

ANNALY CAPITAL MANAGEMENT, INC. REPORTS 4th QUARTER 2017 RESULTS

NEW YORK—February 14, 2018 — Annaly Capital Management, Inc. (NYSE: NLY) (the "Company" or "Annaly") today announced its financial results for the quarter and year ended December 31, 2017.

Quarterly Financial Highlights

- GAAP net income of \$746.8 million, \$0.62 per average common share
- Core earnings (excluding PAA) were \$387.0 million, \$0.31 per average common share
- GAAP return on average equity was 20.58% and core return on average equity (excluding PAA) was 10.67%
- Book value per common share of \$11.34
- Economic leverage of 6.6x as compared to 6.9x at September 30, 2017
- Net interest margin (excluding PAA) of 1.51%, up from 1.47% in the prior quarter
- Declared common stock dividend of \$0.30 per share for the 17th consecutive fiscal quarter
- 2017 annual economic return of 12.4%

Business Highlights

- Total 2017 shareholder return of 32% is ~50% better than both the S&P 500 and the Bloomberg Mortgage REIT Index
- Raised \$2.4 billion through a series of common and preferred equity offerings in 2017, along with an additional \$425.0 million of preferred equity issued in January 2018
- Proceeds from preferred equity issuances used, in part, to redeem \$597.8 million of outstanding preferred shares, of which \$412.5 million settled in February 2018, lowering our cost of preferred capital from 7.62% to 7.05%
- Continued growth of credit businesses, representing 24% of dedicated capital at year-end 2017 compared to 20% in the prior year; corporate debt investments exceeded and residential mortgage loans approached the \$1.0 billion milestone
- Appointed Chief Executive Officer and President Kevin Keyes as Chairman of the Board of Directors, effective January 1, 2018
- Appointed two new independent members to the Board of Directors effective January 1, 2018; female representation on the Board now at 36%
- Created Public Responsibility Committee to assist the Company's Board of Directors in its oversight and review of corporate social responsibility initiatives
- Recognized in the 2018 Bloomberg Gender-Equality Index, reflecting the Company's commitment to creating a gender equal workplace
- Established joint venture with Capital Impact Partners, a prominent community development financial institution
- Senior executive team voluntarily increased their stock ownership commitments beyond applicable ownership guidelines, with such positions to be achieved solely through open market purchases by July 2020

"We concluded 2017 having made significant progress on a number of key goals and initiatives that further strengthen Annaly's industry leading position," commented Kevin Keyes, Chairman, Chief Executive Officer and President. "We accomplished a record breaking return to the capital markets, raising \$2.8 billion in the common and preferred equity markets over the past six months and we further diversified our portfolio, growing our allocation to credit to 24% of equity while broadening our investment options. Additionally, in 2017 we expanded our institutional relationships with investment partners across our four businesses and through our continued ESG endeavors. These strategic initiatives, combined with our prudent risk management and portfolio positioning, contributed to our outperformance last year, evidenced by a total shareholder return of 32%, an economic return of 12.4% and \$1.4 billion of dividends paid to our Annaly shareholders."

Mr. Keyes continued, "Entering into 2018, we reduced leverage to enhance our liquidity in order to quickly take advantage of future market dislocations and we have increased our hedging activity within the portfolio to preserve our earnings power and protect book value as rates have risen. As we look ahead, we are confident in our seasoned investment teams, our diversification strategy and our unique ability to continue to generate attractive risk-adjusted returns in a more volatile market environment."

Financial Performance

The following table summarizes certain key performance indicators as of and for the quarters ended December 31, 2017, September 30, 2017 and December 31, 2016:

	December 31, 2017		September 30, 2017		December 31, 2016	
Book value per common share	\$	11.34	\$	11.42	\$	11.16
Economic leverage at period-end (1)		6.6:1		6.9:1		6.4:1
GAAP net income (loss) per average common share (2)	\$	0.62	\$	0.31	\$	1.79
Annualized GAAP return (loss) on average equity		20.58%		10.98%		57.23%
Net interest margin (3)		1.47%		1.33%		2.49%
Average yield on interest earning assets (4)		2.97%		2.79%		3.81%
Average cost of interest bearing liabilities (5)		1.83%		1.82%		1.53%
Net interest spread		1.14%		0.97%		2.28%
Core Earnings Metrics: *						
Core earnings (excluding PAA) per average common share (2)(6)	\$	0.31	\$	0.30	\$	0.30
Core earnings per average common share (2)(6)	\$	0.30	\$	0.26	\$	0.53
PAA cost (benefit) per average common share	\$	0.01	\$	0.04	\$	(0.23)
Annualized core return on average equity (excluding PAA)		10.67%		10.57%		10.13%
Net interest margin (excluding PAA) (3)		1.51%		1.47%		1.53%
Average yield on interest earning assets (excluding PAA) (4)		3.02%		2.97%		2.68%
Net interest spread (excluding PAA)		1.19%		1.15%		1.15%

- * 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, 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.
- (3) Represents the sum of the Company's annualized economic net interest income (inclusive of interest expense on interest rate swaps used to hedge cost of funds) plus TBA dollar roll income (less interest expense on swaps used to hedge TBA dollar roll transactions) divided by the sum of its average interest earning assets plus average outstanding TBA derivative balances.
- (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 interest expense on interest rate swaps used to hedge cost of funds.
- (6) Core earnings is defined as net income (loss) excluding gains or losses on disposals of investments and termination 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, corporate acquisition related 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 ("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.

Other Information

The Company continues to analyze the overall effects of tax reform legislation, the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, to our operations, our industry and the economy in general. While we do not expect to see a material impact on our operations, we anticipate certain of our individual taxable shareholders may benefit by receiving a 20% deduction on the portion of our dividends characterized as ordinary income. The Company has posted 'Tax Cuts and Jobs Act Treatment of REIT Dividends' on its website (www.annaly.com) in the Investors section under Tax Information. The Company also advises its shareholders to contact their individual tax advisor to determine how their individual tax profile is affected.

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 specifically disclaim any obligation, to publicly release 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 Fourth Quarter 2017 Investor Presentation and the Fourth Quarter 2017 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 fourth quarter 2017 earnings conference call on February 15, 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 5565471. 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 10115830. 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)

		ecember 31, 2017 Jnaudited)	September 30, 2017 (Unaudited)			2017		March 31, 2017 Jnaudited)	De	ecember 31, 2016 ⁽¹⁾
ASSETS										
Cash and cash equivalents (2)	\$	706,589	\$	867,840	\$	700,692	\$	819,421	\$	1,539,746
Investments, at fair value:										
Agency mortgage-backed securities		90,551,763		85,889,131		73,963,998		72,708,490		75,589,873
Credit risk transfer securities		651,764		582,938		605,826		686,943		724,722
Non-Agency mortgage-backed securities		1,097,294		1,227,235		1,234,053		1,409,093		1,401,307
Residential mortgage loans (3)		1,438,322		895,919		779,685		682,416		342,289
Mortgage servicing rights		580,860		570,218		605,653		632,166		652,216
Commercial real estate debt investments (4)		3,089,108		3,869,110		3,972,560		4,102,613		4,321,739
Commercial real estate debt and preferred equity, held for investment		1,029,327		981,748		928,181		985,091		970,505
Commercial loans held for sale, net		_		_		_		_		114,425
Investments in commercial real estate		485,953		470,928		474,510		462,760		474,567
Corporate debt		1,011,275		856,110		773,957		841,265		773,274
Interest rate swaps, at fair value (2)		30,272		12,250		10,472		19,195		68,194
Other derivatives, at fair value		283,613		266,249		154,004		196,935		171,266
Receivable for investments sold		1,232		340,033		9,784		354,126		51,461
Accrued interest and dividends receivable		323,526		293,207		263,217		266,887		270,400
Other assets		384,117		353,708		399,456		388,224		333,063
Goodwill		71,815		71,815		71,815		71,815		71,815
Intangible assets, net		23,220		25,742		28,715		31,517		34,184
Total assets	\$	101,760,050	\$	97,574,181	\$	84,976,578	\$	84,658,957	\$	87,905,046
LIABILITIES AND STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY	Ė		÷		Ť		_		÷	
Liabilities:										
Repurchase agreements	\$	77,696,343	\$	69,430,268	\$	62,497,400	\$	62,719,087	\$	65,215,810
Other secured financing	Ψ	3,837,528	Ψ	3,713,256	Ψ	3,785,543	Ψ	3,876,150	Ψ	3,884,708
Securitized debt of consolidated VIEs (5)		2,971,771		3,357,929		3,438,675		3,477,059		3,655,802
Participation sold				_		_		12,760		12,869
Mortgages payable		309,686		311,886		311,810		311,707		311,636
Interest rate swaps, at fair value (2)		569,129		606,960		614,589		572,419		1,443,765
Other derivatives, at fair value		38,725		75,529		99,380		52,496		86,437
Dividends payable		347,876		326,425		305,709		305,691		305,674
Payable for investments purchased		656,581		5,243,868		1,043,379		340,383		65,041
Accrued interest payable						185,720				
Accounts payable and other liabilities		253,068 207,770		231,611 121,231		84,948		182,478 161,378		163,013 184,319
Total liabilities	_	86,888,477				72,367,153				75,329,074
	_	00,000,477		83,418,963		72,367,133		72,011,608		73,329,074
Stockholders' Equity: 7.875% Series A Cumulative Redeemable Preferred Stock ⁽⁶⁾						177 000		177 000		177 000
7.625% Series C Cumulative Redeemable Preferred Stock (7)		200 F14		200 F14		177,088		177,088		177,088
		290,514		290,514		290,514		290,514		290,514
7.50% Series D Cumulative Redeemable Preferred Stock (8)		445,457		445,457		445,457		445,457		445,457
7.625% Series E Cumulative Redeemable Preferred Stock (9)		287,500		287,500		287,500		287,500		287,500
6.95% Series F Fixed-to-Floating Rate Cumulative Redeemable Preferred Stock $^{(10)}$		696,910		696,910		_		_		_
Common stock, par value \$0.01 per share (11)		11,596		10,881		10,190		10,190		10,189
Additional paid-in capital		17,221,265		16,377,805		15,581,760		15,580,038		15,579,342
Accumulated other comprehensive income (loss)		(1,126,020)		(640,149)		(850,767)		(1,126,091)		(1,085,893)
Accumulated deficit		(2,961,749)		(3,320,160)		(3,339,228)		(3,024,670)		(3,136,017)
Total stockholders' equity		14,865,473		14,148,758		12,602,514		12,640,026		12,568,180
Noncontrolling interest										
Noncontrolling interest		6,100		6,460		6,911		7,323		7,792
Total equity	_	6,100 14,871,573		6,460 14,155,218		6,911 12,609,425		7,323 12,647,349		12,575,972

- (1) Derived from the audited consolidated financial statements at December 31, 2016.
- (2) As a result of a change to a clearing organization's rulebook effective January 3, 2017, beginning with the first quarter 2017 and in subsequent periods the Company is presenting the fair value of centrally cleared interest rate swaps net of variation margin pledged under such transactions. The variation margin was previously reported under cash and cash equivalents and is currently reported as a reduction to interest rate swaps, at fair value. Balances reported prior to the effective date will not be adjusted.
- (3) Includes securitized residential mortgage loans of a consolidated variable interest entity ("VIE") carried at fair value of \$478.8 million, \$139.8 million, \$150.9 million, \$155.6 million and \$165.9 million at December 31, 2017, September 30, 2017, June 30, 2017, March 31, 2017 and December 31, 2016, respectively.
- (4) Includes senior securitized commercial mortgage loans of consolidated VIEs with a carrying value of \$2.8 billion, \$3.6 billion, \$3.7 billion, \$3.7 billion and \$3.9 billion at December 31, 2017, September 30, 2017, June 30, 2017, March 31, 2017 and December 31, 2016, respectively.
- (5) Includes securitized debt of consolidated VIEs carried at fair value of \$3.0 billion, \$3.4 billion, \$3.5 billion and \$3.7 billion at December 31, 2017, September 30, 2017, June 30, 2017, March 31, 2017 and December 31, 2016, respectively.
- (6) Includes 0 shares authorized, issued and outstanding at 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 each of June 30, 2017, March 31, 2017 and December 31, 2016.
- (7) Includes 12,000,000 shares authorized, issued and outstanding at December 31, 2017. Includes 12,650,00 shares authorized and 12,000,000 shares issued and outstanding at each of September 30, 2017, June 30, 2017, March 31, 2017 and December 31, 2016.
- (8) Includes 18,400,000 shares authorized, issued and outstanding.
- (9) Includes 11,500,000 shares authorized, issued and outstanding.
- (10) Includes 28,800,000 shares authorized, issued and outstanding at 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 each of June 30, 2017, March 31, 2017 and December 31, 2016
- (11) 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 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 1,018,913,249 shares issued and outstanding at December 31, 2016.

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

(Unaudited)

(dollars in thousands, except per share data)

For	the	quarters	ended

	Ī	December 31, 2017	s	eptember 30, 2017	June 30, 2017		March 31, 2017	Ι	December 31, 2016
Net interest income:									
Interest income	\$	745,423	\$	622,550	\$ 537,426	\$	587,727	\$	807,022
Interest expense		318,711		268,937	222,281		198,425		183,396
Net interest income		426,712		353,613	315,145		389,302		623,626
Realized and unrealized gains (losses):									
Realized gains (losses) on interest rate swaps (1)		(82,271)		(88,211)	(96,470)		(104,156)		(103,872)
Realized gains (losses) on termination of interest rate swaps		(160,075)		_	(58)		_		(55,214)
Unrealized gains (losses) on interest rate swaps		484,447		56,854	(177,567)		149,184		1,430,668
Subtotal		242,101		(31,357)	(274,095)		45,028		1,271,582
Net gains (losses) on disposal of investments		7,895		(11,552)	(5,516)		5,235		7,782
Net gains (losses) on trading assets		121,334		154,208	(14,423)		319		(139,470)
Net unrealized gains (losses) on investments measured at fair value through earnings		(12,115)		(67,492)	16,240		23,683		110,742
Subtotal		117,114		75,164	(3,699)		29,237		(20,946)
Total realized and unrealized gains (losses)		359,215		43,807	(277,794)		74,265		1,250,636
Other income (loss)		25,064		28,282	30,865		31,646		30,918
General and administrative expenses:									
Compensation and management fee		44,129		41,993	38,938		39,262		39,845
Other general and administrative expenses		15,128		15,023	15,085		14,566		15,608
Total general and administrative expenses		59,257		57,016	54,023		53,828		55,453
Income (loss) before income taxes		751,734		368,686	14,193		441,385		1,849,727
Income taxes		4,963		1,371	(329)		977		1,244
Net income (loss)		746,771		367,315	14,522		440,408		1,848,483
Net income (loss) attributable to noncontrolling interest		(151)		(232)	(102)		(103)		(87)
Net income (loss) attributable to Annaly		746,922		367,547	14,624		440,511		1,848,570
Dividends on preferred stock (2)		32,334		30,355	23,473		23,473		23,473
Net income (loss) available (related) to common stockholders	\$	714,588	\$	337,192	\$ (8,849)	\$	417,038	\$	1,825,097
Net income (loss) per share available (related) to common stockholders:									
Basic	\$	0.62	\$	0.31	\$ (0.01)	\$	0.41	\$	1.79
Diluted	\$	0.62	\$	0.31	\$ (0.01)	\$	0.41	\$	1.79
W I. I. I									
Weighted average number of common shares outstanding: Basic		1 1E1 6E2 206		1 072 566 205	1 010 000 017		1 010 042 746		1 010 007 200
Diluted	=	1,151,653,296 1,152,138,887	_	1,072,566,395	1,019,000,817		1,018,942,746		1,018,886,380
	_		Φ.			_		Φ.	
Net income (loss)	\$	746,771	\$	367,315	\$ 14,522	\$	440,408	\$	1,848,483
Other comprehensive income (loss): Unrealized gains (losses) on available-for-sale securities		(487,597)		195,251	261,964		(59,615)		(2,206,288)
Reclassification adjustment for net (gains) losses included in net income (loss)	1	1,726		15,367	13,360		19,417		718
Other comprehensive income (loss)		(485,871)		210,618	275,324		(40,198)		(2,205,570)
Comprehensive income (loss)	_	260,900		577,933	289,846		400,210		(357,087)
Comprehensive income (loss) attributable to noncontrolling interest		(151)		(232)	(102)		(103)		(87)
Comprehensive income (loss) attributable to Annaly		261,051		578,165	289,948		400,313		(357,000)
Dividends on preferred stock		32,334		30,355	23,473		23,473		23,473
Comprehensive income (loss) attributable to common	\$								

- (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.
- (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.

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

(dollars in thousands, except per share data) (Unaudited)

		s ended	
	De	ecember 31, 2017	December 31, 2016
Net interest income:	¢.	2.402.124	2 210 051
Interest income	\$	2,493,126 \$	2,210,951
Interest expense		1,008,354	657,752
Net interest income		1,484,772	1,553,199
Realized and unrealized gains (losses):		(271 100)	/E0/ (91
Realized gains (losses) on interest rate swaps (1)		(371,108)	(506,681
Realized gains (losses) on termination of interest rate swaps		(160,133)	(113,941
Unrealized gains (losses) on interest rate swaps		512,918	282,190
Subtotal		(18,323)	(338,432
Net gains (losses) on disposal of investments		(3,938)	33,089
Net gains (losses) on trading assets		261,438	230,580
Net unrealized gains (losses) on investments measured at fair value through earnings		(39,684)	86,391
Bargain purchase gain			72,576
Subtotal		217,816	422,636
Total realized and unrealized gains (losses)		199,493	84,204
Other income (loss)		115,857	44,144
General and administrative expenses:			
Compensation and management fee		164,322	151,599
Other general and administrative expenses		59,802	98,757
Total general and administrative expenses		224,124	250,356
Income (loss) before income taxes		1,575,998	1,431,191
Income taxes		6,982	(1,595
Net income (loss)		1,569,016	1,432,786
Net income (loss) attributable to noncontrolling interest		(588)	(970
Net income (loss) attributable to Annaly		1,569,604	1,433,756
		109,635	82,260
Dividends on preferred stock	<u></u>	,	
Net income (loss) available (related) to common stockholders	\$	1,459,969 \$	1,351,496
Net income (loss) per share available (related) to common stockholders:	Ф	1.07	1.20
Basic	\$	1.37 \$	1.39
Diluted	\$	1.37 \$	1.39
Weighted average number of common shares outstanding:			
Basic		1,065,923,652	969,787,583
Diluted		1,066,351,616	970,102,353
Net income (loss)	\$	1,569,016 \$	1,432,786
Other comprehensive income (loss):			
Unrealized gains (losses) on available-for-sale securities		(89,997)	(686,414
Reclassification adjustment for net (gains) losses included in net income (loss)		49,870	(21,883
Other comprehensive income (loss)		(40,127)	(708,297
		1,528,889	724,489
Comprehensive income (loss)			
Comprehensive income (loss) attributable to noncontrolling interest		(588)	(970
Comprehensive income (loss) attributable to Annaly		1,529,477	725,459
Dividends on preferred stock	-	109,635	82,260
Comprehensive income (loss) attributable to common stockholders	\$	1,419,842 \$	643,199

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.

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 December 31, 2017, September 30, 2017, and December 31, 2016:

	December 31, 2017	September 30, 2017	December 31, 2016
Portfolio Related Metrics:			
Fixed-rate Residential Investment Securities as a percentage of total Residential Investment Securities	90%	89%	83%
Adjustable-rate and floating-rate Residential Investment Securities as a percentage of total Residential Investment Securities	10%	11%	17%
Weighted average experienced CPR for the period	9.8%	10.3%	15.6%
Weighted average projected long-term CPR at period-end	10.4%	10.4%	10.1%
Liabilities and Hedging Metrics:			
Weighted average days to maturity on repurchase agreements outstanding at periodend	58	65	96
Hedge ratio (1)	70%	67%	56%
Weighted average pay rate on interest rate swaps at period-end (2)	2.22%	2.27%	2.22%
Weighted average receive rate on interest rate swaps at period-end (2)	1.58%	1.35%	1.02%
Weighted average net rate on interest rate swaps at period-end (2)	0.64%	0.92%	1.20%
Leverage at period-end (3)	5.7:1	5.4:1	5.8:1
Economic leverage at period-end (4)	6.6:1	6.9:1	6.4:1
Capital ratio at period-end	12.9%	12.3%	13.1%
Performance Related Metrics:			
Book value per common share	\$ 11.34	\$ 11.42	\$ 11.16
GAAP net income (loss) per average common share (5)	\$ 0.62	\$ 0.31	\$ 1.79
Annualized GAAP return (loss) on average equity	20.58%	10.98%	57.23%
Net interest margin	1.47%	1.33%	2.49%
Average yield on interest earning assets (6)	2.97%	2.79%	3.81%
Average cost of interest bearing liabilities (7)	1.83%	1.82%	1.53%
Net interest spread	1.14%	0.97%	2.28%
Dividend declared per common share	\$ 0.30	\$ 0.30	\$ 0.30
Annualized dividend yield (8)	10.09%	9.84%	12.04%
Core Earnings Metrics *			
Core earnings (excluding PAA) per average common share (5)	\$ 0.31	\$ 0.30	\$ 0.30
Core earnings per average common share (5)	\$ 0.30	\$ 0.26	\$ 0.53
PAA cost (benefit) per average common share	\$ 0.01	\$ 0.04	\$ (0.23)
Annualized core return on average equity (excluding PAA)	10.67%	10.57%	10.13%
Net interest margin (excluding PAA)	1.51%	1.47%	1.53%
Average yield on interest earning assets (excluding PAA) (6)	3.02%	2.97%	2.68%
Net interest spread (excluding PAA)	1.19%	1.15%	1.15%

- * 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.
- 2) 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, and the quarter ended September 30, 2017 includes, the cumulative and undeclared dividends as of September 30, 2017 on the Company's Series F Preferred Stock of \$8.3 million.
- (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) Included interest expense on interest rate swaps used to hedge cost of funds.
- (8) Based on the closing price of the Company's common stock of \$11.89, \$12.19 and \$9.97 at December 31, 2017, September 30, 2017 and December 31, 2016, 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 December 31, 2017, September 30, 2017, and December 31, 2016:

	For the quarters ended										
	De	cember 31, 2017	S	eptember 30, 2017	December 31, 2016						
		(0	dolla	rs in thousands)							
Premium amortization expense (accretion)	\$	203,951	\$	220,636	\$ (19,812)						
Less: PAA cost (benefit)		11,367		39,899	(238,941)						
Premium amortization expense exclusive of PAA	\$	192,584	\$	180,737	\$ 219,129						

	For the quarters ended									
		ember 31, 2017	Sep	tember 30, 2017	D	Pecember 31, 2016				
		(per	averag	e common sl	nare)					
Premium amortization expense (accretion)	\$	0.18	\$	0.21	\$	(0.02)				
Less: PAA Cost (Benefit)		0.01		0.04		(0.23)				
Premium amortization expense exclusive of PAA	\$	0.17	\$	0.17	\$	0.21				

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)

One of the Company's principal business objectives is to generate 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 income¹, less financing and hedging costs¹¹ 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 its progress in achieving this objective.

The Company defines "core earnings", a non-GAAP measure, as net income (loss) excluding gains or losses on disposals of investments and termination 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, corporate acquisition related 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.

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).

De	ecember 31, 2017	Sep	otember 30, 2017	D	ecember 31, 2016	
	(dollars in th	nousa	ınds, except	nds, except per share dat		
\$	746,771	\$	367,315	\$	1,848,483	
	160,075		_		55,214	
	(484,447)		(56,854)		(1,430,668)	
	(7,895)		11,552		(7,782)	
	(121,334)		(154,208)		139,470	
	12,115		67,492		(110,742)	
	151		232		87	
	89,479		94,326		98,896	
	(19,331)		(16,208)		(27,018)	
	375,584		313,647		565,940	
	11,367		39,899		(238,941)	
\$	386,951	\$	353,546	\$	326,999	
\$	0.62	\$	0.31	\$	1.79	
\$	0.30	\$	0.26	\$	0.53	
\$	0.31	\$	0.30	\$	0.30	
	20.58%		10.98%		57.23%	
	10.67%		10.57%		10.13%	
	\$	December 31, 2017 (dollars in the state of t	December 31, 2017 (dollars in thousa) \$ 746,771 \$ 160,075 (484,447) (7,895) (121,334) 12,115 151 89,479 (19,331) 375,584 11,367 \$ 386,951 \$ \$ 0.62 \$ \$ 0.30 \$ \$ 0.31 \$ 20.58%	December 31, 2017 September 30, 2017 (dollars in thousands, except \$ 746,771 \$ 367,315 160,075 - (484,447) (56,854) (7,895) 11,552 (121,334) (154,208) 12,115 67,492 151 232 89,479 94,326 (19,331) (16,208) 375,584 313,647 11,367 39,899 \$ 386,951 \$ 353,546 \$ 0.62 \$ 0.31 \$ 0.30 \$ 0.26 \$ 0.31 \$ 0.30 20.58% 10.98%	2017 2017 (dollars in thousands, except per s \$ 746,771 \$ 367,315 \$ 160,075 — (484,447) (56,854) (7,895) 11,552 (121,334) (154,208) 12,115 67,492 151 232 89,479 94,326 (19,331) (16,208) 375,584 313,647 11,367 39,899 \$ 386,951 \$ 353,546 \$ \$ 0.62 \$ 0.31 \$ \$ 0.30 \$ 0.26 \$ \$ 0.31 \$ 0.30 \$ \$ 0.258% 10.98%	

For the quarters anded

	For the years ended							
	December 31, 2017			December 31, 2016				
		dollars in thousands	s, exce	pt per share data)				
GAAP net income (loss)	\$	1,569,016	\$	1,432,786				
Less:								
Realized (gains) losses on termination of interest rate swaps		160,133		113,941				
Unrealized (gains) losses on interest rate swaps		(512,918)		(282,190)				
Net (gains) losses on disposal of investments		3,938		(33,089)				
Net (gains) losses on trading assets		(261,438)		(230,580)				
Net unrealized (gains) losses on investments measured at fair value through earnings		39,684		(86,391)				
Bargain purchase gain		_		(72,576)				
Corporate acquisition related expenses (4)		_		48,887				
Net (income) loss attributable to noncontrolling interest		588		970				
Plus:								
TBA dollar roll income (1)		334,824		351,778				
MSR amortization (2)		(66,667)		(48,652)				
Core earnings *		1,267,160		1,194,884				
Less:								
Premium amortization adjustment cost (benefit)		141,836		18,941				
Core earnings (excluding PAA) *	\$	1,408,996	\$	1,213,825				
GAAP net income (loss) per average common share (3)	\$	1.37	\$	1.39				
Core earnings per average common share *(3)	\$	1.09	\$	1.15				
Core earnings (excluding PAA) per average common share *(3)	\$	1.22	\$	1.17				
Annualized GAAP return (loss) on average equity		11.73%		11.75%				
Annualized core return on average equity (excluding PAA) *		10.54%		9.96%				

- * Represents a non-GAAP financial measure.
- (1) Represents a component of Net gains (losses) on trading assets.
- (2) 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.
- (3) Net of dividends on preferred stock. 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.
- (4) Represents transaction costs incurred in connection with the Company's acquisition of Hatteras Financial Corp.

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 is comprised of interest expense, as computed in accordance with GAAP, plus interest expense on interest rate swaps used to hedge cost of funds, which is a component of 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							
	December 31, 2017		September 30, 2017		D	ecember 31, 2016		
		(0	lollaı	rs in thousands)				
Interest Income (Excluding PAA) Reconciliation								
GAAP interest income	\$	745,423	\$	622,550	\$	807,022		
Premium amortization adjustment		11,367		39,899		(238,941)		
Interest income (excluding PAA) *	\$	756,790	\$	662,449	\$	568,081		
Economic Interest Expense Reconciliation								
GAAP interest expense	\$	318,711	\$	268,937	\$	183,396		
Add:								
Interest expense on interest rate swaps used to hedge cost of funds		73,957		78,564		92,841		
Economic interest expense *	\$	392,668	\$	347,501	\$	276,237		
Economic Net Interest Income (Excluding PAA) Reconciliation								
Interest income (excluding PAA) *	\$	756,790	\$	662,449	\$	568,081		
Less:								
Economic interest expense *		392,668		347,501		276,237		
Economic net interest income (excluding PAA) *	\$	364,122	\$	314,948	\$	291,844		

^{*} 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 the Company's annualized economic net interest income (inclusive of interest expense on interest rate swaps used to hedge cost of funds) plus TBA dollar roll income (less interest expense on swaps used to hedge TBA dollar roll transactions) divided by the sum of its average interest earning assets plus average outstanding TBA derivative 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								
			ecember 31, 2017		September 30, 2017	Г	December 31, 2016			
Economic Metrics (Excluding PAA)			(doll	ars in thousands))				
Interest income (excluding PAA) *	\$		756,790	\$	662,449	\$	568,081			
Average interest earning assets	\$		100,247,589	\$	89,253,094	\$	84,799,222			
Average yield on interest earning assets (excluding PAA) *			3.02%		2.97%		2.68%			
Economic interest expense *	\$		392,668	\$	347,501	\$	276,237			
Average interest bearing liabilities	\$		85,992,215	\$	76,382,315	\$	72,032,600			
Average cost of interest bearing liabilities			1.83%		1.82%		1.53%			
Net interest spread (excluding PAA) *			1.19%		1.15%		1.15%			
Net interest margin (excluding PAA) *			1.51%		1.47%		1.53%			
	_									

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