

PICO HOLDINGS INC /NEW
Form S-3
November 20, 2007
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As filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on November 20, 2007

Registration No. 333-

UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

FORM S-3

REGISTRATION STATEMENT

UNDER

THE SECURITIES ACT OF 1933

PICO HOLDINGS, INC.

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

California
(State or other jurisdiction of
incorporation or organization)

875 Prospect Street, Suite 301

La Jolla, California 92037

(858) 456-6022

94-2723335
(I.R.S. Employer
Identification No.)

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

Damian C. Georgino

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Executive Vice President - Corporate Development & Chief Legal Officer

PICO Holdings, Inc.

875 Prospect Street, Suite 301

La Jolla, California 92037

(858) 456-6022

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

Copy to:

Gary J. Singer, Esq.

John-Paul Motley, Esq.

O Melveny & Myers LLP

610 Newport Center Drive, Suite 1700

Newport Beach, California 92660-6429

(949) 760-9600

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 of 1933, other than securities 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 this Form is a registration statement pursuant to General Instruction I.D. or a post-effective amendment thereto that shall become effective upon filing with the Commission pursuant to Rule 462(e) under the Securities Act, check the following box. "

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

CALCULATION OF REGISTRATION FEE

| Title Of Each Class Of Securities To Be Registered (1) | Proposed Maximum Aggregate Offering Price (2) | Amount Of Registration Fee (3) |
|---|--|---------------------------------------|
| Common Stock, \$0.001 par value per share | | |

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| | | |
|-----------------|---------------|-------------|
| Debt Securities | | |
| Warrants | | |
| Total: | \$400,000,000 | \$12,280.00 |

- (1) There are being registered hereunder such indeterminate number of shares of common stock, such indeterminate principal amount of debt securities and such indeterminate number of warrants to purchase common stock or debt securities as will have an aggregate initial offering price not to exceed \$400,000,000. If any debt securities are issued at an original issue discount, then the offering price of such debt securities shall be in such greater principal amount as shall result in an aggregate initial offering price not to exceed \$400,000,000, less the aggregate dollar amount of all securities previously issued hereunder. Any securities registered hereunder may be sold separately or as units with other securities registered hereunder. The securities registered also include such indeterminate amounts and numbers of shares of common stock and principal amounts of debt securities, as may be issued upon exercise of warrants, upon conversion of or exchange for debt securities that provide for conversion or exchange, or pursuant to anti-dilution provisions of any such securities.
- (2) Not specified as to each class of securities to be registered pursuant to General Instruction II.D. of Form S-3.
- (3) The registration fee has been calculated in accordance with Rule 457(o) under the Securities Act.

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 the registration statement shall become effective on such date as the United States Securities and Exchange Commission, acting pursuant to said Section 8(a), may determine.

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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 we are not soliciting offers to buy these securities in any state where the offer or sale is not permitted.

SUBJECT TO COMPLETION, DATED NOVEMBER 20, 2007

PROSPECTUS

\$400,000,000

PICO Holdings, Inc.

Debt Securities

Common Stock

Warrants

We may from time to time sell any combination of debt securities, common stock and warrants described in this prospectus in one or more offerings. The aggregate initial offering price of all securities sold under this prospectus will not exceed \$400,000,000.

This prospectus provides a general description of the securities we may offer. Each time we sell securities we will provide specific terms of the securities offered in a supplement to this prospectus. The prospectus supplement may also add, update or change information contained in this prospectus. You should read this prospectus and the applicable prospectus supplement carefully before you invest in any securities. This prospectus may not be used to consummate a sale of securities unless accompanied by the applicable prospectus supplement.

Our common stock is traded on The NASDAQ Global Market under the symbol PICO. On November 19, 2007, the closing price of our common stock on The NASDAQ Global Market was \$39.01.

See Risk Factors beginning on page 3 for information you should consider before buying these securities.

Neither the United States Securities and Exchange Commission nor any state securities commission has approved or disapproved of these securities or passed upon the adequacy or accuracy of this prospectus. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense.

We may offer and sell these securities directly to purchasers or through agents on our behalf or through underwriters or dealers as designated from time to time. If any agents or underwriters are involved in the sale of any of these securities, the applicable prospectus supplement will provide the names of the agents or underwriters and any applicable fees, commissions or discounts.

The date of this prospectus is _____, 200 .

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ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS

This prospectus is part of a registration statement on Form S-3 that we filed with the United States Securities and Exchange Commission utilizing a shelf registration process. Under this shelf process, we may offer any combination of securities described in this prospectus in one or more offerings, up to a total dollar amount of \$400,000,000. This prospectus provides you with a general description of the securities we may offer. Each time we use this prospectus to offer securities, we will provide a prospectus supplement that will contain specific information about the terms of that offering, including the specific amounts, process and terms of the offered securities. The prospectus supplement may also add, update or change the information contained in this prospectus. You should read carefully both this prospectus and any prospectus supplement together with additional information described below under the heading **Where You Can Find More Information**.

We have not authorized any dealer, salesperson or other person to give any information or to make any representation other than those contained or incorporated by reference in this prospectus and the accompanying supplement to this prospectus. You must not rely upon any information or representation not contained or incorporated by reference in this prospectus or the accompanying prospectus supplement. This prospectus and the accompanying supplement to this prospectus do not constitute an offer to sell or the solicitation of an offer to buy any securities other than the registered securities to which they relate, nor do this prospectus and the accompanying supplement to this prospectus constitute an offer to sell or the solicitation of an offer to buy securities in any jurisdiction to any person to whom it is unlawful to make such offer or solicitation in such jurisdiction. You should not assume that the information contained in this prospectus and the accompanying prospectus supplement is accurate on any date subsequent to the date set forth on the front of the document or that any information we have incorporated by reference is correct on any date subsequent to the date of the document incorporated by reference, even though this prospectus and any accompanying prospectus supplement is delivered or securities sold on a later date.

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ABOUT PICO HOLDINGS, INC.

We are a diversified holding company. We seek to build and operate businesses where significant value can be created from the development of unique assets, and to acquire businesses which we identify as undervalued and where our management participation in operations can allow us to realize the business's fair value, as well as create additional value.

Our objective is to maximize long-term shareholder value. We manage our operations to achieve a superior return on net assets over the long term, as opposed to short-term earnings.

Our business is separated into four reporting segments:

Water Resource and Water Storage Operations;

Real Estate Operations;

Business Acquisitions & Financing Operations (which contains businesses, interests in businesses, and other parent company assets); and

Insurance Operations in Run Off.

Each of our segments is discussed in greater detail in the information incorporated by reference into this prospectus.

Currently our major consolidated subsidiaries are:

Vidler Water Company, Inc., a business which we started more than 10 years ago, which acquires and develops water resources and water storage operations in the southwestern United States, with assets in Nevada, Arizona, California, Colorado and Idaho;

Nevada Land & Resource Company, LLC, an operation that we built since we acquired the company more than 10 years ago, which owns approximately 493,000 acres of land in Nevada, and certain mineral rights and water rights related to the property;

Physicians Insurance Company of Ohio, which is running off its medical professional liability insurance loss reserves;

Citation Insurance Company, which is running off its historic property & casualty insurance and workers' compensation loss reserves; and

Global Equity AG, which holds our interest in Jungfraubahn Holding AG. Jungfraubahn Holding is a Swiss public company that operates railway and related tourism and transport activities in the Swiss Alps. Jungfraubahn Holding's shares trade on the SWX Swiss Exchange.

The address of our main office is 875 Prospect Street, Suite 301, La Jolla, California 92037-4264, and our telephone number is (858) 456-6022.

We were incorporated in 1981 and began operations in 1982. The company was known as Citation Insurance Group until a reverse merger with Physicians Insurance Company of Ohio on November 20, 1996. After the reverse merger, the former shareholders of Physicians Insurance Company of Ohio owned approximately 80% of Citation Insurance Group, the board of directors and management of Physicians Insurance

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Company of Ohio replaced their Citation Insurance Group counterparts, and Citation Insurance Group changed its name to PICO Holdings, Inc. You should be aware that some data on Bloomberg and other information services pre-dating the reverse merger relates to the old Citation Insurance Group only, and does not reflect the performance of Physicians Insurance Company of Ohio prior to that merger.

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RISK FACTORS

You should carefully consider the risks and uncertainties described under the heading "Risk Factors" in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2006, as amended by our Form 10-K/A filed on April 12, 2007, and our Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the nine months ended September 30, 2007 before making an investment decision in our company. Additional risks and uncertainties that we are unaware of, or that we currently deem immaterial, also may become important factors that affect us. All of these could adversely affect our business, financial condition, results of operations and cash flows and, thus, the value of an investment in our company.

FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

Certain statements contained in this prospectus, any prospectus supplement and the documents we incorporate by reference into this prospectus and any prospectus supplement, including without limitation, statements containing the words "believes," "anticipates," "intends," "expects," "assumes," "seeks," "plans," "may," "will" and similar expressions, constitute forward-looking statements within the meaning of the United States Private Securities Litigation Reform of 1995. Forward-looking statements are based upon our current plans, expectations and projections about future events. However, such statements involve known and unknown risks, uncertainties and other factors that may cause our actual results, performance or achievements to be materially different from any future results, performance or achievements expressed or implied by such forward-looking statements. These are risks that we think could cause our actual results to differ materially from expected or historical results. Such factors include, among others, the following:

our ability to develop and sell or lease water and water rights and changes in the market price of water;

business disruption due to natural disasters;

our concentration of water resources in a limited number of assets, primarily in Nevada and Arizona;

effects of competition or political opposition in the markets in which we operate;

demographic changes and general economic and business conditions, primarily in Nevada and Arizona;

changes in, or failure to comply with, existing governmental regulations, including environmental regulations;

our ability to successfully acquire and integrate new businesses and assets;

volatile fluctuations in our insurance reserves;

liability and other claims asserted against us;

ability to attract and retain qualified personnel; and

availability and terms of capital.

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From time to time, we also may provide oral or written forward-looking statements in other materials we release to the public. Forward-looking statements are only predictions that provide our current expectations or forecasts of future events. Any or all of our forward-looking statements in this prospectus and in any other public statements are subject to unknown risks, uncertainties and other factors that may cause our actual results, performance or achievements to be materially different from any future results, performance or achievements expressed or implied by such forward-looking statements. Although we believe that the expectations reflected in the forward-looking statements are reasonable, we cannot guarantee future results, performance or achievements. You should not place undue reliance on these forward-looking statements.

We undertake no obligation to publicly update any forward-looking statements, whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise, except to the extent required by law. You are advised, however, to consult any further disclosures we make on related subjects in our Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q for the

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quarterly periods ended March 31, 2007, June 30, 2007 and September 30, 2007, Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2006, as amended by our Form 10-K/A filed on April 12, 2007, and Current Reports on Form 8-K as may be updated from time to time by future filings under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, or the Exchange Act.

Investment in our securities involves a high degree of risk. You should consider carefully the risk factors described above, those described under Risk Factors, as well as other information in this prospectus and the prospectus supplement before purchasing any of our securities. Each of these risk factors could adversely affect our business, operating results and financial condition, as well as adversely affect the value of an investment in our securities.

USE OF PROCEEDS

Unless we indicate otherwise in the applicable prospectus supplement, we anticipate to use net proceeds for general corporate purposes, including property and business acquisitions, repayment of amounts under our subsidiary's bank borrowings, capital expenditures and working capital requirements. We will set forth in the prospectus supplement our intended use for the net proceeds received from the sale of any securities.

RATIO OF EARNINGS TO FIXED CHARGES

The following table sets forth our ratio of earnings to fixed charges.

| | Fiscal Year Ended December 31, | | | | | Nine Months Ended September 30, | |
|--|--------------------------------|------|------|--------|---------|------------------------------------|------|
| | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | 2006 | 2007 |
| Ratio of earnings to fixed charges (1) | 4.94x | | | 57.11x | 102.10x | 106.47x | |

- (1) Earnings is calculated as pre-tax income (loss) from continuing operations before minority interest plus fixed charges less interest capitalized. Fixed charges consists of the sum of interest expensed, interest capitalized and estimated interest within rental expense. Our earnings were insufficient to cover fixed charges by \$10,488,000 and \$13,159,000 for the years ended December 31, 2003 and 2004, respectively, and by \$4,030,000 for the quarter ended September 30, 2007.

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DESCRIPTION OF CAPITAL STOCK

General

This prospectus describes the general terms of our capital stock. For a more detailed description of these securities, you should read the applicable provisions of California law and our Amended and Restated Articles of Incorporation and our Amended and Restated By-Laws. When we offer to sell a particular series of these securities, we will describe the specific terms of the series in a supplement to this prospectus. Accordingly, for a description of the terms of any series of securities, you must refer to both the prospectus supplement relating to that series and the description of the securities described in this prospectus. To the extent the information contained in the prospectus supplement differs from this summary description, you should rely on the information in the prospectus supplement.

Under our Amended and Restated Articles of Incorporation, we are authorized to issue up to 100,000,000 shares of common stock, par value \$0.001 per share. As of November 15, 2007, there were 18,833,737 shares of common stock outstanding, excluding 3,218,408 shares of common stock held by our subsidiaries.

Common Stock

Voting

For all matters submitted to a vote of shareholders, each holder of common stock is entitled to one vote for each share registered in the shareholder's name. Cumulative voting for the election of directors is specifically authorized by our By-laws. Under cumulative voting for the election of directors, upon a proper and timely request by a shareholder, each shareholder is entitled to cast a number of votes equal to the number of shares held multiplied by the number of directors to be elected. The votes may be cast for one or more candidates. Thus, under cumulative voting, a majority of the outstanding shares will not necessarily be able to elect all of the directors, and minority shareholders may be entitled to greater voting power with respect to election of directors than if cumulative voting did not apply.

Dividends

Holders of common stock are entitled to share ratably in any dividends declared by our board of directors. Dividends consisting of shares of common stock may be paid to holders of shares of common stock or cash. We have never declared or paid cash dividends on our common stock. We do not intend to pay cash dividends in the foreseeable future.

Liquidation and Dissolution

If we are liquidated or dissolve, the holders of our common stock will be entitled to share ratably in all the assets that remain after we pay our liabilities.

Other Rights and Restrictions

Holders of our common stock do not have preemptive rights, and they have no right to convert their common stock into any other securities. Our common stock is not subject to redemption by us. Our Amended and Restated Articles of Incorporation and By-laws do not restrict the ability of a holder of common stock to transfer the shareholder's shares of common stock. When we issue shares of common stock under this prospectus, the shares will be fully paid and non-assessable and will not have, or be subject to, any preemptive or similar rights.

Listing

Our common stock is listed on The Nasdaq Global Market under the symbol PICO. On November 19, 2007, the closing price of our common on The Nasdaq Global Market was \$39.01 per share. As of November 15, 2007 we had approximately 603 shareholders of record.

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Transfer Agent and Registrar

Computershare Trust Company, N.A. has been appointed as the transfer agent and registrar for our common stock.

Effects of Authorized but Unissued Stock

We have shares of common stock available for future issuance without shareholder approval, subject to any limitations imposed by the listing standards of The Nasdaq Global Market. We may utilize these additional shares for a variety of corporate purposes, including for future public offerings to raise additional capital or facilitate corporate acquisitions. The existence of unissued and unreserved common stock may enable our board of directors to issue shares to persons friendly to current management.

ANTI-TAKEOVER EFFECTS OF OUR CHARTER DOCUMENTS

Amended and Restated Articles of Incorporation and By-law Provisions

Special Meeting Requirements

Our By-laws provide that special meetings of shareholders may be called at the request of our board of directors, the chairman of our board of directors, the president, or one or more shareholders entitled to cast not less than one-tenth of the votes at that meeting.

Advance Notice Requirement

Our By-laws establish an advance notice procedure for shareholder proposals to be brought before an annual meeting of shareholders, including proposed nominations of persons for election to the board of directors. Shareholders at an annual meeting may only consider proposals or nominations specified in the notice of meeting or brought before the meeting by or at the direction of the board of directors or by a shareholder of record on the record date for the meeting, who is entitled to vote at the meeting and who has delivered timely written notice in proper form to our secretary or other appropriate officer of the shareholder's intention to bring such business before the meeting. These provisions could have the effect of delaying until the next shareholder meeting shareholder actions that are favored by the holders of a majority of our outstanding voting securities.

Indemnification

Our Amended and Restated Articles of Incorporation, as amended, and By-laws provide that we may indemnify officers and directors for certain acts in excess of indemnification otherwise permitted by Section 317 of the California Corporate Code.

The above provisions may deter a hostile takeover or delay a change in control or management of us.

DESCRIPTION OF DEBT SECURITIES

The debt securities will be issued under an indenture between us and a trustee that we will name in a prospectus supplement.

The following is a summary of the material provisions of the form of indenture and the debt securities. This summary is not complete. We have filed the form of indenture with the SEC as an exhibit to the registration statement which includes this prospectus, and you should read the indenture for the provisions that may be important to you. In this description of debt securities, the words "PICO," "we," "us" or "our" refer only to PICO and not to any subsidiary.

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General

The terms of each series of debt securities will be established by or pursuant to a resolution of our Board of Directors and set forth or determined in the manner provided in an officers' certificate or by a supplemental indenture. Debt securities may be issued in separate series without limitation as to aggregate principal amount. We may specify a maximum aggregate principal amount for the debt securities of any series. The particular terms of each series of debt securities will be described in a prospectus supplement relating to such series, including any pricing supplement.

The prospectus supplement will set forth:

the offering price of the debt securities;

the title of the debt securities;

the total principal amount of the debt securities;

any limit on the aggregate principal amount;

the person who shall be entitled to receive interest, if other than the record holder on the record date;

the date the principal will be payable;

the interest rate or rates, if any, the date interest will accrue, the interest payment dates and the regular record dates;

the place where payments may be made;

any mandatory or optional redemption provisions;

if applicable, the method for determining how the principal, premium, if any, or interest will be calculated by reference to an index or formula;

if other than U.S. currency, the currency or currency units in which principal, premium, if any, or interest will be payable and whether we or the holder may elect payment to be made in a different currency;

the portion of the principal amount that will be payable upon acceleration of stated maturity, if other than the entire principal amount;

any defeasance provisions if different from those described below under Satisfaction and Discharge; Defeasance;

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any conversion or exchange provisions;

any obligation to redeem or purchase the debt securities pursuant to a sinking fund;

whether the debt securities will be issuable in the form of a global security;

any ranking or subordination provisions as may apply;

the name and office of any trustee other than that signing the Indenture;

any guarantees and provisions related to guarantees;

any deletions of, or changes or additions to, the events of default or covenants; and

any other specific terms of such debt securities.

Unless otherwise specified in the prospectus supplement:

the debt securities will be registered debt securities; and

registered debt securities denominated in U.S. dollars will be issued in denominations of \$1,000 or an integral multiple of \$1,000.

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Debt securities may be sold at a substantial discount below their stated principal amount, bearing no interest or interest at a rate which at the time of issuance is below market rates.

Exchange and Transfer

Debt securities may be transferred or exchanged at the office of the security registrar or at the office of any transfer agent designated by us.

We will not impose a service charge for any transfer or exchange, but we may require holders to pay any tax or other governmental charges associated with any transfer or exchange.

In the event of any potential redemption of debt securities of any series, we will not be required to:

issue, register the transfer of, or exchange, any debt security of that series during a period beginning at the opening of business 15 days before the day of mailing of a notice of redemption and ending at the close of business on the day of the mailing; or

register the transfer of, or exchange, any debt security of that series selected for redemption, in whole or in part, except the unredeemed portion being redeemed in part.

We may initially appoint the trustee as the security registrar. Any transfer agent, in addition to the security registrar, initially designated by us will be named in the prospectus supplement. We may designate additional transfer agents or change transfer agents or change the office of the transfer agent. However, we will be required to maintain a transfer agent in each place of payment for the debt securities of each series.

Global Securities

The debt securities of any series may be represented, in whole or in part, by one or more global securities. Each global security will:

be registered in the name of a depository that we will identify in a prospectus supplement;

be deposited with the depository or nominee or custodian; and

bear any required legends.

No global security may be exchanged in whole or in part for debt securities registered in the name of any person other than the depository or any nominee unless:

the depository has notified us that it is unwilling or unable to continue as depository or has ceased to be qualified to act as depository and no successor depository has been appointed;

we determine that the debt securities will no longer be represented by a global note;

the depository has requested us to exchange certain debt securities following the request of a beneficial owner seeking to exercise or enforce its rights under the debt securities; or

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any other circumstances described in a prospectus supplement.

As long as the depository, or its nominee, is the registered owner of a global security, the depository or nominee will be considered the sole owner and holder of the debt securities represented by the global security for all purposes under the indenture. Except in the above limited circumstances, owners of beneficial interests in a global security:

will not be entitled to have the debt securities registered in their names;

will not be entitled to physical delivery of certificated debt securities; and

will not be considered to be holders of those debt securities under the indenture.

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Payments on a global security will be made to the depositary or its nominee as the holder of the global security. Some jurisdictions have laws that require that certain purchasers of securities take physical delivery of such securities in definitive form. These laws may impair the ability to transfer beneficial interests in a global security.

Institutions that have accounts with the depositary or its nominee are referred to as participants. Ownership of beneficial interests in a global security will be limited to participants and to persons that may hold beneficial interests through participants. The depositary will credit, on its book-entry registration and transfer system, the respective principal amounts of debt securities represented by the global security to the accounts of its participants.

Ownership of beneficial interests in a global security will be shown on and effected through records maintained by the depositary, with respect to participants' interests, or any participant, with respect to interests of persons held by participants on their behalf.

Payments, transfers and exchanges relating to beneficial interests in a global security will be subject to policies and procedures of the depositary.

The depositary policies and procedures may change from time to time. Neither we nor the trustee will have any responsibility or liability for the depositary's or any participant's records with respect to beneficial interests in a global security.

Payment and Paying Agent

The provisions of this paragraph will apply to the debt securities unless otherwise indicated in the prospectus supplement. Payment of interest on a debt security on any interest payment date will be made to the person in whose name the debt security is registered at the close of business on the regular record date. Payment on debt securities of a particular series will be payable at the office of a paying agent or paying agents designated by us. However, at our option, we may pay interest by mailing a check to the record holder. The corporate trust office will be designated as our sole paying agent.

We may also name any other paying agents in the prospectus supplement. We may designate additional paying agents, change paying agents or change the office of any paying agent. However, we will be required to maintain a paying agent in each place of payment for the debt securities of a particular series.

All moneys paid by us to a paying agent for payment on any debt security which remain unclaimed at the end of two years after such payment was due will be repaid to us. Thereafter, the holder may look only to us for such payment.

Consolidation, Merger and Sale of Assets

Except as otherwise set forth in the prospectus supplement, we may consolidate or merge with or into any other person, or have any other person merge with and into us, or sell our assets as, or substantially as, an entirety to any person, or otherwise; *provided, however*, that

(a) in case of any such consolidation or merger the corporation resulting from such consolidation or any person other than us into which such merger shall be made shall succeed to and be substituted for us with the same effect as if it has been named herein as a party hereto and shall become liable and be bound for, and shall expressly assume, by a supplemental indenture hereto, executed and delivered to the trustee, the due and punctual payment of the principal of, premium, if any, and interest, if any, on all the debt securities of each series, if any, appertaining thereto and the performance and observance of each and every covenant and condition of the indenture that are to be performed or observed by us,

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(b) as a condition of any such sale of our assets as, or substantially as, an entirety, the person to which such assets shall be sold shall

(i) expressly assume the due and punctual payment of the principal of, premium, if any, and interest, if any, on all the debt securities of each series, if any, appertaining thereto and the performance and observance of all the covenants and conditions of the indenture that are to be performed or observed by us and

(ii) simultaneously with the delivery to it of the conveyances or instruments of transfer of such assets, execute and deliver to the trustee a supplemental indenture thereto, in form satisfactory to the trustee, whereby such purchasing person shall so assume the due and punctual payment of the principal of, premium, if any, and interest, if any, on all the debt securities of each series and the performance and observance of each and every covenant and condition of the indenture that are to be performed or observed by us, to the same extent that we are bound and liable,

(c) either we are the continuing corporation or the successor corporation is a corporation or limited liability company organized under the laws of the United States of America or any state thereof or the District of Columbia, and

(d) we are not, or such successor corporation is not, immediately after such merger, consolidation or sale, in default in the performance of any obligations under the indenture.

Events of Default

Unless we inform you otherwise in the prospectus supplement, the indenture will define an event of default with respect to any series of debt securities as one or more of the following events:

- (1) failure to pay principal of, or any premium on, any debt security of that series when due;
- (2) failure to pay any interest on any debt security of that series for 30 days when due;
- (3) failure to deposit any sinking fund payment within 30 days of when due;
- (4) failure to perform any other covenant in the indenture continued for 60 days after being given the notice required in the indenture;
- (5) our bankruptcy, insolvency or reorganization; and
- (6) any other event of default specified in the prospectus supplement.

An event of default of one series of debt securities is not necessarily an event of default for any other series of debt securities.

If an event of default, other than an event of default described in clause (5) above, shall occur and be continuing, either the trustee or the holders of at least 25% in aggregate principal amount of the outstanding securities of that series may declare the principal amount of the debt securities of that series to be due and payable immediately.

If an event of default described in clause (5) above shall occur, the principal amount of all the debt securities of that series will automatically become immediately due and payable.

After acceleration the holders of a majority in aggregate principal amount of the outstanding securities of that series may, under certain circumstances, rescind and annul such acceleration if all events of default, other than the non-payment of accelerated principal and accrued interest, or other specified amount, have been cured or waived.

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Other than the duty to act with the required care during an event of default, the trustee will not be obligated to exercise any of its rights or powers at the request of the holders unless the holders shall have offered to the trustee reasonable indemnity. Generally, the holders of a majority in aggregate principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of any series will have the right to direct the time, method and place of conducting any proceeding for any remedy available to the trustee or exercising any trust or power conferred on the trustee.

A holder will not have any right to institute any proceeding under the indenture, or for the appointment of a receiver or a trustee, or for any other remedy under the indenture, unless:

- (1) the holder has previously given to the trustee written notice of a continuing event of default with respect to the debt securities of that series;
- (2) the holders of at least 25% in aggregate principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of that series have made a written request and have offered reasonable indemnity to the trustee to institute the proceeding; and
- (3) the trustee has failed to institute the proceeding and has not received direction inconsistent with the original request from the holders of a majority in aggregate principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of that series within 60 days after the original request.

Holders may, however, sue to enforce the payment of principal, premium, if any, or interest on any debt security on or after the due date or to enforce the right, if any, to convert any debt security without following the procedures listed in (1) through (3) above.

We will furnish the trustee an annual statement by our officers as to whether or not we are in default in the performance of the indenture and, if so, specifying all known defaults.

Modification and Waiver

Except as provided in the next two succeeding paragraphs, we and the trustee may make modifications and amendments to the indenture (including, without limitation, through consents obtained in connection with a purchase of, or tender offer or exchange offer for, outstanding securities) and may waive any existing default or event of default (including, without limitation, through consents obtained in connection with a purchase of, or tender offer or exchange offer for, outstanding securities) with the consent of the holders of a majority in aggregate principal amount of the outstanding securities of each series affected by the modification or amendment.

However, neither we nor the trustee may make any modification or amendment without the consent of the holder of each outstanding security of that series affected by the modification or amendment if such modification or amendment would:

change the stated maturity of any debt security;

reduce the principal, premium, if any, or interest on any debt security;

reduce the principal of an original issue discount security or any other debt security payable on acceleration of maturity;

reduce the percent in principal amount of holders of any debt security required to consent to a supplemental indenture or waiver of default or event of default;

change the place of payment where a debt security or interest on a debt security is payable;

change the currency in which any debt security is payable; or

impair the right to enforce any payment due to the holder.

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Notwithstanding the preceding, without the consent of any holder of outstanding securities, we and the trustee may amend or supplement the indenture:

to cure any ambiguity, defect or inconsistency;

to provide for uncertificated securities in addition to, or in place of, certificated securities;

to provide for the assumption of our obligations to holders of any debt security in the case of a merger or consolidation or sale of all or substantially all of our assets;

to make any change that would provide any additional rights or benefits to the holders of securities or that does not adversely affect the legal rights under the indenture of any such holders;

to comply with requirements of the SEC in order to effect or maintain the qualification of an indenture under the Trust Indenture Act;

to conform the text of the indenture to any provision of the Description of Debt Securities ;

to provide for the forms or terms of debt securities in accordance with the limitations set forth in the indenture;

to add additional events of default;

to provide for the issuance of debt securities in coupon form and to provide for the exchangeability of those debt securities with securities of the same series in fully registered form, making all appropriate changes as necessary;

to provide that bearer debt securities may be registrable as to principal, to change or eliminate any restrictions on payment of principal or premium on registered debt securities or on principal, premium or interest on bearer debt securities, or to allow for the exchange of registered debt securities for bearer debt securities, subject to certain limitations;

to provide for the appointment of a successor or separate trustee;

to add guarantees or to secure any series of debt securities; or

to amend or eliminate any provision of the indenture to the extent that no debt security then outstanding is entitled to the benefit of that provision.

The consent of holders is not necessary under the indenture to approve the particular form of any proposed amendment. It is sufficient if such consent approves the substance of the proposed amendment.

Satisfaction and Discharge; Defeasance

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We may be discharged from our obligations on the debt securities of any series that have matured or will mature or be redeemed within one year if we deposit with the trustee enough cash to pay all the principal, interest and any premium due to the stated maturity date or redemption date of the debt securities.

The indenture contains a provision that permits us to elect:

to be discharged from all of our obligations, subject to limited exceptions, with respect to any series of debt securities then outstanding (legal defeasance); or

to be released from our obligations under the consolidation, merger and sale of assets covenant and other specified covenants and the related events of default resulting from a breach of these covenants (covenant defeasance).

To make either of the above elections, we must deposit in trust with the trustee enough money to pay in full the principal, interest and any premium on the debt securities. This amount may be made in cash and/or U.S. government obligations. As a condition to either of the above elections, we must deliver to the trustee an opinion of counsel that the holders of the debt securities will not recognize income, gain or loss for Federal income tax purposes as a result of the action.

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If any of the above events occurs, the holders of the debt securities of the series will not be entitled to the benefits of the indenture, except for the rights of holders to receive payments on debt securities or the registration of transfer and exchange of debt securities and replacement of lost, stolen or mutilated debt securities.

Notices

Notices to holders will be given by mail to the addresses of the holders in the security register.

Governing Law

The indenture, any supplemental indenture and the debt securities will be governed by, and construed under, the law of the State of New York, except to the extent that the Trust Indenture Act is applicable.

Regarding the Trustee

The indenture limits the right of the trustee, should it become a creditor of us, to obtain payment of claims or secure its claims.

The trustee is permitted to engage in certain other transactions. However, if the trustee acquires any conflicting interest, and there is a default under the debt securities of any series for which they are trustee, the trustee must eliminate the conflict or resign.

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DESCRIPTION OF WARRANTS

We may issue warrants for the purchase of debt securities or common stock. We may issue warrants independently or together with any other securities offered by any prospectus supplement, and warrants may be attached to or separate from the other offered securities. Each series of warrants will be issued under a separate warrant agreement to be entered into by us with a warrant agent. The warrant agent will act solely as our agent in connection with the series of warrants and will not assume any obligation or relationship of agency or trust for or with any holders or beneficial owners of the warrants. Further terms of the warrants and the applicable warrant agreements will be set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement.

The applicable 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 shares of debt securities or common stock purchasable upon exercise of the warrants;

the designation and terms of the offered securities, if any, with which the warrants are issued and the number of the warrants issued with each offered security;

the date, if any, on and after which the warrants and the related debt securities or common stock will be separately transferable;

the price at which each share of debt securities or common stock purchasable upon exercise of the warrants may be purchased;

the date on which the right to exercise the warrants shall commence and the date on which that 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 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.

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PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION

We may sell the securities covered by this prospectus from time to time. Registration of the securities covered by this prospectus does not mean, however, that those securities will necessarily be offered or sold.

We may sell the securities separately or together:

through one or more underwriters or dealers in a public offering and sale by them;

directly to investors; or

through agents.

We may sell the securities from time to time:

in one or more transactions at a fixed price or prices, which may be changed from time to time;

at market prices prevailing at the times of sale;

at prices related to such prevailing market prices; or

at negotiated prices.

We will describe the method of distribution of the securities and the terms of the offering in the prospectus supplement.

If underwriters are used in the sale of any securities, the securities will be acquired by the underwriters for their own account and may be resold from time to time in one or more transactions described above. The securities may be either offered to the public through underwriting syndicates represented by managing underwriters, or directly by underwriters. Generally, the underwriters' obligations to purchase the securities will be subject to conditions precedent and the underwriters will be obligated to purchase all of the securities being distributed if they purchase any of the securities.

We may authorize underwriters, dealers or agents to solicit offers by certain purchasers to purchase the securities from us at the public offering price set forth in the prospectus supplement pursuant to delayed delivery contracts providing for payment and delivery on a specified date in the future. The contracts will be subject only to those conditions set forth in the prospectus supplement, and the prospectus supplement will set forth any commissions we pay for solicitation of these contracts.

We may enter into derivative transactions with third parties, or sell securities not covered by this prospectus to third parties in privately negotiated transactions. If the applicable prospectus supplement indicates, in connection with those derivatives, the third parties may sell securities covered by this prospectus and the applicable prospectus supplement, including in short sale transactions. If so, the third party may use securities pledged by us or borrowed from us or others to settle those sales or to close out any related open borrowings of stock, and may use securities received from us in settlement of those derivatives to close out any related open borrowings of stock. The third party in such sale transactions will be an underwriter and will be identified in the applicable prospectus supplement or in a post-effective amendment.

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If so indicated in the applicable prospectus supplement, we will authorize underwriters, dealers or other persons to solicit offers by certain institutions to purchase offered securities from us at the public offering price set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement pursuant to delayed delivery contracts providing for payment and delivery on a future date or dates. Institutions with which these contracts may be made include commercial and savings banks, insurance companies, pension funds, investment companies, educational and charitable institutions and others. The obligations of any purchasers under any delayed delivery contract will not be subject to any conditions except:

the purchase of the offered securities must not at the time of delivery be prohibited under the laws of the jurisdiction to which the purchaser is subject; and

if the offered securities are also being sold to underwriters, we will have sold to the underwriters the offered securities not sold for delayed delivery.

The underwriters, dealers and other persons will not have any responsibility for the validity or performance of these contracts. The prospectus supplement relating to the contracts will set forth the price to be paid for securities under the contracts, the commission payable for solicitation of the contracts and the date or dates in the future for delivery of offered securities under the contracts.

Underwriters, dealers and agents may be entitled to indemnification by us against certain civil liabilities, including liabilities under the Securities Act, or to contribution with respect to payments made by the underwriters, dealers or agents, under agreements between us and the underwriters, dealers and agents.

We may grant underwriters who participate in the distribution of securities an option to purchase additional securities in connection with the distribution.

Underwriters, dealers or agents may receive compensation in the form of discounts, concessions or commissions from us or our purchasers, as their agents in connection with the sale of securities. These underwriters, dealers or agents may be considered to be underwriters under the Securities Act. As a result, discounts, commissions or profits on resale received by the underwriters, dealers or agents may be treated as underwriting discounts and commissions. The prospectus supplement will identify any such underwriter, dealer or agent and describe any compensation received by them from us. In no event will the aggregate discounts, concessions and commissions to any underwriters, dealers or agents exceed eight percent of the gross proceeds. Any initial public offering price and any discounts or concessions allowed or reallocated or paid to dealers may be changed from time to time.

Shares of our common stock are listed on the Nasdaq Global Market. Unless otherwise specified in the related prospectus supplement, all securities we offer, other than common stock, will be new issues of securities with no established trading market. Any underwriter may make a market in these securities, but will not be obligated to do so and may discontinue any market making at any time without notice. We may apply to list any series of debt securities or warrants on an exchange, but we are not obligated to do so. Therefore, there may not be liquidity or a trading market for any series of securities.

In connection with an offering, the underwriters may purchase and sell securities in the open market. These transactions may include short sales, stabilizing transactions and purchases to cover positions created by short sales. Short sales involve the sale by the underwriters of a greater number of securities than they are required to purchase in an offering. Stabilizing transactions consist of certain bids or purchases made for the purpose of preventing or retarding a decline in the market price of the securities while an offering is in progress.

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The underwriters may also impose a penalty bid. This occurs when a particular underwriter repays to the underwriters a portion of the underwriting discount received by it because the underwriters have repurchased securities sold by or for the account of that underwriter in stabilizing or short-covering transactions.

These activities by the underwriters may stabilize, maintain or otherwise affect the market price of the securities. As a result, the price of the securities may be higher than the price that otherwise might exist in the open market. If these activities are commenced, they may be discontinued by the underwriters at any time. These transactions may be effected on an exchange or automated quotation system, if the securities are listed on that exchange or admitted for trading on that automated quotation system, or in the over-the-counter market or otherwise.

Underwriters, dealers or agents who may become involved in the sale of our securities may engage in transactions with and perform other services for us in the ordinary course of their business for which they receive compensation.

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LEGAL MATTERS

The validity of the securities offered hereby will be passed upon for us by O Melveny & Myers LLP.

EXPERTS

The financial statements and management's report on the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting incorporated in this prospectus by reference from the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2006 have been audited by Deloitte & Touche LLP, an independent registered public accounting firm, as stated in their reports (which reports (1) express an unqualified opinion on the financial statements and include an explanatory paragraph relating to a change in the method of accounting for share-based payment as required by Statement of Financial Accounting Standards No. 123(R), Share-Based Payment, effective January 1, 2006, (2) express an unqualified opinion on management's assessment regarding the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting, and (3) express an unqualified opinion on the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting), which are incorporated herein by reference, and have been so incorporated in reliance upon the reports of such firm given upon their authority as experts in accounting and auditing.

WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION

Available Information

We file annual, quarterly and current reports, proxy statements and other information with the United States Securities and Exchange Commission, which we refer to as the Commission or the SEC. You can inspect and copy these reports, proxy statements and other information at the Commission's public reference facility at 100 F Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20549. Please call the Commission at 1-800-SEC-0330 for further information on the public reference facility. The Commission also maintains a web site at www.sec.gov that contains reports, proxy and information statements and other information regarding registrants such as us that file electronically with the Commission.

This prospectus constitutes part of a registration statement on Form S-3 filed under the United States Securities Act of 1933, as amended, or the Securities Act, with respect to the securities being offered. As permitted by the Commission's rules, this prospectus omits some of the information, exhibits and undertakings included in the registration statement. You may read and copy the information omitted from this prospectus but contained in the registration statement, as well as the periodic reports and other information we file with the Commission, at the public reference facilities maintained by the Commission in Washington, D.C.

Incorporation by Reference

The Commission allows us to incorporate by reference the information we file with it, which means that we can disclose important information to you by referring to those documents. The information incorporated by reference is an important part of this prospectus, and information that we file later with the Commission will automatically update, modify and supersede this information. We incorporate by reference the following documents we have filed with the Commission pursuant to the Exchange Act:

our annual report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2006 (as amended by our Form 10-K/A, filed on April 12, 2007);

our quarterly reports on Form 10-Q for the quarters ended March 31, 2007, June 30, 2007 and September 30, 2007;

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our current reports on Form 8-K filed with the Commission on March 2, 2007, May 9, 2007, June 5, 2007, November 5, 2007 and November 20, 2007; and

our description of capital stock contained in our Form 8-K filed with the Commission on November 20, 2007, including any amendment or report filed for the purpose of updating such description.

All documents filed by us with the Commission pursuant to Sections 13(a), 13(c), 14 or 15(d) of the Exchange Act after the date of this prospectus and before we stop offering the securities under this prospectus (other than current reports deemed furnished and not filed) shall also be deemed to be incorporated by reference and will automatically update information in this prospectus.

Any statements made in this prospectus or in a document incorporated or deemed to be incorporated by reference in this prospectus will be deemed to be modified or superseded for purposes of this prospectus to the extent that a statement contained in this prospectus or in any other subsequently filed document that is also incorporated or deemed to be incorporated by reference in this prospectus modifies or supersedes the statement. Any statement so modified or superseded will not be deemed, except as so modified or superseded, to constitute a part of this prospectus.

You may request a copy of the information incorporated by reference into this prospectus, but not delivered herewith, at no cost, by writing or telephoning us at the following address:

Damian C. Georgino

Executive Vice President Corporate Development & Chief Legal Officer

PICO Holdings, Inc.

875 Prospect Street, Suite 301

La Jolla, California 92037

(858) 456-6022

Exhibits to the filings will not be sent, however, unless those exhibits have specifically been incorporated by reference in this prospectus.

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PICO Holdings, Inc.

Debt Securities

Common Stock

Warrants

PROSPECTUS

Table of Contents**PART II****INFORMATION NOT REQUIRED IN PROSPECTUS****Item 14. Other Expenses of Issuance and Distribution**

The expenses to be paid by us in connection with the issuance and distribution of the securities being registered are as set forth in the following table. All amounts shown are estimates except for the Securities and Exchange Commission registration fee.

| | |
|---|-----------|
| Securities and Exchange Commission Registration Fee | \$ 12,280 |
| Legal Fees and Expenses | 60,000* |
| Accounting Fees and Expenses | 20,000* |
| Printing Expenses | 15,000* |
| Blue Sky Fees | * |
| Transfer Agent Fees and Expenses | * |
| Trustee Fees and Expenses | * |
| Miscellaneous | * |
| Total | * |

* Estimated expenses only include information that is known at the time of filing this registration statement. Estimated expenses are subject to future contingencies, including additional expenses for future offerings.

Item 15. Indemnification of Directors and Officers

Pursuant to provisions of the California General Corporation Law (the "CGCL"), the registrant's Amended and Restated Articles of Incorporation, as amended (the "Articles of Incorporation"), includes a provision which eliminates the personal liability of its directors to the registrant and its shareholders for monetary damages to the fullest extent permissible under California law. This limitation has no effect on a director's liability (i) for acts or omissions that involve intentional misconduct or a knowing and culpable violation of law, (ii) for acts or omissions that a director believes to be contrary to the best interest of the registrant or its shareholders or that involve the absence of good faith on the part of the director, (iii) for any transaction from which a director derived an improper benefit, (iv) for acts or omissions that show a reckless disregard for the director's duty to the registrant or its shareholders in circumstances in which the director was aware, or should have been aware, in the ordinary course of performing a director's duties, of a risk of serious injury to the registrant or its shareholders, (v) for acts or omissions that constitute an unexcused pattern of inattention that amounts to an abdication of the director's duty to the registrant or its shareholders, (vi) under Section 310 of the CGCL (concerning contracts or transactions between the corporation and a director) or (vii) under Section 316 of the CGCL (concerning a director's liability for improper distributions, loans and guarantees). The provision does not eliminate liability of a director for any acts or omissions which occurred prior to November 18, 1988, the effective date of the registrant's amended Articles of Incorporation including such provision, and it does not eliminate or limit the liability of an officer for any act or omission as an officer, notwithstanding that the officer is also a director or that his or her actions, if negligent or improper, have been ratified by the Board of Directors. Further, the provision has no effect on claims arising under federal or state securities laws and does not affect the availability of injunctions and other equitable remedies available to the registrant's shareholders for any violation of a director's fiduciary duty to the registrant or its shareholders. Although the validity and scope of the legislation underlying the provision have not yet been interpreted to any significant extent by the California courts, the provision may relieve directors of monetary liability to the registrant for grossly negligent conduct, including conduct in situations involving attempted takeovers of the registrant.

The registrant's Articles of Incorporation also include a section authorizing the registrant to indemnify its officers, directors and other agents through bylaw provisions, agreements with such agents, vote of shareholders or otherwise in excess of the indemnification permitted by Section 317 of the CGCL, subject only to the limits

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set forth in Section 204 of the CGCL with respect to actions for breach of duty to the corporation and its shareholders. The registrant has entered into agreements with its executive officers and directors to provide indemnity to such person to the maximum extent permitted under applicable law.

The By-laws expressly provide that the registrant shall have the right to purchase and maintain insurance against any liability asserted against or incurred by officers, directors and other agents, whether or not the registrant would have the power to indemnify such person against the liability insured against. The registrant has obtained directors and officers liability and company reimbursement insurance policies, referred to as the D & O Policies. The D & O Policies are subject to customary exclusions.

Section 317 of the CGCL makes provisions for the indemnification of officers, directors and other corporate agents in terms sufficiently broad to indemnify such persons, under certain circumstances, against such liabilities (including reimbursement of expenses incurred) arising under the Securities Act.

Insofar as indemnification for liabilities arising under the Securities Act may be permitted to directors, officers and controlling persons of the registrant pursuant to the foregoing provisions, the registrant has been informed that in the opinion of the United States Securities and Exchange Commission such indemnification is against public policy as expressed in the Securities Act and is therefore unenforceable.

Item 16. Exhibits

| Number | Description |
|---------------|--|
| 1.1 | Form of Underwriting Agreement (to be filed by amendment to this registration statement or by a report filed under the United States Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, and incorporated herein by reference) |
| 3.1 | Amended and Restated Articles of Incorporation of PICO Holdings, Inc., incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3(i) to Registrant's Form 10-Q for the quarter ended September 30, 2007 |
| 3.2 | Amended and Restated By-laws of PICO Holdings, Inc., incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3.3 to Registrant's Form 8-K filed on November 5, 2007 |
| 4.1 | Form of Indenture relating to debt securities |
| 4.2 | Form of Common Stock Certificate of PICO Holdings, Inc., incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.1 to Registrant's Form 8-K filed on November 20, 2007 |
| 5.1 | Opinion of O Melveny & Myers LLP |
| 12.1 | Statement regarding Computation of Ratio of Earnings to Fixed Charges |
| 23.1 | Consent of Deloitte & Touche LLP, independent registered public accounting firm |
| 23.2 | Consent of O Melveny & Myers LLP (included in Exhibit 5.1) |
| 24.1 | Power of Attorney (included on the signature page hereto) |
| 25.1 | Statement of Eligibility of Trustee on Form T-1 (to be filed by amendment to this registration statement or by a report filed under the United States Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, and incorporated herein by reference) |

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 United States Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the Securities Act);

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(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 Securities and Exchange Commission pursuant to Rule 424(b) if, in the aggregate, the changes in volume and price represent no more than 20 percent 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 (i), (ii) and (iii) do not apply if the information required to be included in a post-effective amendment by those paragraphs is contained in reports filed with or furnished to the Securities and Exchange Commission by the registrant pursuant to Section 13 or Section 15(d) of the United States Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the Exchange Act), that are incorporated by reference in the registration statement, or is contained in a form of prospectus filed pursuant to Rule 424(b) that is part of the registration statement.

(2) That, for the purpose of determining any liability under the Securities Act, each such post-effective amendment shall be deemed to be a new registration statement relating to the securities offered therein, and the offering of such securities at that time shall be deemed to be the initial bona fide offering thereof.

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

(4) That, for the purpose of determining liability under the Securities Act to any purchaser:

(i) Each prospectus filed by the registrant pursuant to Rule 424(b)(3) shall be deemed to be part of the registration statement as of the date the filed prospectus was deemed part of and included in the registration statement; and

(ii) Each prospectus required to be filed pursuant to Rule 424(b)(2), (b)(5), or (b)(7) as part of a registration statement in reliance on Rule 430B relating to an offering made pursuant to Rule 415(a)(1)(i), (vii), or (x) for the purpose of providing the information required by section 10(a) of the Securities Act shall be deemed to be part of and included in the registration statement as of the earlier of the date such form of prospectus is first used after effectiveness or the date of the first contract of sale of securities in the offering described in the prospectus. As provided in Rule 430B, for liability purposes of the issuer and any person that is at that date an underwriter, such date shall be deemed to be a new effective date of the registration statement relating to the securities in the registration statement to which that prospectus relates, and the offering of such securities at that time shall be deemed to be the initial bona fide offering thereof. Provided, however, that no statement made in a registration statement or prospectus that is part of the registration statement or made in a document incorporated or deemed incorporated by reference into the registration statement or prospectus that is part of the registration statement will, as to a purchaser with a time of contract of sale prior to such effective date, supersede or modify any statement that was made in the registration statement or prospectus that was part of the registration statement or made in any such document immediately prior to such effective date.

(5) That, for the purpose of determining liability of the registrant under the Securities Act to any purchaser in the initial distribution of the securities: The undersigned registrant undertakes that in a primary offering of securities of the undersigned registrant pursuant to this registration statement, regardless of the underwriting method used to sell the securities to the purchaser, if the securities are offered or sold to such

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purchaser by means of any of the following communications, the undersigned registrant will be a seller to the purchaser and will be considered to offer or sell such securities to such purchaser:

- (i) Any preliminary prospectus or prospectus of the undersigned registrant relating to the offering required to be filed pursuant to Rule 424;
 - (ii) Any free writing prospectus relating to the offering prepared by or on behalf of the undersigned registrant or used or referred to by the undersigned registrant;
 - (iii) The portion of any other free writing prospectus relating to the offering containing material information about the undersigned registrant or its securities provided by or on behalf of the undersigned registrant; and
 - (iv) Any other communication that is an offer in the offering made by the undersigned registrant to the purchaser.
- (b) The undersigned registrant hereby undertakes that, for purposes of determining any liability under the Securities Act, each filing of the registrant's annual report pursuant to section 13(a) or section 15(d) of the Exchange Act (and, where applicable, each filing of an employee benefit plan's annual report pursuant to section 15(d) of the Exchange Act) that is incorporated by reference in the registration statement shall be deemed to be a new registration statement relating to the securities offered therein, and the offering of such securities at that time shall be deemed to be the initial bona fide offering thereof.
- (c) Insofar as indemnification for liabilities arising under the Securities Act may be permitted to directors, officers and controlling persons of the registrant pursuant to the provisions described in Item 15 above, 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 Securities 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 director, officer or controlling person of the registrant in the successful defense of any action, suit or proceeding) is asserted by such director, 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.
- (d) The undersigned registrant hereby undertakes to deliver or cause to be delivered with the prospectus, to each person to whom the prospectus is sent or given, the latest annual report to security holders that is incorporated by reference in the prospectus and furnished pursuant to and meeting the requirements of Rule 14a-3 or Rule 14c-3 under the Exchange Act; and, where interim financial information required to be presented by Article 3 of Regulation S-X are not set forth in the prospectus, to deliver, or cause to be delivered to each person to whom the prospectus is sent or given, the latest quarterly report that is specifically incorporated by reference in the prospectus to provide such interim financial information.
- (e) The undersigned registrant hereby undertakes to file an application for the purpose of determining the eligibility of the trustee to act under subsection (a) of section 310 of the Trust Indenture Act ("Trust Indenture Act") in accordance with the rules and regulations prescribed by the Commission under section 305(b)2 of the Trust Indenture Act.

Table of Contents**SIGNATURES**

Pursuant to the requirements of the United States Securities Act of 1933, as amended, the registrant certifies that it has reasonable grounds to believe that it meets 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 San Diego, State of California, on November 20, 2007.

PICO HOLDINGS, INC.

By: */s/* JOHN R. HART
John R. Hart
Chief Executive Officer, President and Director

POWER OF ATTORNEY

KNOW ALL PERSONS BY THESE PRESENTS, that each person whose signature appears below constitutes and appoints John R. Hart, Maxim C. W. Webb and Damian C. Georgino, and each of them, as his true and lawful attorneys-in-fact and agents, with full power of substitution and resubstitution, for him and in his name, place and stead, in any and all capacities, to sign any and all amendments (including post-effective amendments), to this Registration Statement and to sign any registration statement for the same offering covered by this Registration Statement that is to be effective upon filing pursuant to Rule 462(b) promulgated under the United States Securities Act of 1933, as amended, and all post-effective amendments thereto, and to file the same, with all exhibits thereto, and other documents in connection therewith, with the United States Securities and Exchange Commission, granting unto said attorneys-in-fact and agents, and each of them, full power and authority to do and perform each and every act and thing requisite and necessary to be done in connection therewith, as fully to all intents and purposes as he might or could do in person, hereby ratifying and confirming all that said attorneys-in-fact and agents, or any of them or their or his substitute or substitutes, may lawfully do or cause to be done by virtue hereof.

Pursuant to the requirements of the United States Securities Act of 1933, as amended, this Registration Statement has been signed by the following persons in the capacities and on the dates indicated.

| Signature | Title | Date |
|--|--|-------------------|
| <i>/s/</i> RONALD LANGLEY Ronald Langlely | Chairman of the Board | November 20, 2007 |
| <i>/s/</i> JOHN R. HART John R. Hart | Chief Executive Officer, President and Director (Principal Executive Officer) | November 20, 2007 |
| <i>/s/</i> MAXIM C.W. WEBB Maxim C.W. Webb | Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer (Chief Accounting Officer) | November 20, 2007 |
| <i>/s/</i> S. WALTER FOULKROD, III S. Walter Foulkrod, III, Esq. | Director | November 20, 2007 |
| <i>/s/</i> RICHARD D. RUPPERT Richard D. Ruppert, M.D. | Director | November 20, 2007 |
| <i>/s/</i> CARLOS C. CAMPBELL Carlos C. Campbell | Director | November 20, 2007 |

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/s/ KENNETH J. SLEPICKA

Director

November 20, 2007

Kenneth J. Slepicka

/s/ JOHN D. WEIL

Director

November 20, 2007

John D. Weil

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EXHIBIT INDEX

| Number | Description |
|---------------|--|
| 1.1 | Form of Underwriting Agreement (to be filed by amendment to this registration statement or by a report filed under the United States Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, and incorporated herein by reference) |
| 3.1 | Amended and Restated Articles of Incorporation of PICO Holdings, Inc., incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3(i) to Registrant's Form 10-Q for the quarter ended September 30, 2007 |
| 3.2 | Amended and Restated By-laws of PICO Holdings, Inc., incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3.3 to Registrant's Form 8-K filed on November 5, 2007 |
| 4.1 | Form of Indenture relating to debt securities |
| 4.2 | Form of Common Stock Certificate of PICO Holdings, Inc., incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.1 to Registrant's Form 8-K filed on November 20, 2007 |
| 5.1 | Opinion of O Melveny & Myers LLP |
| 12.1 | Statement regarding Computation of Ratio of Earnings to Fixed Charges |
| 23.1 | Consent of Deloitte & Touche LLP, independent registered public accounting firm |
| 23.2 | Consent of O Melveny & Myers LLP (included in Exhibit 5.1) |
| 24.1 | Power of Attorney (included on the signature page hereto) |
| 25.1 | Statement of Eligibility of Trustee on Form T-1 (to be filed by amendment to this registration statement or by a report filed under the United States Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, and incorporated herein by reference) |