interests in the global debt security will be shown on, and transactions can be effected only through, records maintained by the applicable depository or its nominee, for interests of participants, and the records of participants, for interests of persons who hold through participants. The laws of some states require that you take physical delivery of securities in definitive form. These limits and laws may impair your ability to transfer beneficial interests in a global debt security.

So long as the depository or its nominee is the registered owner of a global debt security, the depository or its nominee will be considered the sole owner or holder of the debt securities represented by the global debt security for all purposes under the applicable indenture. Except as provided below, you:

- will not be entitled to have any of the individual debt securities represented by the global debt security registered in your name;

- will not receive or be entitled to receive physical delivery of any debt securities in definitive form; and
- will not be considered the registered owner or holder of the debt securities under the applicable indenture.

Payments of Principal, Premium and Interest

We will make principal, premium, if any, and interest, if any, payments on global debt securities to the depository that is the registered holder of the global debt security or its nominee. The depository for the global debt securities will be solely responsible and liable for all payments made on account of your beneficial ownership interests in the global debt security and for maintaining, supervising and reviewing any records relating to your beneficial ownership interests.

We expect that the depository or its nominee, upon receipt of any principal, premium, if any, or interest, if any, payment immediately will credit participants' accounts with amounts in proportion to their respective beneficial interests in the principal amount of the global debt security as shown on the records of the depository or its nominee. We also expect that payments by participants to you, as an owner of a beneficial interest in the global debt security held through those participants, will be governed by standing instructions and customary practices, as is now the case with securities held for the accounts of customers in bearer form or registered in "street name." These payments will be the responsibility of those participants.

Issuance of Individual Debt Securities

Unless we state otherwise in the applicable prospectus supplement, if a depository for a series of debt securities is at any time unwilling, unable or ineligible to continue as depository, we will appoint a successor depository or we will issue individual debt securities in exchange for the global debt security.

Redemption

Unless we state otherwise in an applicable prospectus supplement, debt securities will not be subject to any sinking fund, and we may, at our option, redeem all or any part of debt securities of any series prior to their stated maturity.

Except as we may otherwise specify in the applicable prospectus supplement, the redemption price for any debt security which we redeem will equal 100% of the principal amount plus any accrued and unpaid interest up to, but excluding, the redemption date.

We will mail notice of any redemption of debt securities at least 30 days but not more than 60 days before the redemption date to the registered holders of the debt securities at their addresses as shown on the security register. On and after the redemption date, interest will cease to accrue on the debt securities or the portions of the debt securities called for redemption.

Consolidation, Merger and Transfer of Assets

We will not consolidate with or merge into any other person or convey or transfer our assets substantially as an entirety to any person, unless:

- the person formed by such consolidation or into which we merge or the person which acquires by conveyance or transfer our assets substantially as an entirety expressly

assumes our obligations relating to the debt securities;

- immediately after giving effect to the consolidation, merger, conveyance or transfer, there exists no event of default, and no event which, after notice or lapse of time, or both, would become an event of default; and
- other conditions described in the applicable indenture are met.

This covenant would not apply to the direct or indirect conveyance or transfer of all or any portion of the stock, assets or liabilities of any of our wholly owned subsidiaries to us or to our other wholly owned subsidiaries.

Limitation on Liens on Stock of Restricted Subsidiaries

We will not, nor will we permit any restricted subsidiary to, issue, assume or guarantee any debt for borrowed money, which we refer to in this prospectus as “debt,” secured by a mortgage, security interest, pledge, lien or other encumbrance upon any shares of stock of any restricted subsidiary without effectively providing that the senior debt securities (together

with, if we so determine, any other debt of or guarantee by us ranking equally with the senior debt securities and then existing or thereafter created) will be secured equally and ratably with that debt.

For purposes of this prospectus, “restricted subsidiary” means The Lincoln National Life Insurance Company so long as it remains a subsidiary, as well as any successor to all or a principal part of the assets of that subsidiary and any other subsidiary which our board of directors designates as a restricted subsidiary.

Limitation on Issuance or Disposition of Stock of Restricted Subsidiaries

We will not, nor will we permit any restricted subsidiary to, issue, sell, assign, transfer or otherwise dispose of, directly or indirectly, any capital stock, other than nonvoting preferred stock, of any restricted subsidiary, except for:

- the purpose of qualifying directors;
- sales or other dispositions to us or one or more restricted subsidiaries;
- the disposition of all or any part of the capital stock of any restricted subsidiary for consideration which is at least equal to the fair value of that capital stock as determined by our board of directors acting in good faith; or
- an issuance, sale, assignment, transfer or other disposition required to comply with an order of a court or regulatory authority of competent jurisdiction, other than an order issued at our request or the request of any restricted subsidiary.

For the purposes of this prospectus, “capital stock” means any and all shares, interests, rights to purchase, warrants, options, participations or other equivalents of or interests in corporate stock.

Modification and Waiver

Modification

We and the trustee may modify and amend the applicable indenture by entering into a supplemental indenture 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 such supplemental indenture (acting as one class). However, no modification or amendment may, without the consent of the holder of each outstanding debt security affected:

- change the stated maturity of the principal of, or any installment of principal of or interest payable on, any debt security;
- reduce the principal amount of, or the rate of interest on or any premium payable upon the redemption of, or the amount of the principal of an original issue discount security that would be due and payable upon a declaration of acceleration of the maturity of such debt security;
- change any place of payment where, or the currency, currencies or currency unit(s) in which any debt security or any premium or the interest on any debt security is payable;
-

impair your right to institute suit for the enforcement of any payment on any debt security on or after the stated maturity or redemption date;

- affect adversely the terms, if any, of conversion or exchange of any debt security into cash, any other securities or property of our company or any other person;
- reduce the percentage in aggregate principal amount of outstanding debt securities, the consent of whose holders is necessary to modify or amend the applicable indenture, to waive compliance with certain provisions of the applicable indenture or certain defaults and consequences of such defaults set forth in the applicable indenture;
- change any of our obligations to maintain an office or agency as set forth in the applicable indenture;
- modify any of these provisions or any of the provisions relating to the waiver of certain past defaults, except to increase the required percentage to effect such action, to provide, with respect to any particular series, the right to condition the effectiveness of any applicable supplemental indenture as to that series on the consent of holders of a specified percentage of the aggregate principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of such series, or to provide that certain other provisions may not be modified or waived without the consent of all of the holders of the outstanding debt securities affected; or

- in case of the subordinated indenture, modify the provisions with respect to the subordination of outstanding subordinated debt securities in a manner materially adverse to the holders of such outstanding subordinated debt securities.

Waiver

The holders of at least a majority in aggregate principal amount of all outstanding debt securities and the holders of at least a majority in aggregate principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of each series to be affected may waive compliance by us with certain restrictive covenants of the applicable indenture.

The holders of not less than a majority in aggregate principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of a series may, on behalf of the holders of all debt securities of that series, waive any past default under the applicable indenture relating to that series of debt securities and the consequences of such default. However, a default in the payment of the principal of, or premium, if any, or interest, if any, on any debt security of that series or relating to a covenant or provision which under the applicable indenture relating to that series of debt security cannot be modified or amended without the consent of the holder of each outstanding debt security of that series affected cannot be so waived.

Events of Default

Unless we state otherwise in the applicable prospectus supplement, under the terms of the applicable indenture, each of the following constitutes an event of default for a series of debt securities:

- default for 30 days in the payment of any installment of interest, if any, when due;
- default in the payment of principal, or premium, if any, when due (subject to the bullet point below);
- default for 30 days in the payment for a sinking, purchase or analogous fund when due;
- default in the performance, or breach, of any covenant or warranty in the applicable indenture for 60 days after written notice;
- certain events of bankruptcy, insolvency or reorganization; and
- any other event of default provided with respect to debt securities of that series.

We are required to furnish the trustee annually with a statement as to the fulfillment of our obligations under the applicable indenture.

The indentures provide that the trustee may withhold notice to you of any default, except in respect of the payment of the principal of or premium, if any, or interest on any debt securities or the payment of any sinking fund installment with respect to debt securities, if the trustee considers the withholding of such notice to be in the interests of the holders of the debt securities.

Effect of an Event of Default

If an event of default exists (other than an event of default in the case of certain events of bankruptcy as described below), the trustee or the holders of not less than 25% in aggregate principal amount of a series of outstanding debt

securities may declare the principal amount, or, if the debt securities are original issue discount securities, such portion of the principal amount of such debt securities as may be specified in the terms of that series, of all of the debt securities of that series, together with accrued interest, if any, on such debt securities, to be due and payable immediately, by a notice in writing to us and to the trustee if given by holders. Upon that declaration, the principal (or specified) amount, together with accrued interest, if any, on such debt securities, will become immediately due and payable, subject to applicable subordination provisions in case of the subordinated indenture. However, at any time after a declaration of acceleration has been made, but before a judgment or decree for payment of the money due has been obtained, the holders of not less than a majority in aggregate principal amount of a series of outstanding debt securities may, subject to conditions specified in the applicable indenture, rescind and annul that declaration and its consequences.

If an event of default in the case of certain events of bankruptcy exists with respect to debt securities of any series at that time outstanding, the principal amount of all debt securities of that series or, if any debt securities of that series are original issue discount securities, such portion of the principal amount of such debt securities as may be specified in the

terms of that series, will automatically, and without any declaration or other action on the part of the trustee or any holder of such outstanding debt securities, become immediately due and payable.

Subject to the provisions of the applicable indenture relating to the duties of the trustee, if an event of default exists, the trustee will be under no obligation to exercise any of its rights or powers under the applicable indenture at your request or direction, unless you have offered to the trustee security or indemnity satisfactory to it against the costs, expenses and liabilities which the trustee might incur in compliance with such request or direction.

Subject to the provisions for the security or indemnification of the trustee, the holders of not less than a majority in aggregate principal amount of a series of outstanding debt securities have the right to direct the time, method and place of conducting any proceeding for any remedy available to the trustee, or exercising any trust or power conferred on the trustee in connection with the debt securities of that series.

Legal Proceedings and Enforcement of Right to Payment

You will not have any right to institute any proceeding in connection with the applicable indenture or for any remedy under the applicable indenture, unless you have previously given to the trustee written notice of a continuing event of default with respect to debt securities of that series. In addition, the holders of at least 25% in aggregate principal amount of a series of the outstanding debt securities or, in the case of an event of default in case of certain events of bankruptcy, of all series (voting as a class) with respect to which such event of default is continuing, must have made written request, and offered indemnity satisfactory, to the trustee to institute that proceeding as trustee, and, within 60 days following the receipt of that notice, the trustee must not have received from such holders a direction inconsistent with that request, and must have failed to institute the proceeding.

However, you will have an absolute and unconditional right to receive payment of the principal of, premium, if any, and interest, if any, on that debt security on the due dates expressed in the debt security (or, in the case of redemption, on the redemption date) and to institute a suit for the enforcement of that payment.

Satisfaction and Discharge

The indentures provide that when, among other things, all debt securities not previously delivered to the trustee for cancellation:

- have become due and payable;
- will become due and payable at their stated maturity within one year; or
- are to be called for redemption within one year under arrangements satisfactory to the trustee for the giving of notice of redemption by the trustee in our name and at our expense, and
- we deposit or cause to be deposited with the trustee, money or U.S. government obligations or a combination thereof, as trust funds, in an amount and in the currency or currency unit in which such debt securities are payable to be sufficient to pay and discharge the entire indebtedness on the debt securities not previously delivered to the trustee for cancellation, for the principal, and premium, if any, and interest, if any, to the date of the deposit or to the stated maturity or redemption date, as the case may be,

then the applicable indenture will cease to be of further effect with respect to a series of debt securities, and we will be deemed to have satisfied and discharged the applicable indenture with respect to such series. However, we will continue to be obligated to pay all other sums due under the applicable indenture and to provide the officer's certificate and opinion of counsel described in the applicable indenture.

Defeasance and Covenant Defeasance

Unless we state otherwise in the applicable prospectus supplement, the indentures provide that we may discharge all of our obligations, other than as to transfers and exchanges and certain other specified obligations, under any series of the debt securities at any time, and that we may also be released from our obligations described above under “—Consolidation, Merger and Transfer of Assets,” “—Limitation on Liens on Stock of Restricted Subsidiaries,” “—Limitation on Issuance or Disposition of Stock of Restricted Subsidiaries” and from certain other obligations, as applicable, including obligations imposed by supplemental indentures with respect to that series, if any, and elect not to comply with those sections and

obligations without creating an event of default. Discharge under the first procedure is called “defeasance” and under the second procedure is called “covenant defeasance.”

Defeasance or covenant defeasance may be effected only if:

- we irrevocably deposit with the trustee money or U.S. government obligations or a combination thereof, as trust funds in an amount sufficient to pay on the respective stated maturities or the redemption date, the principal of and any premium and interest on, all debt securities of that series along with an opinion of a nationally recognized firm of independent accountants expressed in a written certification as to the sufficiency of the deposit;
- we deliver to the trustee an opinion of counsel to the effect that:
 - the holders of the debt securities of that series will not recognize gain or loss for U.S. federal income tax purposes as a result of the deposit, defeasance and discharge or as a result of the deposit and covenant defeasance; and
 - the deposit, defeasance and discharge or the deposit and covenant defeasance will not otherwise alter those holders’ U.S. federal income tax treatment of payments on the debt securities of that series (in the case of a defeasance, this opinion must be based on a ruling of the Internal Revenue Service or a change in U.S. federal income tax law occurring after the date of execution of the applicable indenture);
- no event of default under the applicable indenture has occurred and is continuing;
- such defeasance or covenant defeasance does not result in a breach or violation of, or constitute a default under, any indenture or other agreement or instrument for borrowed money to which we are a party or by which we are bound;
- such defeasance or covenant defeasance does not result in the trust arising from such deposit constituting an investment company within the meaning of the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended, unless such trust will be registered under the Investment Company Act of 1940 or exempt from registration thereunder;
- we deliver to the trustee an officer’s certificate and an opinion of counsel, each stating that all conditions precedent with respect to such defeasance or covenant defeasance have been complied with; and
- other conditions specified in the applicable indenture are met.

The subordinated indenture will not be discharged as described above if we have defaulted in the payment of principal of, premium, if any, or interest, if any, on any senior debt, as defined below under “Subordination Under Subordinated Indenture,” and that default is continuing or an event of default on the senior debt then exists and has resulted in the senior debt becoming or being declared due and payable prior to the date it otherwise would have become due and payable.

Conversion or Exchange

We may issue debt securities that we may convert or exchange into cash or other securities or property of our company or any other person. If so, we will describe the specific terms on which the debt securities may be converted or exchanged in the applicable prospectus supplement. The conversion or exchange may be mandatory, at your option, or at our option. The applicable prospectus supplement will describe the manner in which the shares of common stock or other securities, property or cash you would receive would be issued or delivered.

Subordination Under Subordinated Indenture

In the subordinated indenture, we have agreed, and holders of subordinated debt securities will be deemed to have agreed, that any subordinated debt securities are subordinate and junior in right of payment to all senior debt to the extent provided in the subordinated indenture.

Upon any payment or distribution of assets to creditors upon any liquidation, dissolution, winding up, reorganization, assignment for the benefit of creditors, marshaling of assets or any bankruptcy, insolvency, debt restructuring or similar proceeding in connection with our insolvency or bankruptcy, the holders of senior debt will first be entitled to receive payment in full of principal of, premium, if any, and interest, if any, on the senior debt before the holders of subordinated

debt securities will be entitled to receive or retain any payment of the principal of, premium, if any, or interest, if any, on the subordinated debt securities.

If the maturity of any subordinated debt securities is accelerated, the holders of all senior debt outstanding at the time of the acceleration will first be entitled to receive payment in full of all amounts due, including any amounts due upon acceleration, before you will be entitled to receive any payment of the principal of, premium, if any, or interest on the subordinated debt securities, other than sinking fund payments.

We will not make any payments of principal of, premium, if any, or interest, if any, on the subordinated debt securities (other than any sinking fund payment) if:

- a default in any payment on senior debt then exists,
- an event of default on any senior debt resulting in the acceleration of its maturity then exists, or
- any judicial proceeding is pending in connection with any such default.

When we use the term “debt” we mean, with respect to any person, the principal of, premium, if any, and interest, if any, on debt of such person, whether incurred on, prior to, or after, the date of the subordinated indenture, whether recourse is to all or a portion of the assets of that person and whether or not contingent, which includes:

- every obligation of, or any obligation guaranteed by, that person for money borrowed,
- every obligation of, or any obligation guaranteed by, that person evidenced by bonds, debentures, notes or other similar instruments, including obligations incurred in connection with the acquisition of property, assets or businesses but excluding the obligation to pay the deferred purchase price of any such property, assets or business if payable in full within 90 days from the date such debt was created,
- every capital lease obligation of that person,
- leases of property or assets made as part of any sale and lease-back transaction to which that person is a party, and
- any amendments, renewals, extensions, modifications and refundings of any such debt.

The term “debt” does not include trade accounts payable or accrued liabilities arising in the ordinary course of business.

When we use the term “senior debt” we mean the principal of, premium, if any, and interest, if any, on debt, whether incurred on, prior to, or after, the date of the subordinated indenture, unless the instrument creating or evidencing that debt or pursuant to which that debt is outstanding states that those obligations are not superior in right of payment to the subordinated debt securities or to other debt which ranks equally with, or junior to, the subordinated debt securities. Interest on this senior debt includes interest accruing on or after the filing of any petition in bankruptcy or for reorganization relating to us, whether or not the claim for post-petition interest is allowed in that proceeding.

However, senior debt will not include:

- any debt of our company which, when incurred and without regard to any election under Section 1111(b) of Title 11 of the United States Code, was without recourse to our company,
- any debt of our company to any of our subsidiaries,
- debt to any employee of our company or any of our subsidiaries,
- any liability for taxes,
- debt or other monetary obligations to trade creditors or assumed by our company or any of our subsidiaries in the ordinary course of business in connection with the obtaining of goods, materials or services, and
- the subordinated debt securities.

The subordinated indenture provides that we may change the subordination provisions relating to any particular issue of subordinated debt securities prior to issuance. We will describe any change in the prospectus supplement relating to the subordinated debt securities.

Governing Law

The indentures and the debt securities will be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of the State of New York.

Concerning the Trustees

The trustee will have all the duties and responsibilities of an indenture trustee specified in the Trust Indenture Act. The trustee is not required to expend or risk its own funds or otherwise incur financial liability in performing its duties or exercising its rights and powers if it reasonably believes that it is not reasonably assured of repayment or adequate indemnity.

We and our affiliates maintain various commercial and service relationships with the trustee and its affiliates in the ordinary course of business.

Junior Subordinated Debt Securities

We may issue junior subordinated debt securities in one or more series under a junior subordinated indenture, dated as of March 10, 2009 between LNC and The Bank of New York Mellon, as junior subordinated indenture trustee. The junior subordinated indenture (including the form of the junior subordinated debt securities) is filed as an exhibit to the registration statement that includes this prospectus. The junior subordinated indenture has been qualified under the Trust Indenture Act. See “Where You Can Find More Information” for information on how to obtain the junior subordinated indenture.

This summary of the junior subordinated indenture and the junior subordinated debt securities relates to terms and conditions applicable to the junior subordinated debt securities generally. We will summarize the particular terms of any series of junior subordinated debt securities in the applicable prospectus supplement. If indicated in the prospectus supplement, the terms of any series may differ from the terms summarized below. Because the summary of the material provisions of the junior subordinated indenture and the junior subordinated debt securities set forth below and the summary of the material terms of a particular series of junior subordinated debt securities set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement are not complete, you should refer to the forms of the junior subordinated indenture and the junior subordinated debt securities for complete information regarding the terms and provisions of the junior subordinated indenture (including defined terms) and the junior subordinated debt securities. Wherever we refer to particular articles, sections or defined terms of the junior subordinated indenture in this prospectus or in a prospectus supplement, those articles, sections or defined terms are incorporated in this prospectus and the prospectus supplement by reference, and the statement with respect to which such reference is made is qualified in its entirety by such reference.

General

Each series of junior subordinated debt securities will rank equally with all other series of junior subordinated debt securities, unless otherwise provided in the supplemental indenture, and will be unsecured and subordinate and junior in right of payment to the extent and in the manner set forth in the junior subordinated indenture to all of our senior debt as defined in the junior subordinated indenture, which includes all debt issued under our senior indenture or

subordinated indenture. See “—Subordination.”

We are a non-operating holding company and our consolidated subsidiaries own almost all of our operating assets. We rely primarily on dividends from our subsidiaries to meet our obligations. The payment of dividends by our insurance company subsidiaries is limited under the insurance company holding company laws of the states in which those subsidiaries are domiciled. Accordingly, the junior subordinated debt securities will be effectively junior subordinated to all existing and future liabilities of our subsidiaries, and holders of junior subordinated debt securities should look only to our assets for payments on the junior subordinated debt securities. Except as otherwise provided in the applicable prospectus supplement, the junior subordinated indenture does not limit our incurrence or issuance of other secured or unsecured debt, whether under the junior subordinated indenture or any other indenture that we may have entered into or may enter into in

the future or otherwise. See “—Subordination” and the prospectus supplement relating to any offering of junior subordinated debt securities.

We will issue the junior subordinated debt securities in one or more series pursuant to an indenture supplemental to the junior subordinated indenture or a resolution of our board of directors (as defined in the junior subordinated indenture) or a committee thereof.

The applicable prospectus supplement will describe the following terms of the junior subordinated debt securities:

- the title of the junior subordinated debt securities;
- any limit upon the aggregate principal amount of the junior subordinated debt securities;
- the date or dates on which the principal of the junior subordinated debt securities is payable (which we refer to as the “stated maturity”) or the method of determination of the stated maturity;
- the rate or rates, if any, at which the junior subordinated debt securities will bear interest, the interest payment dates on which interest will be payable, our right, if any, to defer or extend an interest payment date and the regular record date for interest payable on any interest payment date or the method by which any of these items will be determined;
- the place or places where the principal of and premium, if any, and interest on the junior subordinated debt securities will be payable and where the junior subordinated debt securities may be presented for registration of transfer or exchange and the place or places where notices and demands to or upon us regarding the junior subordinated debt securities and the junior subordinated indenture may be made;
- the periods, terms and conditions upon which junior subordinated debt securities may be redeemed, in whole or in part, at our option;
- our obligation or right, if any, or the obligation or right of, if any, a holder to redeem, purchase or repay the junior subordinated debt securities and the terms and conditions upon which the junior subordinated debt securities shall be redeemed, repaid or purchased, in whole or in part, pursuant to such obligation;
- the denominations in which any junior subordinated debt securities shall be issuable if other than denominations of \$25 and any integral multiple thereof;
- if other than in U.S. dollars, the currency or currencies (including currency unit or units) in which the principal of and premium and interest, if any, on the junior subordinated debt securities shall be payable, or in which the junior subordinated debt securities shall be denominated;
- any additions, modifications or deletions in the events of default or covenants specified in the junior subordinated indenture with respect to the junior subordinated debt securities;
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if other than the principal amount, the portion of the principal amount of junior subordinated debt securities that shall be payable upon declaration of acceleration of the maturity thereof;

- any additions or changes to the junior subordinated indenture with respect to a series of junior subordinated debt securities as shall be necessary to permit or facilitate the issuance of the series in bearer form, registrable or not registrable as to principal, and with or without interest coupons;
- any index or indices used to determine the amount of payments of principal of and premium, if any, on the junior subordinated debt securities and the manner in which these amounts will be determined;
- the terms and conditions relating to the issuance of a temporary global security representing all of the junior subordinated debt securities of the series and the exchange of the temporary global security for definitive junior subordinated debt securities of the series;
- whether the junior subordinated debt securities of the series will be issued in whole or in part in the form of one or more global securities and, in such case, the depository for the global securities, which depository will be a clearing agency registered under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended;
- the appointment of any paying agent or agents;

- the terms and conditions of any right of us or a holder to convert or exchange the junior subordinated debt securities into our other securities or property;
- the form of trust agreement and guarantee agreement, if applicable;
- the relative degree, if any, to which junior subordinated debt securities of the series shall be senior or subordinated to other series of our junior subordinated debt securities in right of payment, whether other series of junior subordinated debt securities are outstanding or not; and
- any other terms of the junior subordinated debt securities not inconsistent with the provisions of the junior subordinated indenture.

We may, in certain circumstances, without notice to or consent of the holders of the junior subordinated debt securities, issue additional junior subordinated debt securities having the same terms and conditions as junior subordinated debt securities as previously issued under this prospectus and any applicable prospectus supplement, so that such additional junior subordinated debt securities and the junior subordinated debt securities previously offered under this prospectus and any applicable prospectus supplement form a single series, and references in this prospectus and any applicable prospectus supplement to the junior subordinated debt securities shall include, unless the context otherwise requires, any further junior subordinated debt securities issued as described in this paragraph.

We may sell junior subordinated debt securities at a substantial discount below their stated principal amount, bearing no interest or interest at a rate which is below market rates at the time of issuance. We will describe certain U.S. federal income tax consequences and special considerations applicable to any junior subordinated debt securities in the applicable prospectus supplement.

The purchase price of any junior subordinated debt securities may be payable in one or more foreign currencies or currency units. Junior subordinated debt securities may be denominated in one or more foreign currencies or currency units, or the principal of, or premium or interest, if any, on any junior subordinated debt securities may be payable in one or more foreign currencies or currency units. We will describe the restrictions, elections, certain U.S. federal income tax consequences, specific terms and other information with respect to the junior subordinated debt securities and foreign currency or currency units in the applicable prospectus supplement.

If we use any index to determine the amount of any principal, premium or interest payable with respect to any series of junior subordinated debt securities, we will describe the special U.S. federal income tax, accounting and other considerations in the applicable prospectus supplement.

Denominations, Registration and Transfer

Except as we may describe in the applicable prospectus supplement, we will issue debt securities in fully registered form without coupons and in denominations of \$25 and any integral multiple of \$25.

Debt securities of any series will be exchangeable for other debt securities of the same series, in any authorized denominations, of a like tenor and aggregate principal amount and having the same terms.

You may present debt securities for exchange, as described above, or for registration of transfer, at the office of the security registrar or at the office of any transfer agent we designate for that purpose. You will not incur a service charge but you must pay any taxes, assessments and other governmental charges as described in the junior

subordinated indenture. We will appoint the trustee as the initial security registrar as specified in the junior subordinated indenture. We may at any time rescind the designation of any transfer agent that we initially designate or approve a change in the location through which the transfer agent acts. We will specify the transfer agent in the applicable prospectus supplement. We may at any time designate additional transfer agents.

Global Junior Subordinated Debt Securities

We may issue all or any part of a series of junior subordinated debt securities in the form of one or more global junior subordinated debt securities. We will appoint the depository holding the global junior subordinated debt securities. Unless we otherwise state in the applicable prospectus supplement, the depository will be The Depository Trust Company, or DTC. We will issue global junior subordinated debt securities in registered form and in either temporary or definitive form.

Unless it is exchanged for individual debt securities, a global junior subordinated debt security may not be transferred except:

- by the depository to its nominee;
- by a nominee of the depository to the depository or another nominee; or
- by the depository or any nominee to a successor of the depository, or a nominee of the successor.

We will describe the specific terms of the depository arrangement in the applicable prospectus supplement. We expect that the following provisions will generally apply to these depository arrangements.

Beneficial Interests in a Global Junior Subordinated Debt Security

If we issue a global junior subordinated debt security, the depository for the global junior subordinated debt security or its nominee will credit on its book-entry registration and transfer system the principal amounts of the individual debt securities represented by the global junior subordinated debt security to the accounts of persons that have accounts with it. We refer to those persons as “participants” in this prospectus. The accounts will be designated by the dealers, underwriters or agents for the debt securities, or by us if the debt securities are offered and sold directly by us. Ownership of beneficial interests in a global junior subordinated debt security will be limited to participants or persons who may hold interests through participants. Ownership and transfers of beneficial interests in the global junior subordinated debt security will be shown on, and transactions can be effected only through, records maintained by the applicable depository or its nominee, for interests of participants, and the records of participants, for interests of persons who hold through participants. The laws of some states require that you take physical delivery of securities in definitive form. These limits and laws may impair your ability to transfer beneficial interests in a global junior subordinated debt security.

So long as the depository or its nominee is the registered owner of a global junior subordinated debt security, the depository or its nominee will be considered the sole owner or holder of the junior subordinated debt securities represented by the global junior subordinated debt security for all purposes under the junior subordinated indenture. Except as provided below, you:

- will not be entitled to have any of the individual junior subordinated debt securities represented by the global junior subordinated debt security registered in your name;
- will not receive or be entitled to receive physical delivery of any junior subordinated debt securities in definitive form; and
- will not be considered the registered owner or holder of the junior subordinated debt securities under the junior subordinated indenture.

Payments of Principal, Premium and Interest

We will make principal, premium, if any, and interest, if any, payments on global junior subordinated debt securities to the depository that is the registered holder of the global junior subordinated debt security or its nominee. The depository for the global junior subordinated debt securities will be solely responsible and liable for all payments made on account of your beneficial ownership interests in the global junior subordinated debt security and for

maintaining, supervising and reviewing any records relating to your beneficial ownership interests.

We expect that the depository or its nominee, upon receipt of any principal, premium, if any, or interest, if any, payment immediately will credit participants' accounts with amounts in proportion to their respective beneficial interests in the principal amount of the global junior subordinated debt security as shown on the records of the depository or its nominee. We also expect that payments by participants to you, as an owner of a beneficial interest in the global junior subordinated debt security held through those participants, will be governed by standing instructions and customary practices, as is now the case with securities held for the accounts of customers in bearer form or registered in "street name." These payments will be the responsibility of those participants.

Issuance of Individual Debt Securities

Unless we state otherwise in the applicable prospectus supplement, if a depository for a series of debt securities is at any time unwilling, unable or ineligible to continue as depository, we will appoint a successor depository or we will issue individual debt securities in exchange for the global junior subordinated debt security.

Payment and Paying Agents

Unless otherwise indicated in the applicable prospectus supplement, we will pay the principal of and any premium and interest on junior subordinated debt securities at the office of the junior subordinated indenture trustee in the City of New York, or at the office of any paying agent or paying agents as we may designate from time to time in the applicable prospectus supplement.

Unless otherwise indicated in the applicable prospectus supplement, we will make payments of interest on junior subordinated debt securities to the person or entity in whose name the junior subordinated debt security is registered at the close of business on the regular record date for such interest, except in the case of defaulted interest. We may at any time designate additional paying agents or rescind the designation of any paying agent. However, we will be required to maintain at all times a paying agent in each place of payment for each series of junior subordinated debt securities.

Any moneys that we deposit with the junior subordinated indenture trustee or any paying agent, or then held by us in trust, for the payment of the principal of and any premium or interest on any junior subordinated debt security that remains unclaimed for two years after becoming due and payable will be repaid to us at our request. After that time, the holder of the junior subordinated debt security will look, as a general unsecured creditor, only to us for payment of those amounts.

Option to Extend Interest Payment Date

If provided in the applicable prospectus supplement and subject to any terms, conditions and covenants contained in the prospectus supplement, we will have the right at any time and from time to time during the term of any series of junior subordinated debt securities to defer payment of interest for that number of consecutive interest payment periods as may be specified in the applicable prospectus supplement (each of which we refer to as an “extension period”). However, no extension period may extend beyond the stated maturity of the applicable series of junior subordinated debt securities. We will describe certain U.S. federal income tax consequences and special considerations applicable to the junior subordinated debt securities in the applicable prospectus supplement.

Redemption

Unless otherwise indicated in the applicable prospectus supplement:

- junior subordinated debt securities will not be subject to any sinking fund;
- we may, at our option, redeem the junior subordinated debt securities of any series in whole at any time or in part from time to time. We may redeem junior subordinated debt securities in denominations larger than \$25 in part but only in integral multiples of \$25;
- the redemption price for any junior subordinated debt security shall equal the principal amount of the security, plus any accrued and unpaid interest to the redemption date; and
- if a special event as described below has occurred and is continuing with respect to a series of junior subordinated debt securities, we may, at our option, redeem that series of junior subordinated debt securities in whole, but not in part, after the occurrence of the special event, at a redemption price equal to 100% of the principal amount of the junior subordinated debt securities of that series then outstanding plus accrued and unpaid

interest to the redemption date.

A “special event” means a “tax event” or an “investment company event.” A “tax event” occurs when we receive an opinion of counsel experienced in such matters to the effect that as a result of any amendment to, or change or announced prospective change in, the laws or regulations of the U.S. or any political subdivision or taxing authority in the U.S., or as a result of any official administrative pronouncement or judicial decision interpreting or applying those laws or regulations, which amendment or change is effective or which pronouncement or decision is announced on or after the date of issuance of the preferred securities of a trust, there is more than an insubstantial risk that:

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