



THE BANCROFT FUND LTD.

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**DIVIDEND NOTICE
SERIES A PREFERRED SHARES**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Rye, New York
May 18, 2017

NYSE MKT – BCV Pr A
CUSIP – 059702209

**BANCROFT FUND LTD.
DECLARES \$0.3359375 QUARTERLY DIVIDEND FOR ITS
5.375% SERIES A CUMULATIVE PREFERRED SHARES**

Rye, NY -- The Board of Trustees of Bancroft Fund Ltd. (NYSE MKT:BCV) (the "Fund") declared a \$0.3359375 per share cash distribution payable on June 26, 2017 to Series A preferred shareholders of record on June 19, 2017.

The Series A Preferred Shares, which trade on the NYSE MKT under the symbol "BCV Pr A", are rated "A1" by Moody's Investors Service and have an annual dividend rate of \$1.34375 per share. The Series A Preferred Shares were issued on August 9, 2016 at \$25.00 per share and pay distributions quarterly. The Series A Preferred Shares will be callable at any time at the liquidation value of \$25.00 per share plus accrued dividends following the expiration of the five year call protection on August 9, 2021.

All or part of the distribution may be treated as long-term capital gain or qualified dividend income (or a combination of both) for individuals, each subject to the maximum federal income tax rate, which is currently 20% in taxable accounts for individuals (or zero depending on an individual's tax bracket). In addition, certain U.S. shareholders who are individuals, estates or trusts and whose income exceeds certain thresholds will be required to pay a 3.8% Medicare surcharge on their "net investment income", which includes dividends received from the Fund and capital gains from the sale or other disposition of shares of the Fund.

Long-term capital gains, qualified dividend income, and ordinary income, if any, will be allocated on a pro-rata basis to all distributions to preferred shareholders for the year. Based on the accounting records of the Fund currently available, each of the distributions paid to preferred shareholders in 2017 would include approximately 19% from net investment income and 81% from net capital gains on a book basis. This does not currently represent information for tax reporting purposes. The estimated components of each distribution are updated and provided to shareholders of record in a notice accompanying the distribution and are available on our website (www.gabelli.com). The final determination of the sources of all distributions in 2017 will be made after year end and can vary from the quarterly estimates. All shareholders with taxable accounts will receive written notification regarding the components and tax treatment for all 2017 distributions in early 2018 via Form 1099-DIV.

Investors should carefully consider the investment objectives, risks, charges, and expenses of the Fund before investing. More information regarding this and other information about the Fund is available by calling 800-GABELLI (800-422-3554) or visiting www.gabelli.com.

Bancroft Fund Ltd. is a diversified, closed-end management investment company with \$152 million in total net assets. BCV invests primarily in convertible securities, with the objectives of providing income and the potential for capital appreciation; which objectives the Fund considers to be relatively equal, over the long-term, due to the nature of the securities in which it invests. The Fund is managed by Gabelli Funds, LLC, a subsidiary of GAMCO Investors, Inc. (NYSE:GBL).