### UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, DC 20549

### FORM 8-K

#### **CURRENT REPORT**

Pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934

Date of report (Date of earliest event reported): March 1, 2007

### **ENCORE CAPITAL GROUP, INC.**

(Exact Name of Registrant as Specified in Charter)

Delaware (State or Other Jurisdiction of Incorporation) 000-26489 (Commission File Number) 48-1090909 (IRS Employer Identification No.)

8875 Aero Drive, Suite 200, San Diego, California (Address of Principal Executive Offices)

92123 (Zip Code)

(877) 445-4581 (Registrant's telephone number, including area code)

Check the appropriate box below if the Form 8-K filing is intended to simultaneously satisfy the filing obligation of the registrant under any of the following provisions (see General Instruction A.2. below):

□ Written communications pursuant to Rule 425 under the Securities Act (17 CFR 230.425)

□ Soliciting material pursuant to Rule 14a-12 under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14a-12)

D Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 14d-2(b) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14d-2(b))

Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 13e-4(c) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.13e-4(c))

#### Item 7.01 Regulation FD Disclosure

A copy of an investor slide presentation to be given by J. Brandon Black, President and Chief Executive Officer, at investor presentations during March 2007, is furnished as Exhibit 99.1 to this Current Report on Form 8-K and is incorporated herein solely for purposes of this Item 7.01.

#### Item 9.01. Financial Statements and Exhibits.

#### (d) Exhibits.

#### Exhibit Number Description

99.1 Investor slide presentation of Encore Capital Group, Inc. dated March 2007.

The information in this Current Report on Form 8-K, including the exhibits, shall not be deemed "filed" for the purposes of Section 18 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 or otherwise subject to the liabilities under that Section. Furthermore, the information in this Current Report on Form 8-K, including the exhibit, shall not be deemed to be incorporated by reference into the filings of the Company under the Securities Act of 1933.

#### Forward-Looking Statements:

The slide presentation attached to this report contains forward-looking statements within the meaning of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995 (the "Reform Act"). The words "believe," "expect," "anticipate," "estimate," "project," or the negation thereof or similar expressions constitute forward-looking statements within the meaning of the Reform Act. These statements may include, but are not limited to, projections of revenues, income or loss, estimates of capital expenditures, plans for future operations, products or services, and financing needs or plans, as well as assumptions relating to these matters. For all forward-looking statements, the Company claims the protection of the safe-harbor for forward-looking statements contained in the Reform Act.

Forward-looking statements speak only as of the date the statement was made. They are inherently subject to risks and uncertainties, some of which we cannot predict or quantify. Future events and actual results could differ materially from the forward-looking statements. When considering each forward-looking statement, you should keep in mind the risk factors and cautionary statements found throughout the Company's annual report on Form 10-K as of and for the year ended December 31, 2006 filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission. We do not undertake and specifically decline any obligation to publicly release the result of any revisions to any forward-looking statements to reflect the occurrence of anticipated or unanticipated events, whether as a result of new information, future events, or for any other reason.

In addition, it is our policy generally not to make any specific projections as to future earnings and we do not endorse projections regarding future performance that may be made by third parties.

#### SIGNATURE

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

Date: March 1, 2007

ENCORE CAPITAL GROUP, INC.

/s/ Paul Grinberg Paul Grinberg Executive Vice President, Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer

### Exhibit <u>Number</u> 99.1

Description Investor slide presentation of Encore Capital Group, Inc. dated March 2007.



### **Leveraging Intellectual Capital**

Investor Presentation March 2007

Encore Capital Group

### CAUTIONARY NOTE ABOUT FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

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**Encore Capital Group** 

### What We Saw Coming

- How We Responded
- 2006 Financial Results Were Impacted
- Looking Ahead

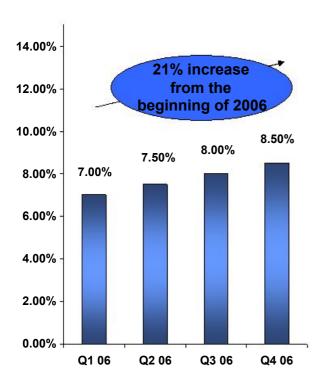
Encore Capital Group

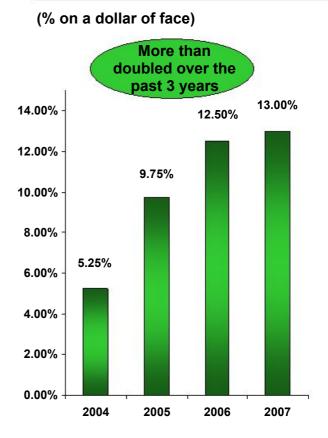
### 2006 WAS THE 3RD CONSECUTIVE YEAR OF PORTFOLIO PRICING INCREASES

#### Large national bank's core product

(% on a dollar of face)

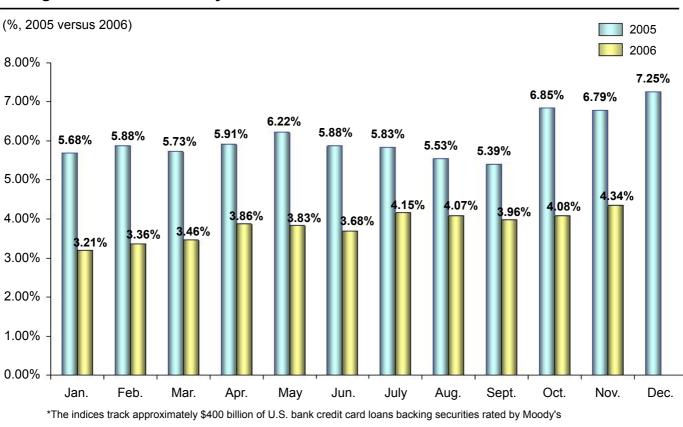
Top 10 issuer of fresh charge-off forward flow





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## WHICH WAS DRIVEN BY NEW ENTRANTS INTO THE BUSINESS AND THE DROP IN SUPPLY FROM CREDIT CARD ORIGINATORS



#### Charge-off rate from Moody's credit card indices\*

Source: Moody's Investors Service

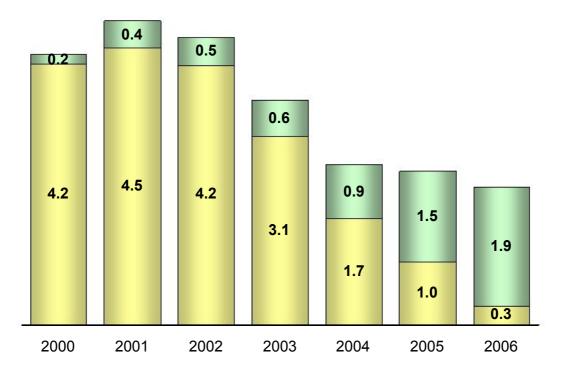
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# THE INCREASE IN PRICING HAS REDUCED OUR COLLECTION MULTIPLES AND THE RELATED IRR'S



Multiple to date Estimated remaining multiple

### Purchase multiple by year of purchase



Source: Derived from Encore Capital Group 2006 Form 10-K

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- What We Saw Coming
- How We Responded
- 2006 Financial Results
- Looking Ahead



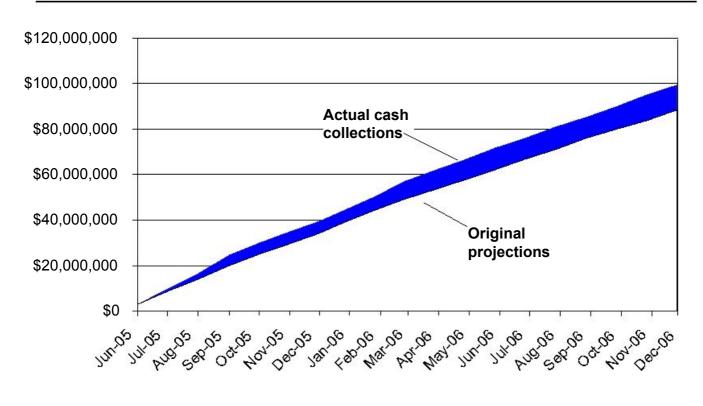
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# WE RECOGNIZED THIS TREND IN EARLY 2005 AND PROACTIVELY DEVELOPED A PLAN TO ADDRESS IT BY:

- Identifying large, negotiated portfolio purchase opportunities where pricing is more rational
- Developing new collection strategies designed to improve liquidation and reduce cost per dollar collected
  - New strategies enabled IRR targets to be achieved despite higher pricing for portfolio
- Diversifying into other areas of the distressed consumer debt management business
- Expanding capability to purchase and collect upon alternative asset classes

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## WE ADDRESSED OUR 2005 SUPPLY NEEDS WITH THE LARGE, NEGOTIATED TRANSACTION WITH JEFFERSON CAPITAL

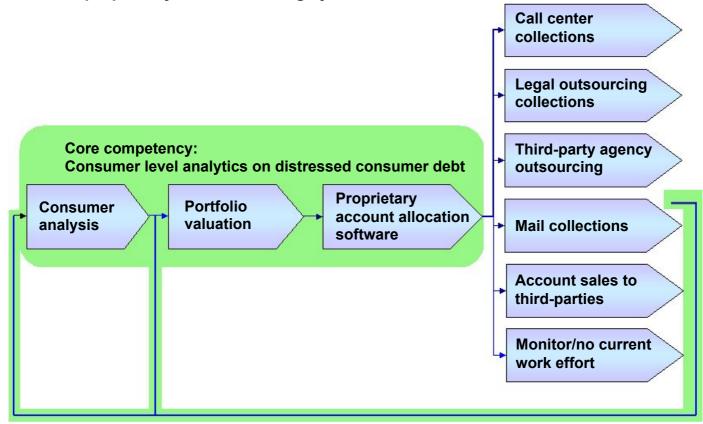


Jefferson Capital bulk purchase - actual collections versus original projections

Encore Capital Group

### **OUR MULTI-CHANNEL COLLECTION STRATEGY HAS BEEN THE CATALYST**

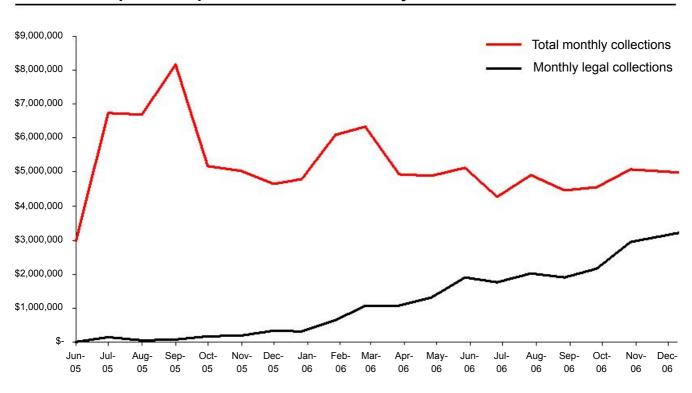
#### Encore's proprietary account routing system



#### **Continuous feedback**

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## THIS DIVERSE APPROACH HAS ALLOWED US TO MAINTAIN CONSISTENT COLLECTIONS ON THE JEFFERSON CAPITAL BULK PURCHASE

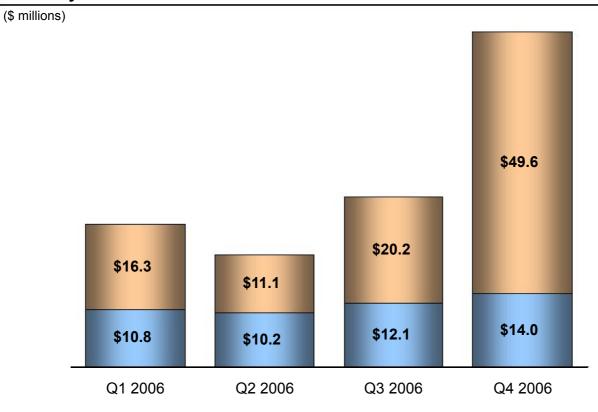


#### Jefferson Capital bulk purchase - actual monthly collections

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### WHILE THE CHALLENGES TO GROW PURCHASE VOLUMES HAVE PROVEN TO BE SIGNIFICANT, WE STARTED TO SEE MOMENTUM BUILDING IN LATE 2006

### Quarterly deal flow

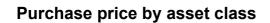


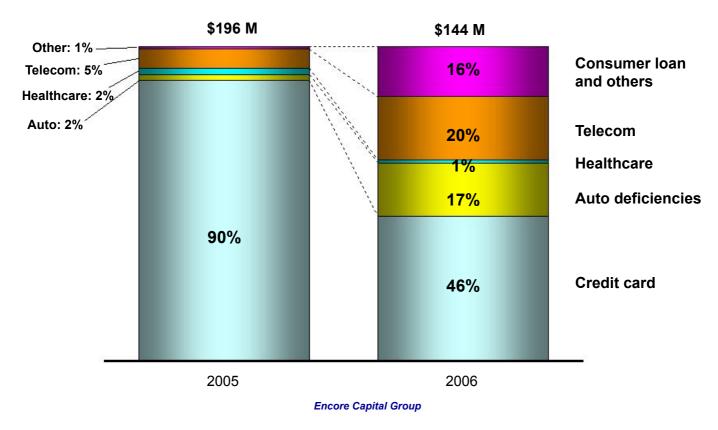
**Encore Capital Group** 

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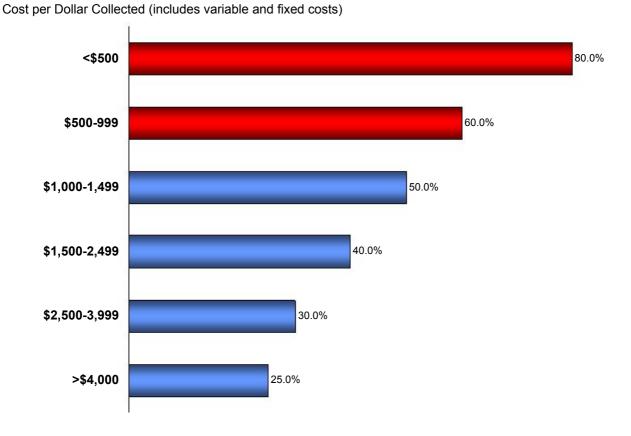
Auction and negotiated deals

### IN 2006, WE DIVERSIFIED OUR PURCHASING TO OTHER ASSET CLASSES





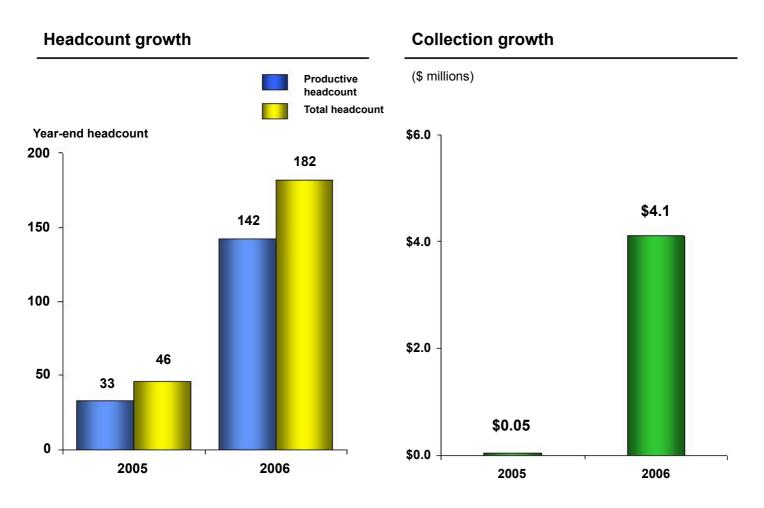
# SOME OF WHICH ARE CONCENTRATED IN AREAS WITH A HIGH COST OF SERVICING



### Approximate cost to collect in US call centers by balance

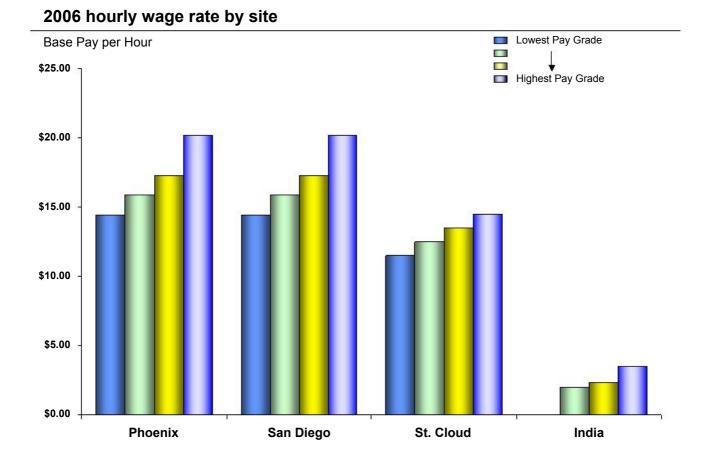
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### WE PREPARED FOR THIS BY BUILDING A CALL CENTER IN INDIA...



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### ...WHICH HAS A LOWER COST STRUCTURE



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# THIS INVESTMENT MAKES US VERY COMPETITIVE ON LOWER BALANCE PORTFOLIOS

RECENT TELECOM EXAMPLE

Balance band	Face value	Pre India	Post India	Enhancement	
	3	- Collections			
Bal<250	135M (32% total)	4M (16% total)	20M (49% total)	400%	
Bal>250	283M	21M	21M	0%	
	(68% total)	(84% total)	(51% total)		
Total	418M	25M	41M	64%	
		- Liquidation			
Total		6.0%	9.8%	64%	
		- Multiple			
Total (market price: 3.5% over face)		1.71	2.80	64%	

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### WE ALSO DIVERSIFIED INTO DISTRESSED CONSUMER DEBT BANKRUPTCY SERVICES THROUGH THE ASCENSION ACQUISITION

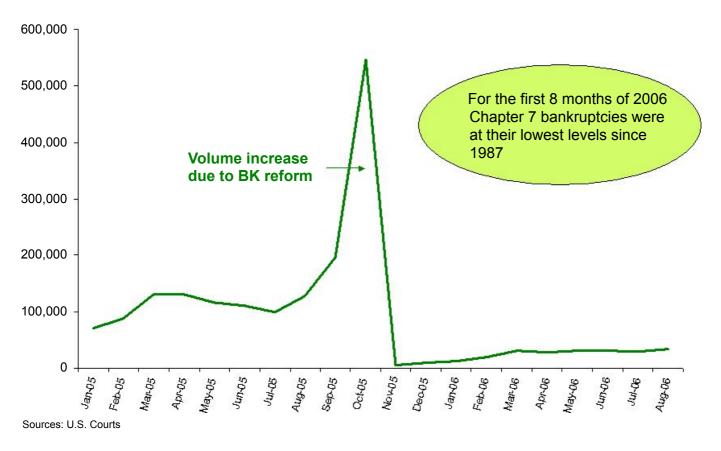
Timing	• August 2005
Ascension business overview	<ul> <li>Location: Arlington, Texas</li> <li>Number of employees: 160*</li> <li>Business scope: <ul> <li>Core: Secured consumer bankruptcy account servicing, mainly auto</li> <li>Others: Secured auto bankruptcy accounts purchasing**, Bankruptcy software licensing</li> </ul> </li> <li>Major clients: <ul> <li>Large national auto lenders and local banks</li> <li>Two new clients added since acquisition</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Synergies and capabilities targeted	<ul> <li>Strong platform to enter large consumer bankruptcy processing outsourcing market with significant entry barriers and high switching costs</li> <li>Cross-selling opportunity with core business</li> <li>Automated legal processing platform leveraged in collection litigation</li> </ul>

\* As of December 31, 2006 \*\* Last purchase made in 2001

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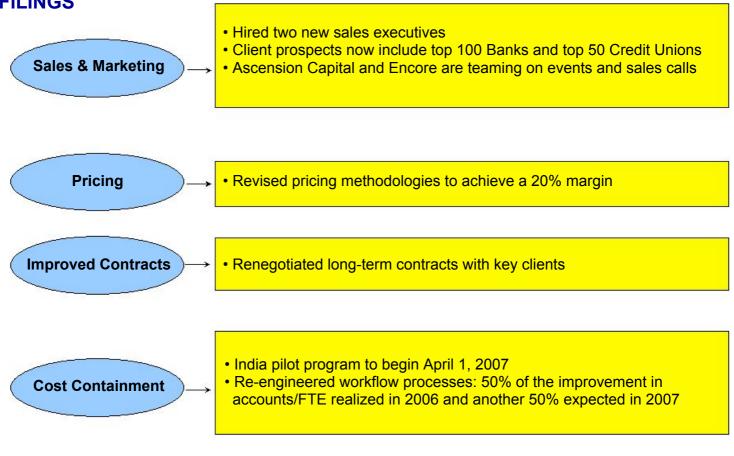
## UNFORTUNATELY, AS A RESULT OF BK REFORM, BANKRUPTCIES WERE AT AN ALL TIME LOW IN 2006

### U.S. Chapter 7 bankruptcy filings



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### AS A RESULT, ASCENSION HAS NOT MET OUR EXPECTATIONS, BUT IT IS CURRENTLY POISED TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF INCREASED BANKRUPTCY FILINGS

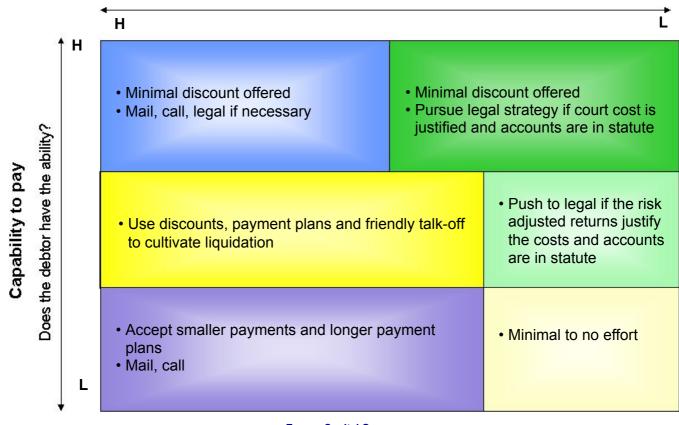


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# MOST IMPORTANTLY, WE CONTINUED TO LEARN ABOUT OUR CONSUMERS

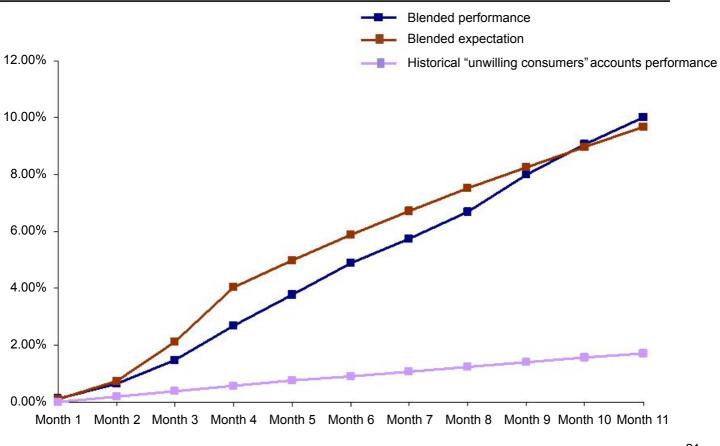
### Willingness to pay

Is the debtor willing to resolve the debt on fair terms?



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### WHICH LED TO OUR NEW LEGAL INITIATIVE



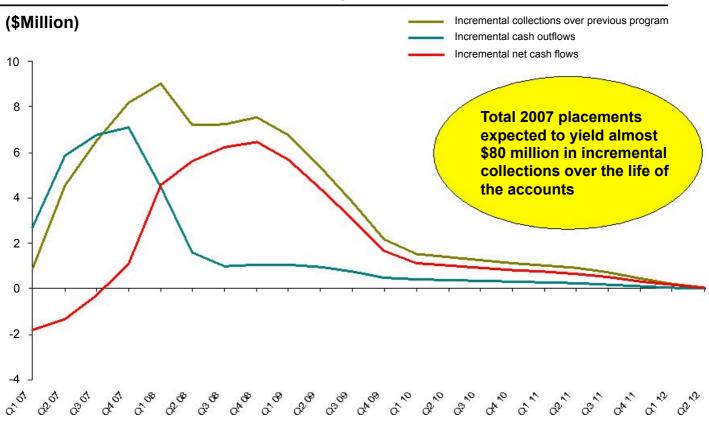
### Cumulative liquidation for specific type of "unwilling consumers"

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### THIS WILL HAVE A SIGNIFICANT POSITIVE CASH IMPACT IN THE LONG RUN

### Incremental cash flows impacts of 2007 legal initiative

LEGAL INITIATIVE EXAMPLE



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### HOWEVER, DETERMINING THE TIMING OF THE REVENUE IMPACT FOR 2007 PLACEMENTS IS CHALLENGING AND, IS DEPENDENT ON SEVERAL FACTORS

Factors that impact the revenue recognition	Potential variance				
Remaining book value of accounts	<ul> <li>Age of accounts on book from the original pools</li> <li>Prior collections on the specific pool groups before the application of legal initiative</li> <li>Original purchase price for the pools</li> </ul>				
IRR used to recognize revenue	<ul> <li>Expected collections from original pool groups as a whole</li> <li>The actual collections from the legal initiative can vary by 1) time left in statute 2) balance 3) state 4) credit quality and 5) availability of asset information of debtors</li> </ul>				
Operational challenges	<ul> <li>Placements are selected based on litigation eligibility, not by portfolio or pool group</li> </ul>				

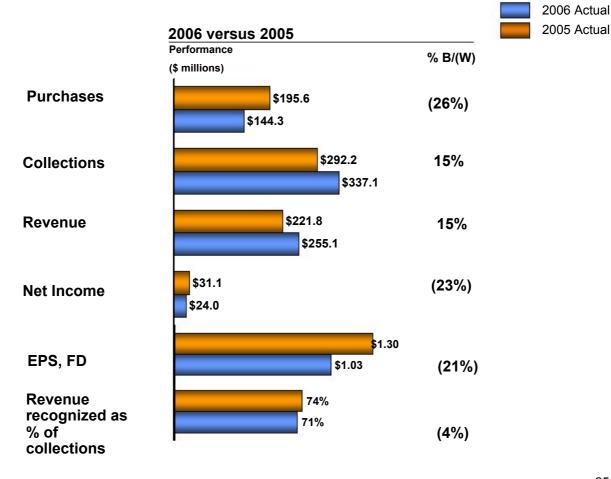
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- How We Responded
- 2006 Financial Results
- Looking Ahead

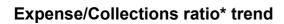
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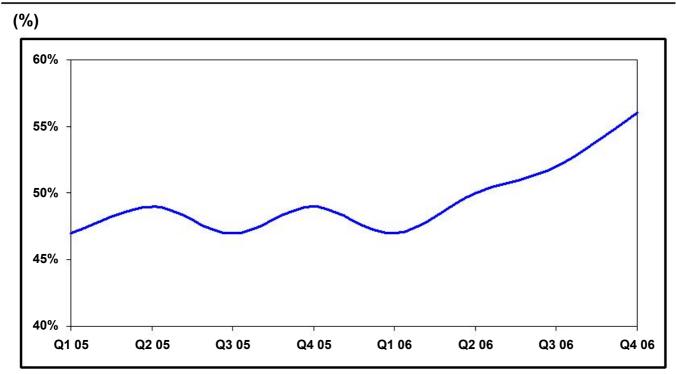
# FOR THE YEAR, OUR TOP LINE RESULTS WERE ABOVE 2005, ALTHOUGH THIS PERFORMANCE DID NOT DROP TO THE BOTTOM LINE



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# PRIMARILY DUE TO AN INCREASE IN OUR EXPENSE TO COLLECTIONS RATIO





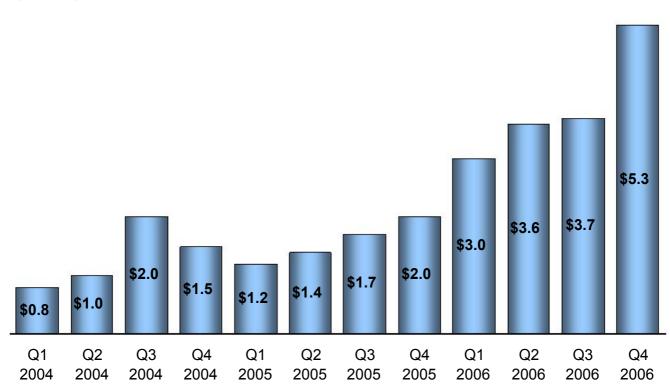
\* Excludes portfolio sales, Ascension expenses, stock option expense, strategic alternatives

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## WHICH WAS DRIVEN BY UPFRONT COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH THE RAMP UP IN OUR LEGAL INITIATIVE AND OTHER NON-RECURRING COSTS



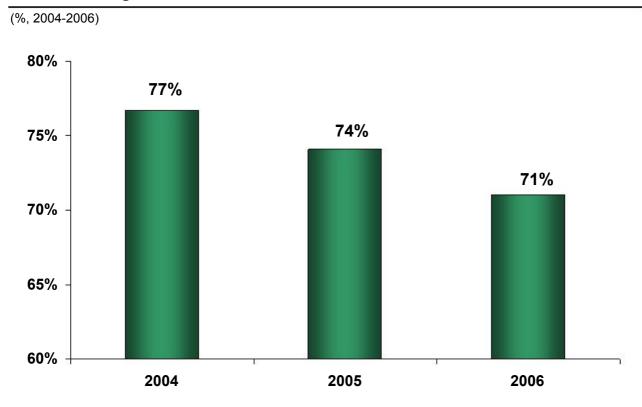
(\$ millions)



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## EARNINGS WERE ALSO NEGATIVELY IMPACTED BY OUR DECLINING REVENUE RECOGNITION RATES

### **Revenue recognition rates**



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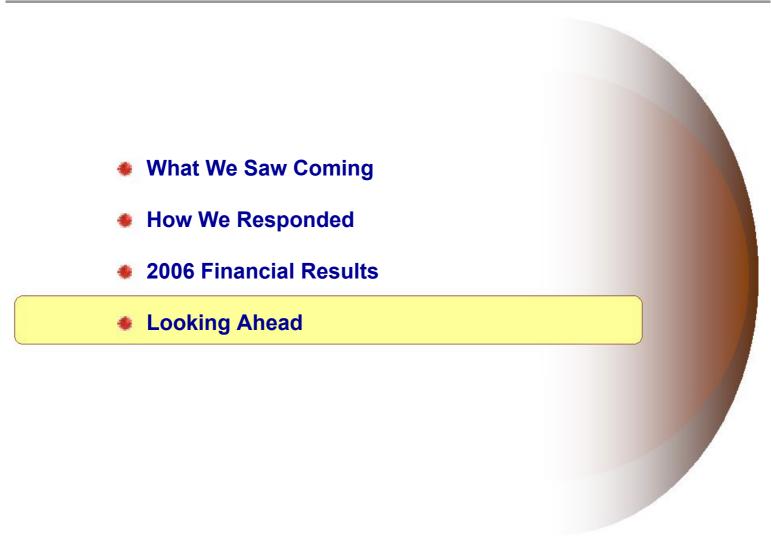
# WHICH RESULT FROM THE CONTINUED SHIFT TO NEWER, LOWER REVENUE RECOGNITION POOLS

(\$ thousands)

	For the Year Ended December 31, 2006			For the Year Ended December 31, 2005				
	Revenue to Collections Percentage	Revenue	Collections	Percentage of Total Revenue	Revenue to Collections Percentage	Revenue	·Collections	Percentage of Total Revenue
Zero Basis Portfolios	100.0%	\$28,588	\$28,588	11.9%	100.0%	\$32,412	\$32,412	15.0%
1999 – 2003 Accrual Basis Portfolios 2004 – 2005 Accrual	77.0%	63,151	82,040	26.4%	82.4%	92,592	112,373	42.9%
Basis Portfolios	66.2%	121,363	183,392	50.7%	62.1%	90,927	146,326	42.1%
2006 Accrual Basis		,	,			,	,	
Portfolios	61.9%	26,238	42,354	11.0%	-	-	-	-
Total	71.2%	\$239,340	\$336,374	100.0%	74.2%	\$215,931	\$291,111	100.0%

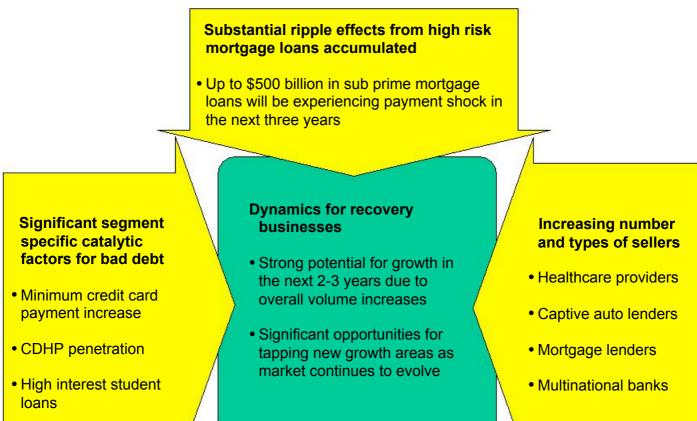
Source: Encore Capital Group 2006 Form 10-K

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### THERE ARE BROAD MACROECONOMIC FACTORS THAT WILL BE CATALYSTS FOR OVERALL EXPANSION IN OUR CORE MARKETS



Source: Literature search, interviews

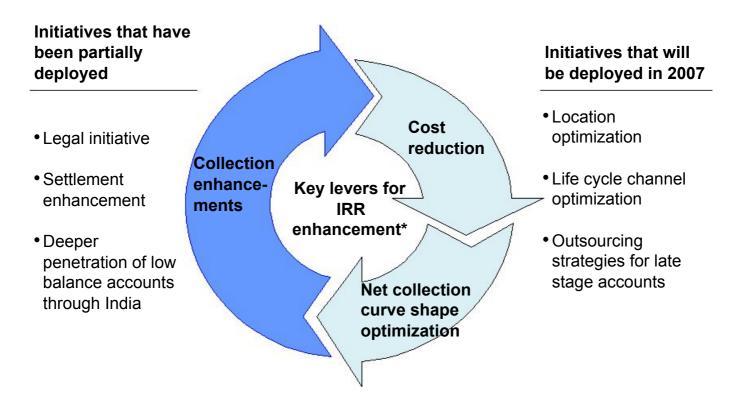
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# AS WE LOOK TO 2007, WE ALREADY SEE SEVERAL THINGS MOVING IN OUR FAVOR

- Purchasing: The legal initiative has made us more competitive on "auctioned" deals and we have developed new acquisition and sales strategies
- Bankruptcies: Filings are on the rise which will hopefully lead to increased placements at Ascension
- Auto deficiency: Saw the availability of auto paper rise in 2006 and expect it to continue in 2007
- Telecommunications: Plans are progressing quickly to add a new low-cost channel to service this asset class



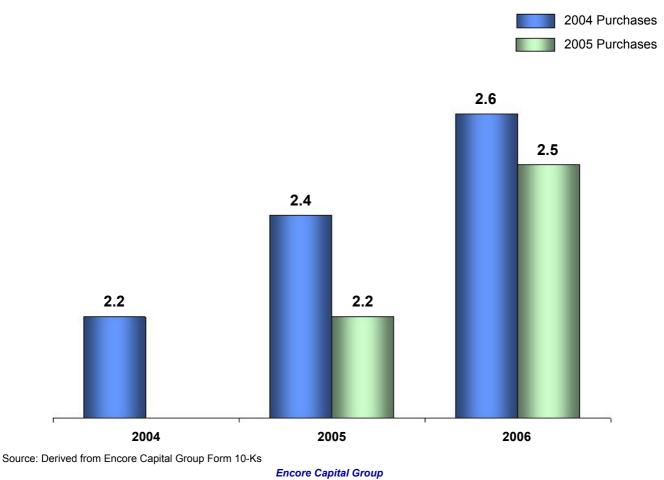
### WE ARE CONTINUALLY DEVELOPING NEW OPERATING INITIATIVES, SOME OF WHICH HAVE ALREADY BEEN IMPLEMENTED, THAT ARE DRIVING IMPROVEMENTS IN PORTFOLIO LIQUIDATION



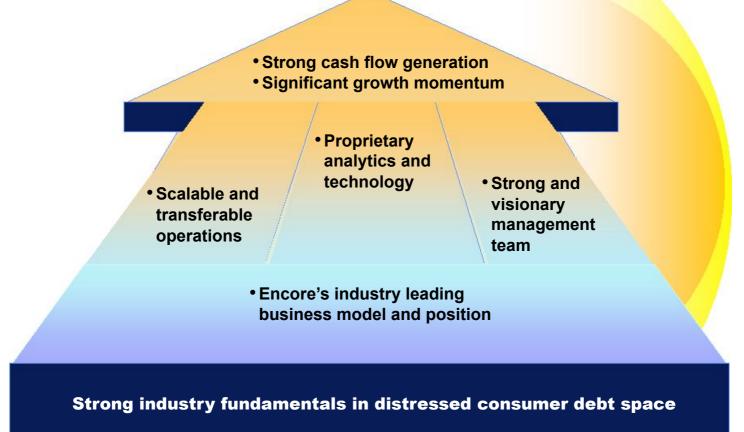
\* Since operations are key focus of the discussion, assumes pricing is constant

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### THE INITIATIVES THAT HAVE BEEN IMPLEMENTED HAVE ALREADY RESULTED IN AN IMPROVEMENT IN OUR EXPECTED MULTIPLES FROM RECENT VINTAGES



### WE BELIEVE ENCORE REPRESENTS AN OPPORTUNITY TO CAPITALIZE ON A STRONG PLATFORM AND FAVORABLE INDUSTRY DYNAMICS TO ACHIEVE ATTRACTIVE RETURNS



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