

### **Important Tax Information**

We are pleased to enclose your 2009 Form 1099-DIV with respect to your investment in one or more of The Lazard Funds, Inc. This insert provides you with important tax information relating to the distributions you received or re-invested during the calendar year 2009. Because tax laws vary among states, you should consult your personal tax adviser about the specific rules in the state(s) in which you pay income taxes and how the enclosed information relates to the preparation of your tax return(s).

This letter is for informational purposes only and has not been furnished to the Internal Revenue Service. Please retain this information for preparation of your tax return(s).

#### **Distributions of Ordinary Dividends**

As a result of the Jobs and Growth Tax Relief Reconciliation Act of 2003 a portion of the total ordinary dividends (box 1a on Form 1099-DIV) paid by your Portfolio during 2009 may be designated as qualified dividends (box 1b on Form 1099-DIV). Qualified dividends are dividends received by your Portfolio (and paid to shareholders) from domestic corporations or qualified foreign corporations that the Portfolio has also met the required holding period (the Portfolio must hold the security for greater than 60 days during the 121 day period beginning 60 days before the ex-dividend date). The qualified dividends are subject to a maximum tax rate of 15% (0% for taxpayers in the 10% or 15% bracket). In order for the individual to report the amount of qualified dividends in box 1b as qualified dividend income the shareholder must also satisfy the holding period requirement mentioned above with respect to his/her mutual Portfolio shares. If the holding period requirement is not satisfied, the qualified dividends will be taxed as ordinary dividend income.

#### **Distributions from Capital Gains**

Long-term capital gain dividends paid by the Portfolios during 2009 will be taxed at the 15% capital gain tax rate (0% for taxpayers in the 10% or 15% tax bracket). The amount of total capital gain distributions is shown in Box 2a of Form 1099-DIV.

If applicable, amounts taxed at 28% (gain on collectibles) are shown in Box 2d and amounts taxed at 25% (unrecaptured Section 1250 gain) are shown in Box 2b of Form 1099-DIV.

#### **Foreign Taxes**

You are allowed to claim a tax credit or an itemized deduction on your federal income tax return for your share of foreign taxes paid by a mutual fund during 2009. In most cases, you will receive more benefit by claiming a tax credit.

The amount reported in Box 6 of Form 1099-DIV represents the amount of creditable foreign taxes paid by a Portfolio. The information on pages 2 & 3 will assist you in calculating the information necessary to claim either a credit or itemized deduction. To calculate your total foreign source income passed through from the mutual fund multiply your ordinary dividends (Box 1a of Form 1099-DIV) by the foreign source income factor shown in the Total Foreign Source Income Factor column below for the appropriate Portfolio(s).

In order to claim a foreign tax credit shareholders must also satisfy certain holding period requirements with respect to his/her mutual Portfolio shares. If the holding period requirements are not satisfied, the foreign taxes will qualify as itemized deductions. Please consult your tax adviser to determine whether the foreign taxes passed through to you by the Portfolio are either creditable or qualify as an itemized deduction, and whether to make the election to exempt you from the foreign tax credit limitation and the filing requirement of Form 1116.

Note, if claiming a tax credit on your tax return for the foreign taxes paid by the Portfolio the credit may be limited due to changes for the Job and Growth Tax Relief Reconciliation Act of 2003. Please review the instructions to Form 1116 and consult with your tax adviser.

**Income Derived from U.S. Government Obligations**

During 2009, none of the Portfolios derived income from direct or indirect obligations of the United States Government

**Nontaxable Distributions**

The amount included in Box 3 of Form 1099-DIV represents amounts distributed as return capital, which for tax purposes, are nontaxable. The amount included in Box 3 as nondividend distributions should reduce the cost basis of your shares. Once you have received return of capital distributions equivalent to your cost basis, any additional return of capital distributions received will be taxable to you as capital gain even though they will be reported as nontaxable distributions on Form 1099-DIV.

