

GABELLI EQUITY TRUST INC  
Form N-CSR  
March 11, 2013

UNITED STATES

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

**FORM N-CSR**

**CERTIFIED SHAREHOLDER REPORT OF REGISTERED MANAGEMENT**

**INVESTMENT COMPANIES**

Investment Company Act file number 811-04700

The Gabelli Equity Trust Inc.

(Exact name of registrant as specified in charter)

One Corporate Center

Rye, New York 10580-1422

(Address of principal executive offices) (Zip code)

Bruce N. Alpert

Gabelli Funds, LLC

One Corporate Center

Rye, New York 10580-1422

(Name and address of agent for service)

Registrant's telephone number, including area code: 1-800-422-3554

Date of fiscal year end: December 31

Date of reporting period: December 31, 2012

Form N-CSR is to be used by management investment companies to file reports with the Commission not later than 10 days after the transmission to stockholders of any report that is required to be transmitted to stockholders under Rule 30e-1 under the Investment Company Act of 1940 (17 CFR 270.30e-1). The Commission may use the information provided on Form N-CSR in its regulatory, disclosure review, inspection, and policymaking roles.

A registrant is required to disclose the information specified by Form N-CSR, and the Commission will make this information public. A registrant is not required to respond to the collection of information contained in Form N-CSR unless the Form displays a currently valid Office of Management and Budget (OMB) control number. Please direct

Edgar Filing: GABELLI EQUITY TRUST INC - Form N-CSR

comments concerning the accuracy of the information collection burden estimate and any suggestions for reducing the burden to Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, 100 F Street, NE, Washington, DC 20549. The OMB has reviewed this collection of information under the clearance requirements of 44 U.S.C. § 3507.

**Item 1. Reports to Stockholders.**

The Report to Shareholders is attached herewith.

# The Gabelli Equity Trust Inc.

## Annual Report December 31, 2012

### Portfolio Management Team

#### To Our Shareholders,

For the year ended December 31, 2012, the net asset value ( NAV ) total return of The Gabelli Equity Trust Inc. (the Fund ) was 19.2%, compared with total returns of 16.0% and 10.1% for the Standard & Poor s ( S&P ) 500 Index and the Dow Jones Industrial Average, respectively. The total return for the Fund s publicly traded shares was 23.6%. The Fund s NAV per share was \$5.60, while the price of the publicly traded shares closed at \$5.58 on the New York Stock Exchange ( NYSE ). See page 2 for additional performance information.

Enclosed are the schedule of investments and financial statements as of December 31, 2012.

Sincerely yours,

Bruce N. Alpert

President

February 22, 2013

## Comparative Results

Average Annual Returns through December 31, 2012 (a) (Unaudited)

|                              | 1 Year | 5 Year | 10 Year | 20 Year | 25 Year | Since<br>Inception<br>(08/21/86) |
|------------------------------|--------|--------|---------|---------|---------|----------------------------------|
| <b>Gabelli Equity Trust</b>  |        |        |         |         |         |                                  |
| NAV Total Return (b)         | 19.21% | 2.15%  | 11.09%  | 9.67%   | 10.37%  | 10.43%                           |
| Investment Total Return (c)  | 23.62  | 1.84   | 9.86    | 9.62    | 11.34   | 10.06                            |
| S&P 500 Index                | 16.00  | 1.66   | 7.10    | 8.22    | 9.71    | 9.27(d)                          |
| Dow Jones Industrial Average | 10.14  | 2.60   | 7.32    | 9.66    | 10.77   | 10.47(d)                         |
| Nasdaq Composite Index       | 17.60  | 3.77   | 9.43    | 7.86    | 8.40    | 8.15(d)                          |

- (a) **Returns represent past performance and do not guarantee future results.** Investment returns and the principal value of an investment will fluctuate. When shares are sold, they may be worth more or less than their original cost. Current performance may be lower or higher than the performance data presented. Visit [www.gabelli.com](http://www.gabelli.com) for performance information as of the most recent month end. **Investors should carefully consider the investment objectives, risks, charges, and expenses of the Fund before investing.** The Dow Jones Industrial Average is an unmanaged index of 30 large capitalization stocks. The S&P 500 and the Nasdaq Composite Indices are unmanaged indicators of stock market performance. Dividends are considered reinvested except for the Nasdaq Composite Index. You cannot invest directly in an index.
- (b) Total returns and average annual returns reflect changes in the NAV per share, reinvestment of distributions at NAV on the ex-dividend date, adjustments for rights offerings, spin-offs, and taxes paid on undistributed long-term capital gains and are net of expenses. Since inception return is based on an initial NAV of \$9.34.
- (c) Total returns and average annual returns reflect changes in closing market values on the NYSE, reinvestment of distributions, and adjustments for rights offerings, spin-offs, and taxes paid on undistributed long-term capital gains. Since inception return is based on an initial offering price of \$10.00.
- (d) From August 31, 1986, the date closest to the Fund's inception for which data is available.

**Summary of Portfolio Holdings (Unaudited)**

The following table presents portfolio holdings as a percent of total investments as of December 31, 2012:

**The Gabelli Equity Trust Inc.**

|  |        |
|--|--------|
| Food and Beverage                              | 12.6%  |
| Cable and Satellite                            | 8.2%   |
| Financial Services                             | 7.4%   |
| Equipment and Supplies                         | 6.4%   |
| Energy and Utilities                           | 5.9%   |
| Diversified Industrial                         | 5.8%   |
| Entertainment                                  | 5.6%   |
| Health Care                                    | 4.1%   |
| Consumer Products                              | 4.0%   |
| Telecommunications                             | 3.7%   |
| Automotive: Parts and Accessories              | 3.5%   |
| Consumer Services                              | 3.2%   |
| Machinery                                      | 3.0%   |
| Retail   | 2.8%   |
| Publishing                                     | 2.6%   |
| Aerospace and Defense                          | 2.6%   |
| Business Services                              | 2.4%   |
| Aviation: Parts and Services                   | 2.1%   |
| Hotels and Gaming                              | 1.8%   |
| Broadcasting                                   | 1.5%   |
| Specialty Chemicals                            | 1.5%   |
| Electronics                                    | 1.2%   |
| Metals and Mining                              | 1.1%   |
| Wireless Communications                        | 0.9%   |
| Computer Software and Services                 | 0.9%   |
| Environmental Services                         | 0.9%   |
| U.S. Government Obligations                    | 0.8%   |
| Agriculture                                    | 0.8%   |
| Communications Equipment                       | 0.5%   |
| Automotive                                     | 0.5%   |
| Transportation                                 | 0.4%   |
| Real Estate                                    | 0.4%   |
| Closed-End Funds                               | 0.4%   |
| Building and Construction                      | 0.3%   |
| Real Estate Investment Trusts                  | 0.1%   |
| Manufactured Housing and Recreational Vehicles | 0.1%   |
|  | 100.0% |

The Fund files a complete schedule of portfolio holdings with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the SEC) for the first and third quarters of each fiscal year on Form N-Q. Shareholders may obtain this information at [www.gabelli.com](http://www.gabelli.com) or by calling the Fund at 800-GABELLI (800-422-3554). The Fund's Form N-Q is available on the SEC's website at [www.sec.gov](http://www.sec.gov) and may also be reviewed and copied at the SEC's Public Reference Room in Washington, DC. Information on the operation of the Public Reference Room may be obtained by calling 800-SEC-0330.

**Proxy Voting**

## Edgar Filing: GABELLI EQUITY TRUST INC - Form N-CSR

The Fund files Form N-PX with its complete proxy voting record for the twelve months ended June 30, no later than August 31 of each year. A description of the Fund's proxy voting policies, procedures, and how the Fund voted proxies relating to portfolio securities is available without charge, upon request, by (i) calling 800-GABELLI (800-422-3554); (ii) writing to The Gabelli Funds at One Corporate Center, Rye, NY 10580-1422; or (iii) visiting the SEC's website at [www.sec.gov](http://www.sec.gov).

**The Gabelli Equity Trust Inc.****Portfolio Changes Quarter Ended December 31, 2012 (Unaudited)**

|                                       | Shares        | Ownership at<br>December 31,<br>2012          |
|---------------------------------------|---------------|---|
| <b>NET PURCHASES</b>                  |               |   |
| <b>Common Stocks</b>                  |               |   |
| Avon Products Inc.                    | 30,000        | 95,000  |
| Blyth Inc.                            | 14,000        | 25,000  |
| Boston Scientific Corp.               | 18,000        | 330,000                                       |
| Citigroup Inc.                        | 27,000        | 107,000                                       |
| Coldwater Creek Inc.(a)               | 5,000         | 5,000   |
| Eaton Corp. plc(b)                    | 148,760       | 148,760                                       |
| Endo Health Solutions Inc.            | 4,000         | 12,000  |
| Freeport-McMoRan Copper & Gold Inc.   | 6,000         | 30,000  |
| Gardner Denver Inc.                   | 15,000        | 15,000  |
| Hillshire Brands Co.                  | 4,000         | 140,000                                       |
| Kraft Foods Group Inc.(c)             | 53,333        | 53,333  |
| Liberty Ventures, Cl. A               | 3,451         | 13,451  |
| Mondelez International Inc., Cl. A(c) | 180,000       | 220,000                                       |
| NRG Energy Inc.(d)                    | 1,824         | 1,824   |
| Orient-Express Hotels Ltd., Cl. A     | 13,000        | 45,000  |
| Pentair Ltd.(e)                       | 44,318        | 44,318  |
| Ryman Hospitality Properties Inc.(f)  | 195,784       | 195,784                                       |
| Skyline Corp.                         | 5,000         | 34,000  |
| The ADT Corp.(e)                      | 112,500       | 112,500                                       |
| True Religion Apparel Inc.            | 85,000        | 85,000  |
| <b>NET SALES</b>                      |               |   |
| <b>Common Stocks</b>                  |               |   |
| Artio Global Investors Inc.           | (13,000)      | 13,000  |
| Bel Fuse Inc., Cl. A                  | (500)         | 18,500  |
| BorgWarner Inc.                       | (4,000)       | 65,000  |
| Brunswick Corp.                       | (7,000)       | -   |
| Burger King Worldwide Inc.            | (10,000)      | 50,000  |
| Chestnut Hill Ventures(g)             | (2,002)       | -   |
| Cisco Systems Inc.                    | (10,000)      | 65,000  |
| CLARCOR Inc.                          | (16,000)      | 122,000                                       |
| CNH Global NV                         | (2,000)       | 10,000  |
| Coldwater Creek Inc.(a)               | (20,000)      | -   |
| Collective Brands Inc.(h)             | (126,000)     | -   |
| Cooper Industries plc(b)              | (198,000)     | -   |
| Deckers Outdoor Corp.                 | (10,000)      | -   |
| Diamond Foods Inc.                    | (20,000)      | -   |
| DIRECTV                               | (7,000)       | 460,000                                       |
| Dole Food Co. Inc.                    | (10,000)      | 40,000  |
| Ford Motor Co.                        | (5,000)       | 30,000  |
| Fortune Brands Home & Security Inc.   | (9,000)       | 121,000                                       |
| GATX Corp.                            | (2,000)       | 139,000                                       |
| Gaylord Entertainment Co.(f)          | (173,000)     | -   |
| GenOn Energy Inc.(d)                  | (15,000)      | -   |
|                                       | <b>Shares</b> | <b>Ownership at<br/>December 31,<br/>2012</b> |
| GrafTech International Ltd.           | (5,000)       | 95,000  |
| Griffon Corp.                         | (2,000)       | 28,000  |



Edgar Filing: GABELLI EQUITY TRUST INC - Form N-CSR

|  |           |           |
|--|-----------|-----------|
| Grupo Bimbo SAB de CV, Cl. A                 | (50,000)  | 2,000,000 |
| H.J. Heinz Co.                               | (13,000)  | 20,000    |
| Huntsman Corp.                               | (17,000)  | 23,000    |
| IDEX Corp.                                   | (3,000)   | 285,000   |
| Ingredion Inc.                               | (1,000)   | 25,000    |
| InterXion Holding NV                         | (7,000)   | 28,000    |
| Janus Capital Group Inc.                     | (13,000)  | 302,000   |
| Kaman Corp.                                  | (2,000)   | 35,800    |
| Kinder Morgan Inc.                           | (5,000)   | 75,000    |
| Kraft Foods Inc., Cl. A(c)                   | (160,000) | -         |
| Layne Christensen Co.                        | (2,000)   | 23,000    |
| Liberty Media Corp. - Liberty Capital, Cl. A | (2,000)   | 78,000    |
| LSI Corp.                                    | (5,000)   | 45,000    |
| Macy's Inc.                                  | (4,000)   | 373,000   |
| Materion Corp.                               | (200)     | 4,800     |
| Monster Worldwide Inc.                       | (40,000)  | 19,000    |
| National Fuel Gas Co.                        | (2,000)   | 5,000     |
| Navistar International Corp.                 | (20,000)  | 120,000   |
| News Corp., Cl. A                            | (20,000)  | 630,000   |
| NII Holdings Inc.                            | (70,000)  | -         |
| OMNOVA Solutions Inc.                        | (3,000)   | 260,000   |
| Pentair Inc.(e)                              | (1,000)   | -         |
| Regeneron Pharmaceuticals Inc.               | (2,000)   | 3,000     |
| RPC Inc.                                     | (3,000)   | 32,000    |
| SanDisk Corp.                                | (10,000)  | -         |
| Sealed Air Corp.                             | (8,000)   | 14,000    |
| Smiths Group plc                             | (20,000)  | 30,000    |
| Swedish Match AB                             | (2,000)   | 835,000   |
| Telefonos de Mexico SAB de CV, Cl. L(i)      | (80,000)  | -         |
| Telephone & Data Systems Inc.                | (21,740)  | 589,000   |
| Tenneco Inc.                                 | (1,000)   | -         |
| Terex Corp.                                  | (8,000)   | -         |
| The Bank of New York Mellon Corp.            | (3,000)   | 200,000   |
| The Boeing Co.                               | (3,000)   | 140,000   |
| The Clorox Co.                               | (5,000)   | -         |
| The E.W. Scripps Co., Cl. A                  | (2,000)   | 25,000    |
| The Greenbrier Companies Inc.                | (3,000)   | 15,000    |
| The Madison Square Garden Co., Cl. A         | (15,000)  | 326,000   |
| Time Warner Inc.                             | (14,000)  | 206,000   |
| Transocean Ltd.                              | (5,000)   | 9,000     |
| Trinity Industries Inc.                      | (1,000)   | 37,000    |
| TripAdvisor Inc.                             | (10,428)  | 17,000    |
| Tutor Perini Corp.                           | (10,000)  | -         |
| Vale SA, ADR                                 | (4,000)   | 14,000    |
| Verizon Communications Inc.                  | (5,000)   | 145,000   |

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

**The Gabelli Equity Trust Inc.****Portfolio Changes (Continued) Quarter Ended December 31, 2012 (Unaudited)**

|  | Shares    | Ownership at<br>December 31,<br>2012 |
|--|-----------|--------------------------------------|
| Viterra Inc.(j)                          | (100,000) | -                                    |
| Westar Energy Inc.                       | (5,000)   | 200,000                              |
| Yahoo! Inc.                              | (45,000)  | 355,000                              |
| <b>Warrants</b>                          |           |                                      |
| Talbots Inc., expire 04/06/15            | (145,000) | -                                    |
| <b>Rights</b>                            |           |                                      |
| Contax Participacoes SA, expire 10/02/12 | (129)     | -                                    |
| Liberty Ventures, expire 10/09/12(k)     | (3,333)   | -                                    |

- (a) Reverse Stock Split - 1 share for every 4 shares held. Identifier change from 193068103 to 193068202.
- (b) Merger - \$39.15 cash and 0.77479 shares of Eaton Corp. plc for every 1 share of Cooper Industries plc held. 6,000 shares of Cooper Industries plc were sold before the merger.
- (c) Name change and Spin-off - Name change from Kraft Foods Inc., Cl. A to Mondelez International Inc., Cl. A. Received 1 share of Kraft Foods Group Inc. for every 3 shares of Mondelez International Inc., Cl. A held for the spin-off. 20,000 shares of Mondelez International Inc., Cl. A were purchased after the spin-off.
- (d) Merger - 0.1216 shares of NRG Energy Inc. for every 1 share of GenOn Energy Inc. held.
- (e) Spin-off and merger - 0.5 shares of The ADT Corp. plus 0.244867 shares of Pentair Ltd. for 1 share of Tyco International Ltd. held for the spin-off. Then 1 share of Pentair Ltd. for every 1 share of Pentair Inc. held for the merger. 5,390 shares of Pentair Ltd. were sold after the spin-off and merger. 11,000 shares of the The ADT Corp. were purchased after the spin-off and merger.
- (f) Merger - 1 share of Ryman Hospitality Properties Inc. for every 1 share of Gaylord Entertainment Co. held. 22,784 shares of Ryman Hospitality Properties Inc. were purchased after the merger.
- (g) Liquidation Tender Offer
- (h) Merger - \$21.75 cash for every 1 share of Collective Brands Inc. held.
- (i) Tender Offer - 80,000 shares were tendered at 10.225 MXN per share.
- (j) Tender Offer - 100,000 shares were tendered at 16.25 CAD per share.
- (k) Rights Exercise - All shares of Liberty Ventures, expire 10/09/12 (53071M112) held were exercised. 1 share of Liberty Ventures, expire 10/09/12 was purchased before rights exercise.

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

## The Gabelli Equity Trust Inc.

## Schedule of Investments December 31, 2012

| Shares    |   | Cost         | Market       |
|-----------|---|--------------|--------------|
|           |   |              | Value        |
|           | <b>COMMON STOCKS 98.9%</b>                |              |              |
|           | <b>Food and Beverage 12.6%</b>            |              |              |
| 109,000   | Beam Inc.(a)                              | \$ 3,892,696 | \$ 6,658,810 |
| 52,500    | Brown-Forman Corp., Cl. A                 | 1,761,167    | 3,245,025    |
| 9,375     | Brown-Forman Corp., Cl. B                 | 410,925      | 592,969      |
| 75,000    | Campbell Soup Co.                         | 2,084,700    | 2,616,750    |
| 15,000    | Coca-Cola Enterprises Inc.                | 275,289      | 475,950      |
| 54,000    | Constellation Brands Inc., Cl. A          | 677,279      | 1,911,060    |
| 222,000   | Danone SA                                 | 10,623,550   | 14,623,693   |
| 599,000   | Davide Campari - Milano SpA               | 3,115,159    | 4,585,797    |
| 670,000   | DE Master Blenders 1753 NV                | 7,254,723    | 7,710,837    |
| 70,000    | Dean Foods Co.                            | 1,358,268    | 1,155,700    |
| 199,000   | Diageo plc, ADR                           | 8,255,063    | 23,199,420   |
| 40,000    | Dole Food Co. Inc.                        | 573,064      | 458,800      |
| 100,000   | Dr Pepper Snapple Group Inc.              | 2,291,138    | 4,418,000    |
| 65,000    | Flowers Foods Inc.                        | 321,721      | 1,512,550    |
| 83,000    | Fomento Economico Mexicano SAB de CV, ADR | 1,109,710    | 8,358,100    |
| 40,000    | General Mills Inc.                        | 967,929      | 1,616,400    |
| 2,000,000 | Grupo Bimbo SAB de CV, Cl. A              | 1,569,780    | 5,178,589    |
| 20,000    | H.J. Heinz Co.                            | 704,215      | 1,153,600    |
| 44,000    | Heineken NV                               | 2,071,793    | 2,931,204    |
| 140,000   | Hillshire Brands Co.                      | 3,587,291    | 3,939,600    |
| 25,000    | Ingredion Inc.                            | 347,245      | 1,610,750    |
| 110,000   | ITO EN Ltd.                               | 2,537,808    | 2,018,815    |
| 15,000    | Kellogg Co.                               | 554,287      | 837,750      |
| 64,000    | Kerry Group plc, Cl. A                    | 735,609      | 3,363,886    |
| 53,333    | Kraft Foods Group Inc.                    | 1,667,255    | 2,425,051    |
| 11,500    | LVMH Moet Hennessy Louis Vuitton SA       | 397,547      | 2,106,917    |
| 220,000   | Mondelez International Inc., Cl. A        | 4,651,595    | 5,603,400    |
| 70,000    | Morinaga Milk Industry Co. Ltd.           | 299,202      | 223,005      |
| 26,000    | Nestlé SA                                 | 576,337      | 1,694,200    |
| 210,000   | PepsiCo Inc.                              | 11,513,352   | 14,370,300   |
| 46,000    | Pernod-Ricard SA                          | 3,968,283    | 5,309,187    |
| 37,000    | Post Holdings Inc.                        | 353,395      | 1,267,250    |
| 70,500    | Ralcorp Holdings Inc.                     | 1,584,061    | 6,320,325    |
| 40,673    | Remy Cointreau SA                         | 2,357,660    | 4,441,496    |
| 130,000   | The Coca-Cola Co.                         | 2,905,349    | 4,712,500    |
| 20,000    | The Hain Celestial Group Inc.             | 267,663      | 1,084,400    |
| 2,000     | The J.M. Smucker Co.                      | 52,993       | 172,480      |
| 134,930   | Tootsie Roll Industries Inc.              | 1,519,168    | 3,497,386    |
| 67,000    | Tyson Foods Inc., Cl. A                   | 625,344      | 1,299,800    |
| 350,000   | Yakult Honsha Co. Ltd.                    | 9,912,895    | 15,250,765   |
|           |   | 99,732,508   | 173,952,517  |

| Shares  |                                 | Cost         | Market        |
|---------|---------------------------------|--------------|---------------|
|         |                                 |              | Value         |
|         | <b>Cable and Satellite 8.2%</b> |              |               |
| 282,000 | AMC Networks Inc., Cl. A        | \$ 5,091,186 | \$ 13,959,000 |

Edgar Filing: GABELLI EQUITY TRUST INC - Form N-CSR

|           |   |            |             |
|-----------|---|------------|-------------|
| 1,170,000 | Cablevision Systems Corp., Cl. A            | 14,025,514 | 17,479,800  |
| 87,000    | Comcast Corp., Cl. A, Special               | 527,953    | 3,127,650   |
| 460,000   | DIRECTV                                     | 10,310,928 | 23,073,600  |
| 100,000   | DISH Network Corp., Cl. A                   | 2,524,679  | 3,640,000   |
| 30,740    | EchoStar Corp., Cl. A                       | 923,528    | 1,051,923   |
| 84,000    | Liberty Global Inc., Cl. A                  | 1,526,720  | 5,291,160   |
| 84,000    | Liberty Global Inc., Cl. C                  | 1,653,621  | 4,935,000   |
| 481,690   | Rogers Communications Inc., Cl. B, New York | 3,993,639  | 21,926,529  |
| 19,310    | Rogers Communications Inc., Cl. B, Toronto  | 137,424    | 876,686     |
| 118,000   | Scripps Networks Interactive Inc., Cl. A    | 3,787,615  | 6,834,560   |
| 154,000   | Shaw Communications Inc., Cl. B, New York   | 316,962    | 3,538,920   |
| 40,000    | Shaw Communications Inc., Cl. B, Toronto    | 52,983     | 918,468     |
| 67,000    | Time Warner Cable Inc.                      | 3,851,950  | 6,511,730   |
|           |   | 48,724,702 | 113,165,026 |

|         |  |            |            |
|---------|--|------------|------------|
|         | <b>Financial Services 7.4%</b>               |            |            |
| 459,000 | American Express Co.(b)                      | 21,390,516 | 26,383,320 |
| 14,000  | Argo Group International Holdings Ltd.       | 516,438    | 470,260    |
| 13,000  | Artio Global Investors Inc.                  | 145,131    | 24,700     |
| 72,000  | Banco Santander SA, ADR                      | 545,542    | 588,240    |
| 128     | Berkshire Hathaway Inc., Cl. A               | 375,826    | 17,159,680 |
| 10,000  | Calamos Asset Management Inc., Cl. A         | 88,164     | 105,700    |
| 10,000  | CIT Group Inc.                               | 380,469    | 386,400    |
| 107,000 | Citigroup Inc.                               | 3,870,732  | 4,232,920  |
| 20,000  | Deutsche Bank AG                             | 914,496    | 885,800    |
| 10,000  | Fortress Investment Group LLC, Cl. A         | 49,693     | 43,900     |
| 24,000  | H&R Block Inc.                               | 388,570    | 445,680    |
| 37,000  | Interactive Brokers Group Inc., Cl. A        | 639,563    | 506,160    |
| 302,000 | Janus Capital Group Inc.                     | 3,485,499  | 2,573,040  |
| 49,088  | JPMorgan Chase & Co.                         | 1,540,997  | 2,158,399  |
| 30,000  | Kinnevik Investment AB, Cl. A                | 450,841    | 645,379    |
| 121,000 | Legg Mason Inc.                              | 2,387,027  | 3,112,120  |
| 136,000 | Leucadia National Corp.                      | 1,804,206  | 3,235,440  |
| 10,000  | Loews Corp.                                  | 384,673    | 407,500    |
| 135,000 | Marsh & McLennan Companies Inc.              | 4,085,756  | 4,653,450  |
| 11,000  | Moody's Corp.                                | 427,219    | 553,520    |
| 22,000  | Och-Ziff Capital Management Group LLC, Cl. A | 214,559    | 209,000    |

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

## The Gabelli Equity Trust Inc.

## Schedule of Investments (Continued) December 31, 2012

| Shares                                |                                      | Cost         | Market Value |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------|--------------|
| <b>COMMON STOCKS (Continued)</b>      |                                      |              |              |
| <b>Financial Services (Continued)</b> |                                      |              |              |
| 120,000                               | State Street Corp.                   | \$ 4,047,374 | \$ 5,641,200 |
| 20,000                                | SunTrust Banks Inc.                  | 419,333      | 567,000      |
| 140,000                               | T. Rowe Price Group Inc.             | 4,303,432    | 9,118,200    |
| 200,000                               | The Bank of New York Mellon Corp.    | 5,976,480    | 5,140,000    |
| 40,000                                | The Charles Schwab Corp.             | 584,500      | 574,400      |
| 14,500                                | The Dun & Bradstreet Corp.           | 323,896      | 1,140,425    |
| 58,000                                | Waddell & Reed Financial Inc., Cl. A | 1,269,335    | 2,019,560    |
| 270,000                               | Wells Fargo & Co.                    | 8,051,764    | 9,228,600    |
| 13,000                                | WR Berkley Corp.                     | 476,775      | 490,620      |
|                                       |                                      | 69,538,806   | 102,700,613  |
| <b>Equipment and Supplies 6.4%</b>    |                                      |              |              |
| 471,000                               | AMETEK Inc.                          | 3,378,355    | 17,695,470   |
| 3,500                                 | Amphenol Corp., Cl. A                | 12,928       | 226,450      |
| 94,000                                | CIRCOR International Inc.            | 974,241      | 3,721,460    |
| 375,000                               | Donaldson Co. Inc.                   | 2,929,440    | 12,315,000   |
| 98,000                                | Flowserve Corp.                      | 2,993,806    | 14,386,400   |
| 22,000                                | Franklin Electric Co. Inc.           | 242,405      | 1,367,740    |
| 60,000                                | Gerber Scientific Inc., Escrow (c)   | 0            | 600          |
| 95,000                                | GrafTech International Ltd.          | 900,398      | 892,050      |
| 285,000                               | IDEX Corp.                           | 6,827,668    | 13,261,050   |
| 40,000                                | Ingersoll-Rand plc                   | 752,578      | 1,918,400    |
| 178,000                               | Lufkin Industries Inc.               | 832,264      | 10,347,140   |
| 21,000                                | Mueller Industries Inc.              | 961,098      | 1,050,630    |
| 14,000                                | Sealed Air Corp.                     | 224,301      | 245,140      |
| 60,000                                | Tenaris SA, ADR                      | 2,619,433    | 2,515,200    |
| 15,000                                | The Greenbrier Companies Inc.        | 297,309      | 242,550      |
| 4,000                                 | The Manitowoc Co. Inc.               | 25,450       | 62,720       |
| 70,000                                | The Weir Group plc                   | 294,552      | 2,136,650    |
| 150,000                               | Watts Water Technologies Inc., Cl. A | 2,145,439    | 6,448,500    |
|                                       |                                      | 26,411,665   | 88,833,150   |
| <b>Energy and Utilities 5.9%</b>      |                                      |              |              |
| 18,000                                | ABB Ltd., ADR                        | 280,260      | 374,220      |
| 32,000                                | Anadarko Petroleum Corp.             | 1,377,320    | 2,377,920    |
| 60,000                                | Apache Corp.                         | 2,338,860    | 4,710,000    |
| 89,000                                | BP plc, ADR                          | 4,798,388    | 3,705,960    |
| 55,000                                | CH Energy Group Inc.                 | 2,267,744    | 3,587,100    |
| 29,000                                | CMS Energy Corp.                     | 185,272      | 707,020      |
| 204,000                               | ConocoPhillips                       | 9,443,623    | 11,829,960   |
| 22,000                                | CONSOL Energy Inc.                   | 852,421      | 706,200      |
| 18,000                                | Duke Energy Corp.                    | 978,282      | 1,148,400    |
| 236,000                               | El Paso Electric Co.                 | 4,091,133    | 7,530,760    |

Edgar Filing: GABELLI EQUITY TRUST INC - Form N-CSR

|         |                               |           |               |
|---------|-------------------------------|-----------|---------------|
| 75,000  | Exxon Mobil Corp.             | 2,571,862 | 6,491,250     |
| 140,000 | GenOn Energy Inc., Escrow (c) | 0         | 0             |
|         |                               |           | <b>Market</b> |

| Shares  |                                | Cost         | Value        |
|---------|--------------------------------|--------------|--------------|
| 198,000 | Halliburton Co.                | \$ 3,391,894 | \$ 6,868,620 |
| 75,000  | Kinder Morgan Inc.             | 1,519,781    | 2,649,750    |
| 12,000  | Marathon Oil Corp.             | 291,255      | 367,920      |
| 6,000   | Marathon Petroleum Corp.       | 186,212      | 378,000      |
| 5,000   | National Fuel Gas Co.          | 375,875      | 253,450      |
| 22,000  | NextEra Energy Inc.            | 1,153,471    | 1,522,180    |
| 2,000   | Niko Resources Ltd., OTC       | 110,842      | 21,232       |
| 500     | Niko Resources Ltd., Toronto   | 21,373       | 5,353        |
| 60,000  | Northeast Utilities            | 1,158,797    | 2,344,800    |
| 1,824   | NRG Energy Inc.                | 141,261      | 41,934       |
| 38,000  | Oceaneering International Inc. | 512,207      | 2,044,020    |
| 100,000 | Phillips 66                    | 2,764,959    | 5,310,000    |
| 175,000 | Rowan Companies plc, Cl. A     | 6,557,766    | 5,472,250    |
| 32,000  | RPC Inc.                       | 415,439      | 391,680      |
| 5,000   | SJW Corp.                      | 68,704       | 133,000      |
| 20,000  | Southwest Gas Corp.            | 451,132      | 848,200      |
| 120,000 | Spectra Energy Corp.           | 3,012,277    | 3,285,600    |
| 60,000  | The AES Corp.                  | 342,618      | 642,000      |
| 9,000   | Transocean Ltd.                | 442,041      | 401,850      |
| 200,000 | Westar Energy Inc.             | 3,330,741    | 5,724,000    |
|         |                                | 55,433,810   | 81,874,629   |

**Diversified Industrial 5.6%**

|         |                                 |            |            |
|---------|---------------------------------|------------|------------|
| 3,000   | Acuity Brands Inc.              | 76,507     | 203,190    |
| 152,000 | Ampco-Pittsburgh Corp.          | 1,976,139  | 3,036,960  |
| 207,000 | Crane Co.                       | 4,850,462  | 9,579,960  |
| 148,760 | Eaton Corp. plc                 | 7,721,460  | 8,062,775  |
| 15,000  | Gardner Denver Inc.             | 1,050,450  | 1,027,500  |
| 200,000 | General Electric Co.            | 3,617,496  | 4,198,000  |
| 154,000 | Greif Inc., Cl. A               | 1,648,005  | 6,853,000  |
| 15,000  | Greif Inc., Cl. B               | 674,933    | 727,350    |
| 28,000  | Griffon Corp.                   | 245,583    | 320,880    |
| 389,000 | Honeywell International Inc.    | 12,744,372 | 24,689,830 |
| 128,000 | ITT Corp.                       | 1,507,566  | 3,002,880  |
| 11,000  | Jardine Strategic Holdings Ltd. | 222,951    | 390,720    |
| 2,000   | Kennametal Inc.                 | 77,640     | 80,000     |
| 26,000  | Material Sciences Corp.         | 26,265     | 234,780    |
| 95,000  | Park-Ohio Holdings Corp.        | 974,355    | 2,024,450  |
| 44,318  | Pentair Ltd.                    | 1,576,957  | 2,178,230  |
| 30,000  | Smiths Group plc                | 488,167    | 580,419    |
| 15,000  | Sulzer AG                       | 461,722    | 2,363,199  |
| 15,000  | Tredegar Corp.                  | 204,650    | 306,300    |
| 37,000  | Trinity Industries Inc.         | 778,882    | 1,325,340  |
| 203,000 | Tyco International Ltd.         | 4,548,007  | 5,937,750  |
|         |                                 | 45,472,569 | 77,123,513 |

**Entertainment 5.6%**

|        |                                      |           |           |
|--------|--------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| 80,000 | Discovery Communications Inc., Cl. A | 1,454,470 | 5,078,400 |
| 82,000 | Discovery Communications Inc., Cl. C | 1,036,307 | 4,797,000 |

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

## The Gabelli Equity Trust Inc.

## Schedule of Investments (Continued) December 31, 2012

| Shares                           |  | Cost       | Market     |
|----------------------------------|--|------------|------------|
|                                  |  |            | Value      |
| <b>COMMON STOCKS (Continued)</b> |  |            |            |
| <b>Entertainment (Continued)</b> |  |            |            |
| 500                              | DreamWorks Animation SKG Inc., Cl. A     | \$ 10,535  | \$ 8,285   |
| 645,000                          | Grupo Televisa SAB, ADR                  | 7,487,837  | 17,144,100 |
| 6,000                            | Regal Entertainment Group, Cl. A         | 76,931     | 83,700     |
| 32,000                           | Societe d Edition de Canal +             | 34,010     | 209,081    |
| 326,000                          | The Madison Square Garden Co., Cl. A     | 5,683,956  | 14,458,100 |
| 206,000                          | Time Warner Inc.                         | 8,245,350  | 9,852,980  |
| 50,000                           | Tokyo Broadcasting System Holdings Inc.  | 1,125,042  | 521,729    |
| 90,000                           | Universal Entertainment Corp.            | 1,773,459  | 1,542,679  |
| 290,000                          | Viacom Inc., Cl. A                       | 13,397,689 | 15,738,300 |
| 330,666                          | Vivendi SA                               | 8,503,632  | 7,398,084  |
|                                  |  | 48,829,218 | 76,832,438 |
| <b>Health Care 4.1%</b>          |  |            |            |
| 10,000                           | Abbott Laboratories                      | 425,367    | 655,000    |
| 13,000                           | Allergan Inc.                            | 603,993    | 1,192,490  |
| 36,000                           | Amgen Inc.                               | 2,104,520  | 3,107,520  |
| 24,000                           | Baxter International Inc.                | 1,145,592  | 1,599,840  |
| 15,000                           | Becton, Dickinson and Co.                | 1,213,063  | 1,172,850  |
| 31,000                           | Biogen Idec Inc.                         | 624,029    | 4,546,770  |
| 330,000                          | Boston Scientific Corp.                  | 2,432,566  | 1,890,900  |
| 85,000                           | Bristol-Myers Squibb Co.                 | 2,152,363  | 2,770,150  |
| 49,000                           | Covidien plc                             | 1,929,854  | 2,829,260  |
| 12,000                           | Endo Health Solutions Inc.               | 363,802    | 315,240    |
| 28,000                           | Henry Schein Inc.                        | 719,282    | 2,252,880  |
| 30,000                           | Hospira Inc.                             | 997,242    | 937,200    |
| 40,000                           | Johnson & Johnson                        | 2,595,348  | 2,804,000  |
| 65,000                           | Life Technologies Corp.                  | 1,748,348  | 3,190,200  |
| 40,000                           | Mead Johnson Nutrition Co.               | 1,797,128  | 2,635,600  |
| 100,000                          | Merck & Co. Inc.                         | 2,237,482  | 4,094,000  |
| 9,600                            | Nobel Biocare Holding AG                 | 275,441    | 81,448     |
| 97,000                           | Novartis AG, ADR                         | 4,333,718  | 6,140,100  |
| 3,000                            | Regeneron Pharmaceuticals Inc.           | 411,845    | 513,210    |
| 100,000                          | Sunrise Senior Living Inc.               | 1,433,983  | 1,438,000  |
| 10,000                           | Teva Pharmaceutical Industries Ltd., ADR | 392,264    | 373,400    |
| 94,000                           | UnitedHealth Group Inc.                  | 4,429,213  | 5,098,560  |
| 4,000                            | Waters Corp.                             | 285,470    | 348,480    |
| 12,000                           | Watson Pharmaceuticals Inc.              | 491,936    | 1,032,000  |
| 60,000                           | William Demant Holding A/S               | 2,727,517  | 5,136,670  |
| 10,000                           | Zimmer Holdings Inc.                     | 522,759    | 666,600    |
|                                  |  | 38,394,125 | 56,822,368 |
| <b>Consumer Products 4.0%</b>    |  |            |            |
| 95,000                           | Avon Products Inc.                       | 1,962,298  | 1,364,200  |
| 25,000                           | Blyth Inc.                               | 652,380    | 388,750    |

Edgar Filing: GABELLI EQUITY TRUST INC - Form N-CSR

Market

| Shares  |  | Cost       | Value        |
|---|--|------------|--------------|
| 16,500  | Christian Dior SA                                | \$ 624,386 | \$ 2,793,196 |
| 24,000  | Church & Dwight Co. Inc.                         | 79,628     | 1,285,680    |
| 94,000  | Energizer Holdings Inc.                          | 4,395,004  | 7,518,120    |
| 2,100   | Givaudan SA                                      | 608,272    | 2,211,010    |
| 55,000  | Hanesbrands Inc.                                 | 1,267,652  | 1,970,100    |
| 28,000  | Harley-Davidson Inc.                             | 1,300,779  | 1,367,520    |
| 4,000   | Jarden Corp.                                     | 91,909     | 206,800      |
| 7,000   | Mattel Inc.                                      | 126,000    | 256,340      |
| 11,683  | National Presto Industries Inc.                  | 552,055    | 807,295      |
| 10,000  | Oil-Dri Corp. of America                         | 171,255    | 276,000      |
| 55,000  | Reckitt Benckiser Group plc                      | 1,688,933  | 3,465,700    |
| 32,400  | Svenska Cellulosa AB, Cl. B                      | 441,093    | 702,490      |
| 835,000                                       | Swedish Match AB                                 | 9,240,975  | 28,016,730   |
| 2,000   | The Estee Lauder Companies Inc., Cl. A           | 72,260     | 119,720      |
| 85,000  | True Religion Apparel Inc.                       | 2,209,471  | 2,160,700    |
|   |  | 25,484,350 | 54,910,351   |
| <b>Telecommunications 3.6%</b>                |  |            |              |
| 65,000  | BCE Inc.   | 1,607,838  | 2,791,100    |
| 1,000,000                                     | BT Group plc, Cl. A                              | 4,135,105  | 3,754,122    |
| 7,040,836                                     | Cable & Wireless Jamaica Ltd.(d)                 | 128,658    | 12,189       |
| 620,000                                       | Cincinnati Bell Inc.                             | 3,274,665  | 3,397,600    |
| 130,000                                       | Deutsche Telekom AG, ADR                         | 2,137,750  | 1,477,060    |
| 36,000  | Hellenic Telecommunications Organization SA      | 452,922    | 242,344      |
| 15,000  | Hellenic Telecommunications Organization SA, ADR | 91,062     | 51,420       |
| 88,244  | Koninklijke KPN NV                               | 205,369    | 432,834      |
| 390,027                                       | Oi SA, ADR                                       | 2,877,212  | 1,564,008    |
| 30,000  | Oi SA, Cl. C, ADR                                | 274,005    | 129,000      |
| 750,000                                       | Sprint Nextel Corp.                              | 3,751,902  | 4,252,500    |
| 21,000  | Telecom Argentina SA, ADR                        | 127,554    | 238,980      |
| 565,000                                       | Telecom Italia SpA                               | 2,308,990  | 509,365      |
| 88,253  | Telefonica Brasil SA, ADR                        | 2,232,998  | 2,123,367    |
| 597,315                                       | Telefonica SA, ADR                               | 9,146,761  | 8,057,779    |
| 589,000                                       | Telephone & Data Systems Inc.                    | 25,325,216 | 13,040,460   |
| 15,000  | TELUS Corp.                                      | 280,203    | 981,703      |
| 145,000                                       | Verizon Communications Inc.                      | 4,750,005  | 6,274,150    |
|   |  | 63,108,215 | 49,329,981   |
| <b>Automotive: Parts and Accessories 3.5%</b> |  |            |              |
| 65,000  | BorgWarner Inc.                                  | 1,565,970  | 4,655,300    |
| 122,000                                       | CLARCOR Inc.                                     | 1,055,459  | 5,829,160    |
| 215,000                                       | Dana Holding Corp.                               | 1,440,698  | 3,356,150    |
| 256,000                                       | Genuine Parts Co.                                | 9,168,176  | 16,276,480   |
| 147,000                                       | Johnson Controls Inc.                            | 3,141,470  | 4,512,900    |
| 230,000                                       | Modine Manufacturing Co.                         | 4,930,877  | 1,869,900    |
| 85,000  | O Reilly Automotive Inc.                         | 2,393,129  | 7,600,700    |
| 152,000                                       | Standard Motor Products Inc.                     | 1,520,657  | 3,377,440    |

See accompanying notes to financial statements.



**The Gabelli Equity Trust Inc.****Schedule of Investments (Continued) December 31, 2012**

| Shares   |  | Cost         | Market Value |
|--|--|--------------|--------------|
| <b>COMMON STOCKS (Continued)</b>                     |  |              |              |
| <b>Automotive: Parts and Accessories (Continued)</b> |  |              |              |
| 65,000   | Superior Industries International Inc. | \$ 1,310,494 | \$ 1,326,000 |
|  |  | 26,526,930   | 48,804,030   |
| <b>Consumer Services 3.2%</b>                        |  |              |              |
| 70,000   | IAC/InterActiveCorp.                   | 1,788,691    | 3,311,000    |
| 200,000  | Liberty Interactive Corp., Cl. A       | 3,742,739    | 3,936,000    |
| 13,451   | Liberty Ventures, Cl. A                | 540,061      | 911,440      |
| 1,337,000  | Rollins Inc.                           | 9,132,991    | 29,467,480   |
| 112,500  | The ADT Corp.                          | 3,426,118    | 5,230,125    |
| 17,000   | TripAdvisor Inc.                       | 535,884      | 713,320      |
|  |  | 19,166,484   | 43,569,365   |
| <b>Machinery 3.0%</b>                                |  |              |              |
| 15,000   | Caterpillar Inc.                       | 101,378      | 1,343,700    |
| 10,000   | CNH Global NV                          | 287,320      | 402,900      |
| 376,000  | Deere & Co.(b)                         | 10,962,073   | 32,493,920   |
| 267,000  | Xylem Inc.                             | 4,320,747    | 7,235,700    |
|  |  | 15,671,518   | 41,476,220   |
| <b>Retail 2.8%</b>                                   |  |              |              |
| 7,000  | Abercrombie & Fitch Co., Cl. A         | 249,378      | 335,790      |
| 71,000   | AutoNation Inc.                        | 745,868      | 2,818,700    |
| 50,000   | Burger King Worldwide Inc.             | 782,378      | 822,000      |
| 10,000   | Coinstar Inc.                          | 513,555      | 520,100      |
| 5,000  | Coldwater Creek Inc.                   | 71,673       | 24,050       |
| 40,000   | Costco Wholesale Corp.                 | 1,843,960    | 3,950,800    |
| 120,000  | CVS Caremark Corp.                     | 4,075,042    | 5,802,000    |
| 28,000   | HSN Inc.                               | 701,694      | 1,542,240    |
| 373,000  | Macy's Inc.                            | 6,587,785    | 14,554,460   |
| 36,000   | Sally Beauty Holdings Inc.             | 285,202      | 848,520      |
| 13,000   | The Cheesecake Factory Inc.            | 380,728      | 425,360      |
| 5,000  | Tiffany & Co.                          | 285,150      | 286,700      |
| 66,000   | Walgreen Co.                           | 2,035,048    | 2,442,660    |
| 39,000   | Wal-Mart Stores Inc.                   | 1,947,671    | 2,660,970    |
| 21,000   | Whole Foods Market Inc.                | 423,988      | 1,917,930    |
|  |  | 20,929,120   | 38,952,280   |

**Publishing 2.6%**

Edgar Filing: GABELLI EQUITY TRUST INC - Form N-CSR

|         |                                |           |            |
|---------|--------------------------------|-----------|------------|
| 120,000 | Il Sole 24 Ore SpA             | 316,725   | 83,395     |
| 130,000 | Media General Inc., Cl. A      | 1,142,790 | 559,000    |
| 110,000 | Meredith Corp.                 | 4,693,916 | 3,789,500  |
| 630,000 | News Corp., Cl. A              | 7,025,268 | 16,090,200 |
| 355,000 | News Corp., Cl. B              | 5,695,245 | 9,315,200  |
| 25,000  | The E.W. Scripps Co., Cl. A    | 157,281   | 270,250    |
| 116,000 | The McGraw-Hill Companies Inc. | 4,729,254 | 6,341,720  |

23,760,479 36,449,265

**Market**

| Shares    |                                   | Cost         | Value        |
|-----------|-----------------------------------|--------------|--------------|
|           | <b>Aerospace and Defense 2.6%</b> |              |              |
| 612,015   | BBA Aviation plc                  | \$ 1,468,801 | \$ 2,217,050 |
| 240,000   | Exelis Inc.                       | 1,747,195    | 2,704,800    |
| 35,800    | Kaman Corp.                       | 881,634      | 1,317,440    |
| 3,000     | Lockheed Martin Corp.             | 175,770      | 276,870      |
| 25,000    | Northrop Grumman Corp.            | 1,282,844    | 1,689,500    |
| 1,200,000 | Rolls-Royce Holdings plc          | 9,166,092    | 17,027,569   |
| 140,000   | The Boeing Co.(a)                 | 9,271,809    | 10,550,400   |
|           |                                   | 23,994,145   | 35,783,629   |

**Business Services 2.4%**

|         |  |            |            |
|---------|--|------------|------------|
| 1       | Ascent Capital Group Inc., Cl. A           | 23         | 62         |
| 159,000 | Clear Channel Outdoor Holdings Inc., Cl. A | 1,236,036  | 1,116,180  |
| 33,000  | Contax Participacoes SA, Preference        | 67,778     | 398,095    |
| 75,000  | Diebold Inc.                               | 2,811,878  | 2,295,750  |
| 4,000   | Edenred                                    | 57,883     | 123,020    |
| 200,000 | G4S plc                                    | 0          | 833,347    |
| 18,000  | Jardine Matheson Holdings Ltd.             | 565,207    | 1,116,000  |
| 89,000  | Landauer Inc.                              | 2,479,290  | 5,447,690  |
| 36,500  | MasterCard Inc., Cl. A                     | 1,472,775  | 17,931,720 |
| 19,000  | Monster Worldwide Inc.                     | 165,967    | 106,780    |
| 315,000 | The Interpublic Group of Companies Inc.    | 2,655,599  | 3,471,300  |
| 4,000   | Visa Inc., Cl. A                           | 176,000    | 606,320    |
|         |  | 11,688,436 | 33,446,264 |

**Aviation: Parts and Services 2.1%**

|         |                           |            |            |
|---------|---------------------------|------------|------------|
| 320,000 | Curtiss-Wright Corp.      | 4,507,634  | 10,505,600 |
| 275,000 | GenCorp Inc.              | 2,370,094  | 2,516,250  |
| 86,000  | Precision Castparts Corp. | 4,424,470  | 16,290,120 |
|         |                           | 11,302,198 | 29,311,970 |

**Hotels and Gaming 1.8%**

|           |                                      |           |           |
|-----------|--------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| 20,000    | Accor SA                             | 694,524   | 704,725   |
| 70,000    | Genting Singapore plc                | 52,525    | 79,366    |
| 8,000     | Hyatt Hotels Corp., Cl. A            | 263,258   | 308,560   |
| 32,000    | Interval Leisure Group Inc.          | 610,959   | 620,480   |
| 1,330,000 | Ladbroke plc                         | 8,850,280 | 4,284,329 |
| 54,000    | Las Vegas Sands Corp.                | 751,456   | 2,492,640 |
| 3,600,000 | Mandarin Oriental International Ltd. | 6,769,756 | 5,220,000 |
| 90,000    | MGM China Holdings Ltd.              | 177,759   | 162,795   |
| 30,000    | MGM Resorts International            | 277,963   | 349,200   |
| 45,000    | Orient-Express Hotels Ltd., Cl. A    | 621,367   | 526,050   |
| 40,000    | Pinnacle Entertainment Inc.          | 189,091   | 633,200   |
| 195,784   | Ryman Hospitality Properties Inc.    | 5,325,762 | 7,529,860 |

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

## The Gabelli Equity Trust Inc.

## Schedule of Investments (Continued) December 31, 2012

| Shares                               |  | Cost       | Market Value |
|--------------------------------------|--|------------|--------------|
| <b>COMMON STOCKS (Continued)</b>     |  |            |              |
| <b>Hotels and Gaming (Continued)</b> |  |            |              |
| 34,000                               | Starwood Hotels & Resorts Worldwide Inc.     | \$ 520,597 | \$ 1,950,240 |
| 200,000                              | The Hongkong & Shanghai Hotels Ltd.          | 155,450    | 279,195      |
| 2,000                                | Wynn Resorts Ltd.                            | 74,539     | 224,980      |
|                                      |  | 25,335,286 | 25,365,620   |
| <b>Broadcasting 1.5%</b>             |  |            |              |
| 260,000                              | CBS Corp., Cl. A, Voting                     | 7,495,771  | 9,874,800    |
| 2,000                                | Cogeco Inc.                                  | 39,014     | 67,920       |
| 22,334                               | Corus Entertainment Inc., Cl. B, OTC         | 40,694     | 553,883      |
| 6,666                                | Corus Entertainment Inc., Cl. B, Toronto     | 12,406     | 164,723      |
| 30,000                               | Gray Television Inc.                         | 54,872     | 66,000       |
| 78,000                               | Liberty Media Corp. - Liberty Capital, Cl. A | 1,087,979  | 9,048,780    |
| 24,000                               | LIN TV Corp., Cl. A                          | 156,403    | 180,720      |
| 100,000                              | Television Broadcasts Ltd.                   | 396,239    | 747,015      |
|                                      |  | 9,283,378  | 20,703,841   |
| <b>Specialty Chemicals 1.5%</b>      |  |            |              |
| 9,000                                | Ashland Inc.                                 | 150,660    | 723,690      |
| 24,000                               | E. I. du Pont de Nemours and Co.             | 1,082,876  | 1,079,280    |
| 410,000                              | Ferro Corp.                                  | 4,075,513  | 1,713,800    |
| 8,000                                | FMC Corp.                                    | 136,430    | 468,160      |
| 33,000                               | H.B. Fuller Co.                              | 657,228    | 1,149,060    |
| 23,000                               | Huntsman Corp.                               | 315,417    | 365,700      |
| 67,000                               | International Flavors & Fragrances Inc.      | 3,160,460  | 4,458,180    |
| 260,000                              | OMNOVA Solutions Inc.                        | 1,582,997  | 1,822,600    |
| 204,000                              | Sensient Technologies Corp.                  | 3,714,916  | 7,254,240    |
| 1,000                                | SGL Carbon SE                                | 38,562     | 39,665       |
| 98,000                               | Zep Inc.                                     | 1,274,077  | 1,415,120    |
|                                      |  | 16,189,136 | 20,489,495   |
| <b>Electronics 1.2%</b>              |  |            |              |
| 18,500                               | Bel Fuse Inc., Cl. A                         | 541,181    | 318,385      |
| 39,000                               | Emerson Electric Co.                         | 1,975,128  | 2,065,440    |
| 4,000                                | Hitachi Ltd., ADR                            | 287,076    | 235,720      |
| 90,000                               | Intel Corp.                                  | 1,934,046  | 1,856,700    |
| 36,342                               | Koninklijke Philips Electronics NV           | 88,879     | 964,517      |
| 45,000                               | LSI Corp.                                    | 254,272    | 318,600      |
| 2,400                                | Mettler-Toledo International Inc.            | 337,270    | 463,920      |
| 20,000                               | Molex Inc., Cl. A                            | 363,729    | 446,400      |
| 50,000                               | TE Connectivity Ltd.                         | 1,933,397  | 1,856,000    |
| 270,000                              | Texas Instruments Inc.                       | 6,455,544  | 8,353,800    |

Edgar Filing: GABELLI EQUITY TRUST INC - Form N-CSR

|  |   | 14,170,522    | 16,879,482   |
|--|---|---------------|--------------|
|  |   | <b>Market</b> |              |
| <b>Shares</b>                              |   | <b>Cost</b>   | <b>Value</b> |
| <b>Metals and Mining 1.1%</b>              |   |               |              |
| 44,000                                     | Agnico-Eagle Mines Ltd.                 | \$ 1,853,887  | \$ 2,308,240 |
| 105,000                                    | Alcoa Inc.                              | 989,440       | 911,400      |
| 64,000                                     | Barrick Gold Corp.                      | 1,873,920     | 2,240,640    |
| 30,000                                     | Freeport-McMoRan Copper & Gold Inc.     | 1,088,752     | 1,026,000    |
| 4,800                                      | Materion Corp.                          | 108,162       | 123,744      |
| 50,000                                     | New Hope Corp. Ltd.                     | 67,580        | 218,595      |
| 156,000                                    | Newmont Mining Corp.                    | 5,355,090     | 7,244,640    |
| 72,900                                     | Turquoise Hill Resources Ltd.           | 585,032       | 554,769      |
| 14,000                                     | Vale SA, ADR                            | 251,982       | 293,440      |
|  |   | 12,173,845    | 14,921,468   |
| <b>Wireless Communications 0.9%</b>        |   |               |              |
| 130,000                                    | America Movil SAB de CV, Cl. L, ADR     | 843,732       | 3,008,200    |
| 7,000                                      | Millicom International Cellular SA, SDR | 700,202       | 605,476      |
| 1,500                                      | NTT DoCoMo Inc.                         | 2,980,751     | 2,146,938    |
| 54,075                                     | Tim Participacoes SA, ADR               | 390,208       | 1,071,766    |
| 118,000                                    | United States Cellular Corp.            | 5,451,900     | 4,158,320    |
| 65,000                                     | Vodafone Group plc, ADR                 | 1,725,536     | 1,637,350    |
|  |   | 12,092,329    | 12,628,050   |
| <b>Computer Software and Services 0.9%</b> |   |               |              |
| 7,000                                      | Check Point Software Technologies Ltd.  | 118,774       | 333,480      |
| 20,000                                     | Electronic Arts Inc.                    | 287,086       | 290,600      |
| 28,000                                     | InterXion Holding NV                    | 410,382       | 665,280      |
| 70,000                                     | NCR Corp.                               | 939,507       | 1,783,600    |
| 26,000                                     | Rockwell Automation Inc.                | 863,281       | 2,183,740    |
| 355,000                                    | Yahoo! Inc.                             | 6,207,160     | 7,064,500    |
|  |   | 8,826,190     | 12,321,200   |
| <b>Environmental Services 0.9%</b>         |   |               |              |
| 210,000                                    | Republic Services Inc.                  | 4,445,444     | 6,159,300    |
| 170,000                                    | Waste Management Inc.                   | 4,320,028     | 5,735,800    |
|  |   | 8,765,472     | 11,895,100   |
| <b>Agriculture 0.8%</b>                    |   |               |              |
| 254,000                                    | Archer Daniels Midland Co.              | 5,831,188     | 6,957,060    |
| 20,000                                     | Monsanto Co.                            | 892,389       | 1,893,000    |
| 15,000                                     | Syngenta AG, ADR                        | 189,981       | 1,212,000    |
| 10,000                                     | The Mosaic Co.                          | 428,085       | 566,300      |
|  |   | 7,341,643     | 10,628,360   |
| <b>Communications Equipment 0.5%</b>       |   |               |              |
| 65,000                                     | Cisco Systems Inc.                      | 1,277,867     | 1,277,250    |
| 500,000                                    | Corning Inc.                            | 4,439,577     | 6,310,000    |
|  |   | 5,717,444     | 7,587,250    |
| <b>Automotive 0.5%</b>                     |   |               |              |
| 30,000                                     | Ford Motor Co.                          | 473,650       | 388,500      |

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

**The Gabelli Equity Trust Inc.****Schedule of Investments (Continued) December 31, 2012**

| Shares   |   | Cost         | Market Value |
|--|---|--------------|--------------|
| <b>COMMON STOCKS (Continued)</b>                           |   |              |              |
| <b>Automotive (Continued)</b>                              |   |              |              |
| 120,000  | Navistar International Corp.            | \$ 3,036,484 | \$ 2,612,400 |
| 81,000   | PACCAR Inc.                             | 356,389      | 3,662,010    |
|  |   | 3,866,523    | 6,662,910    |
| <b>Transportation 0.4%</b>                                 |   |              |              |
| 139,000  | GATX Corp.                              | 4,378,472    | 6,018,700    |
| <b>Real Estate 0.4%</b>                                    |   |              |              |
| 55,500   | Griffin Land & Nurseries Inc.           | 529,368      | 1,498,500    |
| 190,000  | The St. Joe Co.                         | 3,716,903    | 4,385,200    |
|  |   | 4,246,271    | 5,883,700    |
| <b>Closed-End Funds 0.4%</b>                               |   |              |              |
| 30,000   | Royce Value Trust Inc.                  | 368,797      | 402,600      |
| 100,000  | The Central Europe and Russia Fund Inc. | 2,467,853    | 3,397,000    |
| 72,481   | The New Germany Fund Inc.               | 791,210      | 1,129,254    |
|  |   | 3,627,860    | 4,928,854    |
| <b>Building and Construction 0.3%</b>                      |   |              |              |
| 121,000  | Fortune Brands Home & Security Inc.     | 1,246,415    | 3,535,620    |
| 23,000   | Layne Christensen Co.                   | 437,789      | 558,210      |
|  |   | 1,684,204    | 4,093,830    |
| <b>Real Estate Investment Trusts 0.1%</b>                  |   |              |              |
| 1,800  | Camden Property Trust                   | 33,741       | 122,778      |
| 34,000   | Rayonier Inc.                           | 723,745      | 1,762,220    |
|  |   | 757,486      | 1,884,998    |
| <b>Manufactured Housing and Recreational Vehicles 0.1%</b> |   |              |              |
| 6,400  | Martin Marietta Materials Inc.          | 132,795      | 603,392      |
| 10,000   | Nobility Homes Inc.                     | 183,582      | 49,000       |
| 34,000   | Skyline Corp.                           | 610,753      | 138,040      |
|  |   | 927,130      | 790,432      |

Edgar Filing: GABELLI EQUITY TRUST INC - Form N-CSR

**TOTAL COMMON STOCKS** 813,552,469 1,367,020,899

**CONVERTIBLE PREFERRED STOCKS 0.1%**

**Telecommunications 0.1%**

22,500 Cincinnati Bell Inc.,  
6.750% Cv. Pfd., Ser. B 628,042 979,875

**WARRANTS 0.0%**

**Energy and Utilities 0.0%**

140,800 Kinder Morgan Inc., expire  
05/25/17 164,570 532,224

**Market**

**Principal  
Amount**

**Cost**

**Value**

**CONVERTIBLE CORPORATE BONDS 0.2%**

**Diversified Industrial 0.2%**

\$ 2,000,000 Griffon Corp., Sub. Deb. Cv., 4.000%, 01/15/17(e) \$ 2,000,000 \$ 2,132,500

**U.S. GOVERNMENT OBLIGATIONS 0.8%**

11,776,000 U.S. Treasury Bills, 0.070% to 0.150% , 03/14/13 to 06/20/13(f) 11,771,818 11,772,285

**TOTAL INVESTMENTS 100.0%** \$ 828,116,899 1,382,437,783

**Other Assets and Liabilities (Net)** 2,522,877

**PREFERRED STOCK**

(9,384,384 preferred shares outstanding) (334,509,600)

**NET ASSETS COMMON STOCK**

(187,715,980 common shares outstanding) \$ 1,050,451,060

**NET ASSET VALUE PER COMMON SHARE**

(\$1,050,451,060 ÷ 187,715,980 shares outstanding) \$ 5.60

- (a) Securities, or a portion thereof, with a value of \$2,576,275, were deposited with the broker for current or potential holdings.
- (b) Securities, or a portion thereof, with a value of \$39,711,200, is reserved and/or pledged with the custodian for current or potential holdings.
- (c) Security fair valued under procedures established by the Board of Directors. The procedures may include reviewing available financial information about the company and reviewing the valuation of comparable securities and other factors on a regular basis. At December 31, 2012, the market value of fair valued securities amounted to \$600 or 0.00% of total investments.
- (d) At December 31, 2012, the Fund held an investment in a restricted security amounting to \$12,189 or 0.00% of total investments, which was valued under methods approved by the Board of Directors as follows:

| Acquisition<br>Shares  | Issuer                        | Acquisition<br>Date | Acquisition<br>Cost | 12/31/12<br>Carrying<br>Value<br>Per Unit |
|--|-------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---|
| 7,040,836  | Cable & Wireless Jamaica Ltd. | 09/30/93            | \$128,658           | \$0.0017                                  |
| (e) Security exempt from registration under Rule 144A of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended. This security may be resold in transactions exempt from registration, normally to qualified institutional buyers. At December 31, 2012, the market value of the Rule 144A security amounted to \$2,132,500 or 0.15% of total investments. |                               |                     |                     |   |
| (f) At December 31, 2012, \$3,000,000 of the principal amount was pledged as collateral for current or potential holdings.<br>Non-income producing security.<br>Represents annualized yield at date of purchase.   |                               |                     |                     |   |



See accompanying notes to financial statements.

**The Gabelli Equity Trust Inc.**

**Schedule of Investments (Continued) December 31, 2012**

ADR American Depositary Receipt

SDR Swedish Depositary Receipt

| <b>Geographic Diversification</b> | <b>% of<br/>Market<br/>Value</b> | <b>Market<br/>Value</b> |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| North America                     | 79.5%                            | \$ 1,099,341,378        |
| Europe                            | 15.4                             | 212,426,924             |
| Latin America                     | 2.9                              | 40,516,145              |
| Japan                             | 1.6                              | 21,939,650              |
| Asia/Pacific                      | 0.6                              | 8,213,686               |
| Total Investments                 | 100.0%                           | \$ 1,382,437,783        |

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

## The Gabelli Equity Trust Inc.

### Statement of Assets and Liabilities

#### December 31, 2012

##### Assets:

|  |                  |
|--|------------------|
| Investments, at value (cost \$828,116,899) | \$ 1,382,437,783 |
| Foreign currency, at value (cost \$2,790)  | 2,763            |
| Cash                                       | 3,767            |
| Receivable for investments sold            | 4,713,437        |
| Dividends and interest receivable          | 1,810,121        |
| Deferred offering expense                  | 124,086          |
| Prepaid expenses                           | 32,355           |

|                     |                      |
|---------------------|----------------------|
| <b>Total Assets</b> | <b>1,389,124,312</b> |
|---------------------|----------------------|

##### Liabilities:

|   |           |
|---|-----------|
| Distributions payable                           | 217,676   |
| Payable for investment advisory fees            | 2,621,396 |
| Payable for payroll expenses                    | 75,731    |
| Payable for accounting fees                     | 3,750     |
| Payable for auction agent fees                  | 873,578   |
| Payable for shareholder communications expenses | 217,953   |
| Payable for preferred offering expenses         | 46,711    |
| Other accrued expenses                          | 106,857   |

|                          |                  |
|--------------------------|------------------|
| <b>Total Liabilities</b> | <b>4,163,652</b> |
|--------------------------|------------------|

##### Preferred Stock:

|  |             |
|--|-------------|
| Series C Cumulative Preferred Stock (Auction Rate, \$25,000 liquidation value, \$0.001 par value, 5,200 shares authorized with 2,880 shares issued and outstanding)    | 72,000,000  |
| Series D Cumulative Preferred Stock (5.875%, \$25 liquidation value, \$0.001 par value, 3,000,000 shares authorized with 2,363,860 shares issued and outstanding)      | 59,096,500  |
| Series E Cumulative Preferred Stock (Auction Rate, \$25,000 liquidation value, \$0.001 par value, 2,000 shares authorized with 1,120 shares issued and outstanding)    | 28,000,000  |
| Series G Cumulative Preferred Stock (\$25 liquidation value, \$0.001 par value, 2,816,524 shares authorized with 2,816,524 shares issued and outstanding) (See Note 5) | 70,413,100  |
| Series H Cumulative Preferred Stock (5.000%, \$25 liquidation value, \$0.001 par value, 4,200,000 shares authorized with 4,200,000 shares issued and outstanding)      | 105,000,000 |

|                              |                    |
|------------------------------|--------------------|
| <b>Total Preferred Stock</b> | <b>334,509,600</b> |
|------------------------------|--------------------|

|   |                         |
|---|-------------------------|
| <b>Net Assets Attributable to Common Shareholders</b> | <b>\$ 1,050,451,060</b> |
|---|-------------------------|

##### Net Assets Attributable to Common Shareholders Consist of:

|  |                |
|--|----------------|
| Paid-in capital  | \$ 551,038,930 |
| Accumulated distributions in excess of net investment income                                       | (594,042)      |
| Accumulated net realized loss on investments, futures contracts, and foreign currency transactions | (54,302,474)   |
| Net unrealized appreciation on investments   | 554,320,884    |
| Net unrealized depreciation on foreign currency translations                                       | (12,238)       |

|                   |                         |
|-------------------|-------------------------|
| <b>Net Assets</b> | <b>\$ 1,050,451,060</b> |
|-------------------|-------------------------|

##### Net Asset Value per Common Share:

|  |         |
|--|---------|
| (\$1,050,451,060 ÷ 187,715,980 shares outstanding at \$0.001 par value; 246,000,000 shares authorized) | \$ 5.60 |
|--|---------|

### Statement of Operations

#### For the Year Ended December 31, 2012

Edgar Filing: GABELLI EQUITY TRUST INC - Form N-CSR

|   |                       |
|---|-----------------------|
| <b>Investment Income:</b>   |                       |
| Dividends (net of foreign withholding taxes of \$373,126)   | \$ 30,775,362         |
| Interest  | 110,657               |
| <b>Total Investment Income</b>  | <b>30,886,019</b>     |
| <b>Expenses:</b>  |                       |
| Investment advisory fees  | 13,505,748            |
| Shareholder communications expenses   | 525,253               |
| Custodian fees  | 188,562               |
| Directors fees  | 181,022               |
| Payroll expenses  | 173,737               |
| Shareholder services fees   | 127,541               |
| Legal and audit fees  | 82,876                |
| Accounting fees   | 45,000                |
| Miscellaneous expenses  | 329,328               |
| <b>Total Expenses</b>   | <b>15,159,067</b>     |
| <b>Net Investment Income</b>  | <b>15,726,952</b>     |
| <b>Net Realized and Unrealized Gain/(Loss) on Investments, Futures Contracts, and Foreign Currency:</b>                 |                       |
| Net realized gain on investments  | 31,859,706            |
| Capital gain distributions from investment companies  | 35,290                |
| Net realized loss on futures contracts  | (2,970,214)           |
| Net realized loss on foreign currency transactions  | (20,174)              |
| Net realized gain on investments, futures contracts, and foreign currency transactions                                  | 28,904,608            |
| Net change in unrealized appreciation/depreciation:   |                       |
| on investments  | 150,643,876           |
| on futures contracts  | 179,411               |
| on foreign currency translations  | (21,252)              |
| Net change in unrealized appreciation/depreciation on investments, futures contracts, and foreign currency translations | 150,802,035           |
| <b>Net Realized and Unrealized Gain/(Loss) on Investments, Futures Contracts, and Foreign Currency</b>                  | <b>179,706,643</b>    |
| <b>Net Increase in Net Assets Resulting from Operations</b>   | <b>195,433,595</b>    |
| Total Distributions to Preferred Shareholders   | (14,424,539)          |
| <b>Net Increase in Net Assets Attributable to Common Shareholders Resulting from Operations</b>                         | <b>\$ 181,009,056</b> |

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

**The Gabelli Equity Trust Inc.****Statement of Changes in Net Assets Attributable to Common Shareholders**

|   | Year Ended<br>December 31, 2012 | Year Ended<br>December 31, 2011 |
|---|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <b>Operations:</b>  |                                 |                                 |
| Net investment income   | \$ 15,726,952                   | \$ 13,105,587                   |
| Net realized gain on investments, futures contracts, swap contracts, and foreign currency transactions                                  | 28,904,608                      | 2,943,344                       |
| Net change in unrealized appreciation/depreciation on investments, futures contracts, swap contracts, and foreign currency translations | 150,802,035                     | (18,496,012)                    |
| <b>Net Increase/(Decrease) in Net Assets Resulting from Operations</b>  | <b>195,433,595</b>              | <b>(2,447,081)</b>              |
| <b>Distributions to Preferred Shareholders:</b>   |                                 |                                 |
| Net investment income   | (5,031,388)                     | (10,150,930)                    |
| Net realized short-term gain  | (9,393,151)                     | (2,538,209)                     |
| <b>Total Distributions to Preferred Shareholders</b>  | <b>(14,424,539)</b>             | <b>(12,689,139)</b>             |
| <b>Net Increase/(Decrease) in Net Assets Attributable to Common Shareholders Resulting from Operations</b>                              | <b>181,009,056</b>              | <b>(15,136,220)</b>             |
| <b>Distributions to Common Shareholders:</b>  |                                 |                                 |
| Net investment income   | (10,788,546)                    | (3,337,003)                     |
| Net realized short-term gain  | (20,141,253)                    | (834,407)                       |
| Return of capital   | (73,112,281)                    | (99,713,931)                    |
| <b>Total Distributions to Common Shareholders</b>   | <b>(104,042,080)</b>            | <b>(103,885,341)</b>            |
| <b>Fund Share Transactions:</b>   |                                 |                                 |
| Net increase in net assets from common shares issued upon reinvestment of distributions   | 17,071,629                      | 20,156,854                      |
| Adjustment to reflect the taxable of the preferred rights offering to preferred shareholders  | 702,048                         |                                 |
| Offering costs for preferred shares charged to paid-in capital  | (4,239,995)                     |                                 |
| <b>Net Increase in Net Assets from Fund Share Transactions</b>  | <b>13,533,682</b>               | <b>20,156,854</b>               |
| <b>Net Increase/(Decrease) in Net Assets Attributable to Common Shareholders</b>  | <b>90,500,658</b>               | <b>(98,864,707)</b>             |
| <b>Net Assets Attributable to Common Shareholders:</b>  |                                 |                                 |
| Beginning of period   | 959,950,402                     | 1,058,815,109                   |
| End of period (including undistributed net investment income of \$0 and \$0, respectively)  | \$ 1,050,451,060                | \$ 959,950,402                  |

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

## The Gabelli Equity Trust Inc.

### Financial Highlights

#### Selected data for a share outstanding throughout each period:

|  | Year Ended December 31, |           |         |           |          |
|--|-------------------------|-----------|---------|-----------|----------|
|  | 2012                    | 2011      | 2010    | 2009      | 2008     |
| <b>Operating Performance:</b>  |                         |           |         |           |          |
| Net asset value, beginning of period   | \$ 5.20                 | \$ 5.85   | \$ 5.03 | \$ 4.14   | \$ 9.22  |
| Net investment income  | 0.09                    | 0.07      | 0.05    | 0.06      | 0.12     |
| Net realized and unrealized gain/(loss) on investments, futures contracts, swap contracts, and foreign currency transactions | 0.97                    | (0.08)    | 1.35    | 1.62      | (4.30)   |
| Total from investment operations   | 1.06                    | (0.01)    | 1.40    | 1.68      | (4.18)   |
| <b>Distributions to Preferred Shareholders: (a)</b>  |                         |           |         |           |          |
| Net investment income  | (0.03)                  | (0.06)    | (0.05)  | (0.07)    | (0.11)   |
| Net realized gain  | (0.05)                  | (0.01)    |         |           |          |
| Return of capital  |                         |           | (0.02)  |           |          |
| Total distributions to preferred shareholders  | (0.08)                  | (0.07)    | (0.07)  | (0.07)    | (0.11)   |
| <b>Net Increase/(Decrease) in Net Assets Attributable to Common Shareholders Resulting from Operations</b>                   |                         |           |         |           |          |
|  | 0.98                    | (0.08)    | 1.33    | 1.61      | (4.29)   |
| <b>Distributions to Common Shareholders:</b>   |                         |           |         |           |          |
| Net investment income  | (0.06)                  | (0.02)    |         | (0.00)(b) | 0.00(b)  |
| Net realized gain  | (0.11)                  | (0.00)(b) |         |           |          |
| Return of capital  | (0.39)                  | (0.55)    | (0.51)  | (0.72)    | (0.80)   |
| Total distributions to common shareholders   | (0.56)                  | (0.57)    | (0.51)  | (0.72)    | (0.80)   |
| <b>Fund Share Transactions:</b>  |                         |           |         |           |          |
| Increase/(decrease) in net asset value from common stock share transactions  |                         |           |         | 0.00(b)   | 0.01     |
| Increase in net asset value from repurchase of preferred shares  |                         |           |         | 0.00(b)   | 0.00(b)  |
| Recapture of gain on sale of Fund shares by an affiliate   |                         |           | 0.00(b) |           |          |
| Offering costs for preferred shares charged to paid-in capital   | (0.02)                  |           |         |           | 0.00(b)  |
| Total Fund share transactions  | (0.02)                  |           | 0.00(b) | 0.00(b)   | 0.01     |
| <b>Net Asset Value Attributable to Common Shareholders, End of Period</b>  |                         |           |         |           |          |
|  | \$ 5.60                 | \$ 5.20   | \$ 5.85 | \$ 5.03   | \$ 4.14  |
| NAV Total Return   | 19.05%                  | (1.17)%   | 28.15%  | 44.10%    | (49.06)% |
| Market value, end of period  | \$ 5.58                 | \$ 4.99   | \$ 5.67 | \$ 5.04   | \$ 3.70  |
| Investment total return  | 23.62%                  | (2.15)%   | 23.96%  | 61.56%    | (54.77)% |

Edgar Filing: GABELLI EQUITY TRUST INC - Form N-CSR

**Ratios to Average Net Assets and Supplemental Data:**

|  |              |              |              |              |              |
|--|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Net assets including liquidation value of preferred shares, end of period (in 000 s)   | \$ 1,384,961 | \$ 1,265,307 | \$ 1,364,172 | \$ 1,215,626 | \$ 1,106,614 |
| Net assets attributable to common shares, end of period (in 000 s)   | \$ 1,050,451 | \$ 959,950   | \$ 1,058,815 | \$ 910,269   | \$ 724,076   |
| Ratio of net investment income to average net assets attributable to common shares before preferred distributions              | 1.54%        | 1.26%        | 0.92%        | 1.53%        | 1.73%        |
| Ratio of operating expenses to average net assets attributable to common shares before fee reduction                           | 1.48%        | 1.48%        | 1.50%        | 1.74%        | 1.52%        |
| Ratio of operating expenses to average net assets attributable to common shares net of fee reduction, if any                   | 1.48%        | 1.19%        | 1.50%        | 1.72%        | 1.19%        |
| Ratio of operating expenses to average net assets including liquidation value of preferred shares before fee reduction         | 1.12%        | 1.15%        | 1.14%        | 1.22%        | 1.14%        |
| Ratio of operating expenses to average net assets including liquidation value of preferred shares net of fee reduction, if any | 1.12%        | 0.92%        | 1.14%        | 1.20%        | 0.89%        |
| Portfolio turnover rate  | 4.2%         | 6.3%         | 5.5%         | 6.7%         | 13.5%        |

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

**The Gabelli Equity Trust Inc.****Financial Highlights (Continued)****Selected data for a share outstanding throughout each period:**

|   | Year Ended December 31, |            |            |            |            |
|---|-------------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
|   | 2012                    | 2011       | 2010       | 2009       | 2008       |
| <b>Preferred Stock:</b>                                 |                         |            |            |            |            |
| <b>Auction Rate Series C Cumulative Preferred Stock</b> |                         |            |            |            |            |
| Liquidation value, end of period (in 000 s)             | \$ 72,000               | \$ 72,000  | \$ 72,000  | \$ 72,000  | \$ 117,000 |
| Total shares outstanding (in 000 s)                     | 3                       | 3          | 3          | 3          | 5          |
| Liquidation preference per share                        | \$ 25,000               | \$ 25,000  | \$ 25,000  | \$ 25,000  | \$ 25,000  |
| Average market value(c)                                 | \$ 25,000               | \$ 25,000  | \$ 25,000  | \$ 25,000  | \$ 25,000  |
| Asset coverage per share                                | \$ 103,507              | \$ 103,593 | \$ 111,687 | \$ 99,525  | \$ 72,320  |
| <b>5.875% Series D Cumulative Preferred Stock</b>       |                         |            |            |            |            |
| Liquidation value, end of period (in 000 s)             | \$ 59,097               | \$ 59,097  | \$ 59,097  | \$ 59,097  | \$ 72,532  |
| Total shares outstanding (in 000 s)                     | 2,364                   | 2,364      | 2,364      | 2,364      | 2,901      |
| Liquidation preference per share                        | \$ 25.00                | \$ 25.00   | \$ 25.00   | \$ 25.00   | \$ 25.00   |
| Average market value(d)                                 | \$ 25.75                | \$ 25.35   | \$ 25.03   | \$ 23.39   | \$ 22.69   |
| Asset coverage per share                                | \$ 103.51               | \$ 103.59  | \$ 111.69  | \$ 99.53   | \$ 72.32   |
| <b>Auction Rate Series E Cumulative Preferred Stock</b> |                         |            |            |            |            |
| Liquidation value, end of period (in 000 s)             | \$ 28,000               | \$ 28,000  | \$ 28,000  | \$ 28,000  | \$ 45,000  |
| Total shares outstanding (in 000 s)                     | 1                       | 1          | 1          | 1          | 2          |
| Liquidation preference per share                        | \$ 25,000               | \$ 25,000  | \$ 25,000  | \$ 25,000  | \$ 25,000  |
| Average market value(c)                                 | \$ 25,000               | \$ 25,000  | \$ 25,000  | \$ 25,000  | \$ 25,000  |
| Asset coverage per share                                | \$ 103,507              | \$ 103,593 | \$ 111,687 | \$ 99,525  | \$ 72,320  |
| <b>6.200% Series F Cumulative Preferred Stock</b>       |                         |            |            |            |            |
| Liquidation value, end of period (in 000 s)             |                         | \$ 146,260 | \$ 146,260 | \$ 146,260 | \$ 148,007 |
| Total shares outstanding (in 000 s)                     |                         | 5,850      | 5,850      | 5,850      | 5,920      |
| Liquidation preference per share                        |                         | \$ 25.00   | \$ 25.00   | \$ 25.00   | \$ 25.00   |
| Average market value(d)                                 |                         | \$ 25.57   | \$ 25.71   | \$ 24.08   | \$ 23.48   |
| Asset coverage per share                                |                         | \$ 103.59  | \$ 111.69  | \$ 99.53   | \$ 72.32   |
| <b>Series G Cumulative Preferred Stock</b>              |                         |            |            |            |            |
| Liquidation value, end of period (in 000 s)             | \$ 70,413               |            |            |            |            |
| Total shares outstanding (in 000 s)                     | 2,817                   |            |            |            |            |
| Liquidation preference per share                        | \$ 25.00                |            |            |            |            |
| Average market value(d)                                 | \$ 26.01                |            |            |            |            |
| Asset coverage per share                                | \$ 103.51               |            |            |            |            |
| <b>5.000% Series H Cumulative Preferred Stock</b>       |                         |            |            |            |            |
| Liquidation value, end of period (in 000 s)             | \$ 105,000              |            |            |            |            |
| Total shares outstanding (in 000 s)                     | 4,200                   |            |            |            |            |
| Liquidation preference per share                        | \$ 25.00                |            |            |            |            |
| Average market value(d)                                 | \$ 25.55                |            |            |            |            |
| Asset coverage per share                                | \$ 103.51               |            |            |            |            |
| <b>Asset Coverage(e)</b>                                | 414%                    | 414%       | 447%       | 398%       | 289%       |

Based on net asset value per share, adjusted for reinvestment of distributions at prices obtained under the Fund's dividend reinvestment plan.

Based on market value per share, adjusted for reinvestment of distributions at prices determined under the Fund's dividend reinvestment plan.

- (a) Calculated based upon average common shares outstanding on the record dates throughout the periods.
- (b) Amount represents less than \$0.005 per share.
- (c) Liquidation value. Since February 2008, the weekly auctions have failed. Holders that have submitted orders have not been able to sell any or all of their shares in the auctions.
- (d) Based on weekly prices.



Edgar Filing: GABELLI EQUITY TRUST INC - Form N-CSR

- (e) Asset coverage is calculated by combining all series of preferred stock.  
See accompanying notes to financial statements.

## The Gabelli Equity Trust Inc.

### Notes to Financial Statements

**1. Organization.** The Gabelli Equity Trust Inc. (the Fund) is a non-diversified closed-end management investment company organized as a Maryland corporation on May 20, 1986 and registered under the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended (the 1940 Act), whose primary objective is long-term growth of capital with income as a secondary objective. Investment operations commenced on August 21, 1986.

The Fund will invest at least 80% of its assets in equity securities under normal market conditions (the 80% Policy). The 80% Policy may be changed without shareholder approval. The Fund will provide shareholders with notice at least sixty days prior to the implementation of any changes in the 80% Policy.

**2. Significant Accounting Policies.** The Fund's financial statements are prepared in accordance with U.S. Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP), which may require the use of management estimates and assumptions. Actual results could differ from those estimates. The following is a summary of significant accounting policies followed by the Fund in the preparation of its financial statements.

**Security Valuation.** Portfolio securities listed or traded on a nationally recognized securities exchange or traded in the U.S. over-the-counter market for which market quotations are readily available are valued at the last quoted sale price or a market's official closing price as of the close of business on the day the securities are being valued. If there were no sales that day, the security is valued at the average of the closing bid and asked prices or, if there were no asked prices quoted on that day, then the security is valued at the closing bid price on that day. If no bid or asked prices are quoted on such day, the security is valued at the most recently available price or, if the Board of Directors (the Board) so determines, by such other method as the Board shall determine in good faith to reflect its fair market value. Portfolio securities traded on more than one national securities exchange or market are valued according to the broadest and most representative market, as determined by Gabelli Funds, LLC (the Adviser).

Portfolio securities primarily traded on a foreign market are generally valued at the preceding closing values of such securities on the relevant market, but may be fair valued pursuant to procedures established by the Board if market conditions change significantly after the close of the foreign market, but prior to the close of business on the day the securities are being valued. Debt instruments with remaining maturities of sixty days or less that are not credit impaired are valued at amortized cost, unless the Board determines such amount does not reflect the securities' fair value, in which case these securities will be fair valued as determined by the Board. Debt instruments having a maturity greater than sixty days for which market quotations are readily available are valued at the average of the latest bid and asked prices. If there were no asked prices quoted on such day, the security is valued using the closing bid price. U.S. government obligations with maturities greater than sixty days are normally valued using a model that incorporates market observable data such as reported sales of similar securities, broker quotes, yields, bids, offers, and reference data. Certain securities are valued principally using dealer quotations. Futures contracts are valued at the closing settlement price of the exchange or board of trade on which the applicable contract is traded.

Securities and assets for which market quotations are not readily available are fair valued as determined by the Board. Fair valuation methodologies and procedures may include, but are not limited to: analysis and review of available financial and non-financial information about the company; comparisons with the valuation and changes in valuation of similar securities, including a comparison of foreign securities with the equivalent U.S. dollar value ADR securities at the close of the U.S. exchange; and evaluation of any other information that could be indicative of the value of the security.

**The Gabelli Equity Trust Inc.****Notes to Financial Statements (Continued)**

The inputs and valuation techniques used to measure fair value of the Fund's investments are summarized into three levels as described in the hierarchy below:

Level 1 quoted prices in active markets for identical securities;

Level 2 other significant observable inputs (including quoted prices for similar securities, interest rates, prepayment speeds, credit risk, etc.); and

Level 3 significant unobservable inputs (including the Fund's determinations as to the fair value of investments).

A financial instrument's level within the fair value hierarchy is based on the lowest level of any input both individually and in the aggregate that is significant to the fair value measurement. The inputs or methodology used for valuing securities are not necessarily an indication of the risk associated with investing in those securities. The summary of the Fund's investments in securities and other financial instruments by inputs used to value the Fund's investments as of December 31, 2012 is as follows:

|  | Valuation Inputs         |  |  |                                   |
|--|--------------------------|--|--|-----------------------------------|
|  | Level 1<br>Quoted Prices | Level 2 Other Significant<br>Observable Inputs | Level 3 Significant<br>Unobservable Inputs | Total Market Value<br>at 12/31/12 |
| <b>INVESTMENTS IN SECURITIES:</b>      |                          |  |  |                                   |
| <b>ASSETS (Market Value):</b>          |                          |  |  |                                   |
| Common Stocks:                         |                          |  |  |                                   |
| Equipment and Supplies                 | \$ 88,832,550            |  | \$600                                      | \$ 88,833,150                     |
| Energy and Utilities                   | 81,874,629               |  | 0  | 81,874,629                        |
| Other Industries (a)                   | 1,196,313,120            |  |  | 1,196,313,120                     |
| Total Common Stocks                    | 1,367,020,299            |  | 600  | 1,367,020,899                     |
| Convertible Preferred Stocks (a)       | 979,875                  |  |  | 979,875                           |
| Warrants (a)                           | 532,224                  |  |  | 532,224                           |
| Convertible Corporate Bonds (a)        |                          | \$ 2,132,500                                   |  | 2,132,500                         |
| U.S. Government Obligations            |                          | 11,772,285                                     |  | 11,772,285                        |
| <b>TOTAL INVESTMENTS IN SECURITIES</b> |                          |  |  |                                   |
| <b>ASSETS</b>                          | <b>\$1,368,532,398</b>   | <b>\$13,904,785</b>                            | <b>\$600</b>                               | <b>\$1,382,437,783</b>            |

(a) Please refer to the Schedule of Investments for the industry classifications of these portfolio holdings.

The Fund did not have transfers between Level 1 and Level 2 during the year ended December 31, 2012. The Fund's policy is to recognize transfers among Levels as of the beginning of the reporting period.

**Additional Information to Evaluate Qualitative Information.**

**General.** The Fund uses recognized industry pricing services approved by the Board and unaffiliated with the Adviser to value most of its securities, and uses broker quotes provided by market makers of securities not valued by these and other recognized pricing sources. Several different pricing feeds are received to value domestic equity securities, international equity securities, preferred equity securities, and fixed

## Edgar Filing: GABELLI EQUITY TRUST INC - Form N-CSR

income securities. The data within these feeds is ultimately sourced from major stock exchanges and trading systems where these securities trade. The prices supplied by external sources are checked by obtaining quotations or actual transaction prices from market participants. If a price obtained from the pricing source is deemed unreliable, prices will be sought from another pricing service or from a broker/dealer that trades that security or similar securities.

***Fair Valuation.*** Fair valued securities may be common and preferred equities, warrants, options, rights, and fixed income obligations. Where appropriate, Level 3 securities are those for which market quotations are

**The Gabelli Equity Trust Inc.**

**Notes to Financial Statements (Continued)**

not available, such as securities not traded for several days, or for which current bids are not available, or which are restricted as to transfer. Among the factors to be considered to fair value a security are recent prices of comparable securities that are publicly traded, reliable prices of securities not publicly traded, the use of valuation models, current analyst reports, valuing the income or cash flow of the issuer, or cost if the preceding factors do not apply. The circumstances of Level 3 securities are frequently monitored to determine if fair valuation measures continue to apply.

The Adviser reports quarterly to the Board the results of the application of fair valuation policies and procedures. These include back testing the prices realized in subsequent trades of these fair valued securities to fair values previously recognized.

**Derivative Financial Instruments.** The Fund may engage in various portfolio investment strategies by investing in a number of derivative financial instruments for the purposes of increasing the income of the Fund, hedging against changes in the value of its portfolio securities and in the value of securities it intends to purchase, or hedging against a specific transaction with respect to either the currency in which the transaction is denominated or another currency. Investing in certain derivative financial instruments, including participation in the options, futures, or swap markets, entails certain execution, liquidity, hedging, tax, and securities, interest, credit, or currency market risks. Losses may arise if the Adviser's prediction of movements in the direction of the securities, foreign currency, and interest rate markets is inaccurate. Losses may also arise if the counterparty does not perform its duties under a contract, or that, in the event of default, the Fund may be delayed in or prevented from obtaining payments or other contractual remedies owed to it under derivative contracts. The creditworthiness of the counterparties is closely monitored in order to minimize these risks. Participation in derivative transactions involves investment risks, transaction costs, and potential losses to which the Fund would not be subject absent the use of these strategies. The consequences of these risks, transaction costs, and losses may have a negative impact on the Fund's ability to pay distributions.

The Fund's derivative contracts held at December 31, 2012, if any, are not accounted for as hedging instruments under GAAP and are disclosed in the Schedule of Investments together with the related counterparty.

**Swap Agreements.** The Fund may enter into equity contract for difference swap transactions for the purpose of increasing the income of the Fund. The use of swaps is a highly specialized activity that involves investment techniques and risks different from those associated with ordinary portfolio security transactions. In an equity contract for difference swap, a set of future cash flows is exchanged between two counterparties. One of these cash flow streams will typically be based on a reference interest rate combined with the performance of a notional value of shares of a stock. The other will be based on the performance of the shares of a stock. Depending on the general state of short-term interest rates and the returns on the Fund's portfolio securities at the time an equity contract for difference swap transaction reaches its scheduled termination date, there is a risk that the Fund will not be able to obtain a replacement transaction or that the terms of the replacement will not be as favorable as on the expiring transaction.

Unrealized gains related to swaps are reported as an asset and unrealized losses are reported as a liability in the Statement of Assets and Liabilities. The change in value of swaps, including the accrual of periodic amounts of interest to be received or paid on swaps, is reported as unrealized gain or loss in the Statement of Operations. A realized gain or loss is recorded upon receipt or payment of a periodic payment or termination of swap agreements.

**The Gabelli Equity Trust Inc.**

**Notes to Financial Statements (Continued)**

At December 31, 2012, the Fund held no investments in equity contract for difference swap agreements.

**Futures Contracts.** The Fund may engage in futures contracts for the purpose of hedging against changes in the value of its portfolio securities and in the value of securities it intends to purchase. Upon entering into a futures contract, the Fund is required to deposit with the broker an amount of cash or cash equivalents equal to a certain percentage of the contract amount. This is known as the initial margin. Subsequent payments (variation margin) are made or received by the Fund each day, depending on the daily fluctuations in the value of the contract, and are included in unrealized appreciation/depreciation on futures contracts. The Fund recognizes a realized gain or loss when the contract is closed.

There are several risks in connection with the use of futures contracts as a hedging instrument. The change in value of futures contracts primarily corresponds with the value of their underlying instruments, which may not correlate with the change in value of the hedged investments. In addition, there is the risk that the Fund may not be able to enter into a closing transaction because of an illiquid secondary market.

The Fund held equity futures contracts through December 27, 2012, with an average monthly notional amount of approximately \$30,596,515. At December 31, 2012, the Fund held no investments in equity futures contracts.

For the year ended December 31, 2012, the effect of equity futures contracts can be found in the Statement of Operations under Net Realized and Unrealized Gain/(Loss) on Investments, Futures Contracts, and Foreign Currency, Net realized loss on futures contracts and Net change in unrealized appreciation/depreciation on futures contracts.

**Limitations on the Purchase and Sale of Futures Contracts, Certain Options, and Swaps.** Subject to the guidelines of the Board, the Fund may engage in commodity interest transactions (generally, transactions in futures, certain options, certain currency transactions, and certain types of swaps) only for bona fide hedging or other permissible transactions in accordance with the rules and regulations of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission (CFTC). Pursuant to amendments by the CFTC to Rule 4.5 under the Commodity Exchange Act (CEA), the Adviser has filed a notice of exemption from registration as a commodity pool operator with respect to the Fund. The Fund and the Adviser are therefore not subject to registration or regulation as a commodity pool operator under the CEA. Due to the recent amendments to Rule 4.5 under the CEA, certain trading restrictions are now applicable to the Fund as of January 1, 2013. These trading restrictions permit the Fund to engage in commodity interest transactions that include (i) bona fide hedging transactions, as that term is defined and interpreted by the CFTC and its staff, without regard to the percentage of the Fund's assets committed to margin and options premiums and (ii) non-bona fide hedging transactions, provided that the Fund does not enter into such non-bona fide hedging transactions if, immediately thereafter, either (a) the sum of the amount of initial margin deposits on the Fund's existing futures positions or swaps positions and option or swaption premiums would exceed 5% of the market value of the Fund's liquidating value, after taking into account unrealized profits and unrealized losses on any such transactions, or (b) the aggregate net notional value of the Fund's commodity interest transactions would not exceed 100% of the market value of the Fund's liquidating value, after taking into account unrealized profits and unrealized losses on any such transactions. Therefore, in order to claim the Rule 4.5 exemption, the Fund is limited in its ability to invest in commodity futures, options, and certain types of swaps (including securities futures, broad based stock index futures, and financial futures contracts). As a result, in the future, the Fund will be more limited in its ability to use these instruments than in the past, and these limitations may have a negative impact on the ability of the Adviser to manage the Fund, and on the Fund's performance.

**The Gabelli Equity Trust Inc.**

**Notes to Financial Statements (Continued)**

**Investments in other Investment Companies.** The Fund may invest, from time to time, in shares of other investment companies (or entities that would be considered investment companies but are excluded from the definition pursuant to certain exceptions under the 1940 Act) (the Acquired Funds) in accordance with the 1940 Act and related rules. Shareholders in the Fund would bear the pro rata portion of the periodic expenses of the Acquired Funds in addition to the Fund's expenses. For the year ended December 31, 2012, the Fund's pro rata portion of the periodic expenses charged by the Acquired Funds was less than 1 basis point.

**Foreign Currency Translations.** The books and records of the Fund are maintained in U.S. dollars. Foreign currencies, investments, and other assets and liabilities are translated into U.S. dollars at current exchange rates. Purchases and sales of investment securities, income, and expenses are translated at the exchange rate prevailing on the respective dates of such transactions. Unrealized gains and losses that result from changes in foreign exchange rates and/or changes in market prices of securities have been included in unrealized appreciation/depreciation on investments and foreign currency translations. Net realized foreign currency gains and losses resulting from changes in exchange rates include foreign currency gains and losses between trade date and settlement date on investment securities transactions, foreign currency transactions, and the difference between the amounts of interest and dividends recorded on the books of the Fund and the amounts actually received. The portion of foreign currency gains and losses related to fluctuation in exchange rates between the initial purchase trade date and subsequent sale trade date is included in realized gain/(loss) on investments.

**Foreign Securities.** The Fund may directly purchase securities of foreign issuers. Investing in securities of foreign issuers involves special risks not typically associated with investing in securities of U.S. issuers. The risks include possible revaluation of currencies, the inability to repatriate funds, less complete financial information about companies, and possible future adverse political and economic developments. Moreover, securities of many foreign issuers and their markets may be less liquid and their prices more volatile than securities of comparable U.S. issuers.

**Foreign Taxes.** The Fund may be subject to foreign taxes on income, gains on investments, or currency repatriation, a portion of which may be recoverable. The Fund will accrue such taxes and recoveries as applicable, based upon its current interpretation of tax rules and regulations that exist in the markets in which it invests.

**Restricted Securities.** The Fund may invest up to 10% of its net assets in securities for which the markets are restricted. Restricted securities include securities whose disposition is subject to substantial legal or contractual restrictions. The sale of restricted securities often requires more time and results in higher brokerage charges or dealer discounts and other selling expenses than does the sale of securities eligible for trading on national securities exchanges or in the over-the-counter markets. Restricted securities may sell at a price lower than similar securities that are not subject to restrictions on resale. Securities freely saleable among qualified institutional investors under special rules adopted by the SEC may be treated as liquid if they satisfy liquidity standards established by the Board. The continued liquidity of such securities is not as well assured as that of publicly traded securities, and accordingly the Board will monitor their liquidity. For the restricted securities the Fund held as of December 31, 2012, refer to the Schedule of Investments.

---

**The Gabelli Equity Trust Inc.****Notes to Financial Statements (Continued)**

**Securities Transactions and Investment Income.** Securities transactions are accounted for on the trade date with realized gain or loss on investments determined by using the identified cost method. Interest income (including amortization of premium and accretion of discount) is recorded on the accrual basis. Premiums and discounts on debt securities are amortized using the effective yield to maturity method. Dividend income is recorded on the ex-dividend date, except for certain dividends from foreign securities that are recorded as soon after the ex-dividend date as the Fund becomes aware of such dividends.

**Custodian Fee Credits and Interest Expense.** When cash balances are maintained in the custody account, the Fund receives credits which are used to offset custodian fees. The gross expenses paid under the custody arrangement are included in custodian fees in the Statement of Operations with the corresponding expense offset, if any, shown as Custodian fee credits. When cash balances are overdrawn, the Fund is charged an overdraft fee equal to 110% of the 90 day Treasury Bill rate on outstanding balances. This amount, if any, would be included in the Statement of Operations.

**Distributions to Shareholders.** Distributions to common shareholders are recorded on the ex-dividend date. Distributions to shareholders are based on income and capital gains as determined in accordance with federal income tax regulations, which may differ from income and capital gains as determined under GAAP. These differences are primarily due to differing treatments of income and gains on various investment securities and foreign currency transactions held by the Fund, timing differences, and differing characterizations of distributions made by the Fund. Distributions from net investment income for federal income tax purposes include net realized gains on foreign currency transactions. These book/tax differences are either temporary or permanent in nature. To the extent these differences are permanent, adjustments are made to the appropriate capital accounts in the period when the differences arise. Permanent differences are primarily due to the tax treatment of currency gains and losses, taxable distributions in excess of book income, and adjustments on the sale of partnership securities. These reclassifications have no impact on the NAV of the Fund. For the year ended December 31, 2012, reclassifications were made to decrease accumulated distributions in excess of net investment income by \$3,175 and decrease accumulated net realized loss on investments, futures contracts, and foreign currency transactions by \$29,591,441, with an offsetting adjustment to paid-in capital.

Under the Fund's distribution policy, the Fund declares and pays quarterly distributions from net investment income, capital gains, and paid-in capital. The actual source of the distribution is determined after the end of the year. Pursuant to this policy, distributions during the year may be made in excess of required distributions. To the extent such distributions are made from current earnings and profits, they are considered ordinary income or long-term capital gains. The Fund's current distribution policy may restrict the Fund's ability to pass through to shareholders all of its net realized long-term capital gains as a Capital Gain Dividend, subject to the maximum federal income tax rate, and may cause such gains to be treated as ordinary income. Distributions sourced from paid-in capital should not be considered as dividend yield or the total return from an investment in the Fund. The Board will continue to monitor the Fund's distribution level, taking into consideration the Fund's NAV and the financial market environment. The Fund's distribution policy is subject to modification by the Board at any time.

Distributions to shareholders of the Fund's Series C Auction Rate Cumulative Preferred Stock, 5.875% Series D Cumulative Preferred Stock, Series E Auction Rate Cumulative Preferred Stock, 6.20% Series F Cumulative Preferred Stock, Series G Cumulative Preferred Stock, and 5.00% Series H Cumulative Preferred Stock ( Preferred Stock ) are recorded on a daily basis and are determined as described in Note 5.



**The Gabelli Equity Trust Inc.****Notes to Financial Statements (Continued)**

The tax character of distributions paid during the years ended December 31, 2012 and December 31, 2011 was as follows:

|                                 | Year Ended<br>December 31, 2012 |               | Year Ended<br>December 31, 2011 |               |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------|---------------------------------|---------------|
|                                 | Common                          | Preferred     | Common                          | Preferred     |
| <b>Distributions paid from:</b> |                                 |               |                                 |               |
| Ordinary income                 | \$ 30,929,799                   | \$ 14,424,539 | \$ 4,171,410                    | \$ 12,689,139 |
| Return of capital               | 73,112,281                      |               | 99,713,931                      |               |
| Total distributions paid        | \$ 104,042,080                  | \$ 14,424,539 | \$ 103,885,341                  | \$ 12,689,139 |

**Provision for Income Taxes.** The Fund intends to continue to qualify as a regulated investment company under Subchapter M of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the Code). It is the policy of the Fund to comply with the requirements of the Code applicable to regulated investment companies and to distribute substantially all of its net investment company taxable income and net capital gains. Therefore, no provision for federal income taxes is required.

As of December 31, 2012, the components of accumulated earnings/losses on a tax basis were as follows:

|  |                |
|--|----------------|
| Accumulated capital loss carryforwards                                       | \$(38,870,325) |
| Net unrealized appreciation on investments and foreign currency translations | 538,282,455    |
| Total  | \$499,412,130  |

At December 31, 2012, the Fund had net capital loss carryforwards for federal income tax purposes which are available to reduce future required distributions of net capital gains to shareholders. Under the Regulated Investment Company Modernization Act of 2010, the Fund will be permitted to carry forward for an unlimited period capital losses incurred in years beginning after December 22, 2010. In addition, these losses must be utilized prior to the losses incurred in pre-enactment taxable years. As a result of the rule, pre-enactment capital loss carryforwards may have an increased likelihood of expiring unused. Additionally, post enactment capital losses that are carried forward will retain their character as either short-term or long-term capital losses rather than being considered all short-term as under previous law.

|  |              |
|--|--------------|
| Capital Loss Carryforward Available through 2017 | \$25,514,103 |
| Capital Loss Carryforward Available through 2018 | 13,356,222   |
| Total Capital Loss Carryforwards                 | \$38,870,325 |

During the year ended December 31, 2012, the Fund utilized capital loss carryforwards of \$29,534,404.

At December 31, 2012, the difference between book basis and tax basis unrealized appreciation on investments was primarily due to deferral of losses from wash sales for tax purposes, adjustments on securities deemed a passive foreign investment company, adjustments on the sale of a security no longer deemed a passive foreign investment company, and basis adjustments on investments in partnership.



**The Gabelli Equity Trust Inc.****Notes to Financial Statements (Continued)**

The following summarizes the tax cost of investments and the related net unrealized appreciation at December 31, 2012:

|             | Cost          | Gross<br>Unrealized<br>Appreciation | Gross<br>Unrealized<br>Depreciation | Net<br>Unrealized<br>Appreciation |
|-------------|---------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Investments | \$844,143,090 | \$600,245,827                       | \$(61,951,134)                      | \$538,294,693                     |

The Fund is required to evaluate tax positions taken or expected to be taken in the course of preparing the Fund's tax returns to determine whether the tax positions are more-likely-than-not of being sustained by the applicable tax authority. Income tax and related interest and penalties would be recognized by the Fund as tax expense in the Statement of Operations if the tax positions were deemed not to meet the more-likely-than-not threshold. For the year ended December 31, 2012, the Fund did not incur any income tax, interest, or penalties. As of December 31, 2012, the Adviser has reviewed all open tax years and concluded that there was no impact to the Fund's net assets or results of operations. Tax years ended December 31, 2009 through December 31, 2012 remain subject to examination by the Internal Revenue Service and state taxing authorities. On an ongoing basis, the Adviser will monitor the Fund's tax positions to determine if adjustments to this conclusion are necessary.

**3. Agreements and Transactions with Affiliates.** The Fund has entered into an investment advisory agreement (the *Advisory Agreement*) with the Adviser which provides that the Fund will pay the Adviser a fee, computed weekly and paid monthly, equal on an annual basis to 1.00% of the value of the Fund's average weekly net assets including the liquidation value of preferred stock. In accordance with the *Advisory Agreement*, the Adviser provides a continuous investment program for the Fund's portfolio and oversees the administration of all aspects of the Fund's business and affairs. The Adviser has agreed to reduce the management fee on the incremental assets attributable to the Series C, Series D, and Series E Preferred Stock if the total return of the NAV of the common shares of the Fund, including distributions and advisory fee subject to reduction, does not exceed the stated dividend rate or corresponding swap rate of the Series C, Series D, and Series E Preferred Stock for the year.

The Fund's total return on the NAV of the common shares is monitored on a monthly basis to assess whether the total return on the NAV of the common shares exceeds the stated dividend rate of the Series C, Series D, and Series E Preferred Stock for the period. For the year ended December 31, 2012, the Fund's total return on the NAV of the common shares exceeded the stated dividend rate or corresponding swap rate of the outstanding Series C, Series D, Series E, and Series F (while outstanding) Preferred Stock. Thus, advisory fees were accrued on the liquidation value of the Series C, Series D, Series E, and Series F Preferred Stock.

During the year ended December 31, 2012, the Fund paid brokerage commissions on security trades of \$110,617 to Gabelli & Company, Inc., an affiliate of the Adviser.

The cost of calculating the Fund's NAV per share is a Fund expense pursuant to the *Advisory Agreement* between the Fund and the Adviser. During the year ended December 31, 2012, the Fund paid or accrued \$45,000 to the Adviser in connection with the cost of computing the Fund's NAV.

As per the approval of the Board, the Fund compensates officers of the Fund, who are employed by the Fund and are not employed by the Adviser (although the officers may receive incentive based variable compensation from affiliates of the Adviser). For the year ended December 31, 2012, the Fund paid or accrued \$173,737 in payroll expenses in the Statement of Operations.

**The Gabelli Equity Trust Inc.****Notes to Financial Statements (Continued)**

The Fund pays each Director who is not considered an affiliated person an annual retainer of \$15,000 plus \$2,000 for each Board meeting attended. Each Director is reimbursed by the Fund for any out of pocket expenses incurred in attending meetings. All Board committee members receive \$1,000 per meeting attended. The Audit Committee Chairman receives an annual fee of \$3,000, the Proxy Voting Committee Chairman receives an annual fee of \$1,500, the Nominating Committee Chairman and the Lead Director each receive an annual fee of \$2,000. A Director may receive a single meeting fee, allocated among the participating funds, for participation in certain meetings held on behalf of multiple funds. Directors who are directors or employees of the Adviser or an affiliated company receive no compensation or expense reimbursement from the Fund.

**4. Portfolio Securities.** Purchases and sales of securities during the year ended December 31, 2012, other than short-term securities and U.S. Government obligations, aggregated \$55,326,416 and \$133,956,068, respectively.

**5. Capital.** The Fund's Articles of Incorporation, as amended, permit the Fund to issue 246,000,000 shares of common stock (par value \$0.001) and authorizes the Board to increase its authorized shares from time to time. The Board has authorized the repurchase of its shares on the open market when the shares are trading on the NYSE at a discount of 10% or more (or such other percentage as the Board may determine from time to time) from the NAV of the shares. During the years ended December 31, 2012 and December 31, 2011, the Fund did not repurchase any shares of its common stock in the open market.

Transactions in common shares were as follows:

|   | Year Ended<br>December 31, 2012 |              | Year Ended<br>December 31, 2011 |              |
|---|---------------------------------|--------------|---------------------------------|--------------|
|   | Shares                          | Amount       | Shares                          | Amount       |
| Net increase from common shares issued upon reinvestment of distributions | 3,095,742                       | \$17,071,629 | 3,762,752                       | \$20,156,854 |

The Fund's Articles of Incorporation, as amended, authorize the issuance of up to 18,000,000 shares of \$0.001 par value Preferred Stock. The Preferred Stock is senior to the common stock and results in the financial leveraging of the common stock. Such leveraging tends to magnify both the risks and opportunities to common shareholders. Dividends on shares of the Preferred Stock are cumulative. The Fund is required by the 1940 Act and by the Articles Supplementary to meet certain asset coverage tests with respect to the Preferred Stock. If the Fund fails to meet these requirements and does not correct such failure, the Fund may be required to redeem, in part or in full, the Series C, Series D, Series E, Series G, and Series H Preferred Stock at redemption prices of \$25,000, \$25, \$25,000, \$25, and \$25, respectively, per share plus an amount equal to the accumulated and unpaid dividends whether or not declared on such shares in order to meet these requirements. Additionally, failure to meet the foregoing asset coverage requirements could restrict the Fund's ability to pay dividends to common shareholders and could lead to sales of portfolio securities at inopportune times. The income received on the Fund's assets may vary in a manner unrelated to the fixed and variable rates, which could have either a beneficial or detrimental impact on net investment income and gains available to common shareholders.

A shelf registration authorizing the offering of an additional \$500 million of common or preferred shares was declared effective by the SEC on June 30, 2011.

## The Gabelli Equity Trust Inc.

### Notes to Financial Statements (Continued)

For Series C and Series E Preferred Stocks, the dividend rates, as set by the auction process that is generally held every seven days is expected to vary with short-term interest rates. Since February 2008, the number of shares of Series C and Series E Preferred Stock subject to bid orders by potential holders has been less than the number of shares of Series C and Series E Preferred Stock subject to sell orders. Holders that have submitted sell orders have not been able to sell any or all of the Series C and Series E Preferred Stock for which they have submitted sell orders. Therefore the weekly auctions have failed, and the dividend rate has been the maximum rate. For Series C and Series E Preferred Stock, the current (since July 12, 2012) and subsequent maximum auction rate is 175% of the AA Financial Composite Commercial Paper Rate. Existing Series C and Series E shareholders may submit an order to hold, bid, or sell such shares on each auction date, or trade their shares in the secondary market. There were no redemptions of Series C and Series E Preferred Stock during the years ended December 31, 2012 and December 31, 2011.

The Fund redeemed 2,120,000 shares of its Series F Preferred Stock on September 26, 2012. The Fund redeemed the remaining Series F Preferred Stock on November 8, 2012. All of the Fund's Series F Preferred Shares have been retired.

The Fund may redeem at anytime, in whole or in part, the Series D Preferred Stock at its redemption price. The Board has authorized the repurchase of Series D Preferred Stock in the open market at prices less than the \$25 liquidation value per share. During the years ended December 31, 2012 and December 31, 2011, the Fund did not repurchase any shares of Series D Preferred Stock.

The following table summarizes Cumulative Preferred Stock information:

| Series         | Issue Date         | Issued/<br>Authorized | Number of Shares<br>Outstanding at<br>12/31/2012 | Net Proceeds  | 2012 Dividend<br>Rate Range | Dividend<br>Rate at<br>12/31/2012 | Accrued<br>Dividend at<br>12/31/2012 |
|----------------|--------------------|-----------------------|--|---------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| C Auction Rate | June 27, 2002      | 5,200                 | 2,880  | \$128,246,557 | 0.030% to 0.263%            | 0.140%                            | \$ 1,680                             |
| D 5.875%       | October 7, 2003    | 3,000,000             | 2,363,860  | \$ 72,375,842 | Fixed Rate                  | 5.875%                            | \$57,865                             |
| E Auction Rate | October 7, 2003    | 2,000                 | 1,120  | \$ 49,350,009 | 0.030% to 0.280%            | 0.070%                            | \$ 218                               |
| G*             | August 1, 2012     | 2,816,524             | 2,816,524  | \$ 69,812,243 | Fixed Rate                  | 6.000%                            | \$70,413                             |
| H 5.000%       | September 28, 2012 | 4,200,000             | 4,200,000  | \$101,167,500 | Fixed Rate                  | 5.000%                            | \$87,500                             |

\* The Series G Cumulative Preferred Stock has a 6.000% fixed rate until July 31, 2013. Beginning August 1, 2013, the fixed rate changes to 5.000%. The holders of Preferred Stock generally are entitled to one vote per share held on each matter submitted to a vote of shareholders of the Fund and will vote together with holders of common stock as a single class. The holders of Preferred Stock voting together as a single class also have the right currently to elect two Directors and under certain circumstances are entitled to elect a majority of the Board of Directors. In addition, the affirmative vote of a majority of the votes entitled to be cast by holders of all outstanding shares of the preferred stock, voting as a single class, will be required to approve any plan of reorganization adversely affecting the preferred stock, and the approval of two-thirds of each class, voting separately, of the Fund's outstanding voting stock must approve the conversion of the Fund from a closed-end to an open-end investment company. The approval of a majority (as defined in the 1940 Act) of the outstanding preferred stock and a majority (as defined in the 1940 Act) of the Fund's outstanding voting securities are required to approve certain other actions, including changes in the Fund's investment objectives or fundamental investment policies.

On August 1, 2012, the Fund received net proceeds of \$69,911,605 (after deduction of \$150,857 of solicitation fees and offering expenses of \$350,638) from the rights offering in connection with the issuance of 2,816,524



**The Gabelli Equity Trust Inc.**

**Notes to Financial Statements (Continued)**

Series G Preferred Stock. In the offering, the Fund's existing Series F Preferred shareholders received one transferable right for each share of Series F Preferred held on the record date (June 22, 2012). Holders of Rights were entitled to purchase one share of Series G Preferred by submitting one Right plus \$25.00 (the Subscription Price) pursuant to the Offering. The Subscription Price was payable in cash, by surrender of Series F Preferred at the liquidation preference amount, or any combination of cash and Series F Preferred shares. 702,193 Series F Preferred shares with a liquidation value of \$25.00 per share, or approximately \$17.6 million, were surrendered by subscribing shareholders to acquire Series G Preferred. The surrendered Series F Preferred shares were retired. The proceeds raised in the rights offering were used to redeem a portion of the remaining outstanding Series F Preferred.

Commencing July 31, 2017, and anytime thereafter, the Fund at its option, may redeem the Series G Preferred Stock in whole or in part at the redemption price. The Board has authorized the repurchase of the Series G Preferred Stock in the open market at prices less than the \$25 liquidation value per share. During the year ended December 31, 2012, the Fund did not repurchase any of the Series G Preferred Stock.

On September 28, 2012, the Fund received net proceeds of \$101,261,500 (after deduction of underwriting discounts of \$3,307,500 and offering expenses of \$431,000) from the public offering of 4,200,000 shares of Series H Preferred Stock. Commencing September 27, 2017, and anytime thereafter, the Fund at its option, may redeem the Series H Preferred Stock in whole or in part at the redemption price. A portion of the proceeds raised from the offering were used to redeem the remaining outstanding Series F Preferred. The Board has authorized the repurchase of the Series H Preferred Stock in the open market at prices less than the \$25 liquidation value per share. During the year ended December 31, 2012, the Fund did not repurchase any of the Series H Preferred Stock.

**6. Indemnifications.** The Fund enters into contracts that contain a variety of indemnifications. The Fund's maximum exposure under these arrangements is unknown. However, the Fund has not had prior claims or losses pursuant to these contracts. Management has reviewed the Fund's existing contracts and expects the risk of loss to be remote.

**7. Other Matters.** On April 24, 2008, the Adviser entered into a settlement with the SEC to resolve an inquiry regarding prior frequent trading in shares of the GAMCO Global Growth Fund (the Global Growth Fund) by one investor who was banned from the Global Growth Fund in August 2002. Under the terms of the settlement, the Adviser, without admitting or denying the SEC's findings and allegations, paid \$16 million (which included a \$5 million civil monetary penalty). On the same day, the SEC filed a civil action in the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York against the Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer of the Adviser, alleging violations of certain federal securities laws arising from the same matter. The officer, who also is an officer of the Global Growth Fund and other funds in the Gabelli/GAMCO complex, including this Fund, denies the allegations and is continuing in his positions with the Adviser and the funds. The settlement by the Adviser did not have, and the resolution of the action against the officer is not expected to have, a material adverse impact on the Adviser or its ability to fulfill its obligations under the Advisory Agreement.

**8. Subsequent Events.** Management has evaluated the impact on the Fund of all subsequent events occurring through the date the financial statements were issued and has determined that there were no subsequent events requiring recognition or disclosure in the financial statements.

**The Gabelli Equity Trust Inc.**

**Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm**

To the Board of Directors and Shareholders of

The Gabelli Equity Trust Inc.:

In our opinion, the accompanying statement of assets and liabilities, including the schedule of investments, and the related statements of operations and of changes in net assets and the financial highlights present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of The Gabelli Equity Trust Inc. (hereafter referred to as the Trust ) at December 31, 2012, the results of its operations for the year then ended, the changes in its net assets for each of the two years in the period then ended and the financial highlights for each of the periods presented, in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. These financial statements and financial highlights (hereafter referred to as financial statements ) are the responsibility of the Trust s management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audits. We conducted our audits of these financial statements in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States). Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements, assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, and evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audits, which included confirmation of securities at December 31, 2012 by correspondence with the custodian and brokers, provide a reasonable basis for our opinion.

PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP

New York, New York

February 28, 2013



**The Gabelli Equity Trust Inc.****Additional Fund Information (Unaudited)**

The business and affairs of the Fund are managed under the direction of the Fund's Board of Directors. Information pertaining to the Directors and officers of the Fund is set forth below. The Fund's Statement of Additional Information includes additional information about the Fund's Directors and officers and is available without charge, upon request, by calling 800-GABELLI (800-422-3554) or by writing to The Gabelli Equity Trust Inc. at One Corporate Center, Rye, NY 10580-1422.

| <b>Name, Position(s)</b>  | <b>Address<sup>1</sup><br/>and Age</b> | <b>Term of Office<br/>and Length of<br/>Time Served<sup>2</sup></b> | <b>Number of<br/>Funds in Fund<br/>Complex<br/>Overseen by<br/><u>Director</u></b>  | <b>Principal Occupation(s)<br/>During Past Five Years</b>  | <b>Other Directorships<br/>Held by Director<sup>3</sup></b> |
|---|--|---|---|--|---|
| <b><u>INTERESTED DIRECTORS<sup>4</sup></u> :</b>                                    |  |   |   |  |   |
| <b>Mario J. Gabelli, CFA</b><br>Director and<br>Chief Investment Officer<br>Age: 70 | Since 1986*                            | 27  | Chairman, Chief Executive Officer, and Chief Investment Officer - Value Portfolios of GAMCO Investors, Inc. and Chief Investment Officer - Value Portfolios of Gabelli Funds, LLC, and GAMCO Asset Management Inc.; Director/ Trustee or Chief Investment Officer of other registered investment companies in the Gabelli/ GAMCO Funds Complex; Chief Executive Officer of GGCP, Inc. | Director of Morgan Group Holdings, Inc. (holding company); Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer of LICT Corp. (multimedia and communication services company); Director of CIBL, Inc. (broadcasting and wireless communications); Director of RLJ Acquisition Inc. (blank check company) (2011- 2012) |   |
| <b><u>INDEPENDENT DIRECTORS<sup>5</sup></u> :</b>                                   |  |   |   |  |   |
| <b>Anthony J. Colavita<sup>6</sup></b><br>Director<br>Age: 77                       | Since 1999**                           | 35  | President of the law firm of Anthony J. Colavita, P.C.  |  |   |
| <b>James P. Conn<sup>6</sup></b><br>Director<br>Age: 74                             | Since 1989***                          | 19  | Former Managing Director and Chief Investment Officer of Financial Security Assurance Holdings Ltd. (insurance holding company) (1996-1998)   | Director of First Republic Bank (banking) through January 2008   |   |
| <b>Frank J. Fahrenkopf, Jr.</b>   | Since 1998**                           | 7   | President and Chief Executive Officer of the American Gaming Association;   | Director of First Republic Bank (banking)  |   |

Edgar Filing: GABELLI EQUITY TRUST INC - Form N-CSR

|                             |               |    |  |   |
|-----------------------------|---------------|----|--|---|
| Director                    |               |    | Co-Chairman of the Commission on Presidential Debates; Former Chairman of the Republican National Committee (1983-1989)  |   |
| Age: 73                     |               |    |  |   |
| <b>Arthur V. Ferrara</b>    | Since 2001*   | 8  | Former Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer of The Guardian Life Insurance Company of America (1992-1995)   |   |
| Director                    |               |    |  |   |
| Age: 82                     |               |    |  |   |
| <b>William F. Heitmann</b>  | Since 2012*** | 3  | Senior Vice President of Finance, Verizon Communications, and President, Verizon Investment Management (1971-2011)   | Director and Audit Committee Chair of DRS Technologies (defense electronic systems)   |
| Director                    |               |    |  |   |
| Age: 63                     |               |    |  |   |
| <b>Anthony R. Pustorino</b> | Since 1986*** | 13 | Certified Public Accountant; Professor Emeritus, Pace University   | Director of The LGL Group, Inc. (diversified manufacturing) (2002-2010)   |
| Director                    |               |    |  |   |
| Age: 87                     |               |    |  |   |
| <b>Salvatore J. Zizza</b>   | Since 1986**  | 29 | Chairman (since 1978) of Zizza & Associates Corp. (financial consulting); Chairman (since 2005) of Metropolitan Paper Recycling, Inc. (recycling); Chairman (since 2009) of E-Corp English (business services) | Chairman of Harbor BioSciences, Inc. (biotechnology); Director of Trans-Lux Corporation (business services); Chairman of Bion Environmental Technologies (technology) |
| Director                    |               |    |  |   |
| Age: 67                     |               |    |  |   |

**The Gabelli Equity Trust Inc.****Additional Fund Information (Continued) (Unaudited)**

| Name, Position(s)        | Term of Office           | Principal Occupation(s)   |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|---|
| Address <sup>1</sup>     | and Length of            | During Past Five Years  |
| and Age                  | Time Served <sup>2</sup> |   |
| <b><u>OFFICERS:</u></b>  |                          |   |
| <b>Bruce N. Alpert</b>   | Since 2003               | Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer of Gabelli Funds, LLC since 1988; Officer of all of the registered investment companies in the Gabelli/GAMCO Funds Complex; Director of Teton Advisors, Inc. 1998-2012; Chairman of Teton Advisors, Inc. 2008-2010; President of Teton Advisors, Inc. 1998-2008; Senior Vice President of GAMCO Investors, Inc. since 2008 |
| President and            |                          |   |
| Acting Chief Compliance  | Since November           |   |
| Officer                  | 2011                     |   |
| Age: 61                  |                          |   |
| <b>Agnes Mullady</b>     | Since 2006               | President and Chief Operating Officer of the Open-End Fund Division of Gabelli Funds, LLC since September 2010; Senior Vice President of GAMCO Investors, Inc. since 2009; Vice President of Gabelli Funds, LLC since 2007; Officer of all of the registered investment companies in the Gabelli/GAMCO Funds Complex  |
| Treasurer and Secretary  |                          |   |
| Age: 54                  |                          |   |
| <b>Carter W. Austin</b>  | Since 2000               | Vice President and/or Ombudsman of other closed-end funds within the Gabelli/GAMCO Funds complex; Vice President of Gabelli Funds, LLC since 1996   |
| Vice President           |                          |   |
| Age: 46                  |                          |   |
| <b>Molly A.F. Marion</b> | Since 2009               | Vice President and/or Ombudsman of other closed-end funds within the Gabelli/GAMCO Funds complex; Assistant Vice President of GAMCO Investors, Inc. since 2006  |
| Vice President and       |                          |   |
| Ombudsman                |                          |   |
| Age: 58                  |                          |   |

<sup>1</sup> Address: One Corporate Center, Rye, NY 10580-1422, unless otherwise noted.

## Edgar Filing: GABELLI EQUITY TRUST INC - Form N-CSR

- <sup>2</sup> The Fund's Board of Directors is divided into three classes, each class having a term of three years. Each year the term of office of one class expires and the successor or successors elected to such class serve for a three year term. The three year term for each class expires as follows:
- \* Term expires at the Fund's 2013 Annual Meeting of Shareholders or until their successors are duly elected and qualified.
  - \*\* Term expires at the Fund's 2014 Annual Meeting of Shareholders or until their successors are duly elected and qualified.
  - \*\*\* Term expires at the Fund's 2015 Annual Meeting of Shareholders or until their successors are duly elected and qualified.

Each officer will hold office for an indefinite term until the date he or she resigns or retires or until his or her successor is elected and qualified.

- <sup>3</sup> This column includes only directorships of companies required to report to the SEC under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, i.e., public companies, or other investment companies registered under the 1940 Act.
- <sup>4</sup> Interested person of the Fund as defined in the 1940 Act. Mr. Gabelli is considered an interested person because of his affiliation with Gabelli Funds, LLC which acts as the Fund's investment adviser.
- <sup>5</sup> Directors who are not interested persons are considered Independent Directors.
- <sup>6</sup> Represents holders of the Fund's Preferred Stock.

**THE GABELLI EQUITY TRUST INC.**  
**INCOME TAX INFORMATION (Unaudited)**

December 31, 2012

**Cash Dividends and Distributions**

|   | Payable Date | Record Date | Total Amount Paid Per Share (a) | Ordinary Investment Income (a) | Long-Term Capital Gains (a) | Return of Capital (b) | Dividend Reinvestment Price |
|---|--------------|-------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------|
| <b>Common Stock</b>   |              |             |                                 |                                |                             |                       |                             |
|   | 03/23/12     | 03/16/12    | \$0.14000                       | \$0.04150                      |                             | \$0.09850             | \$5.63000                   |
|   | 06/22/12     | 06/15/12    | 0.14000                         | 0.04150                        |                             | 0.09850               | 5.15000                     |
|   | 09/21/12     | 09/14/12    | 0.14000                         | 0.04150                        |                             | 0.09850               | 5.66000                     |
|   | 12/20/12     | 12/14/12    | 0.14000                         | 0.04150                        |                             | 0.09850               | 5.65000                     |
|   |              |             | \$0.56000                       | \$0.16600                      |                             | \$0.39400             |                             |
| <b>5.875% Series D Cumulative Preferred Stock</b>             |              |             |                                 |                                |                             |                       |                             |
|   | 03/26/12     | 03/19/12    | \$0.36719                       | \$0.36719                      |                             |                       |                             |
|   | 06/26/12     | 06/19/12    | 0.36719                         | 0.36719                        |                             |                       |                             |
|   | 09/26/12     | 09/19/12    | 0.36719                         | 0.36719                        |                             |                       |                             |
|   | 12/26/12     | 12/18/12    | 0.36719                         | 0.36719                        |                             |                       |                             |
|   |              |             | \$1.46875                       | \$1.46875                      |                             |                       |                             |
| <b>6.200% Series F Cumulative Preferred Stock</b>             |              |             |                                 |                                |                             |                       |                             |
|   | 03/26/12     | 03/19/12    | \$0.38750                       | \$0.38750                      |                             |                       |                             |
|   | 06/26/12     | 06/19/12    | 0.38750                         | 0.38750                        |                             |                       |                             |
|   | 06/29/12     | 06/22/12    | 0.12000(m)                      | 0.12000                        |                             |                       |                             |
|   | 09/26/12     | 09/19/12    | 0.38750                         | 0.38750                        |                             |                       |                             |
|   | 11/08/12     | 11/08/12    | 0.18080                         | 0.18080                        |                             |                       |                             |
|   |              |             | \$1.46330                       | \$1.46330                      |                             |                       |                             |
| <b>Series G Cumulative Preferred Stock</b>                    |              |             |                                 |                                |                             |                       |                             |
|   | 09/26/12     | 09/19/12    | \$0.22917                       | \$0.22917                      |                             |                       |                             |
|   | 12/26/12     | 12/18/12    | 0.37500                         | 0.37500                        |                             |                       |                             |
|   |              |             | \$0.60417                       | \$0.60417                      |                             |                       |                             |
| <b>5.000% Series H Cumulative Preferred Stock</b>             |              |             |                                 |                                |                             |                       |                             |
|   | 12/26/12     | 12/18/12    | \$0.30560                       | \$0.30560                      |                             |                       |                             |
| <b>Auction Rate Series C and E Cumulative Preferred Stock</b> |              |             |                                 |                                |                             |                       |                             |

Auction Rate Preferred Stocks pay dividends weekly based on the maximum rate. There were no 2012 distributions derived from long-term capital gains for the Auction Rate Series C and Series E Cumulative Preferred Stock.

A Form 1099-DIV has been mailed to all shareholders of record which sets forth specific amounts to be included in the 2012 tax returns. Ordinary income distributions include net investment income and realized net short-term capital gains, if any. Ordinary income is reported in box 1a of Form 1099-DIV. Capital gain distributions are reported in box 2a of Form 1099-DIV. There were no long-term gain distributions for the year ended December 31, 2012.

**Corporate Dividends Received Deduction, Qualified Dividend Income, and U.S. Government Securities Income**

In 2012, the Fund paid to common, 5.875% Series D, 6.200% Series F, Series G, and 5.000% Series H preferred shareholders ordinary income dividends totaling \$0.16600, \$1.46875, \$1.46330, \$0.60417, and \$0.30560 per share, respectively. The Fund paid weekly distributions to auction rate Series C and Series E preferred shareholders at varying rates throughout the year, including an ordinary income dividend totaling \$37.25000 and \$35.63000 per share, respectively, in 2012. For the year ended December 31, 2012, 46.73% of the ordinary income dividend qualified for the dividend received deduction available to corporations, and 63.43% of the ordinary income distribution was deemed qualified dividend

## Edgar Filing: GABELLI EQUITY TRUST INC - Form N-CSR

income and is reported in box 1b on Form 1099-DIV. The percentage of the ordinary income dividends paid by the Fund during 2012 derived from U.S. Government securities was 0.10%. Such income is exempt from state and local tax in all states. However, many states, including New York and California, allow a tax exemption for a portion of the income earned only if a mutual fund has invested at least 50% of its assets at the end of each quarter of the Fund's fiscal year in U.S. Government securities. The Fund did not meet this strict requirement in 2012. The percentage of U.S. Government securities held as of December 31, 2012 was 0.85%. For the year ended December 31, 2012, 0.36% of the ordinary income dividend was qualified interest income.

## THE GABELLI EQUITY TRUST INC.

## INCOME TAX INFORMATION (Unaudited) (Continued)

December 31, 2012

## Historical Distribution Summary

|   | Investment<br>Income | Short-Term<br>Capital<br>Gains (b) | Long-Term<br>Capital<br>Gains | Non-Taxable<br>Return of<br>Capital | Undistributed<br>Long-Term<br>Capital<br>Gains | Taxes Paid<br>on<br>Undistributed<br>Capital<br>Gains (c) | Total<br>Distributions<br>(a) | Adjustment<br>to Cost<br>Basis |
|---|----------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|---|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| <b>Common Stock</b>                               |                      |                                    |                               |                                     |  |   |                               |                                |
| 2012  | \$0.05800            | \$0.10800                          |                               | \$0.39400                           |  |   | \$0.56000                     | \$0.39400                      |
| 2011  | 0.01676              | 0.00430                            |                               | 0.54895                             |  |   | 0.57000                       | 0.54895                        |
| 2010  |                      |                                    |                               | 0.51000                             |  |   | 0.51000                       | 0.51000                        |
| 2009  | 0.00040              |                                    |                               | 0.71960                             |  |   | 0.72000                       | 0.71960                        |
| 2008  | 0.01000              |                                    |                               | 0.79000                             |  |   | 0.80000                       | 0.79000                        |
| 2007 (d)  | 0.10455              | 0.05323                            | \$0.52679                     | 0.63543                             |  |   | 1.32000                       | 0.63543                        |
| 2006  | 0.15690              | 0.06400                            | 0.65910                       |                                     |  |   | 0.88000                       |                                |
| 2005 (e)  | 0.08756              | 0.00672                            | 0.75572                       |                                     |  |   | 0.85000                       |                                |
| 2004  | 0.01930              | 0.04990                            | 0.73080                       |                                     |  |   | 0.80000                       |                                |
| 2003  | 0.01140              | 0.04480                            | 0.63380                       |                                     |  |   | 0.69000                       |                                |
| 2002  | 0.05180              | 0.01550                            | 0.88270                       |                                     |  |   | 0.95000                       |                                |
| 2001 (f)  | 0.06700              | 0.06400                            | 0.94900                       |                                     |  |   | 1.08000                       |                                |
| 2000  | 0.04070              | 0.15500                            | 1.11430                       |                                     |  |   | 1.31000                       |                                |
| 1999 (g)  | 0.03010              | 0.21378                            | 0.99561                       | 0.91176                             |  |   | 2.15125                       | 0.91176                        |
| 1998  | 0.06420              |                                    | 1.10080                       |                                     |  |   | 1.16500                       |                                |
| 1997  | 0.07610              | 0.00210                            | 0.93680                       | 0.02500                             |  |   | 1.04000                       | 0.02500                        |
| 1996  | 0.10480              |                                    | 0.78120                       | 0.11400                             |  |   | 1.00000                       | 0.11400                        |
| 1995 (h)  | 0.12890              |                                    | 0.49310                       | 0.37800                             |  |   | 1.00000                       | 0.37800                        |
| 1994 (i)  | 0.13536              | 0.06527                            | 0.30300                       | 1.38262                             |  |   | 1.88625                       | 1.38262                        |
| 1993 (j)  | 0.13050              | 0.02030                            | 0.72930                       | 0.22990                             |  |   | 1.11000                       | 0.22990                        |
| 1992 (k)  | 0.20530              | 0.04050                            | 0.29660                       | 0.51760                             |  |   | 1.06000                       | 0.51760                        |
| 1991 (l)  | 0.22590              | 0.03990                            | 0.14420                       | 0.68000                             |  |   | 1.09000                       | 0.68000                        |
| 1990  | 0.50470              |                                    | 0.22950                       | 0.44580                             |  |   | 1.18000                       | 0.44580                        |
| 1989  | 0.29100              | 0.35650                            | 0.66250                       |                                     | \$0.62880                                      | \$0.21380   | 1.31000                       | 0.41500+                       |
| 1988  | 0.14500              | 0.20900                            | 0.19600                       |                                     | 0.25130  | 0.08540   | 0.55000                       | 0.16590+                       |
| 1987  | 0.25600              | 0.49100                            | 0.33500                       |                                     |  |   | 1.08200                       |                                |
| <b>5.875% Series D Cumulative Preferred Stock</b> |                      |                                    |                               |                                     |  |   |                               |                                |
| 2012  | \$0.51428            | \$0.95447                          |                               |                                     |  |   | \$1.46875                     |                                |
| 2011  | 1.16910              | 0.29965                            |                               |                                     |  |   | 1.46875                       |                                |
| 2010  | 1.05723              |                                    |                               | \$0.41152                           |  |   | 1.46875                       | \$0.41152                      |
| 2009  | 1.46875              |                                    |                               |                                     |  |   | 1.46875                       |                                |
| 2008  | 1.46875              |                                    |                               |                                     |  |   | 1.46875                       |                                |
| 2007  | 0.22096              | 0.11474                            | \$1.13305                     |                                     |  |   | 1.46875                       |                                |
| 2006  | 0.26193              | 0.10688                            | 1.09994                       |                                     |  |   | 1.46875                       |                                |
| 2005  | 0.14405              | 0.01170                            | 1.31300                       |                                     |  |   | 1.46875                       |                                |
| 2004  | 0.03542              | 0.09159                            | 1.34174                       |                                     |  |   | 1.46875                       |                                |
| 2003  | 0.00535              | 0.02086                            | 0.29610                       |                                     |  |   | 0.32231                       |                                |
| <b>6.200% Series F Cumulative Preferred Stock</b> |                      |                                    |                               |                                     |  |   |                               |                                |
| 2012 (m)  | \$0.51240            | \$0.95090                          |                               |                                     |  |   | \$1.46330                     |                                |
| 2011  | 1.23360              | 0.31640                            |                               |                                     |  |   | 1.55000                       |                                |
| 2010  | 1.11560              |                                    |                               | \$0.43440                           |  |   | 1.55000                       | \$0.43440                      |
| 2009  | 1.55000              |                                    |                               |                                     |  |   | 1.55000                       |                                |
| 2008  | 1.55000              |                                    |                               |                                     |  |   | 1.55000                       |                                |
| 2007  | 0.23330              | 0.12100                            | \$1.19570                     |                                     |  |   | 1.55000                       |                                |
| 2006  | 0.03527              | 0.01480                            | 0.15229                       |                                     |  |   | 0.20236                       |                                |

Edgar Filing: GABELLI EQUITY TRUST INC - Form N-CSR

|   |           |           |           |
|---|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| <b>Series G Cumulative Preferred Stock</b>        |           |           |           |
| 2012  | \$0.21155 | \$0.39262 | \$0.60417 |
| <b>5.000% Series H Cumulative Preferred Stock</b> |           |           |           |
| 2012  | \$0.10700 | \$0.19860 | \$0.30560 |



**THE GABELLI EQUITY TRUST INC.**

**INCOME TAX INFORMATION (Unaudited) (Continued)**

December 31, 2012

**Historical Distribution Summary (Continued)**

|   | Investment<br>Income | Short-Term<br>Capital<br>Gains (b) | Long-Term<br>Capital<br>Gains | Non-Taxable<br>Return of<br>Capital | Undistributed<br>Long-Term<br>Capital<br>Gains | Taxes<br>Paid<br>on<br>Undistributed<br>Capital<br>Gains (c) | Total<br>Distributions<br>(a) | Adjustment<br>to Cost<br>Basis |
|---|----------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|--|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| <b>Auction Rate Series C Cumulative Preferred Stock</b> |                      |                                    |                               |                                     |  |  |                               |                                |
| 2012  | \$ 13.04312          | \$ 24.20688                        |                               |                                     |  |  | \$ 37.25000                   |                                |
| 2011  | 29.61842             | 7.59158                            |                               |                                     |  |  | 37.21000                      |                                |
| 2010  | 47.84624             |                                    |                               | \$ 18.62376                         |  |  | 66.47000                      | \$ 18.62376                    |
| 2009  | 70.60000             |                                    |                               |                                     |  |  | 70.60000                      |                                |
| 2008  | 760.66000            |                                    |                               |                                     |  |  | 760.66000                     |                                |
| 2007  | 203.92150            | 105.89030                          | \$ 1,045.88200                |                                     |  |  | 1,355.50000                   |                                |
| 2006  | 219.92983            | 89.73249                           | 923.57769                     |                                     |  |  | 1,233.24000                   |                                |
| 2005  | 83.01020             | 6.73650                            | 756.60330                     |                                     |  |  | 846.35000                     |                                |
| 2004  | 9.15570              | 23.67550                           | 346.83810                     |                                     |  |  | 379.66930                     |                                |
| 2003  | 5.42000              | 21.05000                           | 298.41000                     |                                     |  |  | 324.88000                     |                                |
| 2002  | 12.28350             | 3.71450                            | 209.89200                     |                                     |  |  | 225.89000                     |                                |
| <b>Auction Rate Series E Cumulative Preferred Stock</b> |                      |                                    |                               |                                     |  |  |                               |                                |
| 2012  | \$ 12.47587          | \$ 23.15413                        |                               |                                     |  |  | \$ 35.63000                   |                                |
| 2011  | 27.47723             | 7.04277                            |                               |                                     |  |  | 34.52000                      |                                |
| 2010  | 48.73162             |                                    |                               | \$ 18.96838                         |  |  | 67.70000                      | \$ 18.96838                    |
| 2009  | 65.24000             |                                    |                               |                                     |  |  | 65.24000                      |                                |
| 2008  | 783.29000            |                                    |                               |                                     |  |  | 783.29000                     |                                |
| 2007  | 199.17211            | 103.42412                          | \$ 1,021.33377                |                                     |  |  | 1,323.93000                   |                                |
| 2006  | 218.22316            | 89.03616                           | 916.41068                     |                                     |  |  | 1,223.67000                   |                                |
| 2005  | 82.44330             | 6.69050                            | 751.43620                     |                                     |  |  | 840.57000                     |                                |
| 2004  | 9.30280              | 24.05620                           | 352.41090                     |                                     |  |  | 385.76000                     |                                |
| 2003  | 1.07000              | 4.18000                            | 59.32000                      |                                     |  |  | 64.57000                      |                                |

(a) Total amounts may differ due to rounding.

(b) Taxable as ordinary income.

(c) Net Asset Value was reduced by this amount on the last business day of the year. Non-taxable.

(d) On June 28, 2007, the Fund distributed shares of The Gabelli Healthcare & Wellness<sup>Rx</sup> Trust valued at \$8.40 per share.

(e) On September 21, 2005, the Fund also distributed Rights equivalent to \$0.21 per share based upon full subscription of all issued shares.

(f) On January 10, 2001, the Fund also distributed Rights equivalent to \$0.56 per share based upon full subscription of all issued shares.

(g) On July 9, 1999, the Fund also distributed shares of The Gabelli Utility Trust valued at \$9.8125 per share.

(h) On October 19, 1995, the Fund also distributed Rights equivalent to \$0.37 per share based upon full subscription of all issued shares.

(i) On November 15, 1994, the Fund also distributed shares of The Gabelli Global Multimedia Trust Inc. valued at \$8.0625 per share.

(j) On July 14, 1993, the Fund also distributed Rights equivalent to \$0.50 per share based upon full subscription of all issued shares.

(k) On September 28, 1992, the Fund also distributed Rights equivalent to \$0.36 per share based upon full subscription of all issued shares.

(l) On October 21, 1991, the Fund also distributed Rights equivalent to \$0.42 per share based upon full subscription of all issued shares.

(m) On June 29, 2012, the Fund also distributed Rights equivalent to \$0.12 per share based upon full subscription of all issued shares.

- Decrease in cost basis

+ Increase in cost basis

## Edgar Filing: GABELLI EQUITY TRUST INC - Form N-CSR

All designations are based on financial information available as of the date of this annual report and, accordingly, are subject to change. For each item, it is the intention of the Fund to designate the maximum amount permitted under the Internal Revenue Code and the regulations thereunder.

**AUTOMATIC DIVIDEND REINVESTMENT  
AND VOLUNTARY CASH PURCHASE PLANS**

**Enrollment in the Plan**

It is the policy of The Gabelli Equity Trust Inc. (the Fund) to automatically reinvest dividends payable to common shareholders. As a registered shareholder, you automatically become a participant in the Fund's Automatic Dividend Reinvestment Plan (the Plan). The Plan authorizes the Fund to credit shares of common stock to participants upon an income dividend or a capital gains distribution regardless of whether the shares are trading at a discount or a premium to net asset value. All distributions to shareholders whose shares are registered in their own names will be automatically reinvested pursuant to the Plan in additional shares of the Fund. Plan participants may send their stock certificates to Computershare Trust Company, N.A. (Computershare) to be held in their dividend reinvestment account. Registered shareholders wishing to receive their distribution in cash must submit this request in writing to:

The Gabelli Equity Trust Inc.

c/o Computershare

P.O. Box 43010

Providence, RI 02940-3010

Shareholders requesting this cash election must include the shareholder's name and address as they appear on the share certificate. Shareholders with additional questions regarding the Plan or requesting a copy of the terms of the Plan may contact Computershare at (800) 336-6983.

If your shares are held in the name of a broker, bank, or nominee, you should contact such institution. If such institution is not participating in the Plan, your account will be credited with a cash dividend. In order to participate in the Plan through such institution, it may be necessary for you to have your shares taken out of street name and re-registered in your own name. Once registered in your own name, your dividends will be automatically reinvested. Certain brokers participate in the Plan. Shareholders holding shares in street name at participating institutions will have dividends automatically reinvested. Shareholders wishing a cash dividend at such institution must contact their broker to make this change.

The number of shares of common stock distributed to participants in the Plan in lieu of cash dividends is determined in the following manner. Under the Plan, whenever the market price of the Fund's common stock is equal to or exceeds net asset value at the time shares are valued for purposes of determining the number of shares equivalent to the cash dividends or capital gains distribution, participants are issued shares of common stock valued at the greater of (i) the net asset value as most recently determined or (ii) 95% of the then current market price of the Fund's common stock. The valuation date is the dividend or distribution payment date or, if that date is not a New York Stock Exchange (NYSE) trading day, the next trading day. If the net asset value of the common stock at the time of valuation exceeds the market price of the common stock, participants will receive shares from the Fund valued at market price. If the Fund should declare a dividend or capital gains distribution payable only in cash, Computershare will buy common stock in the open market, or on the NYSE or elsewhere, for the participants' accounts, except that Computershare will endeavor to terminate purchases in the open market and cause the Fund to issue shares at net asset value if, following the commencement of such purchases, the market value of the common stock exceeds the then current net asset value.

The automatic reinvestment of dividends and capital gains distributions will not relieve participants of any income tax which may be payable on such distributions. A participant in the Plan will be treated for federal income tax purposes as having received, on a dividend payment date, a dividend or distribution in an amount equal to the cash the participant could have received instead of shares.

**Voluntary Cash Purchase Plan**

The Voluntary Cash Purchase Plan is yet another vehicle for our shareholders to increase their investment in the Fund. In order to participate in the Voluntary Cash Purchase Plan, shareholders must have their shares registered in their own name.

Participants in the Voluntary Cash Purchase Plan have the option of making additional cash payments to Computershare for investments in the Fund's shares at the then current market price. Shareholders may send an amount from \$250 to \$10,000. Computershare will use these funds to purchase shares in the open market on or about the 1st and 15th of each month. Computershare will charge each shareholder who participates \$0.75, plus a pro rata share of the brokerage commissions. Brokerage charges for such purchases are expected to be less than the usual brokerage charge for such transactions. It is suggested that any voluntary cash payments be sent to Computershare, P.O. Box 43010, Providence, RI 02940 3010 such that Computershare receives such payments approximately 10 days before the 1st and 15th of the month. Funds not received at

## Edgar Filing: GABELLI EQUITY TRUST INC - Form N-CSR

least five days before the investment date shall be held for investment until the next purchase date. A payment may be withdrawn without charge if notice is received by Computershare at least 48 hours before such payment is to be invested.

Shareholders wishing to liquidate shares held at Computershare must do so in writing or by telephone. Please submit your request to the above mentioned address or telephone number. Include in your request your name, address, and account number. The cost to liquidate shares is \$2.50 per transaction as well as the brokerage commission incurred. Brokerage charges are expected to be less than the usual brokerage charge for such transactions.

For more information regarding the Dividend Reinvestment Plan and Voluntary Cash Purchase Plan, brochures are available by calling (914) 921-5070 or by writing directly to the Fund.

The Fund reserves the right to amend or terminate the Plan as applied to any voluntary cash payments made and any dividend or distribution paid subsequent to written notice of the change sent to the members of the Plan at least 90 days before the record date for such dividend or distribution. The Plan also may be amended or terminated by Computershare on at least 90 days written notice to participants in the Plan.

**THE GABELLI EQUITY TRUST INC.**

**One Corporate Center,**

**Rye, NY 10580-1422**

**Investment Objective:**

The Gabelli Equity Trust Inc. is a non-diversified, closed-end management investment company whose primary objective is long-term growth of capital, with income as a secondary objective.

**Stock Exchange Listing**

|                     |             |           |           |
|---------------------|-------------|-----------|-----------|
|                     | Common      |           |           |
| NYSE Symbol:        | GAB         |           |           |
| Shares Outstanding: | 187,715,980 |           |           |
|                     | Series D    | Series G  | Series H  |
|                     | Preferred   | Preferred | Preferred |
| NYSE Symbol:        | GAB PrD     | GAB PrG   | GAB PrH   |
| Shares Outstanding: | 2,363,860   | 2,816,524 | 4,200,000 |

We have separated the portfolio managers' commentary from the financial statements and investment portfolio due to corporate governance regulations stipulated by the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002. We have done this to ensure that the content of the portfolio managers' commentary is unrestricted. The financial statements and investment portfolio are mailed separately from the commentary. Both the commentary and the financial statements, including the portfolio of investments, will be available on our website at [www.gabelli.com](http://www.gabelli.com).

The Net Asset Value per share appears in the Publicly Traded Funds column, under the heading "General Equity Funds," in Monday's *The Wall Street Journal*. It is also listed in *Barron's Mutual Funds/Closed End Funds* section under the heading "General Equity Funds."

The Net Asset Value per share may be obtained each day by calling (914) 921-5070 or visiting [www.gabelli.com](http://www.gabelli.com).

The NASDAQ symbol for the Net Asset Value is XGABX.

Notice is hereby given in accordance with Section 23(c) of the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended, that the Fund may, from time to time, purchase its common shares in the open market when the Fund's shares are trading at a discount of 10% or more from the net asset value of the shares. The Fund may also, from time to time, purchase its preferred shares in the open market when the preferred shares are trading at a discount to the liquidation value.

THE GABELLI EQUITY TRUST INC.

One Corporate Center,

Rye, NY 10580-1422

t 800-GABELLI (800-422-3554)

f 914-921-5118

e info@gabelli.com

GABELLI.COM

DIRECTORS

Mario J. Gabelli, CFA  
*Chairman &  
Chief Executive Officer,  
GAMCO Investors, Inc.*

Anthony J. Colavita  
*President,  
Anthony J. Colavita, P.C.*

James P. Conn  
*Former Managing Director  
& Chief Investment Officer,  
Financial Security  
Assurance Holdings Ltd.*

Frank J. Fahrenkopf, Jr.  
*President &  
Chief Executive Officer,  
American Gaming  
Association*

Arthur V. Ferrara  
*Former Chairman & Chief  
Executive Officer,  
Guardian Life Insurance  
Company of America*

William F. Heitmann  
*Former Senior Vice  
President of Finance,  
Verizon Communications,  
Inc.*

Anthony R. Pustorino  
*Certified Public  
Accountant,  
Professor Emeritus,  
Pace University*

Salvatore J. Zizza  
*Chairman,  
Zizza & Associates Corp.*

OFFICERS

Bruce N. Alpert  
*President &  
Acting Chief Compliance  
Officer*

Agnes Mullady  
*Treasurer & Secretary*

Carter W. Austin  
*Vice President*

Molly A.F. Marion  
*Vice President &  
Ombudsman*

INVESTMENT ADVISER

Gabelli Funds, LLC  
One Corporate Center  
Rye, New York 10580-1422

CUSTODIAN

The Bank of New York  
Mellon

COUNSEL

Willkie Farr & Gallagher  
LLP

TRANSFER AGENT AND  
REGISTRAR

Computershare Trust  
Company, N.A.

GAB Q4/2012

**Item 2. Code of Ethics.**

- (a) The registrant, as of the end of the period covered by this report, has adopted a code of ethics that applies to the registrant's principal executive officer, principal financial officer, principal accounting officer or controller, or persons performing similar functions, regardless of whether these individuals are employed by the registrant or a third party.
  
- (c) There have been no amendments, during the period covered by this report, to a provision of the code of ethics that applies to the registrant's principal executive officer, principal financial officer, principal accounting officer or controller, or persons performing similar functions, regardless of whether these individuals are employed by the registrant or a third party, and that relates to any element of the code of ethics description.
  
- (d) The registrant has not granted any waivers, including an implicit waiver, from a provision of the code of ethics that applies to the registrant's principal executive officer, principal financial officer, principal accounting officer or controller, or persons performing similar functions, regardless of whether these individuals are employed by the registrant or a third party, that relates to one or more of the items set forth in paragraph (b) of this item's instructions.

**Item 3. Audit Committee Financial Expert.**

As of the end of the period covered by the report, the registrant's Board of Directors has determined that Anthony R. Pustorino is qualified to serve as an audit committee financial expert serving on its audit committee and that he is independent, as defined by Item 3 of Form N-CSR.

**Item 4. Principal Accountant Fees and Services.**

Audit Fees

- (a) The aggregate fees billed for each of the last two fiscal years for professional services rendered by the principal accountant for the audit of the registrant's annual financial statements or services that are normally provided by the accountant in connection with statutory and regulatory filings or engagements for those fiscal years are \$45,427 for 2011 and \$45,427 for 2012.

Audit-Related Fees

- (b) The aggregate fees billed in each of the last two fiscal years for assurance and related services by the principal accountant that are reasonably related to the performance of the audit of the registrant's financial statements and are not reported under paragraph (a) of this Item are \$20,963 for 2011 and \$37,500 for 2012. Audit-related fees represent services provided in the preparation of Preferred Shares Reports.



Tax Fees

- (c) The aggregate fees billed in each of the last two fiscal years for professional services rendered by the principal accountant for tax compliance, tax advice, and tax planning are \$4,200 for 2011 and \$4,200 for 2012. Tax fees represent tax compliance services provided in connection with the review of the Registrant's tax returns.

All Other Fees

- (d) The aggregate fees billed in each of the last two fiscal years for products and services provided by the principal accountant, other than the services reported in paragraphs (a) through (c) of this Item are \$0 for 2011 and \$0 for 2012.

- (e)(1) Disclose the audit committee's pre-approval policies and procedures described in paragraph (c)(7) of Rule 2-01 of Regulation S-X.

Pre-Approval Policies and Procedures. The Audit Committee ( Committee ) of the registrant is responsible for pre-approving (i) all audit and permissible non-audit services to be provided by the independent registered public accounting firm to the registrant and (ii) all permissible non-audit services to be provided by the independent registered public accounting firm to the Adviser, Gabelli Funds, LLC, and any affiliate of Gabelli Funds, LLC ( Gabelli ) that provides services to the registrant (a Covered Services Provider ) if the independent registered public accounting firm's engagement related directly to the operations and financial reporting of the registrant. The Committee may delegate its responsibility to pre-approve any such audit and permissible non-audit services to the Chairperson of the Committee, and the Chairperson must report to the Committee, at its next regularly scheduled meeting after the Chairperson's pre-approval of such services, his or her decision(s). The Committee may also establish detailed pre-approval policies and procedures for pre-approval of such services in accordance with applicable laws, including the delegation of some or all of the Committee's pre-approval responsibilities to the other persons (other than Gabelli or the registrant's officers). Pre-approval by the Committee of any permissible non-audit services is not required so long as: (i) the permissible non-audit services were not recognized by the registrant at the time of the engagement to be non-audit services; and (ii) such services are promptly brought to the attention of the Committee and approved by the Committee or Chairperson prior to the completion of the audit.

- (e)(2) The percentage of services described in each of paragraphs (b) through (d) of this Item that were approved by the audit committee pursuant to paragraph (c)(7)(i)(C) of Rule 2-01 of Regulation S-X are as follows:

(b) 100%

(c) 100%

(d) N/A

(f)

The percentage of hours expended on the principal accountant's engagement to audit the registrant's financial statements for the most recent fiscal year that were attributed to work performed by persons other than the principal accountant's full-time, permanent employees was 0%.

- (g) The aggregate non-audit fees billed by the registrant's accountant for services rendered to the registrant, and rendered to the registrant's investment adviser (not including any sub-adviser whose role is primarily portfolio management and is subcontracted with or overseen by another investment adviser), and any entity controlling, controlled by, or under common control with the adviser that provides ongoing services to the registrant for each of the last two fiscal years of the registrant was \$0 for 2011 and \$0 for 2012.
  
- (h) The registrant's audit committee of the board of directors has considered whether the provision of non-audit services that were rendered to the registrant's investment adviser (not including any sub-adviser whose role is primarily portfolio management and is subcontracted with or overseen by another investment adviser), and any entity controlling, controlled by, or under common control with the investment adviser that provides ongoing services to the registrant that were not pre-approved pursuant to paragraph (c)(7)(ii) of Rule 2-01 of Regulation S-X is compatible with maintaining the principal accountant's independence.

**Item 5. Audit Committee of Listed registrants.**

The registrant has a separately designated audit committee consisting of the following members: Anthony J. Colavita, Anthony R Pustorino and Salvatore J. Zizza.

**Item 6. Investments.**

- (a) Schedule of Investments in securities of unaffiliated issuers as of the close of the reporting period is included as part of the report to shareholders filed under Item 1 of this form.
  
- (b) Not applicable.

**Item 7. Disclosure of Proxy Voting Policies and Procedures for Closed-End Management Investment Companies.**

The Proxy Voting Policies are attached herewith.

### **The Voting of Proxies on Behalf of Clients**

Rules 204(4)-2 and 204-2 under the Investment Advisers Act of 1940 and Rule 30b1-4 under the Investment Company Act of 1940 require investment advisers to adopt written policies and procedures governing the voting of proxies on behalf of their clients.

These procedures will be used by GAMCO Asset Management Inc., Gabelli Funds, LLC, Gabelli Securities, Inc., and Teton Advisors, Inc. (collectively, the Advisers ) to determine how to vote proxies relating to portfolio securities held by their clients, including the procedures that the Advisers use when a vote presents a conflict between the interests of the shareholders of an investment company managed by one of the Advisers, on the one hand, and those of the Advisers; the principal underwriter; or any affiliated person of the investment company, the Advisers, or the principal underwriter. These procedures will not apply where the Advisers do not have voting discretion or where the Advisers have agreed to with a client to vote the client's proxies in accordance with specific guidelines or procedures supplied by the client (to the extent permitted by ERISA).

#### **I. Proxy Voting Committee**

The Proxy Voting Committee was originally formed in April 1989 for the purpose of formulating guidelines and reviewing proxy statements within the parameters set by the substantive proxy voting guidelines originally published in 1988 and updated periodically, a copy of which are appended as Exhibit A. The Committee will include representatives of Research, Administration, Legal, and the Advisers. Additional or replacement members of the Committee will be nominated by the Chairman and voted upon by the entire Committee.

Meetings are held as needed basis to form views on the manner in which the Advisers should vote proxies on behalf of their clients.

In general, the Director of Proxy Voting Services, using the Proxy Guidelines, recommendations of Institutional Shareholder Corporate Governance Service ( ISS ), other third-party services and the analysts of Gabelli & Company, Inc., will determine how to vote on each issue. For non-controversial matters, the Director of Proxy Voting Services may vote the proxy if the vote is (1) consistent with the recommendations of the issuer's Board of Directors and not contrary to the Proxy Guidelines; (2) consistent with the recommendations of the issuer's Board of Directors and is a non-controversial issue not covered by the Proxy Guidelines; or (3) the vote is contrary to the recommendations of the Board of Directors but is consistent with the Proxy Guidelines. In those instances, the Director of Proxy Voting Services or the Chairman of the Committee may sign and date the proxy statement indicating how each issue will be voted.

All matters identified by the Chairman of the Committee, the Director of Proxy Voting Services or the Legal Department as controversial, taking into account the

recommendations of ISS or other third party services and the analysts of Gabelli & Company, Inc., will be presented to the Proxy Voting Committee. If the Chairman of the Committee, the Director of Proxy Voting Services or the Legal Department has identified the matter as one that (1) is controversial; (2) would benefit from deliberation by the Proxy Voting Committee; or (3) may give rise to a conflict of interest between the Advisers and their clients, the Chairman of the Committee will initially determine what vote to recommend that the Advisers should cast and the matter will go before the Committee.

**A. Conflicts of Interest.**

The Advisers have implemented these proxy voting procedures in order to prevent conflicts of interest from influencing their proxy voting decisions. By following the Proxy Guidelines, as well as the recommendations of ISS, other third-party services and the analysts of Gabelli & Company, the Advisers are able to avoid, wherever possible, the influence of potential conflicts of interest. Nevertheless, circumstances may arise in which one or more of the Advisers are faced with a conflict of interest or the appearance of a conflict of interest in connection with its vote. In general, a conflict of interest may arise when an Adviser knowingly does business with an issuer, and may appear to have a material conflict between its own interests and the interests of the shareholders of an investment company managed by one of the Advisers regarding how the proxy is to be voted. A conflict also may exist when an Adviser has actual knowledge of a material business arrangement between an issuer and an affiliate of the Adviser.

In practical terms, a conflict of interest may arise, for example, when a proxy is voted for a company that is a client of one of the Advisers, such as GAMCO Asset Management Inc. A conflict also may arise when a client of one of the Advisers has made a shareholder proposal in a proxy to be voted upon by one or more of the Advisers. The Director of Proxy Voting Services, together with the Legal Department, will scrutinize all proxies for these or other situations that may give rise to a conflict of interest with respect to the voting of proxies.

**B. Operation of Proxy Voting Committee**

For matters submitted to the Committee, each member of the Committee will receive, prior to the meeting, a copy of the proxy statement, any relevant third party research, a summary of any views provided by the Chief Investment Officer and any recommendations by Gabelli & Company, Inc. analysts. The Chief Investment Officer or the Gabelli & Company, Inc. analysts may be invited to present their viewpoints. If the Director of Proxy Voting Services or the Legal Department believe that the matter before the committee is one with respect to which a conflict of interest may exist between the Advisers and their clients, counsel will

provide an opinion to the Committee concerning the conflict. If the matter is one in which the interests of the clients of one or more of Advisers may diverge, counsel will so advise and the Committee may make different recommendations as to different clients. For any matters where the recommendation may trigger appraisal rights, counsel will provide an opinion concerning the likely risks and merits of such an appraisal action.

Each matter submitted to the Committee will be determined by the vote of a majority of the members present at the meeting. Should the vote concerning one or more recommendations be tied in a vote of the Committee, the Chairman of the Committee will cast the deciding vote. The Committee will notify the proxy department of its decisions and the proxies will be voted accordingly.

Although the Proxy Guidelines express the normal preferences for the voting of any shares not covered by a contrary investment guideline provided by the client, the Committee is not bound by the preferences set forth in the Proxy Guidelines and will review each matter on its own merits. Written minutes of all Proxy Voting Committee meetings will be maintained. The Advisers subscribe to ISS, which supplies current information on companies, matters being voted on, regulations, trends in proxy voting and information on corporate governance issues.

If the vote cast either by the analyst or as a result of the deliberations of the Proxy Voting Committee runs contrary to the recommendation of the Board of Directors of the issuer, the matter will be referred to legal counsel to determine whether an amendment to the most recently filed Schedule 13D is appropriate.

## **II. Social Issues and Other Client Guidelines**

If a client has provided special instructions relating to the voting of proxies, they should be noted in the client's account file and forwarded to the proxy department. This is the responsibility of the investment professional or sales assistant for the client. In accordance with Department of Labor guidelines, the Advisers' policy is to vote on behalf of ERISA accounts in the best interest of the plan participants with regard to social issues that carry an economic impact. Where an account is not governed by ERISA, the Advisers will vote shares held on behalf of the client in a manner consistent with any individual investment/voting guidelines provided by the client. Otherwise the Advisers will abstain with respect to those shares.

## **III. Client Retention of Voting Rights**

If a client chooses to retain the right to vote proxies or if there is any change in voting authority, the following should be notified by the investment professional or sales assistant for the client.

- Operations

- Legal Department

- Proxy Department

- Investment professional assigned to the account

In the event that the Board of Directors (or a Committee thereof) of one or more of the investment companies managed by one of the Advisers has retained direct voting control over any security, the Proxy Voting Department will provide each Board Member (or Committee member) with a copy of the proxy statement together with any other relevant information including recommendations of ISS or other third-party services.

#### **IV. Voting Records**

The Proxy Voting Department will retain a record of matters voted upon by the Advisers for their clients. The Advisers will supply information on how an account voted its proxies upon request.

A letter is sent to the custodians for all clients for which the Advisers have voting responsibility instructing them to forward all proxy materials to:

[Adviser name]

Attn: Proxy Voting Department

One Corporate Center

Rye, New York 10580-1433

The sales assistant sends the letters to the custodians along with the trading/DTC instructions. Proxy voting records will be retained in compliance with Rule 204-2 under the Investment Advisers Act.

#### **V. Voting Procedures**

1. Custodian banks, outside brokerage firms and clearing firms are responsible for forwarding proxies directly to the Advisers.

Proxies are received in one of two forms:

Shareholder Vote Authorization Forms ( VAFs ) - Issued by Broadridge Financial Solutions, Inc. ( Broadridge ) VAFs must be voted through the issuing institution causing a time lag. Broadridge is an outside service contracted by the various institutions to issue proxy materials.

Proxy cards which may be voted directly.

2. Upon receipt of the proxy, the number of shares each form represents is logged into the proxy system according to security.

3. In the case of a discrepancy such as an incorrect number of shares, an improperly signed or dated card, wrong class of security, etc., the issuing custodian is notified by phone. A corrected proxy is requested. Any arrangements

are made to insure that a



proper proxy is received in time to be voted (overnight delivery, fax, etc.). When securities are out on loan on record date, the custodian is requested to supply written verification.

4. Upon receipt of instructions from the proxy committee (see Administrative), the votes are cast and recorded for each account on an individual basis.

Records have been maintained on the Proxy Edge system. The system is backed up regularly.

Proxy Edge records include:

Security Name and Cusip Number

Date and Type of Meeting (Annual, Special, Contest)

Client Name

Adviser or Fund Account Number

Directors Recommendation

How GAMCO voted for the client on each issue

5. VAFs are kept alphabetically by security. Records for the current proxy season are located in the Proxy Voting Department office. In preparation for the upcoming season, files are transferred to an offsite storage facility during January/February.

6. Shareholder Vote Authorization Forms issued by Broadridge are always sent directly to a specific individual at Broadridge.

7. If a proxy card or VAF is received too late to be voted in the conventional matter, every attempt is made to vote on one of the following manners:

VAFs can be faxed to Broadridge up until the time of the meeting. This is followed up by mailing the original form.

When a solicitor has been retained, the solicitor is called. At the solicitor's direction, the proxy is faxed.

8. In the case of a proxy contest, records are maintained for each opposing entity.

9. Voting in Person

a) At times it may be necessary to vote the shares in person. In this case, a legal proxy is obtained in the following manner:

Banks and brokerage firms using the services at Broadridge:

The back of the VAF is stamped indicating that we wish to vote in person. The forms are then sent overnight to Broadridge. Broadridge issues individual legal proxies and

sends them back via overnight (or the Adviser can pay messenger charges). A lead-time of at least two weeks prior to the meeting is needed to do this. Alternatively, the procedures detailed below for banks not using Broadridge may be implemented.

Banks and brokerage firms issuing proxies directly:

The bank is called and/or faxed and a legal proxy is requested.

All legal proxies should appoint:

**Representative of [Adviser name] with full power of substitution.**

b) The legal proxies are given to the person attending the meeting along with the following supplemental material:

A limited Power of Attorney appointing the attendee an Adviser representative.

A list of all shares being voted by custodian only. Client names and account numbers are not included. This list must be presented, along with the proxies, to the Inspectors of Elections and/or tabulator at least one-half hour prior to the scheduled start of the meeting. The tabulator must qualify the votes (i.e. determine if the vote have previously been cast, if the votes have been rescinded, etc. vote have previously been cast, etc.).

A sample ERISA and Individual contract.

A sample of the annual authorization to vote proxies form.

A copy of our most recent Schedule 13D filing (if applicable).

**Appendix A**

**Proxy Guidelines**

**PROXY VOTING GUIDELINES**

***GENERAL POLICY STATEMENT***

It is the policy of **GAMCO Investors, Inc.** to vote in the best economic interests of our clients. As we state in our Magna Carta of Shareholders Rights, established in May 1988, we are neither *for* nor *against* management. We are for shareholders.

At our first proxy committee meeting in 1989, it was decided that each proxy statement should be evaluated on its own merits within the framework first established by our Magna Carta of Shareholders Rights. The attached guidelines serve to enhance that broad framework.

We do not consider any issue routine. We take into consideration all of our research on the company, its directors, and their short and long-term goals for the company. In cases where issues that we generally do not approve of are combined with other issues, the negative aspects of the issues will be factored into the evaluation of the overall proposals but will not necessitate a vote in opposition to the overall proposals.

## ***BOARD OF DIRECTORS***

The advisers do not consider the election of the Board of Directors a routine issue. Each slate of directors is evaluated on a case-by-case basis.

Factors taken into consideration include:

Historical responsiveness to shareholders  
This may include such areas as:

-Paying greenmail

-Failure to adopt shareholder resolutions receiving a majority of shareholder votes

Qualifications  
Nominating committee in place  
Number of outside directors on the board  
Attendance at meetings  
Overall performance

## ***SELECTION OF AUDITORS***

In general, we support the Board of Directors' recommendation for auditors.

## ***BLANK CHECK PREFERRED STOCK***

We oppose the issuance of blank check preferred stock.

Blank check preferred stock allows the company to issue stock and establish dividends, voting rights, etc. without further shareholder approval.

## ***CLASSIFIED BOARD***

A classified board is one where the directors are divided into classes with overlapping terms. A different class is elected at each annual meeting.

While a classified board promotes continuity of directors facilitating long range planning, we feel directors should be accountable to shareholders on an annual basis. We will look at this proposal on a case-by-case basis taking into consideration the board's historical responsiveness to the rights of shareholders.

Where a classified board is in place we will generally not support attempts to change to an annually elected board.

When an annually elected board is in place, we generally will not support attempts to classify the board.

### ***INCREASE AUTHORIZED COMMON STOCK***

The request to increase the amount of outstanding shares is considered on a case-by-case basis.

Factors taken into consideration include:

Future use of additional shares

-Stock split

-Stock option or other executive compensation plan

-Finance growth of company/strengthen balance sheet

-Aid in restructuring

-Improve credit rating

-Implement a poison pill or other takeover defense

Amount of stock currently authorized but not yet issued or reserved for stock option plans

Amount of additional stock to be authorized and its dilutive effect

We will support this proposal if a detailed and verifiable plan for the use of the additional shares is contained in the proxy statement.

### ***CONFIDENTIAL BALLOT***

We support the idea that a shareholder's identity and vote should be treated with confidentiality.

However, we look at this issue on a case-by-case basis.

In order to promote confidentiality in the voting process, we endorse the use of independent Inspectors of Election.

## ***CUMULATIVE VOTING***

In general, we support cumulative voting.

Cumulative voting is a process by which a shareholder may multiply the number of directors being elected by the number of shares held on record date and cast the total number for one candidate or allocate the voting among two or more candidates.

Where cumulative voting is in place, we will vote against any proposal to rescind this shareholder right.

Cumulative voting may result in a minority block of stock gaining representation on the board. When a proposal is made to institute cumulative voting, the proposal will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis. While we feel that each board member should represent all shareholders, cumulative voting provides minority shareholders an opportunity to have their views represented.

## ***DIRECTOR LIABILITY AND INDEMNIFICATION***

We support efforts to attract the best possible directors by limiting the liability and increasing the indemnification of directors, except in the case of insider dealing.

## ***EQUAL ACCESS TO THE PROXY***

The SEC's rules provide for shareholder resolutions. However, the resolutions are limited in scope and there is a 500 word limit on proponents' written arguments. Management has no such limitations. While we support equal access to the proxy, we would look at such variables as length of time required to respond, percentage of ownership, etc.

## ***FAIR PRICE PROVISIONS***

Charter provisions requiring a bidder to pay all shareholders a fair price are intended to prevent two-tier tender offers that may be abusive. Typically, these provisions do not apply to board-approved transactions.



We support fair price provisions because we feel all shareholders should be entitled to receive the same benefits.

Reviewed on a case-by-case basis.

### ***GOLDEN PARACHUTES***

Golden parachutes are severance payments to top executives who are terminated or demoted after a takeover.

We support any proposal that would assure management of its own welfare so that they may continue to make decisions in the best interest of the company and shareholders even if the decision results in them losing their job. We do not, however, support excessive golden parachutes. Therefore, each proposal will be decided on a case-by-case basis.

*Note: Congress has imposed a tax on any parachute that is more than three times the executive's average annual compensation.*

### ***ANTI-GREENMAIL PROPOSALS***

We do not support greenmail. An offer extended to one shareholder should be extended to all shareholders equally across the board.

### ***LIMIT SHAREHOLDERS' RIGHTS TO CALL SPECIAL MEETINGS***

We support the right of shareholders to call a special meeting.

### ***CONSIDERATION OF NONFINANCIAL EFFECTS OF A MERGER***

This proposal releases the directors from only looking at the financial effects of a merger and allows them the opportunity to consider the merger's effects on employees, the community, and consumers.

As a fiduciary, we are obligated to vote in the best economic interests of our clients. In general, this proposal does not allow us to do that. Therefore, we generally cannot support this proposal.

Reviewed on a case-by-case basis.

### ***MERGERS, BUYOUTS, SPIN-OFFS, RESTRUCTURINGS***

Each of the above is considered on a case-by-case basis. According to the Department of Labor, we are not required to vote for a proposal simply because the offering price is at a premium to the current market price. We may take into consideration the long term interests of the shareholders.

### ***MILITARY ISSUES***

Shareholder proposals regarding military production must be evaluated on a purely economic set of criteria for our **ERISA** clients. As such, decisions will be made on a case-by-case basis.

In voting on this proposal for our non-**ERISA** clients, we will vote according to the client's direction when applicable. Where no direction has been given, we will vote in the best economic interests of our clients. It is not our duty to impose our social judgment on others.

### ***NORTHERN IRELAND***

Shareholder proposals requesting the signing of the MacBride principles for the purpose of countering the discrimination of Catholics in hiring practices must be evaluated on a purely economic set of criteria for our **ERISA** clients. As such, decisions will be made on a case-by-case basis.

In voting on this proposal for our non-**ERISA** clients, we will vote according to client direction when applicable. Where no direction has been given, we will vote in the best economic interests of our clients. It is not our duty to impose our social judgment on others.

## ***OPT OUT OF STATE ANTI-TAKEOVER LAW***

This shareholder proposal requests that a company opt out of the coverage of the state's takeover statutes. Example: Delaware law requires that a buyer must acquire at least 85% of the company's stock before the buyer can exercise control unless the board approves.

We consider this on a case-by-case basis. Our decision will be based on the following:

- State of Incorporation
- Management history of responsiveness to shareholders
- Other mitigating factors

## ***POISON PILL***

In general, we do not endorse poison pills.

In certain cases where management has a history of being responsive to the needs of shareholders and the stock is very liquid, we will reconsider this position.

## ***REINCORPORATION***

Generally, we support reincorporation for well-defined business reasons. We oppose reincorporation if proposed solely for the purpose of reincorporating in a state with more stringent anti-takeover statutes that may negatively impact the value of the stock.

## ***STOCK OPTION PLANS***

Stock option plans are an excellent way to attract, hold and motivate directors and employees. However, each stock option plan must be evaluated on its own merits, taking into consideration the following:

- Dilution of voting power or earnings per share by more than 10%

Kind of stock to be awarded, to whom, when and how much  
Method of payment

Amount of stock already authorized but not yet issued under existing stock option plans

### ***SUPERMAJORITY VOTE REQUIREMENTS***

Supermajority vote requirements in a company's charter or bylaws require a level of voting approval in excess of a simple majority of the outstanding shares. In general, we oppose supermajority-voting requirements. Supermajority requirements often exceed the average level of shareholder participation. We support proposals' approvals by a simple majority of the shares voting.

### ***LIMIT SHAREHOLDERS RIGHT TO ACT BY WRITTEN CONSENT***

Written consent allows shareholders to initiate and carry on a shareholder action without having to wait until the next annual meeting or to call a special meeting. It permits action to be taken by the written consent of the same percentage of the shares that would be required to effect proposed action at a shareholder meeting.

Reviewed on a case-by-case basis.

**Item 8. Portfolio Managers of Closed-End Management Investment Companies.**

**PORTFOLIO MANAGER**

Mr. Mario J. Gabelli, CFA, is primarily responsible for the day-to-day management of The Gabelli Equity Trust Inc. (the Fund ). Mr. Gabelli serves as Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of GAMCO Investors, Inc. and Chief Investment Officer Value Portfolios of Gabelli Funds, LLC and GAMCO Asset Management Inc.

Mr. Zahid Siddique is an Associate Portfolio Manager of the Fund. Mr. Siddique joined GAMCO Investors, Inc. in 2005 as a security analyst, and currently leads a research team covering the global industrial and infrastructure sectors.

**MANAGEMENT OF OTHER ACCOUNTS**

The table below shows the number of other accounts managed by Mario J. Gabelli and the total assets in each of the following categories: registered investment companies, other paid investment vehicles and other accounts as of December 31, 2012. For each category, the table also shows the number of accounts and the total assets in the accounts with respect to which the advisory fee is based on account performance.

| Name of Portfolio<br><br><u>Manager</u> | Type of<br><u>Accounts</u>              | Total                             |                        | No. of<br>Accounts<br>where<br>Advisory Fee<br>is Based on<br><u>Performance</u> | Total Assets in<br>Accounts<br>where<br>Advisory Fee<br>is Based on<br><u>Performance</u> |
|---|---|-----------------------------------|------------------------|--|---|
|   |   | No. of Accounts<br><u>Managed</u> | Total<br><u>Assets</u> |  |   |
| 1. Mario J. Gabelli                     | Registered<br>Investment<br>Companies:  | 26                                | 17.8B                  | 7  | 3.1B  |
|   | Other Pooled<br>Investment<br>Vehicles: | 15                                | 542.5M                 | 13   | 534.6M  |
|   | Other Accounts:                         | 1,869                             | 14.7B                  | 19   | 1.6B  |
| 2. Zahid Siddique                       | Registered<br>Investment<br>Companies:  | 0                                 | 0                      | 0  | 0   |
|   | Other Pooled<br>Investment<br>Vehicles: | 0                                 | 0                      | 0  | 0   |
|   | Other Accounts:                         | 1                                 | 902.9K                 | 0  | 0   |

**POTENTIAL CONFLICTS OF INTEREST**

As reflected above, Mr. Gabelli manages accounts in addition to the Trust. Actual or apparent conflicts of interest may arise when a Portfolio Manager also has day-to-day management responsibilities with respect to one or more other accounts. These potential conflicts include:

**ALLOCATION OF LIMITED TIME AND ATTENTION.** As indicated above, Mr. Gabelli manages multiple accounts. As a result, he will not be able to devote all of his time to management of the Trust. Mr. Gabelli, therefore, may not be able to formulate as complete a strategy or identify equally attractive investment opportunities for each of those accounts as might be the case if he were to devote all of his attention to the management of only the Trust.

**ALLOCATION OF LIMITED INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES.** As indicated above, Mr. Gabelli manages managed accounts with investment strategies and/or policies that are similar to the Trust. In these cases, if he identifies an investment opportunity that may be suitable for multiple accounts, a Fund may not be able to take full advantage of that opportunity because the opportunity may be allocated among all or many of these accounts or other accounts managed primarily by other Portfolio Managers of the Adviser, and their affiliates. In addition, in the event the Mr. Gabelli determines to purchase a security for more than one account in an aggregate amount that may influence the market price of the security, accounts that purchased or sold the security first may receive a more favorable price than accounts that made subsequent transactions.

**SELECTION OF BROKER/DEALERS.** Because of Mr. Gabelli's position with the Distributor and his indirect majority ownership interest in the Distributor, he may have an incentive to use the Distributor to execute portfolio transactions for a Fund.

**PURSUIT OF DIFFERING STRATEGIES.** At times, Mr. Gabelli may determine that an investment opportunity may be appropriate for only some of the accounts for which he exercises investment responsibility, or may decide that certain of the funds or accounts should take differing positions with respect to a particular security. In these cases, he may execute differing or opposite transactions for one or more accounts which may affect the market price of the security or the execution of the transaction, or both, to the detriment of one or more other accounts.

**VARIATION IN COMPENSATION.** A conflict of interest may arise where the financial or other benefits available to Mr. Gabelli differ among the accounts that they manage. If the structure of the Adviser's management fee or the Portfolio Manager's compensation differs among accounts (such as where certain accounts pay higher management fees or performance-based management fees), the Portfolio Manager may be motivated to favor certain accounts over others. The Portfolio Manager also may be motivated to favor accounts in which he has an investment interest, or in which the Adviser, or their affiliates have investment interests. Similarly, the desire to maintain assets under management or to enhance a Portfolio Manager's performance record or to derive other rewards, financial or otherwise, could influence the Portfolio Manager in affording preferential treatment to those accounts that could most significantly benefit the Portfolio Manager. For example, as reflected above, if the Portfolio Manager manages accounts which have performance fee arrangements, certain portions of his compensation will depend on the achievement of performance milestones on those accounts. The Portfolio Manager could be incented to afford preferential treatment to those accounts and thereby be subject to a potential conflict of interest.

The Adviser, and the Funds have adopted compliance policies and procedures that are designed to address the various conflicts of interest that may arise for the Adviser and their staff members. However, there is no guarantee that such policies and procedures will be able to detect and prevent every situation in which an actual or potential conflict may arise.

#### **COMPENSATION STRUCTURE FOR MARIO J. GABELLI**

Mr. Gabelli receives incentive-based variable compensation based on a percentage of net revenues received by the Adviser for managing the Trust. Net revenues are determined by deducting from gross investment management fees the firm's expenses (other than Mr. Gabelli's compensation) allocable to this Trust. Five closed-end registered investment companies (including this Trust) managed by Mr. Gabelli have arrangements whereby the Adviser will only receive its investment advisory fee attributable to the liquidation value of outstanding preferred stock (and Mr. Gabelli would only receive his percentage of such advisory fee) if certain performance levels are met. Additionally, he receives similar incentive based variable compensation for managing other accounts within the firm and its affiliates. This method of compensation is based on the premise that superior long-term performance in managing a portfolio should be rewarded with higher compensation as a result of growth of assets through appreciation and net investment activity. The level of compensation is not determined with specific reference to the performance of any account against any specific benchmark. One of the other registered investment companies managed by Mr. Gabelli has a performance (fulcrum) fee arrangement for which his compensation is adjusted up or down based on the performance of the investment company relative to an index. Mr. Gabelli manages other accounts with performance fees. Compensation for managing these accounts has two components. One component is based on a percentage of net revenues to the investment adviser for managing the account. The second component is based on absolute performance of the account, with respect to which a percentage of such performance fee is paid to Mr. Gabelli. As an executive officer of the Adviser's parent company, GBL, Mr. Gabelli also receives ten percent of the net operating profits of the parent company. He receives no base salary, no annual bonus, and no stock options.



**OWNERSHIP OF SHARES IN THE FUND**

Mario J. Gabelli and Zahid Siddique each owned over \$1,000,000 and \$0, respectively, of shares of the Trust as of December 31, 2012.

(b) Not applicable.

**Item 9. Purchases of Equity Securities by Closed-End Management Investment Company and Affiliated Purchasers.**

**REGISTRANT PURCHASES OF EQUITY SECURITIES**

| Period                                      | (a) Total Number of Shares (or Units) Purchased |         | (b) Average Price Paid per Share (or Unit) |         | (c) Total Number of Shares (or Units) Purchased as Part of Publicly Announced Plans or Programs |         | (d) Maximum Number (or Approximate Dollar Value) of Shares (or Units) that May Yet Be Purchased Under the Plans or Programs |             |
|---|---|---------|--|---------|---|---------|---|-------------|
|   |   |         |  |         |   |         |   |             |
| Month #1<br>07/01/12<br>through<br>07/31/12 | Common  | N/A     | Common                                     | N/A     | Common  | N/A     | Common  | 186,201,454 |
|   | Preferred Series D                              | N/A     | Preferred Series D                         | N/A     | Preferred Series D  | N/A     | Preferred Series D  | 2,363,860   |
|   | Preferred Series F                              | N/A     | Preferred Series F                         | N/A     | Preferred Series F  | N/A     | Preferred Series F  | 5,850,402   |
| Month #2<br>08/01/12<br>through<br>08/31/12 | Common  | N/A     | Common                                     | N/A     | Common  | N/A     | Common  | 186,201,454 |
|   | Preferred Series D                              | N/A     | Preferred Series D                         | N/A     | Preferred Series D  | N/A     | Preferred Series D  | 2,363,860   |
|   | Preferred Series F                              | 702,193 | Preferred Series F                         | \$25.00 | Preferred Series F  | 702,193 | Preferred Series F  | 5,148,209   |
|   | Preferred Series G                              | N/A     | Preferred Series G                         | N/A     | Preferred Series G  | N/A     | Preferred Series G  | 2,816,524   |

Edgar Filing: GABELLI EQUITY TRUST INC - Form N-CSR

|          |                    |          |                    |         |                    |          |                    |             |
|----------|--------------------|----------|--------------------|---------|--------------------|----------|--------------------|-------------|
| Month #3 | Common             | N/A      | Common             | N/A     | Common             | N/A      | Common             | 186,959,527 |
| 09/01/12 |                    |          |                    |         |                    |          |                    |             |
| through  | Preferred Series D | N/A      | Preferred Series D | N/A     | Preferred Series D | N/A      | Preferred Series D | 2,363,860   |
| 09/30/12 |                    |          |                    |         |                    |          |                    |             |
|          | Preferred Series F | 2,120,00 | Preferred Series F | \$25.00 | Preferred Series F | 2,120,00 | Preferred Series F | 3,028,209   |
|          |                    |          |                    |         |                    |          |                    |             |
|          | Preferred Series G | N/A      | Preferred Series G | N/A     | Preferred Series G | N/A      | Preferred Series G | 2,816,524   |
|          |                    |          |                    |         |                    |          |                    |             |
|          | Preferred Series H | N/A      | Preferred Series H | N/A     | Preferred Series H | N/A      | Preferred Series H | 4,200,000   |
| Month #4 | Common             | N/A      | Common             | N/A     | Common             | N/A      | Common             | 186,959,527 |
| 10/01/12 |                    |          |                    |         |                    |          |                    |             |
| through  | Preferred Series D | N/A      | Preferred Series D | N/A     | Preferred Series D | N/A      | Preferred Series D | 2,363,860   |
| 10/31/12 |                    |          |                    |         |                    |          |                    |             |
|          | Preferred Series F | N/A      | Preferred Series F | N/A     | Preferred Series F | N/A      | Preferred Series F | 3,028,209   |
|          |                    |          |                    |         |                    |          |                    |             |
|          | Preferred Series G | N/A      | Preferred Series G | N/A     | Preferred Series G | N/A      | Preferred Series G | 2,816,524   |
|          |                    |          |                    |         |                    |          |                    |             |
|          | Preferred Series H | N/A      | Preferred Series H | N/A     | Preferred Series H | N/A      | Preferred Series H | 4,200,000   |

Edgar Filing: GABELLI EQUITY TRUST INC - Form N-CSR

|          |                    |           |                    |         |                    |           |                    |             |
|----------|--------------------|-----------|--------------------|---------|--------------------|-----------|--------------------|-------------|
| Month #5 | Common             | N/A       | Common             | N/A     | Common             | N/A       | Common             | 186,959,527 |
| 11/01/12 |                    |           |                    |         |                    |           |                    |             |
| through  | Preferred Series D | N/A       | Preferred Series D | N/A     | Preferred Series D | N/A       | Preferred Series D | 2,363,860   |
| 11/30/12 |                    |           |                    |         |                    |           |                    |             |
|          | Preferred Series F | 3,028,209 | Preferred Series F | \$25.00 | Preferred Series F | 3,028,209 | Preferred Series F | 0           |
|          |                    |           |                    |         |                    |           |                    |             |
|          | Preferred Series G | N/A       | Preferred Series G | N/A     | Preferred Series G | N/A       | Preferred Series G | 2,816,524   |
|          |                    |           |                    |         |                    |           |                    |             |
|          | Preferred Series H | N/A       | Preferred Series H | N/A     | Preferred Series H | N/A       | Preferred Series H | 4,200,000   |
| Month    | Common             | N/A       | Common             | N/A     | Common             | N/A       | Common             | 187,715,980 |
| 12/01/12 |                    |           |                    |         |                    |           |                    |             |
| through  | Preferred Series D | N/A       | Preferred Series D | N/A     | Preferred Series D | N/A       | Preferred Series D | 2,363,860   |
| 12/31/12 |                    |           |                    |         |                    |           |                    |             |
|          | Preferred Series G | N/A       | Preferred Series G | N/A     | Preferred Series G | N/A       | Preferred Series G | 2,816,524   |
|          |                    |           |                    |         |                    |           |                    |             |
|          | Preferred Series H | N/A       | Preferred Series H | N/A     | Preferred Series H | N/A       | Preferred Series H | 4,200,000   |
| Total    | Common             | N/A       | Common             | N/A     | Common             | N/A       | N/A                |             |
|          |                    |           |                    |         |                    |           |                    |             |
|          | Preferred Series D | N/A       | Preferred Series D | N/A     | Preferred Series D | N/A       |                    |             |
|          |                    |           |                    |         |                    |           |                    |             |
|          | Preferred Series F | 5,850,402 | Preferred Series F | \$25.00 | Preferred Series F | 5,850,402 |                    |             |
|          |                    |           |                    |         |                    |           |                    |             |
|          | Preferred Series G | N/A       | Preferred Series G | N/A     | Preferred Series G | N/A       |                    |             |
|          |                    |           |                    |         |                    |           |                    |             |
|          | Preferred Series H | N/A       | Preferred Series H | N/A     | Preferred Series H | N/A       |                    |             |

Footnote columns (c) and (d) of the table, by disclosing the following information in the aggregate for all plans or programs publicly announced:

- a. The date each plan or program was announced The notice of the potential repurchase of common and preferred shares occurs quarterly in the Fund's quarterly report in accordance with Section 23(c) of the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended.
- b. The dollar amount (or share or unit amount) approved Any or all common shares outstanding may be repurchased when the Fund's common shares are trading at a discount of 10% or more from the net asset value of the shares.  
Any or all preferred shares outstanding may be repurchased when the Fund's preferred shares are trading at a discount to the liquidation value of \$25.00.
- c. The expiration date (if any) of each plan or program The Fund's repurchase plans are ongoing.
- d. Each plan or program that has expired during the period covered by the table The Fund's repurchase plans are ongoing.
- e. Each plan or program the registrant has determined to terminate prior to expiration, or under which the registrant does not intend to make further purchases. The Fund's repurchase plans are ongoing.

**Item 10. Submission of Matters to a Vote of Security Holders.**

There have been no material changes to the procedures by which the shareholders may recommend nominees to the registrant's Board of Directors, where those changes were implemented after the registrant last provided disclosure in response to the requirements of Item 407(c)(2)(iv) of Regulation S-K (17 CFR 229.407) (as required by Item 22(b)(15) of Schedule 14A (17 CFR 240.14a-101)), or this Item.

**Item 11. Controls and Procedures.**

- (a) The registrant's principal executive and principal financial officers, or persons performing similar functions, have concluded that the registrant's disclosure controls and procedures (as defined in Rule 30a-3(c) under the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended (the 1940 Act) (17 CFR 270.30a-3(c))) are effective, as of a date within 90 days of the filing date of the report that includes the disclosure required by this paragraph, based on their evaluation of these controls and procedures required by Rule 30a-3(b) under the 1940 Act (17 CFR 270.30a-3(b)) and Rules 13a-15(b) or 15d-15(b) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (17 CFR 240.13a-15(b) or 240.15d-15(b)).
  
- (b) There were no changes in the registrant's internal control over financial reporting (as defined in Rule 30a-3(d) under the 1940 Act (17 CFR 270.30a-3(d))) that occurred during the registrant's second fiscal quarter of the period covered by this report that has materially affected, or is reasonably likely to materially affect, the registrant's internal control over financial reporting.

**Item 12. Exhibits.**

- (a)(1) Code of ethics, or any amendment thereto, that is the subject of disclosure required by Item 2 is attached hereto.
  
- (a)(2) Certifications pursuant to Rule 30a-2(a) under the 1940 Act and Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 are attached hereto.
  
- (a)(3) Not applicable.
  
- (b) Certifications pursuant to Rule 30a-2(b) under the 1940 Act and Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 are attached hereto.

**SIGNATURES**

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and the Investment Company Act of 1940, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized.

(Registrant) The Gabelli Equity Trust Inc.

By (Signature and Title)\* /s/ Bruce N. Alpert  
Bruce N. Alpert, Principal Executive Officer

Date 3/11/2013

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and the Investment Company Act of 1940, this report has been signed below by the following persons on behalf of the registrant and in the capacities and on the dates indicated.

By (Signature and Title)\* /s/ Bruce N. Alpert  
Bruce N. Alpert, Principal Executive Officer

Date 3/11/2013

By (Signature and Title)\* /s/ Agnes Mullady  
Agnes Mullady, Principal Financial Officer and Treasurer

Date 3/11/2013

\* Print the name and title of each signing officer under his or her signature.