

ANNALY CAPITAL MANAGEMENT, INC. REPORTS 1st QUARTER 2018 RESULTS

NEW YORK – May 2, 2018 – Annaly Capital Management, Inc. (NYSE: NLY) (the "Company" or "Annaly") today announced its financial results for the quarter ended March 31, 2018.

Quarterly Financial Highlights

- GAAP net income of \$1.3 billion, \$1.12 per average common share
- Core earnings (excluding PAA) were \$385.3 million, \$0.30 per average common share
- GAAP return on average equity was 36.86% and core return on average equity (excluding PAA) was 10.70%
- Book value per common share of \$10.53
- Economic leverage of 6.5x as compared to 6.6x at December 31, 2017
- Net interest margin (excluding PAA) of 1.52%, up from 1.51% in the prior quarter
- Increased hedge ratio to 94%, up from 70% as of December 31, 2017

Business Highlights

- Continued expansion of credit businesses, representing 26% of dedicated capital at March 31, 2018, up from 24% as of December 31, 2017
- Raised \$425.0 million of preferred equity with the lowest coupon in history for a non-rated offering; proceeds used, in part, to redeem over \$400 million of preferred stock, reducing the cost of preferred capital by 27 bps
- Further diversified efficient funding sources for residential mortgage loans beyond FHLB with debut securitization of \$327.5 million of UPB
- Continued governance improvements by adopting enhanced Board evaluation process, including individual director assessments by an external facilitator
- Authored industry leading white paper, in conjunction with an economist from the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, that evaluates
 Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac's Credit Risk Transfer ("CRT") initiative
- Declared 18th consecutive quarterly dividend of \$0.30 per common share

"After years of global accommodative policy, the first quarter demonstrated an inflection point - as we've discussed as inevitable - beyond which investors would no longer accept risk without differentiation of valuation," commented Kevin Keyes, Chairman, Chief Executive Officer and President. "Increased volatility and rising interest rates created a more challenging investment environment in the first quarter. Though we were not immune from the market backdrop, Annaly proactively managed our businesses to not only withstand short-term market shocks, but, as importantly, to position our portfolio for the long term. We significantly increased our hedge ratio and continued to selectively diversify into lower-levered floating rate credit assets, increasing our allocation to credit to 26%. With 36 complementary investment options across our four businesses, our diversified model, size, liquidity and conservative leverage profile uniquely position us to capitalize on opportunities resulting from increased volatility which will likely persist in the quarters ahead."

Financial Performance

The following table summarizes certain key performance indicators as of and for the quarters ended March 31, 2018, December 31, 2017 and March 31, 2017:

	Ma	March 31, 2018		December 31, 2017		March 31, 2017
Book value per common share	\$	10.53	\$	11.34	\$	11.23
Economic leverage at period-end (1)		6.5:1		6.6:1		6.1:1
GAAP net income (loss) per average common share (2)	\$	1.12	\$	0.62	\$	0.41
Annualized GAAP return (loss) on average equity		36.86%		20.58%		13.97%
Net interest margin (3)		1.94%		1.47%		1.47%
Average yield on interest earning assets (4)		3.45%		2.97%		2.74%
Average cost of interest bearing liabilities (5)		1.90%		1.83%		1.59%
Net interest spread		1.55%		1.14%		1.15%
Core Earnings Metrics: *						
Core earnings (excluding PAA) per average common share (2)(6)	\$	0.30	\$	0.31	\$	0.31
Core earnings per average common share (2)(6)	\$	0.41	\$	0.30	\$	0.29
PAA cost (benefit) per average common share	\$	(0.11)	\$	0.01	\$	0.02
Annualized core return on average equity (excluding PAA)		10.70%		10.67%		10.66%
Net interest margin (excluding PAA) (3)		1.52%		1.51%		1.55%
Average yield on interest earning assets (excluding PAA) (4)		2.99%		3.02%		2.83%
Net interest spread (excluding PAA)		1.09%		1.19%		1.24%

- * Represents non-GAAP financial measures. Please refer to the 'Non-GAAP Financial Measures' section for additional information.
- (1) Computed as the sum of recourse debt, to-be-announced ("TBA") derivative notional outstanding and net forward purchases of investments divided by total equity. Recourse debt consists of repurchase agreements and other secured financing. Securitized debt, participation sold and mortgages payable are non-recourse to the Company and are excluded from this measure.
- (2) Net of dividends on preferred stock. The quarter ended December 31, 2017 excludes cumulative and undeclared dividends of \$8.3 million on the Company's Series F Preferred Stock as of September 30, 2017.
- (3) Net interest margin represents the sum of the Company's interest income plus TBA dollar roll income less interest expense and realized gains (losses) on interest rate swaps divided by the sum of average Interest Earning Assets plus average TBA contract balances. Net interest margin (excluding PAA) excludes the premium amortization adjustment ("PAA") representing the cumulative impact on prior periods, but not the current period, of quarter-over-quarter changes in estimated long-term prepayment speeds related to the Company's Agency mortgage-backed securities.
- (4) Average yield on interest earning assets represents annualized interest income divided by average interest earning assets. Average interest earning assets reflects the average amortized cost of our investments during the period. Average yield on interest earning assets (excluding PAA) is calculated using annualized interest income (excluding PAA).
- (5) Includes GAAP interest expense and interest expense on interest rate swaps. Prior to the quarter ended March 31, 2018, this metric included interest expense on interest rate swaps used to hedge cost of funds. Beginning with the quarter ended March 31, 2018, as a result of changes to the Company's hedging portfolio, this metric reflects all interest expense on interest rate swaps, which is reported as Realized gains (losses) on interest rate swaps in the Company's consolidated statements of comprehensive income (loss).
- (6) Core earnings is defined as net income (loss) excluding gains or losses on disposals of investments and termination or maturity of interest rate swaps, unrealized gains or losses on interest rate swaps and investments measured at fair value through earnings, net gains and losses on trading assets, impairment losses, net income (loss) attributable to noncontrolling interest, transaction expenses and certain other non-recurring gains or losses, and inclusive of TBA dollar roll income (a component of Net gains (losses) on trading assets) and realized amortization of mortgage servicing rights ("MSR") (a component of net unrealized gains (losses) on investments measured at fair value through earnings). Core earnings (excluding PAA) excludes the premium amortization adjustment.

Other Information

This news release and our public documents to which we refer contain or incorporate by reference certain forward-looking statements which are based on various assumptions (some of which are beyond our control) and may be identified by reference to a future period or periods or by the use of forward-looking terminology, such as "may," "will," "believe," "expect," "anticipate," "continue," or similar terms or variations on those terms or the negative of those terms. Actual results could differ materially from those set forth in forward-looking statements due to a variety of factors, including, but not limited to, changes in interest rates; changes in the yield curve; changes in prepayment rates; the availability of mortgage-backed securities and other securities for purchase; the availability of financing and, if available, the terms of any financing; changes in the market value of our assets; changes in business conditions and the general economy; our ability to grow our commercial real estate business; our ability to grow our residential mortgage credit business; our ability to grow our middle market lending business; credit risks related to our investments in credit risk transfer securities, residential mortgage-backed securities and related residential mortgage credit assets, commercial real estate assets and corporate debt; risks related to investments in mortgage servicing rights; our ability to consummate any contemplated investment opportunities; changes in government regulations and policy affecting our business; our ability to maintain our qualification as a REIT for U.S. federal income tax purposes; and our ability to maintain our exemption from registration under the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended. For a discussion of the risks and uncertainties which could cause actual results to differ from those contained in the forward-looking statements, see "Risk Factors" in our most recent Annual Report on Form 10-K and any subsequent Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q. We do not undertake, and specific

the result of any revisions which may be made to any forward-looking statements to reflect the occurrence of anticipated or unanticipated events or circumstances after the date of such statements, except as required by law.

Annaly is a leading diversified capital manager that invests in and finances residential and commercial assets. Annaly's principal business objective is to generate net income for distribution to its stockholders and to preserve capital through prudent selection of investments and continuous management of its portfolio. Annaly has elected to be taxed as a real estate investment trust, or REIT, for federal income tax purposes. Annaly is externally managed by Annaly Management Company LLC. Additional information on the Company can be found at www.annaly.com.

The Company prepares a supplemental investor presentation and a financial summary for the benefit of its shareholders. Both the First Quarter 2018 Investor Presentation and the First Quarter 2018 Financial Summary can be found at the Company's website (www.annaly.com) in the Investors section under Investor Presentations.

Conference Call

The Company will hold the first quarter 2018 earnings conference call on May 3, 2018 at 10:00 a.m. Eastern Time. The number to call is 888-317-6003 for domestic calls and 412-317-6061 for international calls. The conference passcode is 5191574. There will also be an audio webcast of the call on www.annaly.com. The replay of the call will be available for one week following the conference call. The replay number is 877-344-7529 for domestic calls and 412-317-0088 for international calls and the conference passcode is 10119215. If you would like to be added to the e-mail distribution list, please visit www.annaly.com, click on Investors, then select Email Alerts and complete the email notification form.

Financial Statements ANNALY CAPITAL MANAGEMENT, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL CONDITION (dollars in thousands, except per share data)

		March 31, 2018 Jnaudited)	D	December 31, 2017 ⁽¹⁾		eptember 30, 2017 (Unaudited)		June 30, 2017 (naudited)		March 31, 2017 Jnaudited)
ASSETS					- (-		- (-		- (-	
Cash and cash equivalents	\$	984,275	\$	706,589	\$	867,840	\$	700,692	\$	819,421
Investments, at fair value:	•	, , ,		,	·	,		,	•	/
Agency mortgage-backed securities		88,579,097		90,551,763		85,889,131		73,963,998		72,708,490
Credit risk transfer securities		628,942		651,764		582,938		605,826		686,943
Non-Agency mortgage-backed securities		1,066,343		1,097,294		1,227,235		1,234,053		1,409,093
Residential mortgage loans (2)		1,535,685		1,438,322		895,919		779,685		682,416
Mortgage servicing rights		596,378		580,860		570,218		605,653		632,166
Commercial real estate debt investments (3)		2,960,323		3,089,108		3,869,110		3,972,560		4,102,613
Commercial real estate debt and preferred equity, held for investment		1,081,295		1,029,327		981,748		928,181		985,091
Investments in commercial real estate		480,063		485,953		470,928		474,510		462,760
Corporate debt		1,152,745		1,011,275		856,110		773,957		841,265
Interest rate swaps, at fair value		69,109		30,272		12,250		10,472		19,195
Other derivatives, at fair value		161,193		283,613		266,249		154,004		196,935
Reverse repurchase agreements		200,459		_		_		_		_
Receivable for investments sold		45,126		1,232		340,033		9,784		354,126
Accrued interest and dividends receivable		326,989		323,526		293,207		263,217		266,887
Other assets		421,448		384,117		353,708		399,456		388,224
Goodwill		71,815		71,815		71,815		71,815		71,815
Intangible assets, net		20,948		23,220		25,742		28,715		31,517
Total assets	\$	100,382,233	\$	101,760,050	\$	97,574,181	\$	84,976,578	\$	84,658,957
LIABILITIES AND STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY Liabilities:		·				·				
Repurchase agreements	\$	78,015,431	\$	77,696,343	\$	69,430,268	\$	62,497,400	\$	62,719,087
Other secured financing		3,830,075		3,837,528		3,713,256		3,785,543		3,876,150
Securitized debt of consolidated VIEs (4)		2,904,873		2,971,771		3,357,929		3,438,675		3,477,059
Participation sold				_						12,760
Mortgages payable		309,794		309,686		311,886		311,810		311,707
Interest rate swaps, at fair value		427,838		569,129		606,960		614,589		572,419
Other derivatives, at fair value		153,103		38,725		75,529		99,380		52,496
Dividends payable		347,897		347,876		326,425		305,709		305,691
Payable for investments purchased		91,327		656,581		5,243,868		1,043,379		340,383
Accrued interest payable		284,696		253,068		231,611		185,720		182,478
Accounts payable and other liabilities		74,264		207,770		121,231		84,948		161,378
Total liabilities	_	86,439,298		86,888,477		83,418,963		72,367,153		72,011,608
Stockholders' Equity:		, ,						,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,		,, ,,,,,
7.875% Series A Cumulative Redeemable Preferred Stock (5)		_		_		_		177,088		177,088
7.625% Series C Cumulative Redeemable Preferred Stock (6)		169,466		290,514		290,514		290,514		290,514
7.50% Series D Cumulative Redeemable Preferred Stock (7)		445,457		445,457		445,457		445,457		445,457
7.625% Series E Cumulative Redeemable Preferred Stock (8)		_		287,500		287,500		287,500		287,500
6.95% Series F Fixed-to-Floating Rate Cumulative Redeemable Preferred Stock ⁽⁹⁾		696,910		696,910		696,910		_		_
6.50% Series G Fixed-to-Floating Rate Cumulative Redeemable Preferred Stock $^{(10)}$	<u> </u>	411,335		_		-		-		-
Common stock, par value \$0.01 per share (11)		11,597		11,596		10,881		10,190		10,190
Additional paid-in capital		17,218,191		17,221,265		16,377,805		15,581,760		15,580,038
Accumulated other comprehensive income (loss)		(3,000,080)		(1,126,020)		(640,149)		(850,767)		(1,126,091)
Accumulated deficit		(2,015,612)		(2,961,749)		(3,320,160)		(3,339,228)		(3,024,670)
Total stockholders' equity		13,937,264		14,865,473		14,148,758		12,602,514		12,640,026
Noncontrolling interest	_	5,671		6,100		6,460		6,911		7,323
Total equity		13,942,935		14,871,573		14,155,218		12,609,425		12,647,349
Total liabilities and equity	\$	100,382,233	\$	101,760,050	\$	97,574,181	\$	84,976,578	\$	84,658,957

- (1) Derived from the audited consolidated financial statements at December 31, 2017.
- (2) Includes securitized residential mortgage loans transferred or pledged to consolidated variable interest entities ("VIEs") carried at fair value of \$560.2 million, \$478.8 million, \$139.8 million, \$139.8 million, \$150.9 million and \$155.6 million at March 31, 2018, December 31, 2017, September 30, 2017, June 30, 2017 and March 31, 2017, respectively.
- (3) Includes senior securitized commercial mortgage loans of consolidated VIEs with a carrying value of \$2.7 billion, \$2.8 billion, \$3.6 billion, \$3.6 billion, \$3.7 billion and \$3.7 billion at March 31, 2018, December 31, 2017, September 30, 2017, June 30, 2017 and March 31, 2017, respectively.
- (4) Includes securitized debt of consolidated VIEs carried at fair value of \$2.9 billion, \$3.0 billion, \$3.4 billion, \$3.4 billion and \$3.5 billion at March 31, 2018, December 31, 2017, September 30, 2017, June 30, 2017 and March 31, 2017, respectively.
- (5) Includes 0 shares authorized, issued and outstanding at March 31, 2018 and December 31, 2017. Includes 7,412,500 authorized shares and 0 shares issued and outstanding at September 30, 2017. Includes 7,412,500 shares authorized, issued and outstanding at June 30, 2017 and March 31, 2017.
- (6) Includes 12,000,000 shares authorized and 7,000,000 shares issued and outstanding at March 31, 2018. Includes 12,000,000 shares authorized, issued and outstanding at December 31, 2017. Includes 12,650,000 shares authorized and 12,000,000 shares issued and outstanding at each of September 30, 2017, June 30, 2017 and March 31, 2017.
- (7) Includes 18,400,000 shares authorized, issued and outstanding.
- (8) Includes 11,500,000 authorized, and 0 shares issued and outstanding at March 31, 2018. Includes 11,500,000 shares authorized, issued and outstanding at each of December 31, 2017, September 30, 2017, June 30, 2017 and March 31, 2017.
- (9) Includes 28,800,000 shares authorized, issued and outstanding at March 31, 2018 and December 31, 2017. Includes 32,200,000 shares authorized and 28,800,000 shares issued and outstanding at September 30, 2017. Includes 0 shares authorized, issued and outstanding at June 30, 2017 and March 31, 2017.
- (10) Includes 19,550,000 shares authorized and 17,000,000 issued and outstanding at March 31, 2018. Includes 0 shares authorized, issued and outstanding at each of December 31, 2017, September 30, 2017, June 30, 2017 and March 31, 2017.
- (11) Includes 1,909,750,000 shares authorized and 1,159,657,350 issued and outstanding at March 31, 2018. Includes 1,929,300,000 shares authorized and 1,159,585,078 issued and outstanding at December 31, 2017. Includes 1,917,837,500 shares authorized and 1,088,083,794 shares issued and outstanding at September 30, 2017. Includes 1,945,437,500 shares authorized and 1,019,027,880 shares issued and outstanding at June 30, 2017. Includes 1,945,437,500 shares authorized and 1,018,971,441 shares issued and outstanding at March 31, 2017.

ANNALY CAPITAL MANAGEMENT, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME (LOSS)

(Unaudited)

(dollars in thousands, except per share data)

(dollars if	(jusanus, exc	ept	per share data For		quarters ende	d			
	M	arch 31, 2018	I	December 31, 2017		eptember 30, 2017		ne 30, 2017	N	farch 31, 2017
Net interest income:										
Interest income	\$	879,487	\$	745,423	\$	622,550	\$	537,426	\$	587,727
Interest expense		367,421		318,711		268,937		222,281		198,425
Net interest income		512,066		426,712		353,613		315,145		389,302
Realized and unrealized gains (losses):										
Realized gains (losses) on interest rate swaps (1)		(48,160)		(82,271)		(88,211)		(96,470)		(104,156)
Realized gains (losses) on termination or maturity of interest rate swaps		834		(160,075)		-		(58)		_
Unrealized gains (losses) on interest rate swaps		977,285		484,447		56,854		(177,567)		149,184
Subtotal	_	929,959		242,101		(31,357)		(274,095)		45,028
Net gains (losses) on disposal of investments		13,468		7,895		(11,552)		(5,516)		5,235
Net gains (losses) on trading assets		(47,145)		121,334		154,208		(14,423)		319
Net unrealized gains (losses) on investments measured at fair value through earnings		(51,593)		(12,115)		(67,492)		16,240		23,683
Subtotal		(85,270)		117,114		75,164		(3,699)		29,237
Total realized and unrealized gains (losses)		844,689		359,215		43,807		(277,794)		74,265
Other income (loss)	_	34,023		25,064		28,282		30,865		31,646
General and administrative expenses:										
Compensation and management fee		44,529		44,129		41,993		38,938		39,262
Other general and administrative expenses		17,981		15,128		15,023		15,085		14,566
Total general and administrative expenses		62,510		59,257		57,016		54,023		53,828
Income (loss) before income taxes		1,328,268		751,734		368,686		14,193		441,385
Income taxes		564		4,963		1,371		(329)		977
Net income (loss)		1,327,704		746,771		367,315		14,522		440,408
Net income (loss) attributable to noncontrolling interest		(96)		(151)		(232)		(102)		(103)
Net income (loss) attributable to Annaly		1,327,800		746,922		367,547		14,624		440,511
Dividends on preferred stock (2)		33,766		32,334		30,355		23,473		23,473
Net income (loss) available (related) to common	Φ.	1 204 024	d.		ď		¢	(0.040)	æ	417.029
stockholders	\$	1,294,034	\$	714,588	\$	337,192	\$	(8,849)	\$	417,038
Net income (loss) per share available (related) to common stockholders:										
Basic	\$	1.12	\$	0.62	\$	0.31	\$	(0.01)		0.41
Diluted	\$	1.12	\$	0.62	\$	0.31	\$	(0.01)	\$	0.41
Weighted average number of common shares outstanding:										
Basic		1,159,617,848		1,151,653,296		1,072,566,395	1,	,019,000,817		1,018,942,746
Diluted	_	1,160,103,185		1,152,138,887		1,073,040,637		,019,000,817		1,019,307,379
Net income (loss)	\$	1,327,704	\$	746,771	\$	367,315	\$	14,522	\$	440,408
Other comprehensive income (loss):	÷	,- , -	<u> </u>	-,		,	<u> </u>	,-	<u> </u>	-,
Unrealized gains (losses) on available-for-sale securities		(1,879,479)		(487,597)		195,251		261,964		(59,615)
Reclassification adjustment for net (gains) losses included in net income (loss)		5,419		1,726		15,367		13,360		19,417
Other comprehensive income (loss)		(1,874,060)		(485,871)		210,618		275,324		(40,198)
Comprehensive income (loss)		(546,356)		260,900		577,933		289,846		400,210
Comprehensive income (loss) attributable to noncontrolling interest		(96)		(151)		(232)		(102)		(103)
Comprehensive income (loss) attributable to Annaly		(546,260)		261,051		578,165		289,948		400,313
Dividends on preferred stock (2)		33,766		32,334		30,355		23,473		23,473

(1) Interest expense related to the Company's interest rate swaps is recorded in Realized gains (losses) on interest rate swaps on the Consolidated Statements of Comprehensive Income.

(580,026)

\$

\$

228,717

\$

266,475

376,840

547,810

Comprehensive income (loss) attributable to common

stockholders

(2) The quarter ended December 31, 2017 excludes, and the quarter ended September 30, 2017 includes, cumulative and undeclared dividends of \$8.3 million on the Company's Series F Preferred Stock as of September 30, 2017.

Key Metrics

The following table presents key metrics of the Company's portfolio, liabilities and hedging positions, and performance as of and for the quarters ended March 31, 2018, December 31, 2017, and March 31, 2017:

	March 31, 2018	December 31, 2017	March 31, 2017
Portfolio Related Metrics:			
Fixed-rate Residential Investment Securities as a percentage of total Residential Investment Securities	91%	90%	85%
Adjustable-rate and floating-rate Residential Investment Securities as a percentage of total Residential Investment Securities	9%	10%	15%
Weighted average experienced CPR for the period	8.9%	9.8%	11.5%
Weighted average projected long-term CPR at period-end	9.2%	10.4%	10.0%
Liabilities and Hedging Metrics:			
Weighted average days to maturity on repurchase agreements outstanding at period-end	72	58	88
Hedge ratio (1)	94%	70%	63%
Weighted average pay rate on interest rate swaps at period-end (2)	2.00%	2.22%	2.25%
Weighted average receive rate on interest rate swaps at period-end (2)	2.13%	1.58%	1.15%
Weighted average net rate on interest rate swaps at period-end (2)	(0.13%)	0.64%	1.10%
Leverage at period-end (3)	6.1:1	5.7:1	5.6:1
Economic leverage at period-end (4)	6.5:1	6.6:1	6.1:1
Capital ratio at period-end	13.1%	12.9%	13.8%
Desferonce and Deleted Metales			
Performance Related Metrics:	¢ 10.52	ф 11 2 <i>4</i>	¢ 11.00
Book value per common share	\$ 10.53	\$ 11.34	\$ 11.23
GAAP net income (loss) per average common share (5)	\$ 1.12	\$ 0.62	\$ 0.41
Annualized GAAP return (loss) on average equity	36.86%	20.58%	13.97%
Net interest margin	1.94% 3.45%	1.47% 2.97%	1.47% 2.74%
Average yield on interest earning assets (6)	1.90%	1.83%	2.74% 1.59%
Average cost of interest bearing liabilities (7)	1.55%	1.83%	1.39%
Net interest spread	\$ 0.30	\$ 0.30	\$ 0.30
Dividend declared per common share Annualized dividend yield (8)	ъ 0.30 11.51%	10.09%	10.80%
Core Earnings Metrics *	11.51 //	10.09 //	10.60 %
Core earnings (excluding PAA) per average common share (5)	\$ 0.30	\$ 0.31	\$ 0.31
Core earnings per average common share (5)	\$ 0.30	\$ 0.30	\$ 0.29
PAA cost (benefit) per average common share	\$ (0.11)	\$ 0.01	\$ 0.02
Annualized core return on average equity (excluding PAA)	10.70%	10.67%	10.66%
Net interest margin (excluding PAA)	1.52%	1.51%	1.55%
Average yield on interest earning assets (excluding PAA) (6)	2.99%	3.02%	2.83%
Net interest spread (excluding PAA)	1.09%	1.19%	1.24%
ivet interest spread (excluding LAA)	1.09 /0	1.19 /0	1.24/0

- * Represents non-GAAP financial measures. Please refer to the 'Non-GAAP Financial Measures' section for additional information.
- (1) Measures total notional balances of interest rate swaps, interest rate swaptions and futures relative to repurchase agreements, other secured financing and TBA notional outstanding; excludes MSRs and the effects of term financing, both of which serve to reduce interest rate risk. Additionally, the hedge ratio does not take into consideration differences in duration between assets and liabilities.
- Excludes forward starting swaps.
- (3) Debt consists of repurchase agreements, other secured financing, securitized debt, participation sold and mortgages payable. Securitized debt, participation sold and mortgages payable are non-recourse to the Company.
- (4) Computed as the sum of recourse debt, TBA derivative notional outstanding and net forward purchases of investments divided by total equity.
- (5) Net of dividends on preferred stock. The quarter ended December 31, 2017 excludes cumulative and undeclared dividends of \$8.3 million on the Company's Series F Preferred Stock as of September 30, 2017.
- (6) Average yield on interest earning assets represents annualized interest income divided by average interest earning assets. Average interest earning assets reflects the average amortized cost of our investments during the period. Average yield on interest earning assets (excluding PAA) is calculated using annualized interest income (excluding PAA).
- (7) Includes GAAP interest expense and interest expense on interest rate swaps. Prior to the quarter ended March 31, 2018, this metric included interest expense on interest rate swaps used to hedge cost of funds. Beginning with the quarter ended March 31, 2018, as a result of changes to the Company's hedging portfolio, this metric reflects all interest expense on interest rate swaps, which is reported as Realized gains (losses) on interest rate swaps in the Company's consolidated statements of comprehensive income (loss).
- (8) Based on the closing price of the Company's common stock of \$10.43, \$11.89 and \$11.11 at March 31, 2018, December 31, 2017 and March 31, 2017, respectively.

Non-GAAP Financial Measures

To supplement its consolidated financial statements, which are prepared and presented in accordance with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles ("GAAP"), the Company provides the following non-GAAP measures:

- core earnings and core earnings (excluding PAA);
- core earnings and core earnings (excluding PAA) per average common share;
- annualized core return on average equity (excluding PAA);
- interest income (excluding PAA);
- · economic interest expense;
- economic net interest income (excluding PAA);
- average yield on interest earning assets (excluding PAA);
- net interest margin (excluding PAA); and
- net interest spread (excluding PAA).

These measures should not be considered a substitute for, or superior to, financial measures computed in accordance with GAAP. While intended to offer a fuller understanding of the Company's results and operations, non-GAAP financial measures also have limitations. For example, the Company may calculate its non-GAAP metrics, such as core earnings, or the PAA, differently than its peers making comparative analysis difficult. Additionally, in the case of non-GAAP measures that exclude the PAA, the amount of amortization expense excluding the PAA is not necessarily representative of the amount of future periodic amortization nor is it indicative of the term over which the Company will amortize the remaining unamortized premium. Changes to actual and estimated prepayments will impact the timing and amount of premium amortization and, as such, both GAAP and non-GAAP results.

These non-GAAP measures provide additional detail to enhance investor understanding of the Company's period-over-period operating performance and business trends, as well as for assessing the Company's performance versus that of industry peers. Additional information pertaining to the Company's use of these non-GAAP financial measures, including discussion of how each such measure is useful to investors, and reconciliations to their most directly comparable GAAP results are provided below.

Amortization

In accordance with GAAP, the Company amortizes or accretes premiums or discounts into interest income for its Agency mortgage-backed securities, excluding interest-only securities, taking into account estimates of future principal prepayments in the calculation of the effective yield. The Company recalculates the effective yield as differences between anticipated and actual prepayments occur. Using third-party model and market information to project future cash flows and expected remaining lives of securities, the effective interest rate determined for each security is applied as if it had been in place from the date of the security's acquisition. The amortized cost of the security is then adjusted to the amount that would have existed had the new effective yield been applied since the acquisition date. The adjustment to amortized cost is offset with a charge or credit to interest income. Changes in interest rates and other market factors will impact prepayment speed projections and the amount of premium amortization recognized in any given period.

The Company's GAAP metrics include the unadjusted impact of amortization and accretion associated with this method. Certain of the Company's non-GAAP metrics exclude the effect of the PAA, which quantifies the component of premium amortization representing the cumulative impact on prior periods, but not the current period, of quarter-over-quarter changes in estimated long-term CPR.

The following table illustrates the impact of the PAA on premium amortization expense for the Company's Residential Investment Securities portfolio for the quarters ended March 31, 2018, December 31, 2017, and March 31, 2017:

	For the quarters ended									
	March 31, December 31, 2018 2017				March 31, 2017					
		(d	lollars in thousand	ls)						
Premium amortization expense (accretion)	\$	95,832	\$ 203,951	. \$	203,634					
Less: PAA cost (benefit)		(118,395)	11,367	,	17,870					
Premium amortization expense (excluding PAA)	\$	214,227	\$ 192,584	\$	185,764					

	For the quarters ended								
		March 31, 2018		December 31, 2017]	March 31, 2017			
		(per	av	erage common sh	are)				
Premium amortization expense (accretion)	\$	0.08	\$	0.18	\$	0.20			
Less: PAA cost (benefit)		(0.11)		0.01		0.02			
Premium amortization expense (excluding PAA)	\$	0.19	\$	0.17	\$	0.18			

Core earnings and core earnings (excluding PAA), core earnings and core earnings (excluding PAA) per average common share and annualized core return on average equity (excluding PAA)

The Company generates net income by earning a net interest spread on its investment portfolio, which is a function of the Company's interest income from its investment portfolio less financing, hedging and operating costs. Core earnings, which is comprised of interest income plus TBA dollar roll incomei, less financing and hedging costsii and general and administrative expenses, and core earnings (excluding PAA), are used by management and, we believe, used by our analysts and investors, to measure progress in achieving the Company's business objectives.

The Company defines "core earnings", a non-GAAP measure, as net income (loss) excluding gains or losses on disposals of investments and termination or maturity of interest rate swaps, unrealized gains or losses on interest rate swaps and investments measured at fair value through earnings, net gains and losses on trading assets, impairment losses, net income (loss) attributable to noncontrolling interest, transaction expenses and certain other non-recurring gains or losses, and inclusive of TBA dollar roll income (a component of Net gains (losses) on trading assets) and realized amortization of MSRs (a component of net unrealized gains (losses) on investments measured at fair value through earnings). Core earnings (excluding PAA) excludes the premium amortization adjustment representing the cumulative impact on prior periods, but not the current period, of quarter-over-quarter changes in estimated long-term prepayment speeds related to the Company's Agency mortgage-backed securities.

The Company believes these non-GAAP measures provide management and investors with additional details regarding the Company's underlying operating results and investment portfolio trends by (i) making adjustments to account for the disparate reporting of changes in fair value where certain instruments are reflected in GAAP net income (loss) while others are reflected in other comprehensive income (loss), and (ii) by excluding certain unrealized, non-cash or episodic components of GAAP net income (loss) in order to provide additional transparency into the operating performance of the Company's portfolio. Annualized core return on average equity (excluding PAA), which is calculated by dividing core earnings (excluding PAA) over average stockholders' equity, provides investors with additional detail on the core earnings generated by the Company's invested equity capital.

The following table presents a reconciliation of GAAP financial results to non-GAAP core earnings for the periods presented:

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¹TBA dollar roll transactions are accounted for as derivatives, with gains and losses reflected as a component of Net gains (losses) on trading assets in the Company's Consolidated Statements of Comprehensive Income (Loss). TBA dollar roll income represents the economic equivalent of interest income on the underlying security less the implied cost of financing.

ii The interest component of hedging costs is reported as realized gains (losses) on interest rate swaps in the Company's Consolidated Statements of Comprehensive Income (Loss).

	For the quarters ended						
		March 31, 2018	De	cember 31, 2017		March 31, 2017	
		(dollars in th	hare data)				
GAAP net income (loss)	\$	1,327,704	\$	746,771	\$	440,408	
Less:							
Realized (gains) losses on termination or maturity of interest rate swaps		(834)		160,075		_	
Unrealized (gains) losses on interest rate swaps		(977,285)		(484,447)		(149,184)	
Net (gains) losses on disposal of investments		(13,468)		(7,895)		(5,235)	
Net (gains) losses on trading assets		47,145		(121,334)		(319)	
Net unrealized (gains) losses on investments measured at fair value through earnings		51,593		12,115		(23,683)	
Transaction expenses (1)		1,519		_		_	
Net (income) loss attributable to noncontrolling interest		96		151		103	
Plus:							
TBA dollar roll income (2)		88,353		89,479		69,968	
MSR amortization (3)		(21,156)		(19,331)		(14,030)	
Core earnings *		503,667		375,584		318,028	
Less:							
Premium amortization adjustment cost (benefit)		(118,395)		11,367		17,870	
Core earnings (excluding PAA) *	\$	385,272	\$	386,951	\$	335,898	
GAAP net income (loss) per average common share (4)	\$	1.12	\$	0.62	\$	0.41	
Core earnings per average common share *(4)	\$	0.41	\$	0.30	\$	0.29	
Core earnings (excluding PAA) per average common share *(4)	\$	0.30	\$	0.31	\$	0.31	
Annualized GAAP return (loss) on average equity		36.86%		20.58%		13.97%	
Annualized core return on average equity (excluding PAA) *		10.70%		10.67%		10.66%	

For the quarters ended

- * Represents a non-GAAP financial measure.
- (1) Represents costs incurred in connection with a securitization of residential whole loans.
- Represents a component of Net gains (losses) on trading assets.
- 3) Represents the portion of changes in fair value that is attributable to the realization of estimated cash flows on the Company's MSR portfolio and is reported as a component of Net unrealized gains (losses) on investments measured at fair value.
- (4) Net of dividends on preferred stock. The quarter ended December 31, 2017 excludes cumulative and undeclared dividends of \$8.3 million on the Company's Series F Preferred Stock as of September 30, 2017.

From time to time, the Company enters into TBA forward contracts as an alternate means of investing in and financing Agency mortgage-backed securities. A TBA contract is an agreement to purchase or sell, for future delivery, an Agency mortgage-backed security with a specified issuer, term and coupon. A TBA dollar roll represents a transaction where TBA contracts with the same terms but different settlement dates are simultaneously bought and sold. The TBA contract settling in the later month typically prices at a discount to the earlier month contract with the difference in price commonly referred to as the "drop". The drop is a reflection of the expected net interest income from an investment in similar Agency mortgage-backed securities, net of an implied financing cost, that would be foregone as a result of settling the contract in the later month rather than in the earlier month. The drop between the current settlement month price and the forward settlement month price occurs because in the TBA dollar roll market, the party providing the financing is the party that would retain all principal and interest payments accrued during the financing period. Accordingly, TBA dollar roll income generally represents the economic equivalent of the net interest income earned on the underlying Agency mortgage-backed security less an implied financing cost.

TBA dollar roll transactions are accounted for under GAAP as a series of derivatives transactions. The fair value of TBA derivatives is based on methods similar to those used to value Agency mortgage-backed securities. The Company records TBA derivatives at fair value on its Consolidated Statements of Financial Condition and recognizes periodic changes in fair value as Net gains (losses) on trading assets in the Consolidated Statements of Comprehensive Income (Loss), which includes both unrealized and realized gains and losses on derivatives (excluding interest rate swaps).

TBA dollar roll income is calculated as the difference in price between two TBA contracts with the same terms but different settlement dates multiplied by the notional amount of the TBA contract. Although accounted for as derivatives, TBA dollar rolls capture the economic equivalent of net interest income, or carry, on the underlying Agency mortgage-backed security (interest income less an implied cost of financing). TBA dollar roll income is reported as a component of Net gains (losses) on trading assets in the Consolidated Statements of Comprehensive Income (Loss).

Interest income (excluding PAA), economic interest expense and economic net interest income (excluding PAA)

Interest income (excluding PAA) represents interest income excluding the effect of the PAA, and serves as the basis for deriving average yield on interest earning assets (excluding PAA), net interest spread (excluding PAA) and net interest margin (excluding PAA), which are discussed below. The Company believes this measure provides management and investors with additional detail to enhance their understanding of the Company's operating results and trends by excluding the component of premium amortization expense representing the cumulative impact on prior periods, but not the current period, of quarter-over-quarter changes in estimated long-term prepayment speeds related to the Company's Agency mortgage-backed securities (other than interest-only securities), which can obscure underlying trends in the performance of the portfolio.

Economic interest expense includes GAAP interest expense and interest expense on interest rate swaps. Prior to the quarter ended March 31, 2018, economic interest expense included interest expense on interest rate swaps used to hedge cost of funds. Beginning with the quarter ended March 31, 2018, as a result of changes to the Company's hedging portfolio, this metric reflects all interest expense on interest rate swaps, which is reported as Realized gains (losses) on interest rate swaps in the Company's consolidated statements of comprehensive income (loss). The Company uses interest rate swaps to manage its exposure to changing interest rates on its repurchase agreements by economically hedging cash flows associated with these borrowings. Accordingly, adding the contractual interest payments on interest rate swaps to interest expense, as computed in accordance with GAAP, reflects the total contractual interest expense and thus, provides investors with additional information about the cost of the Company's financing strategy.

Similarly, economic net interest income (excluding PAA), as computed below, provides investors with additional information to enhance their understanding of the net economics of our primary business operations.

	For the quarters ended							
		March 31, 2018	December 31, 2017			March 31, 2017		
	(dollars in thousands)							
Interest Income (Excluding PAA) Reconciliation								
GAAP interest income	\$	879,487	\$	745,423	\$	587,727		
Premium amortization adjustment		(118,395)		11,367		17,870		
Interest income (excluding PAA) *	\$	761,092	\$	756,790	\$	605,597		
Economic Interest Expense Reconciliation								
GAAP interest expense	\$	367,421	\$	318,711	\$	198,425		
Add:								
Interest expense on interest rate swaps		48,160		73,957		88,966		
Economic interest expense *	\$	415,581	\$	392,668	\$	287,391		
Economic Net Interest Income (Excluding PAA) Reconciliation								
Interest income (excluding PAA) *	\$	761,092	\$	756,790	\$	605,597		
Less:								
Economic interest expense *		415,581		392,668		287,391		
Economic net interest income (excluding PAA) *	\$	345,511	\$	364,122	\$	318,206		

^{*} Represents a non-GAAP financial measure.

Average yield on interest earning assets (excluding PAA), net interest spread (excluding PAA) and net interest margin (excluding PAA)

Net interest spread (excluding PAA), which is the difference between the average yield on interest earning assets (excluding PAA) and the average cost of interest bearing liabilities, and net interest margin (excluding PAA), which is calculated as the sum of interest income (excluding PAA) plus TBA dollar roll income less interest expense and realized gains (losses) on interest rate swaps divided by the sum of average Interest Earning Assets plus average TBA contract balances, provide management with additional measures of the Company's profitability that management relies upon in monitoring the performance of the business.

Disclosure of these measures, which are presented below, provides investors with additional detail regarding how management evaluates the Company's performance.

	For the quarters ended							
		March 31, 2018]	December 31, 2017		March 31, 2017		
Economic Metrics (Excluding PAA)		(dolla	rs in thousands)			
Average interest earning assets	\$	101,979,042	\$	100,247,589	\$	85,664,151		
Interest income (excluding PAA) *	\$	761,092	\$	756,790	\$	605,597		
Average yield on interest earning assets (excluding PAA) *		2.99%		3.02%		2.83%		
Average interest bearing liabilities	\$	87,376,452	\$	85,992,215	\$	72,422,968		
Economic interest expense *	\$	415,581	\$	392,668	\$	287,391		
Average cost of interest bearing liabilities		1.90%		1.83%	1.83%			
Economic net interest income (excluding PAA) *	\$	345,511	\$	364,122	\$	318,206		
Net interest spread (excluding PAA) *		1.09%	51.19%			1.24%		
Interest income (excluding PAA) *	\$	761,092	\$	756,790	\$	605,597		
TBA dollar roll income		88,353		89,479		69,968		
Interest expense		(367,421)		(318,711)		(198,425)		
Realized gains (losses) on interest rate swaps (1)		(48,160)		(82,271)		(104,156)		
Subtotal	\$	433,864	\$	445,287	\$	372,984		
Average interest earnings assets	\$	101,979,042	\$	100,247,589	\$	85,664,151		
Average TBA contract balances		12,050,341		17,509,691		10,655,785		
Subtotal	\$	114,029,383	\$	117,757,280	\$	96,319,936		
Net interest margin (excluding PAA) *	1.52% 1.51%					1.55%		

^{*} Represents a non-GAAP financial measure.

⁽¹⁾ Consists of interest expense on interest rate swaps.