

# Accounting, Tax, Legal and Regulation Panel



Opal Financial Group CLO & Structured Products Summit Dana Point, CA December 8, 2008

# Agenda

Panel Discussion

Audience (and Moderator) Questions

and if we have time...

Panelists Debate on Topical Regulation Issues

# PANEL DISCUSSION

Regulation We're Seeing

Regulation We're Expecting

Regulation We're Hoping For

## Panel Discussion

#### **MNPI / Informational Barriers**

#### Chinese Wall

• Restrictions governing the access to, and usage of, material nonpublic information (MNPI)

#### Informational Barriers

- Individual or "Cone of Silence" barriers
- Control Room or Wall Monitor structure
- Group or division carve out structure

## Key Sources of MNPI

- Personal relationships
- Clients/Investors
- Participation in private deals; bank loans
- Seats on boards; bankruptcy, restructuring committees
- Information technology

## Panel Discussion

## **CDS Regulation...Coming Soon?**

- Pressure to Regulate CDS market
- FAS 133-1 & FIN 45-4
  - Protection sellers to disclose more details of financial positions under credit derivatives (beginning 11/15/08)
- "Covered" CDS Contracts
  - NY state will regulate sellers of certain contracts (beginning Jan. 2009)
  - Contracts constitute insurance contracts under certain qualifying conditions (circular letter No. 19)

## Panel Discussion

## **Exchange-traded CDS?**

- The private sector, including the ISDA, has been warning against irrational action to over-regulate CDS contracts
- Private clearinghouses are working to put together exchange trading platforms for CDS contracts: hoping to provide the "self-regulation" answer
- Regulators have generally responded positively to the idea of a central clearinghouse structure to settle trades

# QUESTIONS

## PANEL DEBATE

## Panel Debate

#### Policies, Procedures, Disclosures

- Dynamic (adaptive?) procedures vs. consistent application
- Flexible vs. tight (accurate?) procedures
- Less is more vs. more is more

-- An Example --