WELLS REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT TRUST II INC Form DEF 14A April 20, 2011

## **UNITED STATES**

## SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

## WASHINGTON, DC 20549

## **SCHEDULE 14A**

## (RULE 14a-101)

## **SCHEDULE 14A INFORMATION**

## Proxy Statement Pursuant to Section 14(a) of the

## Securities Exchange Act of 1934

Filed by the Registrant b Filed by a Party other than the Registrant "

Check the appropriate box:

- " Preliminary Proxy Statement
- " Confidential, for Use of the Commission Only (as permitted by Rule 14a-6(e)(2))
- b Definitive Proxy Statement
- " Definitive Additional Materials
- " Soliciting Material Pursuant to § 240.14a-12 WELLS REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT TRUST II, INC.

#### (Name of Registrant as Specified in its Charter)

Payment of Filing Fee (Check the appropriate box):

- b No fee required.
- " Fee computed on table below per Exchange Act Rules 14a-6(i)(1) and 0-11.

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- (2) Aggregate number of securities to which transaction applies:
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  - (1) Amount Previously Paid:
  - (2) Form, Schedule or Registration Statement No.:

(3) Filing Party:

(4) Date Filed:

#### WELLS REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT TRUST II, INC.

6200 The Corners Parkway

Norcross, Georgia 30092-3365

#### NOTICE OF 2011 ANNUAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS

#### AND INTERNET AVAILABILITY OF PROXY MATERIALS

Dear Stockholder:

On Wednesday, July 13, 2011, we will hold our 2011 annual meeting of stockholders at the Atlanta Athletic Club, 1930 Bobby Jones Drive, Johns Creek, Georgia 30097. The meeting will begin at 1:30 p.m. Directions to the 2011 annual meeting of stockholders can be obtained by calling our Client Services department at 1-800-557-4830.

We are holding this meeting to:

1. Elect nine directors to hold office for one-year terms expiring in 2012. *The board of directors recommends a vote FOR each nominee.* 

Approve an amendment to our share redemption program to allow the board of directors to effect any amendment to the share redemption program without the approval of our stockholders.
The board of directors recommends a vote FOR the proposal.

3. Approve, by non-binding vote, compensation reimbursements for our executive officers salaries. *The board of directors recommends a vote FOR the proposal.* 

4. Recommend, by non-binding vote, the frequency of executive compensation votes. *The board of directors recommends a vote of THREE YEARS for the proposal.* 

5. Attend to other business properly presented at the meeting. Your board of directors has selected April 15, 2011 as the record date for determining stockholders entitled to vote at the meeting.

This proxy statement, proxy card, and our 2010 annual report to stockholders are being mailed to you on or about April 30, 2011.

Whether or not you plan to attend the meeting and vote in person, we urge you to have your vote recorded as early as possible. Stockholders have the following three options for submitting their votes by proxy:

(1) over the Internet, using the control number shown on the enclosed proxy card;

#### (2) by telephone, using the control number shown on the enclosed proxy card; or

(3) by mail, using the enclosed proxy card.

Because we are a widely held REIT with more than 140,000 recordholders, <u>your vote is very important! Your immediate response will</u> <u>help avoid potential delays and may save us significant additional expenses associated with soliciting stockholder votes</u>.

#### IMPORTANT NOTICE REGARDING AVAILABILITY OF PROXY MATERIALS FOR THE

#### ANNUAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS TO BE HELD ON JULY 13, 2011:

Our Proxy Statement, Form of Proxy Card and 2010 Annual Report to stockholders are

also available at http://www.wellsreitII.com/proxy

By Order of the Board of Directors

Leo F. Wells, III

Chairman

Atlanta, Georgia

April 20, 2011

#### QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

We are providing you with this proxy statement, which contains information about the items to be voted on at our annual stockholders meeting. To make this information easier to understand, we have presented some of the information in a question-and-answer format.

#### Q: Why did you send me this proxy statement?

A: We sent you this proxy statement and the enclosed proxy card because our board of directors is soliciting your proxy to vote your shares at the 2011 annual stockholders meeting. This proxy statement includes information that we are required to provide to you under the rules of the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) and is designed to assist you in voting.

#### Q: What is a proxy?

A: A proxy is a person who votes the shares of stock of another person who cannot attend a meeting in person. The term proxy also refers to the proxy card. When you return the enclosed proxy card, you are giving your permission to vote your shares of common stock at the annual meeting. The people who will vote your shares of common stock at the annual meeting are E. Nelson Mills, Douglas P. Williams, or Randall D. Fretz, each of whom are our officers. They will vote your shares of common stock as you instruct, unless you return the proxy card and give no instructions. In this case, unless you later instruct otherwise, they will vote FOR all of the director nominees, FOR the proposal to amend our share redemption program, FOR the proposal to approve compensation reimbursements for our executive officers salaries, and THREE YEARS for the frequency of the advisory vote on executive compensation. With respect to any other proposals to be voted on, they will vote in accordance with the recommendation of the board of directors or, in the absence of such a recommendation, in their discretion. They will not vote your shares of common stock if you do not return the enclosed proxy card. This is why it is important for you to return the proxy card to us (or vote by proxy via Internet or by telephone) as soon as possible whether or not you plan on attending the meeting in person.

#### Q: When is the annual meeting and where will it be held?

A: The annual meeting will be held on Wednesday, July 13, 2011, at 1:30 p.m. at the Atlanta Athletic Club, 1930 Bobby Jones Drive, Johns Creek, Georgia 30097. Directions to the 2011 annual meeting of stockholders can be obtained by calling our Client Services department at 1-800-557-4830.

#### **Q:** How many shares of common stock are outstanding?

A: As of April 15, 2011, there were 542,503,439.4217 shares of our common stock issued and outstanding.

#### Q: What is a broker non-vote ?

A: A broker non-vote occurs when a broker holding shares for a beneficial owner does not vote on a non-routine proposal because (1) the broker has not received voting instructions on the proposal from the beneficial owner, and (2) the subject matter of the proposal is one upon which such broker is not permitted under New York Stock Exchange (NYSE) rules to vote uninstructed shares in its discretion.

#### Q: What is a quorum ?

A: A quorum consists of the presence in person or by proxy of stockholders holding a majority of the outstanding shares. There must be a quorum present in order for the annual meeting to be a duly held meeting at which business can be conducted. If you submit a properly executed proxy card, even if you abstain from voting or your proxy card is submitted as a broker non-vote, then your shares will be counted toward the presence of a quorum.

#### Q: What may I vote on?

A: You may vote on the election of nominees to serve on the board of directors, the amendment to our share redemption program to permit the board of directors to effect any amendment to the share redemption program without the approval of our stockholders, the advisory vote approving compensation reimbursements for our executive officers salaries, the frequency of the advisory vote on executive compensation, and on any other proposal to be voted on.

#### Q: How does the board of directors recommend I vote on each proposal?

A: The board of directors recommends a vote FOR each of the nominees for election as director who are named as such in this proxy statement, a vote FOR the proposal to amend our share redemption program, a vote FOR the proposal to approve compensation reimbursements for our executive officers salaries, and a vote of THREE YEARS for the frequency of the advisory vote on executive compensation.

#### Q: Who is entitled to vote?

A: Anyone who owned our common stock at the close of business on April 15, 2011, the record date, is entitled to vote at the annual meeting. Every stockholder is entitled to one vote for each share of common stock held, including fractional shares.

#### Q: How do I vote?

A: You may vote your shares of common stock either in person or by proxy. Whether or not you plan to attend the meeting and vote in person, we urge you to have your proxy vote recorded in advance of the meeting. Stockholders have the following three options for submitting their votes by proxy: (1) over the Internet, using the unique control number found on the enclosed proxy card; (2) by telephone, using the unique control number found on the enclosed proxy card; or (3) by mail, using the enclosed proxy card. If you have Internet access, we encourage you to vote by proxy via the Internet. It is convenient and it saves us significant postage and processing costs. In addition, when you vote by proxy via the Internet or by phone prior to the meeting date, your proxy vote is recorded immediately and there is no risk that postal delays will cause your proxy vote to arrive late and, therefore, not be counted. For further instructions on voting, see your enclosed proxy card in this proxy statement. If you attend the annual meeting, you also may submit your vote in person, and any previous proxy votes that you submitted, whether by Internet, phone, or mail, will be superseded by the vote that you cast at the annual meeting. If you return your signed proxy card, your shares will be voted as you instruct, unless you give no instructions with respect to one or more of the proposals. In this case, unless you later instruct otherwise, your shares of common stock will be voted FOR the nominees for director, FOR the proposal to amend our share redemption program, FOR the proposal to approve compensation reimbursements for our executive officers salaries, and THREE YEARS for the frequency of the advisory vote on executive compensation. With respect to any other

proposals to be voted on, your shares of common stock will be voted in accordance with the recommendation of the board of directors or, in the absence of such a recommendation, in the discretion of Messrs. Mills, Williams, or Fretz.

#### **Q:** What if I vote by proxy and then change my mind?

- A: You have the right to revoke your proxy at any time before the meeting by:
  - (1) notifying Douglas P. Williams, our Secretary;
  - (2) attending the meeting and voting in person;
  - (3) returning another proxy card, dated after your first proxy card, provided we receive the second proxy card before the annual meeting date; or
  - (4) recasting your proxy vote on the proxy voting Web site or by telephone. Only the most recent proxy vote will be counted, and all others will be discarded regardless of the method of voting.

#### Q: Will my vote make a difference?

A: Yes. As discussed below, your vote could affect the composition of our board of directors, whether our board of directors may effect any amendment to our share redemption program without a stockholder vote, whether the compensation reimbursements for our executive officers salaries is approved, and how frequently we hold an advisory vote on executive compensation. Moreover, your presence by proxy or in person is needed to ensure that the proposals can be acted upon. Because we are a widely held REIT (with more than 140,000 recordholders), **YOUR VOTE IS VERY IMPORTANT! Your immediate response will help avoid potential delays and may save us significant additional expenses associated with soliciting stockholder votes.** 

#### Q: What are the voting requirements to elect the board of directors?

A: Under our charter, a plurality of the votes cast is required for the election of the directors. This means that the director nominee with the most votes for a particular board seat is elected for that seat. Because the number of nominees does not exceed the number of board seats, a nominee need only receive a single for vote to be elected. Abstentions, withhold votes and broker non-votes should have no effect on the outcome of the election, but they will count toward the establishment of a quorum.

However, in order to enhance your ability to influence the composition of the board of directors in an uncontested election such as this, we have adopted a policy requiring each of the nominees to agree to offer to resign should he receive fewer for votes than withhold votes. If a director must offer to resign because of withhold vote totals, a committee of all of our independent directors (the Conflicts Committee ) must accept or reject the offer of resignation within 90 days following certification of the stockholder vote. If the Conflicts Committee accepts the offer, then the resignation will be effective upon acceptance. If the Conflicts Committee rejects the offer, it must publicly disclose its reasons for doing so. The offer of resignation also may be accepted at a stockholder meeting duly called for the express purpose of accepting such resignation and electing a successor to fill the vacancy created thereby. More details of this policy are set out under Proposal 1. Election of Directors. The policy is set forth in our Corporate Governance Guidelines, a copy of which is available on our Web site at www.wellsreitII.com. Proxies received will be voted FOR each nominee for director unless stockholders designate otherwise.

#### **Q:** What are the voting requirements to approve the proposal to amend the share redemption program?

A: Approval of the proposal to amend the share redemption program requires the affirmative vote of the holders of at least a majority of the votes cast thereon. You may vote for or against or abstain on the proposal. Abstentions and broker non-votes will not have an effect on the proposal to amend the share redemption program. Proxies received will be voted FOR the proposal to amend the share redemption program unless stockholders designate otherwise.

# Q: What are the voting requirements to approve the non-binding advisory vote on compensation reimbursements for our executive officers salaries?

A: Approval of the proposal to approve compensation reimbursements for our executive officers salaries requires the affirmative vote of the holders of at least a majority of the votes cast thereon. You may vote for or against or abstain on the proposal relating to compensation reimbursements of our executive officers. Abstentions and broker non-votes will not have an effect on the proposal relating to compensation reimbursements for our executive officers salaries. Proxies received will be voted FOR the proposal for compensation reimbursements for our executive officers salaries unless stockholders designate otherwise. While our board of directors intends to carefully consider the results of the stockholder vote relating to the proposals on approval of compensation reimbursements for our executive officers salaries, the final vote will not be binding on us and is advisory in nature.

# Q: What are the voting requirements to approve the non-binding advisory vote on the frequency of the advisory vote on executive compensation?

A: The frequency receiving the greatest number of votes (every one, two or three years) will be considered the frequency recommended by stockholders. You may recommend one year, two years, three years or abstain on the proposal relating to the frequency of the advisory vote on executive compensation. Abstentions and broker non-votes will not have an effect on the proposal relating to the frequency of the advisory vote on executive compensation. Proxies received will be voted THREE YEARS for the frequency of the advisory vote on executive compensation unless stockholders designate otherwise. While our board of directors intends to carefully consider the results of the stockholder vote regarding the frequency of the advisory vote on executive compensation, the final vote will not be binding on us and is advisory in nature.

#### Q: How will voting on any other business be conducted?

A: Although we do not know of any business to be considered at the annual meeting other than the election of directors, the proposal to amend our share redemption program, and the proposals related to executive compensation, if any other business is properly presented at the annual meeting, your signed proxy card gives authority to E. Nelson Mills, our President; Douglas P. Williams, our Executive Vice President and Secretary; and Randall D. Fretz, our Senior Vice President; and each of them, to vote on such matters in accordance with the recommendation of the board of directors or, in the absence of such a recommendation, in their discretion.

#### Q: When are the stockholder proposals for the next annual meeting of stockholders due?

A: Stockholders interested in nominating a person as a director or presenting any other business for consideration at our annual meeting of stockholders in 2012 may do so by following the procedures prescribed in Section 2.12 of our Bylaws and in Rule 14a-8 under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934. To

be eligible for presentation to and action by the stockholders at the 2012 annual meeting, director nominations and other stockholder proposals must be received by Douglas P. Williams, our Secretary, no later than March 16, 2012. To also be eligible for inclusion in our proxy statement for the 2012 annual meeting, director nominations and other stockholder proposals must be received by Mr. Williams by December 31, 2011.

#### Q: Who pays the cost of this proxy solicitation?

A: We will pay all the costs of soliciting these proxies. We have contracted with Georgeson, Inc., a Delaware corporation, d/b/a Computershare Fund Services (CFS), to assist us in the distribution of proxy materials and the solicitation of proxies. We expect to pay CFS fees of approximately \$42,000 to solicit proxies plus other fees and expenses for other services related to this proxy solicitation, which include review of proxy materials; dissemination of brokers search cards; distribution of proxy materials; operating online and telephone voting systems; and receipt of executed proxies. We also will reimburse brokerage houses and other custodians, nominees, and fiduciaries for their reasonable out-of-pocket expenses for forwarding proxy and solicitation materials to our stockholders. Our officers and employees of our advisor or its affiliates may also solicit proxies, but they will not be specifically compensated for these services.

#### Q: Is this proxy statement the only way that proxies are being solicited?

A: No. In addition to mailing this proxy solicitation material, employees of CFS, employees of our advisor or its affiliates, and our officers also may solicit proxies in person, via the Internet, by telephone, or by any other electronic means of communication or by other means of communication we deem appropriate.

### Q: If I share my residence with another stockholder, how many copies of the Annual Report and Proxy Statement will I receive?

A: In accordance with a notice previously sent to our stockholders, we are sending only a single set of the annual report and proxy statement to any household at which two or more stockholders reside if they share the same last name or we reasonably believe they are members of the same family, unless we have received instructions to the contrary from any stockholder at that address. This practice is known as householding and stems from rules adopted by the SEC. This practice reduces the volume of duplicate information received at your household and helps us reduce costs. Each stockholder subject to householding will continue to receive a separate proxy card or voting instruction card. We will deliver promptly, upon written or oral request, a separate copy of the annual report or proxy statement, as applicable, to a stockholder at a shared address to which a single copy of the document was previously delivered. If you received a single set of these documents for this year, but you would prefer to receive your own copy, you may direct requests for separate copies to the following address: Wells Client Services Department, P.O. Box 2828, Norcross, Georgia 30091-2828, or call us at 1-800-557-4830. If you are a stockholder who receives multiple copies of our proxy materials, you may request householding by contacting us in the same manner and requesting a householding consent form.

#### Q: What if I consent to have one set of materials mailed now but change my mind later?

A: You may withdraw your householding consent at any time by contacting our Client Services department at the address and telephone number provided above. We will begin sending separate copies of stockholder communications to you within 30 days of receipt of your instruction.

- Q: The reason I receive multiple sets of materials is because some of the shares belong to my children. What happens if they move out and no longer live in my household?
- A: When we receive notice of an address change for one of the members of the household, we will begin sending separate copies of stockholder communications directly to the stockholder at his or her new address. You may notify us of a change of address by contacting our Client Services department at the address and telephone number provided above.

#### Q: If I plan to attend the annual meeting in person, should I notify anyone?

A: While you are not required to notify anyone in order to attend the annual meeting, if you do plan to attend the meeting, we would appreciate it if you would mark the appropriate box on the enclosed proxy card to let us know how many stockholders will be attending the meeting so that we will be able to prepare a suitable meeting room for the attendees.

#### **Q:** Where can I find more information?

A: You may access, read and print copies of the proxy materials for this year s annual meeting, including our proxy statement, form of proxy card, and annual report to stockholders, at the following Web address: http://www.wellsreitII.com/proxy.

We also file annual, quarterly, and current reports; proxy statements; and other information with the SEC. You may read and copy any reports, statements, or other information we file with the SEC on the Web site maintained by the SEC at www.sec.gov. Our SEC filings also are available to the public at the SEC s Public Reference Room located at 100 F Street, N.E., Washington, DC 20549. You also may obtain copies of the documents at prescribed rates by writing to the Public Reference Section of the SEC at 100 F Street, N.E., Washington, DC 20549. Please call the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330 for further information regarding the public reference facilities.

#### CERTAIN INFORMATION ABOUT MANAGEMENT

#### **The Board of Directors**

Our board of directors has oversight responsibility for our operations and makes all major decisions concerning our business. We currently have nine directors, all of whom are being nominated for reelection at the annual meeting. We currently have no vacant board positions. Our board of directors held 9 meetings during 2010. For biographical information regarding our directors, see Executive Officers and Directors on page 18.

Our board has established the following committees: Audit Committee; Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee; Asset Management Committee; Finance and Planning Committee; and Stockholder Relations Committee. In addition, our charter has established a Conflicts Committee consisting of all of our independent directors. Information regarding each of the committees is set forth below.

#### **Director Independence**

Although our shares are not listed for trading on any national securities exchange, a majority of the members of our board of directors, and all of the members of the Audit Committee, the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee and all of the other committees of our board of directors are independent as defined by the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE). The NYSE standards provide that to qualify as an independent director, in addition to satisfying certain bright-line criteria, the board of directors must affirmatively determine that a director has no material relationship with us (either directly or as a partner, stockholder, or officer of an organization that has a relationship with us). The board of directors has determined that Charles R. Brown, Richard W. Carpenter, Bud Carter, John L. Dixon, George W. Sands and Neil H. Strickland each satisfies the bright-line criteria and that none has a relationship with us that would interfere with such person s ability to exercise independent judgment as a member of the board. On March 29, 2010, E. Nelson Mills became a Senior Vice President of Wells Capital, Inc. and no longer serves as one of our independent directors. Prior to March 29, 2010, the Board had determined that Mr. Mills satisfied the bright-line criteria and that he did not have a relationship with us that would interfere with his ability to exercise independent judgment as a member of the board. Although Mr. Mills continues to serve as a director, he has resigned from all committee positions effective March 29, 2010. On April 1, 2010, Mr. Sands became one of our independent directors. For a discussion of transactions and relationships between our directors and our affiliates that were considered by the board under the applicable independence definitions in determining that these directors are independent, see Transactions with Related Persons.

#### The Audit Committee

#### General

The Audit Committee s primary function is to assist our board of directors in fulfilling its responsibilities by overseeing our independent auditors and reviewing the financial information to be provided to our stockholders and others, the system of internal control over financial reporting that our management has established, and our audit and financial reporting process. The Audit Committee also is responsible for overseeing our compliance with applicable laws and regulations and for establishing procedures for the ethical conduct of our business. The Audit Committee fulfills these responsibilities primarily by carrying out the activities enumerated in the Audit Committee Charter adopted by our board of directors in 2003. The Audit Committee Charter is available on our Web site at www.wellsreitIl.com.

The members of the Audit Committee are George W. Sands (Chairman), Neil H. Strickland and Charles R. Brown. All of the members of the Audit Committee are independent as defined by the NYSE. Prior to March 29, 2010, E. Nelson Mills served as the Chairman of the Audit Committee and as the audit committee financial expert. During the time Mr. Mills served on the Audit Committee, the board of directors had determined that Mr. Mills satisfied the SEC s requirements for an audit committee financial expert. On April 1,

2010, Mr. Sands became one of our independent directors and our Audit Committee Chairman, and the Board determined that he qualified as an audit committee financial expert. During 2010, the Audit Committee met 4 times.

#### **Independent** Auditors

During the year ended December 31, 2010, Deloitte & Touche LLP served as our independent auditor and provided certain domestic and international tax and other services. Deloitte & Touche LLP has served as our independent auditor since May 14, 2008. The Audit Committee has engaged Deloitte & Touche LLP as our independent auditor to audit our financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2011. The Audit Committee may, however, select new auditors at any time in the future in its discretion if it deems such decision to be in our best interest. Any decision to select new auditors would be disclosed to the stockholders in accordance with applicable securities laws.

Representatives from Deloitte & Touche LLP are expected to be present at the annual meeting, to have the opportunity to make a statement if they desire to do so, and to be available to respond to appropriate questions posed by any stockholders.

#### **Preapproval Policies**

The Audit Committee Charter imposes a duty on the Audit Committee to preapprove all auditing services performed for us by our independent auditors, as well as all permitted nonaudit services (including the fees and terms thereof) in order to ensure that the provision of such services does not impair the auditors independence. Unless a type of service to be provided by the independent auditors has received general preapproval, it will require specific preapproval by the Audit Committee.

All requests or applications for services to be provided by the independent auditor which do not require specific preapproval by the Audit Committee will be submitted to management and must include a detailed description of the services to be rendered. Management will determine whether such services are included within the list of services that have received the general preapproval of the Audit Committee. The Audit Committee will be informed on a timely basis of any such services rendered by the independent auditors.

Requests or applications to provide services that require specific preapproval by the Audit Committee will be submitted to the Audit Committee by both the independent auditors and the Principal Financial Officer, and must include a joint statement as to whether, in their view, the request or application is consistent with the SEC s rules on auditor independence. The Chairman of the Audit Committee has been delegated the authority to specifically preapprove all services not covered by the general preapproval guidelines up to an amount not to exceed \$75,000 per occurrence. Amounts requiring preapproval in excess of \$75,000 per occurrence require specific preapproval by all members of the Audit Committee prior to engagement of our independent auditors. All amounts specifically preapproved by the Chairman of the Audit Committee in accordance with this policy are to be disclosed to the full Audit Committee at the next regularly scheduled meeting.

All services rendered by Deloitte & Touche LLP for the year ended December 31, 2010 were preapproved in accordance with the policies and procedures described above.

#### **Principal Auditor Fees**

The Audit Committee reviewed the audit and nonaudit services performed by our principal auditor, Deloitte & Touche LLP, as well as the fees charged by the principal auditor for such services. In its review of the nonaudit service fees, the Audit Committee considered whether the provision of such services is compatible with maintaining the independence of the principal auditor. The aggregate fees billed to us for professional accounting services, including the audit of our annual financial statements by our principal auditor for the years ended December 31, 2010 and 2009, are set forth in the table below.

|                    | 2010       | 2009         |
|--------------------|------------|--------------|
| Audit fees         | \$ 749,900 | \$ 867,300   |
| Audit-related fees | -0-        | -0-          |
| Tax fees           | \$ 239,158 | \$ 156,654   |
| All other fees     | -0-        | -0-          |
|                    |            |              |
| Total fees         | \$ 989,058 | \$ 1,023,954 |
|                    |            |              |

For purposes of the preceding table, the principal auditor s professional fees are classified as follows:

Audit fees These are fees for professional services performed for the audit of our annual financial statements and the required review of quarterly financial statements and other procedures performed by the principal auditor in order for them to be able to form an opinion on our consolidated financial statements. These fees also cover services that are normally provided by independent auditors in connection with statutory and regulatory filings or engagements, including reviews of our financial statements included in the registration statements, as amended, related to our public offerings of common stock. Audit fees are presented for the period to which the audit work relates.

Audit-related fees These are fees for assurance and related services that traditionally are performed by independent auditors that are reasonably related to the performance of the audit or review of the financial statements, such as due diligence related to acquisitions and dispositions, attestation services that are not required by statute or regulation, internal control reviews, and consultation concerning financial accounting and reporting standards.

Tax fees These are fees for all professional services performed by professional staff in our independent auditor s tax division, except those services related to the audit of our financial statements. These include fees for tax compliance, tax planning and tax advice, including federal, state, and local issues. Services also may include assistance with tax audits and appeals before the IRS and similar state and local agencies, as well as federal, state, and local tax issues related to due diligence. Tax fees are presented for the period in which the services were provided.

All other fees These are fees for any services not included in the above-described categories, including assistance with internal audit plans and risk assessments.

#### Report of the Audit Committee

The Audit Committee reviews the financial reporting process on behalf of the board of directors. Our management has the primary responsibility for the financial statements and the reporting process, including the system of internal control over financial reporting. Membership on the Audit Committee does not call for the professional training and technical skills generally associated with career professionals in the field of accounting and auditing. In addition, the independent auditors devote more time and have access to more information than does the Audit Committee. Accordingly, the Audit Committee s role does not provide any special assurance with regard to our financial statements, nor does it involve a professional evaluation of the quality of the audits performed by the independent auditors. In this context, the Audit Committee reviewed the 2010 audited financial statements with management, including a discussion of the quality and acceptability of our financial reporting, the reasonableness of significant judgments, and the clarity of disclosures in the financial statements.

The Audit Committee reviewed with Deloitte & Touche LLP, which is responsible for expressing an opinion on the conformity of those audited financial statements with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles, their judgments as to the quality and the acceptability of the financial statements and such other matters as are required to be discussed with the Audit Committee under Statement on Auditing Standards No. 61 (*Communication with Audit Committees*). The Audit Committee received from and discussed with Deloitte & Touche LLP the written disclosures and the letter required by the applicable requirements of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board regarding that firm s independence from us. In addition, the Audit Committee considered whether Deloitte & Touche LLP s provision of nonaudit services is compatible with maintaining its independence from us.

The Audit Committee discussed with Deloitte & Touche LLP the overall scope and plans for the audit. The Audit Committee meets periodically with the internal auditor and Deloitte & Touche LLP, with and without management present, to discuss the results of their examinations, their evaluations of our internal controls, and the overall quality of our financial reporting.

In reliance on these reviews and discussions, the Audit Committee recommended to the board of directors, and the board approved, the inclusion of the 2010 audited financial statements in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2010 for filing with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

March 11, 2011

#### The Conflicts Committee

The Audit Committee of the Board of Directors: George W. Sands (Chairman), Neil H. Strickland, and Charles R. Brown

The members of our Conflicts Committee are Neil H. Strickland (Chairman), Charles R. Brown, Richard W. Carpenter, Bud Carter, John L. Dixon and George W. Sands, all of whom are independent directors. Prior to March 29, 2010, E. Nelson Mills served as a member of the Conflicts Committee. On April 1, 2010, Mr. Sands became an independent director and member of the Conflicts Committee. Our charter empowers the Conflicts Committee to act on any matter permitted under Maryland law if the matter at issue is such that the exercise of independent judgment by affiliates of our advisor could reasonably be compromised. Among the duties of the Conflicts Committee are the following:

reviewing and reporting on our policies (see below);

approving transactions with affiliates and reporting on their fairness to us (see below);

supervising and evaluating the performance and compensation of our advisor;

reviewing our expenses and determining that they are reasonable and within the limits prescribed by our charter;

approving borrowings in excess of limits set forth in our charter;

approving acquisitions and dispositions;

evaluating the performance of our officers; and

considering plans with respect to the succession of our president in the event of his sudden incapacitation, death, or departure.

In addition, our Conflicts Committee discharges the board s responsibilities relating to compensation of our executives and directors. In this regard, the Conflicts Committee administers the granting of stock options to selected employees of Wells Capital, Inc. (Wells Capital) and Wells Management Company, Inc. (Wells Management), affiliates of Wells Real Estate Advisory Services II, LLC (WREAS II), based upon recommendations from Wells Capital and Wells Management, and sets the terms and conditions of such options in accordance with the 2003 Stock Option Plan. To date, no employee stock options have been issued. The

Conflicts Committee also is responsible for administering the terms of the Independent Director Stock Option Plan, the terms of which are discussed in detail below under Compensation of Directors Independent Director Stock Option Plan.

Under the terms of the 2003 Stock Option Plan, and only to the extent permissible under Maryland law, the Conflicts Committee may expressly delegate to any individual or group of individuals some or all of the committee s authority to administer the plan, including authority to designate participants, determine terms, conditions, and amounts of option awards, and to grant awards. However, no delegation of duties and responsibilities may be made to eligible participants in the plan who are, or who are anticipated to become, persons subject to the short-swing profit rules of Section 16 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934.

The primary responsibilities of the Conflicts Committee are enumerated in our charter. The Conflicts Committee does not have a separate committee charter. The Conflicts Committee met 14 times during 2010.

#### Report of the Conflicts Committee

#### **Review of Our Policies**

The Conflicts Committee has reviewed our policies and determined that they are in the best interest of our stockholders. Set forth below is a discussion of the basis for that determination.

*Investment Policies.* We focus our investment efforts on the acquisition of high-quality, income-generating office properties leased to creditworthy tenants. Although we may acquire other types of real estate, this focus is preferred because we believe it will best enable us to achieve our goal of preserving investor capital and generating current income. We are actively pursuing acquisition opportunities that meet this investment focus. Our advisor, WREAS II, and its affiliates have extensive expertise with this type of real estate.

*Working Capital Reserves*. We may from time to time temporarily set aside proceeds from our distribution reinvestment plan, rather than pay down debt or acquire properties, in order to provide financial flexibility or in the event that suitable acquisitions are not available. While temporarily setting aside funds will decrease the amount available to invest in real estate in the short term and, hence, may temporarily decrease future net income, we believe that it may be prudent under certain economic conditions to have these funds available in addition to funds available from operations and borrowings.

*Borrowing Policies*. Over the long-term, we have a policy of keeping our debt at no more than 50% of the cost of our assets (before depreciation) and, ideally, at significantly less than this 50% debt-to-real-estate asset ratio. This conservative leverage goal could reduce the amount of current income we can generate for our stockholders, but it also reduces their risk of loss. We believe that preserving investor capital while generating stable current income is in the best interest of our stockholders. As of December 31, 2010, our debt-to-real-estate asset ratio was approximately 16.6%.

*Policies Regarding Operating Expenses.* We have the responsibility of limiting total operating expenses to no more than the greater of 2% of average invested assets or 25% of net income, as these terms are defined in our charter unless the Conflicts Committee has determined that such excess expenses were justified based on unusual and nonrecurring factors. For the four consecutive quarters ended December 31, 2010, total operating expenses represented 1.2% of average invested assets and 12.1% of net income.

*Offering Policies.* Effective June 30, 2010, we concluded our primary public offering of shares; however, we have continued to offer shares to our existing stockholders through our distribution reinvestment plan. We believe this offering is in the best interest of our stockholders because it provides an important source of funding for our share redemption program and increases the likelihood that we will be able to (i) continue to acquire properties at attractive pricing, thereby improving stockholder returns and (ii) continue to diversify our portfolio

of income-producing properties, thereby reducing risk in our portfolio. For the year ended December 31, 2010, the costs of raising capital in our primary offering and our distribution reinvestment plan represented approximately 0.86% of the gross capital raised.

*Listing Policy*. While we believe it is in the best interest of our stockholders for our common shares to remain unlisted on a national exchange at this time, we have begun to explore various exit strategies and liquidity options for the REIT, which include but are not limited to, an eventual public listing of our shares.

#### Transactions with Affiliates

Our charter requires our Conflicts Committee to review and approve all transactions involving our affiliates and us. Prior to entering into a transaction with an affiliate that is not covered by the advisory agreement with our advisor, a majority of the Conflicts Committee must conclude that the transaction is fair and reasonable to us and on terms and conditions not less favorable to us than those available from unaffiliated third parties. In addition, our Code of Ethics lists examples of types of transactions with affiliates that would create prohibited conflicts of interest. Under the Code of Ethics, our officers and directors are required to bring potential conflicts of interest to the attention of the chairman of our Audit Committee promptly. The Conflicts Committee has reviewed the material transactions between our affiliates and us since the beginning of 2010, as well as any such currently proposed transactions. Set forth below is a description of such transactions and the committee s report on their fairness.

*Our Relationship with Wells Capital and WREAS II.* Certain of our executive officers, E. Nelson Mills, Douglas P. Williams, and Randall D. Fretz, are also executive officers of Wells Real Estate Funds, Inc., our sponsor, which is the manager of WREAS II, our advisor. The chairman of our board of directors, Leo F. Wells, III, is the sole director of Wells Real Estate Funds and indirectly owns 100% of its equity. Our advisor provides our day-to-day management. Among the services provided by our advisor under the terms of the advisory agreement are the following:

real estate acquisition services;

asset management services;

real estate disposition services;

property management oversight services; and

administrative services.

Our advisor is at all times subject to the supervision of our board of directors and has only such authority as we may delegate to it as our agent. We renewed the advisory agreement with our advisor, WREAS II, in December 2010. The advisory agreement is effective from January 1, 2011 through July 31, 2011. The advisory agreement is substantially the same as the agreement that was in effect through December 31, 2010, except that WREAS II has agreed to a limit on the reimbursement of certain expenses by us. Specifically, WREAS II will not be reimbursed for portfolio general and administrative expenses or personnel expenses incurred during the term of the advisory agreement to the extent they exceed \$11.2 million and \$6.4 million, respectively. As defined in the advisory agreement, portfolio general and administrative expenses refer to categories of costs set forth in a budget approved by our Board of Directors at a meeting on December 15, 2010. Generally, these are general and administrative costs (excluding the asset management fee) that relate to the portfolio as a whole rather than property-specific costs. Personnel expenses are defined in the advisory agreement to refer to all wages and other employee-related expenses of employees of WREAS II or its affiliates to the extent the employees are engaged in the management, administration, operation, and marketing of us but excluding personnel expenses reimbursable under another agreement, such as the property management agreement. The term of the advisory agreement is subject to an unlimited number of successive renewals upon mutual consent of the parties. From January 1, 2010 through the most recent date practicable, which was December 31, 2010, we have compensated our advisor as set forth below. We have incurred acquisition fees payable to our advisor equal to 2.0% of gross proceeds from our public offerings of common stock for services in connection with the selection, purchase, development, or construction of real property. We incur such acquisition fees upon receipt of proceeds from the sale of shares. Acquisition fees from January 1, 2010 through December 31, 2010, totaled approximately \$9.7 million.

Our advisor bears substantially all of our organization and offering costs other than our payment of selling commissions and dealer-manager fees. We reimburse our advisor for up to 2.0% of our gross offering proceeds for organization and offering costs, including legal, accounting, printing, and other accountable offering costs. From January 1, 2010 through December 31, 2010, we incurred approximately \$4.2 million of organization and offering expenses.

For asset management services in 2010, we generally paid monthly asset management fees equal to one-twelfth of 0.625% of the cost of all of our properties (other than those that fail to meet specified occupancy thresholds) and our investments in joint ventures. This fee structure will continue until the monthly payment equals \$2,708,333.33 (or \$32.5 million annualized). The monthly payment remains capped at that amount until the cost of all of our properties (other than those that fail to meet specified occupancy thresholds) and our investments in joint ventures is at least \$6.5 billion, after which the monthly asset management fee will equal one-twelfth of 0.5% of the cost of all of our properties (other than those that fail to meet specified occupancy thresholds) and our investments in joint ventures is (other than those that fail to meet specified occupancy thresholds) and our investments in joint ventures (other than those that fail to meet specified occupancy thresholds) and our investments in joint ventures. (However, the asset management fee related to the Lindbergh Center Buildings, which were acquired July 1, 2008, was immediately 0.5%.) The amount of asset management fees paid in any three-month period is limited to 0.25% of the average of the preceding three months net asset value calculations less our outstanding debt. Asset management fees incurred from January 1, 2010 through December 31, 2010, totaled approximately \$30.6 million.

Additionally, we reimburse our advisor for all costs and expenses it incurs in fulfilling its asset management and administrative duties, which may include wages, salaries, taxes, insurance, benefits, information technology, legal and travel, and other out-of-pocket expenses of employees engaged in ongoing management, administration, operations, and marketing functions on our behalf. We do not, however, reimburse our advisor for personnel costs in connection with services for which our advisor receives acquisition fees or real estate commissions. Administrative reimbursements, net of reimbursements from tenants, from January 1, 2010 through December 31, 2010, totaled approximately \$13.1 million.

The Conflicts Committee considers our relationship with the advisor during 2010 to be fair. The Conflicts Committee evaluated the performance of the advisor and the compensation paid to the advisor in connection with its decision to renew the advisory agreement through July 31, 2011. The Conflicts Committee believes that the amounts payable to the advisor under the advisory agreement are similar to those paid by other publicly offered, unlisted, externally advised REITs and that this compensation was appropriate in order for the advisor to provide the desired level of services to us and our stockholders. The Conflicts Committee bases its evaluation of the advisor on factors such as (a) the amount of the fees paid to the advisor in relation to the size, composition, and performance of our portfolio; (b) the success of the advisors performing the same or similar services; (d) additional revenues realized by the advisor and its affiliates through their relationship with us, including loan administration, underwriting or broker commissions, servicing, engineering, inspection, and other fees; (e) the quality and extent of service and advice furnished by the advisor; (f) the performance of our portfolio, including income, conservation or appreciation of capital, frequency of problem investments, and competence in dealing with distress situations; and (g) the quality of our portfolio relative to the investments generated by the advisor for its own account.

*Our Relationship with WIS.* Mr. Wells indirectly owns 100% of our dealer-manager, Wells Investment Securities (WIS). In addition, Messrs. Fretz and Williams are directors of WIS. Prior to concluding our primary public offering, our dealer-manager was entitled to receive selling commissions of 7% of aggregate gross offering proceeds, except that no selling commissions were paid in connection with the sale of our shares under the dividend reinvestment plan. WIS reallowed 100% of these selling commissions to broker/dealers who

participated in our public offering. In the event of the sale of shares through an investment advisory representative in which the representative was compensated on a fee-for-service basis by the investor (or through a bank acting as a trustee or fiduciary), the dealer-manager waived its right to a commission, with a corresponding reduction in the purchase price of shares sold in our offering. From January 1, 2010 through December 31, 2010, we incurred selling commissions, net of discounts, of \$21.9 million to WIS, of which approximately 100% was reallowed to participating broker/dealers.

WIS also earned a dealer-manager fee of 2.5% of aggregate gross offering proceeds. WIS may have reallowed to participating broker/dealers up to 1.5% of aggregate gross offering proceeds. There was no dealer-manager fee for shares sold under the dividend reinvestment program. In the event of the sale of shares through an independent investment advisor (or bank acting as trustee or fiduciary), the dealer-manager reduced its dealer-manager fee to 1.5% of gross offering proceeds with a corresponding reduction in the purchase price of the shares. WIS earned dealer-manager fees, net of discounts, from us of approximately \$7.8 million from January 1, 2010 through December 31, 2010, of which approximately \$4.5 million was reallowed to participating broker/dealers. In addition, upon the conclusion of our primary offering of shares, WIS reviewed total underwriting compensation paid in connection with the sale of shares in our primary offering and reimbursed us approximately \$266,000 in keeping with limitations imposed by the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority. We have concluded our primary offering of shares, and therefore do not anticipate paying additional fees to WIS in 2011.

The Conflicts Committee believes that this arrangement with WIS is fair. The compensation payable to WIS reflects our belief that such selling commissions and dealer-manager fees will maximize the likelihood that we will be able to achieve our goal of acquiring a large, diversified portfolio of high-quality, income-producing properties.

*Our Relationship with Wells Management* In November 2010, our property management, leasing, and construction management agreement (Management Agreement) with Wells Management renewed for another one-year term. On January 1, 2011, Wells Management assigned all of its rights, title and interest in the Management Agreement to WREAS II. Wells REIT II consented to such assignment as required by the Management Agreement. As part of such assignment, Wells Management has guaranteed the performance of all of the WREAS II obligations under the Management Agreement. Mr. Wells indirectly owns 100% of Wells Management. In consideration for supervising the management, leasing, and construction of certain of our properties, we pay the following fees under the Management Agreement:

For each property for which Wells Management provides property management services, we pay Wells Management a market-based property management fee based on gross