

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
 WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549

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 PRE-EFFECTIVE AMENDMENT NO. 1  
 TO  
 FORM S-3  
 REGISTRATION STATEMENT  
 UNDER THE SECURITIES ACT OF 1933  
 -----

CORPORATE OFFICE PROPERTIES TRUST  
 (Exact name of Registrant as specified in its charter)  
 -----

Maryland	401 City Avenue	23-2947217
(State or other jurisdiction of	Suite 615	(IRS Employee
incorporation or organization)	Bala Cynwyd, PA 19004	Identification Number)
	(610) 538-1800	

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

CLAY W. HAMLIN, III  
 Chief Executive Officer  
 Corporate Office Properties Trust  
 401 City Avenue  
 Suite 615  
 Bala Cynwyd, PA 19004  
 (610) 538-1800

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

Copies to:

<TABLE>		
<S>	<C>	<C>
John F. Bales, Esq.	John H. Gurley, Esq.	Robert E. King, Jr., Esq.
Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP	Vice President & General Counsel	Rogers & Wells LLP
1701 Market Street	Corporate Office Properties Trust	200 Park Avenue
Philadelphia, PA 19103	401 City Avenue, Suite 615	New York, New York 10166
(215) 963-5478	Bala Cynwyd, PA 19004	(212) 878-8000
	(610) 538-1800	

</TABLE>

APPROXIMATE DATE OF COMMENCEMENT OF PROPOSED SALE TO THE PUBLIC: From time to  
 time after the effective date of this 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, other than offered only in connection with dividend or interest  
 reinvestment plans, check the following box. /X/

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 delivery of the Prospectus is expected to be made pursuant to Rule  
 434, please check the following box. / /

CALCULATION OF REGISTRATION FEE

<TABLE>  
 <CAPTION>

TITLE OF EACH CLASS OF SECURITIES TO BE REGISTERED	AMOUNT TO BE REGISTERED	PROPOSED MAXIMUM OFFERING PRICE PER UNIT	PROPOSED MAXIMUM AGGREGATE OFFERING PRICE	AMOUNT OF REGISTRATION FEE
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-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

<S>	<C>	<C>	<C>	<C>
Common Shares of Beneficial Interest (3)				
Preferred Shares of Beneficial Interest (3) (4)		(1)	(2)	
Common Share Warrants (3) (5)				
Preferred Share Warrants (3) (6)				
-----				
Total	\$250,000,000		\$250,000,000	\$69,500
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</TABLE>

- (1) The Proposed Maximum Offering Price Per Unit will be determined from time to time by the Registrant in connection with the issuance of the Securities.
- (2) Estimated solely for the purpose of calculating the registration fee pursuant to Rule 457(o) of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the "Securities Act").
- (3) This Registration Statement covers (a) Common Shares of Beneficial Interest, par value \$.01 per share ("Common Shares") issued other than on conversion of Preferred Shares of Beneficial Interest ("Preferred Shares") or exercise of Common Share Warrants and includes Common Shares which may be purchased by underwriters to cover over-allotments, if any, and (b) subject to notes 5 and 6, the number of other Securities listed above as may from time to time be issued at indeterminate prices, but with an aggregate initial offering price for all such Common Shares and other Securities not to exceed \$250,000,000. Also includes such

(Footnotes continued on next page)

presently indeterminate number of additional Common Shares ("Additional Common Shares") as may be issued on (i) conversion of any Preferred Shares as may be issued separately on exercise of Preferred Share Warrants, if and to the extent such Preferred Shares are convertible into Common Shares or (ii) exercise of any Common Share Warrants as may be issued, if and to the extent exercisable for Common Shares. The Amount to be Registered, Proposed Maximum Offering Price Per Unit, Proposed Maximum Aggregate Offering Price and Amount of Registration Fee with respect to such Preferred Shares and Common Share Warrants include such Additional Common Shares.

- (4) Includes Preferred Shares (a) issued other than on exercise of Preferred Share Warrants and (b) which may be purchased by underwriters to cover over-allotments, if any. Also includes such presently indeterminate number of additional Preferred Shares ("Additional Preferred Shares") as may be issued on exercise of any Preferred Share Warrants as may be issued, if and to the extent exercisable for Preferred Shares. The Amount to be Registered, Proposed Maximum Aggregate Offering Price and Amount of Registration Fee with respect to such Preferred Share Warrants include such Additional Preferred Shares.
- (5) Includes Common Share Warrants which may be (a) issued other than as part of Units of Common Share Warrants and other Securities and (b) purchased by underwriters to cover over-allotments, if any. Also includes additional Common Share Warrants ("Additional Common Share Warrants") which may be offered as part of Units of Common Share Warrants and other Securities. The Amount to be Registered, Proposed Maximum Aggregate Offering Price and Amount of Registration Fee with respect to such Units of Common Share Warrants and other Securities include such Additional Common Share Warrants.
- (6) Includes Preferred Share Warrants which may be (a) issued other than as part of Units of Preferred Share Warrants and other Securities and (b) purchased by underwriters to cover over-allotments, if any. Also includes additional Preferred Share Warrants ("Additional Preferred Share Warrants") which may be offered as part of Units of Preferred Share Warrants and other Securities. The Amount to be Registered, Proposed Maximum Aggregate Offering Price and Amount of Registration Fee with respect to such Units of Preferred Share Warrants and other Securities include such Additional Preferred Share Warrants.

THE REGISTRANT HEREBY AMENDS THIS REGISTRATION STATEMENT ON SUCH DATE OR DATES AS MAY BE NECESSARY TO DELAY ITS EFFECTIVE DATE UNTIL THE REGISTRANT SHALL FILE A FURTHER AMENDMENT WHICH SPECIFICALLY STATES THAT THIS REGISTRATION STATEMENT SHALL THEREAFTER BECOME EFFECTIVE IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 8(a) OF THE SECURITIES ACT OF 1933, AS AMENDED OR UNTIL THIS REGISTRATION STATEMENT SHALL BECOME EFFECTIVE ON SUCH DATE AS THE COMMISSION, ACTING PURSUANT TO SUCH SECTION 8(a), MAY DETERMINE.

The information in this prospectus is not complete and may be changed. We may not sell these securities until the registration statement filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission is effective. This prospectus is not an offer to sell these securities and it is not soliciting an offer to buy these securities in any state where the offer or sale is not permitted.

SUBJECT TO COMPLETION, DATED FEBRUARY 22, 1999

CORPORATE OFFICE PROPERTIES TRUST  
\$250,000,000  
COMMON SHARES OF BENEFICIAL INTEREST  
PREFERRED SHARES OF BENEFICIAL INTEREST  
WARRANTS TO PURCHASE COMMON SHARES  
WARRANTS TO PURCHASE PREFERRED SHARES

This prospectus pertains to the offer and sale by Corporate Office Properties Trust of one or more of its securities of the type identified above. Corporate Office Properties Trust is referred to in this prospectus as "we," "us" or "COPT."

We may offer and sell any combination of the securities described in this prospectus in one or more offerings up to a total dollar amount of \$250,000,000. This prospectus provides you with a general description of the securities we may offer. Each time we offer securities, we will provide a prospectus supplement which will accompany this prospectus. This prospectus may not be used to sell these securities unless accompanied by a prospectus supplement. The prospectus supplement will contain specific information about the terms of the securities being offered at that time. The prospectus supplement may also add, update or change information contained in this prospectus. You should read both this prospectus and any prospectus supplement, including the documents we have referred to under the heading "Where You Can Find More Information," together with any additional information you may need to make your investment decision.

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BEFORE INVESTING IN OUR SECURITIES, YOU SHOULD REVIEW THE SECTION OF THIS PROSPECTUS CALLED "RISK FACTORS" WHICH BEGINS ON PAGE 4.

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Our Common Shares are listed on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol "OFC." On February 19, 1999, the closing sale price of our Common Shares, as reported on the New York Stock Exchange, was \$7.50. To ensure that we maintain our qualification as a real estate investment trust, ownership by any person is limited to 9.8% of the lesser of the number or value of outstanding Common Shares, subject to certain exceptions.

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NEITHER THE SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION NOR ANY STATE SECURITIES COMMISSION HAS APPROVED OR DISAPPROVED OF THESE SECURITIES OR DETERMINED IF THIS PROSPECTUS IS TRUTHFUL OR COMPLETE. ANY REPRESENTATION TO THE CONTRARY IS A CRIMINAL OFFENSE.

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SUMMARY

THIS PROSPECTUS SUMMARY CALLS YOUR ATTENTION TO SELECTED INFORMATION IN THIS DOCUMENT, BUT IT DOES NOT CONTAIN ALL THE INFORMATION THAT IS IMPORTANT TO YOU. TO UNDERSTAND US AND THE SECURITIES THAT MAY BE OFFERED THROUGH THIS PROSPECTUS, YOU SHOULD READ THE ENTIRE PROSPECTUS CAREFULLY, ESPECIALLY THE "RISK FACTORS" SECTION AND THE DOCUMENTS WE REFER YOU TO IN THE SECTION CALLED "WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION" BEGINNING ON PAGE 30.

OUR COMPANY

GENERAL. We are a fully-integrated, self-managed real estate investment trust ("REIT") that focuses principally on the acquisition, management, ownership and development of suburban office properties in targeted suburban submarkets principally in the Mid-Atlantic region of the United States. As of December 31, 1998:

- we owned 48 suburban office properties in Maryland, Pennsylvania and New Jersey containing approximately 4.3 million rentable square feet;
- we owned nine retail properties containing approximately 639,000 rentable square feet;
- our properties were 98.0% leased;
- we had options to purchase from related parties 156 acres of land contiguous to certain of our office properties; and
- we were developing three office properties totaling 269,000 square feet.

We conduct almost all of our operations through our operating partnership, Corporate Office Properties, L.P., a Delaware limited partnership. We are the managing general partner of Corporate Office Properties, L.P. Interests in our operating partnership are in the form of common and preferred units. As of December 31, 1998, we owned approximately 85% of the outstanding common units and approximately 32% of the outstanding preferred units. The remaining common and preferred units in our operating partnership were owned by third parties which included certain of our officers and Trustees. If all preferred units were converted into common units, we would have owned approximately 62% of the common units as of December 31, 1998.

We are the successor to a corporation organized in 1988 and elected to be taxed as a REIT commencing with the taxable year ended December 31, 1992. We believe that we are organized and have operated in a manner that permits us to satisfy the requirements for taxation as a REIT under the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, and we intend to continue to operate in such a manner. If we qualify for taxation as a REIT, we generally will not be subject to federal income tax on our taxable income that is distributed to our shareholders. A REIT is subject to a number of organizational and operational requirements, including a requirement that it currently distribute to its shareholders at least 95% of its annual taxable income (excluding net capital gains).

Our executive offices are located at 401 City Avenue, Suite 615, Bala Cynwyd, PA 19004 and our telephone number is (610) 538-1800.

FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

THIS PROSPECTUS AND OUR DOCUMENTS INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE HEREIN CONTAIN "FORWARD-LOOKING" STATEMENTS, AS DEFINED IN THE PRIVATE SECURITIES LITIGATION REFORM ACT OF 1995, THAT ARE BASED ON OUR CURRENT EXPECTATIONS, ESTIMATES AND PROJECTIONS. STATEMENTS THAT ARE NOT HISTORICAL FACTS, INCLUDING STATEMENTS ABOUT OUR BELIEFS AND EXPECTATIONS, ARE FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS. THESE STATEMENTS ARE NOT GUARANTEES OF FUTURE PERFORMANCE, EVENTS OR RESULTS AND INVOLVE POTENTIAL RISKS AND UNCERTAINTIES. ACCORDINGLY, ACTUAL RESULTS MAY DIFFER MATERIALLY. WE UNDERTAKE NO OBLIGATION TO UPDATE PUBLICLY ANY FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS, WHETHER AS A RESULT OF NEW INFORMATION, FUTURE

EVENTS OR OTHERWISE.

IMPORTANT FACTS THAT MAY AFFECT THESE EXPECTATIONS, ESTIMATES OR PROJECTIONS INCLUDE, BUT ARE NOT LIMITED TO: OUR ABILITY TO BORROW ON FAVORABLE TERMS; GENERAL ECONOMIC AND BUSINESS CONDITIONS, WHICH WILL, AMONG OTHER THINGS AFFECT OFFICE PROPERTY DEMAND AND RENTS, TENANT CREDITWORTHINESS AND FINANCING AVAILABILITY; ADVERSE CHANGES IN THE REAL ESTATE MARKETS INCLUDING, AMONG OTHER THINGS, COMPETITION WITH OTHER COMPANIES; RISKS OF REAL ESTATE ACQUISITION AND DEVELOPMENT; GOVERNMENTAL ACTIONS AND INITIATIVES; ENVIRONMENTAL REQUIREMENTS; AND THE OTHER FACTORS DESCRIBED IN THIS PROSPECTUS UNDER THE HEADING "RISK FACTORS" BEGINNING ON PAGE 4.

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#### RISK FACTORS

BEFORE YOU INVEST IN OUR SECURITIES, YOU SHOULD BE AWARE THAT THERE ARE VARIOUS RISKS. WE HAVE DESCRIBED FOR YOU BELOW SOME OF THE RISKS INVOLVED IN INVESTING IN THE COMMON SHARES WHICH MAY BE OFFERED UNDER THIS PROSPECTUS. A WORD OF CAUTION: THE LIST BELOW IS NOT A COMPLETE LIST. YOU SHOULD CAREFULLY CONSIDER EACH OF THESE FACTORS AND ALL OF THE INFORMATION BOTH IN THIS PROSPECTUS AND THE DOCUMENTS WE REFER YOU TO IN THE SECTION CALLED "WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION" BEGINNING ON PAGE 30.

#### WE MAY INCUR PROBLEMS WITH OUR REAL ESTATE FINANCING

GENERALLY. Our strategy is to operate with higher debt levels than most other REITs. Our organizational documents do not limit the amount of indebtedness that we may incur. Most of our properties have been mortgaged to collateralize indebtedness. In addition, we will rely on borrowings to fund some or all of the costs of new property acquisitions, capital expenditures and other items.

As of December 31, 1998, our total outstanding debt was \$306.8 million. Our debt to total market capitalization ratio was 58.7% based upon a market price for Common Shares of \$7.125 on December 31, 1998. Total market capitalization is the sum of total debt plus the value of all outstanding Common Shares and common units at such market price and the total Preferred Shares and preferred units at their liquidation value.

Payments of principal and interest on our debt may leave us with insufficient cash to operate our properties or pay distributions to our shareholders required to maintain our qualification as a REIT. We are also subject to the risks that:

- We may not be able to refinance our existing indebtedness, or refinance on terms as favorable as the terms of our existing indebtedness;
- Certain debt agreements of our operating partnership could restrict the ability of our operating partnership to make cash distributions to us, which could result in reduced distributions to our shareholders or the need to incur additional debt to fund distributions; and
- If we are unable to pay our debt service on time, our lenders could foreclose on our properties securing such debt and in some cases other properties and assets which we own. A number of our loans are cross-collateralized, which means that separate groups of properties from our portfolio secure each of these loans. More importantly, almost all of our loans are cross-defaulted, which means that failure to pay interest or principal on any of our loans will create a default on certain of our other loans. In addition, if we are in default and the value of the properties securing a loan is less than the loan balance, the lender may require payment from our other assets.

As of December 31, 1998, approximately 19.6% of our total debt had adjustable interest rates. Consequently, if short term interest rates were to rise, our debt service payments would increase, which would lower our net income and could decrease our distributions to our shareholders.

WE MUST REFINANCE OUR MORTGAGE DEBT IN THE FUTURE. Over the next five years, our scheduled debt payments, including maturities, are as follows:

<TABLE>

<S>	<C>
1999	\$ 14,338,000
2000	179,035,000
2001	5,102,000
2002	6,871,000

&lt;/TABLE&gt;

Of the debt due in 2000, we have the right to extend \$100.0 million to 2002 and approximately \$76.8 million to 2001.

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We do not expect our operations to generate enough cash flow to repay some or all of this debt without additional borrowings or new equity investment. If we cannot refinance, extend the debt due dates, or raise additional equity prior to the date when our debt matures, we would default on our existing debt.

#### WE RELY ON A FEW TENANTS FOR MOST OF OUR REVENUE

As of December 31, 1998, ten tenants accounted for 50.6% of our annualized office rents. Two of these tenants accounted for approximately 27.0% of our total annualized office rents. Our largest tenant is the United States federal government, two agencies of which lease space in nine of our office properties. These leases represented approximately 17.0% of our total annualized office rents as of December 31, 1998. Generally, these government leases provide for one-year terms or provide for one-year termination rights. The government may terminate its leases if, among other reasons, Congress fails to provide funding. The Congress of the United States has appropriated funds for these leases through September of 1999. The second largest tenant, Unisys Corporation, represented 10.0% of our annualized office rents as of December 31, 1998 and a larger percentage of our net operating income since Unisys pays all of its property operating expenses directly. Unisys occupies space in three of our office properties. If either the federal government or Unisys fails to make rental payments to us, or if the federal government elects to terminate several of its leases and the space cannot be re-leased on satisfactory terms, our financial performance and ability to make expected distributions to shareholders would be materially adversely affected.

#### OUR PROPERTIES ARE LOCATED MAINLY IN ONE REGION -- THE MID-ATLANTIC

All of our office properties are located in the Mid-Atlantic region of the United States, and 58.7% of our total annualized office rents as of December 31, 1998 is earned from our office properties located in the Baltimore-Washington corridor. Consequently, we do not have a broad geographic distribution of our properties. As a result, a decline in the real estate market or economic conditions generally in the Mid-Atlantic region would adversely affect us.

#### WE MAY HAVE DIFFICULTY MANAGING OUR RAPID GROWTH

We have grown rapidly. In 1998, we completed numerous acquisitions, expanding our total portfolio of properties from 1.9 million square feet to 5.0 million square feet. Our recent acquisition of properties from Constellation Properties, Inc. is our largest acquisition to date. We also plan to expand in the future. In order to successfully manage our growth, we must, among other things, integrate the personnel and operations of the acquired properties while effectively managing our corporate overhead costs. We cannot assure you that we will be able to accomplish these goals. If we fail to successfully manage our growth, we could be materially adversely affected.

#### THE LEVEL OF OUR SHAREHOLDER DISTRIBUTIONS COULD DECLINE

We intend to make regular quarterly cash distributions to our shareholders. However, distribution levels depend on a number of factors, some of which are beyond our control.

Commencing on October 1, 1999, holders of preferred units in our operating partnership will be able to convert those units into common units and, if current distribution levels remain unchanged, receive increased distributions. These increased distributions would total approximately \$2.0 million annually if all holders of preferred units converted. Although we believe that we would have sufficient cash flow to pay that increase, such conversion could require a reduction in per share distributions on our Common Shares and common units or restrict our ability to increase these distributions in the future. Our loan agreements also contain provisions which could also restrict future distributions. Our ability to sustain our current distribution level also will be dependent, in part, on other matters including continued property occupancy and profitability of tenants, the amount of future capital expenditures and expenses relating to our properties, the level of leasing activity and future rental rates, the strength of the commercial real estate market, competition, the costs of compliance with environmental and other laws, our corporate overhead levels, the amount of uninsured losses and our decisions whether to reinvest rather than distribute cash available for distribution.

## A THIRD PARTY COULD HAVE DIFFICULTY IN SEEKING TO ACQUIRE CONTROL OF US

CONSTELLATION'S COMMON SHARE OWNERSHIP AND OUR OWNERSHIP LIMITS ARE IMPORTANT FACTORS. Constellation Properties, Inc. currently owns approximately 41.8% of our outstanding Common Shares. Under our charter, two-thirds of the outstanding Common Shares must approve a merger, a sale of substantially all our assets, any amendment to our charter, the removal of a Trustee, and the termination of COPT. Because Constellation Properties, Inc. owns more than one-third of our voting stock, it has the ability to veto any of those transactions, which will make it more difficult for any third party to acquire control of us. Such change of control could involve a premium over the market price for the Common Shares or other attributes that the shareholders may consider desirable. In addition, our charter limits ownership of our Common Shares by any single shareholder to 9.8% of the number of the outstanding shares or 9.8% of the value of the outstanding shares. We call these restrictions the "Ownership Limit." Our charter allows our Board of Trustees to exempt shareholders from the Ownership Limit, and the Board has exempted Constellation Properties, Inc. from the Ownership Limit.

OUR CHARTER PROVIDES OTHER POTENTIAL DEFENSES. Subject to the requirements of the New York Stock Exchange, the Board of Trustees has the authority without shareholder approval to issue additional securities of COPT on terms that could delay, defer or prevent a change in control of COPT. In addition, our Board has the authority to reclassify any of our unissued Common Shares into Preferred Shares. The Board may issue Preferred Shares with such preferences, rights, powers and restrictions as the Board may determine. Our Board has already issued the Series A Preferred Shares, which have features which make it harder for a third party to acquire control of us. See "Description of Shares--Series A Preferred Shares" beginning on page 12.

Our Board is divided into three classes of Trustees. The terms of the first, second and third classes of the Trustees will expire in 1999, 2000 and 2001, respectively. In the future, we will elect Trustees for staggered three-year terms. Staggered elections make it more difficult for a third party to acquire control of us. See "Description of Shares--Classification of Board, Vacancies and Removal of Trustees" on page 17.

THE MARYLAND BUSINESS STATUTES ALSO IMPOSE POTENTIAL RESTRICTIONS. Various Maryland laws may have the effect of discouraging offers to acquire us, even if the acquisition would be advantageous to shareholders. Our Bylaws exempt us from such laws, but our Board of Trustees can change our Bylaws at any time to make these provisions applicable to us. See "Description of Shares--Possible Antitakeover Effect of Certain Provisions of Maryland Law" on page 18.

## OUR PERFORMANCE IS SUBJECT TO RISKS ASSOCIATED WITH THE REAL ESTATE INDUSTRY

GENERALLY. We earn income from renting our properties. Our operating costs are mostly fixed costs, and do not necessarily fluctuate in relation to changes in our rental income. This means our costs will not necessarily decline even if our revenues do. Also, our operating costs may increase while our revenues do not.

For new tenants or upon lease expiration for existing tenants, we generally must make improvements and pay other tenant-related costs for which we may not receive increased rents. We also make building-related capital improvements for which tenants may not reimburse us.

If our properties do not generate income sufficient to meet our operating expenses and capital costs, we may have to borrow additional amounts to cover these costs. We may have lower profits or even incur losses. Moreover, there may be less or no cash available for distributions to our shareholders.

OUR LEASE RENEWALS POSE CERTAIN UNCERTAINTIES. When leases expire at our properties, our tenants may not renew or may renew but on terms less favorable to us than the terms of the original lease. Our scheduled lease expirations, as a percentage of total annualized rents for the next five years, are:

<TABLE>

<S>		<C>
	1999	6.3%
	2000	9.1%
	2001	9.3%
	2002	14.3%
	2003	15.1%

</TABLE>

If a tenant leaves, we can expect to incur a vacancy for some period of time as well as higher capital costs than if a tenant renews. In either case, our net income and ability to make expected distributions to our shareholders could be adversely affected.

COMPETITION MAY CAUSE DIFFICULTY IN OUR LEASING ACTIVITY. The commercial real estate market is highly competitive. Numerous commercial properties compete for tenants with our properties and our competitors are building additional properties in the markets in which our properties are located. Some of these competing properties may be newer or have more desirable locations than our properties. If the market does not absorb newly constructed space, market vacancies will increase and market rents may decline. As a result, we may have difficulty leasing space at our properties and we may be forced to lower the rents we charge on new leases to compete effectively.

COMPETITION MAY CAUSE DIFFICULTY IN OUR STRATEGY OF ACQUIRING NEW PROPERTY. We compete for the purchase of commercial property with many entities, including other publicly traded commercial REITs. Many of our competitors have substantially greater financial resources than ours. In addition, our competitors may be willing to accept lower returns on their investments. If our competitors prevent us from buying the amount of properties that we have targeted for acquisition, we may not be able to meet our property acquisition and development goals.

OUR DEVELOPMENT AND CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITIES POSE CERTAIN RISKS. Although the majority of our investments are in currently leased properties, to a lesser extent we also develop properties, including some which are not fully pre-leased. When we develop properties, we run the risks that development costs will exceed our budgets, that we will experience construction or development delays and that projected leasing will not occur.

WE ARE SUBJECT TO POSSIBLE ENVIRONMENTAL LIABILITIES. We are subject to various federal, state and local environmental laws. These laws can impose liability on property owners or operators for the costs of removal or remediation of certain hazardous substances released on a property, even if the property owner was not responsible for the release of the hazardous substances. The presence of hazardous substances on our properties may adversely affect occupancy and our ability to sell or borrow against those properties. In addition to the costs of government claims under environmental laws, private plaintiffs may bring claims for personal injury or similar reasons. Various laws also impose liability for the costs of removal or remediation of hazardous substances at the disposal or treatment facility. Anyone who arranges for the disposal or treatment of hazardous substances at such a facility is potentially liable under such laws. These laws often impose liability whether or not the facility is or ever was owned or operated by such person.

WE CANNOT SELL OUR PROPERTIES QUICKLY. Equity real estate investments like our properties are relatively difficult to sell and convert to cash quickly. Such illiquidity will tend to limit our ability to vary our portfolio of properties promptly in response to changes in economic or other conditions. In addition, the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, imposes certain penalties on a REIT that sells properties held for less than four years. As a result, we may be unable to sell a property at an advantageous time.

WE ARE SUBJECT TO OTHER POSSIBLE LIABILITIES. Our properties may be subject to other risks relating to current or future laws including laws benefiting disabled persons, and other state or local zoning, construction or other regulations. These laws may require significant property modifications in the future for which we may not have budgeted and could result in fines being levied against us. In addition, although we believe that we adequately insure our properties, we are subject to the risk that our insurance may not cover all of the costs to restore a property

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which is damaged by a fire or other similar catastrophic event. The occurrence of any of these risks would have an adverse impact on our cash flows and ability to make distributions to shareholders.

WE AND OUR SHAREHOLDERS ARE SUBJECT TO CERTAIN TAX RISKS

OUR FAILURE TO QUALIFY AS A REIT WOULD HAVE ADVERSE TAX CONSEQUENCES. We believe that, since 1992, we have qualified for taxation as a REIT for federal income tax purposes. We plan to continue to meet the requirements for taxation as a REIT. Many of these requirements, however, are highly technical and complex. The determination that we are a REIT requires an analysis of various factual matters and circumstances that may not be totally within our control. For example, to qualify as a REIT, at least 95% of our gross income



must come from certain sources that are itemized in the REIT tax laws. We are also required to distribute to shareholders at least 95% of our REIT taxable income (excluding capital gains). The fact that we hold most of our assets through our operating partnership and its subsidiaries further complicates the application of the REIT requirements. Even a technical or inadvertent mistake could jeopardize our REIT status. Furthermore, Congress and the IRS might make changes to the tax laws and regulations, and the courts might issue new rulings that make it more difficult, or impossible for us to remain qualified as a REIT.

If we fail to qualify as a REIT, we would be subject to federal income tax at regular corporate rates. Also, unless the IRS granted us relief under certain statutory provisions, we would remain disqualified as a REIT for four years following the year we first fail to qualify. If we fail to qualify as a REIT, we would have to pay significant income taxes and would therefore have less money available for investments or for distributions to our shareholders. This would likely have a significant adverse effect on the value of our securities. In addition, we would no longer be required to make any distributions to our shareholders.

WE HAVE CERTAIN DISTRIBUTION REQUIREMENTS. As a REIT, we must distribute 95% of our annual taxable income, which limits the amount of cash we have available for other business purposes, including amounts to fund our growth. Also, it is possible that because of the differences between the time we actually receive revenue or pay expenses and the period we report those items for distribution purposes, we may have to borrow funds on a short-term basis to meet the 95% distribution requirement.

WE ARE ALSO SUBJECT TO OTHER TAX LIABILITIES. Even if we qualify as a REIT, we may be subject to certain federal, state and local taxes on our income and property. Any such taxes would reduce our operating cash flow.

When we purchased certain office properties located in Pennsylvania, we only purchased 89% of the partnership which owned each property. The remaining 11% will be acquired by the operating partnership not later than December 2000. This structure is intended to comply with informal advice from the Pennsylvania Department of Revenue that such two-stage transfers are not subject to Pennsylvania real estate transfer taxes. However, we have not obtained a formal ruling from the Pennsylvania Department of Revenue on this issue. If the Pennsylvania Department of Revenue were to successfully change this structure, or the remaining interests were required to be transferred for financing or other purposes prior to October 14, 2000, we would be subject to Pennsylvania state and local transfer taxes of approximately \$2.7 million.

A LIMITED PARTNER MAY INCUR TAX UPON EXCHANGE OF UNITS. If a limited partner of our operating partnership exchanges units for Common Shares, the tax effect to the limited partner will be the same as a sale of such units. Consequently, such limited partner may have a taxable gain on such exchange. It is possible that his or her tax liability could exceed the value of the Common Shares received upon such exchange. Also, a limited partner's ability to sell enough Common Shares to raise cash to pay such a tax liability may be restricted, which would further reduce the value of those shares to the limited partner.

ISSUANCES OF LARGE AMOUNTS OF OUR COMMON SHARES COULD CAUSE OUR SHARE PRICE TO DECLINE

As of December 31, 1998, 16,801,876 Common Shares were outstanding. This prospectus may be used for the issuance of additional Common Shares. If we issue a significant number of Common Shares in a short period of time, that activity may cause a decrease in the market price of the Common Shares.

WE LACK CONTROL OVER OUR MANAGEMENT COMPANY

We receive substantially all of the economic benefits of Corporate Office Management, Inc. ("COMI"), the company which manages our properties. However, we are not able to elect directors or officers of COMI because we hold only 1% of COMI's voting stock and the balance of COMI's voting stock is owned by persons who are not our officers or Trustees. Therefore, we cannot directly influence the operations of COMI. As a result, the board of directors and management of COMI may implement business policies or decisions that would not have been implemented by us. These policies or decisions could be adverse to our interests or lead to adverse financial results, which could adversely impact our net operating income and cash flow.

Although we believe that the contracts between us and COMI for management services are no less favorable to us than those which could be obtained from a third party, such contracts are not the result of arm's length negotiations and, therefore, we cannot assure you that those contracts are just as favorable.

CERTAIN OFFICERS AND TRUSTEES OF COPT HAVE POTENTIAL CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

The Chairman of our Board, our Chief Executive Officer, and certain other officers own direct and indirect interests in office properties and other real estate assets in which we have an interest and the interests of these persons may give rise to certain conflicts of interest concerning the fulfillment of their responsibilities as our officers and Trustees. We have adopted certain policies designed to minimize conflicts of interest. We cannot assure you, however, that these policies will be successful in eliminating the influence of such conflicts, and if they are not successful, decisions could be made that might fail to reflect fully the interests of all shareholders of COPT. For example, the Chairman of our Board of Trustees and our Chief Executive Officer own a significant share of the units of our operating partnership. If our operating partnership sells or refinances certain of the properties that these officers contributed to the operating partnership, they could suffer adverse tax consequences. Therefore, they could oppose such a transaction.

WE ARE DEPENDENT ON OUR KEY PERSONNEL

We are dependent on the efforts of our Trustees and executive officers, including Mr. Shidler, our Chairman of the Board of Trustees, Mr. Hamlin, our Chief Executive Officer, and Mr. Griffin, our President. The loss of any of their services could have an adverse effect on our operations. Although certain of our officers have entered into employment agreements with us, we cannot assure you that they will remain employed with us.

WE MAY CHANGE OUR POLICIES WITHOUT SHAREHOLDER APPROVAL

Our Board of Trustees determines all of our policies, including our investment, financing and distribution policies. Although our Board of Trustees has no current plans to do so, it may amend or revise these policies at any time without a vote of our shareholders. Policy changes could adversely affect our financial condition, results of operations, or the market price of the Common Shares or our ability to pay dividends or distributions.

WE ARE SUBJECT TO THE "YEAR 2000 RISK"

The "Year 2000 Risk" arises because certain computer programs have been written using two digits rather than four to define the applicable years. Consequently, date-sensitive software may recognize a date using "00" as the year 1900 rather than the year 2000. This could result in system failures or miscalculations causing disruptions of operations, including, among others, building system failures, a temporary inability to process transactions, send invoices, or engage in similar normal business activities. Our accounting software vendor has certified that its package of software which we use is year 2000 compliant; however, we have not independently determined that this package is year 2000 compliant and we cannot assure you it is free of Year 2000 Risk.

We rely on third-party suppliers for a number of key services. If supplier operations are interrupted due to the Year 2000 Risk, that interruption could affect our operations. Although some of our suppliers have assured us that they are year 2000 compliant, we cannot assure you that our vendors are free of Year 2000 Risk. We also depend upon our tenants for revenue and cash flow. Interruptions in tenant operations due to the Year 2000 Risk could result in reduced revenue, increased receivable levels and cash flow reductions.

USE OF PROCEEDS

Unless otherwise indicated in an accompanying prospectus supplement, we intend to use the net proceeds from the sale of the securities offered by this prospectus for general trust purposes, including capital expenditures, acquisition or development of additional properties, repayment of indebtedness, repurchases of our Common Shares and meeting our working capital needs.

RATIOS OF EARNINGS TO COMBINED FIXED CHARGES  
AND PREFERRED SHARE DIVIDENDS

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

<TABLE>  
<CAPTION>

	Years ended				
	1998	1997	1996	1995	1994
<S>	<C>	<C>	<C>	<C>	<C>
Ratio of earnings to combined fixed					

charges and Preferred Share dividends	1.33	(A)	1.23	1.21	1.27
	----	----	----	----	----
	----	----	----	----	----

</TABLE>

For purposes of calculating the ratio of earnings to combined fixed charges and Preferred Share dividends, earnings were calculated by adding fixed charges, excluding Preferred Share dividends, and minority interests of common unitholders to net income. Fixed charges consist of interest costs, amortization of debt issuance costs, and distributions to preferred unitholders.

(A) During the year ended December 31, 1997, COPT's net income included a non-recurring expense of \$1,353,000 associated with the termination of an advisory agreement. As a result, earnings were inadequate to cover fixed charges by approximately \$902,000 in the year ended December 31, 1997. If such non-recurring expense had not been incurred, COPT's ratio of earnings to combined fixed charges and Preferred Share dividends for 1997 would have been 1.12.

#### GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF THE OFFERED SECURITIES

We may use this prospectus to offer our Common Shares, Preferred Shares, warrants to purchase Common Shares or warrants to purchase Preferred Shares, which we refer to collectively as the "securities", or any combination of the foregoing, either individually or as units consisting of two or more such securities. The aggregate offering price of our securities will not exceed \$250,000,000. If securities offered by this prospectus are offered as units, the terms of the units will be set forth in a related prospectus supplement.

#### DESCRIPTION OF SHARES

THE FOLLOWING SUMMARY OF THE TERMS OF THE SHARES OF CORPORATE OFFICE PROPERTIES TRUST ("COPT") DOES NOT PURPORT TO BE COMPLETE AND IS SUBJECT TO AND QUALIFIED IN ITS ENTIRETY BY REFERENCE TO THE DECLARATION OF TRUST AND THE BYLAWS OF COPT, COPIES OF WHICH ARE EXHIBITS TO THE REGISTRATION STATEMENT OF WHICH THIS PROSPECTUS IS A PART.

#### GENERAL

The Declaration of Trust provides that COPT may issue up to 45,000,000 Common Shares and 5,000,000 preferred shares of beneficial interest, par value \$.01 per share (the "Preferred Shares"). As of December 31, 1998, there were 16,801,876 Common Shares and 984,308 Series A Convertible Preferred Shares (the "Series A Preferred Shares") issued and outstanding. The Declaration of Trust contains a provision permitting the Board of Trustees, without any action by the shareholders of COPT, to amend the Declaration of Trust to increase or decrease the aggregate number of shares of beneficial interest or the number of shares of any class of shares of beneficial interest that COPT has authority to issue. The additional shares of beneficial interest, which could include Common Shares,

will be available for issuance without further action by COPT's shareholders, subject to the requirements of the New York Stock Exchange ("NYSE").

Both Title 8 of the Corporations and Associations Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland, as amended (the "Maryland REIT Law") and the Declaration of Trust provide that no shareholder of COPT will be personally liable for any obligation of COPT solely as a result of such shareholder's status as a shareholder of COPT. The Declaration of Trust provides that COPT shall have the power, to the maximum extent permitted by Maryland law in effect from time to time, to obligate itself to indemnify, and to pay or reimburse reasonable expenses in advance of a final disposition of a proceeding to, any shareholder or any former shareholder from and against any claim or liability to which such person may become subject or which such person may incur by reason of his status as a present or former shareholder of COPT. The Bylaws of COPT obligate it, to the maximum extent permitted by Maryland law, to indemnify any shareholder or any former shareholder (including, without limitation, any individual who, while a shareholder and at the request of COPT, serves or has served another real estate investment trust, corporation, partnership, joint venture, trust, employee benefit plan or any other enterprise as a trustee, director, officer, partner, employee or agent of such real estate investment trust, corporation, partnership, joint venture, trust, employee benefit plan or other enterprise) who has been successful, on the merits or otherwise, in the defense of a proceeding to which he was made a party by reason of being a shareholder, against reasonable expenses incurred by him in connection with the proceeding. Inasmuch as COPT carries public liability insurance which it considers adequate, any risk of personal liability to shareholders not covered by the Maryland REIT Law is limited to situations in which COPT's assets plus

its insurance coverage would be insufficient to satisfy the claims against COPT and its shareholders.

#### COMMON SHARES

All Common Shares offered hereby will be duly authorized, fully paid and nonassessable. Subject to the preferential rights of any other shares or series of beneficial interest and to the provisions of the Declaration of Trust regarding the restriction on transfer of Common Shares, holders of Common Shares are entitled to receive dividends on such shares if, as and when authorized and declared by the Board of Trustees out of assets legally available therefor and to share ratably in the assets of COPT legally available for distribution to its shareholders in the event of its liquidation, dissolution or winding-up after payment of, or adequate provision for, all known debts and liabilities of COPT.

Subject to the provisions of the Declaration of Trust regarding restrictions on transfer of shares of beneficial interest, each outstanding Common Share entitles the holder thereof to one vote on all matters submitted to a vote of shareholders, including the election of Trustees, and, except as provided with respect to any other class or series of shares of beneficial interest, the holders of such Common Shares possess the exclusive voting power. There is no cumulative voting in the election of Trustees, which means that the holders of a majority of the outstanding Common Shares can elect all of the Trustees then standing for election. Constellation Properties, Inc. is currently entitled to appoint two of the nine Trustees. See "Description of Common Shares--Series A Preferred Shares" below.

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

The Declaration of Trust provides for approval by a majority of the votes cast by holders of Common Shares entitled to vote on the matter in all situations permitting or requiring action by the shareholders, except with respect to: (i) the election of Trustees (which requires a plurality of all the votes cast at a meeting of shareholders of COPT at which a quorum is present), (ii) the removal of Trustees (which requires the affirmative vote of the holders of two-thirds of the outstanding shares of beneficial interest of COPT entitled to vote generally in the election of Trustees, which action can only be taken for cause by vote at a shareholder meeting), (iii) the merger of COPT with another entity or the sale (or other disposition) of all or substantially all of the assets of COPT (which requires the affirmative vote of the holders of two-thirds of the outstanding shares of beneficial interest entitled to vote on the matter), (iv) the amendment of the Declaration of Trust (which requires the affirmative vote of two-thirds of all the votes entitled to be cast on the matter), (v) the termination of COPT (which requires the affirmative vote of two-

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thirds of the outstanding shares of beneficial interest entitled to be cast on the matter); and (vi) certain voting rights of Constellation Properties, Inc. (See "Series A Preferred Shares" below). The Declaration of Trust permits the Trustees, without any action by the holders of Common Shares, (a) by a two-thirds vote, to amend the Declaration of Trust from time to time to qualify as a real estate investment trust under the Code or the Maryland REIT Law and (b) by a majority vote to amend the Declaration of Trust to increase or decrease the aggregate number of shares of beneficial interest or the number of shares of any class of shares of beneficial interest that COPT has authority to issue.

#### CLASSIFICATION OR RECLASSIFICATION OF COMMON SHARES OR PREFERRED SHARES

The Declaration of Trust authorizes the Board of Trustees to reclassify any unissued shares of Common or Preferred Shares into other classes or series of classes of shares and to establish the number of shares in each class or series and to set the preferences, conversion and other rights, voting powers, restrictions, limitations and restrictions on ownership, limitations as to dividends or other distributions, qualifications and terms or conditions of redemption for each such class or series. Thus, in addition to the Series A Preferred Shares, the Board of Trustees could authorize the issuance of other Preferred Shares with terms and conditions which could also have the effect of delaying, deferring or preventing a change in control of COPT or other transaction that might involve a premium over the then prevailing market price for Common Shares or other attributes that the shareholders may consider to be desirable.

#### SERIES A PREFERRED SHARES

Of the 5,000,000 Preferred Shares authorized, the Declaration of Trust designates 1,025,000 Series A Convertible Preferred Shares, par value \$.01 per

share ("Series A Preferred Shares"), of which 984,308 Series A Preferred Shares were issued to Constellation Properties, Inc., with terms as follows:

VOTING RIGHTS. Except as set forth below and as required by applicable law, the Series A Preferred Shares do not entitle the holder thereof to any vote. If an amendment to COPT's Declaration of Trust or a reclassification of Preferred Shares would amend, alter or repeal any of the rights, preferences or powers of the Series A Preferred Shares, then the affirmative vote of holders of two-thirds of the outstanding Series A Preferred Shares, voting as a separate class, would be required for its adoption. Constellation Properties, Inc. has the right to designate up to two members of the Board of Trustees depending on Constellation Properties, Inc.'s ownership percentage of outstanding shares. This right is set forth as a term of the Series A Preferred Shares, such that so long as Constellation Properties, Inc. holds any Series A Preferred Shares (and it beneficially owns 30% of the Common Shares), Constellation Properties, Inc. will have the right to designate up to two Trustees. If Constellation Properties, Inc.'s Common Share beneficial holdings fall below 30% but above 15%, Constellation Properties, Inc. may designate one Trustee.

DIVIDENDS. Holders of Series A Preferred Shares will be entitled to cumulative dividends, payable quarterly and in preference to dividends payable on Common Shares, accruing from the date of issue, when, as and if declared by the Board of Trustees out of funds legally available therefor, at the annual rate of \$1.375 per share, which is 5.5% of the \$25.00 liquidation preference of the Series A Preferred Shares.

LIQUIDATION. In the event of any liquidation, dissolution or winding-up of COPT's affairs, holders of Series A Preferred Shares will be entitled to receive, out of the assets of COPT legally available for distribution to its shareholders, the sum of \$25.00 for each Preferred Share, plus an amount equal to all dividends accrued and unpaid on each such Series A Preferred Share up to the date fixed for distribution, before any distribution may be made to holders of COPT's Common Shares.

CONVERSION. The Series A Preferred Shares are convertible into Common Shares on the basis of 1.8748 Common Shares for each Series A Preferred Share (subject to adjustment upon certain events, such as dividends paid in Common Shares) as follows:

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<TABLE>  
<CAPTION>

Conversion Date	Series A Preferred Shares	Common Shares if converted
-----	-----	-----
<S>	<C>	<C>
September 28, 2000	865,566	1,622,763
October 22, 2000	72,509	135,940
December 30, 2000	46,233	86,678
	-----	-----
Total	984,308	1,845,381
	-----	-----

</TABLE>

Notwithstanding the foregoing, Series A Preferred Shares held by Constellation Properties, Inc. may not be converted into Common Shares if after such conversion Constellation Properties, Inc. and its affiliates would own 45% or more of COPT's outstanding Common Shares, although in the event of such attempted conversion, Constellation Properties, Inc. may elect to receive dividends issued on the Common Shares it would have received if the conversion had been completed, in lieu of dividends on its Preferred Shares.

ADDITIONAL PARITY AND JUNIOR SHARES. Any shares issued which are senior to the Series A Preferred Shares require an affirmative vote of two-thirds of the holders of Series A Preferred Shares. COPT may issue any class of capital shares with voting rights which are on parity with or junior to the Series A Preferred Shares without consent of the holders of Series A Preferred Shares. However, an affirmative vote of two-thirds of the holders of Series A Preferred Shares is required for any issuance or sale of greater than \$50 million in Common Shares at a price less than \$9.50 per share.

#### ISSUANCE OF ADDITIONAL PREFERRED SHARES

The following description of our Preferred Shares of beneficial interest sets forth general terms and provisions of the Preferred Shares to which any prospectus supplement may relate. The statements below describing the Preferred Shares are in all respects subject to and qualified in their entirety

by reference to our Declaration of Trust, Bylaws and any applicable amendment to the Declaration of Trust designating terms of a series of Preferred Shares (a "Designating Amendment"). The Preferred Shares, when issued, will be fully paid and non-assessable. Because our Board of Trustees has the power to establish the preferences, powers and rights of each series of Preferred Shares, subject to the rights of the holders of the Series A Preferred Shares, our Board may afford the holders of any series of Preferred Shares preferences, powers and rights, voting or otherwise, senior to the rights of holders of Common Shares. The issuance of additional series of Preferred Shares could have the effect of delaying or preventing a change of control that might involve a premium price for shareholders or otherwise be in their best interest.

The rights, preferences, privileges and restrictions of the Preferred Shares of each series will be fixed by the Designating Amendment relating to the series. A prospectus supplement, relating to each series, will specify the terms of the Preferred Shares, as follows:

- the title and stated value of the Preferred Shares;
- the number of Preferred Shares offered, the liquidation preference per share and the offering price of the Preferred Shares;
- the dividend rate(s), period(s) and/or payment date(s) or method(s) of calculation applicable to the Preferred Shares;
- the date from which dividends on the Preferred Shares will accumulate, if applicable;
- the procedures for any auction and remarketing, if any, for the Preferred Shares;
- the provision for a sinking fund, if any, for the Preferred Shares;
- the provision for redemption, if applicable, of the Preferred Shares;

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- any listing of the Preferred Shares on any securities exchange;
- the terms and conditions, if applicable, upon which the Preferred Shares will be convertible into our Common Shares, including the conversion price (or manner of calculation) and conversion period;
- any other specific terms, preferences, rights, limitations or restrictions of the Preferred Shares;
- a discussion of certain material federal income tax considerations applicable to the Preferred Shares;
- the relative ranking and preferences of the Preferred Shares as to dividend rights and rights upon the liquidation, dissolution or winding up of our affairs;
- any limitation on issuance of any series of Preferred Shares ranking senior to or on a parity with the series of Preferred Shares as to dividend rights and rights upon the liquidation, dissolution or winding up of our affairs; and
- any limitations on direct or beneficial ownership and restrictions on transfer of the Preferred Shares, in each case as may be appropriate to preserve our status as a REIT.

#### RESTRICTIONS ON TRANSFER

For COPT to qualify as a REIT under the Code, its shares of beneficial interest generally must be beneficially owned by 100 or more persons during at least 335 days of a taxable year of 12 months or during a proportionate part of a shorter taxable year. Also, not more than 50% of the value of the outstanding shares of beneficial interest may be owned, directly or indirectly, by five or fewer individuals (as defined in the Code to include certain entities) at any time during the last half of a taxable year. This test is applied by "looking through" certain shareholders which are not individuals (e.g., corporations or partnerships) to determine indirect ownership of COPT by individuals.

The Declaration of Trust, subject to certain exceptions, contains certain restrictions on the number of shares of beneficial interest of COPT that a person may own. The Declaration of Trust provides that no person may own, or be deemed to own by virtue of the attribution provisions of the Code, more than 9.8% (the "Aggregate Share Ownership Limit") of the number or value of the

outstanding shares of beneficial interest of COPT. In addition, the Declaration of Trust prohibits any person from acquiring or holding, directly or indirectly, Common Shares in excess of 9.8% (in value or in number of shares, whichever is more restrictive) of the aggregate of the outstanding Common Shares (the "Common Share Ownership Limit").

The Board of Trustees, in its sole discretion, may exempt a proposed transferee from the Aggregate Share Ownership Limit and the Common Share Ownership Limit (an "Excepted Holder"). However, the Board of Trustees may not grant such an exemption to any person if such exemption would result in COPT being "closely held" within the meaning of Section 856(h) of the Code or otherwise would result in COPT failing to qualify as a REIT. In order to be considered by the Board of Trustees as an Excepted Holder, a person also must not own, directly or indirectly, an interest in a tenant of COPT (or a tenant of any entity owned or controlled by COPT) directly or indirectly, more than a 9.9% interest in such a tenant. The person seeking an exemption must represent to the satisfaction of the Board of Trustees that it will not violate the two aforementioned restrictions. The person also must agree that any violation or attempted violation of any of the foregoing restrictions will result in the automatic transfer of the shares of stock causing such violation to the Share Trust (as defined below). The Board of Trustees may require a ruling from the Service or an opinion of counsel, in either case in form and substance satisfactory to the Board of Trustees, in its sole discretion, in order to determine or ensure COPT's status as a REIT. Constellation Properties, Inc., Mr. Jay H. Shidler and Mr. Clay W. Hamlin, III are all Excepted Holders. However, as of December 31, 1998, Messrs. Shidler and Hamlin collectively owned only 3.6% of the outstanding Common Shares.

The Declaration of Trust further prohibits (a) any person from beneficially or constructively owning shares of beneficial interest of COPT that would result in COPT being "closely held" under Section 856(h) of the Code or otherwise cause COPT to fail to qualify as a REIT and (b) any person from transferring shares of beneficial interest

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of COPT if such transfer would result in shares of beneficial interest of COPT being owned by fewer than 100 persons. Any person who acquires or attempts or intends to acquire beneficial or constructive ownership of shares of beneficial interest of COPT that will or may violate any of the foregoing restrictions on transferability and ownership, or any person who would have owned shares of the beneficial interest of COPT that resulted in a transfer of shares to the Share Trust (as hereinafter defined), is required to give notice immediately to COPT and provide COPT with such other information as COPT may request in order to determine the effect of such transfer on COPT's status as a REIT. The foregoing restrictions on transferability and ownership will not apply if the Board of Trustees determines that it is no longer in the best interests of COPT to attempt to qualify, or to continue to qualify, as a REIT.

If any transfer of shares of beneficial interest of COPT occurs which, if effective, would result in any person beneficially or constructively owning shares of beneficial interest of COPT in excess or in violation of the above transfer or ownership limitations (a "Prohibited Owner"), then that number of shares of beneficial interest of COPT in excess of the ownership limit will automatically be transferred to a trust (the "Share Trust") for the exclusive benefit of one or more charitable beneficiaries (the "Charitable Beneficiary"), and the Prohibited Owner shall not acquire any rights in such shares. The Prohibited Owner may not benefit economically from ownership of any shares of beneficial interest held in the Share Trust, may have no rights to dividends and may not possess any other rights attributable to the shares of beneficial interest held in the Share Trust. The trustee of the Share Trust (the "Share Trustee") will have all voting rights and rights to dividends or other distributions with respect to shares of beneficial interest held in the Share Trust, which rights will be exercised for the exclusive benefit of the Charitable Beneficiary. Any dividend or other distribution paid prior to the discovery by COPT that shares of beneficial interest have been transferred to the Share Trust will be paid by the recipient of such dividend or distribution to the Share Trustee upon demand, and any dividend or other distribution authorized but unpaid will be paid when due to the Share Trustee. Any dividend or distribution so paid to the Share Trustee will be held in the Share Trust for the Charitable Beneficiary. The Prohibited Owner will have no voting rights with respect to shares of beneficial interest held in the Share Trust and, subject to Maryland law, effective as of the date that such shares of beneficial interest have been transferred to the Share Trust, the Share Trustee will have the authority (at the Share Trustee's sole discretion) (i) to rescind as void any vote cast by a Prohibited Owner prior to the discovery by COPT that such shares have been transferred to the Share Trust and (ii) to recast such vote in accordance with the desires of the Share Trustee acting for the benefit of the Charitable Beneficiary. However, if COPT has already taken irreversible trust action, then the Share Trustee will not have the authority to rescind and recast such vote.

Within 20 days of receiving notice from COPT that shares of beneficial interest of COPT have been transferred to the Share Trust, the Share Trustee will sell the shares of beneficial interest held in the Share Trust to a person, designated by the Share Trustee, whose ownership of the shares will not violate the ownership limitations set forth in the Declaration of Trust. Upon such sale, the interest of the Charitable Beneficiary in the shares sold will terminate and the Share Trustee will distribute the net proceeds of the sale to the Prohibited Owner and to the Charitable Beneficiary as described below. The Prohibited Owner will receive the lesser of (i) the price paid by the Prohibited Owner for the shares or, if the Prohibited Owner did not give value for the shares in connection with the event causing the shares to be held in the Share Trust (E.G., a gift, devise or other such transaction), the Market Price (as defined in the Declaration of Trust) of such shares on the day of the event causing the shares to be received by the Share Trustee and (ii) the price per share received by the Share Trustee from the sale or other disposition of the Common Shares held in the Share Trust. Any net sale proceeds in excess of the amount payable to the Prohibited Owner will be paid immediately to the Charitable Beneficiary. If, prior to the discovery by COPT that shares of beneficial interest have been transferred to the Share Trust, such shares are sold by a Prohibited Owner, then (i) such shares will be deemed to have been sold on behalf of the Share Trust and (ii) to the extent that the Prohibited Owner received an amount for shares that exceeds the amount that such Prohibited Owner was entitled to receive as described above, such excess will be paid to the Share Trustee upon demand.

In addition, shares of beneficial interest of COPT held in the Share Trust will be deemed to have been offered for sale to COPT, or its designee, at a price per share equal to the lesser of (i) the price per share in the transaction that resulted in such transfer to the Share Trust (or, in the case of a devise or gift, the Market Price at the time of such devise or gift) and (ii) the Market Price on the date COPT, or its designee, accepts such offer. COPT shall have the right to accept such offer until the Share Trustee has sold the shares of beneficial interest held in the Share Trust. Upon such a sale to COPT, the interest of the Charitable Beneficiary in the shares sold will terminate and the Share Trustee will distribute the net proceeds of the sale to the Prohibited Owner.

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All certificates representing Common Shares will bear a legend referring to the restrictions described above.

Every owner of more than 5% (or such other percentage as required by the Code or the regulations promulgated thereunder) of all classes or series of COPT's shares of beneficial interest, including Common Shares, is required to give written notice to COPT within 30 days after the end of each taxable year stating the name and address of such owner, the number of shares of each class and series of shares of beneficial interest of COPT which the owner beneficially owns and a description of the manner in which such shares are held. Each such owner shall provide to COPT such additional information as COPT may request in order to determine the effect, if any, of such beneficial ownership on COPT's status as a REIT and to ensure compliance with the Aggregate Share Ownership Limit. In addition, each shareholder shall upon demand be required to provide to COPT such information as COPT may request, in good faith, in order to determine COPT's status as a REIT and to comply with the requirements of any taxing authority or governmental authority or to determine such compliance.

These ownership limitations could delay, defer or prevent a change in control of COPT or other transaction that might involve a premium over the then prevailing Market Price for the Common Shares or other attributes that the shareholders may consider to be desirable.

#### ISSUANCE OF WARRANTS

We have no outstanding warrants to purchase our Common Shares ("Common Share Warrants") or outstanding warrants to purchase our Preferred Shares ("Preferred Share Warrants" and collectively with Common Share Warrants, the "Warrants"). We may issue Warrants for the purchase of Preferred Shares or Common Shares. Warrants may be issued by any prospectus supplement independently or together with any other securities offered and may be attached to or separate from those securities. Each series of Warrants will be issued under a separate warrant agreement (each, a "Warrant Agreement") to be entered into between us and a warrant agent specified in a prospectus supplement (the "Warrant Agent"), the form of which will be filed or incorporated by reference as an exhibit to the registration statement of which this prospectus forms a part. The Warrant Agent will act solely as our agent in connection with the Warrants of such series and will not assume any obligation or relationship of agency or trust for or with any provisions of the Warrants offered hereby. Further terms of the Warrants and the applicable Warrant Agreements will be set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement relating to the issuance of any Warrants.

A prospectus supplement will describe the terms of the Warrants in respect of which this prospectus is being delivered including, where applicable,



the following:

- the title of the Warrants;
- the aggregate number of the Warrants;
- the price or prices at which the Warrants will be issued;
- the designation, terms and number of Common Shares or Preferred Shares purchasable upon exercise of the Warrants;
- the designation and terms of the securities, if any, with which the Warrants are issued and the number of the Warrants issued with each such offered security;
- the date, if any, on and after which the Warrants and the related Preferred Shares or Common Shares will be separately transferable;
- the price (or manner of calculation) at which each Common Share or Preferred Share purchasable upon exercise of the Warrants may be purchased;

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- the date on which the right to exercise the Warrants shall commence and the date on which the right shall expire;
- the minimum or maximum amount of the Warrants which may be exercised at any one time;
- information with respect to book-entry procedures, if any;
- a discussion of certain material federal income tax considerations; and
- any other terms of the Warrants, including terms, procedures and limitations relating to the exchange and exercise of the Warrants.

The exercise of any Warrants will be subject to and limited by the transfer and ownership restrictions in our declaration of trust. See "Description of Shares---Restrictions on Transfer."

#### CLASSIFICATION OF BOARD, VACANCIES AND REMOVAL OF TRUSTEES

The Declaration of Trust provides for a staggered Board of Trustees. COPT presently has nine Trustees divided into three classes, with terms of three years each. Constellation Properties, Inc. currently may appoint two Trustees. See "Description of Shares - Series A Preferred Shares." Currently, the number of Trustees in each class and the expiration of each class's term is as follows:

<TABLE>

<S>		<C>	<C>
	Class 1	2 Trustees	Expires 1999
	Class 2	3 Trustees	Expires 2000
	Class 3	4 Trustees	Expires 2001

</TABLE>

At each annual meeting of shareholders of COPT, successors of the class of Trustees whose term expires at that meeting will be elected for a three-year term and the Trustees in the other two classes will continue in office. A classified board may delay, defer or prevent a change in control of COPT or other transaction that might involve a premium over the then prevailing market price for the Common Shares or other attributes that the shareholders may consider to be desirable. In addition, classification of the Board of Trustees would prevent shareholders who do not agree with the policies of the Board of Trustees from replacing a majority of the Board of Trustees for two years, except in the event of removal for cause.

The Bylaws of COPT (the "Bylaws") provide that any vacancy on the Board of Trustees may be filled by a majority of the remaining Trustees. Any individual so elected Trustee will hold office for the unexpired term of the Trustee he or she is replacing. The Declaration of Trust provides that a Trustee may be removed at any time only for cause upon the affirmative vote of at least two-thirds of the votes entitled to be cast in the election of Trustees, but only by a vote taken at a shareholder meeting. These provisions preclude shareholders from removing incumbent Trustees, except upon the existence of cause for removal and a substantial affirmative vote, and filling the vacancies created by such removal with their own nominees.

The Bylaws provide that, with respect to an annual meeting of shareholders, nominations of persons for election to the Board of Trustees and the proposal of business to be considered by shareholders may be made only (a) pursuant to COPT's notice of the meeting, (b) by the Board of Trustees or (c) by a shareholder who is entitled to vote at the meeting and has complied with the advance notice procedures set forth in the Bylaws. With respect to special meetings of shareholders, the Bylaws provide that only the business specified in COPT's notice of meeting may be brought before the meeting of shareholders and nominations of persons for election to the Board of Trustees may be made only (a) pursuant to COPT's notice of the meeting, (b) by the Board of Trustees or (c) provided that the Board of Trustees has determined that Trustees shall be elected at such meeting, by a shareholder who is entitled to vote at the meeting and has complied with the advance notice provisions set forth in the Bylaws.

#### POSSIBLE ANTITAKEOVER EFFECT OF CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF MARYLAND LAW

The Maryland General Corporations Law ("MGCL") contains provisions that may be deemed to have an antitakeover effect. The provisions applicable to COPT are set forth below.

**CERTAIN BUSINESS COMBINATIONS.** Under the MGCL, as applicable to Maryland real estate investment trusts, certain business combinations (including certain mergers, consolidations, share exchanges and asset transfers and certain issuances and reclassifications of equity securities) between a Maryland real estate investment trust and any person who beneficially owns ten percent or more of the voting power of the trust's shares or an affiliate of the trust who, at any time within the two-year period prior to the date in question, was the beneficial owner of ten percent or more of the voting power of the then outstanding voting shares of such trust (an "Interested Shareholder"), or an affiliate of such an Interested Shareholder, are prohibited for five years after the most recent date on which the Interested Shareholder becomes an Interested Shareholder. Thereafter, any such business combination must be recommended by the board of trustees of such trust and approved by the affirmative votes of at least (i) 80% of the votes entitled to be cast by holders of outstanding voting shares of the trust and (ii) two-thirds of the votes entitled to be cast by holders of voting shares of the trust other than shares held by the Interested Shareholder with whom (or with whose affiliate) the business combination is to be effected, unless, among other conditions, the trust's common shareholders receive a minimum price (as defined in the MGCL) for their shares and the consideration is received in cash or in the same form as previously paid by the Interested Shareholder for its shares. These provisions of Maryland law do not apply, however, to business combinations that are approved or exempted by the board of trustees of the trust prior to the time that the Interested Shareholder becomes an Interested Shareholder. The Board of Trustees has opted out of this statute by resolution. The Board of Trustees may, however, rescind its resolution at any time to make these provisions of Maryland law applicable to COPT.

**CONTROL SHARE PROVISIONS.** The MGCL generally provides that control shares ("Control Shares") of a Maryland real estate investment trust acquired in a control share acquisition have no voting rights unless those rights are approved by a vote of two-thirds of the disinterested shares (generally shares held by persons other than the acquiror, officers or trustees who are employees of the trust). An acquiror is deemed to own Control Shares the first time that the acquiror's voting power in electing trustees enters into one of the following ranges of voting power: (i) one-fifth or more but less than one-third, (ii) one-third or more but less than a majority or (iii) 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 shareholder approval. A control share acquisition means the acquisition of Control Shares, subject to certain exceptions.

A person who has made or proposes to make a control share acquisition, upon satisfaction of certain conditions (including an undertaking to pay expenses), may compel the board of trustees of the trust to call a special meeting of shareholders to be held within 50 days of demand to consider whether the shares will have voting rights. The trust may present the question at any shareholders' meeting on its own initiative.

If voting rights are not approved at the meeting or if the acquiring person does not deliver an acquiring person statement as required by the statute, then, subject to certain conditions and limitations, the trust may redeem any or all of the Control Shares (except those for which voting rights have previously been approved) for fair value, determined without regard to the absence of voting rights for the Control Shares. Fair value will be determined as of the date of the last control share acquisition by the acquiror or of any meeting of shareholders at which the voting rights of such shares are considered and not approved. If voting rights for Control Shares are approved at a shareholders' meeting and the acquiror becomes entitled to vote a majority of

the shares entitled to vote, all other shareholders may exercise appraisal rights. The fair value of the shares as determined for purposes of such appraisal rights may not be less than the highest price per share paid by the acquiror in the control share acquisition.

The control share provisions do not apply (a) to shares acquired in a merger, consolidation or share exchange if the trust is a party to the transaction or (b) to acquisitions approved or exempted by the declaration of trust or bylaws of the trust. The Bylaws contain a provision exempting from the control share acquisition statute any and all acquisitions by any person of COPT's shares of beneficial interest. The Board of Trustees may, however, amend the Bylaws at any time to eliminate such provision, either prospectively or retroactively.

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#### DISSOLUTION OF THE COMPANY; TERMINATION OF REIT STATUS

The Declaration of Trust permits the termination of COPT and the discontinuation of the operations of COPT by the affirmative vote of the holders of not less than two-thirds of the outstanding Common Shares entitled to be cast on the matter at a meeting of shareholders or by written consent. In addition, the Declaration of Trust permits the termination of COPT's qualification as a REIT if such qualification, in the opinion of the Board of Trustees, is no longer advantageous to the shareholders.

#### FEDERAL INCOME TAX MATTERS

COPT was organized in 1988 and elected to be taxed as a REIT commencing with its taxable year ended December 31, 1992. COPT believes that it was organized and has operated in a manner that permits it to satisfy the requirements for taxation as a REIT under the applicable provisions of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the "Code") and intends to continue to operate in such a manner. No assurance can be given, however, that such requirements have been or will continue to be met. The following is a summary of the material federal income tax considerations that may be relevant to COPT and its shareholders, including the continued treatment of COPT as a REIT for federal income tax purposes. For purposes of this discussion of "FEDERAL INCOME TAX MATTERS" the term "COPT" refers only to Corporate Office Properties Trust and not to any other affiliated entities.

The following discussion is based on the law existing and in effect on the date hereof and COPT's qualification and taxation as a REIT will depend on compliance with such law and with any future amendments or modifications to such law. The qualification and taxation as a REIT will further depend upon the ability to meet, on a continuing basis through actual operating results, the various qualification tests imposed under the Code discussed below. No assurance can be given that COPT will satisfy such tests on a continuing basis.

In brief, an entity that invests primarily in real estate can, if it meets the REIT provisions of the Code described below, claim a tax deduction for the dividends it pays to its shareholders. Such an entity generally is not taxed on its "REIT taxable income" to the extent such income is currently distributed to shareholders, thereby substantially eliminating the "double taxation" (I.E., at both the entity and shareholder levels) that generally results from an investment in an entity which is taxed as a corporation. However, as discussed in greater detail below, such an entity remains subject to tax in certain circumstances even if it qualifies as a REIT. Further, if the entity were to fail to qualify as a REIT in any year, it would not be able to deduct any portion of the dividends it paid to its shareholders and would be subject to full federal corporate income taxation on its earnings, thereby significantly reducing or eliminating the cash available for distribution to its shareholders.

Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP has opined that, for federal income tax purposes, COPT has properly elected and otherwise qualified to be taxed as a REIT under the Code for taxable years commencing on or after June 1, 1992 and that its proposed method of operations as described in this prospectus and as represented to Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP by COPT will enable COPT to continue to satisfy the requirements for such qualification and taxation as a REIT under the Code for future taxable years. This opinion, however, is based upon certain factual assumptions and representations made by COPT. Moreover, such qualification and taxation as a REIT depends upon the ability of COPT to meet, for each taxable year, various tests imposed under the Code as discussed below, and Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP has not reviewed in the past, and may not review in the future, COPT's compliance with these tests. Accordingly, no assurance can be given that the actual results of the operations of COPT for any particular taxable year will satisfy such requirements.

#### TAXATION OF COPT

GENERAL. In any year in which COPT qualifies as a REIT, it will not generally be subject to federal income tax on that portion of its REIT taxable

income or capital gain which is distributed to shareholders. COPT will, however, be subject to tax at normal corporate rates upon any taxable income or capital gains not distributed. Under recently enacted legislation, shareholders are required to include their proportionate share of the REIT's undistributed long-term capital gain in income but would receive a credit for their share of any taxes paid on such gain by the REIT.

Notwithstanding its qualification as a REIT, COPT also may be subject to taxation in certain other circumstances. If COPT should fail to satisfy either the 75% or the 95% gross income test (each as discussed below), and nonetheless maintains its qualification as a REIT because certain other requirements are met, it will be subject to a 100% tax on the greater of the amount by which COPT fails either the 75% or the 95% test, multiplied by a fraction intended to reflect COPT's profitability. COPT will also be subject to a tax of 100% on net income from any "prohibited transaction" (as described below), and if COPT has (i) net income from the sale or other disposition of "foreclosure property" which is held primarily for sale to customers in the ordinary course of business or (ii) other non-qualifying income from foreclosure property, it will be subject to tax on such income from foreclosure property at the highest corporate rate. In addition, if COPT should fail to distribute during each calendar year at least the sum of (i) 85% of its REIT ordinary income for such year, (ii) 95% of its REIT capital gain net income for such year and (iii) any undistributed taxable income from prior years, COPT would be subject to a 4% excise tax on the excess of such required distribution over the amounts actually distributed. COPT also may be subject to the corporate alternative minimum tax, as well as to tax in certain situations not presently contemplated. COPT will use the calendar year both for federal income tax purposes, as is required of a REIT under the Code, and for financial reporting purposes.

**FAILURE TO QUALIFY.** If COPT fails to qualify for taxation as a REIT in any taxable year and the relief provisions do not apply, COPT will be subject to tax (including any applicable alternative minimum tax) on its taxable income at regular corporate rates. Distributions to shareholders in any year in which COPT fails to qualify as a REIT will not be deductible by COPT, nor generally will they be required to be made under the Code. In such event, to the extent of current and accumulated earnings and profits, all distributions to shareholders will be taxable as ordinary income, and subject to certain limitations in the Code, corporate distributees may be eligible for the dividends received deduction. Unless entitled to relief under specific statutory provisions, COPT also will be disqualified from reelecting taxation as a REIT for the four taxable years following the year during which qualification was lost.

#### REIT QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

In order to qualify as a REIT, COPT must meet the following requirements, among others:

**SHARE OWNERSHIP TESTS.** COPT's shares of beneficial interest must be held by a minimum of 100 persons for at least 335 days in each taxable year (or a proportionate number of days in any short taxable year). In addition, at all times during the second half of each taxable year, no more than 50% in value of the outstanding shares of beneficial interest of COPT may be owned, directly or indirectly and taking into account the effects of certain constructive ownership rules, by five or fewer individuals, which for this purpose includes certain tax-exempt entities (the "50% Limitation"). However, for purposes of this test, any shares of beneficial interest held by a qualified domestic pension or other retirement trust will be treated as held directly by its beneficiaries in proportion to their actuarial interest in such trust rather than by such trust. In addition, for purposes of the 50% Limitation, shares of beneficial interest owned, directly or indirectly, by a corporation will be considered as being owned proportionately by its shareholders.

In order to attempt to ensure compliance with the foregoing share ownership tests, COPT's Declaration of Trust places certain restrictions on the transfer of its shares of beneficial interest to prevent additional concentration of stock ownership. Moreover, to evidence compliance with these requirements, Treasury Regulations require COPT to maintain records which disclose the actual ownership of its outstanding shares of beneficial interest. In fulfilling its obligations to maintain records, COPT must and will demand written statements each year from the record holders of designated percentages of its shares of beneficial interest disclosing the actual owners of such shares of beneficial interest (as prescribed by Treasury Regulations). A list of those persons failing or refusing to comply with such demand must be maintained as part of COPT's records. A shareholder failing or refusing to comply with COPT's written demand must submit with his tax return a similar statement disclosing the actual ownership of COPT shares of beneficial interest and certain other information.

Currently, Constellation Properties, Inc. owns approximately 41.8% of

the Common Shares outstanding, and 984,308 Series A Convertible Preferred Shares convertible into 1,845,381 Common Shares. Under COPT's Declaration of Trust a person is generally prohibited from owning more than 9.8% of the aggregate outstanding Common Shares or more than 9.8% in value of the aggregate outstanding shares of beneficial interest unless such

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person makes certain representations to the Board of Trustees and the Board of Trustees ascertains that ownership of a greater percentage of shares will not cause COPT to violate either the 50% Limitation or the gross income tests described below. The Board of Trustees has exempted Constellation Properties, Inc. from the 9.8% limitation set forth in the Declaration of Trust and has determined that Constellation Properties, Inc. may hold up to 45% of the outstanding Common Shares. The Board of Trustees has determined, based upon representations made by Constellation Properties, Inc., that this will not result in a violation of the 50% Limitation or otherwise adversely affect COPT's ability to qualify as a REIT for federal income tax purposes.

**ASSET TESTS.** At the close of each quarter of COPT's taxable year, COPT must satisfy two tests relating to the nature of its assets (determined in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles). First, at least 75% of the value of COPT's total assets must be represented by interests in real property, interests in mortgages on real property, shares in other REITs, cash, cash items, government securities and qualified temporary investments. Second, although the remaining 25% of COPT's assets generally may be invested without restriction, securities in this class may not exceed (i) in the case of securities of any one non-government issuer, 5% of the value of COPT's total assets (the "Value Test") or (ii) 10% of the outstanding voting securities of any one such issuer (the "Voting Stock Test"). Where COPT invests in a partnership (such as the operating partnership), it will be deemed to own a proportionate share of the partnership's assets, and the partnership interest will not constitute a security for purposes of these tests. Accordingly, COPT's investment in real properties through its interests in the operating partnership (which itself holds real properties through other partnerships) will constitute an investment in qualified assets for purposes of the 75% asset test.

**GROSS INCOME TESTS.** There are two separate percentage tests relating to the sources of COPT's gross income which must be satisfied for each taxable year. For purposes of these tests, where COPT invests in a partnership, COPT will be treated as receiving its share of the income and loss of the partnership, and the gross income of the partnership will retain the same character in the hands of COPT as it has in the hands of the partnership. The two tests are described below.

**THE 75% TEST.** At least 75% of COPT's gross income for the taxable year must be "qualifying income." Qualifying income generally includes: (i) rents from real property (except as modified below); (ii) interest on obligations secured by mortgages on, or interests in, real property; (iii) gains from the sale or other disposition of interests in real property and real estate mortgages, other than gain from property held primarily for sale to customers in the ordinary course of COPT's trade or business ("dealer property"); (iv) dividends or other distributions on shares in other REITs, as well as gain from the sale of such shares; (v) abatements and refunds of real property taxes; (vi) income from the operation, and gain from the sale, of property acquired at or in lieu of a foreclosure of the mortgage secured by such property ("foreclosure property"); and (vii) commitment fees received for agreeing to make loans secured by mortgages on real property or to purchase or lease real property.

Rents received from a tenant will not, however, qualify as rents from real property in satisfying the 75% gross income test (or the 95% gross income test described below) if COPT, or an owner of 10% or more of COPT, directly or constructively owns 10% or more of such tenant. In addition, if rent attributable to personal property leased in connection with a lease of real property is greater than 15% of the total rent received under the lease, then the portion of rent attributable to such personal property will not qualify as rents from real property. Moreover, an amount received or accrued will not qualify as rents from real property (or as interest income) for purposes of the 75% and 95% gross income tests if it is based in whole or in part on the income or profits of any person, although an amount received or accrued generally will not be excluded from "rents from real property" solely by reason of being based on a fixed percentage or percentages of receipts or sales. Finally, for rents received to qualify as rents from real property for purposes of the 75% and 95% gross income tests, COPT generally must not operate or manage the property or furnish or render services to customers, other than through an "independent contractor" from whom COPT derives no income, except that the "independent contractor" requirement does not apply to the extent that the services provided by COPT are "usually or customarily rendered" in connection with the rental of space for occupancy only, and are not otherwise considered "rendered to the occupant for his convenience." In addition, under recently enacted legislation, beginning with its taxable year ending December 31, 1998, COPT may directly perform a de minimis amount of non-customary services. COPT believes that the

services provided with regard to COPT's properties by the operating partnership (or its agents) are now (and, it is believed, will in the future be) usual or customary services. Any services that cannot be provided directly by the operating partnership will be performed by independent contractors.

THE 95% TEST. In addition to deriving 75% of its gross income from the sources listed above, at least 95% of COPT's gross income for the taxable year must be derived from the above-described qualifying income or from dividends, interest, or gains from the sale or other disposition of stock or other securities that are not dealer property. Dividends and interest on obligations not collateralized by an interest in real property are included for purposes of the 95% test, but not for purposes of the 75% test. COPT intends to monitor closely its non-qualifying income and anticipates that non-qualifying income from its activities will not result in COPT failing to satisfy either the 75% or 95% gross income test.

For purposes of determining whether COPT complies with the 75% and the 95% gross income tests, gross income does not include income from prohibited transactions. A "prohibited transaction" is a sale of dealer property (excluding foreclosure property); however, a sale of property will not be a prohibited transaction if such property is held for at least four years and certain other requirements (relating to the number of properties sold in a year, their tax bases and the cost of improvements made thereto) are satisfied.

Even if COPT fails to satisfy one or both of the 75% and 95% gross income tests for any taxable year, it may still qualify as a REIT for such year if it is entitled to relief under certain provisions of the Code. These relief provisions will generally be available if: (i) COPT's failure to comply is due to reasonable cause and not to willful neglect; (ii) COPT reports the nature and amount of each item of its income included in the tests on a schedule attached to its tax return; and (iii) any incorrect information on this schedule is not due to fraud with intent to evade tax. If these relief provisions apply, however, COPT will nonetheless be subject to a 100% tax on the greater of the amount by which it fails either the 75% or 95% gross income test, multiplied by a fraction intended to reflect COPT's profitability.

COMPLIANCE WITH INCOME TESTS. Constellation Properties, Inc. and certain affiliated companies are obligated as tenants to pay annual rent of approximately \$960,000 with respect to properties owned by the operating partnership. Some of this rental income may not constitute qualifying rental income for purposes of the 75% and 95% gross income tests. COPT expects, based on current rent levels, that its annual gross income in 1999 will be at least \$70 million. Accordingly, COPT estimates that it can earn up to \$3.5 million of non-qualifying income per year without violating the 95% gross income test. Aside from this rental income, COPT does not expect that it will earn material amounts of non-qualifying income from either Constellation Properties, Inc. or its existing properties. Based on the foregoing, COPT has determined that it will continue to satisfy the 75% and 95% gross income tests. The fact that affiliates of Constellation Properties, Inc. will be paying substantial amounts of non-qualifying income may, however, restrict the ability of COPT and the operating partnership to acquire additional properties that generate non-qualifying income.

To avoid a violation of the 95% gross income test, the operating partnership established Corporate Office Management, Inc. ("COMI") in 1998 to own a 75% interest in Corporate Realty Management, LLC, the operating partnership's property management company ("CRM"). In addition, COMI has entered into a services agreement with Constellation Properties, Inc. for development and other services, since income from such services is also considered non-qualifying income.

The operating partnership currently holds indebtedness issued by COMI and 95% of the aggregate amount of voting and non-voting common stock issued by COMI, but only holds 1% of the aggregate amount of voting common stock issued by COMI. As discussed above, to satisfy the Voting Stock Test COPT may not directly or indirectly hold 10% or more of the voting stock of COMI. In addition to holding the 75% interest in CRM, COMI provides, either directly or through subsidiaries, management and development services to affiliates of Constellation Properties, Inc., the operating partnership and unrelated parties.

Because it is a corporate entity (as opposed to a partnership) which is not wholly-owned by COPT, the management fee income earned by COMI as a result of its ownership interest in CRM, or as a result of management or development services performed by COMI or its subsidiaries, although it is non-qualifying income, is not treated as non-qualifying income earned by COPT for purposes of the 95% or 75% gross income tests. However, any interest or dividends paid or distributed by COMI to the operating partnership is considered as qualifying income for purposes of the 95% test, but is not considered qualifying income for purposes of the 75% gross income test. To the

extent that COMI earns net taxable income from its activities, it is required to pay federal and state income taxes, which reduces the amount of dividends it is able to pay to the operating partnership and its other shareholders.

On February 1, 1999, the United States Department of the Treasury released its General Explanations of the Administration's Revenue Proposals, outlining proposed amendments to the Code. Among such proposals is a recommendation that the Voting Stock Test described above be changed to a "vote or value" test, which change is intended to prevent REITs from undertaking prohibited activities through "preferred stock subsidiaries," such as COMI. The proposal would also include an exception to the five-percent and 10% asset tests, as modified, so that REITs could own either of two types of "taxable REIT subsidiaries" without violating the asset tests. Such taxable REIT subsidiaries would be permitted to undertake certain types of activities - including non-tenant related activities that currently generate non-qualifying income for a REIT (such as third-party management and development), and non-customary and other currently prohibited services with respect to REIT tenants - without jeopardizing the REIT's status as a REIT under the Code. A number of constraints would be imposed on such taxable REIT subsidiaries, however, to insure that the REIT could not, through such subsidiaries, engage in substantial non-real estate activities, and to insure that such subsidiaries pay corporate-level tax on their earnings. Such constraints would include (1) limitations on the percentage of a REIT's total asset value which could be composed of taxable REIT subsidiaries; (2) disallowance of interest paid by any such taxable REIT subsidiaries to the REIT; (3) a 100% excise tax imposed on certain excess payments and expenses made or shared between the taxable REIT subsidiaries and the REIT; and (4) limitations on the level of intercompany rentals between the taxable REIT subsidiaries and the REIT. The proposal is intended to be effective after the date of enactment, but would provide considerable time for a REIT to restructure its operations and investments so as to convert preferred stock subsidiaries into taxable REIT subsidiaries on a tax-free basis.

COPT believes that the Administration's proposed amendment to the Voting Stock Test should not have a significant impact on COPT's current operations or assets, even if enacted in its proposed form. COPT intends to monitor this and any other proposed legislation closely, however, to assess the possible effect of any such legislation on its future operations and tax profile.

COPT intends to continue to monitor its operations and investments in the context of these standards so as to continue to satisfy the 75% and 95% gross income tests. While the operating partnership or its affiliates provide certain services with respect to the properties in which COPT owns interests and possibly with respect to any newly acquired properties, COPT believes that for purposes of the 75% and 95% gross income tests the services provided at such properties and any other services and amenities provided by the operating partnership or its agents with respect to such properties will be of the type usually or customarily rendered in connection with the rental of space for occupancy only and not rendered to the occupants of such properties. COPT intends that services that cannot be provided directly by the operating partnership or other agents will be performed by independent contractors.

**ANNUAL DISTRIBUTION REQUIREMENTS.** In order to qualify as a REIT, COPT is required to distribute dividends to its shareholders each year in an amount at least equal to (A) the sum of (i) 95% of COPT's REIT taxable income (computed without regard to the dividends received deduction and COPT's net capital gain) and (ii) 95% of the net income (after tax), if any, for foreclosure property, minus (B) the sum of certain items of non-cash income. Such distributions must be paid in the taxable year to which they relate, or in the following taxable year if declared before COPT timely files its tax return for such year and if paid on or before the first regular dividend payment after the declaration. To the extent that COPT does not distribute all of its net capital gain or distributes at least 95%, but less than 100%, of its REIT taxable income, as adjusted, it will be subject to tax on the undistributed amount at regular capital gain or ordinary corporate tax rates, as the case may be.

COPT intends to make timely distributions sufficient to satisfy the annual distribution requirements described in the first sentence of the preceding paragraph. In this regard, the operating partnership Agreement authorizes COPT in its capacity as General Partner to take such steps as may be necessary to cause the operating partnership to distribute to its partners an amount sufficient to permit COPT to meet the distribution requirements. It is possible that COPT may not have sufficient cash or other liquid assets to meet the 95% distribution requirement, either due to timing differences between the actual receipt of income and actual payment of expenses on the one hand, and the inclusion of such income and deduction of such expenses in computing COPT's REIT taxable income on the other hand, or for other reasons. COPT will monitor closely the relationship between its REIT taxable income and cash flow and, if necessary, intends to borrow funds (or cause the operating partnership or other

affiliates to borrow funds) in order to satisfy the distribution requirement. However, there can be no assurance that such borrowing would be available at such time.

If COPT fails to meet the 95% distribution requirement as a result of an adjustment to COPT's tax return by the Service, COPT may retroactively cure the failure by paying a "deficiency dividend" (plus applicable penalties and interest) within a specified period.

#### TAXATION OF SHAREHOLDERS

**TAXATION OF TAXABLE DOMESTIC SHAREHOLDERS.** As long as COPT qualifies as a REIT, distributions made to its taxable domestic shareholders out of current or accumulated earnings and profits (and not designated as capital gain dividends) will constitute dividends taxable as ordinary income, and corporate shareholders will not be eligible for the dividends received deduction as to such amounts. Distributions that are designated as capital gain dividends will be taxed as gain from the sale or exchange of a capital asset (to the extent they do not exceed COPT's actual net capital gain for the taxable year) without regard to the period for which the shareholder has held its shares. In the event COPT designates any portion of a dividend as a capital gain dividend, a shareholder's share of such capital gain dividend would be an amount which bears the same ratio to the total amount of dividends paid to such shareholder for the taxable year as the total amount of capital gain dividends bears to the total amount of all dividends paid on all classes of share for the taxable year. However, corporate shareholders may be required to treat up to 20% of certain capital gain dividends as ordinary income. COPT may elect to retain and pay income tax on any net long-term capital gain, in which case its domestic shareholders would include in their income as long-term capital gain their proportionate share of such undistributed net long-term capital gain. A domestic shareholder would also receive a refundable tax credit for such shareholder's proportionate share of the tax paid by COPT on such retained capital gains and an increase in its basis in its shares in an amount equal to the difference between the undistributed long-term capital gains and the amount of tax paid by COPT. See "--Capital Gains and Losses" below.

Distributions in excess of current and accumulated earnings and profits will not be taxable to a shareholder to the extent that they do not exceed the adjusted basis of the shareholder's shares of beneficial interest, but rather will reduce the adjusted basis of such shares. To the extent that such distributions exceed the adjusted basis of a shareholder's shares of beneficial interest, they will be included in income as short-term or long-term capital gain (depending on the length of time the shares have been held), assuming the shares are capital assets in the hands of the shareholder. In addition, any dividend declared by COPT in October, November or December of any year and payable to a shareholder of record on a specific date in any such month shall be treated as both paid by COPT and received by the shareholder on December 31 of such year, provided that the dividend is actually paid by COPT during January of the following calendar year.

Domestic shareholders may not include in their individual income tax returns any of COPT's net operating losses or capital losses. Instead, such losses would be carried over by COPT for potential offset against future income (subject to certain limitations). Distributions made by COPT and gain arising from the sale or exchange of shares will not be treated as passive activity income, and, as a result, shareholders generally will not be able to apply any "passive losses" against such income and gain. In addition, taxable distributions from COPT generally will be treated as investment income. Capital gain dividends (including distributions treated as such) and capital gain from the disposition of shares, however, will be treated as investment income only if a shareholder so elects, in which case such capital gain will be taxed at ordinary income rates. COPT will notify shareholders after the close of its taxable year as to the portions of distributions attributable to that year that constitute ordinary income, return of capital and capital gain.

In general, a domestic shareholder will realize capital gain or loss on the disposition of COPT's shares of beneficial interest equal to the difference between (i) the amount of cash and the fair market value of any property received on such disposition, and (ii) the shareholder's adjusted basis of such shares of beneficial interest. Such gain or loss generally will constitute short-term capital gain or loss if the shareholder has not held such shares for more than one year and long-term capital gain or loss if the shareholder has held such shares for more than one year. See "--Capital Gains and Losses" below. Loss upon a sale or exchange of COPT's shares of beneficial interest by a shareholder who has held such shares for six months or less (after applying certain holding period rules) will be



treated as a long-term capital loss to the extent of distributions from COPT required to be treated by such shareholder as long-term capital gain.

**CAPITAL GAINS AND LOSSES.** The maximum marginal individual income tax rate is 39.6%. The maximum tax rate on net capital gains applicable to individuals, trusts and estates from the sale or exchange of capital assets held for more than 18 months is 20%, and the maximum rate is reduced to 18% for assets acquired after December 31, 2000 and held for more than five years. For individuals, trusts and estates who would be subject to a maximum tax rate of 15%, the rate on net capital gains is reduced to 10%, and, effective for taxable years commencing after December 31, 2000, the rate is reduced to 8% for assets held for more than five years. The maximum rate for net capital gains attributable to the sale of depreciable real property held for more than 18 months is 25% to the extent of the deductions for depreciation (other than certain depreciation recapture taxable as ordinary income) with respect to such property. The maximum rate of capital gains tax for capital assets held more than one year but not more than 18 months is 28%. Accordingly, the tax rate differential between capital gain and ordinary income for noncorporate taxpayers may be significant. In addition, the characterization of income as capital or ordinary may affect the deductibility of capital losses. Capital losses not offset by capital gains may be deducted against a noncorporate taxpayer's ordinary income only up to a maximum annual amount of \$3,000. Unused capital losses may be carried forward. All net capital gain of a corporate taxpayer is subject to tax at ordinary corporate rates. A corporate taxpayer can deduct capital losses only to the extent of capital gains, with unused losses being carried back three years and forward five years.

**BACKUP WITHHOLDING.** COPT will report to its domestic shareholders and the IRS the amount of dividends paid during each calendar year and the amount of tax withheld, if any, with respect thereto. Under the backup withholding rules, a shareholder may be subject to backup withholding at the rate of 31% with respect to dividends paid unless such holder (i) is a corporation or comes within certain other exempt categories and, when required, demonstrates this fact or (ii) provides a taxpayer identification number, certifies as to no loss of exemption and otherwise complies with the applicable requirements of the backup withholdings rules. Any amount paid as backup withholding will be creditable against the shareholder's income tax liability. The United States Treasury has recently issued final regulations (the "Final Regulations") regarding the withholding and information reporting rules discussed above. In general, the Final Regulations do not alter the substantive withholding and information reporting requirements but unify current certification procedures and forms and clarify and modify reliance standards. The Final Regulations are generally effective for payments made on or after January 1, 2000, subject to certain transition rules. Prospective investors should consult their own tax advisors concerning the adoption of the Final Regulations and the potential effect on their ownership of COPT's shares of beneficial interest.

In addition, COPT may be required to withhold a portion of capital gain distributions made to shareholders that fail to certify their non-foreign status to COPT. See "--Taxation of Foreign Shareholders" below.

**TAXATION OF TAX-EXEMPT SHAREHOLDERS.** The IRS has ruled that amounts distributed as dividends by a REIT generally do not constitute unrelated business taxable income ("UBTI") when received by a tax-exempt entity. Based on that ruling, dividend income from COPT's shares of beneficial interest will not be UBTI to a tax-exempt shareholder, provided that the tax-exempt shareholder has not held its shares as "debt financed property" within the meaning of the Code and such shares are not otherwise used in a trade or business. Similarly, income from the sale of COPT's shares of beneficial interest will not constitute UBTI unless such tax-exempt shareholder has held such shares as "debt financed property" within the meaning of the Code or has used the shares in a trade or business.

Notwithstanding the above, however, a portion of the dividends paid by a "pension held REIT" will be treated as UBTI as to any trust which is described in Section 401(a) of the Code, is tax-exempt under Section 501(a) of the Code (a "qualified trust") and which holds more than 10% (by value) of the interests in the REIT. A REIT is a "pension held REIT" if (i) it would not have qualified as a REIT but for the application of a "look-through" exception to the 50% Limitation applicable to qualified trusts, and (ii) either (1) at least one such qualified trust holds more than 25% (by value) of the interests in the REIT, or (2) one or more such qualified trusts, each of which owns more than 10% (by value) of the interests in the REIT, hold in the aggregate more than 50% (by value) of the interests in the REIT. The percentage of any REIT dividend treated as UBTI is equal to the ratio of (i) the gross income (less direct expenses related thereto) of the REIT from unrelated trades or businesses (determined as if the REIT were a qualified trust) to (ii) the total gross income (less direct expenses related thereto) of the REIT. A de minimis exception applies where this percentage is less than 5% for any year. The provisions requiring qualified

trusts to treat a portion of REIT distributions as UBTI will not apply if the REIT is able to satisfy the 50% Limitation without relying upon the "look-through" exception with respect to qualified trusts. As a result of certain limitations on transfer and ownership of COPT's shares of beneficial interest contained in the Charter, COPT does not expect to be classified as a "pension held REIT."

**TAXATION OF FOREIGN SHAREHOLDERS.** The rules governing the United States federal income taxation of the ownership and disposition of COPT's shares of beneficial interest by persons that are, for purposes of such taxation, nonresident alien individuals, foreign corporations, foreign partnerships and other foreign shareholders (collectively, "Non-U.S. Shareholders") are complex and no attempt will be made herein to provide more than a summary of such rules. PROSPECTIVE NON-U.S. SHAREHOLDERS SHOULD CONSULT WITH THEIR OWN TAX ADVISORS TO DETERMINE THE IMPACT OF FEDERAL, STATE, AND LOCAL INCOME TAX LAWS WITH REGARD TO AN INVESTMENT IN COPT'S SHARES OF BENEFICIAL INTEREST, INCLUDING ANY REPORTING REQUIREMENTS, AS WELL AS THE TAX TREATMENT OF SUCH AN INVESTMENT UNDER THEIR HOME COUNTRY LAWS.

In general, Non-U.S. Shareholders will be subject to regular United States federal income taxation with respect to their investment in COPT's shares of beneficial interest in the same manner as a U.S. shareholder (i.e., at graduated rates on a net basis, after allowance of deductions) if such investment is "effectively connected" with the conduct by such Non-U.S. Shareholder of a trade or business in the United States. A Non-U.S. Shareholder that is a corporation and that receives income with respect to its investment in COPT's shares of beneficial interest that is (or is treated as) "effectively connected" with the conduct of a trade or business in the United States may also be subject to the 30% branch profits tax imposed under Section 884 of the Code, which is payable in addition to the regular United States corporate income tax. The following discussion addresses only the federal income taxation of Non-U.S. Shareholders whose investment in COPT's shares of beneficial interest is not "effectively connected" with the conduct of a trade or business in the United States. Prospective investors whose investment in COPT's shares of beneficial interest may be "effectively connected" with the conduct of a United States trade or business should consult their own tax advisors as to the tax consequences thereof.

Distributions that are not attributable to gain from sales or exchanges of United States real property interests and that are not designated by COPT as capital gains dividends will be treated as dividends of ordinary income to the extent that they are made out of COPT's current or accumulated earnings and profits. Such distributions ordinarily will be subject to a withholding tax equal to 30% of the gross amount of the distribution unless an applicable tax treaty reduces or eliminates that tax. Pursuant to the Final Regulations, dividends paid to an address in a country outside the United States will no longer be presumed to be paid to a resident of such country for purposes of determining the applicability of withholding discussed above and the availability of a reduced tax treaty rate. A Non-U.S. Shareholder who wishes to claim the benefit of an applicable treaty rate will now be required to satisfy certain certification and other requirements. Distributions that COPT makes in excess of its current and accumulated earnings and profits will not be taxable to a Non-U.S. Shareholder to the extent they do not exceed the adjusted basis of such Non-U.S. Shareholder's shares, but rather will reduce the adjusted basis of such shares (but not below zero). To the extent that such distributions exceed the adjusted basis of a Non-U.S. Shareholder's shares, they will give rise to tax liability if such Non-U.S. Shareholder would otherwise be subject to tax on any gain from the sale or disposition of shares, as described below.

For withholding tax purposes, COPT is currently required to treat all distributions as if made out of its current or accumulated earnings and profits and thus intends to withhold at the rate of 30% (or a reduced treaty rate if applicable) on the amount of any distribution (other than distributions designated as capital gain dividends) made to a Non-U.S. Shareholder. Under the Final Regulations, generally effective for distributions on or after January 1, 2000, COPT would not be required to withhold at the 30% rate on distributions COPT reasonably estimates to be in excess of its current and accumulated earnings and profits. If it cannot be determined at the time a distribution is made whether such distribution will be in excess of current and accumulated earnings and profits, the distribution will be subject to withholding at the rate applicable to ordinary dividends. However, a Non-U.S. Shareholder may seek a refund of such amounts from the IRS if it is subsequently determined that such distribution was, in fact, in excess of its current or accumulated earnings and profits, and the amount withheld exceeded the Non-U.S. Shareholder's United States tax liability, if any, with respect to the distribution.

interests will be taxed to a Non-U.S. Shareholder under the provisions of the Foreign Investment in Real Property Tax Act of 1980 ("FIRPTA"). Under FIRPTA, these distributions are taxed to a Non-U.S. Shareholder as if such gain were effectively connected with the conduct of a United States trade or business. Non-U.S. Shareholders would thus be taxed at the normal capital gain rates applicable to domestic shareholders (subject to applicable alternative minimum tax and special alternative minimum tax in the case of nonresident alien individuals), without regard as to whether such distributions are designated by COPT as capital gain dividends. Also, distributions subject to FIRPTA may be subject to a 30% branch profits tax in the hands of a foreign corporate shareholder not entitled to treaty exemption. COPT is required by Treasury Regulations to withhold 35% of any distribution to a Non-U.S. Shareholder that could be designated as a capital gain dividend. This amount is creditable against the Non-U.S. Shareholder's FIRPTA tax liability.

Gain recognized by a Non-U.S. Shareholder upon a sale of COPT's shares of beneficial interest generally will not be subject to United States taxation unless such shares constitute a "United States real property interest" within the meaning of FIRPTA. COPT's shares of beneficial interest will not constitute a "United States real property interest" so long as COPT is a "domestically controlled REIT." A "domestically controlled REIT" is generally a REIT in which at all times during a specified testing period less than 50% in value of its share was held directly or indirectly by Non-U.S. Shareholders. COPT believes that it will be a "domestically controlled REIT" and therefore, the sale of COPT's shares of beneficial interest will not be subject to taxation under FIRPTA. However, because COPT's shares of beneficial interest will be publicly traded, no assurance can be given that COPT will continue to be a "domestically controlled REIT." Notwithstanding the foregoing, gain from the sale or exchange of its shares not otherwise subject to FIRPTA generally will be taxable to a Non-U.S. Shareholder if the Non-U.S. Shareholder is a nonresident alien individual who is present in the United States for 183 days or more during the taxable year and has a "tax home" in the United States. In such case, the nonresident alien individual will be subject to a 30% United States withholding tax on the amount of such individual's gain.

If COPT does not qualify as or ceases to be a "domestically controlled REIT," whether gain arising from the sale or exchange by a Non-U.S. Shareholder of COPT's shares of beneficial interest would be subject to U.S. taxation under FIRPTA will depend on whether the shares are "regularly traded" (as defined in applicable Treasury Regulations) on an established securities market (such as the NYSE on which COPT's shares of beneficial interest are traded) and on the size of the selling Non-U.S. Shareholder's interest in COPT. If the gain on the sale of COPT's shares of beneficial interest were to be subject to tax under FIRPTA, the Non-U.S. Shareholder would be subject to the same treatment as a domestic shareholder with respect to such gain (subject to applicable alternative minimum tax and a special alternative minimum tax in the case of nonresident alien individuals and the possible application of the 30% branch profits tax in the case of foreign corporations), and the purchaser would be required to withhold and remit to the IRS 10% of the purchase price. In addition, if COPT is not a "domestically controlled REIT," distributions in excess of its current and accumulated earnings and profits would be subject to withholding at a rate of 10%.

Dividends paid in the United States with respect to COPT's shares of beneficial interest, and proceeds from the sale of COPT's shares of beneficial interest, through a United States broker (or certain brokers having significant connections with the United States) may be subject to the information reporting requirements of the Code. Under the backup withholding rules, a shareholder may be subject to backup withholding at the rate of 31% unless such shareholder (i) is a corporation or comes within certain other exempt categories and, when required, demonstrates this fact, or (ii) provides a taxpayer identification number and certifies as to no loss of exemption, and otherwise complies with the applicable requirements of the backup withholding rules. Non-U.S. Shareholders are generally exempt from information reporting and backup withholding, but may be required to provide a properly completed Form W-8 or otherwise comply with applicable certification and identification procedures in order to prove their exemption. Any amount paid as backup withholding will be creditable against the Non-U.S. Shareholder's United States income tax liability.

The Final Regulations, issued by the United States Treasury on October 6, 1997, affect the rules applicable to payments to foreign persons. In general, the Final Regulations do not alter the substantive withholding and information reporting requirements but unify current certification procedures and modify reliance standards. In addition, the Final Regulations also address certain issues relating to intermediary certification procedures designed to simplify compliance by withholding agents. The Final Regulations are generally effective for payments made on

Final Regulations and the potential effect on their ownership of COPT's shares of beneficial interest.

#### OTHER TAX CONSIDERATIONS

EFFECT OF TAX STATUS OF THE OPERATING PARTNERSHIP ON REIT QUALIFICATION. All of COPT's investments are through the operating partnership. COPT believes that the operating partnership is properly treated as a partnership for tax purposes (and not as an association taxable as a corporation). If, however, the operating partnership were to be treated as an association taxable as a corporation, COPT would cease to qualify as a REIT. Furthermore, in such a situation, the operating partnership would be subject to corporate income taxes and COPT would not be able to deduct its share of any losses generated by the operating partnership in computing its taxable income.

TAX ALLOCATIONS WITH RESPECT TO THE PROPERTIES. The operating partnership was formed, in part, by way of contributions of appreciated property. When property is contributed to a partnership in exchange for an interest in the partnership, the partnership generally takes a carryover basis in that property for tax purposes equal to the adjusted basis of the contributing partner in the property, rather than a basis equal to the fair market value of the property at the time of contribution (this difference is referred to as a "Book-Tax Difference"). The partnership agreement of the operating partnership requires allocations of income, gain, loss and deduction with respect to contributed property to be made in a manner consistent with the special rules in Section 704(c) of the Code, and the regulations thereunder, which tend to eliminate the Book-Tax Differences with respect to the contributed properties over the depreciable lives of the contributed properties. However, because of certain technical limitations, the special allocation rules of Section 704(c) may not always entirely eliminate the Book-Tax Difference on an annual basis or with respect to a specific taxable transaction such as a sale. Thus, the carryover basis of the contributed properties in the hands of the operating partnership could cause COPT to be allocated lower amounts of depreciation and other deductions for tax purposes than would be allocated to COPT if all properties were to have a tax basis equal to their fair market value at the time of acquisition. The foregoing principles also apply in determining its earnings and profits for purposes of determining the portion of distributions taxable as dividend income. The application of these rules over time may result in a higher portion of distributions being taxed as dividends than would have occurred had COPT purchased its interests in all properties at their agreed value.

Treasury Regulations under Section 704(c) of the Code allow partnerships to use any reasonable method of accounting for Book-Tax Differences so that the contributing partner receives the tax benefits and burdens of any built-in gain or loss associated with the property. The operating partnership has determined to use the "traditional method" (which is specifically approved in the Treasury Regulations) for accounting for Book-Tax Differences with respect to the contributed properties.

STATE AND LOCAL TAXES. COPT and its shareholders may be subject to state or local taxation in various state or local jurisdictions, including those in which COPT or they transact business or reside. The state and local tax treatment of us and our shareholders may not conform to the federal income tax consequences discussed above. Consequently, prospective shareholders should consult with their own tax advisors regarding the effect of state, local and other tax laws of any investment in COPT's shares of beneficial interest.

#### PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION

We may sell the securities offered pursuant to this prospectus and the accompanying prospectus supplement to or through one or more underwriters or dealers or may sell the securities to investors directly or through agents. Any such underwriter or agent involved in the offer and sale of the securities will be named in the applicable prospectus supplement. We may sell securities directly to investors on our own behalf in those jurisdictions where we are authorized to do so.

Underwriters may offer and sell the securities at a fixed price or prices, which may be changed, at market prices prevailing at the time of sale, at prices related to such prevailing market prices or at negotiated prices. We also may, from time to time, authorize dealers or agents to offer and sell these securities upon such terms and

conditions as may be set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement. In connection with the sale of any of these securities, underwriters may receive compensation from us in the form of underwriting discounts or commissions and may also receive commissions from purchasers of the securities for whom they may act as agent. Underwriters may sell the securities to or through dealers, and such dealers may receive compensation in the form of discounts, concessions or

commissions from the underwriters or commissions from the purchasers for which they may act as agents.

The Common Shares may also be sold in one or more of the following transactions: (a) block transactions (which may involve crosses) in which a broker-dealer may sell all or a portion of such shares as agent but may position and resell all or a portion of the block as principal to facilitate the transaction; (b) purchases by any such broker-dealer as principal and resale by such broker-dealer for its own account pursuant to a prospectus supplement; (c) a special offering, an exchange distribution or a secondary distribution in accordance with applicable NYSE or other stock exchange rules; (d) ordinary brokerage transactions and transactions in which any such broker-dealer solicits purchasers; (e) sales "at the market" to or through a market maker or into an existing trading market, on an exchange or otherwise, for such shares; and (f) sales in other ways not involving market makers or established trading markets, including direct sales to purchasers. In effecting sales, broker-dealers engaged by the selling shareholders may arrange for other broker-dealers to participate. Broker-dealers will receive commissions or other compensation from the selling shareholders in amounts to be negotiated immediately prior to the sale that will not exceed those customary in the types of transactions involved. Broker-dealers may also receive compensation from purchasers of the Common Shares which is not expected to exceed that customary in the types of transactions involved.

Any underwriting compensation paid by us to underwriters or agents in connection with the offering of these securities, and any discounts or concessions or commissions allowed by underwriters to participating dealers, will be set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement. Dealers and agents participating in the distribution of the securities may be deemed to be underwriters, and any discounts and commissions received by them and any profit realized by them on resale of the securities may be deemed to be underwriting discounts and commissions.

Underwriters, dealers and agents may be entitled, under agreements entered into with us, to indemnification against and contribution toward certain civil liabilities, including liabilities under the Securities Act. Unless otherwise set forth in the accompanying prospectus supplement, the obligations of any underwriters to purchase any of these securities will be subject to certain conditions precedent, and the underwriters will be obligated to purchase all of such series of securities, if any are purchased.

Underwriters, dealers and agents may engage in transactions with, or perform services for, us and our affiliates in the ordinary course of business.

In connection with the offering of the securities hereby, certain underwriters, and selling group members and their respective affiliates may engage in transactions that stabilize, maintain or otherwise affect the market price of the applicable securities. Such transactions may include stabilization transactions effected in accordance with Rule 104 of Regulation M promulgated by the Securities and Exchange Commission (the "Commission") pursuant to which such persons may bid for or purchase securities for the purpose of stabilizing their market price. The underwriters in an offering of securities may also create a "short position" for their account by selling more securities in connection with the offering than they are committed to purchase from us. In such case, the underwriters could cover all or a portion of such short position by either purchasing securities in the open market following completion of the offering of such securities or by exercising any over-allotment option granted to them by us. In addition, the managing underwriter may impose "penalty bids" under contractual arrangements with other underwriters, which means that they can reclaim from an underwriter (or any selling group member participating in the offering) for the account of the other underwriters, the selling concession with respect to securities that are distributed in the offering but subsequently purchased for the account of the underwriters in the open market. Any of the transactions described in this paragraph or comparable transactions that are described in any accompanying prospectus supplement may result in the maintenance of the price of the securities at a level above that which might otherwise prevail in the open market. None of such transactions described in this paragraph or in an accompanying prospectus supplement are required to be taken by any underwriters and, if they are undertaken, may be discontinued at any time.

The Common Shares are listed on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol "OFC." The Preferred Shares and the Warrants will be new issues of securities with no established trading market and may or may not be listed in a national securities exchange. Any underwriters or agents to or through which securities are sold by us may make a market in such securities, but such underwriters or agents will not be obligated to do so and any of them may discontinue any market making at any time without notice. No assurance can be given as to the liquidity of or trading market for any Preferred Shares or Warrants.

## EXPERTS

The financial statements incorporated in this prospectus by reference to the Annual Report on Form 10-K of Corporate Office Properties Trust, Inc. for the year ended December 31, 1997, and (1) the combined statement of revenue and certain expenses of the Wagman Acquisition Properties included in the Company's Form 8-K/A filed on July 7, 1998, (2) the combined statement of revenue and certain expenses of the Airport Square Acquisition Properties included in the Company's Form 8-K/A filed on July 7, 1998, (3) the combined statement of revenue and certain expenses of the Riverwood Acquisition Property included in the Company's Form 8-K/A filed on December 11, 1998, (4) the combined statement of revenue and certain expenses of the Constellation Properties included in the Company's Form 8-K/A filed on December 11, 1998, (5) the consolidated financial statements of Constellation Service Companies included in the Company's Form 8-K/A filed on December 11, 1998, (6) the combined statement of revenue and certain expenses of the Centerpoint Properties included in the Company's Form 8-K/A filed on January 14, 1999, and (7) the combined statement of revenue and certain expenses of the Gateway Properties included in the Company's Form 8-K/A filed on February 2, 1999, have been so incorporated in reliance on the reports of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP, independent accountants, given on the authority of said firm as experts in auditing and accounting.

## LEGAL MATTERS

The validity of the securities offered hereby are being passed upon for COPT by Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP. The opinion of counsel as described under the heading "Federal Income Tax Matters" is being rendered by Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP, which opinion is subject to various assumptions and is based on current tax law. Certain legal matters may be passed upon for any of the underwriters or agents by counsel named in the applicable prospectus supplement.

## WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION

COPT has filed a registration statement on Form S-3 with the Securities and Exchange Commission in connection with this offering. In addition, COPT files annual, quarterly, and current reports, proxy statements and other information with the Securities and Exchange Commission. You may read and copy the registration statement and any other documents filed by COPT at the Securities and Exchange Commission's Public Reference Room at 450 Fifth Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20549. Please call the Securities and Exchange Commission at 1-800-SEC-0330 for further information on the Public Reference Room. COPT's Securities and Exchange Commission filings are also available to the public at the Securities and Exchange Commission's Internet site at [HTTP://WWW.SEC.GOV](http://www.sec.gov).

This prospectus is part of the registration statement and does not contain all of the information included in the registration statement. If a reference is made in this prospectus or any prospectus supplement to any contract or other document of COPT, the reference may not be complete and you should refer to the exhibits that are a part of the registration statement for a copy of the contract or document.

The Securities and Exchange Commission allows COPT to "incorporate by reference" into this prospectus the information COPT files with the Commission, which means that COPT can disclose important information to you by referring you to those documents. Information incorporated by reference is part of this prospectus. Later information filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission will update and supersede this information.

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COPT incorporates by reference the documents listed below and any future filings made with the Securities and Exchange Commission under Sections 13(a), 13(c), 14 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 until this offering is completed:

- Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 1997.
- Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q for the quarters ended March 31, 1998, June 30, 1998 and September 30, 1998.
- Current Reports on Forms 8-K and 8-K/A, dated January 5, 1998, January 22, 1998, March 6, 1998, March 20, 1998, May 14, 1998, May 29, 1998, June 10, 1998, July 7, 1998, August 12, 1998, October 13, 1998, October 28, 1998, November 16, 1998, December 11, 1998, January 14, 1999 and February 3, 1999.
- Proxy Statement dated July 22, 1998.

You may request a copy of these filings, at no cost, by contacting COPT, Vice President-Investor Relations, 401 City Avenue, Suite 615, Bala Cynwyd, Pennsylvania 19004, by telephone at 610-538-1800, by facsimile at

## PART II. INFORMATION NOT REQUIRED IN PROSPECTUS

## ITEM 14. OTHER EXPENSES OF ISSUANCE AND DISTRIBUTION.

The expenses in connection with the issuance and distribution of the securities being registered are set forth in the following table (all amounts except the registration fee are estimated):

&lt;TABLE&gt;

<S>	<C>
Registration fee-- Securities and Exchange Commission	\$69,500
Accountant's fees and expenses	10,000
Legal fees and expenses	35,000
Miscellaneous	20,000
	-----
TOTAL	\$134,500
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&lt;/TABLE&gt;

All expenses in connection with the issuance and distribution of the securities being offered shall be borne by COPT.

## ITEM 15. INDEMNIFICATION OF TRUSTEES AND OFFICERS.

The Maryland REIT Law permits a Maryland real estate investment trust to include in its declaration of trust a provision limiting the liability of its trustees and officers to the trust and its shareholders 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 established by a final judgment as being material to the cause of action. The Declaration of Trust contains such a provision limiting such liability to the maximum extent permitted by Maryland law.

The Declaration of Trust authorizes COPT, to the maximum extent permitted by Maryland law, to obligate itself to indemnify and to pay or reimburse reasonable expenses in advance of final disposition of a proceeding to (a) any present or former Trustee or officer or (b) any individual who, while a Trustee of COPT and at the request of COPT, serves or has served another real estate investment trust, corporation, partnership, joint venture, trust, employee benefit plan or any other enterprise as a trustee, director, officer, partner, employee or agent of such entity from and against any claim or liability to which such person may become subject or which such person may incur by reason of service in such capacity. The Bylaws obligate COPT, to the maximum extent permitted by Maryland law, to indemnify and to pay or reimburse reasonable expenses in advance of final disposition of a proceeding to (i) any present or former Trustee or officer who is made a party to the proceeding by reason of his or her service in that capacity or (ii) any such Trustee or officer who, at the request of COPT, serves or has served another real estate investment trust, corporation, partnership, joint venture, trust, employee benefit plan or any other enterprise as a trustee, director, officer, partner, employee or agent of such entity and who is made a party to the proceeding by reason of his service in that capacity against any claim or liability to which he may become subject by reason of his or her status as a present or former Trustee or officer of COPT. The Declaration of Trust and the Bylaws also permit COPT to provide indemnification to any person who served a predecessor of COPT in any of the capacities described above and to any employee or agent of COPT or a predecessor of COPT. The Bylaws require COPT to indemnify a Trustee or officer who has been successful, on the merits or otherwise, in the defense of any proceeding to which he or she is made a party by reason of his or her service in that capacity.

The Maryland REIT Law permits a Maryland real estate investment trust to indemnify, and to advance expenses to, its trustees and officers, to the same extent as permitted by the MGCL for Trustees and officers of Maryland corporations. The MGCL permits a corporation to indemnify its present and former Trustees 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 a party by reason of their service in those or other capacities unless it is established that (i) 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, (ii) the director or officer actually received an improper personal benefit in money, property or services or (iii) 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 for an adverse judgment in a suit by or in the

right of the corporation or for a judgment of liability on the basis that personal benefit was improperly received, unless in either case a court orders indemnification and then only for expenses. In

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addition, the MGCL permits a corporation to advance reasonable expenses to a director or officer upon the corporation's receipt of (a) 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 (b) a written undertaking by him or her or on his or her behalf to repay the amount paid or reimbursed by the corporation if it shall ultimately be determined that the standard of conduct was not met. Under the MGCL, rights to indemnification and expenses are nonexclusive, in that they need not be limited to those expressly provided by statute.

The Maryland REIT Law and the Bylaws may permit indemnification for liabilities arising under the Securities Act or the Exchange Act. The Board of Trustees has been advised that, in the opinion of the Commission, indemnification for liabilities arising under the Securities Act or the Exchange Act is contrary to public policy and is therefore unenforceable, absent a decision to the contrary by a court of appropriate jurisdiction.

ITEM 16. EXHIBITS.

<TABLE>  
<CAPTION>

EXHIBIT NO.	DESCRIPTION
<S>	<C>
1.1	Form of Underwriting Agreement for Common Shares of Beneficial Interest of Corporate Office Properties Trust.*
1.2	Form of Underwriting Agreement for Preferred Shares of Corporate Office Properties Trust.*
1.3	Form of Underwriting Agreement for Warrants to Purchase Securities of Corporate Office Properties Trust.*
4.1	Form of certificate for the Registrant's Common Shares of Beneficial Interest, \$0.01 par value per share (filed with the Registrant's Registration Statement on Form S-4 (Commission File No. 333-45649) and incorporated herein by reference).
4.2	Form of Warrant Certificate for Corporate Office Register Trust.*
4.3	Form of Preferred Stock Certificate for Corporate Office Properties Trust.*
4.4	Amended and Restated Declaration of Trust of Registrant (filed with the Registrant's Registration Statement on Form S-4 (Commission File No. 333-45649) and incorporated herein by reference).
4.5	Bylaws of Registrant (filed with the Registrant's Registration Statement on Form S-4 (Commission File No. 333-45649) and incorporated herein by reference).
4.6	Amended and Restated Registration Rights Agreement dated March 16, 1998 for the benefit of certain shareholders of the Registrant (filed with the Registrant's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q on August 12, 1998 and incorporated herein by reference).
4.7	Registration Rights Agreement dated September 28, 1998 for the benefit of certain shareholders of the Registrant.**
4.8	Articles Supplementary of Corporate Office Properties Trust Series A Convertible Preferred Shares, dated September 28, 1998 (filed with the Registrant's Current Report on Form 8-K on October 13, 1998 and incorporated herein by reference).
4.9.1	Amended and Restated Limited Partnership Agreement of the Operating Partnership dated March 16, 1998 (filed with the Registrant's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q on August 12, 1998 and incorporated herein by reference).
4.9.2	First Amendment to Amended and Restated Limited Partnership Agreement of the Operating Partnership, dated September 28, 1998 (filed with the Registrant's Current Report on Form 8-K on October 13, 1998 and incorporated herein by reference).
4.9.3	Second Amendment to Amended and Restated Limited Partnership Agreement of the Operating Partnership, dated as of October 13, 1998 (filed with the Registrant's Current Report on Form 8-K on October 28, 1998 and incorporated herein by reference).
5.1	Opinion of Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP regarding the legality of the securities being registered hereby.**
8.1	Opinion of Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP as to certain tax matters.**
12.1	Calculation of Ratios of Earnings to Combined Fixed Charges and Preferred Share Dividends.**
21.1	Subsidiaries of Registrant (filed with the Registrant's 1997 Annual Report on Form 10-K and incorporated herein by reference).
23.1	Consent of Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP (included in Exhibit 5.1).**
23.2	Consent of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP.**
24.1	Powers of attorney (included on signature page to the Registration



Statement).

</TABLE>

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\* TO BE FILED BY AMENDMENT, OR INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE PRIOR TO THE OFFERING OF SECURITIES REGISTERED BY THIS REGISTRATION STATEMENT.

\*\* FILED BY THIS AMENDMENT.

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ITEM 17. UNDERTAKINGS.

(a) The undersigned Registrant hereby undertakes:

(1) To file, during any period in which offers or sales are being made, a post-effective amendment to this Registration Statement:

(i) To include any prospectus required by Section 10(a)(3) of the Securities Act of 1933;

(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. Notwithstanding the foregoing, 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 a 20% change in the maximum aggregate offering price set forth in the "Calculation of Registration Fee" table in the effective 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 paragraphs (a)(1)(i) and (a)(1)(ii) do not apply if the information required to be included in a post-effective amendment by those paragraphs is contained in periodic reports filed with or furnished to the Securities and Exchange Commission by the Registrant pursuant to Section 13 or Section 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 that are incorporated by reference in the Registration Statement.

(2) That, for the purpose of determining any liability under the Securities Act of 1933, 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.

(3) To remove from registration by means of a post-effective amendment any of the securities being registered that remain unsold at the termination of the offering.

(b) The undersigned Registrant hereby undertakes that, for the purpose of determining any liability under the Securities Act of 1933, each filing of the Registrant's annual report pursuant to Section 13(a) or Section 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (and, where applicable, each filing of an employee benefit plan's annual report pursuant to Section 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934) that is incorporated by reference in this Registration Statement shall be deemed to be a new registration statement relating to the securities offered herein and the offering of such securities at that time shall be deemed to be the initial bona fide offering thereof.

(c) Insofar as indemnification for liabilities arising under the Securities Act of 1933 may be permitted to Trustees, officers and controlling persons of the Registrant pursuant to the foregoing provisions, or otherwise, the Registrant has been advised that in the opinion of the Securities and Exchange Commission such indemnification is against public policy as expressed in the Act and is, therefore, unenforceable. In the event that a claim for indemnification against such liabilities

(other than the payment by the Registrant of expenses incurred or paid by a Trustee, officer or controlling person of the Registrant in the successful defense of any action, suit or proceeding) is

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asserted by such Trustee, officer or controlling person in connection with the securities being registered, the Registrant will, unless in the opinion of its counsel the matter has been settled by controlling precedent, submit to a court of appropriate jurisdiction the question whether such indemnification by it is against public policy as expressed in the Act and will be governed by the final adjudication of such issue.

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#### SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, 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 Bala Cynwyd, State of Pennsylvania on February 22, 1999.

#### CORPORATE OFFICE PROPERTIES TRUST

By: /S/Clay W. Hamlin, III  
-----  
Name: Clay W. Hamlin, III  
Title: Chief Executive Officer

By: /S/Roger A. Waesche, Jr.  
-----  
Name: Roger A. Waesche, Jr.  
Title: Senior Vice President - Finance and  
Chief Accounting Officer

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

<TABLE>  
<CAPTION>

SIGNATURE	CAPACITY	DATE
<S> /s/Jay H. Shidler* ----- Jay H. Shidler	<C> Chairman of the Board and Trustee	<C> February 22, 1999
/s/Clay W. Hamlin, III* ----- Clay W. Hamlin, III	Chief Executive Officer and Trustee (Principal Executive Officer)	February 22, 1999
/s/Roger A. Waesche, Jr.* ----- Roger A. Waesche, Jr.	Senior Vice President--Finance and Chief Accounting Officer (Principal Accounting and Financial Officer)	February 22, 1999
/s/Vernon R. Beck* ----- Vernon R. Beck	Vice Chairman of the Board and Trustee	February 22, 1999
/s/Kenneth D. Wethe* ----- Kenneth D. Wethe	Trustee	February 22, 1999
/s/Allen C. Gehrke* ----- Allen C. Gehrke	Trustee	February 22, 1999
/s/William H. Walton, III* -----	Trustee	February 22, 1999

William H. Walton, III

/s/Kenneth S. Sweet, Jr.\*

- ----- Trustee  
Kenneth S. Sweet, Jr.

February 22, 1999

/s/Steven D. Kesler\*

- ----- Trustee  
Steven D. Kesler

February 22, 1999

/s/Edward A. Crooke\*

- ----- Trustee  
Edward A. Crooke

February 22, 1999

</TABLE>

\*Signed by Clay W. Hamlin, III (or Thomas D. Cassel) pursuant to power of attorney set forth in the initial filing of this registration statement.

## REGISTRATION RIGHTS AGREEMENT

THIS REGISTRATION RIGHTS AGREEMENT (this "Agreement") is made and entered into as of September 28, 1998 by Corporate Office Properties Trust, a Maryland real estate investment trust (the "Company"), for the benefit of (x) persons issued shares of Common Stock of the Company ("Common Stock") pursuant to the Contribution Agreement, the Asset Contribution Agreement and the Development Agreements (each, as defined below), (y) persons issued shares of Convertible Preferred Stock of the Company ("Preferred Stock") pursuant to the Contribution Agreement, the Asset Contribution Agreement and the Development Agreements, and (z) the respective successors, assigns, transferees and estates of the persons identified in clauses (x) and (y) (herein referred to collectively as the "Holders" and individually as a "Holder"). The Common Stock and Preferred Stock issued and to be issued to the Holders pursuant to the Contribution Agreement, the Asset Contribution Agreement and the Development Agreements are herein sometimes collectively called the "Stock."

WHEREAS, on the date hereof certain Holders have become the owner of Stock upon the transfer of certain partnership interests and other assets pursuant to the Contribution Agreement dated as of May 14, 1998 by and among the Company, Corporate Office Properties, L.P. ("COP") and the Persons identified therein as "Sellers", as the same may at any time be amended, modified and supplemented and in effect (the "Contribution Agreement");

WHEREAS, on the date hereof certain Holders have become the owner of Stock upon the transfer of certain membership interests and other assets pursuant to the Service Company Asset Contribution Agreement dated as of May 14, 1998 by and among COP and the Persons identified therein as "Seller" and "Shareholders", as the same may at any time be amended, modified and supplemented and in effect (the "Asset Contribution Agreement");

WHEREAS, after the date hereof certain Holders may become the owner of Stock upon the transfer of certain partnership interests and other assets pursuant to two Development Properties Acquisition Agreements each dated as of May 14, 1998 by and among the Company, COP and the Persons identified therein as "Sellers", as the same may at any time be amended, modified and supplemented and in effect (the "Development Agreements");

WHEREAS, pursuant to the Company's Amended and Restated Declaration of Trust, the Holders of shares of Preferred Stock have the right to convert them into shares of Common Stock;

WHEREAS, on the date hereof, the Common Stock is publicly held and traded and the Company is an issuer which is subject to the reporting requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended from time to time (the "Exchange Act");

WHEREAS, in connection with the foregoing, the Company has agreed, subject to the terms, conditions and limitations set forth in this Agreement, to provide the Holders with certain registration rights in respect of shares of Common Stock issued either (x) pursuant to the Contribution Agreement, the Asset Contribution Agreement or the Development Agreements, or (y) upon conversion of shares of Preferred Stock issued pursuant to the Contribution Agreement, the Asset Contribution Agreement or the Development Agreements.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Company for the benefit of the Holders agrees as follows:

## SECTION 1. DEFINITIONS.

As used in this Agreement, the following capitalized defined terms shall have the following meanings:

ASSET CONTRIBUTION AGREEMENT: As set forth in the preamble.

COMMISSION: The Securities and Exchange Commission.

COMMON STOCK: Shares of common stock, \$.01 par value, of the Company.

CONTRIBUTION AGREEMENT: As set forth in the preamble.

DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENTS: As set forth in the preamble.

EXCHANGE ACT: As set forth in the preamble.

HOLDER OR HOLDERS: As set forth in the preamble.

MAJORITY HOLDERS: At any time, Holders of Registrable Securities and shares of Preferred Stock then convertible into Registrable Securities who, if

all such Preferred Stock were converted, would then hold a majority of the Registrable Securities.

MINIMUM REGISTRABLE AMOUNT: At any date of determination, Registrable Securities having an aggregate fair market value of at least \$3 million.

NASD: The National Association of Securities Dealers, Inc.

PERSON: Any individual, partnership, corporation, trust or other legal entity.

PREFERRED STOCK: Shares of Convertible Preferred Stock, par value \$25.00, of the Company.

PROSPECTUS: A prospectus included in a Registration Statement, including any preliminary prospectus, and any such prospectus as amended or supplemented by any prospectus supplement with respect to the terms of the offering of any portion of the Registrable Securities covered by such Registration Statement, and by all other amendments and supplements to such prospectus, including post-effective amendments, and in each case including all material incorporated by reference therein.

REGISTRABLE SECURITIES: The shares of Common Stock (i) issued pursuant to the terms of the Contribution Agreement, the Asset Contribution Agreement and the Development Agreements, and (ii) issued and issuable upon conversion of the shares of Preferred Stock issued pursuant to the terms of the Contribution Agreement, the Asset Contribution Agreement and the Development Agreements. Registrable Securities shall not include (x) Common Stock as to which a Registration Statement shall have become effective under the Securities Act pursuant to Section 2, 3 or 4 of this Agreement and which shall have been disposed of under such Registration

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Statement, (ii) Common Stock sold or otherwise distributed pursuant to Rule 144 under the Securities Act and (iii) Common Stock as to which registration under the Securities Act is not required to permit the sale thereof to the public by a Holder at any time and without application of any volume or other limitations imposed by Rule 144 under the Securities Act.

SALE PERIOD: The 60-day period immediately following the filing with the Commission by the Company of an annual report of the Company on Form 10-K or a quarterly report of the Company on Form 10-Q or such other period as the Company may determine.

SECURITIES ACT: The Securities Act of 1933, as amended from time to time.

SHELF REGISTRATION STATEMENT: shall mean a "shelf" registration statement of the Company and any other entity required to be a registrant with respect to such shelf registration statement pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act which covers all of the Registrable Securities then issued and outstanding or which may thereafter be issued pursuant to the Contribution Agreement, the Asset Contribution Agreement or the Development Agreements on an appropriate form under Rule 415 under the Securities Act, or any similar rule that may be adopted by the Commission, and all amendments and supplements to such registration statement, including post-effective amendments, in each case including the Prospectus contained therein, all exhibits thereto and all materials incorporated by reference therein.

## SECTION 2. SHELF REGISTRATION UNDER THE SECURITIES ACT.

(a) FILING OF SHELF REGISTRATION STATEMENT. Within six months following, the date hereof, the Company shall cause to be filed a Shelf Registration Statement providing for the sale by the Holders of all of the Registrable Securities in accordance with the terms hereof and will use its reasonable best efforts to cause such Shelf Registration Statement to be declared effective by the SEC as soon as reasonably practicable. The Company agrees to use its reasonable best efforts to keep the Shelf Registration Statement continuously effective under the Securities Act until such time as the aggregate number of Registrable Securities outstanding (computed for this purpose as if all outstanding shares of Preferred Stock have been converted into Common Stock) is less than 5% of the aggregate number of Registrable Securities outstanding on the date hereof (assuming all Stock issuable pursuant to the Development Agreements has been issued), and further agrees to supplement or amend the Shelf Registration Statement, if and as required by the rules, regulations or instructions applicable to the registration form used by the Company for such Shelf Registration Statement or by the Securities Act or by any other rules and regulations thereunder for Shelf Registration. Each Holder who sells shares of Common Stock as part of the Shelf Registration shall be deemed to have agreed to all of the terms and conditions of this Agreement and to have

agreed to perform any and all obligations of a Holder hereunder.

(b) INCLUSION IN SHELF REGISTRATION STATEMENT. Not later than 30 days prior to filing the Shelf Registration Statement with the Commission, the Company shall notify each Holder of its intention to make such filing and request advice from each such Holder as to whether such Holder desires to have Registrable Securities held by it or which it is entitled to receive not later than the last day of the first Sale Period occurring in whole or in part after the date of such notice included in the Shelf Registration Statement at such time. Any such Holder

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who does not provide the information reasonably requested by the Company in connection with the Shelf Registration Statement as promptly as practicable after receipt of such notice, but in no event later than 20 days thereafter, shall not be entitled to have its Registrable Securities included in the Shelf Registration Statement at the time it becomes effective, but shall have the right thereafter to deliver to the Company a Registration Notice as contemplated by Section 3(b) to have such Registrable Securities included in the Shelf Registration Statement by post effective amendment.

### SECTION 3. SHELF REGISTRATION PROCEDURES.

In connection with the obligations of the Company with respect to the Shelf Registration Statement pursuant to Section 2 hereof, the Company shall:

(a) prepare and file with the SEC, within the time period set forth in Section 2(a) hereof, a Shelf Registration Statement, which Shelf Registration Statement (i) shall be available for the sale of the Registrable Securities in accordance with the intended method or methods of distribution by the selling Holders thereof and (ii) shall comply as to form in all material respects with the requirements of the applicable form.

(b) subject to the last three sentences of this Section 3(b) and to Section 3(i) hereof, (i) prepare and file with the Commission such amendments and post-effective amendments to the Shelf Registration Statement as may be necessary to keep the Shelf Registration Statement effective for the applicable period; (ii) cause each Prospectus to be supplemented by any required prospectus supplement, and as so supplemented to be filed pursuant to Rule 424 or any similar rule that may be adopted under the Securities Act, (iii) respond promptly to any comments received from the Commission with respect to the Shelf Registration Statement, or any amendment, post-effective amendment or supplement relating thereto; and (iv) comply with the provisions of the Securities Act with respect to the disposition of all securities covered by the Shelf Registration Statement during the applicable period in accordance with the intended method or methods of distribution by the selling Holders thereof. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary contained herein, the Company shall not be required to take any of the actions described in clauses (i), (ii) or (iii) above with respect to each particular Holder of Registrable Securities unless and until the Company has received either a written notice (a "Registration Notice") from a Holder that such Holder intends to make offers or sales under the Shelf Registration Statement as specified in such Registration Notice or a written response from such Holder of the type contemplated by Section 2(b); provided, however, that the Company shall have 7 business days to prepare and file any such amendment or supplement after receipt of a Registration Notice. Once a Holder has delivered such a written response or a Registration Notice to the Company, such Holder shall promptly provide to the Company such information as the Company reasonably requests in order to identify such Holder and the method of distribution in a post-effective amendment to the Shelf Registration Statement or a supplement to a Prospectus. Unless otherwise approved in writing by the Company in its sole discretion, offers or sales under the Shelf Registration Statement may be made only during a Sale Period. Such Holder also shall notify the Company in writing upon completion of such offer or sale or at such time as such Holder no longer intends to make offers or sales under the Shelf Registration Statement.

(c) furnish to each Holder of Registrable Securities that has delivered a Registration Notice to the Company, without charge, as many copies of each applicable

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Prospectus, including each preliminary Prospectus, and any amendment or supplement thereto and such other documents as such Holder may reasonably request, in order to facilitate the public sale or other disposition of the Registrable Securities; the Company consents to the use of such Prospectus, including each preliminary Prospectus, by each such Holder of Registrable Securities in connection with the offering and sale of the Registrable Securities covered by such Prospectus or the preliminary Prospectus.

(d) use its reasonable best efforts to register or qualify the

Registrable Securities by the time the Shelf Registration Statement is declared effective by the SEC under all applicable state securities or "blue sky" laws of such jurisdictions as any Holder of Registrable Securities covered by the Shelf Registration Statement shall reasonably request in writing, keep each such registration or qualification effective during the period the Shelf Registration Statement is required to be kept effective or during the period offers or sales are being made by a Holder that has delivered a Registration Notice to the Company, whichever is shorter, and do any and all other acts and things may be reasonably necessary or advisable to enable such Holder to consummate the disposition in each such jurisdiction of such Registrable Securities owned by such Holder, provided, however, that the Company not be required (i) to qualify generally to do business in any jurisdiction or to register as a broker or dealer in such jurisdiction where it would not be required so to qualify or register but for this Section 3(d), (ii) to subject itself to taxation in any such jurisdiction or (iii) to submit to the general service of process in any such jurisdiction.

(e) notify each Holder when the shelf Registration Statement has become effective and notify each Holder that has delivered a Registration Notice to the Company promptly and, if requested by such Holder, confirm such advice in writing (i) when any post-effective amendments and supplements to the Shelf Registration Statement become effective, (ii) of the issuance by the Commission or any state securities authority of any stop order suspending the effectiveness of the Shelf Registration Statement or the initiation of any proceedings for that purpose, (iii) if the Company receives any notification with respect to the suspension of the qualification of the Registrable Securities for sale in any jurisdiction or the initiation of any proceeding for such purpose and (iv) of the happening of any event during the period the Shelf Registration Statement is effective as a result of which the Shelf Registration Statement or a related Prospectus contains any untrue statement of a material fact or omits to state any material fact required to be stated therein or necessary to make the statements therein (in the case of the Prospectus, in light of the circumstances under which they were made) not misleading.

(f) make every reasonable effort to obtain the withdrawal of any order suspending the effectiveness of the Shelf Registration Statement at the carried possible moment.

(g) furnish to each Holder that has delivered a Registration Notice to the Company, without charge, at least one conformed copy of the Shelf Registration Statement and any post-effective amendment thereto (without documents incorporated therein by reference or exhibits thereto, unless requested).

(h) cooperate with the selling Holders to facilitate the timely preparation and delivery of certificates representing Registrable Securities to be sold and not bearing any Securities Act legend; and enable certificates for such Registrable Securities to be issued for

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such numbers of shares and registered in such names as the selling Holders may reasonably request at least two business days prior to any sale of Registrable Securities.

(i) subject to the last three sentences of Section 3(b) hereof, upon the occurrence of any event contemplated by Section 3(e) (iv) hereof, use its reasonable best efforts promptly to prepare and file a supplement or prepare, file and obtain effectiveness of a post-effective amendment to the Shelf Registration Statement or a related Prospectus or any document incorporated therein by reference or file any other required document so that, as thereafter delivered to the purchasers of the Registrable Securities, such Prospectus will not contain any untrue statement of a material fact or omit to state a material fact required to be stated therein or necessary to make the statements therein, in the light of the circumstances under which they were made, not misleading.

(j) make available for inspection by representatives of the selling Holders and any counsel or accountant retained by such Holders, all financial and other records, pertinent corporate documents and properties of the Company, and cause the respective officers, directors and employees of the Company to supply all information reasonably requested by any such representative, counsel or accountant in connection with the Shelf Registration Statement; provided, however, that such records, documents or information which the Company determines in good faith to be confidential and notifies such representatives, counsel or accountants in writing that such records, documents or information are confidential, shall not be disclosed by the representatives, counsel or accountants unless (i) the disclosure of such records, documents or information is necessary to avoid or correct a material misstatement or omission in the Shelf Registration Statement, (ii) the release of such records, documents or information is ordered pursuant to a subpoena or other order from a court of competent jurisdiction or (iii) such records, documents or information have been generally made available to the public otherwise than in violation of this

Agreement.

(k) within a reasonable time prior to the filing of any Prospectus, any amendment to the Shelf Registration Statement or amendment or supplement to a Prospectus, provide copies of such document (not including any documents incorporated by reference therein unless requested) to the Holders of Registrable Securities that have provided a Registration Notice to the Company.

(l) use its reasonable best efforts to cause all Registrable Securities to be listed on any securities exchange on which similar securities issued by the Company are then listed.

(m) obtain a CUSIP number for all Registrable Securities, not later than the effective date of the Shelf Registration Statement.

(n) otherwise use its reasonable efforts to comply with all applicable rules and regulations of the Commission and make available to its security holders, as soon as reasonably practicable, an earnings statement covering at least 12 months which shall satisfy the provisions of Section 11(a) of the Securities Act and Rule 158 thereunder.

(o) use its reasonable best efforts to cause the Registrable Securities covered by the Shelf Registration Statement to be registered with or approved by such other governmental agencies or authorities as may be necessary by virtue of the business and

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operations of the Company to enable Holders that have delivered Registration Notices to the Company to consummate the disposition of such Registrable Securities.

The Company may require each Holder to furnish to the Company in writing such information regarding the proposed distribution by such Holder of such Registrable Securities as the Company may from time to time reasonably request in writing.

In connection with and as a condition to the Company's obligations with respect to the Shelf Registration Statement pursuant to Section 2 hereof and this Section 3, each Holder agrees that (i) it will not offer or sell its Registrable Securities under the Shelf Registration Statement until (A) it has either (1) provided a Registration Notice pursuant to Section 3(b) hereof or (2) had Registrable Securities included in the Shelf Registration Statement at the time it became effective pursuant to Section 2(b) hereof and (B) it has received copies of the supplemented or amended Prospectus contemplated by Section 3(b) hereof and receives notice that any required post-effective amendment has become effective; (ii) upon receipt of any notice from the Company of the happening of any event of the kind described in Section 3(e) (iv) hereof, such Holder will forthwith discontinue disposition of Registrable Securities pursuant to the Shelf Registration Statement until such Holder receives copies of the supplemented or amended Prospectus contemplated by Section 3(i) hereof and receives notice that any post-effective amendment has become effective, and, if so directed by the Company, such Holder will deliver to the Company (at the expense of the Company) all copies in its possession, other than permanent file copies then in such Holder's possession, of the Prospectus covering such registrable Securities current at the time of receipt of such notice; and (iii) all offers and sales under the Shelf Registration Statement shall be completed during the first available Sale Period when offers or sales can be made pursuant to clause (i) above, and upon expiration of such Sale Period the Holder will not offer or sell its Registrable Securities under the Shelf Registration Statement until it has again complied with the provisions of clauses (i) (A) (1) and (B) above, provided, however, that if the entirety of a Sale Period is for any reason not available to the Holder, the Holder shall also be entitled to make offers and sales during the next succeeding Sale Period.

#### SECTION 4. PIGGYBACK REGISTRATION.

(a) Whenever (x) the Company proposes to register any shares of its Common Stock (or securities convertible into or exchangeable or exercisable for such Common Stock) under the Securities Act for its own account or the account of any shareholder of the Company (other than offerings pursuant to employee plans, or non-cash offerings in connection with a proposed acquisition, exchange offer, recapitalization or similar transaction), and (y) the registration form otherwise to be used by the Company may be used for the registration of Registrable Securities (a "Piggyback Registration"), the Company will give prompt written notice to all Holders of its intention to effect such a registration and will, subject to Section 4(b) and Section 10 hereof, include in such registration all Registrable Securities with respect to which such Holders request in writing to be so included within 20 days after the receipt of the Company's notice.

(b) If a registration pursuant to this Section 4 involves an



underwritten offering and the managing underwriter advises the Company in good faith that in its opinion the number of securities requested to be included in such registration exceeds the number which can be sold in such offering without having an adverse effect on such offering, including the

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price at which such securities can be sold, then the Company will be required to include in such registration the maximum number of shares that such underwriter advises can be so sold, allocated (x) first, to the securities the Company proposes to sell, (y) second, among the shares of Common Stock requested to be included in such registration by the Holders, considered in the aggregate (if such registration was initiated by the Company), and any other shareholder of the Company with shares of Common Stock eligible for registration, pro rata, on the basis of the number of shares of Common Stock such holder requests be included in such registration, and (z) third, among other securities, if any, requested and otherwise eligible to be included in such registration.

(c) Nothing contained herein shall prohibit the Company from determining, at any time, not to file a registration statement or, if filed, to withdraw such registration or terminate or abandon the registration related thereto.

#### SECTION 5. REQUESTED REGISTRATION.

(a) RIGHT TO REQUEST REGISTRATION. Upon the written request of Holders owning 10% or more of the outstanding Registrable Securities then owned in the aggregate by such Holders (the "Requesting Holders") (computed for these purposes as if all outstanding shares of Preferred Stock and all shares of Preferred Stock thereafter issuable pursuant to the Development Agreements have been converted into shares of Common Stock), requesting that the Company effect the registration under the Securities Act of at least the Minimum Registration Amount, the Company shall use its best efforts to effect, as expeditiously as possible, following the prompt (but in no event later than 15 days following the receipt of such written request) delivery of notice to all Holders, the registration under the Securities Act of such number of shares of Registrable Securities owned by the Requesting Holders and requested by the Requesting Holders to be so registered (subject to Section 5(c) hereof), together with (x) all other shares of Common Stock entitled to registration, and (y) securities of the Company which the Company elects to register and offer for its own account, provided, however, that the Company shall not be required to (i) subject to Section 5(b) below, effect more than a total of three such registrations pursuant to this Agreement or (ii) file a registration statement relating to a registration request pursuant hereto within a period of six months after the effective date of any other registration statement of the Company requested hereunder (other than pursuant to Section 2) or pursuant to which the Requesting Holders shall have been given an opportunity to participate pursuant to Section 4 hereof and which opportunity they declined or which registration statement under Section 4 hereof included shares of Registrable Securities (so long as such registration statement became and was effective for sufficient time to permit the sales contemplated thereby); provided, further, that the Company shall not be required to file a registration statement relating to an offering of Common Stock on a delayed or continuous basis pursuant to Rule 415 (or any successor to similar effect) promulgated under the Securities Act if the Company is not, at the time, eligible to register shares of Common Stock on form S-3 (or a successor form).

Notwithstanding the foregoing, if the Board of Directors of the Company determines in its good faith judgment, (x) after consultation with a nationally recognized investment banking firm, that there will be an adverse effect on a then contemplated public offering of the Company's securities, (y) that the disclosures that would be required to be made by the Company in

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connection with such registration would be materially harmful to the Company because of transactions then being considered by, or other events then concerning the Company, or (z) the registration at the time would require the inclusion of pro forma or other information, which requirements the Company is reasonably unable to comply with, then the Company may defer the filing (but not the preparation) of the registration statement which is required to effect any registration pursuant to this Section 5 for a reasonable period of time, but not in excess of 90 calendar days (or any longer period agreed to by the Holders), provided that at all times the Company is in good faith using all reasonable efforts to file such registration statement as soon as practicable.

(b) EFFECTIVE REGISTRATION. A registration requested pursuant to this Section 5 shall not be deemed to have been effected (and, therefore, not requested for purposes of Section 5(a) above) (w) unless the registration

statement relating thereto has become effective under the Securities Act, (x) if after it has become effective such registration is interfered with by any stop order, injunction or other order or requirement of the Commission or other governmental agency or court for any reason other than a misrepresentation or an omission by a Holder and, as a result thereof, the shares of Registrable Securities requested to be registered cannot be completely distributed in accordance with the plan of distribution, (y) if the conditions to closing specified in the purchase agreement or underwriting agreement entered into in connection with such registration are not satisfied or waived other than by reason of some act or omission by a participating Holder or (z) if with respect to what would otherwise be deemed the third, or last, request under Section 5(a) hereof, less than all of the shares of Common Stock that the Holders requested be registered were actually registered due to the operation of Section 5(c) hereof, provided that clause (z) above may not be invoked by the Holders unless (I) such request includes at least the Minimum Registrable Amount, or (II) if such request includes an amount that is less than the Minimum Registrable Amount, Rule 144 under the Securities Act is not available to the Holders for the sale in any three (3) month period of all of the shares of Common Stock owned by the Holders; and provided further that clause (z) above may be invoked only at the request of Holders meeting the foregoing requirements and owning more than 10% of the shares of Registrable Securities then owned (computed as aforesaid) in the aggregate by the Holders.

(c) PRIORITY. If a requested registration pursuant to this Section 5 involves an underwritten offering and the managing underwriter shall advise the Company that in its opinion the number of securities requested to be included in such registration exceeds the number which can be sold in such offering without having an adverse effect on such offering, including the price at which such securities can be sold, then the Company will be required to include in such registration the maximum number of shares that such underwriter advises can be so sold, allocated (x) first, among all shares of Common Stock requested by Holders to be included in such registration, pro rata on the basis of the number of shares of Common Stock then owned by each of them (or, if such holder requests that less than all of the shares of Common Stock owned by such holder be included in such registration such lesser number of shares) (y) second, to any securities requested to be included in such registration by any other shareholder of the Company having registration rights and (z) third, to any securities the Company proposes to sell.

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#### SECTION 6. REGISTRATION PROCEDURES.

If and whenever the Company is required to use its best efforts to effect or cause the registration of any Registrable Securities under the Securities Act as provided in this Agreement pursuant to Section 4 or 5 hereof, the Company shall:

(a) prepare and file with the Commission as expeditiously as possible but in no event later than 90 days after receipt of a request for registration with respect to such Registrable Shares, a registration statement on any form for which the Company then qualifies or which counsel for the Company shall deem appropriate, which form shall be available for the sale of the Registrable Securities in accordance with the intended methods of distribution thereof, and use its best efforts to cause such registration statement to become effective; provided that before filing with the Commission a registration statement or prospectus or any amendments or supplements thereto, including documents incorporated by reference after the initial filing of any registration statement, the Company shall (x) furnish to each participating Holder and to one firm of attorneys selected collectively by the participating Holders and the holders of other securities covered by such registration statement, but in no event to more than one such counsel for all such selling securityholders, copies of all such documents proposed to be filed, which documents shall be subject to the review of the participating Holders and such counsel, and (y) notify the participating Holders of any stop order issued or threatened by the Commission and take all reasonable actions required to prevent the entry of such stop order or to remove it if entered;

(b) prepare and file with the Commission such amendments and supplements to such registration statement and the prospectus used in connection therewith as may be necessary to keep such registration statement effective for a period of not less than 180 days or such shorter period which shall terminate when all Registrable Securities covered by such registration statement have been sold (but not before the expiration of the 90-day period referred to in Section 4(3) of the Securities Act and Rule 174 thereunder, or any successor thereto, if applicable), and comply with the provisions of the Securities Act with respect to the disposition of all securities covered by such registration statement during such period in accordance with the intended methods of disposition by the sellers thereof set forth in such registration statement;

(c) furnish, without charge, to the participating Holders and each underwriter, if any, such number of copies of such registration statement, each amendment and supplement thereto (including one conformed copy to each participating Holder and one signed copy to each managing underwriter and in

each case including all exhibits thereto), and the prospectus included in such registration statement (including each preliminary prospectus), in conformity with the requirements of the Securities Act, and such other documents as the participating Holders may reasonably request in order to facilitate the disposition of the Registrable Securities registered thereunder;

(d) use its best efforts to register or qualify such Registrable Securities covered by such registration statement under such other securities or blue sky laws of such jurisdiction as the participating Holders, and the managing underwriter, if any, reasonably requests and do any and all other acts and things which may be reasonable necessary or advisable to enable the participating Holders and each underwriter, if any to consummate the disposition in such jurisdiction of the Registrable Securities registered thereunder, provided that

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the Company shall not be required to (x) qualify generally to do business in any jurisdiction where it would not otherwise be required to qualify but for this Section 6(d), (y) subject itself to taxation in any such jurisdiction or (z) consent to general service of process in any such jurisdiction;

(e) immediately notify the managing underwriter, if any, and the Holders at any time when a prospectus relating thereto is required to be delivered under the Securities Act, of the happening of any event which comes to the Company's attention if as a result of such event the prospectus included in such registration statement contains an untrue statement of a material fact or omits to state any material fact required to be stated therein or necessary to make the statements therein not misleading, and the Company shall promptly prepare and furnish to the participating Holders and any other holder of securities covered by such registration statement and prospectus a supplement or amendment to such prospectus so that as thereafter delivered, such prospectus shall not contain an untrue statement of a material fact or omit to state any material fact required to be stated therein or necessary to make the statements therein not misleading; provided, however, that if the Company determines in good faith that the disclosure that would be required to be made by the Company would be materially harmful to the Company because of transactions then being considered by, or other events then concerning, the Company, or a supplement or amendment to such prospectus at such time would require the inclusion of pro forma or other information, which requirement the Company is reasonably unable to comply with, then the Company may defer for a reasonable period of time, not to exceed 90 days, furnishing to the participating Holders and any other holder of securities covered by such registration statement and prospectus a supplement or amendment to such prospectus, provided, further, that at all times the Company is in good faith using all reasonable efforts to file such amendment as soon as practicable;

(f) use its best efforts to cause all such securities being registered to be listed on each securities exchange on which similar securities issued by the Company are then listed, and enter into such customary agreements including a listing, application and indemnification agreement in customary form (provided that the applicable listing requirements are satisfied), and to provide a transfer agent and register for such Registrable Shares covered by such registration statement no later than the effective date of such registration statement;

(g) make available for inspection by any of the participating Holders and any holder of securities covered by such registration statement, any underwriter participating in any distribution pursuant to such registration statement, and any attorney, accountant or other agent retained by such persons (collectively, the "Inspectors"), all financial and other records of the Company and its subsidiaries (collectively, 'Records'), if any, as shall be reasonably necessary to enable them to exercise their due diligence responsibility, and cause the Company's and its subsidiaries' officers, directors and employees to supply all information and respond to all inquiries reasonably requested by any such Inspector in connection with such registration statement. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Company shall have no obligation to disclose any Records to the Inspector in the event the Company determines that such disclosure is reasonably likely to have an adverse effect on the Company's ability to assert the existence of an attorney-client privilege with respect thereto;

(h) if requested use its best efforts to obtain a "cold comfort" letter and a "bring-down cold comfort" letter from the Company's independent public accountants in customary form and covering such matters of the type customarily covered by such letters;

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(i) enter into a form of underwriting agreement that contains customary terms and provisions for similar securities offerings;

(j) make available senior management personnel to participate in, and cause them to cooperate with the underwriters in connection with, "road

show" and other customary marketing activities, including "one-on-one" meetings with prospective purchasers of the Registrable Securities; and

(k) otherwise use its best efforts to comply with all applicable rules and regulations of the Commission, and make available to its security holders, as soon as reasonably practicable, an earning statement covering a period of at least 12 months, beginning with the first month after the effective date of the registration statement (as the term "effective date" is defined in Rule 158(c) under the Securities Act), which earning statement shall satisfy the provisions of Section 11(a) of the Securities Act and Rule 158 thereunder.

It shall be a condition precedent to the obligation of the Company to take any action pursuant to this Agreement in respect of Registrable Securities which are to be registered at the request of any of the participating Holders that the participating Holders shall furnish to the Company such information regarding the securities held by the participating Holders and the intended method of disposition thereof as the Company shall reasonably request and as shall be required in correction with the action taken by the Company.

Each of the Holders agrees that, upon receipt of any notice from the Company of the happening of any event of the kind described in Section 6(e) hereof, the Holders shall discontinue disposition of Registrable Shares pursuant to the registration statement covering such Registrable Securities until receipt of the copies of the supplemented or amended prospectus contemplated by Section 6(c) hereof or until otherwise notified by the Company, and, if so directed by the Company, the participating Holders shall deliver to the Company (at the Company's expense) all copies (including, without limitation, any and all drafts), other than permanent file copies, then in any participating Holder's possession, of the prospectus covering such Registrable Securities at the time of receipt of such notice. In the event the Company shall give any such notice, the period specified in Section 6(b) hereof shall be extended by the greater of (x) three months and (y) the number of days during the period from and including the date of the giving of such notice pursuant to Section 6(e) hereof to and including the date when each of the participating Holders shall have received the copies of the supplemented or amended prospectus contemplated by Section 6(e) hereof.

#### SECTION 7. SELECTION OF UNDERWRITERS.

If any offering pursuant to a registration statement is to be an underwritten offering, the Company will select a managing underwriter or underwriters to administer the offering; provided that in the case of a registration statement pursuant to Section 5 hereof, the Holders holding more than 50% of the shares of Registrable Securities held by the Holders to be included in such underwritten offering shall select the managing underwriter or underwriters, subject to the consent of the Company which shall not be unreasonably withheld.

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#### SECTION 8. REGISTRATION EXPENSES.

The Company shall pay, in connection with any registration pursuant to Section 2, 4 or 5, the following registration expenses incurred in connection therewith: (i) all Commission, stock exchange or NASD registration and filing fees, (ii) all fees and expenses of compliance with securities or blue sky laws (including reasonable fees and disbursements of counsel in connection with the blue sky qualifications of the Registrable Securities), (iii) printing expenses, (iv) internal expenses (including without limitation, all salaries and expenses of its officers and employees performing legal or accounting duties), (v) the fees and expenses incurred in connection with the listing of the Registrable Securities on any national securities exchange or interdealer quotation system, (vi) the reasonable fees and disbursements of counsel for the Company and customary fees and expenses for independent certified public accountants retained by the Company (including the expenses of any comfort letters or costs associated with the delivery by independent certified public accountants of a comfort letter or comfort letters), (vii) the reasonable fees and disbursements of not more than one firm of attorneys acting as legal counsel for (x) all of the selling shareholders, collectively, in respect of a registration pursuant to Section 2 hereof or (y) all of the participating Holders, collectively, in respect of a registration pursuant to Sections 4 or 5 hereof, (viii) the fees and expenses of any registrar and transfer agent for the Common Stock, (ix) the underwriting fees, discounts and commissions applicable to any shares of Common Stock sold for the account of the Company and (x) all expenses of any Person in preparing or assisting in preparing, word processing, printing and distributing any registration statement, prospectus, certificates and other documents relating to the performance of and compliance with this Agreement. Except as otherwise provided in clause (ix) of this Section 8, the Company shall have no obligation to pay any underwriting fees, discounts or commissions attributable to the sale of Registrable Shares.

SECTION 9. INDEMNIFICATION; CONTRIBUTION.

(a) The Company agrees to indemnify and hold harmless each seller of Registrable Securities covered by a Registration Statement filed pursuant to this Agreement, and such seller's partners, directors, officers, employees and any Person who controls such seller under the Securities Act (each, an "Indemnitee") from and against any and all losses, claims, damages, liabilities and expenses (including reasonable costs of investigation) arising out of or based upon any untrue statement or alleged untrue statement of a material fact contained in any prepricing prospectus, registration statement or prospectus or in any amendment or supplement thereto, or arising out of or based upon any omission or alleged omission to state therein a material fact required to be stated therein or necessary to make the statements therein not misleading, except insofar as such losses, claims, damages, liabilities or expenses arise out of or are based upon any untrue statement or omission or alleged untrue statement or omission which has been made therein or omitted therefrom in reliance upon and in conformity with the information relating to a participating Holder furnished in writing to the Company by or on behalf of a participating Holder expressly for use in connection therewith. The foregoing indemnity agreement shall be in addition to any liability which the Company may otherwise have.

(b) If any action, suit or proceeding shall be brought against an Indemnitee in respect of which indemnity may be sought against the Company, such Indemnitee shall promptly notify the Company, and the Company shall assume the defense thereof, including the

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employment of counsel and payment of all fees and expenses. The Indemnitee shall have the right to employ separate counsel in any such action, suit or proceeding and to participate in the defense thereof, but the fees and expenses of such counsel shall be at the expense of such Indemnitee unless (x) the Company has agreed in writing to pay such fees and expenses, (y) the Company has failed to assume the defense and employ counsel, or (z) the named parties to any such action, suit or proceeding (including any impleaded parties) include both such Indemnitee and the Company, and such Indemnitee shall have been advised by its counsel that representation of such Indemnitee and the Company by the same counsel would be inappropriate under applicable standards of professional conduct (whether or not such representation by the same counsel has been proposed) due to actual or potential differing interests between them (in which case the Company shall not have the right to assume the defense of such action, suit or proceeding on behalf of such Indemnitee). It is understood, however, that the Company shall, in connection with any one such action, suit or proceeding or separate but substantially similar or related actions, suits or proceedings in the same jurisdiction arising out of the same general allegations or circumstances, be liable for the reasonable fees and expenses of only one separate firm of attorneys (in addition to any local counsel) at any time for all such Indemnitees not having actual or potential differing interests among themselves, and that all such fees and expenses shall be reimbursed as they are incurred. The Company shall not be liable for any settlement of any such action, suit or proceeding effected without its written consent, but if settled with such written consent, or if there be a final judgment for the plaintiff in any such action, suit or proceeding, the Company agrees to indemnify and hold harmless such Indemnitee, to the extent provided in the preceding paragraph, from and against any loss, claim, damage, liability or expense by reason of such settlement or judgment.

(c) Each of the participating Holders, severally and not jointly, agree to indemnify and hold harmless the Company, its directors, its officers who sign the registration statement, and any person who controls the Company within the meaning of Section 15 of the Securities Act or Section 20 of the Exchange Act, to the same extent as the foregoing indemnity from the Company to an Indemnitee, but only with respect to information relating to such Holder furnished in writing by or on behalf of such Holder expressly for use in the registration statement, prospectus or any prepricing prospectus, or any amendment or supplement thereto. If any action, suit or proceeding shall be brought against the Company, any of its directors, any such officer, or any such controlling person based on the registration statement, prospectus or any prepricing prospectus, or any amendment or supplement thereto, and in respect of which indemnity may be sought against any Holder pursuant to this Section 9(c), such Holder shall have the rights and duties given to the Company by Section 9(b) hereof (except that if the Company shall have assumed the defense thereof such Holder shall not be required to do so, but may employ separate counsel therein and participate in the defense thereof, but the fees and expenses of such counsel shall be at the Holder's expense), and the Company, its directors, any such officer, and any such controlling person shall have the rights and duties given to an Indemnitee by Section 9(b) hereof. The foregoing indemnity agreement shall be in addition to any liability which the participating Holders may otherwise have.

(d) If the indemnification provided for in this Section 9 is unavailable to an indemnified party under paragraphs (a) or (c) hereof in

respect of any losses, claims, damages, liabilities or expenses referred to therein, then an indemnifying party, in lieu of indemnifying such indemnified party, shall contribute to the amount paid or payable by such indemnified party as a result of such losses, claims, damages, liabilities or expenses in such proportion as is appropriate to reflect the relative fault of the Company and of the participating Holders in

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connection with the statements or omissions that resulted in such losses, claims, damages, liabilities or expenses. The relative fault of the Company on the one hand and a participating Holder on the other hand shall be determined by reference to, among other things, whether the untrue or alleged untrue statement of a material fact or the omission or alleged omission to state a material fact relates to information supplied by the Company on the one hand or by such participating Holder on the other hand and the parties' relative intent, knowledge, access or information and opportunity to correct or prevent such statement or omission.

(e) The Company and the participating Holders agree that it would not be just and equitable if contribution pursuant to this Section 9 were determined by a pro rata allocation or by any other method of allocation that does not take account of the equitable considerations referred to in Section 9(d) hereof. The amount paid or payable by an indemnified party as a result of the losses, claims, damages, liabilities and expenses referred to in Section 9(d) hereof shall be deemed to include, subject to the limitations set forth above, any legal or other expenses reasonably incurred by such indemnified party in connection with investigating any claim or defending any such action, suit or proceeding. Notwithstanding the provisions of this Section 9, no participating Holder shall be required to contribute any amount in excess of the amount by which the proceeds to such participating Holder exceeds the amount of any damages which such participating Holder has otherwise been required to pay by reason of such untrue or alleged untrue statement or omission or alleged omission. No person guilty of fraudulent misrepresentation (within the meaning of Section 11(f) of the Securities Act) shall be entitled to contribution from any person who was not guilty of such fraudulent misrepresentation.

(f) No indemnifying party shall, without the prior written consent of the indemnified party, effect any settlement of any pending or threatened action, suit or proceeding in respect of which any indemnified party is or could have been a party and indemnity could have been sought hereunder by such indemnified party, unless such settlement includes an unconditional release of such indemnified party from all liability on claims that are the subject matter of such action, suit or proceeding.

(g) Any losses, claims, damages, liabilities or expenses for which an indemnified party is entitled to indemnification or contribution under this Section 9 shall be paid by the indemnifying party to the indemnified party as such losses, claims, damages, liabilities or expenses are incurred. The indemnity and contribution agreements contained in this Section 9 shall remain operative and in full force and effect, regardless of (i) any investigation made by or on behalf of an Indemnitee, the Company, its directors or officers, or any person controlling the Company, and (ii) any termination of this Agreement.

#### SECTION 10. PARTICIPATION IN UNDERWRITTEN REGISTRATIONS.

A Holder may not participate in any underwritten offering pursuant to Section 4 or 5 hereof unless such Holder (i) agrees to sell its Registrable Securities on the basis provided in any underwriting arrangements which, to the extent applicable solely to the participating Holders, are approved by the participating Holders in their reasonable discretion or which, to the extent applicable to the Company and the participating Holders, are approved by the Company in its reasonable discretion and (ii) completes and executes all questionnaires, powers of attorney, indemnities, underwriting agreements and other documents (including lock-

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up agreements) reasonably required under the terms of such underwriting arrangements which are not in consistent with the terms of this Agreement.

#### SECTION 11. OTHER REGISTRATION RIGHTS.

The Company agrees that it shall not enter into any agreement which provides registration rights to any Person that are inconsistent with the provisions contained in this Agreement. If the Company does become a party to such an agreement, the Company agrees that to the extent that the provisions of such agreement conflict with this Agreement, the provisions of this Agreement

shall control.

#### SECTION 12. RULE 144 SALES.

(a) The Company covenants that it will file the reports required to be filed by the Company under the Securities Act and the Exchange Act, so as to enable any Holder to sell Registrable Securities pursuant to Rule 144 under the Securities Act.

(b) In connection with any sale, transfer or other disposition by any Holder of any Registrable Securities pursuant to Rule 144 under the Securities Act, the Company shall cooperate with such Holder to facilitate the timely preparation and delivery of certificates representing Registrable Securities to be sold and not bearing any Securities Act legend, and enable certificates for such Registrable Securities to be for such number of shares and registered in such names as the selling Holders may reasonably request at least two business days prior to any sale of Registrable Securities.

#### SECTION 13. MISCELLANEOUS.

(a) AMENDMENTS AND WAIVERS. The provisions of this Agreement, including the provisions of this sentence, may not be amended, modified or supplemented, and waivers or consents to departures from the provisions hereto may not be given without the written consent of the Company and Holders constituting Majority Holders; provided, however, that no amendment, modification or supplement or waiver or consent to the departure with respect to the provisions of Sections 1 through 12, inclusive, hereof or which would impair the rights of any Holder under such provisions, shall be effective as against any Holder. Notice of any amendment, modification or supplement to this Agreement adopted in accordance with this Section 13(a) shall be provided by Company to each Holder at least thirty (30) days prior to the effective date of such amendment, modification or supplement.

(b) NOTICES. All notices and other communications provided for or permitted hereunder shall be made in writing by hand delivery, registered first-class mail, telex, telecopier or any courier guaranteeing overnight delivery, (i) if to a Holder, at the most current address given by such Holder to the Company by of a notice given in accordance with the provisions of this Section 13(b), which address initially is, with respect to each Holder, the address set forth in the Contribution Agreement, the Asset Contribution Agreement or the Development Agreements, or (ii) if to the Company, at One Logan Square, Suite 1105, Philadelphia, PA 19103.

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All such notices and communications shall be deemed to have been duly given: at the time delivered by hand, if personally delivered; five business days after being deposited in the mail, postage prepaid, if mailed; when answered back, if telexed; when receipt is acknowledged, if telecopied; or at the time delivered if delivered by an air courier guaranteeing overnight delivery.

(c) SUCCESSORS AND ASSIGNS. This Agreement shall inure to the benefit of and be binding upon the successors, assigns and transferees of each of the Company and the Holders, including without limitation and without the need for an express assignment, subsequent Holders. If any successor, assignee or transferee of any Holder shall acquire Registrable Securities, in any manner, whether by operation of law or otherwise, such Registrable Securities shall be held subject to all of the terms of this Agreement, and by taking and holding such Registrable Securities such Person shall be entitled to receive the benefits hereof and shall be conclusively deemed to have agreed to be bound by all of the terms and provisions hereof.

(d) HEADINGS. The headings in this Agreement are for the convenience of reference only and shall not limit or otherwise affect the meaning hereof.

(e) GOVERNING LAW. THIS AGREEMENT SHALL BE GOVERNED BY AND CONSTRUED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE LAWS OF THE STATE OF DELAWARE WITHOUT GIVING EFFECT TO THE CONFLICTS OF LAW PROVISIONS THEREOF.

(f) SPECIFIC PERFORMANCE. The Company and the Holders acknowledge that there would be no adequate remedy at law if any party fails to perform any of its obligations hereunder, and accordingly agree that the Company and each Holder, in addition to any other remedy to which it may be entitled at law or in equity, shall be entitled to compel specific performance of the obligations of another under this Agreement in accordance with the terms and conditions of this Agreement in any court of the United States or any State thereof having jurisdiction.

(g) ENTIRE AGREEMENT. This Agreement is intended by the Company as a final expression of its agreement and is intended to be a complete and exclusive statement of the agreement and understanding of the Company in respect of the subject matter contained herein. This Agreement supersedes all prior

agreements and understandings of the Company with respect to such subject matter.

(h) Notwithstanding any other provision of this Agreement to the contrary, the total number of days that the Holders shall be precluded from the disposition of Registrable Securities under an effective Registration Statement coupled with the total number of days that the Company may defer the filing of the registration statement hereunder shall not exceed 180 in any 12-month period during the first two years from the date of this Agreement, and shall not exceed 120 days in any 12-month period thereafter.

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IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Company has executed this Agreement as of the date first written above.

CORPORATE OFFICE PROPERTIES TRUST

By: /s/ Clay W. Hamlin, III

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Clay W. Hamlin, III  
President and Chief Executive Officer

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February 19, 1999

Corporate Office Properties Trust  
401 City Avenue, Suite 615  
Bala Cynwyd, PA 19004

Ladies and Gentlemen:

This opinion is furnished in connection with the registration on Form S-3 initially filed on February 4, 1999 with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the "Commission") under Registration No. 333-71807 (the "Registration Statement") pursuant to the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the "Securities Act"), and Rule 415 thereunder for the offering by Corporate Office Properties Trust, a Maryland real estate investment trust (the "Company"), from time to time of its securities (the "Registered Securities"). The Registered Securities consist of (i) common shares of beneficial interest of the Company, par value \$.01 per share (the "Common Shares"), (ii) preferred shares of beneficial interest of the Company, par value \$.01 per share (the "Preferred Shares"), (iii) warrants to purchase Common Shares (the "Common Share Warrants") or (iv) warrants to purchase Preferred Shares (the "Preferred Share Warrants", and together with the Common Share Warrants, the "Warrants"). The Registration Statement provides that the Company may offer and sell any combination of the Registered Securities in one or more offerings up to a total aggregate initial offering price of \$250,000,000. This opinion is being provided at your request in connection with the filing of the Registration Statement.

In connection with rendering this opinion, we have examined the Registration Statement and the prospectus (the "Prospectus") which forms a part thereof; the Amended and Restated Declaration of Trust and the Bylaws of the Company, each as amended to date; such records of corporate proceedings of the Company as we deemed material; and such other certificates, receipts, records and documents as we considered necessary for the purposes of this opinion. In our examination, we have assumed the genuineness of all signatures, the legal capacity of natural persons, the authenticity of all documents submitted to us as certified, photostatic or

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February 19, 1999  
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facsimile copies, the authenticity of the originals of such copies and the authenticity of telephonic confirmation of public officials and others. As to facts material to our opinion, we have relied, without independent verification, upon certificates or telephonic confirmations of public officials and certificates, documents and statements of the Company or representatives or officers thereof.

For the purposes of this opinion, we have assumed that:

(a) The issuance, sale, amount, and terms of the Registered Securities to be offered from time to time by the Company will be authorized and determined by proper action of its Board of Trustees (or where permitted, a committee of the Board of Trustees) of the Company (each, a "Board Action") in accordance with the Amended and Restated Declaration of Trust and the Bylaws of the Company and applicable law, in each case so as not to result in a default under or breach of any agreement or instrument binding upon the Company and so as to comply with any requirement or restriction imposed by any court or governmental or regulatory body having jurisdiction over the Company, and that at the time of issuance and sale of the Registered Securities the Company will be validly existing and in good standing under the laws of the State of Maryland.

(b) Prior to the issuance of any Common Shares or Preferred Shares (including Common Shares that are the subject of any of the Common Share Warrants or Preferred Shares that are the subject of any of the Preferred Share Warrants), there will exist, under the Amended and Restated Declaration of Trust of the Company, the requisite number of authorized but unissued Common Shares or Preferred Shares (and securities of any class into which any of the Preferred Shares may be convertible), as the case may be, and that all actions necessary to the creation of any such Preferred Shares (and securities of any class into which any Preferred Shares may be convertible), whether by amendment to the Amended and Restated Declaration of Trust or by classification or reclassification of existing capital stock and the filing of Articles Supplementary will have been taken, and the terms thereof will conform to the description thereof in the Prospectus or in any supplement thereto (the

"Prospectus Supplement").

(c) Appropriate certificates representing the Common Shares or the Preferred Shares will be executed and delivered upon issuance and sale of the Common Shares or the Preferred Shares, as the case may be, and will comply with the Amended and Restated Declaration of Trust and Bylaws of the Company.

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(d) Any Warrants will be issued under a valid and legally binding warrant agreement (a "Warrant Agreement") that conforms to the description thereof set forth in the Prospectus Supplement, and will comply with the Amended and Restated Declaration of Trust and Bylaws of the Company and applicable law.

(e) To the extent that the obligations of the Company under any Warrant Agreement may be dependent upon such matters, the financial institution to be identified in such Warrant Agreement as warrant agent (the "Warrant Agent") will be duly organized, validly existing, and in good standing under the laws of its jurisdiction of organization; the Warrant Agent will be duly qualified to engage in the activities contemplated by such Warrant Agreement; such Warrant Agreement will have been duly authorized, executed, and delivered by the Warrant Agent and will constitute the legally valid and binding obligation of the Warrant Agent enforceable against the Warrant Agent in accordance with its terms; the Warrant Agent will be in compliance, generally, with respect to acting as Warrant Agent under such Warrant Agreement, with applicable laws and regulations; and the Warrant Agent will have the requisite organizational and legal power and authority to perform its obligations under such Warrant Agreement.

(f) The underwriting agreements for offerings of the Securities (each, an "Underwriting Agreement", and collectively, the "Underwriting Agreements") will be valid and legally binding contracts that conform to the description thereof set forth in the applicable Prospectus Supplement.

Based upon the foregoing examination and assumptions, we are of the opinion that:

1. Upon due authorization by Board Action of an issuance of Common Shares, and upon issuance and delivery of certificates for such Common Shares against payment therefor in accordance with the terms and provisions of such Board Action, the Registration Statement (as declared effective under the Act), the Prospectus or the applicable Prospectus Supplement and, if applicable, an Underwriting Agreement, or upon issuance and delivery of certificates for Common Shares pursuant to the exercise of one or more Common Share Warrants or the conversion of one or more series of the Preferred Shares convertible into the Common Shares, the Common Shares represented by such certificates will be duly authorized, validly issued, fully paid, and non-assessable.

2. When a series of the Preferred Shares (and securities of any class into which any of the Preferred Shares may be convertible) has been duly authorized and established in accordance with the applicable Board Action, the terms of the Amended and Restated

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Declaration of Trust and Bylaws of the Company, and applicable law, and, upon issuance and delivery of certificates for shares of such series of the Preferred Shares against payment therefor in accordance with the terms and provisions of such Board Action, the Registration Statement (as declared effective under the Act), the Prospectus or the applicable Prospectus Supplement, and, if applicable, an Underwriting Agreement, or upon issuance and delivery of certificates for shares of the Preferred Shares pursuant to the exercise of one or more Preferred Share Warrants, the shares of the Preferred Shares represented by such certificates will be duly authorized, validly issued, fully paid, and non-assessable.

3. When the Warrants (and securities of any class for which the Warrants may be exercised) have been duly authorized and established in accordance with the applicable Board Action, the terms of the Amended and Restated Declaration of Trust and the Bylaws of the Company and applicable law, and, upon execution, issuance, and delivery of the Warrants against payment therefor in accordance with the terms and provisions of such Board Action, the Warrant Agreement, the Registration Statement (as declared effective under the Act), the Prospectus or the applicable Prospectus Supplement, and, if applicable, an Underwriting Agreement, the Warrants will constitute valid and legally binding obligations of the Company.

The foregoing opinion assumes that all requisite steps have been or will be taken to comply with the requirements of the Securities Act and applicable requirements of state securities laws regulating the offer and sale of securities.

We hereby consent to the filing of this opinion as an exhibit to the Registration Statement and to the reference to us with respect to this opinion under the heading "Legal Matters" in the prospectus which is a part of such Registration Statement. In giving such consent, we do not thereby admit that we are in the category of persons whose consent is required under Section 7 of the Securities Act. This opinion is expressed as of the date hereof and we disclaim any undertaking to advise you of any subsequent changes in the facts stated or assumed herein or of any subsequent changes in applicable law.

Very truly yours,

/s/ Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP

February 19, 1999

Corporate Office Properties Trust  
401 City Avenue, Suite 615  
Bala Cynwyd, PA 19004

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen:

We have acted as tax counsel to Corporate Office Properties Trust, a Maryland real estate investment trust (the "Company"), in connection with the Registration Statement on Form S-3 filed by the Company with the Securities and Exchange Commission on February 4, 1999, Registration No. 333-71807, as amended through the date hereof (the "Registration Statement").\*/ We have been asked to provide our opinion as to certain federal income tax matters arising under the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the "Code"), relating to the Company's qualification for taxation as a real estate investment trust (a "REIT") for federal income tax purposes.

The opinions set forth in this letter are based on relevant provisions of the Code, Treasury Regulations thereunder and interpretations of the foregoing as expressed in court decisions and administrative determinations as of the date hereof (or, where applicable, as in effect during earlier periods in question). These provisions and interpretations are subject to changes that might result in modifications of our opinions.

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\*/ Capitalized terms used in this letter that are not otherwise defined herein have the meanings ascribed to them in the Registration Statement. References to the Company shall include Corporate Office Properties Trust, Inc., a Minnesota corporation (formerly known as Royale Investments, Inc.), for periods prior to the merger of that corporation into the Maryland real estate investment trust on March 16, 1998.

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February 19, 1999  
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For purposes of rendering the opinions contained in this letter, we have reviewed the Registration Statement and such other documents, law and facts as we have deemed necessary. In our review, we have assumed the genuineness of all signatures; the proper execution of all documents; the authenticity of all documents submitted to us as originals; the conformity to originals of all documents submitted to us as copies; and the authenticity of the originals of any copies.

These opinions also are premised on certain written representations made by the Company in a certificate dated February 3, 1999 (the "Certificate"), the assumptions identified herein and the assumptions and representations described in the Registration Statement under the heading "FEDERAL INCOME TAX MATTERS" (the "Tax Section"). For purposes of our opinions, we have not made an independent investigation of the matters relating to such assumptions or representations. We have relied on the representation in the Certificate that the information contained in the Certificate and the Registration Statement, or otherwise furnished to us, accurately describes all material facts relevant to our opinions.

Based upon and subject to the foregoing, we are of the opinion that, for federal income tax purposes, (a) the Company has properly elected and otherwise qualified to be taxed as a REIT for the taxable years commencing on and after January 1, 1992, and ending prior to January 1, 1999, and (b) the proposed method of operation as described in the Registration Statement and as represented by the Company will enable the Company to continue to satisfy the

requirements for such qualification for subsequent taxable years.

We express no opinion other than the opinions expressly set forth herein. Our opinions are not binding on the Internal Revenue Service (the "IRS") and the IRS may disagree with our opinions. Although we believe that our opinions would be sustained if challenged, there can be no assurance that this will be the case. Our opinions are based upon the law as it currently exists. Consequently, future changes in the law may cause the federal income tax treatment of the matters referred to herein and in the Tax Section to be materially and adversely different from that described above and in the Tax Section. In addition, any variation in the facts from those set forth in the Registration Statement, the representations contained in the Certificate or otherwise provided to us may affect the conclusions stated in our opinions. Moreover, the Company's qualification and taxation as a REIT depended and depends upon the Company's ability to meet, for each taxable year, various tests imposed under the Code. These include, among others, tests relating to asset composition, operating results, distribution levels and diversity of stock ownership. We will not review (and have not reviewed) the Company's compliance with these tests. Accordingly, no assurance can be given that the actual results of the Company's operations for any taxable year will satisfy (or has satisfied) the requirements

Corporate Office Properties Trust

February 19, 1999

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for the Company to qualify (or to have qualified) as a REIT.

This opinion is rendered only to you, and is solely for your use in connection with the issuance of securities by the Company pursuant to the Registration Statement. This opinion may not be relied upon by you for any other purpose, or furnished to, quoted to or relied upon by any other person, firm or corporation, for any purpose, without our prior written consent. We hereby consent to the filing of this opinion as an exhibit to the Registration Statement and to the use of our name in the Tax Section of the Registration Statement.

Very truly yours,

/s/ Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP

## EXHIBIT 12.1

Ratio of Earnings to Combined Fixed Charges and Preferred Share dividends  
(Dollars in thousands)<TABLE>  
<CAPTION>

	1998	1997	1996	Years ended	
	-----	----	----	1995	1994
<S>	<C>	<C>	<C>	<C>	<C>
Net income	\$ 4,696	\$ (967)	\$ 293	\$ 272	\$ 301
Add:					
Minority interest (Common Units)	1,171	65	--	--	--
Total combined fixed charges and Preferred Share dividends (from below)	16,446	3,639	1,259	1,280	1,107
Preferred Share Dividends included in fixed charges	(327)	--	--	--	--
Interest capitalized	(77)	--	--	--	--
Total earnings	\$21,909	\$ 2,737	\$ 1,552	\$ 1,552	\$ 1,408
Combined fixed charges and Preferred Share dividends:					
Interest on indebtedness	\$12,207	\$ 2,855	\$ 1,246	\$ 1,267	\$ 1,098
Interest capitalized	77	--	--	--	--
Amortization of debt issuance costs	423	64	13	13	9
Preferred Share dividends	327	--	--	--	--
Preferred unit distributions	3,412	720	--	--	--
Total combined fixed charges and Preferred Share dividends	\$16,446	\$ 3,639	\$ 1,259	\$ 1,280	\$ 1,107
Ratio of earnings to combined fixed charges and Preferred Share dividends	1.33	(A)	1.23	1.21	1.27
Deficiency of earnings	N/A	\$ (902)	N/A	N/A	N/A

&lt;/TABLE&gt;

(A) During the year ended December 31, 1997, the Company's net income included a non-recurring expense of \$1,353 associated with the termination of an advisory agreement. As a result, earnings were inadequate to cover fixed charges by approximately \$902 in the year ended December 31, 1997.

CONSENT OF INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANTS

We hereby consent to the incorporation by reference in the Prospectus constituting part of this Registration Statement on Form S-3 of Corporate Office Properties Trust (the "Company") of (1) our report dated February 24, 1998, appearing on page F-2 of the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 1997, (2) our report on the Financial Statement Schedule, which appears on page F-18 of such Annual Report on Form 10-K, (3) our report dated March 18, 1998, appearing on page F-15 of the Company's Form 8-K/A filed on July 7, 1998 on the combined statement of revenue and certain expenses of the Wagman Acquisition Properties, (4) our report dated May 20, 1998, appearing on page F-15 of the Company's Form 8-K/A filed on July 7, 1998 on the combined statement of revenue and certain expenses of the Airport Square Acquisition Properties, (5) our report dated November 17, 1998, appearing on page F-15 of the Company's Form 8-K/A filed on December 11, 1998 on the combined statement of revenue and certain expenses of the Riverwood Acquisition Property, (6) our report dated May 8, 1998, appearing on page F-15 of the Company's Form 8-K/A filed on December 11, 1998 on the combined statement of revenue and certain expenses of the Constellation Properties, (7) our report dated May 8, 1998, appearing on page F-21 of the Company's Form 8-K/A filed on December 11, 1998 on the consolidated financial statements of Constellation Service Companies, (8) our report dated January 6, 1999, appearing on page F-15 of the Company's Form 8-K/A filed on January 14, 1999 on the combined statement of revenue and certain expenses of the Centerpoint Properties, and (9) our report dated January 18, 1999, appearing on page F-17 of the Company's Form 8-K/A filed on February 2, 1999 on the combined statement of revenue and certain expenses of the Gateway Properties. We also consent to the references to us under the heading "Experts" in such Prospectus.

PRICEWATERHOUSECOOPERS LLP

Washington, D.C.  
February 18, 1999