CLAIMS

1. A method of assigning a company's proxies associated with a company's shares from a financial intermediary to a plurality of securities lenders, comprising:

a processor in a computer determining a number of the company's shares for which the financial intermediary has not received proxy voting instructions and for which a voting right is allowed to be exercised by the financial intermediary;

the processor determining for ~~a~~ the plurality of securities lenders, the number of the company's shares loaned by each of the securities lenders;

for each of the plurality of securities lenders, the processor determining a number of the company's proxies for which the financial intermediary has not received proxy voting instructions and for which a voting right is allowed to be exercised by the financial intermediary to assign voting rights to at least some of the plurality of securities lenders based on the number of company's shares for which the financial intermediary has not received voting instructions and based on the number of shares loaned by the each of the securities lenders.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the processor's assignment of the number of proxies of un-voted shares by the financial intermediary is constrained by:

the lender's percentage share of assigned votes is equivalent to its percentage share of loan volume; and

a lender can receive no more votes than it has loans outstanding.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein the financial intermediary can assign no more of the company's proxies than it has for which it has not received proxy voting instructions and the steps of claim 1 are performed for a plurality of financial intermediaries.

4. The method of claim 2, wherein the processor assigns at least some of the number of the financial intermediary's un-voted proxies based on execution of a linear programming optimization model that maximizes the number of the financial intermediary's un-voted proxies that are voted.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein the financial intermediary is a broker or a custodian.

6. The method of claim 5, wherein the financial intermediary is a broker and comprising, prior to the steps of claim 1:

with a processor, forecasting a number of the company's shares for which the broker will not receive proxy voting instructions;

with the processor, determining a proposed loan allocation of the company's shares between the plurality of lenders and the broker by using the forecasted number of

the company's shares for which the broker will not receive proxy voting instructions and loans of the company's shares between a plurality of lenders and the broker; and

the processor transmitting the proposed loan allocation to a third party.

7. The method of claim 6, wherein the processor forecasts the number of the company's shares for which the broker will not receive proxy voting instructions by performing a multiple regression analysis on parameters selected from a group consisting of: a number of broker proprietary shares, a number of broker customer long shares, a number of broker customer margin shares, a measure of a type of the broker's customer base and proprietary voting preferences, a measure of a contentiousness of a proxy, and a market price for a loan of the company's shares.

8. The method of claim 6, wherein the proposed loan allocation of the company's shares between the plurality of lenders and the broker is based on execution of a linear programming optimization model that maximizes the number of the broker's un-voted proxies that could be assigned to lenders and is different than an actual loan allocation of the company's shares between the plurality of lenders and the broker.

9. The method of claim 6, wherein new loans resulting from the proposed loan allocation are reviewed by the processor to ensure consistency with standard securities loan prices, concentration, and other market statistics.

10. The method of claim 6, wherein the financial intermediary is a custodian comprising, prior to the steps of claim 1:

with a processor, forecasting a number of the company's shares for which the custodian will not receive proxy voting instructions by performing a multiple regression analysis on parameters selected from a group consisting of: a number of shares held by custodian, a measure of a type of the custodian's customer base, a measure of a contentiousness of a proxy, and a market price for a loan of the company's shares.

11. A system for assigning a company's proxies associated with a company's shares from a financial intermediary to a plurality of securities lenders, comprising:

a memory storing a number of the company's shares for which the financial intermediary has not received proxy voting instructions and, for a plurality of securities lenders, the number of the company's shares loaned by the lender;

a processor having access to the memory, the processor determining a number of the company's proxies for which the financial intermediary has not received proxy voting instructions and for which a voting right is allowed to be exercised by the financial intermediary to assign voting rights to at least some of the plurality of securities lenders based on the number of company's shares for which the financial intermediary has not received voting instructions and based on the number of shares loaned by the each of the securities lenders.

12. The system of claim 11, wherein the processor's assignment of the number of proxies of un-voted shares by the financial intermediary is constrained by:

the lender's percentage share of assigned votes is equivalent to its percentage share of loan volume; and

a lender can receive no more votes than it has loans outstanding.

13. The system of claim 11, wherein the financial intermediary can assign no more of the company's proxies than it has for which it has not received proxy voting instructions and the processor makes its determinations for a plurality of financial intermediaries.

14. The system of claim 12, wherein the processor assigns at least some of the number of the financial intermediary's un-voted proxies based on execution of a linear programming optimization model that maximizes the number of the financial intermediary's un-voted proxies that are voted.

15. The system of claim 11, wherein the financial intermediary is a broker or a custodian.

16. The system of claim 15, wherein the financial intermediary is a broker and the processor, before assigning at least some of the company's proxies for which the broker has not received proxy voting instructions,

the processor forecasts a number of the company's shares for which the broker will not receive proxy voting instructions;

the processor determines a proposed loan allocation of the company's shares between the plurality of lenders and the broker by using the forecasted number of the company's shares for which the broker will not receive proxy voting instructions and loans of the company's shares between a plurality of lenders and the broker; and

the processor transmits the proposed loan allocation to a third party.

17. The system of claim 16, wherein the processor forecasts the number of the company's shares for which the broker will not receive proxy voting instructions by performing a multiple regression analysis on parameters selected from a group consisting of: a number of broker proprietary shares, a number of broker customer long shares, a number of broker customer margin shares, a measure of a type of the broker's customer base and proprietary voting preferences, a measure of a contentiousness of a proxy, and a market price for a loan of the company's shares.

18. The system of claim 16, wherein the proposed loan allocation of the company's shares between the plurality of lenders and the broker is based on execution of a linear programming optimization model that maximizes the number of the broker's un-voted proxies that could be assigned to lenders and is different than an actual loan allocation of the company's shares between the plurality of lenders and the broker.

19. The system of claim 16, wherein new loans resulting from the proposed loan allocation are reviewed by the processor to ensure consistency with standard securities loan prices, concentration, and other market statistics.

20. The system of claim 16, wherein the financial intermediary is a custodian and the processor, before assigning at least some of the company's proxies for which the broker has not received proxy voting instructions, forecasts a number of the company's shares for which the custodian will not receive proxy voting instructions.