

**UNITED STATES  
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549**

**FORM S-8  
REGISTRATION STATEMENT UNDER THE SECURITIES ACT OF 1933**

**REDWOOD TRUST, INC.**

(Exact name of Registrant as specified in its charter)

**Maryland**

(State or other jurisdiction of incorporation or organization)

**68-0329422**

(I.R.S. Employer Identification No.)

**One Belvedere Place, Suite 300  
Mill Valley, CA 94941**

(Address of principal executive offices) (Zip code)

**2002 Redwood Trust, Inc. Employee Stock Purchase Plan**  
(Full title of the plan)

**Martin S. Hughes  
President**

**Redwood Trust, Inc.  
One Belvedere Place, Suite 300  
Mill Valley, CA 94941  
(415) 389-7373**

(Name and address, including zip code, and telephone number, including area code, of agent for service)

*Copies to:*

**Keith Benson, Esq.  
Latham & Watkins LLP  
505 Montgomery Street, Suite 2000  
San Francisco, California 94111  
(415) 391-0600**

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a large accelerated filer, an accelerated filer, a non-accelerated filer, or a smaller reporting company. See the definitions of "large accelerated filer," "accelerated filer" and "smaller reporting company" in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act.

Large accelerated filer

Accelerated filer

Non-accelerated filer

Smaller reporting company

**CALCULATION OF REGISTRATION FEE**

Title of securities to be registered	Amount to be registered (1)	Proposed maximum offering price per share (2)	Proposed maximum aggregate offering price (2)	Amount of registration fee
Common Stock, par value \$0.01 per share	100,000 Shares	\$13.94	\$1,394,000	\$77.79

- (1) Pursuant to Rule 416 under the Securities Act of 1933, this registration statement shall also automatically cover any additional shares of common stock of Redwood Trust, Inc. ("Common Stock") which become issuable under the 2002 Redwood Trust, Inc. Employee Stock Purchase Plan (as amended, the "Plan") by reason of any stock dividend, stock split, recapitalization or other similar transaction which results in an increase in the number of outstanding shares of the Registrant's Common Stock.
- (2) This estimate is made pursuant to Rule 457(c) solely for purposes of calculating the registration fee pursuant to Rule 457(h), and is based on a price of \$13.94, which represents the average of the high and low prices per share of Common Stock as reported on the New York Stock Exchange on November 2, 2009.

## INTRODUCTION

By previous registration statement on Form S-8 (File No. 333-89302) filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the "Commission"), Redwood Trust, Inc., a Maryland corporation (the "Company"), previously registered an aggregate of 100,000 shares of its common stock, par value \$0.01 per share (the "Common Stock"), reserved for issuance from time to time in connection with the 2002 Redwood Trust, Inc. Employee Stock Purchase Plan (as amended, the "Plan"). Under this registration statement, the Company is registering an additional 100,000 shares of Common Stock reserved for issuance from time to time in connection with the Plan.

Pursuant to General Instruction E of Form S-8, the contents of the above-referenced prior registration statement is incorporated into this registration statement by reference to the extent not modified or superseded hereby or by any subsequently filed document which is incorporated by reference herein or therein.

## PART II Information Required in the Registration Statement

### Item 3. Incorporation of Documents by Reference.

The Commission allows us to incorporate by reference the information we file with it, which means that we can disclose important information to you by referring to those documents. The information incorporated by reference is an important part of this registration statement, and information that we file later with the Commission will automatically update and supersede this information. We incorporate by reference the following documents we have filed, or may file, with the Commission:

- (1) Our Registration Statement on Form S-8 filed on May 29, 2002 (File No. 333-89302);
- (2) Our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2008, filed on February 26, 2009;
- (5) Our Proxy Statement for our 2009 Annual Meeting of Stockholders pursuant to Section 14(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the "Exchange Act"), filed on April 3, 2009;
- (6) Our Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q for the quarters ended March 31, 2009, June 30, 2009 and September 30, 2009, filed on May 5, 2009, August 5, 2009 and November 4, 2009;
- (7) Our Current Reports on Form 8-K filed on January 14, 2009 (but only the Form 8-K with respect to Items 8.01 and 9.01 filed on that date), January 27, 2009 (but only as to Items 1.01, 8.01, and 9.01 thereto (excluding, however, Exhibit 99.1 thereto)), January 30, 2009 (but only the Form 8-K with respect to Item 5.02 filed on that date), May 21, 2009, May 29, 2009, and June 2, 2009 (but only as to Items 8.01 and 9.01 thereto (excluding, however, Exhibit 99.1 thereto));
- (8) The description of our common stock contained in our registration statement on Form 8-A filed on January 7, 1998; and
- (9) All documents we file pursuant to Sections 13(a), 13(c), 14 or 15(d) of the Exchange Act prior to the filing of a post-effective amendment that indicates that all securities offered hereby have been sold or that deregisters all securities covered hereby then remaining unsold, are deemed to be incorporated by reference in this registration statement and are a part hereof from the date of filing of such documents.

Any information that we later file with the Commission will automatically update and supersede the information and statements contained in a document incorporated or deemed to be incorporated by reference herein. Any such information or statement so modified or superseded will not be deemed, except as so modified or superseded, to constitute part of this registration statement. Under no circumstances will any information filed under items 2.02 or 7.01 of Form 8-K be deemed incorporated herein by reference unless such Form 8-K expressly provides to the contrary.

**Item 4. Description of Securities.**

Not applicable.

**Item 5. Interests of Named Experts and Counsel.**

None.

**Item 6. Indemnification of Directors and Officers.**

Maryland law permits a Maryland corporation to include in its charter a provision limiting the liability of its directors and officers to the corporation and its stockholders for money damages except for liability resulting from (a) actual receipt of an improper benefit or profit in money, property, or services or (b) active and deliberate dishonesty established by a final judgment as being material to the cause of action. The charter of the registrant contains such a provision which eliminates such liability to the maximum extent permitted by Maryland law.

The charter and bylaws of the registrant require it, to the maximum extent permitted by Maryland law, to indemnify and to pay or reimburse reasonable expenses in advance of final disposition of a proceeding to (a) any present or former director or officer or (b) any individual who, while a director or officer of the registrant and at the request of the registrant, serves or has served as a director, officer, partner, or trustee of another corporation, real estate investment trust, partnership, joint venture, trust, employee benefit plan, or any other enterprise from and against any claim or liability to which such person may become subject or which such person may incur by reason of his or her service in any such capacity. The bylaws of the registrant establish certain procedures for indemnification and advance of expenses pursuant to applicable law and the registrant's charter. The charter and bylaws also permit the registrant to indemnify and advance expenses to any person who served a predecessor of the registrant in any of the capacities described above and to any employee or agent of the registrant or a predecessor of the registrant.

The MGCL requires a corporation (unless its charter provides otherwise, which the registrant's charter does not) to indemnify a director or officer who has been successful, on the merits or otherwise, in the defense of any proceeding to which he or she is made, or threatened to be made, a party by reason of his or her service in that capacity. The MGCL permits a corporation to indemnify its present and former directors and officers, among others, against judgments, penalties, fines, settlements and reasonable expenses actually incurred by them in connection with any proceeding to which they may be made, or threatened to be made, a party by reason of their service in those or other capacities unless it is established that (a) the act or omission of the director or officer was material to the matter giving rise to the proceeding and (i) was committed in bad faith or (ii) was the result of active and deliberate dishonesty, (b) the director or officer actually received an improper personal benefit in money, property, or services or (c) in the case of any criminal proceeding, the director or officer had reasonable cause to believe that the act or omission was unlawful. However, under the MGCL, a Maryland corporation may not indemnify for an adverse judgment in a suit by or in the right of the corporation or for a judgment of liability on the basis that personal benefit was improperly received, unless in either case a court orders indemnification, and then only for expenses. In addition, the MGCL permits a corporation to advance reasonable expenses to a director or officer upon the corporation's receipt of (a) a written affirmation by the director or officer of his or her good faith belief that he or she has met the standard of conduct necessary for indemnification by the corporation and (b) a written undertaking by him or her or on his or her behalf to repay the amount paid or reimbursed by the corporation if it shall ultimately be determined that the standard of conduct was not met.

**Item 7. Exemption From Registration Claimed**

Not applicable.

**Item 8. Exhibits.**

- 4.1 Articles of Amendment and Restatement of the Registrant, effective July 6, 1994 (incorporated by reference to the Registrant's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended June 30, 2008, Exhibit 3.1, filed on August 6, 2008)
- 4.1.1 Articles Supplementary of the Registrant, effective August 11, 1994 (incorporated by reference to the Registrant's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended June 30, 2008, Exhibit 3.1.1, filed on August 6, 2008)
- 4.1.2 Articles Supplementary of the Registrant, effective August 14, 1995 (incorporated by reference to the Registrant's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended June 30, 2008, Exhibit 3.1.2, filed on August 6, 2008)
- 4.1.3 Articles Supplementary of the Registrant, effective August 9, 1996 (incorporated by reference to the Registrant's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended June 30, 2008, Exhibit 3.1.3, filed on August 6, 2008)
- 4.1.4 Certificate of Amendment of the Registrant, effective June 30, 1998 (incorporated by reference to the Registrant's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended June 30, 2008, Exhibit 3.1.4, filed on August 6, 2008)
- 4.1.5 Articles Supplementary of the Registrant, effective April 10, 2003 (incorporated by reference to the Registrant's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended June 30, 2008, Exhibit 3.1.5, filed on August 6, 2008)
- 4.1.6 Articles of Amendment of the Registrant, effective June 12, 2008 (incorporated by reference to the Registrant's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended June 30, 2008, Exhibit 3.1.6, filed on August 6, 2008)
- 4.1.7 Articles of Amendment effective May 19, 2009 (incorporated by reference to the Registrant's Current Report on Form 8-K, Exhibit 3.1, filed on May 21, 2009)
- 4.2 Amended and Restated Bylaws, as adopted on March 5, 2008 (incorporated by reference to the Registrant's Current Report on Form 8-K, Exhibit 3.1, filed on March 11, 2008)
- 4.3 Form of Common Stock Certificate (Incorporated by reference to the Registrant's Registration Statement on Form S-11 (No. 333-08363), Exhibit 4.3, filed on August 6, 1996)
- 4.4 2002 Redwood Trust, Inc. Employee Stock Purchase Plan (as amended) (incorporated by reference to the Registrant's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended June 30, 2009, Exhibit 10.1, filed on August 5, 2009)
- 5.1 Opinion of Venable LLP
- 23.1 Consent of Grant Thornton LLP
- 23.2 Consent of Venable LLP (included in Exhibit 5.1 hereto)
- 24.1 Power of Attorney (included on the signature page to this registration statement)

**Item 9. Undertakings.**

(a) The undersigned registrant hereby undertakes:

(1) To file, during any period in which offers or sales are being made, a post-effective amendment to this registration statement:

(i) To include any prospectus required by Section 10(a)(3) of the Securities Act of 1933;

(ii) To reflect in the prospectus any facts or events arising after the effective date of the registration statement (or the most recent post-effective amendment thereof) which, individually or in the aggregate, represent a fundamental change in the information set forth in the registration statement. Notwithstanding the foregoing, any increase or decrease in volume of securities offered (if the total dollar value of securities offered would not exceed that which was registered) and any deviation from the low or high end of the estimated maximum offering range may be reflected in the form of prospectus filed with the Commission pursuant to Rule 424(b) if, in the aggregate, the changes in volume and price represent no more than a 20 percent change in the maximum aggregate offering price set forth in the "Calculation of Registration Fee" table in the effective registration statement;

(iii) To include any material information with respect to the plan of distribution not previously disclosed in the registration statement or any material change to such information in the registration statement;

*provided, however*, that paragraphs (a)(1)(i) and (a)(1)(ii) do not apply if the information required to be included in a post-effective amendment by those paragraphs is contained in periodic reports filed with or furnished to the Commission by the registrant pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 that are incorporated by reference in the registration statement.

(2) That, for the purpose of determining any liability under the Securities Act of 1933, each such post-effective amendment shall be deemed to be a new registration statement relating to the securities offered therein, and the offering of such securities at that time shall be deemed to be the initial *bona fide* offering thereof.

(3) To remove from registration by means of a post-effective amendment any of the securities being registered which remain unsold at the termination of the offering.

(b) The undersigned registrant hereby undertakes that, for purposes of determining any liability under the Securities Act of 1933, each filing of the registrant's annual report pursuant to Section 13(a) or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and (and, where applicable, each filing of an employee benefit plan's annual report pursuant to Section 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934) that is incorporated by reference in the registration statement shall be deemed to be a new registration statement relating to the securities offered therein, and the offering of such securities at that time shall be deemed to be the initial *bona fide* offering thereof.

(c) Insofar as indemnification for liabilities arising under the Securities Act of 1933 may be permitted to directors, officers and controlling persons of the registrant pursuant to the foregoing provisions, or otherwise, the registrant has been advised that in the opinion of the Securities and Exchange Commission such indemnification is against public policy as expressed in the Securities Act of 1933 and is, therefore, unenforceable. In the event that a claim for indemnification against such liabilities (other than the payment by the registrant of expenses incurred or paid by a director, officer or controlling person of the registrant in the successful defense of any action, suit or proceeding) is asserted by such director, officer or controlling person in connection with the securities being registered, the registrant will, unless in the opinion of its counsel the matter has been settled by controlling precedent, submit to a court of appropriate jurisdiction the question whether such indemnification by it is against public policy as expressed in the Securities Act of 1933 and will be governed by the final adjudication of such issue.

**SIGNATURES**

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act of 1933, the registrant certifies that it has reasonable grounds to believe that it meets all of the requirements for filing on Form S-8 and has duly caused this registration statement to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized, in the City of Mill Valley, State of California, on November 5<sup>th</sup>, 2009.

**REDWOOD TRUST, INC.**

By: GEORGE E. BULL, III  
Name: George E. Bull, III  
Title: Chairman of the Board and  
Chief Executive Officer

**POWER OF ATTORNEY**

KNOW ALL PERSONS BY THESE PRESENT, that each person whose signature appears below constitutes and appoints George E. Bull, III, Martin S. Hughes, Harold F. Zagunis and each or either of them, his true and lawful attorney-in-fact and agent, with full power of substitution and resubstitution, for him and in his name, place and stead, in any and all capacities, to sign any and all amendments (including post-effective amendments or any abbreviated registration statement and any amendments thereto filed pursuant to Rule 462(b) increasing the number of securities for which registration is sought) to this Registration Statement, and to file the same, with all exhibits thereto, and other documents in connection therewith, with the Securities and Exchange Commission, granting unto said attorneys-in-fact and agents, and each of them, full power and authority to do and perform each and every act and thing requisite and necessary to be done in connection therewith, as fully to all intents and purposes as he might or could do in person, hereby ratifying and confirming all that said attorneys-in-fact and agents, or any of them, or their or his substitutes or substitute, may lawfully do or cause to be done by virtue hereof.

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act of 1933, this registration statement has been signed by the following persons in the capacities and on the dates indicated:

<u>GEORGE E. BULL, III</u> George E. Bull, III	Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer (Principal Executive Officer)	November 5 <sup>th</sup> , 2009
<u>MARTIN S. HUGHES</u> Martin S. Hughes	President, Co-Chief Operating Officer, and Chief Financial Officer (Principal Financial Officer)	November 5 <sup>th</sup> , 2009
<u>CHRISTOPHER J. ABATE</u> Christopher J. Abate	Controller (Principal Accounting Officer)	November 5 <sup>th</sup> , 2009
<u>RICHARD D. BAUM</u> Richard D. Baum	Director	November 5 <sup>th</sup> , 2009
<u>THOMAS C. BROWN</u> Thomas C. Brown	Director	November 5 <sup>th</sup> , 2009
<u>MARIANN BYERWALTER</u> Mariann Byerwalter	Director	November 5 <sup>th</sup> , 2009
<u>DOUGLAS B. HANSEN</u> Douglas B. Hansen	Director	November 5 <sup>th</sup> , 2009
<u>GREG H. KUBICEK</u> Greg H. Kubicek	Director	November 5 <sup>th</sup> , 2009
<u>DIANE L. MERDIAN</u> Diane L. Merdian	Director	November 5 <sup>th</sup> , 2009
<u>GEORGANNE C. PROCTOR</u> Georganne C. Proctor	Director	November 5 <sup>th</sup> , 2009
<u>CHARLES J. TOENISKOETTER</u> Charles J. Toeniskoetter	Director	November 5 <sup>th</sup> , 2009
<u>DAVID L. TYLER</u> David L. Tyler	Director	November 5 <sup>th</sup> , 2009

INDEX TO EXHIBITS

Exhibit	Description
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## [LETTERHEAD OF VENABLE LLP]

November 4, 2009

Redwood Trust, Inc.  
One Belvedere Place  
Suite 300  
Mill Valley, California 94941

Re: Registration Statement on Form S-8

Ladies and Gentlemen:

We have served as Maryland counsel to Redwood Trust, Inc., a Maryland corporation (the "Company"), in connection with certain matters of Maryland law arising out of the registration of 100,000 shares (the "Shares") of the Company's common stock, \$0.01 par value per share (the "Common Stock"), that the Company may issue pursuant to the 2002 Redwood Trust, Inc. Employee Stock Purchase Plan, as amended (the "Plan"), covered by the above-referenced Registration Statement (the "Registration Statement") filed by the Company with the United States Securities and Exchange Commission (the "Commission") under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the "Securities Act"), on or about the date hereof.

In connection with our representation of the Company, and as a basis for the opinion hereinafter set forth, we have examined originals, or copies certified or otherwise identified to our satisfaction, of the following documents (hereinafter collectively referred to as the "Documents"):

1. The Registration Statement;
  2. The charter of the Company (the "Charter"), certified as of a recent date by the State Department of Assessments and Taxation of Maryland (the "SDAT");
  3. The Bylaws of the Company, certified as of the date hereof by an officer of the Company;
  4. A certificate of the SDAT as to the good standing of the Company, dated as of a recent date;
  5. The Plan;
  6. Resolutions (the "Resolutions") adopted by the Board of Directors of the Company, relating to the approval of the Plan and the authorization of the issuance of the Shares, certified as of the date hereof by an officer of the Company;
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7. A certificate executed by an officer of the Company, dated as of the date hereof; and

8. Such other documents and matters as we have deemed necessary or appropriate to express the opinion set forth below, subject to the assumptions, limitations and qualifications stated herein.

In expressing the opinion set forth below, we have assumed the following:

1. Each individual executing any of the Documents, whether on behalf of such individual or another person, is legally competent to do so.

2. Each individual executing any of the Documents on behalf of a party (other than the Company) is duly authorized to do so.

3. Each of the parties (other than the Company) executing any of the Documents has duly and validly executed and delivered each of the Documents to which such party is a signatory, and such party's obligations set forth therein are legal, valid and binding and are enforceable in accordance with all stated terms.

4. All Documents submitted to us as originals are authentic. The form and content of all Documents submitted to us as unexecuted drafts do not differ in any respect relevant to this opinion from the form and content of such Documents as executed and delivered. All Documents submitted to us as certified or photostatic copies conform to the original documents. All signatures on all Documents are genuine. All public records reviewed or relied upon by us or on our behalf are true and complete. All representations, warranties, statements and information contained in the Documents are true and complete. There has been no oral or written modification of or amendment to any of the Documents, and there has been no waiver of any provision of any of the Documents, by action or omission of the parties or otherwise.

5. None of the Shares will be issued in violation of any restriction or limitation contained in Article XI of the Charter. Upon any issuance of Shares, the total number of shares of Common Stock issued and outstanding will not exceed the total number of shares of Common Stock that the Company is then authorized to issue under the Charter.

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Based upon the foregoing, and subject to the assumptions, limitations and qualifications stated herein, it is our opinion that:

1. The Company is a corporation duly incorporated and existing under and by virtue of the laws of the State of Maryland and is in good standing with the SDAT.

2. The issuance of the Shares has been duly authorized and, when issued and delivered by the Company pursuant to the Resolutions and the Plan and otherwise in accordance with the Registration Statement, the Shares will be validly issued, fully paid and nonassessable.

The foregoing opinion is limited to the laws of the State of Maryland, and we do not express any opinion herein concerning any other law. We express no opinion as to the applicability or effect of any federal or state securities laws, including the securities laws of the State of Maryland, or as to federal or state laws regarding fraudulent transfers. To the extent that any matter as to which our opinion is expressed herein would be governed by the laws of any jurisdiction other than the State of Maryland, we do not express any opinion on such matter.

The opinion expressed herein is limited to the matters specifically set forth herein and no other opinion shall be inferred beyond the matters expressly stated. We assume no obligation to supplement this opinion if any applicable law changes after the date hereof or if we become aware of any fact that might change the opinion expressed herein after the date hereof.

This opinion is being furnished to you solely for submission to the Commission as an exhibit to the Registration Statement. We hereby consent to the filing of this opinion as an exhibit to the Registration Statement and to the use of the name of our firm therein. In giving this consent, we do not admit that we are within the category of persons whose consent is required by Section 7 of the Securities Act.

Very truly yours,

Venable LLP

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**CONSENT OF INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM**

We have issued our reports dated February 25, 2009, with respect to the consolidated financial statements and internal control over financial reporting included in the Annual Report of Redwood Trust, Inc. and subsidiaries on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2008 which are incorporated by reference in this Registration Statement. We consent to the incorporation by reference in the Registration Statement of the aforementioned reports.

/s/ Grant Thornton LLP

San Francisco, California  
November 4, 2009

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