

CALAMOS STRATEGIC TOTAL RETURN FUND
 Form 3
 January 12, 2009

FORM 3 UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20549

OMB APPROVAL

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INITIAL STATEMENT OF BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF SECURITIES

Filed pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934,
 Section 17(a) of the Public Utility Holding Company Act of 1935 or Section
 30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

(Print or Type Responses)

| | | | | | |
|---|--|---|--|--|---|
| 1. Name and Address of Reporting Person * MORGAN STANLEY (Last) (First) (Middle) 1585 BROADWAY (Street) NEW YORK, NY 10036 (City) (State) (Zip) | 2. Date of Event Requiring Statement (Month/Day/Year) 12/31/2008 | 3. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol CALAMOS STRATEGIC TOTAL RETURN FUND [CSQ] | 4. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer (Check all applicable) <input type="checkbox"/> Director <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 10% Owner <input type="checkbox"/> Officer <input type="checkbox"/> Other (give title below) (specify below) | 5. If Amendment, Date Original Filed(Month/Day/Year) | 6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check Applicable Line) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Form filed by One Reporting Person <input type="checkbox"/> Form filed by More than One Reporting Person |
|---|--|---|--|--|---|

Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Beneficially Owned

| 1. Title of Security (Instr. 4) | 2. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned (Instr. 4) | 3. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 5) | 4. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 5) |
|------------------------------------|--|---|--|
| Auction Rate Cumulative Preferred | 814 | I | By Subsidiary |

Reminder: Report on a separate line for each class of securities beneficially owned directly or indirectly.

SEC 1473 (7-02)

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Table II - Derivative Securities Beneficially Owned (e.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities)

| 1. Title of Derivative Security (Instr. 4) | 2. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year) | 3. Title and Amount of Securities Underlying Derivative Security (Instr. 4) | 4. Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative Security | 5. Ownership Form of Derivative Security: Direct (D) or Indirect | 6. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 5) |
|---|---|--|--|--|--|
| | Date Exercisable Expiration Date | Title Amount or Number of | | | |

Shares (I)
(Instr. 5)

Reporting Owners

| Reporting Owner Name / Address | Relationships | | | |
|---|---------------|-----------|---------|-------|
| | Director | 10% Owner | Officer | Other |
| MORGAN STANLEY 1585 BROADWAY NEW YORK, NY 10036 | ^ | ^ X | ^ | ^ |

Signatures

/s/ Dennine Bullard, By: Morgan Stanley, By: Dennine Bullard, Authorized Signatory

01/12/2009

__Signature of Reporting Person

Date

Explanation of Responses:

- * If the form is filed by more than one reporting person, *see* Instruction 5(b)(v).
- ** Intentional misstatements or omissions of facts constitute Federal Criminal Violations. *See* 18 U.S.C. 1001 and 15 U.S.C. 78ff(a).

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Remarks:

The preferred shares reported herein represent the Reporting Person's combined holdings in multiple series of preferred securities of the Issuer, which are treated herein as one class of securities in accordance with the Securities and Exchange Commission's Global Exemptive Relief no-action letter issued by the SEC staff on September 22, 2008. The Reporting Person undertakes to provide, upon request by the SEC staff, complete information regarding the number of the Issuer's equity securities purchased at different prices and dates of all transactions in such securities that occurred after the Reporting Person's filing but prior to the date of this filing.

Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed. If space is insufficient, *See* Instruction 6 for procedure.

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