

CORPORATE OFFICE PROPERTIES TRUST  
Form S-3ASR  
April 12, 2016

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As filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on April 12, 2016

Registration Statement No. 333-

## SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549

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### FORM S-3

REGISTRATION STATEMENT  
UNDER THE SECURITIES ACT OF 1933

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**Corporate Office Properties Trust**

(Exact name of registrant as specified in charter)

**Corporate Office Properties, L.P.**

(Exact name of registrant as specified in charter)

**Maryland**

(State or other jurisdiction of incorporation or organization)

**Delaware**

(State or other jurisdiction of incorporation or organization)

**23-2947217**

(IRS Employer Identification Number)

**23-2930022**

(I.R.S. Employer Identification Number)

**6711 Columbia Gateway Drive  
Suite 300  
Columbia, Maryland 21046  
(443) 285-5400**

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

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**Roger A. Waesche, Jr.  
President and Chief Executive Officer  
Corporate Office Properties Trust  
6711 Columbia Gateway Drive  
Suite 300  
Columbia, MD 21046  
(443) 285-5400**

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

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**Copies to:**

**Justin W. Chairman, Esq.**  
Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP

**Karen M. Singer, Esq.**  
Senior Vice President,

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1701 Market Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19103  
(215) 963-5000

General Counsel and Secretary  
Corporate Office Properties Trust  
6711 Columbia Gateway Drive, Suite 300  
Columbia, MD 21046  
(443) 285-5400

**Approximate date of commencement of proposed sale to the public: From time to time after the effective date of this Registration Statement.**

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

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

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

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

If this Form is a registration statement pursuant to General Instruction I.D. or a post-effective amendment thereto that shall become effective upon filing with the Commission pursuant to Rule 462(e) under the Securities Act, check the following box:

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

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

Corporate Office Properties Trust:

Large accelerated filer <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Accelerated filer <input type="checkbox"/>	Non-accelerated filer <input type="checkbox"/> (Do not check if a smaller reporting company)	Smaller reporting company <input type="checkbox"/>
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Corporate Office Properties, L.P.:

Large accelerated filer <input type="checkbox"/>	Accelerated filer <input type="checkbox"/>	Non-accelerated filer <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (Do not check if a smaller reporting company)	Smaller reporting company <input type="checkbox"/>
--	--	--	--

### CALCULATION OF REGISTRATION FEE

Title of Each Class of Securities to be Registered(1)(2)	Amount to be Registered(1)	Proposed Maximum Offering Price Per Unit	Proposed Maximum Aggregate Offering Price Price(2)	Amount of Registration Fee
Corporate Office Properties Trust Common Shares of Beneficial Interest, par value \$.01 per share				
Corporate Office Properties Trust Preferred Shares of Beneficial Interest, par value \$.01 per share	(3)	(3)	(3)	(3)
Corporate Office Properties Trust Depositary Shares				
Corporate Office Properties Trust Warrants(4)				

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Corporate Office Properties, L.P. Debt Securities(5)	(3)	(3)	(3)	(3)
Corporate Office Properties Trust Guarantees of Debt Securities(5)	(6)	n/a	n/a	(6)

- (1) The securities registered hereby may be sold separately, together or in units with other securities registered hereby.
- (2) In addition to any common shares of beneficial interest, preferred shares of beneficial interest and depositary shares as may be issued directly under this registration statement, an indeterminate number of common shares, preferred shares and other securities that may be issued by the registrant, either at the option of the holder thereof or the registrant, upon conversion of, or in exchange for, common, preferred or depositary shares or warrants, and for which no separate consideration will be received, are being registered hereby.
- (3) An indeterminate amount of the securities of each identified class is being registered as may from time to time be offered hereunder at indeterminate prices. Separate consideration may or may not be received for securities that are issuable upon exercise, conversion or exchange of other securities or that are issued in units. In accordance with Rules 456(b) and 457(r) under the Securities Act of 1933, the registrant is deferring payment of all of the registration fee, which will be paid subsequently on a pay-as-you-go basis.
- (4) The warrants, if issued, will entitle the holders thereof to purchase common shares and/or preferred shares, and may be sold separately, together or in units with other securities registered hereby.
- (5) The debt securities will be issued by Corporate Office Properties, L.P., a majority-owned subsidiary of Corporate Office Properties Trust. The debt securities offered by Corporate Office Properties, L.P. may be accompanied by guarantees issued by Corporate Office Properties Trust.
- (6) No separate consideration will be received for the guarantees. Pursuant to Rule 457(n), no separate fee is payable with respect to the guarantees being registered hereby.
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PROSPECTUS

## **CORPORATE OFFICE PROPERTIES TRUST**

### **COMMON SHARES OF BENEFICIAL INTEREST PREFERRED SHARES OF BENEFICIAL INTEREST DEPOSITARY SHARES WARRANTS GUARANTEES**

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## **CORPORATE OFFICE PROPERTIES, L.P.**

### **DEBT SECURITIES**

We may offer from time to time Corporate Office Properties Trust common shares of beneficial interest, preferred shares of beneficial interest, depositary shares representing interests in preferred shares and warrants to purchase common shares and/or preferred shares, or any combination of these securities, from time to time in one or more series or classes under this prospectus. We may also offer from time to time Corporate Office Properties, L.P. debt securities in one or more series under this prospectus, which debt securities may be fully and unconditionally guaranteed by Corporate Office Properties Trust.

This prospectus describes some of the general terms that may apply to these securities. We will provide the specific terms and conditions of these sales and the securities offered in supplements to this prospectus prepared in connection with each offering. The prospectus supplement may also add, update or change information contained in this prospectus. You should read this prospectus and each applicable prospectus supplement carefully before you invest in the securities. The securities may be offered directly, through agents on our behalf to or through underwriters.

Corporate Office Properties Trust's common shares are listed on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol "OFC." We have not yet determined whether any of the other securities that may be offered by this prospectus will be listed on any exchange, inter-dealer quotation system, or over-the-counter market. If we decide to seek listing of any such securities, a prospectus supplement relating to those securities will disclose the exchange, quotation system or market on which the securities will be listed.

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**You should carefully read and consider the risk factors included in this prospectus and our periodic reports and other information that we file with the Securities and Exchange Commission before you invest in the securities described in this prospectus.**

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

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The date of this prospectus is April 12, 2016.



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*Corporate Office Properties, L.P ("COPLP") is a Delaware limited partnership. Corporate Office Properties Trust ("COPT"), or the Company or guarantor, is a Maryland real estate investment trust and the sole general partner of COPLP. Unless otherwise expressly stated or the context otherwise requires, in this prospectus, "we," "us" and "our" refer collectively to COPT, COPLP and their subsidiaries, references to "Company common shares" or similar references refer to the common shares of beneficial interest, par value \$0.01 per share, of COPT and references to "common units" or similar references refer to the common units of COPLP.*

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**ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS**

This prospectus is part of a registration statement that we filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission, or SEC, using a "shelf" registration process, which enables us, from time to time, to offer and sell in one or more offerings common shares, preferred shares, depositary shares and warrants to purchase common shares and/or preferred shares or any combination of these securities. This prospectus contains a general description of the securities that we may offer. Each time we sell any securities pursuant to this prospectus, we will provide a prospectus supplement that will contain specific information about the terms of that offering. The prospectus supplement also may add, update or change information contained in this prospectus. You should read this prospectus and the applicable prospectus supplement, together with the additional information described below under the heading "Where You Can Find More Information," before you decide whether to invest in the securities.

**FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS**

This section contains "forward-looking" statements, as defined in the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995, that are based on our current expectations, estimates and projections about future events and financial trends affecting the financial condition and operations of our business. Forward-looking statements can be identified by the use of words such as "may," "will," "should," "could," "believe," "anticipate," "expect," "estimate," "plan" or other comparable terminology. Forward-looking statements are inherently subject to risks and uncertainties, many of which we cannot predict with accuracy and some of which we might not even anticipate. Although we believe that the expectations, estimates and projections reflected in such forward-looking statements are based on reasonable assumptions at the time made, we can give no assurance that these expectations, estimates and projections will be achieved. Future events and actual results may differ materially from those discussed in the forward-looking statements. We caution readers that forward-looking statements reflect our opinion only as of the date on which they were made. You should not place undue reliance on forward-looking statements. The following factors, among others, could cause actual results and future events to differ materially from those set forth or contemplated in the forward-looking statements:

general economic and business conditions, which will, among other things, affect office property and data center demand and rents, tenant creditworthiness, interest rates, financing availability and property values;

adverse changes in the real estate markets, including, among other things, increased competition with other companies;

governmental actions and initiatives, including risks associated with the impact of a prolonged government shutdown or budgetary reductions or impasses, such as a reduction in rental revenues, non-renewal of leases and/or a curtailment of demand for additional space by our strategic customers;

our ability to borrow on favorable terms;

risks of real estate acquisition and development activities, including, among other things, risks that development projects may not be completed on schedule, that tenants may not take occupancy or pay rent or that development or operating costs may be greater than anticipated;

risks of investing through joint venture structures, including risks that our joint venture partners may not fulfill their financial obligations as investors or may take actions that are inconsistent with our objectives;

changes in our plans for properties or views of market economic conditions or failure to obtain development rights, either of which could result in recognition of significant impairment losses;

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our ability to satisfy and operate effectively under federal income tax rules relating to real estate investment trusts and partnerships;

the dilutive effects of issuing additional common shares;

our ability to achieve projected results; and

environmental requirements.

We undertake no obligation to publicly update or supplement forward-looking statements, whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise. For further information on these and other factors that could impact COPT and our future results, see "Risk Factors."



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**SUMMARY**

*This prospectus summary calls your attention to selected information in this document, but it does not contain all the information that is important to you. To understand us and the securities that may be offered through this prospectus, you should read this entire prospectus carefully, including the "Risk Factors" and other information included in this prospectus and in the documents incorporated by reference herein to which we refer you in the section called "Where You Can Find More Information" in this prospectus.*

**OUR COMPANY**

*General.* COPT is fully-integrated and self-managed real estate investment trust ("REIT"). COPLP, a Delaware limited partnership, is the entity through which COPT, the sole general partner of COPLP, conducts almost all of its operations and owns almost all of its assets. We own, manage, lease, develop and selectively acquire office and data center properties. The majority of our portfolio is in locations that support United States Government agencies and their contractors, most of whom are engaged in national security, defense and information technology ("IT") related activities servicing what we believe are growing, durable priority missions; we refer to these properties as Defense/IT Locations. We also own a complementary portfolio of traditional office properties located in select urban/urban-like submarkets within our regional footprint with durable Class-A office fundamentals and characteristics, as well as other properties supporting general commercial office tenants; these properties are included in a segment referred to as Regional Office.

COPLP owns real estate both directly and through subsidiary partnerships and limited liability companies. In addition to owning real estate, COPLP also owns subsidiaries that provide real estate services such as property management and construction and development services primarily for our properties but also for third parties. Some of these services are performed by a taxable REIT subsidiary ("TRS").

Equity interests in COPLP are in the form of common and preferred units, which are owned primarily by COPT.

We believe that COPT is organized and has operated in a manner that satisfies the requirements for taxation as a REIT under the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, and we intend to continue to operate COPT in such a manner. If COPT continues to qualify for taxation as a REIT, it generally will not be subject to federal income tax on its taxable income (other than that of its TRS) that is distributed to its shareholders. A REIT is subject to a number of organizational and operational requirements, including a requirement that it distribute to its shareholders at least 90% of its annual taxable income.

Our executive offices are located at 6711 Columbia Gateway Drive, Suite 300, Columbia, Maryland 21046 and our telephone number is (443) 285-5400.

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**RISK FACTORS**

*You should carefully consider the risks described below and in the periodic reports and other information that we file with the Securities and Exchange Commission, as well as other information and data included in this prospectus, before making a decision to invest in the securities described in this prospectus.*

**Risks Related to COPLP notes**

**The effective subordination of COPLP notes may limit our ability to satisfy our obligations under the notes.** COPLP notes will be our senior unsecured and unsubordinated obligations and will rank equally in right of payment with all of our existing and future unsecured and unsubordinated indebtedness. However, the notes will be effectively subordinated in right of payment to all of our existing and future secured indebtedness (to the extent of the value of the collateral securing such indebtedness). The indenture governing the notes places limitations on our ability to incur secured indebtedness, but does not prohibit us from incurring secured indebtedness in the future. Consequently, in the event of a bankruptcy, liquidation, dissolution, reorganization or similar proceeding with respect to us, the holders of any secured indebtedness will be entitled to proceed directly against the collateral that secures such indebtedness. Therefore, such collateral will not be available for satisfaction of any amounts owed under our unsecured indebtedness, including COPLP notes, until such secured indebtedness is satisfied in full.

Therefore, although COPLP notes are unsubordinated obligations, they will be effectively subordinated to all existing and future unsecured and secured liabilities and preferred equity of COPLP's subsidiaries. In the event of a bankruptcy, liquidation, dissolution, reorganization or similar proceeding with respect to any such subsidiary, we, as an equity owner of such subsidiary, and therefore holders of our debt, including the notes, will be subject to the prior claims of such subsidiary's creditors, including trade creditors, and preferred equity holders.

In addition, none of our subsidiaries will guarantee COPLP notes. Payments on COPLP notes are only required to be made by COPLP and by COPT. As a result, no payments are required to be made by, and holders of notes will not have a claim against the assets of, our subsidiaries, except if those assets are transferred, by dividend or otherwise, to COPLP or to COPT.

**We may not be able to generate sufficient cash flow to meet our debt service obligations.** Our ability to make payments on and to refinance our indebtedness, including COPLP notes, and to fund our operations, working capital and capital expenditures, depends on our ability to generate cash in the future. To a certain extent, our cash flow is subject to general economic, industry, financial, competitive, operating, legislative, regulatory and other factors, many of which are beyond our control.

We cannot assure you that our business will generate sufficient cash flow from operations or that future sources of cash will be available to us in an amount sufficient to enable us to pay amounts due on our indebtedness, including COPLP notes, or to fund our other liquidity needs. Additionally, if we incur additional indebtedness in connection with future acquisitions or development projects or for any other purpose, our debt service obligations could increase.

We may need to refinance all or a portion of our indebtedness, including COPLP notes, on or before maturity. Our ability to refinance our indebtedness or obtain additional financing will depend on, among other things:

our financial condition and market conditions at the time; and

restrictions in the agreements governing our indebtedness.

As a result, we may not be able to refinance any of our indebtedness, including COPLP notes, on commercially reasonable terms, or at all. If we do not generate sufficient cash flow from operations,

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and additional borrowings or refinancings or proceeds of asset sales or other sources of cash are not available to us, we may not have sufficient cash to enable us to meet all of our obligations, including payments on the notes. Accordingly, if we cannot service our indebtedness, we may have to take actions such as seeking additional equity or delaying capital expenditures, or strategic acquisitions and alliances, any of which could have a material adverse effect on our operations. We cannot assure you that we will be able to effect any of these actions on commercially reasonable terms, or at all.

**COPT has no significant operations and no material assets, other than its investment in COPLP.** COPLP notes may be fully and unconditionally guaranteed by COPT which has no significant operations and no material assets, other than its investment in COPLP. Furthermore, any COPT guarantee of COPLP notes will be effectively subordinated to all existing and future unsecured and secured liabilities and preferred equity of its subsidiaries (including us and any entity COPT accounts for under the equity method of accounting).

**There is currently no public trading market for any COPLP notes, and no active public trading market for any COPLP notes may ever develop or, if it develops, may not be maintained or be liquid. The failure of an active public trading market for COPLP notes to develop or be maintained is likely to adversely affect the market price and liquidity of the notes.**

There is currently no existing trading market for any COPLP notes. COPLP does not intend to apply for listing of any COPLP notes on any securities exchange or for quotation of the notes on any automated dealer quotation system. Accordingly, an active trading market may not develop for any COPLP notes and, even if one develops, may not be maintained. If an active trading market for COPLP notes does not develop or is not maintained, the market price and liquidity of the notes is likely to be adversely affected, and holders may not be able to sell their notes at desired times and prices or at all. If any COPLP notes are traded after their purchase, they may trade at a discount from their purchase price.

The liquidity of the trading market, if any, and future trading prices of COPLP notes will depend on many factors, including, among other things, prevailing interest rates, the financial condition, results of operations, business, prospects and credit quality of COPLP, COPT and our subsidiaries, and other comparable entities, the market for similar securities and the overall securities market, and may be adversely affected by unfavorable changes in any of these factors, some of which are beyond our control. In addition, market volatility or events or developments in the credit markets could materially and adversely affect the market value of the COPLP notes, regardless of COPLP, COPT or their respective subsidiaries' financial condition, results of operations, business, prospects or credit quality.

**The indenture and supplemental indentures governing COPLP notes and our existing credit facilities contains restrictive covenants that limit our operating flexibility.** Indentures and supplemental indentures governing COPLP notes contain financial and operating covenants that, among other things, restrict our ability to take specific actions, even if we believe them to be in our best interest, including restrictions on our ability to:

consummate a merger, consolidation or sale of all or substantially all of our assets; and

incur additional secured and unsecured indebtedness.

In addition, the credit agreements governing our unsecured revolving credit facility and unsecured term loans require us to meet specified financial covenants relating to the minimum amounts of net worth, fixed charge coverage, unsecured debt service coverage, the maximum amount of secured indebtedness, leverage ratio and certain investment limitations. These covenants may restrict our ability to expand or fully pursue our business strategies. The breach of any of these covenants, including those contained in our credit agreements and the indenture and supplemental indentures governing COPLP notes, could result in a default under our indebtedness, which could cause those and other obligations to become due and payable. If any of our indebtedness is accelerated, we may not be able to repay it.

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**Despite our substantial indebtedness, we or our subsidiaries may still incur significantly more debt, which could exacerbate any or all of the risks related to our indebtedness, including our inability to pay the principal of or interest on COPLP notes.** We and our subsidiaries may be able to incur substantial additional indebtedness in the future. Although the credit agreements governing our unsecured and secured indebtedness limit, and the indenture and supplemental indentures governing COPLP notes will limit, our ability to incur additional indebtedness, these restrictions are subject to a number of qualifications and exceptions and, under certain circumstances, debt incurred in compliance with these restrictions could be substantial. To the extent that we or our subsidiaries incur additional indebtedness or other such obligations, we may face additional risks associated with our indebtedness, including our possible inability to pay the principal of or interest on COPLP notes.

**Federal and state statutes allow courts, under specific circumstances, to void guarantees and require holders of COPLP notes to return payments received from guarantors.** Under the federal bankruptcy law and comparable provisions of state fraudulent transfer laws, a guarantee, such as a guarantee provided by COPT of COPLP notes, could be voided, or claims in respect of a guarantee could be subordinated to all other debts of that guarantor if, among other things, the guarantor, at the time it incurred the indebtedness evidenced by its guarantee:

received less than reasonably equivalent value or fair consideration for the incurrence of the guarantee; and either:

was insolvent or rendered insolvent by reason of the incurrence of the guarantee;

was engaged in a business or transaction for which the guarantor's remaining assets constituted unreasonably small capital;

intended to incur, or believed that it would incur, debts beyond its ability to pay those debts as they mature; or

intended to hinder, delay or defraud creditors.

In addition, any payment by that guarantor pursuant to its guarantee could be voided and required to be returned to the guarantor, or to a fund for the benefit of the creditors of the guarantor. The measures of insolvency for purposes of these fraudulent transfer laws will vary depending upon the law applied in any proceeding to determine whether a fraudulent transfer has occurred. Generally, however, a guarantor would be considered insolvent if:

the sum of its debts, including contingent liabilities, was greater than the fair saleable value of all of its assets;

the present fair saleable value of its assets was less than the amount that would be required to pay its probable liability on its existing debts, including contingent liabilities, as they became absolute and mature; or

it could not pay its debts as they become due.

The court might also void such guarantee, without regard to the above factors, if it found that a guarantor entered into its guarantee with actual or deemed intent to hinder, delay, or defraud its creditors.

A court would likely find that a guarantor did not receive reasonably equivalent value or fair consideration for its guarantee unless it benefited directly or indirectly from the issuance of the notes. If a court voided such guarantee, holders of the notes would no longer have a claim against such guarantor or the benefit of the assets of such guarantor constituting collateral that purportedly secured such guarantee and would be creditors solely of us. In addition, the court might direct holders of the notes to repay any amounts already received from a guarantor. If the court were to void COPT's

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guarantee, we cannot assure you that funds would be available to pay COPLP notes from any of our subsidiaries or from any other source.

**An increase in interest rates could result in a decrease in the relative value of COPLP notes.** In general, as market interest rates rise, notes bearing interest at a fixed rate generally decline in value because the premium, if any, over market interest rates will decline. Consequently, if you purchase COPLP notes bearing interest at a fixed rate and market interest rates increase, the market value of your notes may decline. We cannot predict the future level of market interest rates.

**We may choose to redeem COPLP notes when prevailing interest rates are relatively low.** COPLP notes may be redeemable at our option and we may choose to redeem some or all of the notes from time to time, particularly when prevailing interest rates are lower than the rate borne by the notes. If prevailing rates are lower at the time of redemption, you may not be able to reinvest the redemption proceeds in a comparable security at an effective interest rate as high as the interest rate on the notes being redeemed. See "Description of Debt Securities and Related Guarantees Redemption and Repurchase."

**The market price of the notes may fluctuate significantly.** The market price of the notes may fluctuate significantly in response to many factors, including:

actual or anticipated variations in our operating results, funds from operations, cash flows, liquidity or distributions;

changes in our earnings estimates or those of analysts;

publication of research reports about us or the real estate industry or the office and industrial sectors in which we operate;

the failure to maintain our current credit ratings or comply with our debt covenants;

increases in market interest rates;

changes in market valuations of similar companies;

adverse market reaction to any securities we may issue or additional debt we incur in the future;

additions or departures of key management personnel;

actions by institutional investors;

speculation in the press or investment community;

continuing high levels of volatility in the credit markets;

the realization of any of the other risk factors included in or incorporated by reference in this prospectus; and

general market and economic conditions.

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In addition, many of the factors listed above are beyond our control. These factors may cause the market price of COPLP notes to decline, regardless of our financial condition, results of operations, business or prospects. It is impossible to assure investors that the market price of the notes will not fall in the future, and it may be difficult for investors to resell the notes at prices they find attractive, or at all.

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**USE OF PROCEEDS**

Unless otherwise set forth in a prospectus supplement accompanying this prospectus, we intend to use the net proceeds of any sale of the securities that we may offer under this prospectus and any accompanying prospectus supplement for working capital and other general business purposes, which may include capital expenditures, acquisition or development of additional properties, repayment of indebtedness and repurchases of outstanding shares.

**CONSOLIDATED RATIOS OF EARNINGS TO FIXED CHARGES AND COMBINED FIXED CHARGES AND PREFERRED SHARE DIVIDENDS**

The following table sets forth COPLP's consolidated ratios of earnings to fixed charges for each of the last five calendar years.

	Year Ended December 31,				
	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011
Ratio of earnings to fixed charges	2.91	1.42	1.41	*	**

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\* Fixed charges exceeded total earnings by \$3.2 million.

\*\* Fixed charges exceeded total earnings by \$98.7 million.

The following table sets forth COPT's consolidated ratios of earnings to combined fixed charges and preferred share dividends for each of the last five calendar years.

	Year Ended December 31,				
	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011
Ratio of earnings to combined fixed charges and preferred share dividends	2.52	1.22	1.17	*	**

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\* Combined fixed charges and preferred share dividends exceeded total earnings by \$24.7 million.

\*\* Combined fixed charges and preferred share dividends exceeded total earnings by \$115.4 million.

For purposes of calculating the above ratios, earnings were computed by adding fixed charges (excluding capitalized interest), gain on sales of real estate (excluding discontinued operations) amortization of capitalized interest and distributed income (loss) of equity investees to income (loss) from continuing operations before noncontrolling interests, equity in income (loss) of unconsolidated entities and income taxes. Fixed charges consist of interest costs and capitalized amortization of debt issuance costs. This information is given on a historical basis.

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**DESCRIPTION OF SHARES**

*The following summary of the terms and provisions of COPT's common shares, preferred shares and depositary shares representing interests in preferred shares does not purport to be complete and is subject to and qualified in its entirety by reference to COPT's Declaration of Trust and the Articles Supplementary to COPT's Declaration of Trust relating to the designation of each series of COPT's preferred shares, each of which is available from us as described in "Where You Can Find More Information."*

**General**

Under COPT's Declaration of Trust, COPT is authorized to issue up to 125,000,000 common shares and 25,000,000 preferred shares. As of the date of this prospectus, 600,000 preferred shares were classified as 5.60% Series K Cumulative Redeemable Preferred Shares, 531,667 of which were issued and outstanding, and 6,900,000 preferred shares were classified as 7.375% Series L Cumulative Preferred Shares, all of which were issued and outstanding. Our Board of Trustees may increase the authorized number of common shares and preferred shares without shareholder approval.

We are authorized to issue COPT preferred shares in one or more classes or subclasses, with the designations, preferences, conversion and other rights, voting powers, restrictions, limitations as to dividends, qualifications and terms and conditions of redemption, in each case, as are permitted by Maryland law and as our Board of Trustees may determine by resolution. Except for the Series K Preferred Shares and the Series L Preferred Shares, there are currently no other classes or series of preferred shares authorized. However, COPLP has issued to a third party 352,000 Series I Preferred Units.

Except for the Series I Preferred Units, as discussed in the following paragraph, each series of preferred units has economic terms substantially equivalent to the economic terms of the corresponding Series K Preferred Shares and Series L Preferred Shares, respectively, that COPT has issued.

The 352,000 Series I Preferred Units of COPLP are owned by a third party and have a liquidation preference of \$25.00 per unit. Prior to the distributions with respect to common units of COPLP, and until September 23, 2019, each Series I Preferred Unit is entitled to a priority distribution of 7.5% of the liquidation value per Series I Preferred Unit, payable quarterly. Effective September 23, 2019, the priority distribution on the Series I Preferred Units increases in accordance with the terms thereof. Each Series I Preferred Unit is convertible into 0.5 common units at any time at the option of the holder. COPLP may redeem that Series I Preferred Units at any time on or after September 23, 2019 for an amount equal to their liquidation preference.

The economic terms of the common units will be substantially equivalent to the economic terms of the common shares. The Series I, Series K and Series L Preferred Units are treated equally (i.e., are *pari passu*) in priority over the common units in COPLP with respect to liquidation payments and quarterly distributions. Distributions on these preferred units are the source of funds for the payment of dividends on our preferred shares.

Except in certain limited circumstances, at any time that COPT holds less than 90% of the outstanding partnership units in COPLP, any amendment to COPLP's agreement must be approved by the vote of a majority of the common and preferred units not held by COPT, each voting as a separate class. If COPT were to hold 90% or more of the outstanding partnership units in COPLP, we would have the right to amend the COPLP agreement without first seeking such unitholder approval.

**Common Shares**

All common shares that are currently outstanding have been, or when issued upon redemption of common and preferred units of COPLP in accordance with the terms of the COPLP agreement will be, duly authorized, fully paid and nonassessable. Subject to the preferential rights of our Series K and



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Series L Preferred Shares, as well as any other shares or series of beneficial interest that COPT may issue in the future, and to the provisions of our Declaration of Trust regarding the restriction on transfer of common shares, holders of common shares are entitled to receive dividends on such shares if, as and when authorized and declared by the Board of Trustees out of assets legally available therefor and to share ratably in our assets legally available for distribution to our shareholders in the event of the liquidation, dissolution or winding-up of COPT after payment of, or adequate provision for, all of our known debts and liabilities.

Subject to the provisions of COPT's Declaration of Trust regarding restrictions on transfer of shares of beneficial interest, each outstanding common share entitles the holder thereof to one vote on all matters submitted to a vote of shareholders, including the election of Trustees, and, except as provided with respect to any other class or series of shares of beneficial interest, the holders of such common shares possess the exclusive voting power. There is no cumulative voting in the election of Trustees.

Holders of common shares have no preference, conversion, sinking fund, redemption or appraisal rights and have no preemptive rights to subscribe for any of our securities. Subject to the provisions of the Declaration of Trust regarding the restriction on transfer of common shares, the common shares have equal dividend, distribution, liquidation and other rights.

COPT's Declaration of Trust provides for approval by a majority of the votes cast by holders of common shares entitled to vote on the matter in all situations permitting or requiring action by the shareholders, except with respect to: (i) the election of Trustees in a "contested" election, which means an election in which there are more nominees for election than the number of trustees to be elected (which requires a plurality of all the votes cast at a meeting of our shareholders at which a quorum is present); (ii) the removal of Trustees (which requires the affirmative vote of the holders of two-thirds of the outstanding shares of beneficial interest entitled to vote generally in the election of Trustees, which action can only be taken for cause by vote at a shareholder meeting); (iii) the merger of COPT with another entity or the sale (or other disposition) of all or substantially all of the assets of COPT (which requires the affirmative vote of the holders of two-thirds of the outstanding shares of beneficial interest entitled to vote on the matter); (iv) the amendment of the Declaration of Trust (which requires the affirmative vote of two-thirds of all the votes entitled to be cast on the matter); and (v) the termination of COPT (which requires the affirmative vote of two-thirds of the outstanding shares of beneficial interest entitled to be cast on the matter). COPT's Declaration of Trust permits the Trustees, without any action by the holders of common shares, (a) by a two-thirds vote, to amend the Declaration of Trust from time to time to qualify as a real estate investment trust under the Code or the Maryland REIT Law and (b) by a majority vote to amend the Declaration of Trust to increase or decrease the aggregate number of shares of beneficial interest or the number of shares of any class of shares of beneficial interest that COPT has authority to issue.

**Preferred Shares**

*The following summary of the terms and provisions of our preferred shares does not purport to be complete and is qualified in its entirety by reference to the pertinent sections of COPT's Declaration of Trust and the Articles Supplementary to the Declaration of Trust relating to the establishment of each series of COPT's preferred shares, each of which is available from us as described in the section below entitled "Where You Can Find More Information."*

COPT issued 531,667 Series K Preferred Shares in a private placement in January 2007 and 6,900,000 Series L Preferred Shares in a private placement in June 2012. COPT contributed the proceeds of the Series L offering to COPLP in exchange for a number of Series L Preferred Units equal to the number of the applicable series of preferred shares that COPT sold in the offering. COPT contributed assets acquired through the Series K Preferred Share issuance to COPLP in exchange for a

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number of respective Series K Preferred Units equal to the number of preferred shares that COPT issued to the seller in the acquisition. The terms of each series of the preferred units are substantially equivalent to the economic terms of the respective series of preferred shares to which they relate. The terms of these outstanding series of preferred shares are as follows:

*Ranking.* The Series K and Series L Preferred Shares, with respect to dividend rights and rights upon COPT's liquidation, dissolution or winding up, rank (i) prior or senior to the common shares and any other class or series of COPT equity securities authorized or designated in the future if the holders of Series K and Series L Preferred Shares shall be entitled to the receipt of dividends or of amounts distributable upon liquidation, dissolution or winding up in preference or priority to the holders of shares of such class or series ("Junior Shares"); (ii) on a parity with one another and any other class or series of COPT equity securities authorized or designated in the future if the holders of such class or series of securities and the Series K and Series L Preferred Shares shall be entitled to the receipt of dividends and of amounts distributable upon liquidation, dissolution or winding up in proportion to their respective amounts of accrued and unpaid dividends per share or liquidation preferences, without preference or priority of one over the other ("Parity Shares"); and (iii) junior to any class or series of COPT equity securities authorized or designated in the future if the holders of such class or series shall be entitled to the receipt of dividends and amounts distributable upon liquidation, dissolution or winding up in preference or priority to the holders of the Series K and Series L Preferred Shares ("Senior Shares").

*Dividends.* Holders of Series K and Series L Preferred Shares are entitled to receive, when and as declared by our Board of Trustees, out of our funds legally available for payment, quarterly cash dividends on such shares at the following rates: \$2.80 per year per Series K Preferred Share; and \$1.84375 per year per Series L Preferred Share. Such dividends are cumulative from the date of original issue, whether or not in any dividend period or periods such dividends shall be declared or there shall be funds legally available for the payment of such dividends, and are payable quarterly on January 15, April 15, July 15 and October 15 of each year (or, if not a business day, the next succeeding business day) (each a "Dividend Payment Date"). Any dividend payable on the Series K and Series L Preferred Shares for any partial dividend period will be computed ratably on the basis of twelve 30-day months and a 360-day year. Dividends are payable in arrears to holders of record as they appear on our share records at the close of business on the applicable record date, which are fixed by our Board of Trustees and which are not more than 60 nor less than 10 days prior to such Dividend Payment Date. Holders of Series K and Series L Preferred Shares are not entitled to receive any dividends in excess of respective cumulative dividends on such shares. No interest, or sum of money in lieu of interest, shall be payable in respect to any dividend payment or payments on the Series K and Series L Preferred Shares that may be in arrears.

When dividends are not paid in full upon the Parity Shares, or a sum sufficient for such payment is not set apart, all dividends declared upon the Parity Shares shall be declared ratably in proportion to the respective amounts of dividends accrued and unpaid on the Parity Shares. Except as set forth in the preceding sentence, unless dividends on the Series K and Series L Preferred Shares equal to the full amount of accrued and unpaid dividends have been or contemporaneously are declared and paid or declared and a sum sufficient for the payment thereof has been or contemporaneously is set apart for such payment, for all past dividend periods, no dividends shall be declared or paid or set apart for payment by us and no other distribution of cash or other property may be declared or made, directly or indirectly, by us with respect to any Parity Shares. Unless dividends equal to the full amount of all accrued and unpaid dividends on the Series K and Series L Preferred Shares have been paid, or declared and set apart for payment, for all past dividend periods, no dividends (other than dividends or distributions paid in Junior Shares or options, warrants or rights to subscribe for or purchase Junior Shares) may be declared or paid or set apart for payment by us and no other distribution of cash or other property may be declared or made, directly or indirectly, by us with respect to any Junior Shares,

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nor shall any Junior Shares be redeemed, purchased or otherwise acquired (except for a redemption, purchase or other acquisition of common shares made for purposes of our employee incentive or benefit plan or any such plan of any of our subsidiaries) for any consideration (or any monies be paid to or made available for a sinking fund for the redemption of any such Junior Shares), directly or indirectly, by us (except by conversion into or exchange for Junior Shares, or options, warrants or rights to subscribe for or purchase Junior Shares), nor shall any other cash or other property be paid or distributed to or for the benefit of holders of Junior Shares. Notwithstanding the provisions described above, COPT shall not be prohibited from (i) declaring or paying or setting apart for payment any dividend or distribution on any Parity Shares or (ii) redeeming, purchasing or otherwise acquiring any Parity Shares, in each case, if such declaration, payment, redemption, purchase or other acquisition is necessary to maintain COPT's qualification as a REIT.

*Liquidation Preference.* Upon any voluntary or involuntary liquidation, dissolution or winding up, before any payment or distribution by COPT shall be made to or set apart for the holders of any Junior Shares, the holders of Series K and Series L Preferred Shares shall be entitled to receive a liquidation preference (\$25.00 per share for Series L and \$50.00 per share for Series K) (the "Liquidation Preference"), plus an amount equal to all accrued and unpaid dividends (whether or not earned or declared) to the date of final distribution to such holders; but such holders shall not be e