

COLUMBIA PROPERTY TRUST, INC.

Form S-3D

March 01, 2013

As filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on February 28, 2013

Registration No. 333-

UNITED STATES  
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, DC 20549

---

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

---

Columbia Property Trust, Inc.

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

---

Maryland  
(State or other jurisdiction of incorporation or organization)

---

20-0068852  
(I.R.S. Employer Identification Number)

---

One Glenlake Parkway, Suite 1200  
Atlanta, Georgia 30328  
(404) 465-2200  
(Address, including zip code, and telephone number, including area code, of the registrant's principal executive offices)

---

E. Nelson Mills  
President  
Columbia Property Trust, Inc.  
One Glenlake Parkway, Suite 1200  
Atlanta, Georgia 30328  
(404) 465-2200  
(Name, address, including zip code and telephone number, including area code, of agent for service)

---

Copies to:  
Robert H. Bergdolt, Esq.  
Laura K. Sirianni, Esq.  
DLA Piper LLP (US)  
4141 Parklake Avenue, Suite 300  
Raleigh, North Carolina 27612-2350  
(919) 786-2000

---

Approximate date of commencement of proposed sale to public: From time to time after effectiveness of the registration statement.

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

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

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

---

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

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

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

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

Large accelerated filer [ ]

Accelerated filer [ ]

Non-accelerated filer [ x ]

Smaller reporting company [ ]

(Do not check if smaller reporting company)

CALCULATION OF REGISTRATION FEE

Title of Shares to Be Registered	Proposed Maximum Offering Price Per Share <sup>(1)</sup>	Proposed Maximum Aggregate Offering Price <sup>(1)</sup>	Amount of Registration Fee
Common Stock, \$0.01 par value per share	\$ 7.00	\$350,000,000	\$ 47,740

(1) Estimated for purposes of calculating the registration fee pursuant to Rule 457. The price per share is based on our most recent estimated per-share value of \$7.33 as of September 30, 2012. We plan to update our estimated per-share value annually, which update will affect the price at which we offer our shares pursuant to our distribution reinvestment plan.

COLUMBIA PROPERTY TRUST, INC.

Distribution Reinvestment Plan

\$350,000,000 Maximum Offering of Common Stock

Columbia Property Trust, Inc. (formerly Wells Real Estate Investment Trust II, Inc.) buys, owns and operates commercial real estate consisting primarily of high-quality, income-generating office properties leased to creditworthy companies and governmental entities. As of December 31, 2012, we owned interests in 61 office properties and one hotel, comprising approximately 21.0 million square feet of commercial space located in 19 states, the District of Columbia and Moscow, Russia. We were incorporated in the State of Maryland in July 2003 and, beginning with our fiscal year ended December 31, 2003, we have elected to be taxed as a REIT.

We are offering up to an aggregate of \$350,000,000 of our common stock to existing stockholders pursuant to our distribution reinvestment plan. Some of the significant features of the plan are as follows:

Stockholders who elect to participate in the distribution reinvestment plan may choose to invest all or a portion of their cash distributions in shares of our common stock.

We are initially offering the shares at a purchase price of \$7.00 which is 95.5% of the current estimated per-share value of \$7.33.

We may offer shares of common stock under our distribution reinvestment plan until we have sold an aggregate of \$350,000,000 of shares.

We may amend or terminate the distribution reinvestment plan for any reason at any time, provided that any amendment that adversely affects the rights or obligations of a participant will only take effect upon 10 days' written notice to participants.

Participants may terminate participation in the plan at any time by providing us with written notice. For your termination to be effective for a particular distribution, we must have received your notice of termination at least 10 business days prior to the last day of the fiscal period to which the distribution relates.

If you elect to participate in the plan and are subject to federal income taxation, you will incur a tax liability for distributions allocated to you even though you have elected not to receive the distribution in cash. In addition, to the extent you purchase shares through our distribution reinvestment plan at a discount to their fair market value, you will be treated for tax purposes as receiving an additional distribution equal to the amount of the discount.

Stockholders may elect to participate in the distribution reinvestment plan by completing the enrollment form attached as Appendix A to this prospectus.

You should carefully consider the specific risks set forth under the caption "Risk Factors" under Item 1A of Part I of our most recent Annual Report on Form 10-K, as the same may be updated from time to time by future filings under the Securities and Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, which are incorporated by reference into this prospectus, before making an investment decision.

Neither the SEC nor any other state securities regulator has approved or disapproved of our common stock, determined if this prospectus is truthful or complete or passed on or endorsed the merits of this offering. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense.

Investing in our common stock involves a high degree of risk. You should purchase these securities only if you can afford a complete loss of your investment. The use of projections or forecasts in this offering is prohibited. No one is permitted to make any oral or written predictions about the cash benefits or tax consequences you will receive from your investment.

Offering Price Per Share		Maximum Proceeds (Before Expenses)
\$7.00	\$	350,000,000

February 28, 2013

---

TABLE OF CONTENTS

<u>Cautionary Note Regarding Forward-Looking Statements</u>	<u>1</u>
<u>Prospectus Summary</u>	<u>2</u>
<u>Risk Factors</u>	<u>8</u>
<u>Estimated Use of Proceeds</u>	<u>9</u>
<u>Description of Distribution Reinvestment Plan</u>	<u>10</u>
<u>Limited Liability and Indemnification of Directors, Officers, Employees and Other Agents</u>	<u>15</u>
<u>Description of Shares</u>	<u>17</u>
<u>Plan of Distribution</u>	<u>24</u>
<u>Federal Income Tax Considerations</u>	<u>25</u>
<u>Legal Matters</u>	<u>44</u>
<u>Experts</u>	<u>44</u>
<u>Incorporation of Certain Documents by Reference</u>	<u>44</u>
<u>Appendix A - Form of Distribution Reinvestment Enrollment Form</u>	<u>A-1</u>
<u>Appendix B - Third Amended and Restated Distribution Reinvestment Plan</u>	<u>B-1</u>

You should rely only on the information contained in this prospectus or in any free writing prospectus prepared by us in connection with this offering or to which we have referred you. We have not authorized anyone to provide you with different information. You should not assume that the information in this prospectus is accurate as of any date other than the date on the front cover of this prospectus.

Except where the context suggests otherwise, the terms “we,” “us,” “our,” “the company” and “the Company” refer to Columbia Property Trust, Inc., together with its subsidiaries, including Columbia Property Trust Operating Partnership, L.P. (the “Operating Partnership”).

#### CAUTIONARY NOTE REGARDING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

Certain statements contained in or incorporated by reference in this prospectus other than historical facts may be considered forward-looking statements. Such statements include, in particular, statements about our plans, strategies and prospects and are subject to certain risks and uncertainties, as well as known and unknown risks, which could cause actual results to differ materially from those projected or anticipated. Therefore, such statements are not intended to be a guarantee of our performance in future periods. Such forward-looking statements can generally be identified by our use of forward-looking terminology such as “may,” “will,” “expect,” “intend,” “anticipate,” “estimate,” “believe,” “continue,” or other similar words. You are cautioned not to place undue reliance on these forward-looking statements, which speak only as of the date of this prospectus. We make no representations or warranties (express or implied) about the accuracy of any such forward-looking statements and we do not intend to publicly update or revise any forward-looking statements, whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise.

Any such forward-looking statements are subject to unknown risks, uncertainties and other factors and are based on a number of assumptions involving judgments with respect to, among other things, future economic, competitive and market conditions, all of which are difficult or impossible to predict accurately. To the extent that our assumptions differ from actual results, our ability to meet such forward-looking statements, including our ability to generate positive cash flow from operations, make distributions to stockholders, and maintain the value of our real estate properties, may be significantly hindered. Some of the risks and uncertainties that we believe are material to our business, operating results, prospects and financial condition are as follows:

No public market currently exists for our shares of common stock and we have no current plans to list our shares on an exchange. If you are able to sell your shares, you would likely have to sell them at a substantial discount from their public offering price.

We have recently become a self-managed company. Previously we relied on our advisor to conduct and manage our day-to-day operations. If we are unable to transition successfully to self management our operations could suffer. The initial offering price of shares under our distribution reinvestment plan is based upon an estimated per-share value equal to \$7.33 per share, as of September 30, 2012. We intend to update the estimated per-share value on an annual basis. After reporting an updated per-share estimated value, the purchase price of the shares of common stock under the distribution reinvestment plan will be based upon the updated per-share estimated value. If the updated estimated per-share value is less than the current per-share value, the purchase price of the shares of common stock under the distribution reinvestment plan will be less than the current offering price.

We depend on tenants for our revenue and, accordingly, our revenue is dependent upon the success and economic viability of our tenants. Revenues from our properties could decrease due to a reduction in tenants (caused by factors including, but not limited to, tenant defaults, tenant insolvency, early termination of tenant leases and non-renewal of existing tenant leases) and/or lower rental rates, making it more difficult for us to meet our debt service obligations and limiting our ability to pay distributions to our stockholders.

Continued disruptions in the financial and real estate markets and uncertain economic conditions could adversely affect the value of our investments.

Our failure to qualify as a REIT for federal income tax purposes would reduce the amount of income we have available for distribution and limit our ability to make distributions to our stockholders.

## PROSPECTUS SUMMARY

This summary highlights material information about this offering. Because it is a summary, it may not contain all of the information that is important to you. To understand this offering fully, you should read the entire prospectus carefully before making a decision to participate in the distribution reinvestment plan. You should also review the section of this prospectus titled "Incorporation of Certain Documents by Reference."

### What is Columbia Property Trust, Inc.?

Columbia Property Trust, Inc. buys, owns and operates commercial real estate consisting primarily of high-quality, income-generating office properties leased to creditworthy companies and governmental entities. We may also invest in entities that make similar investments. As of December 31, 2012, we owned interests in 61 office properties and one hotel, which include 83 operational buildings, comprising approximately 21.0 million square feet of commercial space located in 19 states, the District of Columbia and Moscow, Russia.

We were incorporated in the State of Maryland on July 3, 2003 as Wells Real Estate Investment Trust II, Inc., and, beginning with our fiscal year ended December 31, 2003, we have elected to be taxed as a REIT under the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended. We intend to operate in such a manner so that we may continue to qualify for taxation as a REIT.

From our inception through February 27, 2013, we operated as an externally advised REIT pursuant to an advisory agreement under which a subsidiary of Wells Real Estate Funds, Inc. ("Wells Real Estate Funds"), including most recently Wells Real Estate Advisory Services II, LLC ("WREAS II"), a wholly owned subsidiary of Wells Real Estate Funds, and its affiliates performed certain key functions on our behalf, including, among others, managing our day-to-day operations, investing our capital proceeds and arranging our financings. Also during this period of time, a subsidiary of Wells Real Estate Funds, including most recently Wells Real Estate Services, LLC ("WRES"), another wholly owned subsidiary of Wells Real Estate Funds, provided the personnel necessary to carry out property management services on behalf of Wells Management Company, Inc. and its affiliates pursuant to a property management agreement.

On February 28, 2013, we terminated the above-mentioned advisory agreement and property management agreement, and acquired WREAS II and WRES pursuant to assignment options previously entered into with Wells Real Estate Funds and certain of its affiliates. As a result, the services described above will be performed by our employees going forward (other than the services to be provided by Wells Real Estate Funds under the investor services agreement). Contemporaneous with this transaction, we entered into a consulting agreement and an investor services agreement with Wells Real Estate Funds for the remainder of 2013. While no payments were made to exercise our assignment options to acquire WREAS II and WRES, we will pay fees to Wells Real Estate Funds for consulting and investor services for the remainder of 2013.

Our office is located at One Glenlake Parkway, Suite 1200, Atlanta, Georgia 30328. Our telephone number is 404-465-2200. Our fax number is 404-465-2201. To contact our investor relations department the phone number is 1-800-557-4830. The fax number is 770-243-8198. The mailing address is c/o DST Systems, Inc., P.O. Box 219073, Kansas City, Missouri 64121-9073 and the e-mail address is investor.relations@columbiapropertytrust.com.

We also maintain an Internet site at [www.columbiapropertytrust.com](http://www.columbiapropertytrust.com) at which there is additional information about us. Unless specifically incorporated herein as described in the section entitled "Incorporation of Certain Documents by Reference," the contents of our web site are not incorporated by reference in, or otherwise a part of, this prospectus.



What is the distribution reinvestment plan?

We are offering up to an aggregate of \$350,000,000 of our common stock to our existing stockholders pursuant to our distribution reinvestment plan. Pursuant to the plan, stockholders may elect to have all or a portion of their distributions reinvested in additional shares of our common stock.

What is the purchase price for shares under the distribution reinvestment plan?

The purchase price of shares purchased under the plan is equal to 95.5% of the estimated per-share value of our common stock. On November 8, 2012, we announced an estimated per-share value of our common stock equal to \$7.33 per share, calculated as of September 30, 2012. We are currently offering shares under the plan at 95.5% of this estimated per-share value, or \$7.00. We intend to update the estimated per-share value on an annual basis. After reporting an updated per-share estimated value, the purchase price of the shares of common stock under our distribution reinvestment plan will be equal to 95.5% of the per-share estimated value. The estimated per-share value in future years may be less than the current value of \$7.33 per share and the current offering price of \$7.00 under our distribution reinvestment plan may exceed the price at which we will offer shares after our annual update of our estimated per-share value.

How did you determine your estimated per-share value?

In determining our estimated per-share value we engaged Altus Group U.S., Inc. ("Altus"), a third-party commercial real estate valuation firm, to appraise our assets, both real estate and other assets, to estimate the fair value of our liabilities, and to use those estimates to calculate an estimated fair value of our shares as of September 30, 2012. The engagement of Altus was approved by the asset management committee of our board of directors, which committee is composed only of independent directors. Altus's analyses, opinions, and conclusions were developed in conformity with the Code of Professional Ethics and the Standards of Professional Appraisal Practice of the Appraisal Institute and in conformity with the Uniform Standards of Professional Appraisal Practice. Altus appraised each of our real estate assets individually, and the asset management committee of our board and our then advisor reviewed these analyses and conclusions.

Altus worked with our advisor and the asset management committee of our board of directors to gather information regarding our assets and liabilities. On October 29, 2012, Altus delivered a final report to our advisor, who shared the report with the asset management committee of our board of directors. At a subsequent meeting of our board of directors, our advisor presented the report and recommended an estimated per-share value. Our board of directors considered all information provided in light of its own extensive familiarity with our assets and, upon the recommendation of our asset management committee, unanimously agreed upon an estimated value of \$7.33 per share, which is consistent with both the advisor's recommendation and Altus's estimate.

Our estimated per-share value of \$7.33 as of September 30, 2012 reflects a decline from our previous estimated share value of \$7.47 as of September 30, 2011, primarily due to changes in the leasing expectations and renewal probabilities for some of the assets in our portfolio. Proactive leasing has been a focal point of our operational strategy in 2012, and has yielded more than 2.4 million square feet of new and extended leases (approximately 10% of our portfolio) during the first nine months of the year. This activity has improved our average remaining lease term from 6.3 years to 6.7 years; however, current economic conditions in certain markets have required us to offer additional tenant incentives and, in some cases, accept space contractions as conditions of the new lease contracts. The associated leasing capital has been, and is expected to continue to be, funded with a combination of cash and debt. Consistent with the methodology used when we estimated our per share value as of September 30, 2011, our estimated per-share value as of September 30, 2012 was calculated by aggregating the value of our real estate

and other assets, subtracting the fair value of our liabilities, and dividing the total by the number of our common shares outstanding, all as of September 30, 2012. The potential dilutive effect of our common stock equivalents does not impact our estimated per-share value. Our estimated share value is the same as our net asset value. It does not reflect "enterprise value," which includes a premium for:

- the large size of our portfolio, although it may be true that some buyers are willing to pay more for a large portfolio than they are willing to pay for each property in the portfolio separately;
- our rights under the advisory agreement as of September 30, 2012 and our potential ability to secure the services of a management team on a long-term basis; or
- the potential increase in our share value if we were to list our shares on a national securities exchange.

Our key objectives are to arrive at an estimated per-share value that is supported by methodologies and assumptions that are appropriate based on our current circumstances and calculated using processes and procedures that may be repeated in future periods. We believe that this approach reflects the conservative investment principles that guided the assembly of our portfolio over the past eight years, and comports with industry-standard valuation methodologies used for nontraded real estate companies. We plan to continue to update our estimated per-share value on an annual basis.

With respect to our estimated per-share value, we can provide no assurance that (i) a stockholder would be able to realize this estimated value per share upon attempting to resell his or her shares, (ii) we would be able to achieve, for our stockholders, the estimated value per share, upon a listing of our shares of common stock on national securities exchange, selling our real estate portfolio, or merging with another company, (iii) or the estimated share value, or the methodologies relied upon to estimate the share value, will be found by any regulatory authority to comply with FINRA, ERISA, or any other regulatory requirements. In addition, the estimated value of our shares was calculated as of a particular point in time. The value of our shares will fluctuate over time in response to, among other things, changes in real estate market fundamentals, capital markets activities, and attributes specific to the properties and leases within our portfolio.

Who may participate in the distribution reinvestment plan?

All of our existing stockholders may participate in our distribution reinvestment plan; however, we may elect to deny your participation in the distribution reinvestment plan if you reside in a jurisdiction or foreign country where, in our judgment, the burden or expense of compliance with applicable securities laws makes your participation impracticable or inadvisable.

How do I participate in the distribution reinvestment plan?

If you choose to participate in our distribution reinvestment plan you will need to fill out an enrollment form, like the one contained in this prospectus as Appendix A, that we will provide to you at your request.

What are the tax consequences of participation in the distribution reinvestment plan?

Generally, distributions that you receive, including distributions that are reinvested pursuant to our distribution reinvestment plan, will be taxed as ordinary income to the extent they are from current or accumulated earnings and profits. Participants in our distribution reinvestment plan will also be treated for tax purposes as having received an additional distribution to the extent they purchase shares under our distribution reinvestment plan at a discount to fair market value. As a result, participants in our distribution reinvestment plan may have tax liability with respect to their share of our taxable income, but they will not receive cash distributions to pay such liability.

What will you do with the money raised in this offering?

We expect that at least half of the proceeds raised pursuant to this offering will be used to repurchase shares of our common stock under the share redemption program. The remaining proceeds will be used for general corporate purposes, including, but not limited to, investment in real estate, payment of fees and other costs, and repayment of debt. No selling commissions or dealer manager fees are payable on shares sold under our distribution reinvestment plan, and we expect any other offering expenses to be nominal.

How long will this offering last?

We may offer shares of common stock under our distribution reinvestment plan until we have sold all \$350,000,000 of shares through the reinvestment of distributions. In some states, we may not be able to continue the offering for these periods without renewing the registration statement or filing a new registration statement. We may amend or terminate our distribution reinvestment plan at our discretion at any time provided that any amendment that adversely affects the rights or obligations of participants (as determined by the board) will only take effect upon 10 days' written notice to participants.

What are your investment objectives?

Our primary investment objectives are to support cash distributions to our investors; to preserve, protect, and return our investors' capital contributions; and to seek long-term capital appreciation from our investments.

Our primary investment focus is high quality commercial office properties in primary markets in the U.S. We believe that the major U.S. office markets provide a greater propensity for producing increasing net income and property values over time. Within these markets our goal is to invest in central business districts and urban infill areas, as well as premier suburban submarkets. We target premier assets that we believe are competitive within the top tier of their market. Our asset selection criteria include the property's location attributes, physical quality, tenant/lease characteristics, and competitive positioning. Further, we carefully evaluate the creditworthiness of tenants of buildings being considered for acquisition or at the time of signing a new lease at an existing building.

Our investment philosophy emphasizes diversification of our portfolio for geographic locations, tenants, industry group of tenants, and timing of lease expirations. Prior to making new acquisitions or selling properties in the portfolio, we perform an assessment to ensure that our portfolio is diversified with regard to these criteria to minimize the impact on our portfolio of significant factors affecting a single geographic area, type of property, tenant, or industry group of tenants. Additionally, we analyze annual lease expirations in an attempt to minimize the impact on the cash flows from operations of the portfolio as a whole for properties that may be vacant until re-leased.

Are there any risks involved in an investment in your shares?

An investment in our shares involves significant risk. You should read the risks set forth under the caption "Risk Factors" under Item 1A of Part I of our most recent Annual Report on Form 10-K, as the same may be updated from time to time by future filings under the Securities and Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, which are incorporated by reference into this prospectus. Those sections contain a detailed discussion of material risks that you should consider before you invest in the common stock we are selling with this prospectus. Some of the more significant risks relating to an investment in our shares include the following:

No public market currently exists for our shares of common stock and we have no current plans to list our shares on an exchange. If you are able to sell your shares, you would likely have to sell them at a substantial discount from their public offering price.

We have recently become a self-managed company. Previously we relied on our advisor to conduct and manage our day-to-day operations. If we are unable to transition successfully to self management our operations could suffer. The initial offering price of shares under our distribution reinvestment plan is based upon an estimated per-share value equal to \$7.33 per share, as of September 30, 2012. We intend to update the estimated per-share value on an annual basis. After reporting an updated per-share estimated value, the purchase price of the shares of common stock under the distribution reinvestment plan will be based upon the updated per-share estimated value. If the updated estimated per-share value is less than the current per-share value, the purchase price of the shares of common stock under the distribution reinvestment plan will be less than the current offering price.

With respect to our estimated per-share value, we can provide no assurance that (i) a stockholder would be able to realize this estimated value per share upon attempting to resell his or her shares, (ii) we would be able to achieve, for our stockholders, the estimated value per share, upon a listing of our shares of common stock on national securities exchange, selling our real estate portfolio, or merging with another company, (iii) or the estimated share value, or the methodologies relied upon to estimate the share value, will be found by any regulatory authority to comply with FINRA, ERISA, or any other regulatory requirements.

We depend on tenants for our revenue and, accordingly, our revenue is dependent upon the success and economic viability of our tenants. Revenues from our properties could decrease due to a reduction in tenants (caused by factors including, but not limited to, tenant defaults, tenant insolvency, early termination of tenant leases and non-renewal of existing tenant leases) and/or lower rental rates, making it more difficult for us to meet our debt service obligations and limiting our ability to pay distributions to our stockholders.

Continued disruptions in the financial and real estate markets and uncertain economic conditions could adversely affect the value of our investments.

Our failure to qualify as a REIT for federal income tax purposes would reduce the amount of income we have available for distribution and limit our ability to make distributions to our stockholders.

Will I be notified of how the company and my investment are performing?

Yes, we will provide you with periodic updates on the performance of the company and your investment in us, including:

Four quarterly distribution reports;

- An annual report;
- and

An annual IRS Form 1099-DIV, if required.

We will provide this information to you via U.S. mail or other courier. However, with your permission, we may furnish this information to you by electronic delivery, including, with respect to our annual report, by notice of the posting of our annual report on our Web site, which is [www.columbiapropertytrust.com](http://www.columbiapropertytrust.com). We will also include on this Web site access to our quarterly reports on Form 10-Q, our current reports on Form 8-K, our proxy statement

and other filings we make with the SEC, which filings will provide you with periodic updates our performance and the performance of your investment.

Who can help answer my questions about the distribution reinvestment plan?

If you have more questions about the distribution reinvestment plan, or if you would like additional copies of this prospectus, you should contact us:

Columbia Property Trust Investor Relations

c/o DST Systems, Inc.

P.O. Box 219073

Kansas City, MO 64121-9073

Attn: Investor Relations

Telephone: 1-800-557-4831

Fax: 770-243-8198

E-mail: [investor.relations@columbiapropertytrust.com](mailto:investor.relations@columbiapropertytrust.com)

[www.columbiapropertytrust.com](http://www.columbiapropertytrust.com)

## RISK FACTORS

An investment in our common stock involves various risks and uncertainties. You should carefully consider the specific risks set forth under the caption “Risk Factors” under Item 1A of Part I of our most recent Annual Report on Form 10-K, as the same may be updated from time to time by future filings under the Securities and Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, which are incorporated by reference into this prospectus, before purchasing our common stock. The risks discussed in our reports can adversely affect our business, operating results, prospects and financial condition. This could cause the value of our common stock to decline and could cause you to lose all or part of your investment.

**ESTIMATED USE OF PROCEEDS**

We expect that at least half of the proceeds raised pursuant to this offering will be used to repurchase shares of our common stock under the share redemption program. The remaining proceeds will be used for general corporate purposes, including, but not limited to, investment in real estate, payment of fees and other costs, and repayment of debt. We cannot predict with any certainty how much distribution reinvestment plan proceeds will be used for any of the above purposes, and we have no basis for estimating the number of shares that will be sold. No selling commissions or dealer manager fees are payable on shares sold under our distribution reinvestment plan, and we expect any other offering expenses to be nominal.

## DESCRIPTION OF DISTRIBUTION REINVESTMENT PLAN

Our distribution reinvestment plan allows existing stockholders to have distributions otherwise distributable to them invested in additional shares of our common stock. The following discussion summarizes the principal terms of this plan. The full text of our third amended and restated distribution reinvestment plan is included as Appendix B to this prospectus.

### Eligibility

All of our stockholders are eligible to participate in our distribution reinvestment plan except for restrictions imposed by us in order to comply with the securities laws of various jurisdictions. We may elect to deny your participation in this plan if you reside in a jurisdiction or foreign country where, in our judgment, the burden or expense of compliance with applicable securities laws makes your participation impracticable or inadvisable. As a condition to the registration of our distribution reinvestment plan shares in Arizona, California, Ohio and Oregon, participants in the distribution reinvestment plan in those states must have either:

- a net worth of at least \$250,000; or
- gross annual income of at least \$70,000 and a net worth of at least \$70,000.

In addition, Ohio investors must have a net worth of at least 10 times their investment in us and our affiliates, and Oregon investors must have a liquid net worth of at least 10 times their investment in us.

For purposes of determining suitability of an investor, net worth in all cases should be calculated excluding the value of an investor's home, home furnishings and automobiles. In the case of sales to fiduciary accounts, these suitability standards must be met by the fiduciary account, by the person who directly or indirectly supplied the funds for the purchase of the shares if such person is the fiduciary or by the beneficiary of the account.

At any time prior to the listing of our shares on a national securities exchange, if you are a resident of any of the states listed above you must cease participation in our distribution reinvestment plan if you no longer meet these suitability standards or cannot make the other investor representations set forth in the then-current prospectus or in the enrollment form. Participants must agree to notify us promptly when they no longer meet these standards.

### Election to Participate

Assuming you are eligible, you may elect to participate in our distribution reinvestment plan by completing the enrollment form available from us. Your participation in the plan will begin with the next distribution made after receipt of your enrollment form. Once enrolled, you may generally continue to purchase shares under our distribution reinvestment plan until we have terminated the plan or you no longer meet the above suitability standards. You can choose to have all or a portion of your distributions reinvested through our distribution reinvestment plan. You may also change the percentage of your distributions that will be reinvested at any time if you complete a new enrollment form or other form provided for that purpose.

### Stock Purchases

Shares will be purchased under our distribution reinvestment plan on the quarterly distribution payment dates. The purchase of fractional shares is a permissible, and likely, result of the reinvestment of distributions under the plan. The purchase price for shares under the plan is 95.5% of the most recent estimated per-share value, as estimated by our advisor or another firm we choose for that purpose. On November 8, 2012, we announced an estimated per-share value of our common stock equal to \$7.33 per share, calculated as of September 30, 2012. We are currently offering shares under the plan at \$7.00. We intend to update the estimated per-share value on an annual basis. After reporting an updated per-share estimated value, the purchase price of the shares of common



stock under our distribution reinvestment plan will be equal to 95.5% of the per-share estimated value. The estimated per-share value in future years may be less than the current value of \$7.33 per share and the current offering price of \$7.00 under our distribution reinvestment plan may exceed the price at which we will offer shares after our annual update of our estimated per-share value.

#### Estimated Value Per Share Calculation

In determining our estimated per-share value we engaged Altus Group U.S., Inc. ("Altus"), a third-party commercial real estate valuation firm, to appraise our assets, both real estate and other assets, to estimate the fair value of our liabilities, and to use those estimates to calculate an estimated fair value of our shares as of September 30, 2012. The engagement of Altus was approved by the asset management committee of our board of directors, which committee is composed only of independent directors. Altus's analyses, opinions, and conclusions were developed in conformity with the Code of Professional Ethics and the Standards of Professional Appraisal Practice of the Appraisal Institute and in conformity with the Uniform Standards of Professional Appraisal Practice. Altus appraised each of our real estate assets individually, and the asset management committee of our board and our then advisor reviewed these analyses and conclusions.

Altus worked with our advisor and the asset management committee of our board of directors to gather information regarding our assets and liabilities. On October 29, 2012, Altus delivered a final report to our advisor, who shared the report with the asset management committee of our board of directors. At a subsequent meeting of our board of directors, our advisor presented the report and recommended an estimated per-share value. Our board of directors considered all information provided in light of its own extensive familiarity with our assets and, upon the recommendation of our asset management committee, unanimously agreed upon an estimated value of \$7.33 per share, which is consistent with both the advisor's recommendation and Altus's estimate.

Our estimated per-share value of \$7.33 as of September 30, 2012 reflects a decline from our previous estimated share value of \$7.47 as of September 30, 2011, primarily due to changes in the leasing expectations and renewal probabilities for some of the assets in our portfolio. Proactive leasing has been a focal point of our operational strategy in 2012, and has yielded more than 2.4 million square feet of new and extended leases (approximately 10% of our portfolio) during the first nine months of the year. This activity has improved our average remaining lease term from 6.3 years to 6.7 years; however, current economic conditions in certain markets have required us to offer additional tenant incentives and, in some cases, accept space contractions as conditions of the new lease contracts. The associated leasing capital has been, and is expected to continue to be, funded with a combination of cash and debt. Consistent with the methodology used when we estimated our per share value as of September 30, 2011, our estimated per-share value as of September 30, 2012 was calculated by aggregating the value of our real estate and other assets, subtracting the fair value of our liabilities, and dividing the total by the number of our common shares outstanding, all as of September 30, 2012. The potential dilutive effect of our common stock equivalents does not impact our estimated per-share value. Our estimated share value is the same as our net asset value. It does not reflect "enterprise value," which includes a premium for:

- the large size of our portfolio, although it may be true that some buyers are willing to pay more for a large portfolio than they are willing to pay for each property in the portfolio separately;
- our rights under our advisory agreement as of September 30, 2012 and our potential ability to secure the services of a management team on a long-term basis; or
- the potential increase in our share value if we were to list our shares on a national securities exchange.

Our key objectives are to arrive at an estimated per-share value that is supported by methodologies and assumptions that are appropriate based on our current circumstances and calculated using processes and procedures that may be repeated in future periods. We believe that this approach reflects the conservative investment principles that guided the assembly of our portfolio over the past eight years, and comports with industry-standard valuation

methodologies used for nontraded real estate companies. We plan to continue to update our estimated per-share value on an annual basis.

#### Details of Our Estimate

As of September 30, 2012, our estimated per-share value was calculated as follows:

Real estate assets	\$10.00	(1)
Debt	(2.68	)(2)
Other	0.01	(3)
Estimated net asset value per share	\$7.33	
Estimated enterprise value premium	None assumed	
Total estimated per-share value	\$7.33	

Our real estate assets were appraised using valuation methods that we believe are typically used by investors for properties that are similar to ours, including capitalization of the net property operating income, 10-year discounted cash flow models, and comparison with sales of similar properties. Primary emphasis was placed on the discounted cash flow analysis, with the other approaches used to confirm the reasonableness of the value conclusion. Using this methodology, the appraised value of the real estate assets we owned as of September 30, 2012 reflects an overall decline of 8.6% from original purchase price, exclusive of acquisition costs, and post-acquisition capital investments. We believe that the assumptions employed in the valuation are within the ranges used for properties that are similar to ours and held by investors with similar expectations to our investors.

The following are the key assumptions (shown on a weighted-average basis) that are used in the discounted cash flow models to estimate the value of our real estate assets:

Exit capitalization rate	7.11	%
Discount rate/internal rate of return ("IRR")	8.02	%
Annual market rent growth rate	3.21	%
Annual holding period	10.03 years	

While we believe our assumptions are reasonable, a change in these assumptions would impact the calculation of the value of our real estate assets. For example, assuming all other factors remain unchanged, a change in the weighted-average annual discount rate/IRR of 0.25% would yield a change in our total real estate asset value of 1.9%.

The fair value of our debt instruments was estimated using discounted cash flow models, which incorporate assumptions that we believe reflect the terms currently available on similar borrowing arrangements to borrowers with credit profiles similar to ours.

The fair value of our non-real-estate assets and liabilities is estimated to reflect book value given their typically short-term (less than one year) settlement periods.

#### Limitations and Risks

As with any valuation methodology, our methodology is based upon a number of estimates and assumptions that may not be accurate or complete (see footnotes in above Details of Our Estimate section). Different parties with different assumptions and estimates could derive a different estimated per-share value. Accordingly, with respect to our estimated per-share value, we can provide no assurance that:

- a stockholder would be able to realize this estimated value per share upon attempting to resell his or her shares; we would be able to achieve, for our stockholders, the estimated value per share, upon a listing of our shares of common stock on a national securities exchange, selling our real estate portfolio, or merging with another company;
- or the estimated share value, or the methodologies relied upon to estimate the share value, will be found by any regulatory authority to comply with FINRA, ERISA, or any other regulatory requirements.

Furthermore, the estimated value of our shares was calculated as of a particular point in time. The value of our shares will fluctuate over time in response to, among other things, changes in real estate market fundamentals, capital markets activities, and attributes specific to the properties and leases within our portfolio.

#### Account Statements

We will provide a confirmation of your quarterly purchases under the distribution reinvestment plan to you or your designee within five business days after the end of each quarter, which confirmation is to disclose the following information:

- each distribution reinvested for your account during the quarter;
- the date of the reinvestment;
- the number and price of the shares purchased by you; and
- the total number of shares in your account.

#### Fees and Commissions

No selling commissions or dealer manager fees are payable on shares sold under the distribution reinvestment plan, and we will not receive a fee for selling shares under the distribution reinvestment plan.

#### Voting

You may vote all shares, including fractional shares, acquired through our distribution reinvestment plan.

#### Tax Consequences of Participation

If you elect to participate in our distribution reinvestment plan and are subject to federal income taxation, you will incur a tax liability for distributions allocated to you even though you have elected not to receive the distributions in cash but rather to have the distributions withheld and reinvested pursuant to the plan. Specifically, you will be treated as if you have received the distribution from us in cash and then applied such distribution to the purchase of additional shares. In addition, to the extent you purchase shares through our distribution reinvestment plan at a discount to their fair market value, you will be treated for tax purposes as receiving an additional distribution equal to the amount of the discount. Therefore, participants in our distribution reinvestment plan may purchase shares at a price equal to 95.5% of the estimated per-share value but will be treated as having received a distribution of the full amount of the estimated per-share value. You will be taxed on the amount of such distribution as investment income to the extent such distribution is from current or accumulated earnings and profits, unless we have designated all or a portion of the distribution as capital gains or return of capital. We will withhold 28% of the amount of distributions paid if you fail to furnish a valid taxpayer identification number, fail to properly report interest or dividends or fail to certify that you are not subject to withholding.

#### Termination of Participation

You may terminate your participation in our distribution reinvestment plan at any time by providing us with written notice. For your termination to be effective for a particular distribution, we must have received your notice of termination at least 10 business days prior to the last day of the fiscal period to which the distribution relates. Any transfer of your shares will effect a termination of the participation of those shares in the distribution reinvestment plan. We will terminate your participation to the extent that a reinvestment of your distributions in our shares would cause you to exceed the ownership limitation contained in our charter.

#### Amendment or Termination of Plan

We may amend or terminate our distribution reinvestment plan for any reason at any time, provided that any amendment that adversely affects the rights or obligations of a participant (as determined in the sole discretion of the board of directors) will only take effect upon 10 days' written notice to participants.

## LIMITED LIABILITY AND INDEMNIFICATION OF DIRECTORS, OFFICERS, EMPLOYEES, AND OTHER AGENTS

Our charter provides for indemnification of our officers and directors against liabilities to the fullest extent permitted by Maryland law.

Maryland law permits a Maryland corporation to include in its charter a provision limiting the liability of its directors and officers to the corporation and its stockholders for money damages except for liability resulting from (i) actual receipt of an improper benefit or profit in money, property or services or (ii) active and deliberate dishonesty that is established by a final judgment as being material to the cause of action. Our charter contains such a provision that limits such liability to the maximum extent permitted by Maryland law.

The Maryland General Corporation Law (the "MGCL") requires a Maryland corporation (unless its charter provides otherwise, which our charter does not) to indemnify a director or officer who has been successful in the defense of any proceeding to which he or she is made or threatened to be made a party by reason of his or her service in that capacity. The MGCL permits a corporation to indemnify its present and former directors and officers, among others, against judgments, penalties, fines, settlements and reasonable expenses actually incurred by them in connection with any proceeding to which they may be made or threatened to be made a party by reason of their service in those or other capacities unless it is established that: (1) the act or omission of the director or officer was material to the matter giving rise to the proceeding and (A) was committed in bad faith or (B) was the result of active and deliberate dishonesty; (2) the director or officer actually received an improper personal benefit in money, property or services; or (3) in the case of any criminal proceeding, the director or officer had reasonable cause to believe that the act or omission was unlawful.

However, under the MGCL, a Maryland corporation may not indemnify a director or officer in a suit by or in the right of the corporation in which the director or officer was adjudged liable to the corporation or for a judgment of liability on the basis that a personal benefit was improperly received. A court may order indemnification if it determines that the director or officer is fairly and reasonably entitled to indemnification, even though the director or officer did not meet the prescribed standard of conduct, was adjudged liable to the corporation or was adjudged liable on the basis that personal benefit was improperly received. However, indemnification for an adverse judgment in a suit by us or in our right, or for a judgment of liability on the basis that personal benefit was improperly received, is limited to expenses.

In addition, the MGCL permits a corporation to advance reasonable expenses to a director or officer upon the corporation's receipt of: (1) a written affirmation by the director or officer of his or her good faith belief that he or she has met the standard of conduct necessary for indemnification by the corporation; and (2) a written undertaking by the director or officer or on the director's or officer's behalf to repay the amount paid or reimbursed by the corporation if it is ultimately determined that the director or officer did not meet the standard of conduct.

Our charter obligates us, to the maximum extent permitted by Maryland law in effect from time to time, to indemnify and, without requiring a preliminary determination of the ultimate entitlement to indemnification, pay or reimburse reasonable expenses in advance of final disposition of a proceeding to: (1) any present or former director or officer who is made or threatened to be made a party to the proceeding by reason of his or her service in that capacity; or (2) any individual who, while a director or officer of us and at our request, serves or has served as a director, officer, partner, member, manager or trustee of another corporation, REIT, partnership, limited liability company, joint venture, trust, employee benefit plan or any other enterprise and who is made or threatened to be made a party to the proceeding by reason of his or her service in that capacity.

Our charter also permit us to, with approval of our board of directors, indemnify and advance expenses to any person who served a predecessor of ours in any of the capacities described above and to any employee or agent of us or a predecessor of us.

Insofar as the foregoing provisions permit indemnification of directors, officers or persons controlling us for liability arising under the Securities Act, we have been informed that, in the opinion of the SEC, this indemnification is against public policy as expressed in the Securities Act and is therefore unenforceable.

## DESCRIPTION OF SHARES

Our charter authorizes the issuance of 1,000,000,000 shares of capital stock, of which 900,000,000 shares are designated as common stock with a par value of \$0.01 per share, and 100,000,000 shares are designated as preferred stock with a par value of \$0.01 per share. Our board of directors, with the approval of a majority of the directors and without any action by our stockholders, may amend our charter from time to time to increase or decrease the aggregate number of shares of capital stock or the number of shares of capital stock of any class or series that we have the authority to issue. As of January 31, 2013 there were 545,627,061 shares of our common stock outstanding.

### Common Stock

The holders of common stock are entitled to one vote per share on all matters voted on by stockholders, including election of our directors. Our charter does not provide for cumulative voting in the election of our directors. Therefore, the holders of a majority of the outstanding common shares can elect our entire board of directors. Subject to any preferential rights of any outstanding series of preferred stock, the holders of common stock are entitled to such dividends as may be declared from time to time by our board of directors out of legally available funds and, upon liquidation, are entitled to receive all assets available for distribution to our stockholders. Holders of shares of common stock will not have preemptive rights, which means that you will not have an automatic option to purchase any new shares that we issue.

Our board of directors has authorized the issuance of shares of our capital stock without certificates. We expect that, until our shares are listed on a national securities exchange, we will not issue shares in certificated form. We maintain a stock ledger that contains the name and address of each stockholder and the number of shares that the stockholder holds. With respect to uncertificated stock, we will continue to treat the stockholder registered on our stock ledger as the owner of the shares until the new owner delivers a properly executed form to us, which form we will provide to any registered holder upon request.

### Preferred Stock

Our charter authorizes our board of directors to designate and issue one or more classes or series of preferred stock without stockholder approval. Our board of directors may determine the relative rights, preferences and privileges of each class or series of preferred stock so issued, which may be more beneficial than the rights, preferences and privileges attributable to the common stock. The issuance of preferred stock could have the effect of delaying or preventing a change in control. Our board of directors has no present plans to issue preferred stock, but may do so at any time in the future without stockholder approval.

### Meetings and Special Voting Requirements

An annual meeting of the stockholders will be held each year, at least 30 days after delivery of our annual report. Special meetings of stockholders may be called only upon the request of a majority of our directors, a majority of the independent directors, the chairman, the president or upon the written request of stockholders holding at least 50% of the shares. The presence in person or by proxy of stockholders entitled to cast a majority of all the votes entitled to be cast at the meeting constitutes a quorum.

Pursuant to our charter, we cannot dissolve, amend our charter, merge, sell all or substantially all of our assets, engage in a share exchange or engage in similar transactions outside the ordinary course of business unless declared advisable by our board of directors and approved by the affirmative vote of stockholders holding at least a majority of all the votes entitled to be cast on the matter.

Maryland law permits the merger of a 90% or more owned subsidiary with or into its parent without stockholder approval provided (1) the charter of the successor is not amended other than in certain minor respects and (2) the contract rights of any stock of the successor issued in the merger in exchange for stock of the other



corporation are identical to the contract rights of the stock for which it is exchanged. Also, because Maryland law may not require the stockholders of a parent corporation to approve a merger or sale of all or substantially all of the assets of a subsidiary entity, our subsidiaries may be able to merge or sell all or substantially all of their assets without a vote of our stockholders.

#### Business Combinations

The provisions of Maryland's Business Combination Act are applicable to business combinations with us. Under the Business Combination Act, business combinations between a Maryland corporation and an interested stockholder or the interested stockholder's affiliate are prohibited for five years after the most recent date on which the stockholder becomes an interested stockholder. For this purpose, the term "business combination" includes mergers, consolidations, share exchanges, asset transfers and issuances or reclassifications of equity securities. An "interested stockholder" is defined for this purpose as: (i) any person who beneficially owns 10% or more of the voting power of the corporation's shares or (ii) an affiliate or associate of the corporation who, at any time within the two year period prior to the date in question, was the beneficial owner of 10% or more of the voting power of the then outstanding voting shares of the corporation. A person is not an interested stockholder under the statute if the board of directors approved in advance the transaction by which he otherwise would have become an interested stockholder. However, in approving a transaction, the board of directors may provide that its approval is subject to compliance, at or after the time of approval, with any terms and conditions determined by the board.

After the five-year prohibition, any business combination between the corporation and an interested stockholder generally must be recommended by the board of directors of the corporation and approved by the affirmative vote of at least: (i) 80% of the votes entitled to be cast by holders of outstanding voting shares of the corporation and (ii) two thirds of the votes entitled to be cast by holders of voting shares of the corporation other than shares held by the interested stockholder or its affiliate with whom the business combination is to be effected, or held by an affiliate or associate of the interested stockholder. These super-majority vote requirements do not apply if the corporation's common stockholders receive a minimum price, as defined under the MGCL, for their shares in the form of cash or other consideration in the same form as previously paid by the interested stockholder for its shares.

None of these provisions will apply, however, to business combinations that are approved or exempted by the board of directors of the corporation prior to the time that the interested stockholder becomes an interested stockholder.

#### Control Share Acquisitions

The protections of Maryland's Control Share Acquisition Act are available us. The Control Share Acquisition Act limits the exercise of voting power by holders of a large number of our shares of common stock.

Under the Control Share Acquisition Act the control shares of a Maryland corporation acquired in a control share acquisition have no voting rights except to the extent approved by a vote of two-thirds of the votes entitled to be cast on the matter. Shares owned by the acquirer, an officer of the corporation or an employee of the corporation who is also a director of the corporation are excluded from the vote on whether to accord voting rights to the control shares. "Control shares" are voting shares that, if aggregated with all other shares owned by the acquirer or with respect to which the acquirer has the right to vote or to direct the voting of, other than solely by virtue of revocable proxy, would entitle the acquirer to exercise voting power in electing directors within one of the following ranges of voting power:

- one-tenth or more but less than one-third;
- one-third or more but less than a majority; or
- a majority or more of all voting power.

Control shares do not include shares the acquiring person is then entitled to vote as a result of having previously obtained stockholder approval. Except as otherwise specified in the statute, a “control share acquisition” means the acquisition of control shares.

Once a person who has made or proposes to make a control share acquisition has undertaken to pay expenses and has satisfied other required conditions, the person may compel the board of directors to call a special meeting of stockholders to be held within 50 days of the demand to consider the voting rights of the shares. If no request for a meeting is made, the corporation may itself present the question at any stockholders meeting.

If voting rights are not approved for the control shares at the meeting or if the acquiring person does not deliver an “acquiring person statement” for the control shares as required by the statute, the corporation may redeem any or all of the control shares for their fair value, except for control shares for which voting rights have previously been approved. Fair value is to be determined for this purpose without regard to the absence of voting rights for the control shares, and is to be determined as of the date of the last control share acquisition or of any meeting of stockholders at which the voting rights for control shares are considered and not approved.

If voting rights for control shares are approved at a stockholders meeting and the acquirer becomes entitled to vote a majority of the shares entitled to vote, all other stockholders may exercise appraisal rights. The fair value of the shares as determined for purposes of these appraisal rights may not be less than the highest price per share paid in the control share acquisition. Some of the limitations and restrictions otherwise applicable to the exercise of dissenters' rights do not apply in the context of a control share acquisition.

The Control Share Acquisition Act does not apply to shares acquired in a merger, consolidation or share exchange if the corporation is a party to the transaction or to acquisitions approved or exempted by the charter or bylaws of the corporation.

#### Subtitle 8

We may elect to be subject to Subtitle 8 of Title 3 of the MGCL related to unsolicited takeovers . Such election would limit the ability of our stockholders to change the composition of our board of directors. In addition, our charter provides that pursuant to Subtitle 8, a vacancy on the board of directors shall be filled only by the remaining directors and for the remainder of the full term of the directorship in which the vacancy occurred.

Subtitle 8 of Title 3 of the MGCL permits a Maryland corporation (with a class of equity securities registered under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, and at least three independent directors) to elect to be subject, by provision in its charter or bylaws or a resolution of its board of directors and notwithstanding any contrary provision in the charter or bylaws, to any or all of five provisions:

- classified board,
- two-thirds vote requirement for removing a director,
- requirement that the number of directors be fixed only by vote of the directors,
- a requirement that a vacancy on the board be filled only by the remaining directors and for the remainder of the full term of the directorship in which the vacancy occurred, and
- majority requirement for the calling of a special meeting of stockholders.

Through provisions in our bylaws unrelated to Subtitle 8, we vest in our board of directors the exclusive power to fix the number of directorships and require a majority of all the votes entitled to be cast at the meeting to call a special meeting of stockholders. It is possible, however, that our board of directors may, without stockholder approval, elect to be subject to additional protections of Subtitle 8, which may further discourage others from trying to (i) acquire control of us, or (ii) change the composition of our board of directors.

#### Restriction on Ownership of Shares

In order for us to qualify as a REIT, not more than 50% of our outstanding shares may be owned by any five or fewer individuals, including some tax-exempt entities. In addition, the outstanding shares must be owned by 100 or more persons independent of us and each other during at least 335 days of a 12-month taxable year or during a proportionate part of a shorter taxable year. We may prohibit certain acquisitions and transfers of shares so as to ensure our continued qualification as a REIT under the Internal Revenue Code.

In order to assist us in preserving our status as a REIT, our charter contains a limitation on ownership that prohibits any person or group of persons from acquiring, directly or indirectly, beneficial ownership of more than 9.8% of our outstanding shares. Our charter provides that any transfer of shares that would violate our share ownership limitations is null and void and the intended transferee will acquire no rights in such shares, unless the transfer is approved by our board of directors based upon receipt of information that such transfer would not violate the provisions of the Internal Revenue Code for qualification as a REIT.

Shares which, if transferred, would be in excess of the ownership limit will be designated as “shares-in-trust” and will be transferred automatically to a trust effective on the day before the reported transfer of such shares. The record holder of the shares that are designated as shares-in-trust will be required to submit such number of shares to us in the name of the trustee of the trust. We will designate a trustee of the share trust that will not be affiliated with us. We will also name one or more charitable organizations as a beneficiary of the share trust. Shares-in-trust will remain issued and outstanding shares and will be entitled to the same rights and privileges as all other shares of the same class or series. The trustee will receive all dividends and distributions on the shares-in-trust and will hold such dividends or distributions in trust for the benefit of the beneficiary. The trustee will vote all shares-in-trust during the period they are held in trust.

At our direction, the trustee will transfer the shares-in-trust to a person whose ownership will not violate the ownership limit. The transfer shall be made within 20 days of our receipt of notice that shares have been transferred to the trust. During this 20-day period, we will have the option of redeeming such shares. Upon any such transfer or redemption, the purported transferee or holder shall receive a per share price equal to the lesser of (1) the price per share in the transaction that created such shares-in-trust, or (2) the market price per share on the date of the transfer or redemption.

Any person who (1) acquires shares in violation of the foregoing restrictions or who owns shares that were transferred to any such trust is required to give immediate written notice to us of such event, or (2) transfers or receives shares subject to such limitations is required to give us 15 days written notice prior to such transaction. In both cases, such persons shall provide to us such other information as we may request in order to determine the effect, if any, of such transfer on our status as a REIT.

The foregoing restrictions will continue to apply until (1) our board of directors determines it is no longer in our best interest to continue to qualify as a REIT, and (2) there is an affirmative vote of the majority of shares entitled to vote on such matter at a regular or special meeting of our stockholders.

The ownership limit does not apply to an offer or which, in accordance with applicable federal and state securities laws, makes a cash tender offer and at least 85% of the outstanding shares are duly tendered and accepted pursuant to the cash tender offer. The ownership limit also does not apply to the underwriter in a public offering of shares or to a person or persons exempted from the ownership limit by our board of directors based upon appropriate assurances that our qualification as a REIT is not jeopardized.

Any person who owns 5% or more of the outstanding shares during any taxable year will be asked to deliver a statement or affidavit setting forth the number of shares beneficially owned, directly or indirectly.



#### Dividends

We are required to make distributions sufficient to satisfy the requirements for qualification as a REIT for tax purposes. Generally, income distributed as dividends will not be taxable to us under the Internal Revenue Code if we distribute at least 90% of our taxable income. One of our primary goals is to pay regular quarterly distributions to our stockholders. Distributions will be paid to investors who are stockholders as of the record dates selected by our board of directors. Distributions are declared at the discretion of our board of directors.

#### Share Redemption Program

We maintain a share redemption program that allows stockholders who acquired their shares directly from us to seek the redemption of their shares, subject to the significant conditions and limitations described below.

We limit the dollar value and number of shares that may be redeemed under the share redemption program as follows:

First, we limit requests for all redemption, other than those sought in connection with a stockholder's death, on a pro rata basis so that the aggregate of such redemptions during any calendar year will not exceed 5.0% of the weighted-average number of shares outstanding in the prior calendar year. Requests precluded by this test will not be considered in the test below.

In addition, if necessary, we limit all redemption requests, including those sought within two years of a stockholder's death, on a pro rata basis so that the aggregate of such redemptions during any calendar year would not exceed the greater of 100% of the net proceeds from our distribution reinvestment plan during the calendar year or 5.0% of weighted average number of shares outstanding in the prior calendar year.

The price at which we redeem shares depends on whether the redemption is sought in connection with a stockholder's death, qualifying disability or qualification for federal assistance for confinement to a long-term care facility (collectively, a "Special Redemption"). The redemption of a share that is not a Special Redemption is referred to as an Ordinary Redemption. Special Redemptions are redeemed at our estimated per-share value as determined based on an appraisal of our assets and liability and as publicly disclosed. Ordinary Redemptions are redeemed at \$6.25 per share. We will report the redemption price in our annual report and three quarterly reports publicly filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission. A stockholder that is a trust may only redeem on the terms available in connection with a Special Redemption if the deceased or disabled was or is the sole beneficiary of the trust or if the only other beneficiary of the trust was or is the spouse of the deceased or disabled.

Subject to the limitations described above, we will redeem shares on the last business day of each month. Requests for redemption must be received at least five business days before a month-end redemption date in order for us to repurchase the shares that month. If we cannot purchase all shares presented for redemption, we will honor redemption requests at the applicable month-end on a pro rata basis. We will deviate from pro rata purchases and redeem all of your shares if a pro rata redemption would result in you owning less \$1,000 of our shares.

If we do not completely satisfy your redemption request at month-end because the request was not received in time or because of the restrictions on the number of shares we can redeem under the program, we will treat the unsatisfied portion of the redemption request as a request for redemption in the following month unless you withdraw the request before the next date for redemptions. You may withdraw a redemption request upon written notice to us at the address below before the date for redemption.

In order for a disability to entitle a stockholder to the special redemption terms described above (a "qualifying disability"), (1) the stockholder must receive a determination of disability based upon a physical or mental condition or impairment arising after the date the stockholder acquired the shares to be redeemed, and (2) such determination of disability must be made by the governmental agency responsible for reviewing the disability retirement benefits that

the stockholder could be eligible to receive (the “applicable governmental agency”). The “applicable governmental agencies” are limited to the following: (i) if the stockholder paid Social Security taxes

and therefore could be eligible to receive Social Security disability benefits, then the applicable governmental agency is the Social Security Administration or the agency charged with responsibility for administering Social Security disability benefits at that time if other than the Social Security Administration; (ii) if the stockholder did not pay Social Security benefits and therefore could not be eligible to receive Social Security disability benefits, but the stockholder could be eligible to receive disability benefits under the Civil Service Retirement System (“CSRS”), then the applicable governmental agency is the U.S. Office of Personnel Management or the agency charged with responsibility for administering CSRS benefits at that time if other than the Office of Personnel Management; or (iii) if the stockholder did not pay Social Security taxes and therefore could not be eligible to receive Social Security benefits but suffered a disability that resulted in the stockholder's discharge from military service under conditions that were other than dishonorable and therefore could be eligible to receive military disability benefits, then the applicable governmental agency is the Department of Veteran's Affairs or the agency charged with the responsibility for administering military disability benefits at that time if other than the Department of Veteran's Affairs.

Disability determinations by governmental agencies for purposes other than those listed above, including but not limited to worker's compensation insurance, administration or enforcement of the Rehabilitation Act or Americans with Disabilities Act or waiver of insurance premiums will not entitle a stockholder to the special redemption terms described above. Redemption requests following an award by the applicable governmental agency of disability benefits must be accompanied by: (1) the investor's initial application for disability benefits and (2) a Social Security Administration Notice of Award, a U.S. Office of Personnel Management determination of disability under CSRS, a Department of Veterans Affairs record of disability-related discharge or such other documentation issued by the applicable governmental agency that we deem acceptable and demonstrates an award of the disability benefits.

We understand that the following disabilities do not entitle a worker to Social Security disability benefits:

• disabilities occurring after the legal retirement age;

- temporary disabilities; and

• disabilities that do not render a worker incapable of performing substantial gainful activity.

Therefore, such disabilities will not qualify for the special redemption terms except in the limited circumstances when the investor is awarded disability benefits by the other “applicable governmental agencies” described above.

In order for qualifying for federal assistance for confinement to a long-term care facility to entitle you to the special redemption terms described above, a “long-term care facility” must be an institution that: (a) either (i) is approved by Medicare as a provider of skilled nursing care, or (ii) is licensed as a skilled nursing home by the state or territory in which it is located (it must be within the United States, Puerto Rico, or U.S. Virgin Islands); and (b) meets all of the following requirements: (i) its main function is to provide skilled, intermediate or custodial nursing care; (ii) it provides continuous room and board to three or more persons; (iii) it is supervised by a registered nurse or licensed practical nurse; (iv) it keeps daily medical records of all medication dispensed; and (v) its primary service is other than to provide housing for residents.

In connection with a redemption request related to qualifying for federal assistance for your (or your spouse's) confinement to a long-term care facility, you must submit: (a) a written statement from a licensed physician certifying either (i) your (or your spouse's) continuous and continuing confinement to a long-term care facility beginning at any time in the last two years, or (ii) that the licensed physician has determined that you (or your spouse) should be or is eligible to be indefinitely confined to a long-term care facility; and (b) evidence satisfactory to us in our sole discretion that the redemption of your shares and complete or partial exhaustion of the redemption proceeds is necessary for you (or your spouse) to meet the income or asset levels required by applicable state or federal assistance programs in order to qualify for state or federal assistance in paying for your long-term care facility.





We may not effect a Special Redemption of your shares if you were confined to (or eligible to be confined to) a Long-Term Care Facility on the date you became a stockholder. If your shares are not held by a natural person, or through a revocable grantor trust or an IRA or other retirement or profit sharing plan, then the right of redemption for qualifying for federal assistance for confinement to a long-term care facility does not apply.

Qualifying stockholders who desire to redeem their shares must give written notice to our investor relations department c/o DST Systems, Inc., P.O. Box 219073, Kansas City, Missouri 64121-9073.

Our board of directors may amend, suspend or terminate the share redemption program upon 30 days' notice, provided that the effective date of any amendment may be accelerated as determined by the board of directors if the amendment does not adversely affect the rights of redeeming stockholders.

Our share redemption program only provides stockholders a limited ability to redeem shares for cash until a secondary market develops for the shares, at which time the program will terminate. No such market presently exists, and we cannot assure you that any market for your shares will ever develop.

The summary of the material terms of our shares of capital stock does not purport to be complete and is subject to and qualified in its entirety by references to the MGCL, and to our charter and bylaws, copies of which are available from us upon request.

## PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION

### General

We are offering a maximum of \$350,000,000 of shares to our existing stockholders through our distribution reinvestment plan. The purchase price for shares under the plan will be 95.5% of the estimated per-share value. As of September 30, 2012, our estimated per-share was \$7.33 and we are therefore offering shares pursuant to our distribution reinvestment plan at a purchase price of \$7.00. We expect to update our estimated per-share value annually. We may continue to offer the aggregate of \$350,000,000 of distribution reinvestment plan shares until we have sold all of these shares through the reinvestment of distributions. In some states, we may not be able to continue the offering for these periods without renewing the registration statement or filing a new registration statement. We reserve the right to terminate this offering at any time.

We will not pay selling commissions or a dealer manager fee with respect to our distribution reinvestment plan. We will not pay referral or similar fees to any accountants, attorneys or other persons in connection with the distribution of the shares. Our total organization and offering expenses are capped at 2% of the gross proceeds of our distribution reinvestment plan offering.

### Enrollment Procedures

To participate in the distribution reinvestment plan, you must complete the enrollment form, a sample of which is contained in this prospectus as Appendix A. Participation in the plan will begin with the next distribution made after receipt of an enrollment form. Once enrolled, participants may generally continue to purchase shares under the distribution reinvestment plan until we have terminated the plan or the participant no longer meets the suitability standards disclosed in this prospectus. Participants may change the percentage of distributions that will be reinvested at any time upon completion of a new enrollment form or other form provided for that purpose.

Participants may terminate participation in the distribution reinvestment plan at any time by providing us with written notice. For termination to be effective for a particular distribution, we must have received notice of termination at least 10 business days prior to the last day of the fiscal period to which the distribution relates. Any transfer of shares will effect a termination of the participation of those shares in the distribution reinvestment plan.

## FEDERAL INCOME TAX CONSIDERATIONS

The following is a summary of the material U.S. federal income tax consequences of an investment in our common stock. The law firm of DLA Piper LLP (US) has acted as our tax counsel and reviewed this summary. For purposes of this section under the heading “Federal Income Tax Considerations,” references to “Columbia Property Trust,” “we,” “our” and “us” mean only Columbia Property Trust, Inc. and not its subsidiaries or other lower-tier entities, except as otherwise indicated. This summary is based upon the Internal Revenue Code, the regulations promulgated by the U.S. Treasury Department, rulings and other administrative pronouncements issued by the Internal Revenue Service, and judicial decisions, all as currently in effect, and all of which are subject to differing interpretations or to change, possibly with retroactive effect. No assurance can be given that the Internal Revenue Service would not assert, or that a court would not sustain, a position contrary to any of the tax consequences described below. We have not sought and do not currently expect to seek an advance ruling from the Internal Revenue Service regarding any matter discussed in this prospectus. The summary is also based upon the assumption that we will operate Columbia Property Trust and its subsidiaries and affiliated entities in accordance with their applicable organizational documents. This summary is for general information only and does not purport to discuss all aspects of U.S. federal income taxation that may be important to a particular investor in light of its investment or tax circumstances or to investors subject to special tax rules, such as:

- financial institutions;
- insurance companies;
- broker-dealers;
- regulated investment companies;
- partnerships and trusts;
- persons who hold our stock on behalf of other persons as nominees;
- persons who receive our stock through the exercise of employee stock options or otherwise as compensation;
- persons holding our stock as part of a “straddle,” “hedge,” “conversion transaction,” “constructive ownership transaction,” “synthetic security” or other integrated investment;
- “S” corporations;

and, except to the extent discussed below:

- tax-exempt organizations; and
- foreign investors.

This summary assumes that investors will hold their common stock as a capital asset, which generally means as property held for investment.

The federal income tax treatment of holders of our common stock depends in some instances on determinations of fact and interpretations of complex provisions of U.S. federal income tax law for which no clear precedent or authority may be available. In addition, the tax consequences to any particular stockholder of holding our common stock will depend on the stockholder's particular tax circumstances. For example, a stockholder that is a partnership or trust that has issued an equity interest to certain types of tax-exempt organizations may be subject to a special entity-level tax if we make distributions attributable to “excess inclusion income.” A similar tax may be payable by persons who hold our stock as nominees on behalf of tax-exempt organizations. You are urged to consult your tax advisor regarding the federal, state, local and foreign income and other tax consequences to you in

light of your particular investment or tax circumstances of acquiring, holding, exchanging or otherwise disposing of our common stock.

#### Taxation of Columbia Property Trust

We made an election to be taxed as a REIT under Section 856 of the Internal Revenue Code, effective for our taxable year ended December 31, 2003. We believe that we have been organized and operate in such a manner as to qualify for taxation as a REIT.

The law firm of DLA Piper LLP (US), acting as our tax counsel in connection with this offering, has rendered an opinion that we have been organized in conformity with the requirements for qualification and taxation as a REIT under the Internal Revenue Code, and that our proposed method of operation will enable us to continue to meet the requirements for qualification and taxation as a REIT. It must be emphasized that the opinion of DLA Piper LLP (US) is based on various assumptions relating to our organization and operation and is conditioned upon fact-based representations and covenants made by our management regarding our organization, assets, and income, and the past, present and future conduct of our business operations. While we intend to operate so that we will continue to qualify as a REIT, given the highly complex nature of the rules governing REITs, the ongoing importance of factual determinations, and the possibility of future changes in our circumstances, no assurance can be given by DLA Piper LLP (US) or by us that we will qualify as a REIT for any particular year. The opinion is expressed as of the date issued and does not cover subsequent periods. Counsel has no obligation to advise us or our stockholders of any subsequent change in the matters stated, represented or assumed, or of any subsequent change in the applicable law. You should be aware that opinions of counsel are not binding on the Internal Revenue Service, and no assurance can be given that the Internal Revenue Service will not challenge the conclusions set forth in such opinions.

Qualification and taxation as a REIT depends on our ability to meet on a continuing basis, through actual operating results, distribution levels, and diversity of stock and asset ownership, various qualification requirements imposed upon REITs by the Internal Revenue Code, the compliance with which will not be reviewed by DLA Piper LLP (US). Our ability to qualify as a REIT also requires that we satisfy certain asset tests, some of which depend upon the fair market values of assets that we own directly or indirectly. Such values may not be susceptible to a precise determination. Accordingly, no assurance can be given that the actual results of our operations for any taxable year will satisfy such requirements for qualification and taxation as a REIT.

#### Taxation of REITs in General

As indicated above, our qualification and taxation as a REIT depends upon our ability to meet, on a continuing basis, various qualification requirements imposed upon REITs by the Internal Revenue Code. The material qualification requirements are summarized below under “-Requirements for Qualification-General.” While we intend to operate so that we qualify as a REIT, no assurance can be given that the Internal Revenue Service will not challenge our qualification, or that we will be able to operate in accordance with the REIT requirements in the future. See “-Failure to Qualify.”

Provided that we qualify as a REIT, generally we will be entitled to a deduction for distributions that we pay and therefore will not be subject to federal corporate income tax on our taxable income that is currently distributed to our stockholders. This treatment substantially eliminates the “double taxation” at the corporate and stockholder levels that generally results from investment in a corporation. In general, the income that we generate is taxed only at the stockholder level upon distribution to our stockholders.

Many domestic stockholders that are individuals, trusts or estates will be taxed on corporate distributions at a maximum rate of 20%. With limited exceptions, however, distributions from us or from other entities that are taxed as REITs are generally not eligible for this rate and will continue to be taxed at rates applicable to ordinary income. See “-Taxation of Stockholders-Taxation of Taxable Domestic Stockholders-Distributions.”

Any net operating losses and other tax attributes generally do not pass through to our stockholders, subject to special rules for certain items such as the capital gains that we recognize. See “-Taxation of Stockholders.”

If we qualify as a REIT, we will nonetheless be subject to federal tax in the following circumstances:

• We will be taxed at regular corporate rates on any undistributed taxable income, including undistributed net capital gains.

• We may be subject to the “alternative minimum tax” on our items of tax preference, including any deductions of net operating losses.

If we have net income from prohibited transactions, which are, in general, sales or other dispositions of inventory or property held primarily for sale to customers in the ordinary course of business, other than foreclosure property, such income will be subject to a 100% tax. See “-Prohibited Transactions” and “-Foreclosure Property” below.

If we elect to treat property that we acquire in connection with a foreclosure of a mortgage loan or certain leasehold terminations as “foreclosure property,” we may thereby avoid the 100% tax on gain from a resale of that property (if the sale would otherwise constitute a prohibited transaction), but the income from the sale or operation of the property may be subject to corporate income tax at the highest applicable rate (currently 35%).

If we should fail to satisfy the 75% gross income test or the 95% gross income test, as discussed below, but nonetheless maintain our qualification as a REIT because we satisfy other requirements, we will be subject to a 100% tax on an amount based on the magnitude of the failure, as adjusted to reflect the profit margin associated with our gross income.

If we should violate the asset tests (other than certain de minimis violations) or other requirements applicable to REITs, as described below, and yet maintain our qualification as a REIT because there is reasonable cause for the failure and other applicable requirements are met, we may be subject to an excise tax. In that case, the amount of the excise tax will be at least \$50,000 per failure, and, in the case of certain asset test failures, will be determined as the amount of net income generated by the assets in question multiplied by the highest corporate tax rate (currently 35%) if that amount exceeds \$50,000 per failure.

If we should fail to distribute during each calendar year at least the sum of (a) 85% of our REIT ordinary income for such year, (b) 95% of our REIT capital gain net income for such year, and (c) any undistributed taxable income from prior periods, we would be subject to a nondeductible 4% excise tax on the excess of the required distribution over the sum of (i) the amounts that we actually distributed and (ii) the amounts we retained and upon which we paid income tax at the corporate level.

We may be required to pay monetary penalties to the Internal Revenue Service in certain circumstances, including if we fail to meet record keeping requirements intended to monitor our compliance with rules relating to the composition of a REIT's stockholders, as described below in “-Requirements for Qualification-General.”

• A 100% tax may be imposed on transactions between us and a TRS (as described below) that do not reflect arms'-length terms.

If we acquire appreciated assets from a corporation that is not a REIT (i.e., a corporation taxable under subchapter C of the Internal Revenue Code) in a transaction in which the adjusted tax basis of the assets in our hands is determined by reference to the adjusted tax basis of the assets in the hands of the subchapter C corporation, we may be subject to tax on such appreciation at the highest corporate

income tax rate then applicable if we subsequently recognize gain on a disposition of any such assets during the ten-year period following their acquisition from the subchapter C corporation.

The earnings of our subsidiaries, including any subsidiary we may elect to treat as a TRS, are subject to federal corporate income tax to the extent that such subsidiaries are subchapter C corporations.

In addition, we and our subsidiaries may be subject to a variety of taxes, including payroll taxes and state and local and foreign income, property and other taxes on our assets and operations. We could also be subject to tax in situations and on transactions not presently contemplated.

#### Requirements for Qualification-General

The Internal Revenue Code defines a REIT as a corporation, trust or association:

1. that is managed by one or more trustees or directors;
2. the beneficial ownership of which is evidenced by transferable shares, or by transferable certificates of beneficial interest;
3. that would be taxable as a domestic corporation but for its election to be subject to tax as a REIT;
4. that is neither a financial institution nor an insurance company subject to specific provisions of the Internal Revenue Code;
5. the beneficial ownership of which is held by 100 or more persons;  
in which, during the last half of each taxable year, not more than 50% in value of the outstanding stock is owned,
6. directly or indirectly, by five or fewer "individuals" (as defined in the Internal Revenue Code to include specified tax-exempt entities);
7. that elects to be taxed as a REIT, or has made such election for a previous taxable year, and satisfies all relevant filing and other administrative requirements that must be met to elect and maintain REIT qualification; and
8. that meets other tests described below, including with respect to the nature of its income and assets.

The Internal Revenue Code provides that conditions (1) through (4) must be met during the entire taxable year, and that condition (5) must be met during at least 335 days of a taxable year of 12 months, or during a proportionate part of a shorter taxable year. Conditions (5) and (6) need not be met during a corporation's initial tax year as a REIT (which, in our case, was 2003.) Our charter provides restrictions regarding the ownership and transfer of our shares, which are intended to assist us in satisfying the share ownership requirements described in conditions (5) and (6) above.

We believe that we have issued in our offerings common stock with sufficient diversity of ownership to satisfy conditions (5) and (6). In addition, our charter restricts the ownership and transfer of our stock so that we should continue to satisfy these requirements. The provisions of our charter restricting the ownership and transfer of our common stock are described in "Description of Shares--Restriction on Ownership of Shares."

To monitor compliance with the share ownership requirements, we generally are required to maintain records regarding the actual ownership of our shares. To do so, we must demand written statements each year from the record holders of significant percentages of our stock pursuant to which the record holders must disclose the actual owners of the shares (i.e., the persons required to include our distributions in their gross income). We must maintain a list of those persons failing or refusing to comply with this demand as part of our records. We could be subject to monetary penalties if we fail to comply with these record-keeping requirements. If you fail or refuse to

comply with the demands, you will be required by Treasury regulations to submit a statement with your tax return disclosing your actual ownership of our shares and other information.

In addition, a corporation generally may not elect to become a REIT unless its taxable year is the calendar year. We have adopted December 31 as our year-end, and thereby satisfy this requirement.

The Internal Revenue Code provides relief from violations of the REIT gross income requirements, as described below under “-Income Tests,” in cases where a violation is due to reasonable cause and not to willful neglect, and other requirements are met, including the payment of a penalty tax that is based upon the magnitude of the violation. In addition, certain provisions of the Internal Revenue Code extend similar relief in the case of certain violations of the REIT asset requirements (see “-Asset Tests” below) and other REIT requirements, again provided that the violation is due to reasonable cause and not willful neglect, and other conditions are met, including the payment of a penalty tax. If we fail to satisfy any of the various REIT requirements, there can be no assurance that these relief provisions would be available to enable us to maintain our qualification as a REIT, and, if such relief provisions are available, the amount of any resultant penalty tax could be substantial.

#### Effect of Subsidiary Entities

**Ownership of Partnership Interests.** An unincorporated domestic entity, such as a partnership, limited liability company, or trust, that has a single owner, generally is not treated as an entity separate from its parent for federal income tax purposes. An unincorporated domestic entity with two or more owners generally is treated as a partnership for federal income tax purposes. If we are a partner in an entity that is treated as a partnership for federal income tax purposes, Treasury regulations provide that we are deemed to own our proportionate share of the partnership's assets, and to earn our proportionate share of the partnership's income, for purposes of the asset and gross income tests applicable to REITs. Our proportionate share of a partnership's assets and income is based on our capital interest in the partnership (except that for purposes of the 10% value test, our proportionate share of the partnership's assets is based on our proportionate interest in the equity and certain debt securities issued by the partnership). In addition, the assets and gross income of the partnership are deemed to retain the same character in our hands. Thus, our proportionate share of the assets and items of income of any of our subsidiary partnerships will be treated as our assets and items of income for purposes of applying the REIT requirements. For any period of time that we own 100% of our Operating Partnership, all of the Operating Partnership's assets and income will be deemed to be ours for federal income tax purposes.

**Disregarded Subsidiaries.** If we own a corporate subsidiary that is a “qualified REIT subsidiary,” that subsidiary is generally disregarded for federal income tax purposes, and all of the subsidiary's assets, liabilities and items of income, deduction and credit are treated as our assets, liabilities and items of income, deduction and credit, including for purposes of the gross income and asset tests applicable to REITs. A qualified REIT subsidiary is any corporation, other than a TRS (as described below), that is directly or indirectly wholly owned by a REIT. Other entities that are wholly owned by us, including single member limited liability companies that have not elected to be taxed as corporations for federal income tax purposes, are also generally disregarded as separate entities for federal income tax purposes, including for purposes of the REIT income and asset tests. Disregarded subsidiaries, along with any partnerships in which we hold an equity interest, are sometimes referred to herein as “pass-through subsidiaries.” In the event that a disregarded subsidiary of ours ceases to be wholly owned—for example, if any equity interest in the subsidiary is acquired by a person other than us or another disregarded subsidiary of ours—the subsidiary's separate existence would no longer be disregarded for federal income tax purposes. Instead, the subsidiary would have multiple owners and would be treated as either a partnership or a taxable corporation. Such an event could, depending on the circumstances, adversely affect our ability to satisfy the various asset and gross income requirements applicable to REITs, including the requirement that REITs generally may not own, directly or indirectly, more than 10% of the securities of another corporation. See “-Asset Tests” and “-Income Tests.”

**Taxable Corporate Subsidiaries.** In the future we may jointly elect with any of our subsidiary corporations, whether or not wholly owned, to treat such subsidiary corporations as taxable REIT subsidiaries, or “TRSs.” A

REIT is permitted to own up to 100% of the stock of one or more TRSs. A domestic TRS is a fully taxable corporation that may earn income that would not be qualifying income if earned directly by the parent REIT. The subsidiary and the REIT must jointly elect to treat the subsidiary as a TRS. A corporation with respect to which a TRS directly or indirectly owns more than 35% of the voting power or value of the stock will automatically be treated as a TRS. We generally may not own more than 10% of the securities of a taxable corporation, as measured by voting power or value, unless we and such corporation elect to treat such corporation as a TRS. Overall, no more than 25% of the value of a REIT's assets may consist of stock or securities of one or more TRSs.

The separate existence of a TRS or other taxable corporation is not ignored for federal income tax purposes.

Accordingly, a TRS or other taxable corporation generally would be subject to corporate income tax on its earnings, which may reduce the cash flow that we and our subsidiaries generate in the aggregate, and may reduce our ability to make distributions to our stockholders.

We are not treated as holding the assets of a TRS or other taxable subsidiary corporation or as receiving any income that the subsidiary earns. Rather, the stock issued by a taxable subsidiary to us is an asset in our hands, and we treat the distributions paid to us from such taxable subsidiary, if any, as income. This treatment can affect our income and asset test calculations, as described below. Because we do not include the assets and income of TRSs or other taxable subsidiary corporations in determining our compliance with the REIT requirements, we may use such entities to undertake indirectly activities that the REIT rules might otherwise preclude us from doing directly or through pass-through subsidiaries. For example, we may use TRSs or other taxable subsidiary corporations to conduct activities that give rise to certain categories of income such as management fees or activities that would be treated in our hands as prohibited transactions.

Certain restrictions imposed on TRSs are intended to ensure that such entities will be subject to appropriate levels of U.S. federal income taxation. First, a TRS with a debt-equity ratio in excess of 1.5 to 1 may not deduct interest payments made in any year to an affiliated REIT to the extent that such payments exceed, generally, 50% of the TRS's adjusted taxable income for that year (although the TRS may carry forward to, and deduct in, a succeeding year the disallowed interest amount if the 50% test is satisfied in that year). In addition, if amounts are paid to a REIT or deducted by a TRS due to transactions between the REIT and a TRS that exceed the amount that would be paid to or deducted by a party in an arm's-length transaction, the REIT generally will be subject to an excise tax equal to 100% of such excess. We intend to scrutinize all of our transactions with any of our subsidiaries that are treated as a TRS in an effort to ensure that we do not become subject to this excise tax; however, we cannot assure you that we will be successful in avoiding this excise tax.

We may own TRSs that are organized outside of the United States. For example, we may hold certain investments and instruments through TRSs to the extent that direct ownership by us could jeopardize our compliance with the REIT qualification requirements, and we may make TRS elections with respect to certain offshore issuers of CDOs and/or other instruments to the extent that we do not own 100% of the offshore issuer's equity. Special rules apply in the case of income earned by a taxable subsidiary corporation that is organized outside of the United States. Depending upon the nature of the subsidiary's income, the parent REIT may be required to include in its taxable income an amount equal to its share of the subsidiary's income, without regard to whether, or when, such income is distributed by the subsidiary. See “-Income Tests” below. A TRS that is organized outside of the United States may, depending upon the nature of its operations, be subject to little or no federal income tax. There is a specific exemption from federal income tax for non-U.S. corporations that restrict their activities in the United States to trading stock and securities (or any activity closely related thereto) for their own account, whether such trading (or such other activity) is conducted by the corporation or its employees through a resident broker, commission agent, custodian or other agent. We currently expect that any offshore TRSs will rely on that exemption or otherwise operate in a manner so that they will generally not be subject to federal income tax on their net income at the entity level.

#### Income Tests

In order to qualify as a REIT, we must satisfy two gross income requirements on an annual basis. First, at least 75% of our gross income for each taxable year, excluding gross income from sales of inventory or dealer





property in “prohibited transactions,” generally must be derived from investments relating to real property or mortgages on real property, including interest income derived from mortgage loans secured by real property (including certain types of mortgage-backed securities), “rents from real property,” distributions received from other REITs, and gains from the sale of real estate assets, as well as specified income from temporary investments. Second, at least 95% of our gross income in each taxable year, excluding gross income from prohibited transactions and certain hedging transactions, must be derived from some combination of such income from investments in real property (i.e., income that qualifies under the 75% income test described above), as well as other distributions, interest, and gain from the sale or disposition of stock or securities, which need not have any relation to real property.

Interest income constitutes qualifying mortgage interest for purposes of the 75% income test (as described above) to the extent that the obligation upon which such interest is paid is secured by a mortgage on real property. If we receive interest income with respect to a mortgage loan that is secured by both real property and other property, and the highest principal amount of the loan outstanding during a taxable year exceeds the fair market value of the real property on the date that we acquired or originated the mortgage loan, the interest income will be apportioned between the real property and the other collateral, and our income from the arrangement will qualify for purposes of the 75% income test only to the extent that the interest is allocable to the real property. Even if a loan is not secured by real property, or is undersecured, the income that it generates may nonetheless qualify for purposes of the 95% income test.

To the extent that the terms of a loan provide for contingent interest that is based on the cash proceeds realized upon the sale of the property securing the loan (a “shared appreciation provision”), income attributable to the participation feature will be treated as gain from sale of the underlying property, which generally will be qualifying income for purposes of both the 75% and 95% gross income tests provided that the real property is not held as inventory or dealer property or primarily for sale to customers in the ordinary course of business. To the extent that we derive interest income from a mortgage loan or income from the rental of real property (discussed below) where all or a portion of the amount of interest or rental income payable is contingent, such income generally will qualify for purposes of the gross income tests only if it is based upon the gross receipts or sales and not on the net income or profits of the borrower or lessee. This limitation does not apply, however, where the borrower or lessee leases substantially all of its interest in the property to tenants or subtenants to the extent that the rental income derived by the borrower or lessee, as the case may be, would qualify as rents from real property had we earned the income directly. Rents received by us will qualify as “rents from real property” in satisfying the gross income requirements described above only if several conditions are met. If rent is partly attributable to personal property leased in connection with a lease of real property, the portion of the rent that is attributable to the personal property will not qualify as “rents from real property” unless it constitutes 15% or less of the total rent received under the lease. In addition, the amount of rent must not be based in whole or in part on the income or profits of any person. Amounts received as rent, however, generally will not be excluded from rents from real property solely by reason of being based on fixed percentages of gross receipts or sales. Moreover, for rents received to qualify as “rents from real property,” we generally must not operate or manage the property or furnish or render services to the tenants of such property, other than through an “independent contractor” from which we derive no revenue. We are permitted, however, to perform services that are “usually or customarily rendered” in connection with the rental of space for occupancy only and which are not otherwise considered rendered to the occupant of the property. In addition, we may directly or indirectly provide noncustomary services to tenants of our properties without disqualifying all of the rent from the property if the payments for such services do not exceed 1% of the total gross income from the properties. For purposes of this test, we are deemed to have received income from such non-customary services in an amount at least 150% of the direct cost of providing the services. Moreover, we are generally permitted to provide services to tenants or others through a TRS without disqualifying the rental income received from tenants for purposes of the income tests. Also, rental income will qualify as rents from real property only to the extent that we do not directly or constructively hold a 10% or greater interest, as measured by vote or value, in the lessee's equity.

We may directly or indirectly receive distributions from TRSs or other corporations that are not REITs or qualified REIT subsidiaries. These distributions generally are treated as dividend income to the extent of the earnings and profits of the distributing corporation. Such distributions will generally constitute qualifying income



for purposes of the 95% gross income test, but not for purposes of the 75% gross income test. Any distributions that we receive from a REIT, however, will be qualifying income for purposes of both the 95% and 75% income tests. We and our subsidiaries may enter into hedging transactions with respect to one or more of our assets or liabilities. Hedging transactions could take a variety of forms, including interest rate swap agreements, interest rate cap agreements, options, futures contracts, forward rate agreements or similar financial instruments. Except to the extent provided by Treasury regulations, any income from a hedging transaction we entered into (1) in the normal course of our business primarily to manage risk of interest rate, inflation and/or currency fluctuations with respect to borrowings made or to be made, or ordinary obligations incurred or to be incurred, to acquire or carry real estate assets, which is clearly identified as specified in Treasury regulations before the closing of the day on which it was acquired, originated, or entered into, including gain from the sale or disposition of such a transaction, or (2) primarily to manage risk of currency fluctuations with respect to any item of income or gain that would be qualifying income under the 75% or 95% income tests which is clearly identified as such before the closing of the day on which it was acquired, originated, or entered to, will not constitute gross income for purposes of the 75% or 95% gross income tests. To the extent that we enter into other types of hedging transactions, the income from those transactions is likely to be treated as non-qualifying income for purposes of the 75% or 95% gross income tests. We intend to structure any hedging transactions in a manner that does not jeopardize our qualification as a REIT.

Our foreign investments might generate foreign currency gains and losses. “Real estate foreign exchange gain” is excluded from gross income for purposes of both the 75% and 95% gross income tests. Real estate foreign exchange gain is foreign currency gain which is attributable to (i) any item of income or gain qualifying for the 75% gross income test, (ii) our acquisition or ownership of obligations secured by mortgages on real property or interests in real property; or (iii) our becoming or being the obligor under obligations secured by mortgages on real property or on interests in real property. Real estate foreign exchange gain also includes Section 987 gain attributable to a qualified business unit (“QBU”) of the REIT if the QBU itself meets the 75% income test for the taxable year, and meets the 75% asset test at the close of each quarter of the REIT that has directly or indirectly held the QBU.

“Passive foreign exchange gain” is another type of currency gain. This type of gain is excluded for purposes of the 95% income test but is included in gross income and treated as non-qualifying income (to the extent that it is not real estate foreign exchange gain), for purposes of the 75% income test. Passive foreign exchange gain includes all real estate foreign exchange gain, and in addition includes foreign currency gain which is attributable to (i) any item of income or gain which qualifies for the 95% gross income test, (ii) the acquisition or ownership of obligations, (iii) becoming or being the obligor under obligations, and (iv) any other foreign currency gain as determined by the Secretary of the Treasury.

If we fail to satisfy one or both of the 75% or 95% gross income tests for any taxable year, we may still qualify as a REIT for such year if we are entitled to relief under applicable provisions of the Internal Revenue Code. These relief provisions will be generally available if (1) our failure to meet these tests was due to reasonable cause and not due to willful neglect and (2) following our identification of the failure to meet the 75% or 95% gross income test for any taxable year, we file a schedule with the Internal Revenue Service setting forth each item of our gross income for purposes of the 75% or 95% gross income test for such taxable year in accordance with Treasury regulations yet to be issued. It is not possible to state whether we would be entitled to the benefit of these relief provisions in all circumstances. If these relief provisions are inapplicable to a particular set of circumstances, we will not qualify as a REIT. As discussed above under “-Taxation of REITs in General,” even where these relief provisions apply, the Internal Revenue Code imposes a tax based upon the amount by which we fail to satisfy the particular gross income test.

#### Asset Tests

At the close of each calendar quarter, we must also satisfy four tests relating to the nature of our assets. First, at least 75% of the value of our total assets must be represented by some combination of “real estate assets,” cash, cash items, U.S. government securities, and, under some circumstances, stock or debt instruments purchased with new capital. For this purpose, real estate assets include interests in real property, such as land, buildings,

leasehold interests in real property, stock of other corporations that qualify as REITs, and some kinds of mortgage-backed securities and mortgage loans. Assets that do not qualify for purposes of the 75% test are subject to the additional asset tests described below.

Second, the value of any one issuer's securities that we own may not exceed 5% of the value of our total assets. Third, we may not own more than 10% of any one issuer's outstanding securities, as measured by either voting power or value. The 5% and 10% asset tests do not apply to securities of TRSs and qualified REIT subsidiaries and the 10% asset test does not apply to "straight debt" having specified characteristics and to certain other securities described below. Solely for purposes of the 10% asset test, the determination of our interest in the assets of a partnership or limited liability company in which we own an interest will be based on our proportionate interest in any securities issued by the partnership or limited liability company, excluding for this purpose certain securities described in the Internal Revenue Code. Fourth, the aggregate value of all securities of taxable REIT subsidiaries that we hold may not exceed 25% of the value of our total assets.

Notwithstanding the general rule, as noted above, that for purposes of the REIT income and asset tests we are treated as owning our proportionate share of the underlying assets of a subsidiary partnership. If we hold indebtedness issued by a partnership, the indebtedness will be subject to, and may cause a violation of, the asset tests unless the indebtedness is a qualifying mortgage asset or other conditions are met. Similarly, although stock of another REIT is a qualifying asset for purposes of the REIT asset tests, any non-mortgage debt that is issued by another REIT may not so qualify (such debt, however, will not be treated as "securities" for purposes of the 10% asset test, as explained below).

Certain relief provisions are available to REITs to satisfy the asset requirements or to maintain REIT qualification notwithstanding certain violations of the asset and other requirements. One such provision allows a REIT which fails one or more of the asset requirements to nevertheless maintain its REIT qualification if (1) the REIT provides the Internal Revenue Service with a description of each asset causing the failure, (2) the failure is due to reasonable cause and not willful neglect, (3) the REIT pays a tax equal to the greater of (a) \$50,000 per failure, and (b) the product of the net income generated by the assets that caused the failure multiplied by the highest applicable corporate tax rate (currently 35%), and (4) the REIT either disposes of the assets causing the failure within six months after the last day of the quarter in which it identifies the failure, or otherwise satisfies the relevant asset tests within that time frame. In the case of de minimis violations of the 10% and 5% asset tests, a REIT may maintain its qualification despite a violation of such requirements if (1) the value of the assets causing the violation does not exceed the lesser of 1% of the REIT's total assets and \$10,000,000, and (2) the REIT either disposes of the assets causing the failure within six months after the last day of the quarter in which it identifies the failure, or the relevant tests are otherwise satisfied within that time frame.

Certain securities will not cause a violation of the 10% asset test described above. Such securities include instruments that constitute "straight debt," which includes, among other things, securities having certain contingency features. A security does not qualify as "straight debt" where a REIT (or a controlled TRS of the REIT) owns other securities of the same issuer which do not qualify as straight debt, unless the value of those other securities constitute, in the aggregate, 1% or less of the total value of that issuer's outstanding securities. In addition to straight debt, the Internal Revenue Code provides that certain other securities will not violate the 10% asset test. Such securities include (1) any loan made to an individual or an estate, (2) certain rental agreements pursuant to which one or more payments are to be made in subsequent years (other than agreements between a REIT and certain persons related to the REIT under attribution rules), (3) any obligation to pay rents from real property, (4) securities issued by governmental entities that are not dependent in whole or in part on the profits of (or payments made by) a non-governmental entity, (5) any security (including debt securities) issued by another REIT, and (6) any debt instrument issued by a partnership if the partnership's income is of a nature that it would satisfy the 75% gross income test described above under "-Income Tests." In applying the 10% asset test, a debt security

issued by a partnership is not taken into account to the extent, if any, of the REIT's proportionate interest in the equity and certain debt securities issued by that partnership.

We believe that our holdings of securities and other assets will comply with the foregoing REIT asset requirements, and we intend to monitor compliance on an ongoing basis.

No independent appraisals will be obtained to support our conclusions as to the value of our total assets or the value of any particular security or securities. Moreover, values of some assets, including instruments issued in securitization transactions, may not be susceptible to a precise determination, and values are subject to change in the future.

Furthermore, the proper classification of an instrument as debt or equity for federal income tax purposes may be uncertain in some circumstances, which could affect the application of the REIT asset requirements. Accordingly, there can be no assurance that the Internal Revenue Service will not contend that our interests in our subsidiaries or in the securities of other issuers will not cause a violation of the REIT asset tests.

If we should fail to satisfy the asset tests at the end of a calendar quarter, such a failure would not cause us to lose our REIT qualification if we (1) satisfied the asset tests at the close of the preceding calendar quarter and (2) the discrepancy between the value of our assets and the asset requirements was not wholly or partly caused by an acquisition of non-qualifying assets, but instead arose from changes in the market value of our assets. If the condition described in (2) were not satisfied, we still could avoid disqualification by eliminating any discrepancy within 30 days after the close of the calendar quarter in which it arose or by making use of relief provisions described below.

#### Annual Distribution Requirements

In order to qualify as a REIT, we are required to make distributions, other than capital gain distributions, to our stockholders in an amount at least equal to:

(a) the sum of

1. 90% of our "REIT taxable income," computed without regard to our net capital gains and the dividends paid deduction, and

2. 90% of our net income, if any, (after tax) from foreclosure property (as described below), minus

(b) the sum of specified items of non-cash income.

In addition, if we were to recognize "built-in-gain" (as defined below) on the disposition of any assets acquired from a "C" corporation in a transaction in which our basis in the assets was determined by reference to the "C" corporation's basis (for instance, if the assets were acquired in a tax-free reorganization), we would be required to distribute at least 90% of the built-in-gain recognized net of the tax we would pay on such gain. "Built-in-gain" is the excess of (i) the fair market value of an asset (measured at the time of acquisition) over (ii) the basis of the asset (measured at the time of acquisition).

We generally must make these distributions in the taxable year to which they relate, or in the following taxable year if either are (i) declared before we timely file our tax return for the year and if paid with or before the first regular distribution payment after such declaration; or (ii) declared in October, November or December of the taxable year, payable to stockholders of record on a specified day in any such month, and actually paid before the end of January of the following year. The distributions under clause (i) are taxable to the holders of our common stock in the year in which paid, and the distributions in clause (ii) are treated as paid on December 31 of the prior taxable year. In both instances, these distributions relate to our prior taxable year for purposes of the 90% distribution requirement.

To the extent that we distribute at least 90%, but less than 100%, of our “REIT taxable income,” as adjusted, we will be subject to tax at ordinary corporate tax rates on the retained portion. We may elect to retain, rather than distribute, our net long-term capital gains and pay tax on such gains. In this case, we could elect for our stockholders to include their proportionate shares of such undistributed long-term capital gains in income, and to receive a corresponding credit for their share of the tax that we paid. Our stockholders would then increase their adjusted basis of their stock by the difference between (a) the amounts of capital gain distributions that we designated and that they include in their taxable income, minus (b) the tax that we paid on their behalf with respect to that income.

To the extent that we have available net operating losses carried forward from prior tax years, such losses may reduce the amount of distributions that we must make in order to comply with the REIT distribution requirements. Such losses, however, will generally not affect the character, in the hands of our stockholders, of any distributions that are actually made as ordinary dividends or capital gains. See “-Taxation of Stockholders-Taxation of Taxable Domestic Stockholders-Distributions.”

If we should fail to distribute during each calendar year at least the sum of (a) 85% of our REIT ordinary income for such year, (b) 95% of our REIT capital gain net income for such year, and (c) any undistributed taxable income from prior periods, we would be subject to a non-deductible 4% excise tax on the excess of such required distribution over the sum of (x) the amounts actually distributed, plus (y) the amounts of income we retained and on which we have paid corporate income tax.

It is possible that, from time to time, we may not have sufficient cash to meet the distribution requirements due to timing differences between (a) our actual receipt of cash, including receipt of distributions from our subsidiaries, and (b) our inclusion of items in income for federal income tax purposes. In the event that such timing differences occur, in order to meet the distribution requirements, it might be necessary for us to arrange for short-term, or possibly long-term, borrowings, or to pay distributions in the form of taxable in-kind distributions of property.

We may be able to rectify a failure to meet the distribution requirements for a year by paying “deficiency dividends” to stockholders in a later year, which may be included in our deduction for distributions paid for the earlier year. In this case, we may be able to avoid losing REIT qualification or being taxed on amounts distributed as deficiency dividends. We will be required to pay interest and a penalty based on the amount of any deduction taken for deficiency dividends.

#### Failure to Qualify

If we fail to satisfy one or more requirements for REIT qualification other than the gross income or asset tests, we could avoid disqualification if our failure is due to reasonable cause and not to willful neglect and we pay a penalty of \$50,000 for each such failure. Relief provisions are available for failures of the gross income tests and asset tests, as described above in “-Income Tests” and “-Asset Tests.”

If we fail to qualify for taxation as a REIT in any taxable year, and the relief provisions described above do not apply, we would be subject to tax, including any applicable alternative minimum tax, on our taxable income at regular corporate rates. We cannot deduct distributions to stockholders in any year in which we are not a REIT, nor would we be required to make distributions in such a year. In this situation, to the extent of current and accumulated earnings and profits, distributions to certain domestic stockholders that are individuals, trusts and estates will generally be taxable at capital gains rates. In addition, subject to the limitations of the Internal Revenue Code, corporate distributees may be eligible for the dividends received deduction. Unless we are entitled to relief under specific statutory provisions, we would also be disqualified from re-electing to be taxed as a REIT for the four taxable years following the year during which we lost qualification. It is not possible to state whether, in all circumstances, we would be entitled to this statutory relief.

### Prohibited Transactions

Net income that we derive from a prohibited transaction is subject to a 100% tax. The term “prohibited transaction” generally includes a sale or other disposition of property (other than foreclosure property, as discussed below) that is held primarily for sale to customers in the ordinary course of a trade or business. We intend to conduct our operations so that no asset that we own (or are treated as owning) will be treated as, or as having been, held for sale to customers, and that a sale of any such asset will not be treated as having been in the ordinary course of our business. Whether property is held “primarily for sale to customers in the ordinary course of a trade or business” depends on the particular facts and circumstances. No assurance can be given that any property that we sell will not be treated as property held for sale to customers, or that we can comply with certain safe-harbor provisions of the Internal Revenue Code that would prevent such treatment. The 100% tax does not apply to gains from the sale of property that is held through a TRS or other taxable corporation, although such income will potentially be subject to tax in the hands of the corporation at regular corporate rates, nor does the tax apply to sales that qualify for a safe harbor as described in Section 857(b)(6) of the Internal Revenue Code.

### Foreclosure Property

Foreclosure property is real property and any personal property incident to such real property (1) that we acquire as the result of having bid on the property at foreclosure, or having otherwise reduced the property to ownership or possession by agreement or process of law, after a default (or upon imminent default) on a lease of the property or a mortgage loan held by us and secured by the property, (2) for which we acquired the related loan or lease at a time when default was not imminent or anticipated, and (3) with respect to which we made a proper election to treat the property as foreclosure property. We generally will be subject to tax at the maximum corporate rate (currently 35%) on any net income from foreclosure property, including any gain from the disposition of the foreclosure property, other than income that would otherwise be qualifying income for purposes of the 75% gross income test. Any gain from the sale of property for which a foreclosure property election has been made will not be subject to the 100% tax on gains from prohibited transactions described above, even if the property would otherwise constitute inventory or dealer property. To the extent that we receive any income from foreclosure property that does not qualify for purposes of the 75% gross income test, we intend to make an election to treat the related property as foreclosure property.

### Derivatives and Hedging Transactions

We and our subsidiaries may enter into hedging transactions with respect to interest rate exposure on one or more of our assets or liabilities. Hedging transactions could take a variety of forms, including the use of derivative instruments such as interest rate swap agreements, interest rate cap agreements, options, futures contracts, forward rate agreements or similar financial instruments. Except to the extent provided by Treasury regulations, any income from a hedging transaction we entered into (1) in the normal course of our business primarily to manage risk of interest rate, inflation and/or currency fluctuations with respect to borrowings made or to be made, or ordinary obligations incurred or to be incurred, to acquire or carry real estate assets, which is clearly identified as specified in Treasury regulations before the closing of the day on which it was acquired, originated, or entered into, including gain from the sale or disposition of such a transaction, and (2) primarily to manage risk of currency fluctuations with respect to any item of income or gain that would be qualifying income under the 75% or 95% income tests which is clearly identified as such before the closing of the day on which it was acquired, originated, or entered into, will not constitute gross income for purposes of the 75% or 95% gross income tests. To the extent that we enter into other types of hedging transactions, the income from those transactions is likely to be treated as non-qualifying income for purposes of the 75% or 95% gross income tests. We intend to structure any hedging transactions in a manner that does not jeopardize our qualification as a REIT. We may conduct some or all of our hedging activities through our TRS or other corporate entity, the income from which may be subject to federal income tax, rather than by participating in the arrangements directly or through pass-through subsidiaries. No assurance can be given, however, that our hedging activities will not give rise to income that does not qualify for purposes of either or both of the REIT gross income tests, or that our hedging activities will not adversely affect our ability to satisfy the REIT qualification requirements.



## Taxation of Stockholders

### Taxation of Taxable Domestic Stockholders

Distributions. So long as we qualify as a REIT, the distributions that we make to our taxable domestic stockholders out of current or accumulated earnings and profits that we do not designate as capital gain distributions will generally be taken into account by stockholders as ordinary income and will not be eligible for the dividends received deduction for corporations. With limited exceptions, our distributions are not eligible for taxation at the preferential income tax rates for qualified distributions received by domestic stockholders that are individuals, trusts and estates from taxable C corporations. Such stockholders, however, are taxed at the preferential rates on distributions designated by and received from REITs to the extent that the distributions are attributable to:

• income retained by the REIT in the prior taxable year on which the REIT was subject to corporate level income tax (less the amount of tax);

• distributions received by the REIT from TRSs or other taxable C corporations; or

• income in the prior taxable year from the sales of “built-in gain” property acquired by the REIT from C corporations in carryover basis transactions (less the amount of corporate tax on such income).

Distributions that we designate as capital gain dividends will generally be taxed to our stockholders as long-term capital gains, to the extent that such distributions do not exceed our actual net capital gain for the taxable year, without regard to the period for which the stockholder that receives such distribution has held its stock. We may elect to retain and pay taxes on some or all of our net long-term capital gains, in which case provisions of the Internal Revenue Code will treat our stockholders as having received, solely for tax purposes, our undistributed capital gains, and our stockholders will receive a corresponding credit for taxes that we paid on such undistributed capital gains. See “-Taxation of Columbia Property Trust-Annual Distribution Requirements.” Corporate stockholders may be required to treat up to 20% of some capital gain distributions as ordinary income. Long-term capital gains are generally taxable at maximum federal rates of 20% in the case of stockholders that are individuals, trusts and estates, and 35% in the case of stockholders that are corporations. Capital gains attributable to the sale of depreciable real property held for more than 12 months are subject to a 25% maximum federal income tax rate for taxpayers who are taxed as individuals, to the extent of previously claimed depreciation deductions.

Distributions in excess of our current and accumulated earnings and profits will generally represent a return of capital and will not be taxable to a stockholder to the extent that the amount of such distributions do not exceed the adjusted basis of the stockholder's shares in respect of which the distributions were made. Rather, the distribution will reduce the adjusted basis of the stockholder's shares. To the extent that such distributions exceed the adjusted basis of a stockholder's shares, the stockholder generally must include such distributions in income as long-term capital gain, or short-term capital gain if the shares have been held for one year or less. In addition, any distribution that we declare in October, November or December of any year and that is payable to a stockholder of record on a specified date in any such month will be treated as both paid by us and received by the stockholder on December 31 of such year, provided that we actually pay the distribution before the end of January of the following calendar year.

To the extent that we have available net operating losses and capital losses carried forward from prior tax years, such losses may reduce the amount of distributions that we must make in order to comply with the REIT distribution requirements. See “-Taxation of Columbia Property Trust-Annual Distribution Requirements.” Such losses, however, are not passed through to stockholders and do not offset income of stockholders from other sources, nor would such losses affect the character of any distributions that we make, which are generally subject to tax in the hands of stockholders to the extent that we have current or accumulated earnings and profits.

Dispositions of Our Stock. In general, capital gains recognized by individuals, trusts and estates upon the sale or disposition of our stock will be subject to a maximum federal income tax rate of 20% if the stock is held for more than one year, and will be taxed at ordinary income rates if the stock is held for one year or less. Gains

recognized by stockholders that are corporations are subject to federal income tax at a maximum rate of 35%, whether or not such gains are classified as long-term capital gains. Capital losses recognized by a stockholder upon the disposition of our stock that was held for more than one year at the time of disposition will be considered long-term capital losses, and are generally available only to offset capital gain income of the stockholder but not ordinary income (except in the case of individuals, who may offset up to \$3,000 of ordinary income each year). In addition, any loss upon a sale or exchange of shares of our stock by a stockholder who has held the shares for six months or less, after applying holding period rules, will be treated as a long-term capital loss to the extent of distributions that we make that are required to be treated by the stockholder as long-term capital gain.

If an investor recognizes a loss upon a subsequent disposition of our stock or other securities in an amount that exceeds a prescribed threshold, it is possible that the provisions of Treasury regulations involving “reportable transactions” could apply, with a resulting requirement to separately disclose the loss-generating transaction to the Internal Revenue Service. These regulations, though directed towards “tax shelters,” are broadly written and apply to transactions that would not typically be considered tax shelters. The Internal Revenue Code imposes significant penalties for failure to comply with these requirements. You should consult your tax advisor concerning any possible disclosure obligation with respect to the receipt or disposition of our stock or securities or transactions that we might undertake directly or indirectly. Moreover, you should be aware that we and other participants in the transactions in which we are involved (including their advisors) might be subject to disclosure or other requirements pursuant to these regulations.

#### Recent Legislation

Pursuant to recently enacted legislation, as of January 1, 2013, (1) the maximum tax rate on “qualified dividend income” received by U.S. stockholders taxed at individual rates is 20%, (2) the maximum tax rate on long-term capital gain applicable to U.S. stockholders taxed at individual rates is 20%, and (3) the highest marginal individual income tax rate is 39.6%. Pursuant to such legislation, the backup withholding rate remains at 28%. Such legislation also makes permanent certain federal income tax provisions that were scheduled to expire on December 31, 2012. We urge you to consult your own tax advisors regarding the impact of this legislation on the purchase, ownership and sale of our common stock.

**Passive Activity Losses and Investment Interest Limitations.** Distributions that we make and gain arising from the sale or exchange by a domestic stockholder of our stock will not be treated as passive activity income. As a result, stockholders will not be able to apply any “passive losses” against income or gain relating to our stock. To the extent that distributions we make do not constitute a return of capital, they will be treated as investment income for purposes of computing the investment interest limitation.

**Medicare contribution tax.** For taxable years beginning after December 31, 2012, U.S. stockholders who are individuals, estates or certain trusts will generally be required to pay a 3.8% Medicare tax on their net investment income (including dividends and gains from the disposition of our stock), or in the case of estates and trusts on their net investment income that is not distributed, in each case to the extent that their total adjusted income exceeds applicable thresholds.

#### Taxation of Foreign Stockholders

The following is a summary of certain U.S. federal income and estate tax consequences of the ownership and disposition of our stock applicable to non-U.S. holders. A “non-U.S. holder” is any person other than:

- a citizen or resident of the United States;
- a corporation (or entity treated as a corporation for U.S. federal income tax purposes) created or organized in the United States or under the laws of the United States, or of any state thereof, or the District of Columbia;

an estate, the income of which is includable in gross income for U.S. federal income tax purposes regardless of its source; or

a trust if a United States court is able to exercise primary supervision over the administration of such trust and one or more United States fiduciaries have the authority to control all substantial decisions of the trust.

If a partnership, including for this purpose any entity that is treated as a partnership for U.S. federal income tax purposes, holds our common stock, the tax treatment of a partner in the partnership will generally depend upon the status of the partner and the activities of the partnership. An investor that is a partnership and the partners in such partnership should consult their tax advisors about the U.S. federal income tax consequences of the acquisition, ownership and disposition of our common stock.

The following discussion is based on current law, and is for general information only. It addresses only selected, and not all, aspects of U.S. federal income and estate taxation.

**Ordinary Dividends.** The portion of distributions received by non-U.S. holders (1) that is payable out of our earnings and profits, (2) which is not attributable to our capital gains and (3) which is not effectively connected with a U.S. trade or business of the non-U.S. holder, will be subject to U.S. withholding tax at the rate of 30%, unless reduced or eliminated by treaty.

In general, non-U.S. holders will not be considered to be engaged in a U.S. trade or business solely as a result of their ownership of our stock. In cases where the dividend income from a non-U.S. holder's investment in our stock is, or is treated as, effectively connected with the non-U.S. holder's conduct of a U.S. trade or business, the non-U.S. holder generally will be subject to U.S. federal income tax at graduated rates, in the same manner as domestic stockholders are taxed with respect to such distributions. Such income must generally be reported on a U.S. income tax return filed by or on behalf of the non-U.S. holder. The income may also be subject to the 30% branch profits tax in the case of a non-U.S. holder that is a corporation.

**Non-Dividend Distributions.** Unless our stock constitutes a U.S. real property interest (a "USRPI"), distributions that we make that are not out of our earnings and profits will not be subject to U.S. income tax. If we cannot determine at the time a distribution is made whether or not the distribution will exceed current and accumulated earnings and profits, the distribution will be subject to withholding at the rate applicable to ordinary dividends. The non-U.S. holder may seek a refund from the Internal Revenue Service of any amounts withheld if it is subsequently determined that the distribution was, in fact, in excess of our current and accumulated earnings and profits. If our stock constitutes a USRPI, as described below, distributions that we make in excess of the sum of (a) the stockholder's proportionate share of our earnings and profits, plus (b) the stockholder's basis in its stock, will be taxed under the Foreign Investment in Real Property Tax Act of 1980, or FIRPTA, at the rate of tax, including any applicable capital gains rates, that would apply to a domestic stockholder of the same type (e.g., an individual or a corporation, as the case may be), and the collection of the tax will be enforced by a refundable withholding at a rate of 10% of the amount by which the distribution exceeds the stockholder's share of our earnings and profits.

**Capital Gain Distributions.** Under FIRPTA, a distribution that we make to a non-U.S. holder, to the extent attributable to gains from dispositions of USRPIs that we held directly or through pass-through subsidiaries, or USRPI capital gains, will, except as described below, be considered effectively connected with a U.S. trade or business of the non-U.S. holder and will be subject to U.S. income tax at the rates applicable to U.S. individuals or corporations, without regard to whether we designate the distribution as a capital gain distribution. See above under "--Taxation of Foreign Stockholders--Ordinary Dividends," for a discussion of the consequences of income that is effectively connected with a U.S. trade or business. In addition, we will be required to withhold tax equal to 35% of the amount of distributions to the extent the distributions constitute USRPI capital gains. Distributions subject to FIRPTA may also be subject to a 30% branch profits tax in the hands of a non-U.S. holder that is a corporation. A distribution is not a USRPI capital gain if we held an interest in the underlying asset solely as a creditor. Capital gain distributions received by a non-U.S. holder that are attributable to dispositions of our assets other than USRPIs are not subject to U.S. federal income or withholding tax, unless (1) the gain is effectively connected with the non-

U.S. holder's U.S. trade or business, in which case the non-U.S. holder would be subject to the same treatment as U.S. holders with respect to such gain, or (2) the non-U.S. holder is a nonresident alien individual who was present in the United States for 183 days or more during the taxable year and has a "tax home" in the United States, in which case the non-U.S. holder will incur a 30% tax on his or her capital gains.

A capital gain distribution that would otherwise have been treated as a USRPI capital gain will not be so treated or be subject to FIRPTA, and generally will not be treated as income that is effectively connected with a U.S. trade or business, and instead will be treated in the same manner as an ordinary dividend (see "-Taxation of Foreign Stockholders-Ordinary Dividends"), if (1) the capital gain distribution is received with respect to a class of stock that is regularly traded on an established securities market located in the United States, and (2) the recipient non-U.S. holder does not own more than 5% of that class of stock at any time during the year ending on the date on which the capital gain distribution is received. At the time you purchase shares in this offering, our shares will not be publicly traded and we can give you no assurance that our shares will ever be publicly traded on an established securities market. Therefore, these rules will not apply to our capital gain distributions.

**Dispositions of Our Stock.** Unless our stock constitutes a USRPI, a sale of our stock by a non-U.S. holder generally will not be subject to U.S. taxation under FIRPTA. Our stock will not be treated as a USRPI if less than 50% of our assets throughout a prescribed testing period consist of interests in real property located within the United States, excluding, for this purpose, interests in real property solely in a capacity as a creditor.

Even if the foregoing 50% test is not met, our stock nonetheless will not constitute a USRPI if we are a "domestically-controlled qualified investment entity." A domestically-controlled qualified investment entity includes a REIT, less than 50% of value of which is held directly or indirectly by non-U.S. holders at all times during a specified testing period. We believe that we will be a domestically-controlled qualified investment entity, and that a sale of our stock should not be subject to taxation under FIRPTA. If our stock constitutes a USRPI and we do not constitute a domestically controlled qualified investment entity, but our stock becomes "regularly traded," as defined by applicable Treasury Regulations, on an established securities market, a non-U.S. holder's sale of our stock nonetheless would not be subject to tax under FIRPTA as a sale of a USRPI, provided that the selling non-U.S. holder held 5% or less of the outstanding stock at all times during a specified testing period. However, as mentioned above, we can give you no assurance that our shares will ever be publicly traded on an established securities market.

If gain on the sale of our stock were subject to taxation under FIRPTA, the non-U.S. holder would be required to file a U.S. federal income tax return and would be subject to the same treatment as a U.S. stockholder with respect to such gain, subject to applicable alternative minimum tax and a special alternative minimum tax in the case of non-resident alien individuals, and the purchaser of the stock could be required to withhold 10% of the purchase price and remit such amount to the Internal Revenue Service.

Gain from the sale of our stock that would not otherwise be subject to FIRPTA will nonetheless be taxable in the United States to a non-U.S. holder in two cases: (1) if the non-U.S. holder's investment in our stock is effectively connected with a U.S. trade or business conducted by such non-U.S. holder, the non-U.S. holder will be subject to the same treatment as a U.S. stockholder with respect to such gain, or (2) if the non-U.S. holder is a nonresident alien individual who was present in the United States for 183 days or more during the taxable year and has a "tax home" in the United States, the nonresident alien individual will be subject to a 30% tax on the individual's capital gain. In addition, even if we are a domestically controlled qualified investment entity, upon disposition of our stock, a non-U.S. holder may be treated as having gain from the sale or exchange of a USRPI if the non-U.S. holder (1) disposes of our common stock within a 30-day period preceding the ex-dividend date of a distribution, any portion of which, but for the disposition, would have been treated as gain from the sale or exchange of a USRPI and (2) acquires, or enters into a contract or option to acquire, other shares of our common stock within 30 days after such ex-dividend date.

**Estate Tax.** If our stock is owned or treated as owned by an individual who is not a citizen or resident (as specially defined for U.S. federal estate tax purposes) of the United States at the time of such individual's death, the

stock will be includable in the individual's gross estate for U.S. federal estate tax purposes, unless an applicable estate tax treaty provides otherwise, and may therefore be subject to U.S. federal estate tax.

**Information Reporting Requirements and Backup Withholding for Non-U.S. Stockholders.** Payments of dividends or of proceeds from the disposition of stock made to a non-U.S. holder may be subject to information reporting and backup withholding unless such holder establishes an exemption, for example, by properly certifying its non U.S. status on an Internal Revenue Service Form W-8BEN or another appropriate version of Internal Revenue Service Form W-8. Notwithstanding the foregoing, backup withholding and information reporting may apply if either we have, or our paying agent has actual knowledge or reason to know, that a non-U.S. holder is a United States person. Backup withholding is not an additional tax. Rather, the United States income tax liability of persons subject to backup withholding will be reduced by the amount of tax withheld. If withholding results in an overpayment of taxes, a refund or credit may be obtained, provided that the required information is furnished to the Internal Revenue Service.

**Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act.** The Hiring Incentives to Restore Employment Act (the "HIRE Act"), which was enacted in 2010, imposes a 30% withholding tax on certain types of payments made to "foreign financial institutions" and certain other non-U.S. entities unless certain due diligence, reporting, withholding, and certification obligations requirements are satisfied. The portion of the HIRE Act that provides for this withholding tax and related provisions is known as the "Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act" or "FATCA."

On February 8, 2012, the Treasury Department issued proposed regulations relating to FATCA and has since issued subsequent guidance. As a general matter, FATCA imposes a 30% withholding tax on dividends on, and gross proceeds from the sale or other disposition of, our shares if paid to a foreign entity unless (i) if the foreign entity is a "foreign financial institution," the foreign entity undertakes certain due diligence, reporting, withholding, and certification obligations, (ii) if the foreign entity is not a "foreign financial institution," the foreign entity identifies certain of its U.S. investors, or (iii) the foreign entity is otherwise excepted under FATCA. Under the proposed regulations and subsequent guidance, withholding is required (i) with respect to dividends on our shares beginning on January 1, 2014, and (ii) with respect to gross proceeds from a sale or other disposition of our shares that occurs on or after January 1, 2017.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, the proposed regulations and subsequent guidance will not be effective until issued in final form. There can be no assurance either as to when final regulations relating to FATCA will be issued or as to the particular form that those final regulations might take. If withholding is required under FATCA on a payment related to our shares, investors that otherwise would not be subject to withholding (or that otherwise would be entitled to a reduced rate of withholding) on such payment generally will be required to seek a refund or credit from the IRS to obtain the benefit of such exemption or reduction (provided that such benefit is available). We will not pay any additional amounts in respect of amounts withheld under FATCA. Prospective investors should consult their tax advisors regarding the effect of FATCA in their particular circumstances.

#### Taxation of Tax-Exempt Stockholders

Tax-exempt entities, including qualified employee pension and profit sharing trusts and individual retirement accounts, generally are exempt from federal income taxation. However, they may be subject to taxation on their unrelated business taxable income, or UBTI. While some investments in real estate may generate UBTI, the Internal Revenue Service has ruled that dividend distributions from a REIT to a tax-exempt entity do not constitute UBTI. Based on that ruling, and provided that (1) a tax-exempt stockholder has not held our stock as "debt financed property" within the meaning of the Internal Revenue Code (i.e., where the acquisition or holding of the property is financed through a borrowing by the tax-exempt stockholder), and (2) our stock is not otherwise used in an unrelated trade or business, distributions that we make and income from the sale of our stock generally should not give rise to UBTI to a tax-exempt stockholder.

Tax-exempt stockholders that are social clubs, voluntary employee benefit associations, supplemental unemployment benefit trusts, and qualified group legal services plans exempt from federal income taxation under

Sections 501(c)(7), (c)(9), (c)(17) and (c)(20) of the Internal Revenue Code are subject to different UBTI rules, which generally require such stockholders to characterize distributions that we make as UBTI.

In certain circumstances, a pension trust that owns more than 10% of our stock (by value) could be required to treat a percentage of its distributions as UBTI, if we are a “pension-held REIT.” We will not be a pension-held REIT unless either (1) one pension trust owns more than 25% of the value of our stock, or (2) a group of pension trusts, each individually holding more than 10% of the value of our stock, collectively owns more than 50% of our stock. Certain restrictions on ownership and transfer of our stock should generally prevent a tax-exempt entity from owning more than 10% of the value of our stock and should generally prevent us from becoming a pension-held REIT.

Tax-exempt stockholders are urged to consult their tax advisors regarding the federal, state, local and foreign income and other tax consequences of owning our stock.

#### Backup Withholding and Information Reporting

We will report to our domestic stockholders and the Internal Revenue Service the amount of dividends paid during each calendar year and the amount of any tax withheld. Under the backup withholding rules, a domestic stockholder may be subject to backup withholding with respect to dividends paid unless the holder is a corporation or comes within other exempt categories and, when required, demonstrates this fact or provides a taxpayer identification number or social security number, certifies as to no loss of exemption from backup withholding and otherwise complies with applicable requirements of the backup withholding rules. A domestic stockholder that does not provide his or her correct taxpayer identification number or social security number may also be subject to penalties imposed by the Internal Revenue Service. Backup withholding is not an additional tax. In addition, we may be required to withhold a portion of a capital gain distribution to any domestic stockholder who fails to certify its non-foreign status. We must report annually to the Internal Revenue Service and to each non-U.S. stockholder the amount of dividends paid to such holder and the tax withheld with respect to such dividends, regardless of whether withholding was required. Copies of the information returns reporting such dividends and withholding may also be made available to the tax authorities in the country in which the non-U.S. stockholder resides under the provisions of an applicable income tax treaty. A non-U.S. stockholder may be subject to backup withholding unless applicable certification requirements are met.

Payment of the proceeds of a sale of our common stock within the U.S. is subject to both backup withholding and information reporting unless the beneficial owner certifies under penalties of perjury that it is a non-U.S. stockholder (and the payor does not have actual knowledge or reason to know that the beneficial owner is a U.S. person) or the holder otherwise establishes an exemption. Payment of the proceeds of a sale of our common stock conducted through certain U.S. related financial intermediaries is subject to information reporting (but not backup withholding) unless the financial intermediary has documentary evidence in its records that the beneficial owner is a non-U.S. stockholder and specified conditions are met or an exemption is otherwise established. Any amounts withheld under the backup withholding rules may be allowed as a refund or a credit against such holder's U.S. federal income tax liability provided the required information is furnished to the Internal Revenue Service.

#### Other Tax Considerations

##### Legislative or Other Actions Affecting REITs

The rules dealing with federal income taxation are constantly under review by persons involved in the legislative process and by the Internal Revenue Service and the U.S. Treasury Department. Changes to the federal tax laws and interpretations thereof could adversely affect an investment in our stock.

#### State, Local and Foreign Taxes

We and our subsidiaries and stockholders may be subject to state, local or foreign taxation in various jurisdictions including those in which we or they transact business, own property or reside. We may own real property assets located in numerous jurisdictions, and may be required to file tax returns in some or all of those jurisdictions. Our state, local or foreign tax treatment and that of our stockholders may not conform to the federal income tax treatment discussed above. We may own foreign real estate assets and pay foreign property taxes, and dispositions of foreign property or operations involving, or investments in, foreign real estate assets may give rise to foreign income or other tax liability in amounts that could be substantial. Any foreign taxes that we incur do not pass through to stockholders as a credit against their U.S. federal income tax liability. Prospective investors should consult their tax advisors regarding the application and effect of state, local and foreign income and other tax laws on an investment in our stock.

## LEGAL MATTERS

The validity of the shares of our common stock being offered hereby has been passed upon for us by DLA Piper LLP (US), Raleigh, North Carolina. DLA Piper LLP (US) has reviewed the statements relating to certain federal income tax matters that are likely to be material to U.S. holders of our common stock under the caption "Federal Income Tax Considerations" and has rendered an opinion to us that, commencing with our taxable year ending December 31, 2003, we were organized in conformity with the requirements for qualification and taxation as a REIT and our proposed method of operation will continue to allow us to meet the requirements for qualification and taxation as a REIT under the Code.

## EXPERTS

The consolidated financial statements, and the related consolidated financial statement schedule, incorporated in this Form S-3 by reference from the Columbia Property Trust, Inc.'s (formerly Wells Real Estate Investment Trust II, Inc.) Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2012, have been audited by Deloitte & Touche LLP, an independent registered public accounting firm, as stated in their report, which is incorporated herein by reference. Such consolidated financial statements and the consolidated financial statement schedule have been so incorporated in reliance upon the report of such firm given upon their authority as experts in accounting and auditing.

The carve-out combined financial statements of Wells Real Estate Advisory Services II, LLC and Wells Real Estate Services, LLC as of and for the years ended December 31, 2012 and 2011 incorporated in this Form S-3 by reference to the Annual Report on Form 10-K of Columbia Property Trust, Inc. dated February 28, 2013 have been audited by Frazier & Deeter, LLC, independent auditors, as stated in their report, which is incorporated herein by reference. Such carve-out combined financial statements have been so incorporated in reliance upon the report of such firm given upon their authority as experts in accounting and auditing.

## INCORPORATION OF CERTAIN DOCUMENTS BY REFERENCE

We file annual, quarterly and special reports, proxy statements and other information with the SEC. We furnish our stockholders by mail (or, where permitted, by electronic delivery and notification) with annual reports containing consolidated financial statements certified by an independent registered public accounting firm. The registration statement is, and all of these filings with the SEC are, available to the public over the Internet at the SEC's web site at <http://www.sec.gov>. You may also read and copy any filed document at the SEC's public reference room in Washington, D.C. at 100 F. Street, N.E., Room 1580, Washington D.C. Please call the SEC at (800) SEC-0330 for further information about the public reference room. You can also access documents that are incorporated by reference into this prospectus at the web site we maintain at <http://www.columbiapropertytrust.com>. There is additional information about us and our affiliates at our web site, but unless specifically incorporated by reference herein as described in the paragraphs below, the contents of that site are not incorporated by reference in or otherwise a part of this prospectus.

We have elected to "incorporate by reference" certain information into this prospectus. By incorporating by reference, we are disclosing important information to you by referring you to documents we have filed separately with the SEC. The information incorporated by reference is deemed to be part of this prospectus, except for information incorporated by reference that is superseded by information contained in this prospectus. Any reports filed by us with the SEC after the date of this prospectus and before the date that this offering is terminated will automatically update and, where applicable, supersede any information contained in this prospectus or incorporated by reference in this prospectus. The following documents filed with the SEC are incorporated by reference in this prospectus, except for any document or portion thereof deemed to be "furnished" and not filed in accordance with SEC rules:



• Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2012 filed with the SEC on February 28, 2013;  
• Current Report on Form 8-K filed with the SEC on January 4, 2013; and  
• Definitive Proxy Statement on Schedule 14A filed with the SEC on May 7, 2012;

All documents filed by Columbia Property Trust, Inc. pursuant to Sections 13(a), 13(c), 14 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 subsequent to the date of this prospectus and prior to the termination of this offering of the securities made hereby shall be deemed to be incorporated by reference into this prospectus.

We will provide to each person, including any beneficial owner, to whom this prospectus is delivered, upon written or oral request, a copy of any or all of the information that we have incorporated by reference into this prospectus but not delivered with this prospectus. To receive a free copy of any of the documents incorporated by reference in this prospectus, other than exhibits, unless they are specifically incorporated by reference in those documents, call or write us at Columbia Property Trust Investor Relations, c/o DST Systems, Inc., P.O. Box 219073, Kansas City, Missouri 64121-907, 1-800-557-4830. The information relating to us contained in this prospectus does not purport to be comprehensive and should be read together with the information contained in the documents incorporated or deemed to be incorporated by reference in this prospectus.

APPENDIX A

The REQUIRED section below must be completed in order to process this request. Please note the cost-basis election for all Columbia Property Trust, Inc. shares will be first-in first-out. If an alternate calculation method is preferred, please contact Investor Relations.

TO PARTICIPATE IN THE DISTRIBUTION REINVESTMENT PLAN (DRP):

Complete and return this form. Be sure to include your Social Security or Tax Identification Number, account number, and signature.

I hereby appoint Columbia Property Trust, Inc. (Columbia) (or any successor), acting as plan administrator (the Plan Administrator), as my agent to receive cash distributions from Columbia that may hereafter become payable to me on shares of common stock of Columbia registered in my name, as set forth below. I also authorize Columbia to apply such distributions to the purchase of full shares and fractional interests in shares of Columbia common stock pursuant to the terms and conditions of the DRP.

I understand that the purchases will be made under the terms and conditions of the DRP as described in the most recent prospectus and that I may revoke this authorization at any time by notifying the Plan Administrator, in writing, of my desire to terminate my participation.

Please note that requests to terminate participation in the DRP program must be received 5 business days into the month of the distribution and changes made to instructions will only apply to future distributions.

I hereby confirm the following:

- That I am a current stockholder of Columbia;
- That I received a Prospectus, as amended and supplemented in connection with my purchase of shares of Columbia (the Share Prospectus);
- That if I am a resident of Arizona, California, Ohio or Oregon, I meet the Suitability Standards described in the Prospectus; and
- That if I am a resident of Arizona, California, Ohio or Oregon, I acknowledge that I have a duty to promptly notify Columbia in writing if at any time during which I am participating in the DRP I fail to meet the suitability requirements for making an investment in Columbia.

Please indicate your participation below. Return this form only if you wish to participate in the DRP.

REQUIRED

The Columbia Property Trust, Inc. Distribution Reinvestment Enrollment Form must be signed by all parties. Requests made for shares held in IRA/custodial accounts must be signed and Medallion Signature Guaranteed by the current custodian. Medallion Signature Guarantee

Primary Investor

Print Full Name	Signature	Date
-----------------	-----------	------

Secondary Investor

Print Full Name	Signature	Date
-----------------	-----------	------

Account  
Number

Social Security  
Number (last 4 digits)

Email Address

Phone Number

As of February 28, 2013, Columbia Property Trust, Inc. (f/k/a Wells REIT II, Inc.) became self-advised and is no longer externally advised by Wells Real Estate Funds, Inc. or its subsidiaries. Affiliates of Wells Real Estate Funds, Inc. continue to provide certain support services to Columbia Property Trust, Inc. under temporary contractual agreements. Wells Capital, Inc. is affiliated with Wells Real Estate Funds, Inc. and Wells Investment Securities, Inc. - Member FINRA/SIPC.

Columbia Property Trust, Inc. • P.O. Box 219073 • Kansas City, MO 64121-9073 • 800-557-4830 •  
[www.ColumbiaPropertyTrust.com](http://www.ColumbiaPropertyTrust.com)

© 2013 Wells Capital, Inc.

A-1

---

## APPENDIX B

### THIRD AMENDED AND RESTATED DISTRIBUTION REINVESTMENT PLAN

Columbia Property Trust, Inc., a Maryland corporation (the “Company”), has adopted a Distribution Reinvestment Plan (the “DRP”), the terms and conditions of which are set forth below. Capitalized terms shall have the same meaning as set forth in the Company's charter unless otherwise defined herein.

1. **Number of Shares Issuable.** The number of shares of Common Stock authorized for issuance under the DRP is 185,000,000.
2. **Participants.** “Participants” are holders of the Company's shares of Common Stock who elect to participate in the DRP.
3. **Distribution Reinvestment.** The Company will apply that portion (as designated by a Participant) of the distributions (“Distributions”) declared and paid in respect of a Participant's shares of Common Stock to the purchase of additional shares of Common Stock for such Participant. The Company will pay no selling commissions or the dealer manager fee in connection with the purchase of additional shares of Common Stock hereunder.
4. **Procedures for Participation.** Qualifying stockholders may elect to become a Participant by completing and executing an enrollment form or any other Company-approved authorization form as may be available from the Company. To increase their participation, Participants must complete a new enrollment form. Participation in the DRP will begin with the next Distribution payable after receipt of a Participant's enrollment or authorization. Shares will be purchased under the DRP on the date that the Company makes a Distribution.
5. **Purchase of Shares.** Participants will acquire Common Stock at a price equal to 95.5% of the estimated value per share of the Company's Common Stock. Participants in the DRP may also purchase fractional shares so that 100% of the Distributions will be used to acquire shares. However, a Participant will not be able to acquire shares under the DRP to the extent such purchase would cause it to exceed the Ownership Limit (unless exempted by the Company's board of directors).
6. **Taxation of Distributions.** The reinvestment of Distributions in the DRP does not relieve Participants of any taxes that may be payable as a result of those Distributions and their reinvestment pursuant to the terms of this DRP.
7. **Share Certificates.** The shares issuable under the DRP shall be uncertificated until the board of directors determines otherwise.
8. **Voting of DRP Shares.** In connection with any matter requiring the vote of the Company's stockholders, each Participant will be entitled to vote all of the shares, including fractional shares, acquired by the Participant through the DRP.
9. **Reports.** Within five business days after the end of each quarter, the Company shall provide each Participant a confirmation of any quarterly purchases under the distribution reinvestment plan, which confirmation shall disclose each distribution reinvested for the Participant's account during the quarter; the date of the reinvestment; the number and price of the shares purchased by the Participant; and the total number of shares in the Participant's account.
10. **Termination by Participant.** A Participant may terminate participation in the DRP at any time by delivering to the Company a written notice. To be effective for any Distribution, such notice must be received by the Company at least 10 business days prior to the last day of the fiscal period to which the Distribution relates. Any

B-1

---

transfer of shares by a Participant will terminate participation in the DRP with respect to the transferred shares. Upon termination of DRP participation, Distributions will be distributed to the stockholder in cash.

11. Amendment or Termination of DRP by the Company. The board of directors of the Company may amend or terminate the DRP for any reason; provided that any amendment that adversely affects the rights or obligations of a Participant (as determined in the sole discretion of the board of directors) shall only take effect upon 10 days' written notice to the Participants.

12. Liability of the Company. The Company shall not be liable for any act done in good faith, or for any good faith omission to act.

13. Governing Law. This DRP shall be governed by the laws of the State of Maryland.

14. Effective Date. The DRP became effective on November 26, 2003. This third amended and restated DRP is effective as of February 28, 2013.

We have not authorized any dealer, salesperson or other individual to give any information or to make any representations that are not contained in this prospectus. If any such information or statements are given or made, you should not rely upon such information or representation. This prospectus does not constitute an offer to sell any securities other than those to which this prospectus relates, or an offer to sell, or a solicitation of an offer to buy, to any person in any jurisdiction where such an offer or solicitation would be unlawful. This prospectus speaks as of the date set forth below. You should not assume that the delivery of this prospectus or that any sale made pursuant to this prospectus implies that the information contained in this prospectus will remain fully accurate and correct as of any time subsequent to the date of this prospectus.

COLUMBIA PROPERTY TRUST, INC.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
<u>Cautionary Note Regarding Forward-Looking Statements</u>	<u>1</u>
<u>Prospectus Summary</u>	<u>2</u>
<u>Risk Factors</u>	<u>8</u>
<u>Estimated Use of Proceeds</u>	<u>9</u>
<u>Description of Distribution Reinvestment Plan</u>	<u>10</u>
<u>Description of Shares</u>	<u>17</u>
<u>Plan of Distribution</u>	<u>24</u>
<u>Legal Matters</u>	<u>44</u>
<u>Experts</u>	<u>44</u>
<u>Incorporation of Certain Documents by Reference</u>	<u>44</u>
<u>Appendix A - Form of Distribution Reinvestment Enrollment</u>	<u>A-1</u>
<u>Appendix B - Third Amended and Restated Distribution Reinvestment Plan</u>	<u>B-1</u>

Maximum Offering of  
\$350,000,000 of Common Stock

PROSPECTUS

Our shares are not FDIC insured, may lose value and are not bank guaranteed.

February 28, 2013

## PART II. INFORMATION NOT REQUIRED IN PROSPECTUS

## Item 14. Other Expenses of Issuance and Distribution

The following table sets forth the costs and expenses payable by Columbia Property Trust, Inc. (the “Company”) in connection with the distribution of the securities registered under the Company's distribution reinvestment plan. All amounts are estimated except the SEC registration fee.

Item	Amount
SEC registration fee	\$47,740
Legal fees and expenses	50,000
Blue sky fees and expenses	25,000
Accounting fees and expenses	20,000
Other Expenses	6,000
Total	\$ 148,740

## Item 15. Indemnification of Directors and Officers

The Company's charter provides for indemnification of its officers and directors against liabilities to the fullest extent permitted by Maryland law.

Maryland law permits a Maryland corporation to include in its charter a provision limiting the liability of its directors and officers to the corporation and its stockholders for money damages except for liability resulting from (i) actual receipt of an improper benefit or profit in money, property or services or (ii) active and deliberate dishonesty that is established by a final judgment as being material to the cause of action. The Company's charter contains such a provision that limits such liability to the maximum extent permitted by Maryland law.

The Maryland General Corporation Law (the “MGCL”) requires a Maryland corporation (unless its charter provides otherwise, which the Company's charter does not) to indemnify a director or officer who has been successful in the defense of any proceeding to which he or she is made or threatened to be made a party by reason of his or her service in that capacity. The MGCL permits a corporation to indemnify its present and former directors and officers, among others, against judgments, penalties, fines, settlements and reasonable expenses actually incurred by them in connection with any proceeding to which they may be made or threatened to be made a party by reason of their service in those or other capacities unless it is established that: (1) the act or omission of the director or officer was material to the matter giving rise to the proceeding and (A) was committed in bad faith or (B) was the result of active and deliberate dishonesty; (2) the director or officer actually received an improper personal benefit in money, property or services; or (3) in the case of any criminal proceeding, the director or officer had reasonable cause to believe that the act or omission was unlawful.

However, under the MGCL, a Maryland corporation may not indemnify a director or officer in a suit by or in the right of the corporation in which the director or officer was adjudged liable to the corporation or for a judgment of liability on the basis that a personal benefit was improperly received. A court may order indemnification if it determines that the director or officer is fairly and reasonably entitled to indemnification, even though the director or officer did not meet the prescribed standard of conduct, was adjudged liable to the corporation or was adjudged liable on the basis that personal benefit was improperly received. However, indemnification for an adverse judgment in a suit by us or in our right, or for a judgment of liability on the basis that personal benefit was improperly received, is limited to expenses.

In addition, the MGCL permits a corporation to advance reasonable expenses to a director or officer upon the corporation's receipt of: (1) a written affirmation by the director or officer of his or her good faith belief that he or she has met the standard of conduct necessary for indemnification by the corporation; and (2) a written



undertaking by the director or officer or on the director's or officer's behalf to repay the amount paid or reimbursed by the corporation if it is ultimately determined that the director or officer did not meet the standard of conduct.

The Company's charter obligates it, to the maximum extent permitted by Maryland law in effect from time to time, to indemnify and, without requiring a preliminary determination of the ultimate entitlement to indemnification, pay or reimburse reasonable expenses in advance of final disposition of a proceeding to: (1) any present or former director or officer who is made or threatened to be made a party to the proceeding by reason of his or her service in that capacity; or (2) any individual who, while a director or officer of us and at our request, serves or has served as a director, officer, partner, member, manager or trustee of another corporation, REIT, partnership, limited liability company, joint venture, trust, employee benefit plan or any other enterprise and who is made or threatened to be made a party to the proceeding by reason of his or her service in that capacity.

The Company's charter also permit us to, with approval of its board of directors, indemnify and advance expenses to any person who served a predecessor of the Company in any of the capacities described above and to any employee or agent of the Company or its predecessor.

Insofar as the foregoing provisions permit indemnification of directors, officers or persons controlling the Company for liability arising under the Securities Act, we have been informed that, in the opinion of the SEC, this indemnification is against public policy as expressed in the Securities Act and is therefore unenforceable.

#### Item 16. Exhibits

The following exhibits are filed as part of this registration statement:

Ex. No.	Description
4.1*	Form of Distribution Reinvestment Enrollment Form (included as Appendix A to prospectus)
4.2*	Form of statement regarding restrictions on transferability of shares of common stock (to appear on stock certificate or to be sent upon request and without charge to stockholders issued shares without certificates)
4.3*	Third Amended and Restated Distribution Reinvestment Plan (included as Appendix B to prospectus)
5.1*	Opinion of DLA Piper LLP (US) re legality
8.1*	Opinion of DLA Piper LLP (US) re tax matters
23.1*	Consent of DLA Piper LLP (US), included in Exhibit 5
23.2*	Consent of Deloitte & Touche LLP
23.3*	Consent of Frazier & Deeter, LLC
24.1	Power of Attorney (included on signature page)
99.1	Sixth Amended and Restated Share Redemption Program, incorporated by reference to Exhibit 99.1 to the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K filed with the Commission on February 28, 2013

\*Filed herewith.

Item 17. Undertakings

(a) The Company undertakes to file, during any period in which offers or sales are being made, a post-effective amendment to the Registration Statement (i) to include any prospectus required by Section 10(a)(3) of the Securities Act of 1933 (the "Act"); (ii) to reflect in the prospectus any facts or events arising after the effective date of the Registration Statement (or the most recent post-effective amendment thereof) which, individually or in the aggregate, represent a fundamental change in the information set forth in the Registration Statement; and (iii) to include any material information with respect to the plan of distribution not previously disclosed in the Registration Statement or any material change to such information in the Registration Statement; provided, however, that clauses (i), (ii) and (iii) above do not apply if the Registration Statement is on Form S-3, and the information required to be included in a post-effective amendment by those clauses is contained in reports filed with or furnished to the Commission by the Company pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 that are incorporated by reference in the Registration Statement, or is contained in a form of prospectus filed pursuant to Rule 424(b) that is part of the Registration Statement. Notwithstanding clauses (i) and (ii), any increase or decrease in volume of securities offered (if the total dollar value of securities offered would not exceed that which was registered) and any deviation from the low or high end of the estimated maximum offering range may be reflected in the form of prospectus filed with the Commission pursuant to Rule 424(b) if, in the aggregate, the changes in volume and price represent no more than 20% change in the maximum aggregate offering price set forth in the "Calculation of Registration Fee" table in the effective Registration Statement.

(b) The Company undertakes (i) that, for the purpose of determining any liability under the Act, each such post-effective amendment shall be deemed to be a new Registration Statement relating to the securities offered therein and the offering of such securities at that time shall be deemed to be the initial bona fide offering thereof and (ii) to remove from registration by means of a post-effective amendment any of the securities being registered which remain unsold at the termination of the offering.

(c) The Company undertakes that, for the purpose of determining liability under the Act to any purchaser, each prospectus filed pursuant to Rule 424(b) as part of a Registration Statement relating to an offering shall be deemed to be part of and included in the Registration Statement as of the date it is first used after effectiveness; provided, however, that no statement made in a Registration Statement or prospectus that is part of the Registration Statement or made in a document incorporated or deemed incorporated by reference into the Registration Statement or prospectus that is part of the Registration Statement will, as to a purchaser with a time of contract of sale prior to such first use, supersede or modify any statement that was made in the Registration Statement or prospectus that was part of the Registration Statement or made in any such document immediately prior to such date of first use.

(d) The Company undertakes that, for purposes of determining any liability under the Act, each filing of the Registrant's annual report pursuant to Section 13(a) or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (and, where applicable, each filing of any employee benefit plan's annual report pursuant to Section 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934) that is incorporated by reference in the Registration Statement shall be deemed to be a new Registration Statement relating to the securities offered therein, and the offering of such securities at that time shall be deemed to be the initial bona fide offering thereof.

(e) The Company undertakes to deliver or cause to be delivered with the prospectus, to each person to whom the prospectus is sent or given, the latest annual report to security holders that is incorporated by reference in the prospectus and furnished pursuant to and meeting the requirements of Rule 14a-3 or Rule 14c-3 under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934; and, where interim financial information required to be presented by Article 3 of Regulation S-X is not set forth in the prospectus, to deliver, or cause to be delivered to each person to whom the prospectus is sent or given, the latest quarterly report that is specifically incorporated by reference in the prospectus to provide such interim financial information.

## SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act of 1933, the registrant certifies that it has reasonable grounds to believe that it meets all of the requirements for filing on Form S-3 and has duly caused this registration statement to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized, in the City of Norcross, State of Georgia, on February 28, 2013.

COLUMBIA PROPERTY TRUST, INC.

By: /s/ E. Nelson Mills

E. Nelson Mills

President

Each person whose signature appears below hereby severally constitutes and appoints each of E. Nelson Mills and Wendy W. Gill, as his true and lawful attorney-in-fact and agent, with full power of substitution and resubstitution for him and in his name, place and stead, in any and all capacities to sign any and all amendments to this registration statement on Form S-3, including any post-effective amendments hereto, and to file the same, with all exhibits thereto, and other documents in connection therewith, with the Securities and Exchange Commission, granting unto each said attorney-in-fact and agents, and each of them, full power and authority to do and perform each and every act and thing requisite or necessary fully to all intents and purposes as he might or could do in person, hereby ratifying and confirming all that each said attorney-in-fact and agents or any of them or their or his substitute or substitutes, may lawfully do or cause to be done by virtue hereof.

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act of 1933, this registration statement has been signed by the following persons in the capacities and on the dates indicated:

Name	Title	Date
/s/ E. Nelson Mills E. Nelson Mills	President and Director (Principal Executive Officer)	February 28, 2013
/s/ Wendy W. Gill Wendy W. Gill	Treasurer, Chief of Corporate Operations and Accounting (Principal Financial and Accounting Officer)	February 28, 2013
/s/ Douglas P. Williams Douglas P. Williams	Director	February 28, 2013
/s/ Leo F. Wells, III Leo F. Wells, III	Director	February 28, 2013
/s/ Charles R. Brown Charles R. Brown	Director	February 28, 2013
/s/ Richard W. Carpenter Richard W. Carpenter	Director	February 28, 2013
/s/ Bud Carter Bud Carter	Director	February 28, 2013
/s/ John L. Dixon John L. Dixon	Director	February 28, 2013
/s/ George W. Sands George W. Sands	Director	February 28, 2013

/s/ Neil H. Strickland  
Neil H. Strickland

Director

February 28, 2013

B-7