



**ATTENTION: IMPORTANT TAX INFORMATION!**  
**2012 DISTRIBUTION ALLOCATIONS**  
**Series C Auction Rate Preferred Shares**

To All Shareholders:

Set forth below is the allocation of net investment income, short-term capital gains and long-term capital gains for the 2012 distributions of the Series C Auction Rate Preferred Shares of **The Gabelli Equity Trust Inc.**

Please contact Molly Marion at (914) 921-5070 with any inquiries.

| <u>SOURCE</u>                | <b>PERCENTAGES</b>     |
|------------------------------|------------------------|
|                              | All 2012 Distributions |
| Net Investment Income (a)    | 35.0151%               |
| Short-Term Capital Gains (a) | 64.9849%               |
| Long-Term Capital Gains (b)  | 0.0000%                |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                 | <b>100.0000%</b>       |

Ordinary Dividends and Capital Gains:

63.43% of the ordinary income (net investment income and short-term capital gains) paid by the Fund in 2012 was classified as "Qualified Dividends" subject to a maximum Federal tax rate of 15% for individual taxable accounts (or zero depending on an individual's tax bracket). Ordinary income is reported in box 1a and qualified income is reported in box 1b of Form 1099-DIV. Capital gain distributions are subject to a maximum Federal tax rate of 15% for individual taxable accounts (or zero depending on an individual's tax bracket). Capital gain distributions are reported in box 2a of Form 1099-DIV.

Corporate Dividends Received Deduction and U.S. Government Securities Income:

The percentage of the ordinary income paid by the Fund in 2012 that qualifies for the dividends received deduction available to corporations is 46.73%. The percentage of the ordinary income paid by the Fund in 2012 that was derived from U.S. Government Securities was 0.10%. The percentage of U.S. Government Securities held by the Fund as of December 31, 2012 was 0.85%. (c)

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- (a) Distributions from net investment income and short-term capital gains are taxable as ordinary income and will appear on Form 1099-DIV under Total ordinary dividends in box 1a.
  - (b) Taxable as long-term capital gains reportable in column (h), line 13 on Form 1040, Schedule D. Since there were no retained capital gains in 2012, Form 2439 will not be necessary.
  - (c) Certain states require that 50% of the Fund's portfolio be invested in U.S. Government Securities at the end of each calendar quarter to allow "pass-through" treatment of income derived from U.S. Government Securities. The Fund did not meet this strict requirement in 2012.