

CATHAY GENERAL BANCORP

Form 424B5

December 04, 2013

Table of Contents

**Filed pursuant to Rule 424(b)(5)
Registration No. 333-192636**

CALCULATION OF REGISTRATION FEE

| Title of each class of securities to be registered | Maximum aggregate offering price | Amount of registration fee⁽¹⁾ |
|---|---|---|
| Warrants (expiring December 5, 2018) | \$13,293,892.90 | \$1,712.26 |

- ⁽¹⁾ This filing fee is calculated in accordance with Rule 457(g) and relates to the Registration Statement on Form S-3 (File No. 333-192636) filed by the Registrant on December 3, 2013.

Table of Contents

PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT

(To Prospectus dated December 3, 2013)

Cathay General Bancorp

1,846,374 Warrants

Each Warrant is to Purchase One Share of Common Stock

The United States Department of the Treasury (referred to in this prospectus supplement as the selling security holder or Treasury) is offering to sell 1,846,374 warrants, each of which represents the right to purchase one share of our common stock, par value \$0.01 per share, at an initial exercise price of \$20.96 per share. Both the exercise price and the number of shares that will be acquired upon the exercise of a warrant are subject to adjustment from time to time as described in this prospectus supplement. We will not receive any of the proceeds from the sale of the warrants offered by the selling security holder. The warrants expire on December 5, 2018.

We originally issued the warrants to Treasury in a private placement under the Capital Purchase Program established by Treasury as part of its Troubled Asset Relief Program (TARP) as authorized by the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008 (the EESA). Prior to this offering, there has been no public market for the warrants. The warrants have been approved for listing on the NASDAQ Global Select Market (NASDAQ) under the symbol CATYW. Our common stock is listed on NASDAQ under the symbol CATY. On December 2, 2013, the last reported sale price of our common stock on NASDAQ was \$27.19 per share. You are urged to obtain current market quotations of our common stock.

The public offering price and the allocation of the warrants in this offering will be determined by an auction process. During the auction period, potential bidders will be able to place bids at any price (in increments of \$0.10) at or above the minimum bid price of \$6.50 per warrant. The minimum size for any bid is 100 warrants. If the selling security holder decides to sell the warrants being offered, the public offering price of the warrants will equal the clearing price set in the auction. If bids are received for 100% or more of the offered warrants, the clearing price will be equal to the highest price at which all offered warrants can be sold in the auction. If bids are received for 100% or more of the offered warrants, and the selling security holder elects to sell warrants in the auction, the selling security holder must sell all of the warrants offered during the auction process at the clearing price. If bids are received for half or more, but less than all, of the offered warrants, then the clearing price will be equal to the minimum bid price per warrant, and the selling security holder may (but is not required to) sell, at the clearing price, as many warrants as it chooses to sell up to the number of bids received in the auction, so long as at least half of the offered warrants are sold and the warrants remain eligible for listing. In certain cases described in this prospectus supplement, bidders may experience pro-rata of their bids. If bids are received for less than half of the offered warrants, the selling security holder will not sell any warrants in this offering. Even if bids are received for all of the warrants, the selling security holder may decide not to sell any warrants, regardless of the clearing price set in the auction process. In addition, we may bid in the auction for some or all of the warrants. The method for submitting bids and a more detailed description of this auction process are described in Auction Process beginning on page S-25 of this prospectus supplement.

You must meet minimum suitability standards in order to purchase the warrants. You must be able to understand and bear the risk of an investment in the warrants and should be experienced with respect to options and option transactions. You should reach an investment decision only after careful consideration, with your advisers, of the suitability of the warrants in light of your particular financial circumstances and the information in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus. The warrants involve a high degree of risk, are not appropriate for every investor and may expire worthless.

Investing in our securities involves a high degree of risk. You should consider carefully the risks and uncertainties in the section entitled Risk Factors beginning on page S-11, along with the other information in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus and in the documents we file with the Securities and Exchange Commission, before investing in our securities.

Edgar Filing: CATHAY GENERAL BANCORP - Form 424B5

The warrants and the underlying common stock are our unsecured obligations and are not savings accounts, deposits, or other obligations of any bank or non-bank subsidiary of ours and are not insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation or any other governmental agency.

Neither the Securities and Exchange Commission, any state securities commission, the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation or the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve, nor any regulatory agency has approved or disapproved of these securities or passed upon the adequacy, completeness, or accuracy of this prospectus. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense.

In this prospectus, Cathay, we, our, ours, and us refer to Cathay General Bancorp, which is a Delaware corporation headquartered in Los Angeles, California, and its subsidiaries on a consolidated basis, unless the context otherwise requires. References to Cathay Bank or the Bank mean Cathay Bank, a California state-chartered bank, which is our bank subsidiary.

| | Per warrant | Total |
|---|-------------|------------------|
| Public offering price | \$ 7.20 | \$ 13,293,892.80 |
| Underwriting discounts and commissions | \$ 0.1008 | \$ 186,114.50 |
| Proceeds, before expenses, to the selling security holder | \$ 7.0992 | \$ 13,107,778.30 |

The underwriter expects to deliver the warrants in book-entry form only, through the facilities of The Depository Trust Company, against payment on or about December 9, 2013.

Deutsche Bank Securities

Prospectus Supplement dated December 4, 2013.

Table of Contents

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Prospectus Supplement

| | Page |
|---|-------------|
| <u>About This Prospectus Supplement</u> | S-1 |
| <u>Where You Can Find More Information</u> | S-1 |
| <u>Incorporation by Reference</u> | S-2 |
| <u>Special Note Regarding Forward-Looking Statements</u> | S-3 |
| <u>Summary</u> | S-5 |
| <u>The Offering</u> | S-7 |
| <u>Risk Factors</u> | S-11 |
| <u>Auction Process</u> | S-25 |
| <u>Use of Proceeds</u> | S-32 |
| <u>Description of Warrants</u> | S-33 |
| <u>Description of Capital Stock</u> | S-40 |
| <u>Selling Security Holder</u> | S-41 |
| <u>Material United States Federal Income Tax Considerations</u> | S-43 |
| <u>Certain ERISA Considerations</u> | S-49 |
| <u>Underwriting</u> | S-51 |
| <u>Validity of the Warrants</u> | S-56 |
| <u>Experts</u> | S-56 |
| Prospectus | |

| | Page |
|---|-------------|
| <u>ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS</u> | 1 |
| <u>WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION</u> | 1 |
| <u>INCORPORATION OF CERTAIN DOCUMENTS BY REFERENCE</u> | 2 |
| <u>FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS</u> | 3 |
| <u>RISK FACTORS</u> | 5 |
| <u>CATHAY GENERAL BANCORP</u> | 5 |
| <u>USE OF PROCEEDS</u> | 6 |
| <u>RATIO OF EARNINGS TO FIXED CHARGES AND PREFERRED DIVIDENDS</u> | 6 |
| <u>REGULATORY CONSIDERATIONS</u> | 7 |
| <u>DESCRIPTION OF COMMON STOCK</u> | 8 |
| <u>DESCRIPTION OF PREFERRED STOCK</u> | 9 |
| <u>DESCRIPTION OF DEBT SECURITIES</u> | 12 |
| <u>DESCRIPTION OF WARRANTS</u> | 19 |
| <u>ANTI-TAKEOVER PROVISIONS IN CATHAY S CERTIFICATE OF INCORPORATION AND BYLAWS</u> | 20 |
| <u>PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION</u> | 21 |
| <u>LEGAL MATTERS</u> | 22 |
| <u>EXPERTS</u> | 23 |

Table of Contents

ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT

This document is comprised of two parts. The first part is this prospectus supplement, which describes the specific terms of this offering and certain other matters relating to us, and it adds to and updates information contained in the accompanying prospectus and the documents incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus. The second part is the accompanying prospectus, dated December 3, 2013, which provides more general information about the securities we may offer from time to time, some of which does not apply to this offering. You should read both this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus, together with additional information described under the heading **Where You Can Find More Information**.

If the information set forth in this prospectus supplement differs in any way from the information set forth in the accompanying prospectus, you should rely on the information set forth in this prospectus supplement. If the information conflicts with any statement in a document that we have incorporated by reference, then you should rely on the statement in the more recent document.

It is important for you to read and consider all information contained in or incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement, the accompanying prospectus or any free writing prospectus filed by us with the SEC related to this offering before investing in the warrants or the common stock, including the information contained in the documents identified under the heading **Where You Can Find More Information**.

WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION

We file annual, quarterly, and current reports, proxy statements and other information with the Securities and Exchange Commission (**SEC**). Our SEC filings are available to the public over the Internet at the SEC's website at www.sec.gov and on the investor relations page of our website at www.cathaygeneralbancorp.com. Except for those SEC filings incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement, none of the other information on our website is part of this prospectus supplement. You may also read and copy any document we file with the SEC at its public reference facilities at 100 F Street N.E., Washington, D.C. 20549. You can also obtain copies of the documents upon the payment of a duplicating fee to the SEC. Please call the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330 for further information on the operation of the public reference facilities.

This prospectus supplement omits some information contained in the registration statement in accordance with SEC rules and regulations. You should review the information and exhibits included in the registration statement for further information about us and the securities we are offering. Statements in this prospectus supplement concerning any document we filed as an exhibit to the registration statement or that we otherwise filed with the SEC are not intended to be comprehensive and are qualified by reference to these filings. You should review the complete document to evaluate these statements.

We have not, and the underwriter and the selling security holder have not, authorized any other person to provide you with different or additional information. If anyone provides you with different or inconsistent information, we take no responsibility for, nor can we provide any assurance as to the reliability of, any other information that others may give you. We are not, and the underwriter is not, making an offer to sell the warrants in any jurisdiction where the offer or sale is not permitted. You should assume that the information appearing in this prospectus supplement, the accompanying prospectus, the documents incorporated by

Table of Contents

reference herein and therein or any related free writing prospectus is accurate only as of their respective dates. Our business, financial condition, results of operations and prospects may have changed since those dates.

INCORPORATION BY REFERENCE

The SEC allows us to incorporate by reference information we file with it, which means that we can disclose important information to you by referring you to other documents. The information incorporated by reference is considered to be a part of this prospectus supplement, and information that we file later with the SEC will automatically update and supersede this information. In all cases, you should rely on the later information over different information included in this prospectus supplement.

We incorporate by reference the documents listed below and all future filings we make with the SEC under Section 13(a), 13(c), 14 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, or the Exchange Act, prior to the termination of the offering, except to the extent that any information contained in such filings is deemed furnished in accordance with SEC rules:

Our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2012, filed with the SEC on March 1, 2013, including portions incorporated by reference therein to our Definitive Proxy Statement on Schedule 14A, filed with the SEC on April 11, 2013;

Our Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q for the fiscal quarter ended March 31, 2013 filed on May 8, 2013, for the fiscal quarter ended June 30, 2013 filed on August 8, 2013, and for the fiscal quarter ended September 30, 2013 filed on November 7, 2013;

Our Current Reports on Form 8-K (in each case, other than information and exhibits furnished to and not filed with the SEC in accordance with SEC rules and regulations), filed on March 20, 2013, April 8, 2013, May 14, 2013, September 20, 2013, September 23, 2013, September 30, 2013 and October 1, 2013; and

The description of our common stock contained in the registration statement on Form 8-A filed on September 16, 1999, including any amendment or report filed to update such description.

These documents contain important information about us and our financial condition. Information contained in this prospectus supplement updates and supersedes information incorporated by reference that we have filed with the SEC prior to the date of this prospectus supplement, while information that we file with the SEC after the date of this prospectus supplement that is incorporated by reference will automatically update and supersede this information.

Our filings are available on our website, www.cathaygeneralbancorp.com. Information contained in or linked to our website is not a part of this prospectus supplement. You may also request a copy of these filings, at no cost, by writing or telephoning us at:

Cathay General Bancorp

777 North Broadway

Los Angeles, California 90012

(213) 625-4700

Table of Contents

SPECIAL NOTE REGARDING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

The statements in this prospectus supplement include forward-looking statements within the meaning of the applicable provisions of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995 regarding management's beliefs, projections, and assumptions concerning future results and events. We intend such forward-looking statements to be covered by the safe harbor provision for forward-looking statements in these provisions. All statements other than statements of historical fact are forward-looking statements for purposes of federal and state securities laws, including statements about anticipated future operating and financial performance, financial position and liquidity, growth opportunities and growth rates, growth plans, acquisition and divestiture opportunities, business prospects, strategic alternatives, business strategies, financial expectations, regulatory and competitive outlook, investment and expenditure plans, financing needs and availability, and other similar forecasts and statements of expectation and statements of assumptions underlying any of the foregoing. Words such as aims, anticipates, believes, can, continue, could, estimates, expects, hopes, intends, may, optimistic, plans, potential, possible, predicts, projects, variations of these words and similar expressions are intended to identify these forward-looking statements. Forward-looking statements by us are based on estimates, beliefs, projections, and assumptions of management and are not guarantees of future performance. These forward-looking statements are subject to certain risks and uncertainties that could cause actual results to differ materially from our historical experience and our present expectations or projections. Such risks and uncertainties and other factors include, but are not limited to, adverse developments or conditions related to or arising from:

Risks relating to our business

U.S. and international business and economic conditions;

credit risks of lending activities and deterioration in asset or credit quality;

potential supervisory action by bank supervisory authorities;

increased costs of compliance and other risks associated with changes in regulation and the current regulatory environment, including the requirements of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act (the Dodd-Frank Act), and the potential for substantial changes in the legal, regulatory, and enforcement framework and oversight applicable to financial institutions in reaction to recent adverse financial market events, including changes pursuant to the Dodd-Frank Act;

potential goodwill impairment;

liquidity risk;

fluctuations in interest rates;

inflation and deflation;

risks associated with acquisitions and the expansion of our business into new markets;

real estate market conditions and the value of real estate collateral;

environmental liabilities;

our ability to compete with larger competitors;

the possibility of higher capital requirements, including implementation of the Basel III capital standards of the Basel Committee;

our ability to retain key personnel;

S-3

Table of Contents

successful management of reputational risk;

natural disasters and geopolitical events;

general economic or business conditions in California, Asia, and other regions where the Bank has operations;

failures, interruptions, or security breaches of our information systems;

our ability to adapt our systems to technological changes, including successfully implementing our core system conversion;

adverse results in legal proceedings;

changes in accounting standards or tax laws and regulations;

market disruption and volatility;

restrictions on dividends and other distributions by laws and regulations and by our regulators and our capital structure;

successfully raising additional capital, if needed, and the resulting dilution of interests of holders of our common stock; and

the soundness of other financial institutions.

Forward-looking statements by us are based on estimates, projections, beliefs and assumptions of management and are not guarantees of future performance. Such forward-looking statements may be contained in this prospectus supplement (and the documents incorporated by reference herein) under Risk Factors, or may be contained in our Annual Report on Form 10-K or in our Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q under headings such as Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Conditions and Results of Operations and Business, or in our Current Reports on Form 8-K, among other places. Any investor in Cathay should consider all risks and uncertainties disclosed in our filings with the SEC described under the heading Where You Can Find More Information, all of which are accessible on the SEC's website at www.sec.gov.

These and other factors are further described in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2012 (Item 1A in particular), other reports and registration statements we file with the SEC from time to time. Actual results in any future period may also vary from the past results discussed in this prospectus supplement. Given these risks and uncertainties, readers are cautioned not to place undue reliance on any forward-looking statements, which speak to the date of this prospectus supplement. We have no intention and undertake no obligation to update any forward-looking statement or to publicly announce any revision of any forward-looking statement to reflect future developments or events, except as required by law.

Cathay General Bancorp's filings with the SEC are available at the website maintained by the SEC at <http://www.sec.gov>, or by request directed to Cathay General Bancorp, 9650 Flair Drive, El Monte, California 91731, Attention: Investor Relations (626) 279-3286. The information contained in our website is not a part of this prospectus supplement.

Table of Contents

SUMMARY

The following summary should be read together with the information contained in other parts of this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus. This summary highlights selected information from this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus to help you understand the offering of the warrants. You should read this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus, including the documents we incorporate by reference, carefully to understand fully the terms of the warrants and the common stock as well as the other considerations that are important to you in making a decision about whether to invest in the warrants or the common stock. You should pay special attention to the Risk Factors section of this prospectus supplement and the Risk Factors section in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2012 and the other documents incorporated by reference into this prospectus supplement, before you determine whether an investment in the warrants or the common stock is appropriate for you.

Cathay General Bancorp

Cathay General Bancorp is a corporation that was organized in 1990 under the laws of the State of Delaware. We are the holding company of Cathay Bank, a California state-chartered commercial bank (Cathay Bank or the Bank), six limited partnerships investing in affordable housing investments in which Cathay Bank is the sole limited partner, and GBC Venture Capital, Inc. We also own 100% of the common stock of five statutory business trusts created for the purpose of issuing capital securities. In the future, we may become an operating company or acquire savings institutions, other banks, or companies engaged in bank-related activities and may engage in or acquire such other businesses, or activities as may be permitted by applicable law.

Cathay Bank was incorporated under the laws of the State of California on August 22, 1961, was licensed by the DBO (then known as the California State Banking Department) and commenced operations as a California state-chartered bank on April 19, 1962. Cathay Bank is an insured bank under the Federal Deposit Insurance Act by the FDIC, but it is not a member of the Federal Reserve.

The Bank's head office is located in the Chinatown area of Los Angeles, at 777 North Broadway, Los Angeles, California 90012. In addition, as of December 31, 2012, the Bank had branch offices in Southern California (20 branches), Northern California (11 branches), New York (eight branches), Massachusetts (one branch), Texas (two branches), Washington (three branches), Illinois (three branch locations and one drive-through location), New Jersey (one branch), and Hong Kong (one branch) and a representative office in Shanghai and in Taipei. Deposit accounts at the Hong Kong branch are not insured by the FDIC. Each branch has loan approval rights subject to the branch manager's authorized lending limits. Current activities of the Shanghai and Taipei representative offices are limited to coordinating the transportation of documents to the Bank's head office and performing liaison services.

Our primary market area is defined by the Community Reinvestment Act delineation, which includes the contiguous areas surrounding each of the Bank's branch offices. It is the Bank's policy to reach out and actively offer services to low and moderate income groups in the delineated branch service areas. Many of the Bank's employees speak both English and one or more Chinese dialects or Vietnamese, and are thus able to serve the Bank's Chinese, Vietnamese, and English speaking customers.

Table of Contents

As a commercial bank, the Bank accepts checking, savings, and time deposits, and makes commercial, real estate, personal, home improvement, automobile, and other installment and term loans. From time to time, the Bank invests available funds in other interest-earning assets, such as U.S. Treasury securities, U.S. government agency securities, state and municipal securities, mortgage-backed securities, asset-backed securities, corporate bonds, and other security investments. The Bank also provides letters of credit, wire transfers, forward currency spot and forward contracts, traveler s checks, safe deposit, night deposit, Social Security payment deposit, collection, bank-by-mail, drive-up and walk-up windows, automatic teller machines (ATM), Internet banking services, and other customary bank services.

The Bank primarily services individuals, professionals, and small to medium-sized businesses in the local markets in which its branches are located and provides commercial mortgage loans, commercial loans, Small Business Administration (SBA) loans, residential mortgage loans, real estate construction loans, equity lines of credit, and installment loans to individuals for automobile, household, and other consumer expenditures.

Through Cathay Wealth Management, the Bank provides its customers the ability to trade securities online and to purchase mutual funds, annuities, equities, bonds, and short-term money market instruments. All securities and insurance products provided by Cathay Wealth Management are offered by, and all Financial Consultants are registered with, Cetera Financial Services, a registered securities broker/dealer and licensed insurance agency and member of the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority and Security Investor Protection Corporation. Cetera Financial Services and Cathay Bank are independent entities. These products are not insured by the FDIC.

Cathay General Bancorp is regulated as a bank holding company by the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, or Federal Reserve Board. Cathay Bank is regulated as a California commercial bank by the California Department of Business Oversight, or DBO, and the FDIC.

Table of Contents

The Offering

The following summary contains basic information about the warrants, the common stock, and the auction process and is not intended to be complete. It does not contain all the information that is important to you. For a more complete understanding of the warrants and the common stock, you should read the sections of this prospectus supplement entitled *Description of Warrants* and *Description of Capital Stock*.

| | |
|---|--|
| Issuer | Cathay General Bancorp, a Delaware corporation. |
| Warrants offered by the selling security holder | 1,846,374, each of which represents the right to purchase one share of our common stock, \$0.01 par value per share, at an initial exercise price of \$20.96 per share (subject to adjustment). The number of warrants sold will depend on the number of bids received and whether the selling security holder decides to sell any warrants in the auction process. The exercise price of the warrants cannot be paid in cash and is payable only by netting out a number of shares of our common stock issuable upon exercise of the warrants with a market value equal to the aggregate exercise price of the warrants at the time of exercise. The warrants are currently exercisable and expire on December 5, 2018. See <i>Auction Process</i> in this prospectus supplement. |
| Common stock outstanding after this offering | 79,503,450 (1) |
| Auction process | The selling security holder and the underwriter will determine the public offering price and the allocation of the warrants in this offering through an auction process conducted by Deutsche Bank Securities Inc. (<i>Deutsche Bank Securities</i>), the sole book-running manager, in its capacity as the auction agent. The auction process will entail a modified <i>Dutch auction</i> mechanic in which bids may be submitted through the auction agent or one of the other brokers that is a member of the broker network, which are collectively referred to in this prospectus supplement as the network brokers, established in connection with the auction process. Each broker will make suitability determinations with respect to its own customers wishing to participate in the auction process. The auction agent will not provide bidders with any information about the bids of other bidders or auction trends, or with advice regarding bidding strategies, in connection with the auction process. We encourage you to discuss any questions regarding the bidding process and suitability determinations applicable to your bids with your broker. For more information about the auction process, see <i>Auction Process</i> in this prospectus supplement. |

Table of Contents

| | |
|--|--|
| Minimum bid price and price increments | The offering is being made using an auction process in which prospective purchasers are required to bid for the warrants. During the auction period, bids may be placed by qualifying bidders at any price (in increments of \$0.10) at or above the minimum bid price of \$6.50 per warrant. See "Auction Process" in this prospectus supplement. |
| Minimum bid size | 100 warrants |
| Bid submission deadline | The auction will commence at 8:00 a.m., New York City time, on the date specified by the auction agent in a press release issued prior to the opening of the equity markets on such day, and will close at 6:30 p.m., New York City time, on that same day, which is referred to as the submission deadline. |
| Irrevocability of bids | Bids that have not been modified or withdrawn by the time of the submission deadline are final and irrevocable, and bidders who submit successful bids will be obligated to purchase the warrants allocated to them. The auction agent is under no obligation to reconfirm bids for any reason; however, the auction agent may require that bidders confirm their bids at its discretion before the auction process closes. See "Auction Process" in this prospectus supplement. |
| Clearing price | <p>The price at which the warrants will be sold to the public will be the clearing price set by the auction process. The clearing price will be determined based on the valid, irrevocable bids at the time of the final submission deadline as follows:</p> <p>If valid, irrevocable bids are received for 100% or more of the number of warrants being offered, the clearing price will be equal to the highest price in the auction at which the quantity of all bids at or above such price equals 100% or more of the number of warrants being offered in the auction.</p> <p>If bids are received for half or more, but less than all, of the offered warrants, the clearing price will be equal to the minimum bid price of \$6.50 per warrant.</p> <p>Unless the selling security holder decides not to sell any warrants or as otherwise described below, the warrants will be sold to bidders at the clearing price. Even if bids are received for 100% or more of the warrants being offered, the selling security holder may decide not to sell any warrants in the auction process, regardless of the clearing price. If the selling security holder decides to sell warrants</p> |

Table of Contents

in the auction, after the selling security holder confirms its acceptance of the clearing price (and, in the case where bids are received for fewer than 100% of the warrants being offered, the number of warrants to be sold), the auction agent and each network broker that has submitted bids will notify successful bidders that the auction has closed and that their bids have been accepted (subject in some cases to pro-ration, as described below). The clearing price and number of warrants being sold are also expected to be announced by press release prior to the opening of the equity markets on the business day following the end of the auction. See "Auction Process" in this prospectus supplement.

Number of warrants to be sold

If bids are received for half or more, but less than all, of the offered warrants, then the selling security holder may, but is not required to, sell at the minimum bid price in the auction (which will be deemed to be the clearing price) as many warrants as it chooses to sell up to the number of bids received in the auction, so long as at least half of the offered warrants are sold and the warrants remain eligible for listing. If bids are received for less than half of the offered warrants, the selling security holder will not sell any warrants in this offering. Even if bids are received for all of the warrants, the selling security holder may decide not to sell any warrants in the auction process, regardless of the clearing price. If bids are received for all of the offered warrants and the selling security holder elects to sell warrants in the auction, the selling security holder must sell all of the offered warrants. See "Auction Process" in this prospectus supplement.

Allocation; pro-ration

If bids for all the warrants offered in this offering are received, and the selling security holder elects to sell warrants in the offering, then any bids submitted in the auction above the clearing price will receive allocations in full, while any bids submitted at the clearing price may experience pro-rata allocation. If bids for half or more, but less than all, of the warrants offered in this offering are received, and the selling security holder chooses to sell fewer warrants than the number of warrants for which bids were received, then all bids will experience equal pro-rata allocation. See "Auction Process" in this prospectus supplement.

Our participation in the auction

We are permitted to participate in the auction by submitting bids for the warrants. Although we are under no obligation to participate in the auction, if we elect to participate we will not receive preferential treatment of any kind and would participate on the same basis as all other

Table of Contents

bidders, except that we are required to submit any final bid we may enter by 6:00 p.m., New York City time, on the day on which the auction process is conducted. You will not be notified by either the auction agent, the network brokers or the selling security holder whether we have bid in the auction process or, should we elect to participate in the auction process, the terms of any bid or bids we may place.

Use of proceeds

We will not receive any proceeds from the sale of any of the securities offered by the selling security holder. See Use of Proceeds.

Risk factors

See Risk Factors and other information included or incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus for a discussion of the factors you should consider carefully before deciding to invest in the warrants.

Listing

The warrants have been approved for listing on NASDAQ under the symbol CATYW. Our common stock is listed on NASDAQ under the symbol CATY.

Warrant agent

American Stock Transfer & Trust Company, LLC

Auction agent

Deutsche Bank Securities Inc.

Network brokers

See page S-27 for a list of brokers participating as network brokers in the auction process.

- (1) The number of shares of common stock outstanding immediately after the closing of this offering is based on 79,503,450 shares of common stock outstanding as of November 25, 2013.

Table of Contents

RISK FACTORS

An investment in our securities involves certain risks. You should carefully consider the risks described below, the risk factors included in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2012 and our Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q for the periods ended March 31, 2013, June 30, 2013 and September 30, 2013, respectively, as well as the other information included or incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus, before making an investment decision. The warrants are not an appropriate investment for you if you are not knowledgeable about significant features of the warrants, our common stock or financial matters in general. Our business, financial condition or results of operations could be materially adversely affected by any of these risks. The trading price of the warrants or our common stock could decline due to any of these risks, and you may lose all or part of your investment. This prospectus supplement also contains forward-looking statements that involve risks and uncertainties. Our actual results could differ materially from those anticipated in these forward-looking statements as a result of certain factors, including the risks related to our common stock and faced by us described below and elsewhere in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus.

Risks Related to the Auction Process

The Price of the Warrants Could Decline Rapidly and Significantly Following this Offering.

The public offering price of the warrants, which will be the clearing price, will be determined through an auction process conducted by the selling security holder and the auction agent. Although we have approval to list the warrants on NASDAQ, prior to this offering there has been no public market for the warrants, and the public offering price may bear no relation to market demand for the warrants once trading begins. Pursuant to the auction procedures, the bidding process will reveal a clearing price for the warrants offered in the auction process, which will either be the highest price at which all of the warrants offered may be sold to bidders, if bids are received for 100% or more of the offered warrants, or the minimum bid price of \$6.50, if bids are received for half or more, but less than all, of the offered warrants. If there is little or no demand for the warrants at or above the public offering price once trading begins, the price of the warrants would likely decline following this offering. Limited or less-than-expected liquidity in the warrants, including decreased liquidity due to a sale of less than all of the warrants being offered, or a purchase of warrants by us in the auction process or in the market following the auction, could also cause the trading price of the warrants to decline. In addition, the auction process may lead to more volatility in, or a decline in, the trading price of the warrants after the initial sales of the warrants in this offering.

The Minimum Bid Price that the Auction Agent Has Set for the Warrants in this Offering May Bear No Relation to the Price of the Warrants after the Offering.

Prior to this offering, there has been no public market for the warrants. The minimum bid price set forth in this prospectus supplement was agreed to by Deutsche Bank Securities, the sole book-running manager of this offering, and Treasury. We did not participate in the determination of the minimum bid price and therefore cannot provide any information regarding the factors that Treasury and Deutsche Bank Securities considered in such determination. An analysis of the value of complex securities such as the warrants is necessarily uncertain as it may depend on several key variables, including for example the volatility of the trading prices of the underlying security. The difficulty associated with determining the value of the warrants is further increased by the substantial time period during which the warrants can be exercised. We cannot assure you that the price at which the warrants will trade after

Table of Contents

completion of this offering will exceed this minimum bid price, or that Treasury will choose to sell or will succeed in selling, any or all of the warrants at a price equal to or in excess of the minimum bid price.

The Auction Process for this Offering May Result in a Phenomenon Known as the Winner's Curse, and, as a Result, Investors May Experience Significant Losses.

The auction process for this offering may result in a phenomenon known as the winner's curse. At the conclusion of the auction process, successful bidders that receive allocations of warrants in this offering may infer that there is little incremental demand for the warrants above or equal to the public offering price. As a result, successful bidders may conclude that they paid too much for the warrants and could seek to immediately sell their warrants to limit their losses should the price of the warrants decline in trading after the auction process is completed. In this situation, other investors that did not submit successful bids may wait for this selling to be completed, resulting in reduced demand for the warrants in the public market and a significant decline in the price of the warrants. Therefore, we caution investors that submitting successful bids and receiving allocations may be followed by a significant decline in the value of their investment in the warrants shortly after this offering.

The Auction Process for this Offering May Result in a Situation in which Less Price Sensitive Investors Play a Larger Role in the Determination of the Public Offering Price and Constitute a Larger Portion of the Investors in this Offering, and, as a Result, the Public Offering Price May Not Be Sustainable Once Trading of Warrants Begins.

In a typical public offering of securities, a majority of the securities sold to the public are purchased by professional investors that have significant experience in determining valuations for companies in connection with such offerings. These professional investors typically have access to, or conduct their own, independent research and analysis regarding investments in such offerings. Other investors typically have less access to this level of research and analysis, and as a result, may be less sensitive to price when participating in the auction. Because of the auction process used in this auction, these less price sensitive investors may have a greater influence in setting the public offering price (because a larger number of higher bids may cause the clearing price in the auction to be higher than it would otherwise have been absent such bids) and may have a higher level of participation in this offering than is normal for other public offerings. This, in turn, could cause the auction process to result in a public offering price that is higher than the price professional investors are willing to pay for the warrants. As a result, the price of the warrants may decrease once trading of the warrants begins. Also, because professional investors may have a substantial degree of influence on the trading price of the warrants over time, the price of the warrants may decline and not recover after this offering. Furthermore, if the public offering price of the warrants is above the level that investors determine is reasonable for the warrants, some investors may attempt to short sell the warrants after trading begins, which would create additional downward pressure on the trading price of the warrants.

We Are Permitted to Participate in the Auction Process and, If We Do So, that Could Have the Effect of Raising the Clearing Price and Decreasing Liquidity in the Market for the Warrants.

We are permitted (but we are not required) to submit bids in the auction process. You will not be notified by either the auction agent, the network brokers or the selling security holder whether we have bid in the auction process or, should we elect to participate in the auction process, the terms of any bid or bids we may place. We will not receive preferential treatment of any kind and would participate on the same basis as all other bidders, except that we are required to submit any final bid we may enter by 6:00 p.m., New York City time, on the day on

Table of Contents

which the auction process is conducted (i.e., our final bid will be due 30 minutes before those of other bidders). In some cases, the submission of bids by us could cause the clearing price in the auction process to be higher than it would otherwise have been (although in such a case we would still be required to purchase any warrants for which we had submitted bids at the clearing price). In addition, to the extent we purchase any warrants in the auction process, the liquidity of any market for the warrants may decrease, particularly if any such purchases represent a significant percentage of the outstanding warrants.

The Clearing Price for the Warrants May Bear Little or No Relationship to the Price for the Warrants that Would Be Established Using Traditional Valuation Methods or the Market Price of Our Common Stock, and, as a Result, the Trading Price of the Warrants May Decline Significantly Following the Issuance of the Warrants.

The public offering price of the warrants will be equal to the clearing price. The clearing price of the warrants may have little or no relationship to, and may be significantly higher than, the price for the warrants that otherwise would be established using traditional indicators of value, such as our future prospects and those of our industry in general; our revenues, earnings, and other financial and operating information; multiples of revenue, earnings, cash flows, and other operating metrics; market prices of securities and other financial and operating information of companies engaged in activities similar to ours; and the views of research analysts. The trading price of the warrants may vary significantly from the public offering price. Potential investors should not submit a bid in the auction for this offering unless they are willing to take the risk that the price of the warrants could decline significantly.

No Maximum Price or Set Auction Price Range Has Been Established in Connection with the Auction Process, and any Bids Submitted as Market Bids Will Be Included at the Highest Bid Received From any Bidder.

Although the auction agent has established a minimum bid in connection with the auction process, no maximum price or set price range has been implemented, meaning that there is no ceiling on the per-warrant amount that an investor can bid in the auction. If a bidder submits a market bid (i.e., a bid that specifies the number of warrants the bidder is willing to purchase without specifying the price it is willing to pay), that bid will be treated as a bid at the highest price received from any other bidder in the auction. Because market bids will increase the number of warrants that are covered by bids at the highest price received, the submission of market bids could cause the clearing price in the auction process to be higher than it would otherwise have been absent such market bids. Since the only information being provided in connection with the auction process is the minimum bid price and the auction agent is under no obligation to reconfirm bids for any reason, potential investors should carefully evaluate all factors that may be relevant about us, our operations, the warrants and the auction process in determining the appropriateness of any bids they may submit.

Successful Bidders May Receive the Full Number of Warrants Subject to their Bids, so Potential Investors Should Not Make Bids for More Warrants than They are Prepared to Purchase.

Each bidder may submit multiple bids. However, as bids are independent, each bid may result in an allocation of warrants. Allocation of the warrants will be determined by, first, allocating warrants to any bids made above the clearing price, and second, allocating warrants on a pro-rata basis among bids made at the clearing price. If bids for all the warrants offered in this offering are received, and the selling security holder elects to sell warrants in the offering, the bids of successful bidders that are above the clearing price will be allocated all of the warrants represented by such bids, and only bids submitted at the clearing price will experience any pro-rata allocation. Bids that have not been modified or withdrawn by the time of the

Table of Contents

submission deadline are final and irrevocable, and bidders who submit successful bids will be obligated to purchase the warrants allocated to them. Accordingly, the sum of a bidder's bid sizes as of the submission deadline should be no more than the total number of warrants the bidder is willing to purchase, and investors are cautioned against submitting a bid or bids that do not accurately represent the number of warrants that they are willing and prepared to purchase.

Submitting a Bid Does Not Guarantee an Allocation of Warrants, Even If a Bidder Submits a Bid At or Above the Public Offering Price of the Warrants.

The auction agent may require, at its discretion, that bidders confirm their bids before the auction closes (although the auction agent is under no obligation to reconfirm bids for any reason). If a bidder is requested to confirm a bid and fails to do so within the permitted time period, that bid may be deemed to have been withdrawn and, accordingly, that bidder may not receive an allocation of warrants even if the bid is at or above the public offering price. The auction agent may, however, choose to accept any such bid even if it has not been reconfirmed. In addition, the auction agent may determine in some cases to impose size limits on the aggregate size of bids that it chooses to accept from any bidder (including any network broker), and may reject any bid that it determines, in its discretion, has a potentially manipulative, disruptive or other adverse effect on the auction process or the offering. Furthermore, if bids for all the warrants offered in this offering are received, and the selling security holder elects to sell warrants in the offering, each bid submitted at the clearing price will be allocated a number of warrants approximately equal to the pro-rata allocation percentage multiplied by the number of warrants represented by such bid, rounded to the nearest whole number of warrants (subject to rounding to eliminate odd-lots). Similarly, if bids for half or more, but less than all, of the warrants offered in this offering are received, and the selling security holder chooses to sell fewer warrants than the number of warrants for which bids were received, then all bids will experience equal pro-rata allocation. The selling security holder could also decide, in its sole discretion, not to sell any warrants in this offering after the clearing price has been determined. As a result of these factors, you may not receive an allocation for all or any of the warrants for which you submit a bid.

We Cannot Assure You that the Auction Will Be Successful or that the Full Number of Offered Warrants Will be Sold.

If sufficient bids are received and accepted by the auction agent to enable the selling security holder to sell all of the warrants in this offering, the public offering price will be set at the clearing price, unless the selling security holder decides, in its sole discretion, not to sell any warrants in this offering after the clearing price is determined. If, however, bids are received for half or more, but less than all, of the offered warrants, then the selling security holder may (but is not required to) sell, at the minimum bid price in the auction (which will be deemed the clearing price) as many warrants as it chooses to sell up to the number of warrants for which bids were received in the auction, so long as at least half of the offered warrants are sold and the warrants remain eligible for listing. If bids are received for less than half of the offered warrants, the selling security holder will not sell any warrants in this offering. Even if bids are received for all of the offered warrants, the selling security holder is not obligated to sell any warrants regardless of the clearing price set through the auction process. The liquidity of the warrants may be limited if less than all of the offered warrants are sold by the selling security holder or if we purchase a significant number of warrants in the auction process or in the market following the auction. Possible future sales of the selling security holder's remaining warrants, if any are held following this offering, could affect the trading price of the warrants sold in this offering.

Table of Contents

Submitting Bids Through a Network Broker or Any Other Broker that is Not the Auction Agent May in Some Circumstances Shorten Deadlines for Potential Investors to Submit, Modify or Withdraw Their Bids.

In order to participate in the auction, bidders must have an account with, and submit bids to purchase warrants through, either the auction agent or a network broker. Brokers that are not network brokers will need to submit their bids, either for their own account or on behalf of their customers, through the auction agent or a network broker. Potential investors and brokers that wish to submit bids in the auction and do not have an account with the auction agent or a network broker must either establish such an account prior to bidding in the auction or cause a broker that has such an account to submit a bid through that account. Network brokers and other brokers will impose earlier submission deadlines than those imposed by the auction agent in order to have sufficient time to aggregate bids received from their respective customers and to transmit the aggregate bid to the auction agent (or, in the case of non-network brokers submitting bids through a network broker, to such network broker to transmit to the auction agent) before the auction closes. As a result of such earlier submission deadlines, potential investors who submit bids through a network broker, or brokers that submit bids through the auction agent or a network broker, will need to submit or withdraw their bids earlier than other bidders, and it may in some circumstances be more difficult for such bids to be submitted, modified or withdrawn.

Risks Related to the Warrants

The Warrants Are a Risky Investment. You May Not Be Able to Recover the Value of Your Investment in the Warrants, and the Warrants May Expire Worthless.

On December 2, 2013, the last reported price of our common stock on NASDAQ was \$27.19 per share, which is greater than the exercise price of the warrants. In order for you to recover the value of your investment in the warrants, either a trading market must develop for the warrants and the trading price of the warrants must exceed the public offering price, or our stock price must be more than the sum of the exercise price of the warrants (\$20.96) and the clearing price of the warrants. If, for example, the clearing price of the warrants were the minimum bid price, our stock price would have to be more than \$27.46 for you to have an opportunity to exercise the warrants and achieve a positive return on your investment.

The warrants are exercisable only until December 5, 2018. Generally, a component of the value of option securities such as the warrants is time until expiration and, as the period of time until expiration of the warrants shortens, the market price of the warrants will, holding other variables constant, likely decline. In the event our common stock price does not increase to the level discussed above during the period when the warrants are exercisable, you will likely not be able to recover the value of your investment in the warrants. In addition, if our common stock price falls below the exercise price of the warrants, the warrants may not have any value and may expire without being exercised, in which case you will lose your entire investment. There can be no assurance that the trading price of our common stock will exceed the exercise price or the price required for you to achieve a positive return on your investment. Furthermore, upon exercise of the warrants, you will receive a number of shares of stock calculated based on the closing price of our common stock on that day. Accordingly, the number of shares and the value of our common stock you receive upon exercise of the warrants will depend on the market price of our common stock on the day on which you choose to exercise those warrants.

Table of Contents

There Is No Existing Market for the Warrants, and You Cannot Be Certain that an Active Market Will Be Established.

Prior to this offering, there has been no existing trading market for the warrants. The public offering price for the warrants is being determined by an auction process, and may not be indicative of the price that will prevail in the trading market following this offering. The market price for the warrants may decline below the public offering price, and may be volatile. The liquidity of any market for the warrants will depend on a number of factors, including but not limited to:

the number of warrants that the selling security holder elects to sell in this offering;

the number of warrants that investors purchase in the auction;

the number of warrants that we purchase in the auction, if any;

the number and identity of holders of the warrants;

the number of warrants that we purchase in the market following the auction, if any;

our performance;

the market for similar securities;

the interest of securities dealers in making a market in the warrants; and

the market price of our common stock.

The Warrants Are Not Suitable for All Investors.

The warrants are complex financial instruments for which there is no established trading market. Accordingly, the auction agent, each network broker and any other broker that submits bids through the auction agent or any network broker will be required to establish and enforce client suitability standards, including eligibility, account status and size, to evaluate whether an investment in the warrants is appropriate for any particular investor. Each of them will individually apply its own standards in making that determination, but in each case those standards will be implemented in accordance with the applicable requirements and guidelines of the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority, Inc. (FINRA). If you do not meet the relevant suitability requirements of the auction agent or another broker, you will not be able to bid in the auction. You should be prepared to sustain a total loss of the purchase price of your warrants.

You are Making an Investment Decision About Both the Warrants and the Common Stock, Which are Different Securities.

As described in this prospectus supplement, we are issuing warrants that are exercisable for shares of our common stock. You should carefully review the information in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus regarding each of these securities because their rights and privileges are different.

Purchasers of Warrants Who Exercise Their Warrants for Shares of Our Common Stock Will Incur Immediate and Future Dilution.

Edgar Filing: CATHAY GENERAL BANCORP - Form 424B5

Upon exercise of your warrants for shares of our common stock, you could experience immediate and substantial dilution if the exercise price of your warrants at the time were higher than the net tangible book value per share of the outstanding common stock. In addition, you will experience dilution (subject to the anti-dilution protections contained in the warrants and described in this prospectus supplement) when we issue additional shares of common stock (or warrants or similar securities) in any future offerings or under outstanding options under our stock compensation plans.

S-16

Table of Contents

The Market Price of the Warrants Will Be Directly Affected by the Market Price of Our Common Stock, which May Be Volatile.

To the extent a secondary market develops for the warrants, the market price of our common stock will significantly affect the market price of the warrants. This may result in greater volatility in the market price of the warrants than would be expected for warrants to purchase securities other than our common stock. The market price of our common stock could be subject to significant fluctuations and we cannot predict how shares of our common stock will trade in the future. Increased volatility could result in a decline in the market price of our common stock, and, in turn, in the market price of the warrants. The price of our common stock also could be affected by possible sales of common stock by investors who view the warrants as a more attractive means of equity participation in us and by hedging or arbitrage activity involving our common stock. The hedging or arbitrage of our common stock could, in turn, affect the market price of the warrants.

Holders of the Warrants Will Have No Rights as Common Shareholders Until They Acquire Our Common Stock.

Until you acquire shares of our common stock upon exercise of the warrants, you will have no rights with respect to our common stock, including rights to receive dividend payments, vote or respond to tender offers. Upon exercise of your warrants, you will be entitled to exercise the rights of a common shareholder only as to matters for which the record date occurs after the exercise date.

The Exercise Price of and the Number of Shares of Our Common Stock Underlying the Warrants May Not Be Adjusted for all Dilutive Events.

The exercise price of and the number of shares of our common stock underlying the warrants are subject to adjustment for certain events, including, but not limited to, the issuance of stock dividends on our common stock, the issuance of certain rights or warrants, subdivisions, combinations, distributions of capital stock, indebtedness or assets, certain cash dividends and certain issuer tender or exchange offers as described under **Description of Warrants Adjustments to the Warrants**. The exercise price will not be adjusted, however, for other events, such as a third-party tender or exchange offer, a merger or reorganization in which common stock is acquired for cash or an issuance of common stock for cash, that may adversely affect the trading price of the warrants or our common stock. Other events that adversely affect the value of the warrants may occur that do not result in an adjustment to the warrant's exercise price or the number of shares underlying the warrants.

Additionally, the exercise price of, and the number of shares underlying, the warrants will not be adjusted for any regular quarterly cash dividends that are in the aggregate less than or equal to \$0.105 per share of common stock, which is the amount of the last dividend per share declared prior to the date on which the warrants were originally issued to Treasury. See **Risks Related to Our Common Stock Our Ability to Pay Dividends Depends Upon the Result of Operations of our Subsidiaries and Bank Regulatory Approvals**.

Recent Governmental Actions Regarding Short Sales May Adversely Affect the Market Value of the Warrants.

Governmental actions that interfere with the ability of warrant investors to effect short sales of the underlying common stock could significantly affect the market value of the warrants. Such government actions could make the arbitrage strategy that certain warrant investors employ more difficult to execute for the outstanding warrants offered hereby. In 2010, the SEC

Table of Contents

adopted a new short sale price test, through an amendment to Rule 201 of Regulation SHO. The new Rule 201 restricts short selling only when a stock price has triggered a circuit breaker by falling at least 10 percent in one day, at which point short sale orders can be displayed or executed only if the order price is above the current national best bid, subject to certain limited exceptions. If such new price test precludes warrant investors from executing the arbitrage strategy that they employ or other limitations are instituted by the SEC or any other regulatory agencies, the market value of the warrants could be adversely affected. The warrant agreement does not contain any provisions to afford holders protection in the event of a decline in the market value of the warrants due to such new price test or other limitations, and holders will not be entitled to any exercise price reduction or increase to the number of underlying shares except under the limited circumstances described in Description of Warrants.

The Warrants Do Not Automatically Exercise, and any Warrant not Exercised Prior to the Expiration Date Will Expire Unexercised.

The warrants do not automatically exercise upon expiration. You are entitled to exercise the full number of warrants registered in your name or any portion thereof. Any warrant that you do not exercise prior to the expiration date will expire unexercised and you will not receive any shares of our common stock.

Your Return on the Warrants Will Not Reflect Dividends on Our Common Stock.

Your return on the warrants will not reflect the return you would realize if you actually owned shares of our common stock and received any dividends paid on our common stock other than to the extent described below under Description of Warrants Adjustments to the Warrants. If we increase our regular quarterly cash dividends in the future, your warrants will not be adjusted for, and you will not receive any benefit of, any aggregate regular quarterly cash dividend less than or equal to \$0.105 per share.

The Warrant Agreement Is Not an Indenture Qualified Under the Trust Indenture Act, and the Obligations of the Warrant Agent are Limited.

The warrant agreement is not an indenture qualified under the Trust Indenture Act of 1939, as amended (the TIA) and the warrant agent is not a trustee qualified under the TIA. Accordingly, warrant holders will not have the benefits of the protections of the TIA. Under the terms of the warrant agreement, the warrant agent will have only limited obligations to the warrant holders. Accordingly, it may in some circumstances be difficult for warrant holders, acting individually or collectively, to take actions to enforce their rights under the warrants or the warrant agreement.

The Selling Security Holder is a Federal Agency and Your Ability to Bring a Claim Against the Selling Security Holder Under the Federal Securities Laws May Be Limited.

The doctrine of sovereign immunity, as limited by the Federal Tort Claims Act (the FTCA) provides that claims may not be brought against the United States of America or any agency or instrumentality thereof unless specifically permitted by act of Congress. The FTCA bars claims for fraud or misrepresentation. At least one federal court, in a case involving a federal agency, has held that the United States may assert its sovereign immunity to claims brought under the federal securities laws. In addition, the selling security holder and its officers, agents, and employees are exempt from liability for any violation or alleged violation of the anti-fraud provisions of Section 10(b) of the Exchange Act by virtue of Section 3(c) thereof. The underwriter is not claiming to be an agent of Treasury in this offering. Accordingly, any attempt to assert such a claim against the officers, agents or employees of the selling security holder for

Table of Contents

a violation of the Securities Act or the Exchange Act resulting from an alleged material misstatement in or material omission from this prospectus supplement, the accompanying prospectus or the registration statement of which this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus are a part or resulting from any other act or omission in connection with the offering of the warrants by the selling security holder or the shares of common stock issuable upon the exercise thereof would likely be barred.

Hedging Arrangements Relating to the Warrants May Affect the Value of Our Common Stock.

In order to hedge their positions, holders of our warrants may enter into derivative transactions with respect to our common stock, may unwind or adjust derivative transactions and may purchase or sell our common stock in secondary market transactions. The effect, if any, of any of these activities on the trading price of our common stock will depend in part on market conditions and cannot be ascertained in advance, but any of these activities could adversely affect the value of our common stock.

Holders of the Warrants Will Not Receive Any Additional Shares of Common Stock or Other Compensation Representing Any Lost Value Resulting From a Decrease in the Option Life of the Warrants in the Event We Undergo a Business Combination.

In the event we undergo a merger, consolidation, statutory share exchange or similar transaction requiring the approval of our shareholders, each of which are referred to in this prospectus supplement as a business combination, each warrant holder's right to receive common stock pursuant to the warrants will be converted into the right to receive a number of shares of stock or other securities or property (including cash) which would have been received if such holder had exercised the warrants immediately prior to such business combination. Any such business combination could, therefore, substantially affect the value of the warrants by changing the securities received upon exercise or fixing the market value of the property to be received upon exercise. Warrant holders will not receive any additional shares of common stock or other compensation representing any lost value resulting from any decrease in the option life of, or change in the securities or property (including cash) underlying, the warrants resulting from any such business combination.

You May Be Subject To Tax Upon An Adjustment to the Number of Shares of Common Stock Underlying the Warrants or the Exercise Price of the Warrants Even Though You Do Not Receive a Corresponding Cash Distribution.

The number of shares of common stock underlying the warrants and the exercise price of the warrants are subject to adjustment in certain circumstances. To the extent an adjustment, or failure to adjust, results in an increase in your proportionate interest in our assets or our earnings and profits, you may be deemed to have received for U.S. federal income tax purposes a taxable dividend (to the extent deemed paid out of our earnings and profits) without the receipt of any cash. If you are a Non-U.S. Holder, such deemed dividend generally will be subject to U.S. federal withholding tax (currently at a 30% rate, or such lower rate as may be specified by an applicable treaty), which may be set off against shares of our common stock to be delivered upon exercise of warrants. See "Material United States Federal Income Tax Considerations" in this prospectus supplement.

In addition, Section 871(m) of the Code imposes a 30 percent (or a lower rate under an applicable treaty) withholding tax on dividend equivalents paid to non-U.S. investors. U.S.

Table of Contents

Treasury and the IRS have released proposed regulations that potentially apply the withholding requirements of Section 871(m) to instruments such as the warrants. It is possible that we (or other paying agents) will be required to withhold on amounts with respect to the warrants to the extent the number of shares of common stock underlying the warrants or the exercise price of the warrants are adjusted as a result of a dividend paid on our common stock, or potentially in the absence of an adjustment, and that the regulations, when finalized, will be applied retroactively to dividend equivalents previously deemed paid. The amount and timing of any withholding tax imposed under Section 871(m) may differ from the general withholding required on deemed dividends described above. See **Material United States Federal Income Tax Considerations** in this prospectus supplement.

Risks Related to Our Common Stock

The Price Of Our Common Stock May Fluctuate Significantly.

The trading price of our common stock may fluctuate widely as a result of a number of factors, many of which are outside our control. Stock price volatility may make it more difficult for you to resell your warrants or common stock upon exercise of the warrants when you want and at prices you find attractive. In addition, the stock market is subject to fluctuations in the share prices and trading volumes that affect the market prices of the shares of many companies. These broad market fluctuations could adversely affect the market price of our common stock. Among the factors that could affect our stock price are:

actual or anticipated quarterly fluctuations in our operating results and financial condition;

changes in revenue or earnings estimates or publication of research reports and recommendations by financial analysts;

failure to meet analysts' revenue or earnings estimates;

speculation in the press or investment community;

strategic actions by us or our competitors, such as acquisitions or restructurings;

acquisitions of other banks or financial institutions, through FDIC-assisted transactions or otherwise;

actions by institutional stockholders;

fluctuations in the stock price and operating results of our competitors;

general market conditions and, in particular, developments related to market conditions for the financial services industry;

proposed or adopted regulatory changes or developments;

anticipated or pending investigations, proceedings, or litigation that involve or affect us;

successful management of reputational risk; and

domestic and international economic factors unrelated to our performance.

The stock market and, in particular, the market for financial institution stocks, has experienced significant volatility. As a result, the market price of our common stock may be volatile. In addition, the trading volume in our common stock may fluctuate more than usual and cause significant price variations to occur. The trading price of the shares of our common stock and the value of our other securities will depend on many factors, which may change from

S-20

Table of Contents

time to time, including, without limitation, our financial condition, performance, creditworthiness and prospects, future sales of our equity or equity related securities, and other factors identified above in Forward-Looking Statements, and in this Risk Factors section. The capital and credit markets can experience volatility and disruption. Such volatility and disruption can reach unprecedented levels, resulting in downward pressure on stock prices and credit availability for certain issuers without regard to those issuers' underlying financial strength. A significant decline in our stock price could result in substantial losses for individual stockholders and could lead to costly and disruptive securities litigation.

Statutory Restrictions and Restrictions By Our Regulators On Dividends and Other Distributions From the Bank May Adversely Impact Us by Limiting the Amount of Distributions We May Receive. Statutory and Contractual Restrictions and our Regulators may also Restrict Our Ability To Pay Dividends.

The ability of the Bank to pay dividends to us is limited by various regulations and statutes, including California law, and our ability to pay dividends on our outstanding stock is limited by various regulations and statutes, including Delaware law.

A substantial portion of our cash flow has in earlier years come from dividends that the Bank pays to us. Various statutory provisions restrict the amount of dividends that the Bank can pay to us without regulatory approval.

The Federal Reserve Board has previously issued Federal Reserve Supervision and Regulation Letter SR-09-4 that states that bank holding companies are expected to inform and consult with the Federal Reserve supervisory staff prior to taking any actions that could result in a diminished capital base, including any payment or increase in the rate of dividends. The Bank may not, without the prior approval of the California Department of Business Oversight, pay a dividend in an amount which exceeds the lesser of (a) the retained earnings of the Bank; or (b) the net income of the Bank for its last three fiscal years, less the amount of any distributions made by the Bank or by any majority-owned subsidiary of the Bank during such period. At September 30, 2013, the Bank did not have any funds available for payment of dividends to Cathay General Bancorp. There can be no assurance that our regulators will approve the payment of such dividends. Further, if we are not current in our payment of interest on our Junior Subordinated Notes (as defined below), we may not pay dividends on our common stock.

If the Bank were to liquidate, the Bank's creditors would be entitled to receive distributions from the assets of the Bank to satisfy their claims against the Bank before we, as a holder of the equity interest in the Bank, would be entitled to receive any of the assets of the Bank as a distribution or dividend.

The restrictions described above, together with the potentially dilutive impact of the Warrant, described below, could have a negative effect on the value of our common stock. Moreover, holders of our common stock are entitled to receive dividends only when, as and if declared by our Board of Directors. Although we have historically paid cash dividends on our common stock, we are not required to do so and our Board of Directors could reduce or eliminate our common stock dividend in the future.

There May Be Future Sales or Other Dilution of Our Equity, Which May Adversely Affect the Market Price of Our Common Stock.

Except as described under Underwriting, we are not restricted from issuing additional common stock, including securities that are convertible into or exchangeable for, or that

Table of Contents

represent the right to receive, common stock. The issuance of additional shares of common stock or the issuance of convertible securities would dilute the ownership interest of our existing common shareholders. The market price of our common stock could decline as a result of this offering as well as other sales of a large block of shares of our common stock or similar securities in the market after this offering, or the perception that such sales could occur. Any exercise of the warrants issued in this offering would also result in the issuance of additional shares of common stock that would dilute the ownership interest of our existing common shareholders and could cause the market price of our common stock in the market to decline.

We are highly regulated, and our regulators could require us to raise additional common equity in the future. Both we and our regulators regularly perform a variety of analyses of our assets, including the preparation of stress case scenarios, and as a result of those assessments we could determine, or our regulators could require us, to raise additional capital. There can be no assurances that we would succeed in raising any such additional capital, or the price or other terms on which it may be raised, and any capital we obtain may dilute the interests of holders of our common stock, or otherwise have an adverse effect on their investment.

The Issuance of Shares of Preferred Stock Could Adversely Affect Holders Of Common Stock, Which May Negatively Impact Their Investment.

Our board of directors is authorized to issue shares of currently authorized classes or series of preferred stock without any action on the part of the stockholders. The board of directors also has the power, without stockholder approval, to set the terms of any new classes or series of preferred stock that may be issued, including voting rights, dividend rights and preferences over the common stock with respect to dividends or upon the liquidation, dissolution, or winding up of our business and other terms. If we issue preferred stock in the future that has a preference over the common stock with respect to the payment of dividends or upon liquidation, dissolution or winding up, or if we issue preferred stock with voting rights that dilute the voting power of the common stock, the rights of holders of the common stock or the market price of the common stock could be adversely affected.

Our Ability to Pay Dividends Depends Upon the Results of Operations of Our Subsidiaries and Bank Regulatory Approvals.

We are a holding company and conduct substantially all of our operations through subsidiaries. As a result, our ability to make dividend payments to the holders of our common stock will depend primarily upon the receipt of dividends and other distributions from our subsidiaries. Various legal limitations restrict the extent to which our subsidiaries may extend credit, pay dividends or other funds or otherwise engage in transactions with us or some of our other subsidiaries.

As a bank holding company, our ability to declare and pay dividends is also dependent on certain federal regulatory considerations, including the guidelines of the Federal Reserve regarding capital adequacy and dividends. In particular, while the impact of many of the provisions of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act are not yet known, a number of its provisions, such as certain mandated capital requirements, together with new standards under the so-called Basel III initiatives as implemented by our federal banking regulators, will impose on banks and bank holding companies the need to maintain more and higher quality regulatory capital than has historically been the case. Such provisions could adversely affect our ability to pay dividends or may result in additional limitations on our ability to pay dividends or repurchase our common stock.

Table of Contents

Our Outstanding Debt Securities Restrict Our Ability To Pay Dividends On Our Capital Stock.

As of December 31, 2012, we had issued an aggregate of \$121.1 million in trust preferred securities (collectively, the Trust Preferred Securities). Payments to investors in respect of the Trust Preferred Securities are funded by distributions on certain series of securities issued by us, with similar terms to the relevant series of Trust Preferred Securities, which we refer to as the Junior Subordinated Notes. In addition, in September 2006, the Bank issued \$50.0 million in subordinated debt in a private placement (the Bank Subordinated Debt). If we are unable to pay interest in respect of the Junior Subordinated Notes (which will be used to make distributions on the Trust Preferred Securities), or if any other event of default occurs, then we will generally be prohibited from declaring or paying any dividends or other distributions, or redeeming, purchasing or acquiring, any of our capital securities, including the common stock, during the next succeeding interest payment period applicable to any of the Junior Subordinated Notes.

If the Bank is unable to pay interest in respect of the Bank Subordinated Debt, or if any other event of default has occurred and is continuing on the Bank Subordinated Debt, then the Bank will be prohibited from declaring or paying dividends or other distributions, or redeeming, purchasing or acquiring, any of its capital stock, during the next succeeding interest payment applicable to the Bank Subordinated Debt. As a result, the Bank will be prohibited from making dividend payments to us, which, in turn could affect our ability to pay dividends on our capital securities, including the common stock.

Moreover, any other financing agreements that we enter into in the future may limit our ability to pay cash dividends on our capital stock, including the common stock. In the event that any other financing agreements in the future restrict our ability to pay such dividends, we may be unable to pay dividends in cash on the common stock unless we can refinance amounts outstanding under those agreements.

We May Eliminate Dividends on Our Common Stock.

Although we have historically paid a quarterly cash dividend to the holders of our common stock, holders of our common stock are not entitled to receive dividends. Downturns in the domestic and global economies could cause our board of directors to consider, among other things, the elimination of dividends paid on our common stock. This could adversely affect the market price of our common stock. Our capital management and dividend policy as part of our Three-Year Capital and Strategic Plan includes a policy to refrain from paying dividends in excess of \$.01 per share per quarter, except when covered by operating earnings. The amount of future dividends will depend on our earnings, financial condition, capital requirements and other factors, and will be determined by our board of directors in accordance with the capital management and dividend policy. In addition, we may not pay dividends on our common stock unless all accrued and unpaid dividends for all past dividend periods are fully paid on our outstanding preferred stock. Dividends also may be limited by our regulators as a result of safety and soundness considerations.

The Common Stock is Equity and is Subordinate to Our Existing and Future Indebtedness and Effectively Subordinated to All the Indebtedness and Other Non-Common Equity Claims Against our Subsidiaries.

Shares of the common stock are equity interests in us and do not constitute indebtedness. As such, shares of the common stock will rank junior to all of our indebtedness and to other non-equity claims against us and our assets available to satisfy claims against us, including in

Table of Contents

our liquidation. Additionally, holders of our common stock are subject to the prior dividend and liquidation rights of holders of our preferred stock. Our board of directors is authorized to issue preferred stock without any action on the part of the holders of our common stock and we are permitted to incur additional debt. Upon liquidation, lenders and holders of our debt securities and preferred stock would receive distributions of our available assets prior to holders of our common stock. Furthermore, our right to participate in a distribution of assets upon any of our subsidiaries' liquidation or reorganization is subject to the prior claims of that subsidiary's creditors, including holders of any preferred stock of that subsidiary.

An Investment in Our Warrants or Common Stock is Not an Insured Deposit.

Our warrants and common stock are not bank deposits and, therefore, are not insured against loss by the FDIC, any other deposit insurance fund, or by any other public or private entity. An investment in our warrants or common stock is inherently risky for the reasons described in this Risk Factors section and elsewhere in this prospectus supplement and is subject to the same market forces that affect the price of common stock in any company. As a result, if you purchase our warrants or common stock, you may lose some or all of your investment.

An Entity Investing in Our Outstanding Common Stock Could, Under Certain Circumstances, be Subject to Regulation as a Bank Holding Company.

Any entity (including a group composed of natural persons) owning or controlling with the power to vote 25% or more of our outstanding common stock, or exercising a controlling influence over us, may be subject to regulation as a bank holding company in accordance with the Bank Holding Company Act of 1956, as amended, or the Bank Holding Company Act. In addition, (1) any bank holding company or foreign bank with a U.S. presence may be required to obtain the approval of the Federal Reserve under the Bank Holding Company Act to acquire or retain 5% or more of our outstanding common stock and (2) any person not otherwise defined as a company by the Bank Holding Company Act and its implementing regulations may be required to obtain the approval of the Federal Reserve under the Change in Bank Control Act to acquire or retain 10% or more of our outstanding common stock. Becoming a bank holding company imposes certain statutory and regulatory restrictions and obligations, such as providing managerial and financial strength for its bank subsidiaries. Regulation as a bank holding company could require the holder to divest all or a portion of the holder's investment in our common stock or such nonbanking investments that may be deemed impermissible or incompatible with bank holding company status, such as a material investment in a company unrelated to banking.

Table of Contents

AUCTION PROCESS

The following describes the auction process used to determine the public offering price of the warrants. That process differs from methods traditionally used in other underwritten public offerings. The selling security holder and the underwriter will determine the public offering price and the allocation of the warrants in this offering by an auction process conducted by the sole book-running manager, Deutsche Bank Securities, in its capacity as the auction agent. This auction process will involve a modified Dutch auction mechanic in which the auction agent (working with a number of other brokers) will receive and accept bids from bidders at either the minimum bid price of \$6.50 or at price increments of \$0.10 in excess of the minimum bid price. We may, but are not required to, bid in the auction for some or all of the warrants. After the auction closes and those bids become irrevocable (which will occur automatically at the submission deadline to the extent such bids have not been modified or withdrawn at that time), the auction agent will determine the clearing price for the sale of the warrants offered hereby and, if the selling security holder chooses to proceed with the offering, the underwriter will allocate warrants to the winning bidders. The auction agent has reserved the right to round allocations to eliminate odd-lots. The clearing price for the warrants may bear little or no relationship to the price that would be established using traditional valuation methods. You should carefully consider the risks described under **Risk Factors** **Risks Related to the Auction Process** .

Eligibility and Account Status

In order to participate in the auction process, bidders must have an account with, and submit bids to purchase warrants through, either the auction agent or one of the network brokers. Brokers that are not network brokers will need to submit their bids, either for their own account or on behalf of their customers, through the auction agent or a network broker. If you wish to bid in the auction and do not have an account with the auction agent or a network broker, you will either need to establish such an account prior to bidding in the auction (which may be difficult to do before the submission deadline) or contact your existing broker and request that it submit a bid through the auction agent or a network broker. Network brokers and other brokers will have deadlines relating to the auction that are earlier than those imposed by the auction agent, as described below under **The Auction Process** **The Bidding Process**.

Because the warrants are complex financial instruments for which there is no established trading market, the auction agent, each network broker and any other broker that submits bids through the auction agent or any network broker will be required to establish and enforce client suitability standards, including eligibility, account status and size, to evaluate whether an investment in the warrants is appropriate for any particular investor. Each of them will individually apply its own standards in making that determination, but in each case those standards will be implemented in accordance with the applicable requirements and guidelines of FINRA. If you do not meet the relevant suitability requirements of the auction agent or another broker, you will not be able to bid in the auction. Accounts at the auction agent or any other broker, including broker accounts, are also subject to the customary rules of those institutions. You should contact your brokerage firm to better understand how you may submit bids in the auction process.

The auction agent or network brokers may require bidders (including any brokers that may be bidding on behalf of their customers) to submit additional information, such as tax identification numbers, a valid e-mail address and other contact information, and other information that may be required to establish or maintain an account.

Table of Contents

The auction agent and the network brokers, upon request, will provide certain information to you in connection with the offering, including this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus and forms used by such brokers, if any, to submit bids. Additionally, you should understand that:

before submitting a bid in the auction, you should read this prospectus supplement, the accompanying prospectus and the documents incorporated by reference, including all the risk factors;

the minimum bid price was agreed by the auction agent and Treasury, and we did not participate in that determination and therefore cannot provide any information regarding the factors that Treasury and the auction agent considered in determining the minimum bid price;

if bids are received for 100% or more of the offered warrants, the public offering price will be set at the auction clearing price (unless the selling security holder decides, in its sole discretion, not to sell any warrants in the offering after the clearing price is determined);

if bids are received for half or more, but less than all, of the offered warrants, then the selling security holder may (but is not required to) sell, at the minimum bid price in the auction (which will be deemed the clearing price) as many warrants as it chooses to sell up to the number of bids received in the auction, so long as at least half of the offered warrants are sold and the warrants remain eligible for listing, and that in such a case if the selling security holder chooses to sell fewer warrants than the number of warrants for which bids were received, then all bids will experience equal pro-rata allocation;

if bids are received for less than half of the offered warrants, the selling security holder will not sell any warrants in this offering;

if there is little or no demand for the warrants at or above the clearing price once trading begins, the price of the warrants will decline;

we will be allowed to bid in the auction process and, if we do participate, we will not receive preferential treatment of any kind and would participate on the same basis as all other bidders, except that we are required to submit any final bid we may enter by 6:00 p.m., New York City time, on the day on which the auction process is conducted;

the liquidity of any market for the warrants may be affected by the number of warrants that the selling security holder elects to sell in this offering, and the price of the warrants may decline if the warrants are illiquid;

the auction agent has the right to reconfirm any bid at its discretion by contacting the purported bidder directly and to impose size limits on the aggregate size of bids that it chooses to accept from any bidder, including network brokers (although the auction agent is under no obligation to reconfirm bids for any reason). If you are requested to reconfirm a bid and fail to do so in a timely manner, the auction agent may deem your bid to have been withdrawn, but alternatively may in its discretion choose to accept any such bid even if it has not been reconfirmed;

the auction agent may reject any bid that it determines, in its discretion, has a potentially manipulative, disruptive or other adverse effect on the auction process or the offering; and

Edgar Filing: CATHAY GENERAL BANCORP - Form 424B5

the auction agent will not provide bidders with any information about the bids of other bidders or auction trends, or with advice regarding bidding strategies, in connection with the auction process.

S-26

Table of Contents

None of the underwriter, the selling security holder or we have undertaken any efforts to qualify the warrants for sale in any jurisdiction outside the United States. Except to the limited extent that this offering will be open to certain non-U.S. investors under private placement exemptions in certain countries other than the United States, investors located outside the United States should not expect to be eligible to participate in this offering.

Even if a bidder places a bid in the auction, it may not receive an allocation of the warrants in the offering for a number of reasons described below. You should consider all the information in this prospectus supplement, the accompanying prospectus and the documents incorporated by reference in determining whether to submit a bid, the number of warrants you seek to purchase and the price per warrant you are willing to pay.

The following brokers have agreed to be network brokers for purposes of the auction process: BB&T Capital Markets, a Division of Scott & Stringfellow, LLC, Blaylock Robert Van, LLC, BMO Capital Markets Corp., Cabrera Capital Markets, LLC, Cantor Fitzgerald & Co., CastleOak Securities, L.P., C.L. King & Associates, Inc, D.A. Davidson & Co., FBR Capital Markets & Co., Girard Securities Inc., Guzman & Company, Joseph Gunnar & Co. LLC, Lebenthal & Co., LLC., Loop Capital Markets LLC, Height Securities, LLC, M.R. Beal & Company, Maxim Group, LLC, MFR Securities, Inc., Monarch Capital Group LLC, Muriel Siebert & Co., Inc., RBC Capital Markets Corporation, Samuel A. Ramirez & Company, Inc., Sandler O'Neill & Partners, L.P., SL Hare Capital, Inc., Stifel, Nicolaus & Company, Incorporated, The Williams Capital Group, L.P., Toussaint Capital Partners, LLC, UBS Securities LLC, Wedbush Morgan Securities Inc and Zions Direct, Inc. The network brokers will not share in any underwriting discounts or fees paid by the selling security holder in connection with the offering of the warrants but may, subject to applicable FINRA and SEC rules and regulations, charge a separate commission to their own customers.

The Auction Process

The following describes how the auction agent will conduct the auction process:

General

The auction will commence at 8:00 a.m., New York City time, on the date specified by the auction agent in a press release issued prior to the opening of the equity markets on such day, and will end at 6:30 p.m., New York City time, on that same day (the submission deadline). Unless you submit your bids through the auction agent, your broker will have an earlier deadline for accepting bids. If a malfunction, technical or mechanical problem, calamity, crisis or other similar event occurs that the auction agent believes may interfere with the auction, the auction agent may (in consultation with the selling security holder) decide to extend the auction or cancel and reschedule the auction. The auction agent and the network brokers will advise bidders of any such decision to extend or cancel and reschedule the auction using e-mail, telephone or facsimile, and will attempt to make such notification prior to the time the auction is scheduled to close. If the auction is extended such that it closes at a later time on the same business day, any bids previously submitted will continue to be valid unless amended or cancelled by the bidder, but if the auction is extended such that it closes on the following business day or later, or is cancelled, all bids will be cancelled at the time of such extension or cancellation.

During the auction period, bids may be placed at any price (in increments of \$0.10) at or above the minimum bid price of \$6.50 per warrant.

Table of Contents

The auction agent and the network brokers will contact potential investors with information about the auction process and how to participate and will solicit bids from prospective investors via electronic message, telephone and facsimile. The minimum size of any bid is 100 warrants.

The Bidding Process

The auction agent and the network brokers will only accept bids in the auction process at the minimum bid price and above the minimum bid price in increments of \$0.10.

No maximum price or auction price range has been established in connection with the auction, which means that there is no ceiling on the price per warrant that you or any other bidder can bid in the auction. If you submit a market bid (i.e., a bid that specifies the number of warrants you are willing to purchase without specifying the price you are willing to pay), that bid will be treated as a bid at the highest price received from any bidder in the auction.

Once the auction begins, you may submit your bids either directly through the auction agent or through any network broker. Bids through the network brokers will be aggregated and submitted to the auction agent as single bids at each price increment by those brokers. Bids will only be accepted if they are made on an unconditional basis (i.e., no all-or-none bids will be accepted).

In connection with submitting a bid, you will be required to provide the following information:

the number of warrants that you are interested in purchasing;

the price per warrant you are willing to pay; and

any additional information that may be required to enable the auction agent and/or network broker to identify you, confirm your eligibility and suitability for participating in this offering, and, if you submit a successful bid, consummate a sale of warrants to you.

You may submit multiple bids. Canceling one bid does not cancel any other bid. However, as bids are independent, each bid may result in an allocation of warrants. Consequently, the sum of your bid sizes should be no more than the total number of warrants you are willing to purchase. In addition, the auction agent may impose size limits on the aggregate size of bids that it chooses to accept from any bidder (including any network broker), although the auction agent is under no obligation to do so or to reconfirm bids for any reason.

At any time prior to the submission deadline, you may modify your bids to increase or decrease the number of warrants bid for or the price bid per warrant (subject in all cases to the other conditions of the auction) and may withdraw your bid and reenter the auction. Network brokers, however, will impose earlier submission deadlines than that imposed by the auction agent in order to have sufficient time to aggregate bids received from their respective customers and to transmit the aggregate bid to the auction agent before the auction closes. If you are bidding through a network broker, or another broker that is submitting bids through the auction agent or a network broker, you should be aware of any earlier submission deadlines that may be imposed by your broker.

Conditions for valid bids, including eligibility standards and account funding requirements, may vary from broker to broker. Some brokers, for example, may require a prospective investor to maintain a minimum account balance or to ensure that its

Table of Contents

account balance is equal to or in excess of the amount of its bid. No funds will be transferred to the underwriter until the acceptance of the bid and the allocation of warrants.

A bid received by the auction agent or any network broker involves no obligation or commitment of any kind prior to the submission deadline. Therefore, you will be able to withdraw a bid at any time prior to the submission deadline (or any earlier deadline imposed by a network broker, if you are bidding through a network broker). Following the submission deadline, however, all bids that have not been modified or withdrawn by you prior to the submission deadline will be considered final and irrevocable and may be accepted. The auction agent and the selling security holder will rely on your bid in setting the public offering price and in sending notices of acceptance to successful bidders.

If you are requested to reconfirm a bid and fail to do so in a timely manner, the auction agent may deem your bid to have been withdrawn. The auction agent may, however, choose to accept your bid even if it has not been reconfirmed.

The auction agent may reject any bid that it determines, in its discretion, has a potentially manipulative, disruptive or other adverse effect on the auction process or the offering.

The auction agent will not provide bidders with any information about the bids of other bidders or auction trends, or with advice regarding bidding strategies, in connection with the auction process.

The auction agent or any network broker may require you to deposit funds or securities in your brokerage accounts with value sufficient to cover the aggregate dollar amount of your bids. Bids may be rejected if you do not provide the required funds or securities within the required time. The auction agent or any network broker may, however, decide to accept successful bids regardless of whether you have deposited funds or securities in your brokerage accounts. In any case, if you are a successful bidder, you will be obligated to purchase the warrants allocated to you in the allocation process and will be required to deposit funds in your brokerage accounts prior to settlement, which is expected to occur three or four business days after the notices of acceptance are sent to you.

We will be allowed (but we are not required) to bid in the auction process. If we decide to bid, we will not receive preferential treatment of any kind and would participate on the same basis as all other bidders, except that we are required to submit any final bid we may enter by 6:00 p.m., New York City time, on the day on which the auction process is conducted. You will not be notified by either the auction agent, the network brokers or the selling security holder whether we have bid in the auction process or, should we elect to participate in the auction process, the terms of any bid or bids we may place. We will be required to submit any bids we make through the auction agent. The submission of issuer bids may cause the clearing price in the auction process to be higher than it would otherwise have been absent such bids.

Pricing and Allocation

Deutsche Bank Securities will manage the master order book that will aggregate all bids and will include the identity of the bidders (or their brokers, in the case of bids submitted through a network broker). The master order book will not be available for viewing by bidders. Bidders whose bids are accepted will be informed about the result of their bids.

If valid, irrevocable bids are received for all or more of the warrants being offered, the clearing price will equal the highest price in the auction at which the quantity of all aggregated bids at or above such price equals 100% or more of the number of warrants being offered.

Table of Contents

If valid irrevocable bids are received for at least 50% but less than 100% of the warrants being offered, the clearing price will equal the minimum bid price.

Unless the selling security holder decides not to sell any warrants or as otherwise described below, all warrants will be sold to bidders at the clearing price.

If the number of warrants for which bids are received in the auction is:

100% or more of the number of warrants offered in this offering as disclosed on the cover of this prospectus supplement (the Number of Offered Warrants), then all warrants sold in the offering will be sold at the clearing price (although the selling security holder could, in its discretion, decide to refrain from selling any warrants in the offering after the clearing price has been determined);

50% or more but less than 100% of the Number of Offered Warrants, then the selling security holder may, but will not be required to, sell, at the clearing price (equal to the minimum bid price) as many warrants as it chooses to sell up to the number of bids received in the auction; provided that if it chooses to sell any warrants in such a case it will sell a number of warrants equal to at least 50% of the Number of Offered Warrants; or

less than 50% of the Number of Offered Warrants, then the selling security holder will not sell any warrants in this offering.

Promptly after the auction agent determines the clearing price, it will communicate that clearing price to the selling security holder. The selling security holder may decide not to sell any warrants after the clearing price is determined. Once the selling security holder confirms its acceptance of the clearing price (and, in the case where bids are received for fewer than 100% of the warrants being offered, the number of warrants to be sold), the auction agent will confirm allocations of warrants to its clients and the network brokers. The underwriter will sell all warrants at the same price per warrant.

If bids for all the warrants offered in this offering are received, and the selling security holder elects to sell warrants in the offering, allocation of the warrants will be determined by, first, allocating warrants to any bids made above the clearing price, and second, allocating warrants on a pro-rata basis among bids made at the clearing price. The pro-rata allocation percentage for bids made at the clearing price will be determined by dividing the number of warrants to be allocated at the bidding increment equal to the clearing price by the number of warrants represented by bids at that bidding increment. Each bid submitted at the clearing price will be allocated a number of warrants approximately equal to the pro-rata allocation percentage multiplied by the number of warrants represented by its bid, rounded to the nearest whole number of warrants; provided that bids at the clearing price that are pro-rated may be rounded to the nearest 100 warrants. In no case, however, will any rounded amount exceed the original bid size.

If bids for half or more, but less than all, of the warrants offered in this offering are received, and the selling security holder chooses to sell fewer warrants than the number of warrants for which bids were received, then all bids will experience equal pro-rata allocation. In other words, each bid, not just those at the lowest price increment, will be allocated a number of warrants approximately equal to the pro-rata allocation percentage multiplied by the number of warrants represented by its bid, rounded to the nearest whole number of warrants; provided that bids at the clearing price that are pro-rated may be rounded to the nearest 100 warrants. In no case, however, will any rounded amount exceed the original bid size.

After the selling security holder confirms its acceptance of the clearing price (and, in the case where bids are received for fewer than 100% of the warrants being offered, the

Table of Contents

number of warrants to be sold), the auction agent and each network broker that has submitted bids will notify you, in the event your bids have been accepted, by electronic message, telephone, facsimile or otherwise that the auction has closed and that your bids have been accepted (subject in some cases to pro-ration, as described in this prospectus supplement). They may also provide you with a preliminary allocation estimate, which will be subsequently followed by a final allocation and confirmation of sale. In the event your bids are not accepted, you may be notified that your bids have not been accepted. As a result of the varying delivery times involved in sending e-mails over the Internet and other methods of delivery, you may receive notices of acceptance before or after other bidders.

The clearing price and number of warrants being sold are expected to be announced via press release prior to the opening of the equity markets on the business day following the end of the auction. The price will also be included in the notice of acceptance and the confirmation of sale that will be sent to successful bidders, and will also be included in the final prospectus supplement for the offering.

Sales to investors bidding directly through the auction agent will be settled via their accounts with Deutsche Bank Securities, while sales through network brokers will be settled through your account with the broker through which your bid was submitted.

If you submit successful bids, you will be obligated to purchase the warrants allocated to you regardless of whether you are aware that the notice of acceptance of your bid has been sent. Once the underwriter has sent out a notice of acceptance and confirmation of sale, it will not cancel or reject your bid. The auction agent and the selling security holder will rely on your bid in setting the public offering price and in sending notices of acceptance to successful bidders. As a result, you will be responsible for paying for all of the warrants that are finally allocated to you, at the public offering price.

You should carefully review the procedures of, and communications from, the institution through which you bid to purchase warrants.

Auction Process Developments

You should keep in contact with the institution through which your bid has been submitted and monitor your relevant e-mail accounts, telephone and facsimile for notifications related to this offering, which may include:

Potential Request for Reconfirmation. The auction agent may ask you to reconfirm your bid at its discretion by directly contacting you (or your broker, if you submitted your bid through a broker other than the auction agent), although the auction agent is under no obligation to reconfirm bids for any reason. If you are requested to reconfirm a bid and fail to do so in a timely manner, the auction agent may deem your bid to have been withdrawn. The auction agent may, however, choose to accept your bid even if it has not been reconfirmed.

Notice of Additional Information Conveyed by Free Writing Prospectus. Notification that additional information relating to this offering is available in a free writing prospectus.

Notice of Acceptance. Notification as to whether any of your bids are successful and have been accepted. This notification will include the final clearing price. If your bids have been accepted, you will be informed about the results of the auction process.

Table of Contents

USE OF PROCEEDS

The warrants offered by this prospectus supplement are being sold for the account of Treasury. Any proceeds from the sale of these warrants will be received by Treasury for its own account, and we will not receive any proceeds from the sale of any of the warrants offered by this prospectus supplement.

S-32

Table of Contents

DESCRIPTION OF WARRANTS

The following is a brief description of the terms of the warrants being sold by the selling security holder. This summary does not purport to be complete in all respects. This description is subject to, and qualified in its entirety by reference to, the form of warrant and warrant agreement, copies of which will be filed with the SEC.

Common Stock Subject to the Warrants

Each warrant initially represents the right to purchase one share of common stock. The number of shares deliverable upon the exercise of each warrant is subject to the adjustments described below under the heading **Adjustments to the Warrants**.

Exercise of the Warrants

The initial exercise price applicable to each warrant is \$20.96 per share of common stock for which the warrant may be exercised. All or any portion of the warrants may be exercised in whole or in part at any time or from time to time on or before 5:00 p.m., New York City time, on December 5, 2018 by surrender to the warrant agent of the warrant and a completed notice of exercise attached as an annex to the warrant and the payment of the exercise price per share for the shares of common stock for which the warrants are being exercised. The exercise price cannot be paid in cash. The exercise price will be paid by the withholding by us of a number of shares of common stock issuable upon exercise of the warrants equal to the value of the aggregate exercise price of the warrants so exercised, determined by reference to the market price of our common stock on the trading day on which the warrants are exercised and notice is delivered to the warrant agent. If warrants are exercised and the exercise price exceeds the value of the shares issuable upon exercise, no amount will be due and payable by us to the warrant holder. The exercise price applicable to the warrants is subject to adjustment described below under the heading **Adjustments to the Warrants**. So long as the warrants are in global form, any exercise notice will be delivered to the warrant agent through and in accordance with the procedures of the depository for the warrants.

Upon exercise of warrants, the shares of common stock issuable upon exercise will be issued by our transfer agent for the account of the exercising warrant holder. Shares issued upon exercise of warrants will be issued in the name or names designated by the exercising warrant holder and will be delivered by the transfer agent to the exercising warrant holder (or its nominee or nominees) either via book-entry transfer crediting the account of such warrant holder (or the relevant participant of The Depository Trust Company (**DTC**) for the benefit of such warrant holder) through **DTC**'s **DWAC** system, or, if definitive warrants are issued in the limited circumstances described under **Description of the Warrant Agreement**, otherwise in certificated form by physical delivery to the address specified by such warrant holder in the exercise notice. We will not issue fractional shares upon any exercise of the warrants. Instead, the exercising warrant holder will be entitled to a cash payment equal to the pro-rated per share market price of our common stock on the date of exercise of the warrants for any fractional share that would have otherwise been issuable upon exercise of the warrants. We will at all times reserve the aggregate number of shares of our common stock for which the warrants may be exercised.

Issuance of any shares of common stock deliverable upon the exercise of warrants will be made without charge to the warrant holder for any issue or transfer tax or other incidental expense in respect of the issuance of those shares (other than liens or charges created by a warrant holder, income and franchise taxes incurred in connection with the exercise of the warrant or taxes in respect of any transfer occurring contemporaneously therewith).

Table of Contents

The warrants and the shares of common stock issuable upon the exercise of the warrants have been approved for listing on NASDAQ under the symbol CATYW .

Rights as a Shareholder

The warrant holders will have no rights or privileges of holders of our common stock, including any voting rights and rights to dividend payments, until (and then only to the extent) the warrants have been exercised.

Adjustments to the Warrants

Pursuant to the terms of the warrants, the number of shares of common stock issuable upon exercise of each warrant, or the warrant shares, and the warrant exercise price will be adjusted upon occurrence of certain events as follows.

In the case of stock splits, subdivisions, reclassifications or combinations of common stock. If we declare and pay a dividend or make a distribution on our common stock in shares of common stock, subdivide or reclassify the outstanding shares of our common stock into a greater number of shares, or combine or reclassify the outstanding shares of our common stock into a smaller number of shares, the number of warrant shares at the time of the record date for such dividend or distribution or the effective date of such subdivision, combination or reclassification will be proportionately adjusted so that the holder of a warrant after such date will be entitled to purchase the number of shares of common stock that it would have owned or been entitled to receive in respect of the number of warrant shares had such warrant been exercised immediately prior to such date. The exercise price in effect immediately prior to the record date for such dividend or distribution or the effective date of such subdivision, combination or reclassification will be adjusted by multiplying such exercise price by the quotient of (x) the number of warrant shares immediately prior to such adjustment divided by (y) the new number of warrant shares as determined in accordance with the immediately preceding sentence.

In the case of cash dividends or other distributions. If we fix a record date for making a distribution to all holders of our common stock of securities, evidences of indebtedness, assets, cash, rights or warrants (excluding ordinary cash dividends (as defined below), dividends of our common stock and other dividends or distributions referred to in the preceding bullet point), the exercise price in effect prior to such record date will be reduced immediately thereafter to the price determined by multiplying the exercise price in effect immediately prior to the reduction by the quotient of (x) the market price (as defined below) of our common stock on the last trading day preceding the first date on which our common stock trades the regular way on the principal national securities exchange on which our common stock is listed or admitted to trading without the right to receive such distribution, minus the amount of cash and/or the fair market value of the securities, evidences of indebtedness, assets, rights or warrants to be so distributed in respect of one share of our common stock (such subtracted amount and/or fair market value is referred to as the Per Share Fair Market Value) divided by (y) such market price on the date specified in clause (x). Any such adjustment will be made successively whenever such a record date is fixed. The number of warrant shares will be increased to the number obtained by multiplying the number of warrant shares deliverable upon exercise of a warrant immediately prior to such adjustment by the quotient of (a) the exercise price in effect immediately prior to the distribution giving rise to this adjustment divided by (b) the new exercise price as determined in accordance with the immediately preceding sentence. In the case of adjustment for a cash dividend that is, or is coincident with, a regular quarterly cash dividend, the Per Share Fair Market Value would be reduced only by the per share amount of the portion of the cash dividend that

Table of Contents

would constitute an ordinary cash dividend. If, after the declaration of any such record date, the related distribution is not made, the exercise price and the number of warrant shares then in effect will be readjusted, effective as of the date when our board of directors determines not to make such distribution, to the exercise price and the number of warrant shares that would then be in effect if such record date had not been fixed.

In the case of a pro rata repurchase of common stock. A pro rata repurchase is defined as any purchase of shares of our common stock by Cathay General Bancorp or an affiliate of Cathay General Bancorp pursuant to any tender offer or exchange offer subject to Section 13(e) or 14(e) of the Exchange Act, or Regulation 14E thereunder, or any other offer available to substantially all holders of our common stock. If we effect a pro rata repurchase of our common stock, then the exercise price will be reduced to the price determined by multiplying the exercise price in effect immediately prior to the effective date (as defined below) of such pro rata repurchase by a fraction of which (A) the numerator will be (i) the product of (x) the number of shares of common stock outstanding immediately before such pro rata repurchase and (y) the market price of a share of our common stock on the trading day immediately preceding the first public announcement by us or any of our affiliates of the intent to effect such pro rata repurchase, minus (ii) the aggregate purchase price of the pro rata repurchase, and (B) the denominator will be the product of (i) the number of shares of our common stock outstanding immediately prior to such pro rata repurchase minus the number of shares of our common stock so repurchased and (ii) the market price per share of our common stock on the trading day immediately preceding the first public announcement by us or any of our affiliates of the intent to effect such pro rata repurchase. The number of warrant shares will be increased to the number obtained by multiplying the number of warrant shares immediately prior to such adjustment by the quotient of (x) the exercise price in effect immediately prior to the pro rata repurchase giving rise to this adjustment divided by (y) the new exercise price as determined in accordance with the immediately preceding sentence. For the avoidance of doubt, no increase to the exercise price or decrease in the number of warrant shares deliverable upon exercise of a warrant will be made pursuant to this adjustment provision. The effective date of a pro rata repurchase means (a) the date of acceptance of shares for purchase or exchange by us under any tender offer or exchange offer which is a pro rata repurchase or (b) the date of purchase of any pro rata repurchase that is not a tender offer or an exchange offer.

In the case of a merger, consolidation, statutory share exchange or similar transaction that requires the approval of our shareholders (any such transaction, a business combination). In the event of any business combination or reclassification of our common stock (other than a reclassification referenced in the first bullet point above), a warrant holder's right to receive shares of common stock upon exercise of a warrant will be converted into the right to exercise that warrant to acquire the number of shares of stock or other securities or property (including cash) which our common stock issuable (at the time of such business combination or reclassification) upon exercise of such warrant immediately prior to such business combination or reclassification would have been entitled to receive upon consummation of such business combination or reclassification. In determining the kind and amount of stock, securities or the property receivable upon exercise of a warrant following the consummation of such business combination, if the holders of our common stock have the right to elect the kind or amount of consideration receivable upon consummation of such business combination, then the consideration that a warrant holder will be entitled to receive upon exercise will be deemed to be the types and amounts of consideration received by the majority of all holders of the shares of our common stock that affirmatively make an election (or of all such holders if none make an election). For purposes of determining any amount of

Table of Contents

warrant shares to be withheld by us as payment of the exercise price from stock, securities or the property that would otherwise be delivered to a warrant holder upon exercise of warrants following any business combination, the amount of such stock, securities or property to be withheld will have a market price equal to the aggregate exercise price as to which such warrants are so exercised, based on the fair market value of such stock, securities or property on the trading day on which such warrants are exercised and notice is delivered to the warrant agent. If any such property is not a security, the market price of such property will be deemed to be its fair market value as determined in good faith by our board of directors in reliance on an opinion of a nationally recognized independent investment banking corporation retained by us for this purpose. If making such determination requires the conversion of any currency other than U.S. dollars into U.S. dollars, such conversion will be done in accordance with customary procedures based on the rate for conversion of such currency into U.S. dollars displayed on the relevant page by Bloomberg L.P. (or any successor or replacement service) on or by 4:00 p.m., New York City time, on such exercise date.

Neither the exercise price nor the number of shares issuable upon exercise of a warrant will be adjusted in the event of a change in the par value of our common stock or a change in our jurisdiction of incorporation. If an adjustment in the exercise price made in accordance with the adjustment provisions above would reduce the exercise price to an amount below the par value of our common stock, then that adjustment will reduce the exercise price to that par value.

The warrant agent will notify the warrant holders of any adjustments. If the warrant agent fails to give such notice, the exercise price and the number of shares issuable upon exercise of the warrants will nevertheless be adjusted.

If more than one adjustment provision applies to a single event, the adjustment provision that produces the largest adjustment with respect to such event will be applied, and no single event will cause an adjustment under more than one adjustment provision so as to result in duplication. All such adjustments will be made to the nearest one-tenth (1/10th) of a cent or to the nearest one-hundredth (1/100th) of a share, as the case may be. No adjustment in the exercise price or the number of shares issuable upon exercise of a warrant will be made if the amount of such adjustment would be less than \$0.01 or one-tenth (1/10th) of a share of common stock, but any such amount will be carried forward and an adjustment with respect thereto will be made at the time of and together with any subsequent adjustment which, together with such amount and any other amount or amounts so carried forward, will aggregate \$0.01 or 1/10th of a share of common stock, or more, or on exercise of a warrant if that occurs earlier.

For purposes of these adjustment provisions:

ordinary cash dividends means a regular quarterly cash dividend on shares of our common stock out of surplus or net profits legally available therefor (determined in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles in effect from time to time). Ordinary cash dividends will not include any cash dividends paid subsequent to December 5, 2008 to the extent the aggregate per share dividends paid on the outstanding common stock in any quarter exceed \$0.105, as adjusted for any stock split, stock dividend, reverse stock split, reclassification or similar transaction.

market price means, with respect to a particular security, on any given day, the last reported sale price regular way or, in case no such reported sale takes place on such day, the average of the last closing bid and ask prices regular way, in either case on the principal national securities exchange on which the applicable securities are listed or admitted to trading, or if not listed or admitted to trading on any national securities exchange, the average of the

Table of Contents

closing bid and ask prices as furnished by two FINRA members selected from time to time by us for that purpose, and will be determined without reference to after hours or extended hours trading. If such security is not listed and traded in a manner that the quotations referred to above are available for the period required under the warrants, the market price will be deemed to be the fair market value per share of such security as determined in good faith by our board of directors in reliance on an opinion of a nationally recognized independent investment banking firm retained by us for this purpose. If any such security is listed or traded on a non-U.S. market, such fair market value will be determined by reference to the closing price of such security as of the end of the most recently ended business day in such market prior to the date of determination. If making any such determination requires the conversion of any currency other than U.S. dollars into U.S. dollars, such conversion will be done in accordance with customary procedures based on the rate for conversion of such currency into U.S. dollars displayed on the relevant page by Bloomberg L.P. (or any successor or replacement service) on or by 4:00 p.m., New York City time, on such exercise date. For the purposes of determining the market price of our common stock on the trading day preceding, on or following the occurrence of an event, (i) that trading day will be deemed to commence immediately after the regular scheduled closing time of trading on NASDAQ or, if trading is closed at an earlier time, such earlier time and (ii) that trading day will end at the next regular scheduled closing time, or if trading is closed at an earlier time, such earlier time (for the avoidance of doubt, and as an example, if the market price is to be determined as of the last trading day preceding a specified event and the closing time of trading on a particular day is 4:00 p.m. and the specified event occurs at 5:00 p.m. on that day, the market price would be determined by reference to such 4:00 p.m. closing price).

Amendment

Any warrants may be amended and the observance of any material term of such warrants may be waived with the consent of a majority of the holders of such warrants; provided that the consent of each affected warrant holder is necessary for any amendment (i) to increase the exercise price or to decrease the number of shares issuable upon exercise of the warrants (other than pursuant to the terms of the adjustment provisions in the warrant certificate described above), (ii) that would shorten the time period during which the warrants are exercisable or (iii) that would change in a manner adverse to such warrant holder the terms of the adjustment provisions in the warrant certificate described above.

Description of the Warrant Agreement

Under the warrant agreement, American Stock Transfer & Trust Company, LLC is appointed as the warrant agent to act on our behalf in connection with the transfer, exchange, redemption, exercise and cancellation of the warrants and required to maintain a registry recording the names and addresses of all registered holders of warrants. The warrant agent will receive a fee in exchange for performing these duties under the warrant agreement and will be indemnified by us for liabilities not involving gross negligence, willful misconduct or bad faith and arising out of its service as warrant agent.

The warrants will initially be issued in the form of one or more global warrants as specified in the warrant agreement. Each global warrant will be deposited upon issuance with, or on behalf of, DTC, and will be registered in the name of DTC or a nominee of DTC, in each case for credit to the account of a direct or indirect participant in DTC. For a description of book-entry procedures and settlement mechanics generally applicable to securities held through DTC participants, see the section entitled **Book-Entry Issuance** below. Owners of a beneficial interest in any global warrant are entitled to receive a warrant in definitive form not held by a depository or the warrant agent only if (i) DTC is unwilling or unable to continue as depository

Table of Contents

for the global warrant or ceases to be a clearing agency under the Exchange Act (and, in each case, no successor depository is appointed within 90 days), (ii) we, in our sole discretion, notify the warrant agent of our election to issue warrants in definitive form under the warrant agreement or (iii) we have been adjudged bankrupt, consented to the filing of bankruptcy proceedings, or filed a petition, answer or consent seeking to reorganize under federal or state law.

Governing Law

The warrants and the warrant agreement will be governed by New York law.

Book-Entry Issuance

The warrants may be issued as global warrants and deposited with a depository. The following is a summary of the depository arrangements applicable to warrants issued in permanent global form and for which DTC will act as depository (the global warrants). The information in this section concerning DTC and DTC's book-entry system has been obtained from sources that we believe to be reliable, but we take no responsibility for the accuracy thereof.

Each global warrant will be deposited with, or on behalf of, DTC, as depository, or its nominee and registered in the name of a nominee of DTC. Except under the limited circumstances described below, global warrants will not be exchangeable for certificated warrants.

Only institutions that have accounts with DTC or its nominee (DTC participants) or persons that may hold interests through DTC participants may own beneficial interests in a global warrant. DTC will maintain records evidencing ownership of beneficial interests by DTC participants in the global warrants and transfers of those ownership interests. DTC participants will maintain records evidencing ownership of beneficial interests in the global warrants by persons that hold through those DTC participants and transfers of those ownership interests within those DTC participants. DTC has no knowledge of the actual beneficial owners of the warrants. You will not receive written confirmation from DTC of your purchase, but we do expect that you will receive written confirmations providing details of the transaction, as well as periodic statements of your holdings from the DTC participant through which you entered the transaction. The laws of some jurisdictions require that certain purchasers of securities take physical delivery of those securities in certificated form. Those laws may impair your ability to transfer beneficial interests in a global warrant.

DTC has advised us that upon the issuance of a global warrant and the deposit of that global warrant with DTC, DTC will immediately credit, on its book-entry registration and transfer system, the number of warrants represented by that global warrant to the accounts of DTC participants.

We will make any payments on warrants represented by a global warrant to DTC or its nominee, as the case may be, as the registered owner and holder of the global warrant representing those securities. DTC has advised us that upon receipt of any payment on a global warrant, DTC will immediately credit accounts of DTC participants with payments in amounts proportionate to their respective beneficial interests in that warrant, as shown in the records of DTC. Standing instructions and customary practices will govern payments by DTC participants to owners of beneficial interests in a global warrant held through those DTC participants, as is now the case with securities held for the accounts of customers in bearer form or registered in street name. Those payments will be the sole responsibility of those DTC participants, subject to any statutory or regulatory requirements in effect from time to time.

Table of Contents

Neither we nor our agents will have any responsibility or liability for any aspect of the records of DTC, any nominee or any DTC participant relating to, or payments made on account of, beneficial interests in a global warrant or for maintaining, supervising or reviewing any of the records of DTC, any nominee or any DTC participant relating to those beneficial interests.

A global warrant is exchangeable for certificated warrants registered in the name of a person other than DTC or its nominee only if:

DTC notifies us that it is unwilling or unable to continue as depository for that global warrant or DTC ceases to be registered under the Exchange Act;

We determine in our discretion that the global warrant will be exchangeable for certificated warrants in registered form; or

We are adjudged bankrupt or insolvent, make an assignment for the benefit of our creditors or upon certain similar events. Any global warrant that is exchangeable as described in the preceding sentence will be exchangeable in whole for certificated warrants in registered form. The registrar will register the certificated warrants in the name or names instructed by DTC. We expect that those instructions may be based upon directions received by DTC from DTC participants with respect to ownership of beneficial interests in the global warrant.

Except as provided above, as an owner of a beneficial interest in a global warrant, you will not be entitled to receive physical delivery of warrants in certificated form and will not be considered a holder of warrants for any purpose. No global warrant will be exchangeable except for another global warrant of like denomination and tenor to be registered in the name of DTC or its nominee. Accordingly, you must rely on the procedures of DTC and the DTC participant through which you own your interest to exercise any rights of a holder under the global warrant.

We understand that, under existing industry practices, in the event that we request any action of holders, or an owner of a beneficial interest in a global warrant desires to take any action that a holder is entitled to take under the terms of the warrants, DTC would authorize the DTC participants holding the relevant beneficial interests to take that action, and those DTC participants would authorize beneficial owners owning through those DTC participants to take that action or would otherwise act upon the instructions of beneficial owners owning through them.

DTC has advised us that DTC is a limited-purpose trust company organized under the New York Banking Law, a banking organization within the meaning of the New York Banking Law, a member of the Federal Reserve System, a clearing corporation within the meaning of the New York Uniform Commercial Code and a clearing agency registered under the Exchange Act.

Global Clearance and Settlement Procedures

Initial settlement for global securities will be made in immediately available funds. DTC participants will conduct secondary market trading with other DTC participants in the ordinary way in accordance with DTC rules. Thereafter, secondary market trades will settle in immediately available funds using DTC's same day funds settlement system.

Although DTC has agreed to the procedures described above in order to facilitate transfers of interests in global warrants among DTC participants, they are under no obligation to perform those procedures and those procedures may be discontinued at any time.

Table of Contents

DESCRIPTION OF CAPITAL STOCK

The following is a brief description of the terms of our common stock. This summary does not purport to be complete in all respects. This description is subject to and qualified in its entirety by reference to our restated certificate of incorporation and our restated bylaws (each as amended), copies of which have been filed with the SEC and are also available upon request from us, as well as the description of our common stock which is incorporated by reference herein through our previous filings with the SEC, including the description of our common stock contained in our registration statement on Form 8-A filed on September 16, 1999, and any amendment or report filed to update such description.

General

Our restated certificate of incorporation, as amended, provides the authority to issue 100,000,000 shares of common stock, par value \$.01 per share. At November 25, 2013, there were 79,503,450 shares of common stock outstanding. Each share of our common stock has the same relative rights and is identical in all respects to each other share of our common stock.

Common Stock

See Description of Common Stock on page 8 of the accompanying prospectus for additional information regarding our common stock, as supplemented herein.

Preferred Stock

See Description of Preferred Stock on page 9 of the accompanying prospectus for additional information regarding our preferred stock, as supplemented herein.

S-40

Table of Contents**SELLING SECURITY HOLDER**

On December 5, 2008, we issued to Treasury a warrant to purchase 1,846,374 shares of our common stock together with shares of our Fixed Rate Cumulative Perpetual Preferred Stock, Series B, or the Series B Preferred Stock, pursuant to a securities purchase agreement between us and Treasury for such warrant and the Series B Preferred Stock, dated December 5, 2008. This securities purchase agreement is referred to in this prospectus supplement as the Securities Purchase Agreement. Treasury acquired the warrant and shares of the Series B Preferred Stock as part of TARP. TARP was established pursuant to the EESA, which was enacted into law on October 3, 2008 in response to the financial crisis. EESA requires the Secretary of the Treasury to acquire warrants in connection with certain purchases from a financial institution, subject to certain exceptions. We repurchased all of the remaining Series B Preferred Stock on September 30, 2013. We are registering the warrants (and the shares of common stock issuable upon exercise of the warrants) offered by this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus on behalf of Treasury as the selling security holder.

The following description of the selling security holder was provided by Treasury and derived from Treasury's website. Treasury is the executive agency of the U.S. government responsible for promoting economic prosperity and ensuring the financial security of the United States. Treasury is responsible for a wide range of activities such as advising the President on economic and financial issues, encouraging sustainable economic growth, and fostering improved governance in financial institutions. Treasury operates and maintains systems that are critical to the nation's financial infrastructure, such as the production of coin and currency, the disbursement of payments to the American public, revenue collection, and the borrowing of funds necessary to run the federal government. Treasury works with other federal agencies, foreign governments, and international financial institutions to encourage global economic growth, raise standards of living, and, to the extent possible, predict and prevent economic and financial crises. Treasury also performs a critical and far-reaching role in enhancing national security by implementing economic sanctions against foreign threats to the U.S., identifying and targeting the financial support networks of national security threats, and improving the safeguards of our financial systems. In addition, under EESA, Treasury was given certain authority and facilities to restore the liquidity and stability of the financial system.

The table below sets forth information with respect to the beneficial ownership of the warrants being offered by this prospectus supplement held as of December 3, 2013 by the selling security holder, the number of warrants being offered hereby, and information with respect to warrants to be beneficially owned by the selling security holder assuming all the warrants offered hereby are sold.

| Selling Security Holder | Warrants Beneficially Owned Prior to this Offering | | Warrants Offered in this Offering | Warrants Beneficially Owned after this Offering | |
|--|--|------------|-----------------------------------|---|------------|
| | Number | Percentage | Number | Number | Percentage |
| United States Department of the Treasury | 1,846,374 | 100% | 1,846,374 | 0 | 0% |

The warrants currently are exercisable for 1,846,374 shares of common stock, which represent approximately 2.3% of our common stock outstanding as of November 25, 2013 (however, because the warrants must be exercised on a cashless basis, we will withhold from an exercising warrant holder a number of shares with a value equal to the aggregate exercise price as payment for the exercise of the warrants). The actual number of shares that could be issued upon exercise of the warrants will depend upon the market price of our common stock at

Table of Contents

the time of exercise and other factors, including the adjustment provisions described above under [Description of Warrants](#) [Adjustments to the Warrants](#), and cannot be determined at this time. Other than the warrants, Treasury does not own any of our equity securities.

Our operations are regulated by various U.S. governmental authorities, including in certain respects by the selling security holder. Under the Securities Purchase Agreement, we have agreed to pay certain expenses and indemnify Treasury for certain liabilities in connection with this offering, including any liabilities under the Securities Act. Purchasers of the warrants will have no rights under the Securities Purchase Agreement. As an agency of the United States, Treasury is likely immune from suit on claims by purchasers of warrants in connection with this offering. See [Risk Factors](#) [Risks Related to the Warrants](#) [The Selling Security Holder is a Federal Agency and Your Ability to Bring a Claim Against the Selling Security Holder Under the Federal Securities Laws May Be Limited](#) above.

Governmental Immunity

The doctrine of sovereign immunity, as limited by the Federal Tort Claims Act, provides that claims may not be brought against the United States of America or any agency or instrumentality thereof unless specifically permitted by act of Congress. The Federal Tort Claims Act bars claims for fraud or misrepresentation. The courts have held, in cases involving federal agencies and instrumentalities, that the United States may assert its sovereign immunity to claims brought under the federal securities laws. Thus, any attempt to assert a claim against Treasury alleging a violation of the federal securities laws, including the Securities Act and the Exchange Act, resulting from an alleged material misstatement in or material omission from this prospectus supplement, the accompanying prospectus or the registration statement of which this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus are a part, or any other act or omission in connection with the offering to which this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus relate, likely would be barred. In addition, Treasury has advised us that Treasury and its members, officers, agents, and employees are exempt from liability for any violation or alleged violation of the anti-fraud provisions of Section 10(b) of the Exchange Act by virtue of Section 3(c) thereof. The underwriter is not claiming to be an agent of Treasury in this offering. Accordingly, any attempt to assert such a claim against the members, officers, agents or employees of Treasury for a violation of the Securities Act or the Exchange Act resulting from an alleged material misstatement in or material omission from this prospectus supplement, the accompanying prospectus or the registration statement of which this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus are a part or resulting from any other act or omission in connection with the offering of the warrants or the shares of common stock issuable upon the exercise thereof likely would be barred.

Table of Contents

MATERIAL UNITED STATES FEDERAL INCOME TAX CONSIDERATIONS

The following is a summary of the material U.S. federal income tax consequences relevant to acquiring and owning the warrants and any common stock received upon the exercise of the warrants. This summary applies only to holders that acquire warrants in this offering at the offering price and hold the warrants (and any common stock received upon the exercise of warrants) as a capital asset.

For purposes of this summary, a U.S. holder means a beneficial owner of warrants (or common stock acquired upon the exercise of warrants) that is (i) a citizen or resident of the United States as determined for U.S. federal income tax purposes, (ii) a corporation (or other entity treated as a corporation for U.S. federal income tax purposes) created or organized in or under the laws of the United States, any state thereof, or the District of Columbia, (iii) an estate the income of which is includable in gross income for U.S. federal income tax purposes regardless of its source, or (iv) a trust if (1) its administration is subject to the primary supervision of a court within the United States and one or more U.S. persons have the authority to control all of its substantial decisions, or (2) it has a valid election in effect under applicable United States Treasury regulations to be treated as a U.S. person.

For purposes of this summary, a non-U.S. holder means a beneficial owner of warrants (or common stock acquired upon the exercise of warrants) that is not a U.S. holder and not a partnership (or other entity treated as a partnership for U.S. federal income tax purposes).

This summary is based upon provisions of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (which we refer to as the Code), and regulations, rulings and judicial decisions as of the date hereof. Those authorities are subject to change, perhaps retroactively, and to differing interpretations, so as to result in U.S. federal income tax consequences different from those summarized below. This summary does not represent a detailed description of the U.S. federal income tax consequences to you in light of your particular circumstances. In addition, it does not address the U.S. federal income tax consequences to you if you are subject to special treatment under the U.S. federal income tax laws (including if you are a bank or other financial institution, insurance company, broker or dealer in securities, trader in securities that elects to use a mark-to-market method of accounting, tax-exempt organization, foreign government or agency, U.S. expatriate, controlled foreign corporation, passive foreign investment company, U.S. holder whose functional currency for tax purposes is not the U.S. dollar or a person who holds the warrants or our common stock in a straddle or as part of a hedging or conversion transaction). This summary does not address any tax consequences arising under the unearned income Medicare contribution tax pursuant to the Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010, and any state, local or foreign tax consequences, nor does it address any U.S. federal tax considerations other than those pertaining to the U.S. federal income tax. We cannot assure you that a change in law will not alter significantly the tax consequences that we describe in this summary.

If an entity classified as a partnership for U.S. federal income tax purposes holds warrants (or common stock received upon the exercise of warrants), the tax treatment of a partner will generally depend on the status of the partner and the activities of the partnership. If you are a partnership holding warrants or our common stock, or a partner in such a partnership, you should consult your tax advisors.

If you are considering the purchase of warrants, you should consult your own tax advisors concerning the particular U.S. federal tax consequences to you of the ownership and disposition of warrants and any common stock received upon the exercise of warrants, as well

Table of Contents

as the consequences to you arising under the laws of any other taxing jurisdiction, including any state, local or foreign tax consequences.

U.S. Holders

Sale of a Warrant

In general, if you are a U.S. holder of a warrant, you will recognize gain or loss upon the sale of the warrant in an amount equal to the difference between the amount realized on the sale and your adjusted tax basis in the warrant. Your initial tax basis in a warrant will be the price you paid for it. Gain or loss attributable to the sale of a warrant will generally be capital gain or loss. Capital gain of a noncorporate U.S. holder is generally eligible for reduced rates of taxation where the U.S. holder has a holding period greater than one year. The deductibility of capital losses is subject to limitation.

Exercise of the Warrants

The tax consequences of the exercise of a warrant that requires a cashless exercise are not clear. Exercise of the warrants may be treated as a tax-free non-recognition event (except with respect to any cash received in lieu of a fractional share) for U.S. federal income tax purposes, either because (i) the warrants are treated as options to acquire a variable number of shares of our common stock on exercise with no exercise price, or (ii) the exchange of warrants for stock is treated as a recapitalization. In either case, a U.S. holder's tax basis in the common stock received will equal the U.S. holder's adjusted tax basis in the warrants, less any basis attributable to any fractional share. Your receipt of cash in lieu of a fractional share of common stock will generally be treated as if you received the fractional share and then received such cash in redemption of the share, generally resulting in capital gain or loss equal to the difference between the amount of cash received and the holder's adjusted tax basis in the common stock that is allocable to the fractional share. If the characterization described in clause (i) above applies, the holding period of common stock received upon the exercise of a warrant should commence on the day after the warrant is exercised, or possibly on the date of exercise. Alternatively, if the exercise of warrants is treated as a recapitalization, the holding period of common stock received upon the exercise of a warrant will include the U.S. holder's holding period for the warrant.

It is also possible that exercise of the warrants could be treated as a taxable exchange in which gain or loss will be recognized. The amount of gain or loss recognized on such exchange and its character as short-term or long-term will depend on the characterization of that exchange. If a U.S. holder is treated as selling a portion of the warrants or underlying shares of our common stock for cash that is used to pay the exercise price for the warrants, the amount of gain or loss will be the difference between that exercise price and such U.S. holder's adjusted tax basis attributable to the warrants or shares of our common stock deemed to have been sold. If the U.S. holder is treated as selling warrants, such U.S. holder will have long-term capital gain or loss if it has held the warrants for more than one year. If the U.S. holder is treated as selling underlying shares of our common stock, such U.S. holder will have short-term capital gain or loss. In either case, a U.S. holder of a warrant will also recognize gain or loss in respect of the cash received in lieu of any fractional share of our common stock otherwise issuable upon exercise in an amount equal to the difference between the amount of cash received and the portion of such U.S. holder's tax basis attributable to such fractional share. The deductibility of capital losses is subject to limitations. If a U.S. holder is treated as selling a portion of the warrants or underlying shares of our common stock for cash that is used to pay the exercise price for the warrants, such U.S. holder will have a tax basis in the shares of our common stock received equal to the aggregate basis in the warrants plus the amount of gain recognized on

Table of Contents

such deemed exchange, and a holding period beginning on the day after the date of the exchange, or possibly on the date of the exchange.

Alternatively, if the U.S. holder is treated as exchanging, in a taxable exchange, the warrants for shares of our common stock received on exercise, the amount of gain or loss will be the difference between (1) the fair market value of our common stock and cash in lieu of any fractional share received on exercise and (2) the holder's adjusted tax basis in the warrants. In that case, the U.S. holder will have long-term capital gain or loss with respect to the exchange if it has held the warrants for more than one year and such U.S. holder will have a tax basis in the shares of our common stock received equal to their fair market value and a holding period beginning on the day after the date of the exchange.

Due to the absence of authority on the U.S. federal income tax treatment of the exercise of warrants that require net share settlement, there can be no assurance as to which, if any, of the alternative tax consequences and holding periods described above will be adopted by the IRS or a court. Accordingly, U.S. holders should consult their tax advisors regarding the tax consequences of the exercise of the warrants.

Expiration of the Warrants

Upon the expiration of the warrants, a U.S. holder will recognize a loss equal to the adjusted tax basis of the warrants. Such loss will generally be a capital loss and will be a long-term capital loss if the warrant has been held for more than one year on the date of expiration. The deductibility of capital losses is subject to limitation.

Adjustments under the Warrants

Pursuant to the terms of the warrants, the exercise price at which the common stock may be purchased and/or the number of shares of common stock that may be purchased on exercise is subject to adjustment from time to time upon the occurrence of certain events. To the extent an adjustment, or failure to adjust, the number of shares of our common stock underlying the warrants and/or the exercise price of the warrants results in an increase in the proportionate interest of a holder in our assets or our earnings and profits, such holder will be treated as having received a distribution of property. Any such distribution will be taxable in accordance with the rules described under *Distributions on Common Stock* below. In the event such a deemed distribution is taxable, a U.S. holder's basis in its warrants will be increased by an amount equal to the taxable distribution.

The rules with respect to adjustments are complex and U.S. holders of warrants should consult their own tax advisors in the event of an adjustment.

Distributions on Common Stock

In general, distributions with respect to our common stock will constitute dividends to the extent made out of our current or accumulated earnings and profits, as determined under U.S. federal income tax principles. If a distribution exceeds our current and accumulated earnings and profits, the excess will be treated as a non-taxable return of capital to the extent of your tax basis in our common stock and thereafter as capital gain from the sale or exchange of such common stock. Dividends received by a corporate U.S. holder will be eligible for the dividends-received deduction if the corporate U.S. holder meets certain holding period and other applicable requirements. Dividends received by a non-corporate U.S. holder will qualify for taxation at special rates if the non-corporate U.S. holder meets certain holding period and other applicable requirements.

Table of Contents

Sale of Common Stock

Upon the sale or other disposition of our common stock, you will generally recognize capital gain or loss equal to the difference between the amount realized and your adjusted tax basis in our common stock. Such capital gain or loss will generally be long-term if your holding period in respect of such common stock is more than one year. Long-term capital gain recognized by a non-corporate U.S. holder is eligible for reduced rates of taxation. The deductibility of capital losses is subject to limitations.

Information Reporting and Backup Withholding

If you are a U.S. holder of warrants or our common stock, any dividend payments by us to you and proceeds of the sale or other disposition by you of warrants or our common stock will generally be subject to information reporting, unless you provide proof of an applicable exemption. In addition, such payments generally will be subject to U.S. federal backup withholding tax unless you furnish a correct taxpayer identification number, certified under penalties of perjury, as well as certain other information, or otherwise establish an exemption. Amounts withheld under the backup withholding rules are not additional taxes and may be refunded or credited against a holder's U.S. federal income tax liability, provided the required information is timely furnished to the IRS.

Non-U.S. Holders

Sale or Exercise of Warrants; Sale of Common Stock

As described above under **U.S. Holders Exercise of the Warrants**, the U.S. federal income tax consequences of the exercise of warrants that require net share settlement are not clear. If the exercise of the warrants is treated as a tax-free non-recognition event, a Non-U.S. Holder will not be subject to U.S. federal income tax upon the exercise. If you are a non-U.S. holder and the exercise is treated as a taxable exchange in which gain or loss is recognized, or you sell, exchange or otherwise dispose of the warrants, you will not be subject to United States federal income tax on any gain recognized on the sale or other disposition of warrants or common stock or upon the exercise of warrants unless:

the gain is effectively connected with your conduct of a trade or business in the United States, and the gain is attributable to a permanent establishment that you maintain in the United States if that is required by an applicable income tax treaty as a condition for subjecting you to United States taxation on a net income basis,

you are an individual, you are present in the United States for 183 or more days in the taxable year of the sale and certain other conditions are met, or

we are or have been a United States real property holding corporation for federal income tax purposes and you held, directly or indirectly, at any time during the five-year period ending on the date of sale or other disposition or exercise, more than 5% of our common stock and you are not eligible for any treaty exemption.

Gain that is treated as effectively connected with the conduct of a trade or business in the United States generally will be subject to U.S. federal income tax, net of certain deductions, at regular U.S. federal income tax rates. If you are a corporate non-U.S. holder, effectively connected gains that you recognize may also, under certain circumstances, be subject to an additional branch profits tax at 30% or at a lower rate if you are eligible for the benefits of an income tax treaty that provides for a lower rate. We have not been, are not and do not anticipate becoming a United States real property holding corporation for U.S. federal income tax purposes.

Table of Contents

Adjustments under the Warrants

Pursuant to the terms of the warrants, the exercise price at which the common stock may be purchased and/or the number of shares of common stock that may be purchased on exercise is subject to adjustment from time to time upon the occurrence of certain events. To the extent an adjustment, or failure to adjust, the number of shares of our common stock underlying the warrants and/or the exercise price of the warrants results in an increase in the proportionate interest of a holder in our assets or our earnings and profits, such holder will be treated as having received a distribution of property. Any such distribution will be taxable in accordance with the rules described under *Distributions on Common Stock* below. To the extent such a distribution is subject to U.S. federal withholding tax, the tax may be set off against shares of our common stock to be delivered upon exercise of the warrants.

Section 871(m) of the Code imposes a 30 percent (or a lower rate under an applicable treaty) withholding tax on dividend equivalents paid to non-U.S. persons. U.S. Treasury and the IRS have released proposed regulations that, when finalized, may apply the withholding requirements of Section 871(m) to instruments such as the warrants. It is possible that we (or other paying agents) will be required to withhold on amounts with respect to the warrants to the extent the exercise price and/or the number of shares of common stock that may be purchased on exercise are adjusted as a result of a dividend paid on our common stock, or potentially in the absence of an adjustment, and that the regulations, when finalized, will be applied retroactively to dividend equivalents previously deemed paid. The amount and timing of any withholding tax imposed under Section 871(m) may differ from the general withholding required on deemed dividends as described above. Non-U.S. holders are urged to consult their tax advisors about the potential application of these rules to an investment in the warrants.

Distributions on Common Stock

Distributions paid to a non-U.S. holder of our common stock (to the extent paid out of our current or accumulated earnings and profits, as determined for U.S. federal income tax purposes) generally will be subject to withholding of U.S. federal income tax at a 30% rate or such lower rate as may be specified by an applicable income tax treaty, subject to the discussion below under *Withholdable Payments to Foreign Financial Entities and Other Foreign Entities*. However, dividends that are effectively connected with the conduct of a trade or business by a non-U.S. holder within the United States and, where an income tax treaty applies, are attributable to a U.S. permanent establishment of the non-U.S. holder, are not subject to this withholding tax, but instead are subject to U.S. federal income tax on a net income basis at applicable individual or corporate rates. Certain certification and disclosure requirements must be complied with in order for effectively connected dividends to be exempt from this withholding tax. Any such effectively connected dividends received by a foreign corporation may be subject to an additional branch profits tax at a 30% rate or such lower rate as may be specified by an applicable income tax treaty.

A non-U.S. holder who is entitled to and wishes to claim the benefits of an applicable treaty rate (and avoid backup withholding as discussed below) for dividends, generally will be required to (i) complete IRS Form W-8BEN (or an acceptable substitute form) and make certain certifications, under penalty of perjury, to establish its status as a non-U.S. person and its entitlement to treaty benefits or (ii) if the common stock is held through certain foreign intermediaries, satisfy the relevant certification requirements of applicable United States Treasury regulations. Special certification and other requirements apply to certain non-U.S. holders that are entities rather than individuals.

Table of Contents

A non-U.S. holder that is eligible for a reduced rate of U.S. federal withholding tax pursuant to an income tax treaty may obtain a refund of any excess amounts withheld by timely filing an appropriate claim for refund with the IRS.

Information Reporting and Backup Withholding

We must report annually to the IRS and to each non-U.S. holder the amount of dividends paid on our common stock (or deemed paid with respect to warrants) to such holder and the tax withheld (if any) with respect to such dividends, regardless of whether withholding was required. Copies of the information returns reporting such dividends and any withholding may also be made available to the tax authorities in the country in which the non-U.S. holder resides under the provisions of an applicable income tax treaty. In addition, dividends paid to a non-U.S. holder may be subject to backup withholding unless applicable certification requirements are met.

Payment of the proceeds of a sale of warrants or common stock within the United States or conducted through certain U.S. related financial intermediaries is subject to information reporting and, depending upon the circumstances, backup withholding unless the non-U.S. holder certifies under penalties of perjury that it is not a United States person (and the payor does not have actual knowledge or reason to know that the holder is a United States person) or the holder otherwise establishes an exemption.

Any amounts withheld under the backup withholding rules may be allowed as a refund or a credit against such holder's U.S. federal income tax liability provided the required information is timely furnished to the IRS. Payments subject to withholding tax will not also be subject to backup withholding tax.

Withholdable Payments to Foreign Financial Entities and Other Foreign Entities

Under the Foreign Account Tax Compliant Act (FATCA) and related administrative guidance, a U.S. federal withholding tax of 30% generally will be imposed on U.S. source dividends and gross proceeds from the sale or other disposition of stock or property that is capable of producing U.S. source dividends (possibly including instruments such as the warrants) paid to (1) a foreign financial institution (as specifically defined under these rules) unless such institution either (a) enters into an agreement with the U.S. tax authorities to withhold on certain payments and to collect and provide to the U.S. tax authorities substantial information regarding U.S. account holders of such institution (which includes certain equity and debt holders of such institution, as well as certain account holders that are foreign entities with U.S. owners); or (b) complies with the terms of an applicable intergovernmental agreement to implement FATCA; or (2) a non-financial foreign entity, unless such entity provides the withholding agent with a certification identifying certain of its direct and indirect U.S. owners. Under certain circumstances, a non-U.S. holder might be eligible for refunds or credits of such taxes.

Although obligations outstanding on July 1, 2014 are exempt from this legislation, it is not clear whether this exemption applies to the warrants. These withholding taxes would be imposed on dividends paid with respect to our common stock after June 30, 2014 to, and on gross proceeds from the sales or other dispositions of our common stock after December 31, 2016 by, foreign financial institutions or non-financial entities (including in their capacity as agents or custodians for beneficial owners of our common stock) that fail to satisfy the above requirements. Prospective non-U.S. holders should consult with their tax advisors regarding the possible implications of this legislation on their investment in our common stock.

Table of Contents**CERTAIN ERISA CONSIDERATIONS**

A fiduciary of a pension, profit-sharing or other employee benefit plan subject to the U.S. Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, as amended (ERISA) (each, a Plan), should consider the fiduciary standards of ERISA in the context of the Plan 's particular circumstances before authorizing an investment in the warrants. Among other factors, the fiduciary should consider whether the investment would satisfy the prudence and diversification requirements of ERISA and would be consistent with the documents and instruments governing the Plan, and whether the investment would involve a prohibited transaction under ERISA or the Code.

In addition to ERISA 's general fiduciary standards, Section 406 of ERISA and Section 4975 of the Code prohibit Plans, as well as individual retirement accounts, Keogh plans any other plans that are subject to Section 4975 of the Code (also Plans), from engaging in certain transactions involving plan assets with persons who are parties in interest under ERISA or disqualified persons under the Code with respect to the Plan. A violation of these prohibited transaction rules may result in excise tax under the Code or penalties or other liabilities under ERISA or the Code for those persons, unless exemptive relief is available under an applicable statutory, regulatory or administrative exemption. Employee benefit plans that are governmental plans (as defined in Section 3(32) of ERISA), certain church plans (as defined in Section 3(33) of ERISA) and non-U.S. plans (as described in Section 4(b)(4) of ERISA) (Non-ERISA Arrangements) are not subject to the requirements of Section 406 of ERISA or Section 4975 of the Code but may be subject to similar provisions under applicable federal, state, local, non-U.S. or other laws (Similar Laws).

An investment in the warrants or the acquisition of our common stock upon the exercise of the warrants by a Plan or any entity whose underlying assets include plan assets by reason of any Plan 's investment in the entity (a Plan Asset Entity) with respect to which Cathay General Bancorp or any of its affiliates is or becomes a party in interest or disqualified person may result in a non-exempt prohibited transaction under ERISA or Section 4975 of the Code, unless such investment or exercise is made pursuant to an applicable exemption. The U.S. Department of Labor has issued five prohibited transaction class exemptions, or PTCEs , that may provide exemptive relief if required for direct or indirect prohibited transactions that may arise from the investment in the warrants or the acquisition of our common stock upon exercise of the warrants. These exemptions are PTCE 84-14 (for certain transactions determined by independent qualified professional asset managers), PTCE 90-1 (for certain transactions involving insurance company pooled separate accounts), PTCE 91-38 (for certain transactions involving bank collective investment funds), PTCE 95-60 (for transactions involving certain insurance company general accounts), and PTCE 96-23 (for transactions managed by in-house asset managers). In addition, ERISA Section 408(b)(17) and Section 4975(d)(20) of the Code provide an exemption for the purchase and sale of the securities offered hereby, provided that neither Cathay General Bancorp nor any of its affiliates have or exercise any discretionary authority or control or render any investment advice with respect to the assets of any Plan involved in the transaction, and provided further that the Plan pays no more and receives no less than adequate consideration in connection with the transaction (the service provider exemption). There can be no assurance that any of these exemptions will be available or that all of the conditions of any such exemptions will be satisfied.

Due to the complexity of these rules and the penalties that may be imposed upon persons involved in non-exempt prohibited transactions, it is important that fiduciaries or other persons considering purchasing and/or exercising the warrants on behalf of or with the assets of any Plan, a Plan Asset Entity or Non-ERISA Arrangement consult with their counsel regarding the

Table of Contents

availability of exemptive relief under any of the PTCEs listed above, the service provider exemption or the potential consequences of any purchase under Similar Laws, as applicable. Purchasers of the warrants have exclusive responsibility for ensuring that their purchase, holding and exercise of the warrants or the common stock do not violate the fiduciary or prohibited transaction rules of ERISA or the Code or any similar provisions of Similar Laws. The sale of any warrants or common stock to a Plan, Plan Asset Entity or Non-ERISA Arrangement is in no respect a representation by the underwriter or any of its affiliates or representatives, or us or any of our affiliates or representatives that such an investment meets all relevant legal requirements with respect to investments by any such Plans, Plan Asset Entities or Non-ERISA Arrangements generally or any particular Plan, Plan Asset Entity or Non-ERISA Arrangement or that such investment is appropriate for such Plans, Plan Asset Entities or Non-ERISA Arrangements generally or any particular Plan, Plan Asset Entity or Non-ERISA Arrangement.

Representation

Any purchaser of the warrants or of common stock pursuant to the exercise of the warrants (or of any interest in the warrants or common stock acquired pursuant to the exercise of the warrants) represents by its purchase of the warrants or the common stock that either (1) it is not a Plan, a Plan Asset Entity or a Non-ERISA Arrangement and it is not purchasing the warrants or the common stock on behalf of or with the assets of any Plan, a Plan Asset Entity or Non-ERISA Arrangement or (2) the purchase and holding of the warrants and the common stock will not constitute a non-exempt prohibited transaction under Section 406 of ERISA, Section 4975 of the Code or under any applicable Similar Laws.

Table of Contents**UNDERWRITING**

Subject to the terms and conditions of the underwriting agreement, the underwriter named below has agreed to purchase from the selling security holder the following number of warrants at the public offering price less the underwriting discounts and commissions set forth on the cover page of this prospectus supplement:

| Underwriter | Number of Warrants |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Deutsche Bank Securities Inc. | 1,846,374 |

The underwriting agreement provides that the obligations of the underwriter to purchase the warrants offered hereby are subject to certain conditions precedent and that the underwriter will purchase all of the warrants the selling security holder determines to sell, if any are purchased. The number of warrants that the selling security holder may determine to sell will depend, in part, upon the success of the auction process. See Auction Process The Auction Process Pricing and Allocation.

The underwriter plans to offer the warrants for sale pursuant to the auction process described above under Auction Process. Warrants sold by the underwriter to the public will be sold at the clearing price determined through that auction process. During the auction period, bids may be placed at any price (in increments of \$0.10) at or above the minimum bid price of \$6.50 per warrant. The offering of the warrants by the underwriter is subject to receipt and acceptance and subject to the underwriter's right to reject any order in whole or in part. As described under Auction Process, the selling security holder may decide not to sell any warrants in the auction process, regardless of the clearing price set in the auction process.

The underwriting discounts and commissions are the greater of (i) \$150,000 and (ii) the sum of (1) 1.4% of the public offering price per warrant with respect to the first \$200,000,000 of gross proceeds of the offering of the warrants plus (2) 0.9% of the public offering price per warrant with respect to gross proceeds of the offering of the warrants in excess of \$200,000,000. The selling security holder has agreed to pay the underwriter the following discounts and commissions if all of the offered warrants are sold:

| | |
|--------------------|---------------|
| Per Warrant | \$ 0.1008 |
| Total | \$ 186,114.50 |

We estimate that our share of the total expenses of the offering, including registration, filing and listing fees, printing fees and legal and accounting expenses, will be approximately \$300,000.

We have agreed to indemnify the underwriter against certain liabilities, including liabilities under the Securities Act, and to contribute to payments the underwriter may be required to make in respect of any of these liabilities.

Each of our executive officers and directors has agreed, subject to certain specified exceptions, not to offer, sell, pledge, contract to sell or otherwise dispose of, or enter into any transaction that is designed to, or could be expected to, result in the disposition of any warrants or shares of our common stock or other securities convertible into or exchangeable or exercisable for shares of our common stock or derivatives of our warrants or our common stock owned by these persons prior to this offering or common stock issuable upon exercise of options or warrants held by these persons during the period from the date of this prospectus supplement continuing through the date 45 days after the date of this prospectus supplement,

Table of Contents

except with the prior written consent of the underwriter. Any such consent may be given at any time without public notice. We have entered into a similar agreement with the underwriter with respect to the period from the date of this prospectus supplement continuing through the date 45 days after the date of this prospectus supplement, which can only be waived with the prior written consent of the underwriter, except that without such consent we may, among other things, (i) issue common stock or securities convertible into or exchangeable for common stock in connection the exercise of options, warrants and securities outstanding on the date hereof, (ii) sell or distribute equity securities and/or options or other rights in respect thereof solely registered on Form S-4 or S-8 (or any successor form), (iii) sell shares of our common stock in respect of tax withholding due on the securities described in (ii), (iv) grant and issue shares of equity securities and/or options or other rights in respect thereof pursuant to stock-based compensation or incentive plans, (v) issue common stock in connection with dividend reinvestment plans or employee stock purchase plans and (vi) issue common stock in connection with any court order or decree. The Securities Purchase Agreement with Treasury contains similar but more restrictive lock-up provisions. There are no agreements between either the underwriter or the selling security holder and us or any of our stockholders or affiliates releasing us or them from these lock-up agreements prior to the expiration of the 45-day period.

The warrants have no established trading market. The warrants have been approved for listing on NASDAQ under the symbol CATYW . The underwriter may make a market in the warrants after completion of the offering, but will not be obligated to do so and may discontinue any market-making activities at any time without notice. No assurance can be given as to the liquidity of the trading market for the warrants or that an active public market for the warrants will develop.

In connection with the offering and any subsequent market-making activities, the underwriter may purchase and sell warrants or common stock in the open market. These transactions may include stabilizing transactions, which consist of various bids for or purchases of shares of common stock made by the underwriter in the open market prior to the completion of the offering, or other purchases. In addition, the underwriter may engage in short sales and purchases to cover positions created by short sales in connection with any market-making activities. Short sales would involve the sale by the underwriter of a greater number of securities than they then hold, and must be closed out by purchasing those securities in the open market. Stabilizing transactions and purchases to cover a short position, as well as other purchases by the underwriter for its own account, may have the effect of preventing or retarding a decline in the market price of the warrants or the common stock, and may stabilize, maintain or otherwise affect the market price of the warrants or the common stock. As a result, the price of the warrants or the common stock may be higher than the price that otherwise might exist in the open market. If these activities are commenced, they may be discontinued at any time. These transactions may be effected on NASDAQ, in the over-the-counter market or otherwise.

The underwriter and its affiliates have, from time to time, provided, and may in the future provide, various investment banking and financial advisory services to us and to the selling security holder, for which it received or will receive customary fees and expenses. Deutsche Bank Securities has agreed to provide various services to Treasury in connection with sales of the warrants of certain financial institutions (as defined in the EESA) in connection with offerings of those warrants to be conducted as public auctions, pursuant to which Deutsche Bank Securities is entitled to an administrative fee of \$250,000 and a minimum commitment fee of up to \$10 million for services performed during the two-year commitment period (subject to reduction by the amount of any underwriting compensation received by Deutsche Bank Securities in connection with completed auctions). The commitment fee (as so reduced) generally is payable only at the end of that two-year period.

Table of Contents

Notice to Prospective Investors in the European Economic Area

In relation to each member state of the European Economic Area that has implemented the Prospectus Directive (each, a relevant member state), with effect from and including the date on which the Prospectus Directive is implemented in that relevant member state (the relevant implementation date), an offer of warrants and shares of our common stock described in this prospectus supplement may not be made to the public in that relevant member state prior to the publication of a prospectus in relation to the warrants and shares of our common stock that has been approved by the competent authority in that relevant member state or, where appropriate, approved in another relevant member state and notified to the competent authority in that relevant member state, all in accordance with the Prospectus Directive, except that, with effect from and including the relevant implementation date, an offer of warrants may be made to the public in that relevant member state at any time:

to any legal entity which is a qualified investor as defined in the Prospectus Directive;

to fewer than 100 or, if the Relevant Member State has implemented the relevant provision of the 2010 PD Amending Directive, 150, natural or legal persons (other than qualified investors as defined in the Prospectus Directive), as permitted under the Prospectus Directive, subject to obtaining the prior consent of the relevant Manager or Managers nominated by the Issuer for any such offer; or

in any other circumstances falling within Article 3(2) of the Prospectus Directive.

For purposes of this provision, the expression an offer of the warrants to the public in any relevant member state means the communication in any form and by any means of sufficient information on the terms of the offer and the warrants to be offered so as to enable an investor to decide to purchase or subscribe the warrants, as the expression may be varied in that member state by any measure implementing the Prospectus Directive in that member state, and the expression Prospectus Directive means Directive 2003/71/EC (and amendments thereto, including the 2010 PD Amending Directive, to the extent implemented in the Relevant Member State), and includes any relevant implementing measure in each relevant member state and the expression 2010 PD Amending Directive means Directive 2010/73/EU.

This EEA selling restriction is in addition to any other selling restrictions set out in this prospectus supplement.

Notice to Prospective Investors in the United Kingdom

This prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus are only being distributed to, and is only directed at, persons in the United Kingdom that (i) investment professionals falling within Article 19(5) of the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 (Financial Promotion) Order 2005 (the Order) or (ii) high net worth entities, and other persons to whom it may lawfully be communicated, falling within Article 49(2)(a) to (d) of the Order (each such person being referred to as a relevant person). The warrants and shares of our common stock are only available to, and any invitation, offer or agreement to subscribe, purchase or otherwise acquire such warrants and shares of our common stock will be engaged in only with, relevant persons.

Notice to Prospective Investors in Hong Kong

The warrants may not be offered or sold in Hong Kong by means of any document other than (i) in circumstances which do not constitute an offer to the public within the meaning of the Companies Ordinance (Cap. 32, Laws of Hong Kong), or (ii) to professional investors within

Table of Contents

the meaning of the Securities and Futures Ordinance (Cap. 571, Laws of Hong Kong) and any rules made thereunder, or (iii) in other circumstances which do not result in the document being a prospectus within the meaning of the Companies Ordinance (Cap. 32, Laws of Hong Kong) and no advertisement, invitation or document relating to the warrants may be issued or may be in the possession of any person for the purpose of issue (in each case whether in Hong Kong or elsewhere), which is directed at, or the contents of which are likely to be accessed or read by, the public in Hong Kong (except if permitted to do so under the laws of Hong Kong) other than with respect to warrants which are or are intended to be disposed of only to persons outside Hong Kong or only to professional investors within the meaning of the Securities and Futures Ordinance (Cap. 571, Laws of Hong Kong) and any rules made thereunder.

Notice to Prospective Investors in Japan

No securities registration statement (SRS) has been filed under Article 4, Paragraph 1 of the Financial Instruments and Exchange Law of Japan (Law No. 25 of 1948, as amended) (FIEL) in relation to the warrants. The warrants are being offered in a private placement to qualified institutional investors (tekikaku-kan-toshika) under Article 10 of the Cabinet Office Ordinance concerning Definitions provided in Article 2 of the FIEL (the Ministry of Finance Ordinance No. 14, as amended) (QIIs), under Article 2, Paragraph 3, Item 2 i of the FIEL. Any QII acquiring the warrants in this offer may not transfer or resell those warrants except to other OIIs.

Notice to Prospective Investors in Singapore

This prospectus supplement has not been registered as a prospectus with the Monetary Authority of Singapore. Accordingly, this prospectus supplement and any other document or material in connection with the offer or sale, or invitation for subscription or purchase, of the warrants may not be circulated or distributed, nor may the warrants be offered or sold, or be made the subject of an invitation for subscription or purchase, whether directly or indirectly, to persons in Singapore other than (i) to an institutional investor under Section 274 of the Securities and Futures Act, Chapter 289 of Singapore (the SFA), (ii) to a relevant person pursuant to Section 275(1), or any person pursuant to Section 275(1A), and in accordance with the conditions specified in Section 275 of the SFA or (iii) otherwise pursuant to, and in accordance with the conditions of, any other applicable provision of the SFA, in each case subject to compliance with conditions set forth in the SFA.

Where the warrants are subscribed or purchased under Section 275 of the SFA by a relevant person which is:

a corporation (which is not an accredited investor (as defined in Section 4A of the SFA)) the sole business of which is to hold investments and the entire share capital of which is owned by one or more individuals, each of whom is an accredited investor; or

a trust (where the trustee is not an accredited investor) whose sole purpose is to hold investments and each beneficiary of the trust is an individual who is an accredited investor, then shares, debentures and units of shares and debentures of that corporation or the beneficiaries' rights and interest (howsoever described) in that trust shall not be transferred within six months after that corporation or that trust has acquired the warrants pursuant to an offer made under Section 275 of the SFA except:

to an institutional investor (for corporations, under Section 274 of the SFA) or to a relevant person defined in Section 275(2) of the SFA, or to any person pursuant to an

Table of Contents

offer that is made on terms that such shares, debentures and units of shares and debentures of that corporation or such rights and interest in that trust are acquired at a consideration of not less than S\$200,000 (or its equivalent in a foreign currency) for each transaction, whether such amount is to be paid for in cash or by exchange of securities or other assets, and further for corporations, in accordance with the conditions specified in Section 275 of the SFA;

where no consideration is or will be given for the transfer; or

where the transfer is by operation of law.

United Arab Emirates

This prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus have not been approved or licensed by the Central Bank of the United Arab Emirates (the UAE), Securities and Commodities Authority of the UAE and/or any other relevant licensing authority in the UAE. The offer of the warrants does not constitute a public offer of securities in the UAE in accordance with relevant laws of the UAE, in particular, the Commercial Companies Law, Federal law No. 8 of 1984 (as amended). The warrants may not be offered to the public in the UAE. The warrants may only be offered and issued to a limited number of investors in the UAE who qualify as sophisticated investors under the relevant laws and regulations of the UAE. The underwriter represents and warrants that the warrants will not be offered, sold, transferred or delivered to the public in the UAE.

Notice to Prospective Investors in the Dubai International Financial Centre

This statement relates to an exempt offer in accordance with the Offered Securities Rules of the Dubai Financial Services Authority. This statement is intended for distribution only to persons of a type specified in those rules. It must not be delivered to, or relied on by, any other person. The Dubai Financial Services Authority has no responsibility for reviewing or verifying any documents in connection with exempt offers. The Dubai Financial Services Authority has not approved this prospectus supplement nor taken steps to verify the information set out in it, and has no responsibility for it. The warrants to which this prospectus supplement relates may be illiquid and/or subject to restrictions on their resale. Prospective purchasers of the warrants offered should conduct their own due diligence on the warrants. If you do not understand the contents of this prospectus supplement you should consult an authorized financial adviser. For the avoidance of doubt, the warrants are not interests in a fund or collective investment scheme within the meaning of either the Collective Investment Law (DIFC Law No. 1 of 2006) or the Collective Investment Rules Module of the Dubai Financial Services Authority Rulebook.

Table of Contents

VALIDITY OF THE WARRANTS

The validity of the warrants offered hereby will be passed upon for us by Wachtell, Lipton, Rosen & Katz, New York, New York. The validity of the warrants offered hereby will be passed upon for the underwriter by Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton LLP, New York, New York.

EXPERTS

The consolidated financial statements of Cathay General Bancorp and subsidiaries as of December 31, 2012 and 2011, and for each of the years in the three-year period ended December 31, 2012, and management's assessment of the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2012, have been incorporated by reference herein and in the registration statement in reliance upon the reports of KPMG LLP, independent registered public accounting firm, incorporated by reference herein, and upon the authority of said firm as experts in accounting and auditing.

S-56

Table of Contents

PROSPECTUS

COMMON STOCK

PREFERRED STOCK

DEBT SECURITIES

WARRANTS

We, Cathay General Bancorp, and/or one or more selling securityholders to be identified in the future may offer and sell from time to time the following securities separately or together in any combination:

our common stock;

our preferred stock;

debt securities; and

warrants.

Our debt securities may consist of debentures, notes, or other types of debt. The preferred stock, debt securities, and warrants may be convertible, exercisable or exchangeable for common or preferred stock or other securities of ours. We and/or one or more selling securityholders to be identified in the future, as applicable, will determine when securities are sold, the amounts and types of securities that are sold and the prices and other terms on which securities are sold.

We and/or one or more selling securityholders to be identified in the future may sell securities, on a continuous or delayed basis, to or through underwriters, dealers or agents or directly to purchasers. If any agents or underwriters are involved in the sale of any of these securities, the applicable prospectus supplement will provide their names and any applicable fees, commissions or discounts.

Each time securities are sold pursuant to this prospectus, we will provide a prospectus supplement and attach it to this prospectus. The prospectus supplements will contain more specific information about the offering and the securities being offered. The prospectus supplements may also add, update or change information contained in this prospectus. This prospectus may not be used to sell securities unless accompanied by a prospectus supplement describing the method and terms of the offering.

You should carefully read this prospectus and any accompanying prospectus supplement, together with the documents we incorporate by reference, before you invest.

Investing in our securities involves a high degree of risk. You should consider carefully the risks and uncertainties in the section entitled Risk Factors beginning on page 5 of this prospectus, in any prospectus supplement relating to an offering of those securities, and in the documents we file with the Securities and Exchange Commission before investing in our securities.

These securities are our unsecured obligations and are not savings accounts, deposits, or other obligations of any bank or non-bank subsidiary of ours and are not insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation or any other governmental agency.

Our common stock is listed on the NASDAQ Global Select Market under the symbol **CATY** . You are urged to obtain current market quotations of the common stock. The applicable prospectus supplement will contain information, where applicable, as to any listing on the NASDAQ Global Market or any securities market or other exchange of the securities covered by the applicable prospectus supplement.

Neither the Securities and Exchange Commission, any state securities commission, the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation or the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve, nor any regulatory agency has approved or disapproved of these securities or passed upon the adequacy, completeness, or accuracy of this prospectus. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense.

The date of this prospectus is December 3, 2013.

Table of Contents

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Prospectus

| | Page |
|---|------|
| <u>ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS</u> | 1 |
| <u>WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION</u> | 1 |
| <u>INCORPORATION OF CERTAIN DOCUMENTS BY REFERENCE</u> | 2 |
| <u>FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS</u> | 3 |
| <u>RISK FACTORS</u> | 5 |
| <u>CATHAY GENERAL BANCORP</u> | 5 |
| <u>USE OF PROCEEDS</u> | 6 |
| <u>RATIO OF EARNINGS TO FIXED CHARGES AND PREFERRED DIVIDENDS</u> | 6 |
| <u>REGULATORY CONSIDERATIONS</u> | 7 |
| <u>DESCRIPTION OF COMMON STOCK</u> | 8 |
| <u>DESCRIPTION OF PREFERRED STOCK</u> | 9 |
| <u>DESCRIPTION OF DEBT SECURITIES</u> | 12 |
| <u>DESCRIPTION OF WARRANTS</u> | 19 |
| <u>ANTI-TAKEOVER PROVISIONS IN CATHAY S CERTIFICATE OF INCORPORATION AND BYLAWS</u> | 20 |
| <u>PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION</u> | 21 |
| <u>LEGAL MATTERS</u> | 22 |
| <u>EXPERTS</u> | 23 |

Table of Contents

ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS

This prospectus is part of a registration statement we filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission, or the SEC, using a shelf registration process. Under this shelf registration process, we and/or one or more selling securityholders to be identified in the future may, from time to time, offer and sell, in one or more offerings:

common stock;

preferred stock;

debt securities; and

warrants.

This prospectus provides you with a general description of the securities we may offer. Each time securities are sold under this prospectus we will provide a prospectus supplement containing specific information about the terms of the securities being offered. That prospectus supplement may include a discussion of any risk factors or other special considerations that apply to those securities. The prospectus supplement may also add, update or change the information in this prospectus. If there is any inconsistency between the information in this prospectus and any prospectus supplement, you should rely on the information in that prospectus supplement. You should read both this prospectus and any prospectus supplement together with additional information described under the heading **Where You Can Find More Information**.

The registration statement containing this prospectus, including exhibits to the registration statement, provides additional information about us and the securities offered under this prospectus. The registration statement can be read at the SEC website or at the SEC offices mentioned under the heading **Where You Can Find More Information**.

**THIS PROSPECTUS MAY NOT BE USED TO SELL ANY SECURITIES UNLESS
ACCOMPANIED BY A PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT.**

You should rely only on the information we incorporate by reference or present in this prospectus or the relevant prospectus supplement. We have not authorized anyone else, including any underwriter or agent, to provide you with different or additional information. This prospectus may only be used to sell securities if it is accompanied by a prospectus supplement which includes the specific terms of that offering. These securities are only offered in states where the offer is permitted. You should not assume that the information in this prospectus or the applicable prospectus supplement is accurate as of any date other than the dates on the front of those documents.

In this prospectus, **Cathay**, **we**, **our**, **ours**, and **us** refer to Cathay General Bancorp, which is a Delaware corporation headquartered in Los Angeles, California, and its subsidiaries on a consolidated basis, unless the context otherwise requires. References to **Cathay Bank** or the **Bank** means Cathay Bank, a California state-chartered bank, which is our bank subsidiary.

WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION

Edgar Filing: CATHAY GENERAL BANCORP - Form 424B5

We file annual, quarterly, and current reports, proxy statements and other information with the SEC. Our SEC filings are available to the public over the Internet at the SEC's website at www.sec.gov and on the investor relations page of our website at www.cathaygeneralbancorp.com. Except for those SEC filings incorporated by reference in this prospectus, none of the other information on our website is part of this prospectus. You may also read and copy any document we file with the SEC at its public reference facilities at 100 F Street N.E., Washington, D.C. 20549. You can also obtain copies of the documents upon the payment of a duplicating fee to

Table of Contents

the SEC. Please call the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330 for further information on the operation of the public reference facilities.

This prospectus omits some information contained in the registration statement in accordance with SEC rules and regulations. You should review the information and exhibits included in the registration statement for further information about us and the securities we are offering. Statements in this prospectus concerning any document we filed as an exhibit to the registration statement or that we otherwise filed with the SEC are not intended to be comprehensive and are qualified by reference to these filings. You should review the complete document to evaluate these statements.

INCORPORATION OF CERTAIN DOCUMENTS BY REFERENCE

The SEC allows us to incorporate by reference information we file with it, which means that we can disclose important information to you by referring you to other documents. The information incorporated by reference is considered to be a part of this prospectus, and information that we file later with the SEC will automatically update and supersede this information. In all cases, you should rely on the later information over different information included in this prospectus.

We incorporate by reference the documents listed below and all future filings we make with the SEC under Sections 13(a), 13(c), 14 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, or the Exchange Act, prior to the termination of the offering, except to the extent that any information contained in such filings is deemed furnished in accordance with SEC rules:

Our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2012, filed with the SEC on March 1, 2013, including portions incorporated by reference therein to our Definitive Proxy Statement on Schedule 14A, filed with the SEC on April 11, 2013;

Our Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q for the fiscal quarter ended March 31, 2013 filed on May 8, 2013, for the fiscal quarter June 30, 2013 filed on August 8, 2013, and for the fiscal quarter ended September 30, 2013 filed on November 7, 2013;

Our Current Reports on Form 8-K (in each case, other than information and exhibits furnished to and not filed with the SEC in accordance with SEC rules and regulations), filed on March 20, 2013, April 8, 2013, May 14, 2013, September 20, 2013, September 23, 2013, September 30, 2013 and October 1, 2013; and

The description of our common stock contained in the registration statement on Form 8-A filed on September 16, 1999, including any amendment or report filed to update such description.

These documents contain important information about us and our financial condition. Information contained in this prospectus supersedes information incorporated by reference that we have filed with the SEC prior to the date of this prospectus, while information that we file with the SEC after the date of this prospectus that is incorporated by reference will automatically update and supersede this information.

Our filings are available on our website, www.cathaygeneralbancorp.com. Information contained in or linked to our website is not a part of this prospectus. You may also request a copy of these filings, at no cost, by writing or telephoning us at:

Cathay General Bancorp

777 North Broadway

Los Angeles, California 90012

(213) 625-4700

Table of Contents

FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

The statements in this prospectus include forward-looking statements within the meaning of the applicable provisions of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995 regarding management's beliefs, projections, and assumptions concerning future results and events. We intend such forward-looking statements to be covered by the safe harbor provision for forward-looking statements in these provisions. All statements other than statements of historical fact are forward-looking statements for purposes of federal and state securities laws, including statements about anticipated future operating and financial performance, financial position and liquidity, growth opportunities and growth rates, growth plans, acquisition and divestiture opportunities, business prospects, strategic alternatives, business strategies, financial expectations, regulatory and competitive outlook, investment and expenditure plans, financing needs and availability, and other similar forecasts and statements of expectation and statements of assumptions underlying any of the foregoing. Words such as aims, anticipates, believes, can, continue, could, estimates, expects, hope, optimistic, plans, potential, possible, predicts, projects, seeks, shall, should, will, and variations of similar expressions are intended to identify these forward-looking statements. Forward-looking statements by us are based on estimates, beliefs, projections, and assumptions of management and are not guarantees of future performance. These forward-looking statements are subject to certain risks and uncertainties that could cause actual results to differ materially from our historical experience and our present expectations or projections. Such risks and uncertainties and other factors include, but are not limited to, adverse developments or conditions related to or arising from:

Risks relating to our business

U.S. and international business and economic conditions;

credit risks of lending activities and deterioration in asset or credit quality;

potential supervisory action by bank supervisory authorities;

increased costs of compliance and other risks associated with changes in regulation and the current regulatory environment, including the requirements of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act (the Dodd-Frank Act), and the potential for substantial changes in the legal, regulatory, and enforcement framework and oversight applicable to financial institutions in reaction to recent adverse financial market events, including changes pursuant to the Dodd-Frank Act;

potential goodwill impairment;

liquidity risk;

fluctuations in interest rates;

inflation and deflation;

risks associated with acquisitions and the expansion of our business into new markets;

real estate market conditions and the value of real estate collateral;

environmental liabilities;

our ability to compete with larger competitors;

the possibility of higher capital requirements, including implementation of the Basel III capital standards of the Basel Committee;

our ability to retain key personnel;

successful management of reputational risk;

natural disasters and geopolitical events;

Table of Contents

general economic or business conditions in California, Asia, and other regions where the Bank has operations;

failures, interruptions, or security breaches of our information systems;

our ability to adapt our systems to technological changes, including successfully implementing our core system conversion;

adverse results in legal proceedings;

changes in accounting standards or tax laws and regulations;

market disruption and volatility;

restrictions on dividends and other distributions by laws and regulations and by our regulators and our capital structure;

successfully raising additional capital, if needed, and the resulting dilution of interests of holders of our common stock; and

the soundness of other financial institutions.

Forward-looking statements by us are based on estimates, projections, beliefs and assumptions of management and are not guarantees of future performance. Such forward-looking statements may be contained in this prospectus (and the documents incorporated by reference herein) under Risk Factors, or may be contained in our Annual Report on Form 10-K or in our Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q under headings such as Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Conditions and Results of Operations and Business, or in our Current Reports on Form 8-K, among other places. Any investor in Cathay should consider all risks and uncertainties disclosed in our filings with the SEC described above under the heading Where You Can Find More Information, all of which are accessible on the SEC's website at www.sec.gov.

These and other factors are further described in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2012 (Item 1A in particular), other reports and registration statements we file with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) from time to time. Actual results in any future period may also vary from the past results discussed in this prospectus. Given these risks and uncertainties, readers are cautioned not to place undue reliance on any forward-looking statements, which speak to the date of this prospectus. We have no intention and undertake no obligation to update any forward-looking statement or to publicly announce any revision of any forward-looking statement to reflect future developments or events, except as required by law.

Cathay General Bancorp's filings with the SEC are available at the website maintained by the SEC at <http://www.sec.gov>, or by request directed to Cathay General Bancorp, 9650 Flair Drive, El Monte, California 91731,

Attention: Investor Relations (626) 279-3286. The information contained in our website is not a part of this prospectus.

Table of Contents

RISK FACTORS

An investment in our securities involves will involve risks. Before making an investment decision, you should read carefully and consider the risk factors incorporated by reference in this prospectus, as well as those contained in any applicable prospectus supplement, as the same may be updated from time to time by our future filings with the SEC under the Exchange Act. You should also refer to other information contained in or incorporated by reference in this prospectus and any applicable prospectus supplement, including our financial statements and the related notes incorporated by reference herein. Additional risks and uncertainties not presently known to us at this time or that we currently deem immaterial may also materially and adversely affect our business and operations.

CATHAY GENERAL BANCORP

Cathay General Bancorp is a corporation that was organized in 1990 under the laws of the State of Delaware. We are the holding company of Cathay Bank, a California state-chartered commercial bank (Cathay Bank or the Bank), six limited partnerships investing in affordable housing investments in which Cathay Bank is the sole limited partner, and GBC Venture Capital, Inc. We also own 100% of the common stock of five statutory business trusts created for the purpose of issuing capital securities. In the future, we may become an operating company or acquire savings institutions, other banks, or companies engaged in bank-related activities and may engage in or acquire such other businesses, or activities as may be permitted by applicable law.

Cathay Bank was incorporated under the laws of the State of California on August 22, 1961, was licensed by the DBO (then known as the California State Banking Department) and commenced operations as a California state-chartered bank on April 19, 1962. Cathay Bank is an insured bank under the Federal Deposit Insurance Act by the FDIC, but it is not a member of the Federal Reserve.

The Bank's head office is located in the Chinatown area of Los Angeles, at 777 North Broadway, Los Angeles, California 90012. In addition, as of December 31, 2012, the Bank had branch offices in Southern California (20 branches), Northern California (11 branches), New York (eight branches), Massachusetts (one branch), Texas (two branches), Washington (three branches), Illinois (three branch locations and one drive-through location), New Jersey (one branch), and Hong Kong (one branch) and a representative office in Shanghai and in Taipei. Deposit accounts at the Hong Kong branch are not insured by the FDIC. Each branch has loan approval rights subject to the branch manager's authorized lending limits. Current activities of the Shanghai and Taipei representative offices are limited to coordinating the transportation of documents to the Bank's head office and performing liaison services.

Our primary market area is defined by the Community Reinvestment Act delineation, which includes the contiguous areas surrounding each of the Bank's branch offices. It is the Bank's policy to reach out and actively offer services to low and moderate income groups in the delineated branch service areas. Many of the Bank's employees speak both English and one or more Chinese dialects or Vietnamese, and are thus able to serve the Bank's Chinese, Vietnamese, and English speaking customers.

As a commercial bank, the Bank accepts checking, savings, and time deposits, and makes commercial, real estate, personal, home improvement, automobile, and other installment and term loans. From time to time, the Bank invests available funds in other interest-earning assets, such as U.S. Treasury securities, U.S. government agency securities, state and municipal securities, mortgage-backed securities, asset-backed securities, corporate bonds, and other security investments. The Bank also provides letters of credit, wire transfers, forward currency spot and forward contracts, traveler's checks, safe deposit, night deposit, Social Security payment deposit, collection, bank-by-mail, drive-up and walk-up windows, automatic teller machines (ATM), Internet banking services, and other customary bank services.

Table of Contents

The Bank primarily services individuals, professionals, and small to medium-sized businesses in the local markets in which its branches are located and provides commercial mortgage loans, commercial loans, Small Business Administration (SBA) loans, residential mortgage loans, real estate construction loans, equity lines of credit, and installment loans to individuals for automobile, household, and other consumer expenditures.

Through Cathay Wealth Management, the Bank provides its customers the ability to trade securities online and to purchase mutual funds, annuities, equities, bonds, and short-term money market instruments. All securities and insurance products provided by Cathay Wealth Management are offered by, and all Financial Consultants are registered with, Cetera Financial Services, a registered securities broker/dealer and licensed insurance agency and member of the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority and Security Investor Protection Corporation. Cetera Financial Services and Cathay Bank are independent entities. These products are not insured by the FDIC.

Cathay General Bancorp is regulated as a bank holding company by the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, or Federal Reserve Board. Cathay Bank is regulated as a California commercial bank by the California Department of Business Oversight, or DBO, and the FDIC.

USE OF PROCEEDS

Unless the applicable prospectus supplement states otherwise, the net proceeds from the sale by us of the securities registered hereby will be added to our general funds and will be available for general corporate purposes, including, among other things, the payment of dividends on preferred stock and common stock, repayment of existing indebtedness, investments in, or extensions of credit to, our existing or future subsidiaries, and the financing of possible acquisitions.

Pending such use, we may temporarily invest the net proceeds from the sale by us of the securities registered hereby in short-term securities or reduce our short-term indebtedness, or we may hold the net proceeds in deposit accounts in our subsidiary bank.

We will not receive any proceeds from sales by selling securityholders of the securities registered hereby.

RATIO OF EARNINGS TO FIXED CHARGES AND PREFERRED DIVIDENDS

The following table shows our ratio of earnings to fixed charges and preferred dividends on a consolidated basis.

For purposes of determining the ratio of earnings to fixed charges and preferred dividends, earnings are defined as the sum of pre-tax income (loss) from continuing operations, fixed charges and amortization of capitalized interest; less interest capitalized, preference security dividend requirements of consolidated subsidiaries and minority interest in pre-tax income of subsidiaries that have not incurred fixed charges. Fixed charges means the sum of interest expensed and capitalized, amortized premiums, discounts and capitalized expenses related to indebtedness and an estimate of the interest within rental expense and preference security dividend requirements of consolidated subsidiaries.

Table of Contents**CATHAY GENERAL BANCORP AND SUBSIDIARIES** Computation of Ratio of Earnings to Fixed Charges and Preferred Stock Dividends

| (Dollars in thousands, except ratios) | For the nine months ended | | For the Year Ended December 31, | | | | |
|--|---------------------------|----------------|---------------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| | September 30, 2013 | 2012 | 2012 | 2011 | 2010 | 2009 | 2008 |
| Income/(Loss) before income tax expense | \$ 143,730 | \$ 139,984 | \$ 183,567 | \$ 151,411 | \$ (3,064) | \$ (129,302) | \$ 70,075 |
| Plus fixed charges | 64,689 | 86,256 | 111,156 | 142,533 | 194,102 | 247,540 | 299,477 |
| Earnings | 208,419 | 226,240 | 294,723 | 293,944 | 191,038 | 118,238 | 369,552 |
| Fixed charges | 64,689 | 86,256 | 111,156 | 142,533 | 194,102 | 247,540 | 299,477 |
| Preferred stock dividends | 10,137 | 12,813 | 17,093 | 17,042 | 16,998 | 16,948 | 1,750 |
| Fixed charges and preferred stock dividends | \$ 74,826 | \$ 99,069 | \$ 128,249 | \$ 159,575 | \$ 211,100 | \$ 264,488 | \$ 301,227 |
| Ratio of earnings to fixed charges | 3.22 | 2.62 | 2.65 | 2.06 | 0.98 | 0.48 | 1.23 |
| Ratio of earnings to fixed charges and preferred dividends | 2.79 | 2.28 | 2.30 | 1.84 | 0.90 | 0.45 | 1.23 |

REGULATORY CONSIDERATIONS

As a financial holding company and a bank holding company under the Bank Holding Company Act of 1956, as amended, Cathay General Bancorp is subject to regulation, supervision and examination by the Federal Reserve Board. For a discussion of the material elements of the regulatory framework applicable to financial holding companies, bank holding companies and their subsidiaries and specific information relevant to Cathay General Bancorp please refer to our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2012, and any subsequent reports Cathay General Bancorp files with the SEC, which are incorporated by reference into the prospectus.

Dividends from the Bank are our primary source of funds for payment of principal and interest on our debt and dividends to our stockholders. In the year ended December 31, 2012, Cathay General Bancorp declared cash dividends to the holders of our common stock of \$3.1 million. There are, however, statutory limits on the amount of dividends that the Bank can pay to Cathay General Bancorp without regulatory approval.

The Bank may not, without the prior approval of the DBO, pay a dividend in an amount which exceeds the lesser of (a) the retained earnings of the Bank; or (b) the net income of the Bank for its last three fiscal years, less the amount of any distributions made by the Bank or by any majority-owned subsidiary of the Bank during such period. At September 30, 2013, the Bank did not have any funds available for payment of dividends to Cathay General Bancorp.

If, in the opinion of the applicable regulatory authority, a bank under its jurisdiction is engaged in or is about to engage in an unsafe or unsound practice, such authority may require, after notice and hearing, that such bank cease and desist from such practice. Depending on the financial condition of the bank, the applicable regulatory authority

might deem the bank to be engaged in an unsafe or unsound practice if the bank were to pay dividends. The Federal Reserve Board has issued policy statements that provide that insured banks and bank holding companies should generally only pay dividends out of current operating earnings. In addition, Cathay General Bancorp is subject to Federal Reserve Board supervisory policies, including informing and consulting with the Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco sufficiently in advance of any planned capital actions (i.e. increased dividend payments, stock redemptions).

Table of Contents

DESCRIPTION OF COMMON STOCK

The following is a brief description of the terms of our common stock. This summary does not purport to be complete in all respects. This description is subject to and qualified in its entirety by reference to our restated certificate of incorporation and our restated bylaws (each as amended), copies of which have been filed with the SEC and are also available upon request from us, as well as the description of our common stock which is incorporated by reference herein through our previous filings with the SEC, including the description of our common stock contained in our registration statement on Form 8-A filed on September 16, 1999, and any amendment or report filed to update such description.

General

Our restated certificate of incorporation, as amended, provides the authority to issue 100,000,000 shares of common stock, par value \$.01 per share. At November 25, 2013, there were 79,503,450 shares of common stock outstanding. Each share of our common stock has the same relative rights and is identical in all respects to each other share of our common stock.

Voting Rights

Holders of our common stock are entitled to one vote for each share that they hold and are vested with all of the voting power except as our board of directors has provided, or may provide in the future, with respect to preferred stock or any other class or series of preferred stock that the board of directors may hereafter authorize.

Except in very limited circumstances, holders of our common stock may not cumulate their votes in the election of directors, which means that a majority of the outstanding shares of common stock are generally able to elect all of the directors standing for election each year, subject to the rights of any preferred stock that is then issued and outstanding.

Dividends

Although we have historically paid cash dividends on our common stock, we are not required to do so. Holders of our common stock are entitled to receive dividends if, as and when declared by our board of directors, out of any funds legally available for dividends subject to certain restrictions on payment of dividends imposed by the Delaware General Corporation Law and state and federal banking laws. We pay dividends on our common stock only if we have paid or provided for all dividends on our outstanding series of preferred stock, for the then current period and, in the case of any cumulative preferred stock, all prior periods. Our preferred stock, upon issuance, will have preference over our common stock with respect to the payment of dividends. Additionally, dividends on the common stock are further limited to the extent we are not current in making payments on our outstanding subordinated debt securities.

As a holding company, our ability to pay distributions is affected by the ability of our subsidiaries to pay dividends. The ability of the Bank's and our ability to pay dividends in the future is, and could in the future be further, limited by bank regulatory requirements and capital guidelines. The Bank's ability to pay dividends to us are limited to the extent it is not current in paying interest on its subordinated debt or if another event of default has occurred.

Liquidation Rights

The holders of our common stock will become entitled to participate ratably in the distribution of any of our assets remaining after we have paid all of our debts and liabilities and after we have paid to the holders of any class of stock

having preference over the common stock in the event of liquidation, dissolution or winding-up, the full preferential amounts, if any, to which they are entitled.

Table of Contents

Certain Provisions of California and Federal Law

The following discussion is a summary of certain provisions of California and federal law and regulations, relating to stock ownership and transfers and business combinations, all of which may be deemed to have antitakeover effects. The description of these provisions is necessarily general and reference should be made to the actual laws and regulations and to the restated certificate of incorporation and restated bylaws of the Company (each as amended).

Federal law prohibits a person or group of persons acting in concert from acquiring control of a bank holding company unless the Federal Reserve Board has been given 60 days prior written notice of such proposed acquisition and, within that time period, the Federal Reserve Board has not issued a notice disapproving the proposed acquisition or extending for up to another 30 days the period during which such a disapproval may be issued. An acquisition may be made prior to the expiration of the disapproval period if the Federal Reserve Board issues written notice of its intent not to disapprove the action. Under a rebuttable presumption established by the Federal Reserve Board, the acquisition of more than 10% of a class of voting stock of a bank or bank holding company with a class of securities registered under Section 12 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, would, under the circumstances set forth in the presumption, constitute the acquisition of control. In addition, any company would be required to obtain the approval of the Federal Reserve Board under the Bank Holding Company Act before acquiring 25% (5% in the case of an acquiror that is, or is deemed to be, a bank holding company) or more of any class of voting stock, or such lesser number of shares as may constitute control.

Under the California Financial Code, no person shall, directly or indirectly, acquire control of a California state bank or its holding company unless the DBO has approved such acquisition of control. A person would be deemed to have acquired control of the Company, and thereby indirectly control of the Bank, if such person, directly or indirectly, has the power (i) to vote 25% or more of the voting power of the Company or (ii) to direct or cause the direction of the management and policies of the Company. For purposes of this law, a person who directly or indirectly owns or controls 10% or more of the common stock would be presumed to control the Company.

Miscellaneous

Shares of our common stock are not redeemable, and have no subscription, conversion or preemptive rights. Outstanding shares of our common stock are validly issued, fully paid and non-assessable. Holders of our common stock are not, and will not be, subject to any liability as shareholders.

NASDAQ Listing

Our common stock is listed on the NASDAQ Global Select Market under the symbol CATY.

Transfer Agent and Registrar

The transfer agent and registrar for our common stock is American Stock Transfer & Trust Company.

DESCRIPTION OF PREFERRED STOCK

The following briefly summarizes some of the provisions in our restated certificate of incorporation and restated bylaws (each as amended) and Delaware law regarding our preferred stock that we may offer from time to time. The specific terms of a series of preferred stock that we may offer will be described in a prospectus supplement relating to that series of preferred stock. The following description, and any description of our preferred stock in a prospectus supplement, may not be complete and is qualified in all respects by reference to

Table of Contents

the provisions of our restated certificate of incorporation and our restated bylaws (each as amended), Delaware law and the certificate of designations relating to the particular series of our preferred stock as well as the description of our preferred stock which is incorporated by reference herein through our previous filings with the SEC, and any amendment or report filed to update such description. We will file such certificate of designations with the SEC at or prior to the time of sale of that series of preferred stock. You are encouraged to read the more detailed provisions of these documents and laws for provisions that may be important to you. You can obtain copies of our restated certificate of incorporation and restated bylaws (including amendments to each) by following the directions under the heading **Where You Can Find More Information** .

General

Under our restated certificate of incorporation, as amended, we have authority to issue up to 10,000,000 shares of preferred stock, \$.01 par value per share. Of such number of shares of preferred stock, 100,000 shares have been designated as Series A Junior Participating Preferred Stock (**Series A Junior Preferred Stock**), and 258,000 shares have been designated as Series B Fixed Rate Cumulative Perpetual Preferred Stock (**Series B Preferred Stock**). No shares of our Series A Junior Preferred Stock or our Series B Preferred Stock are currently outstanding. The specific terms of a series of preferred stock that we may offer will be described in a prospectus supplement relating to that series of preferred stock.

Authorization and Issuance

Our board of directors, without stockholder approval, can authorize preferred stock to be issued with voting, conversion and other rights that could adversely affect the voting power and other rights of our common stockholders or other outstanding series of preferred stock. Pursuant to our restated bylaws (as amended), our board of directors may grant authority to a special committee to authorize and determine the terms of any series of preferred stock issued.

Each series of preferred stock will have the dividend, liquidation, redemption and voting rights described below, unless otherwise described in a prospectus supplement pertaining to a specific series of preferred stock. The applicable prospectus supplement will describe the following terms of the series of preferred stock in respect of which this prospectus is being delivered:

the designation of that series, the number of shares offered and the stated value thereof if different from the par value thereof;

the amount of the liquidation preference, if any, per share or the method of calculating that amount;

the subscription or purchase price and form of consideration for which the shares of such series shall be issued;

the dividend rate, if any, or the method of calculating that rate, the dates on which dividends will be paid and the dates from which dividends will begin to cumulate, if applicable;

any redemption provisions;

any conversion or exchange rights and provisions;

any additional voting and other rights, preferences, privileges, qualifications, limitations and restrictions;

any securities exchange listing;

the relative ranking and preferences of that series as to dividend rights and rights upon our liquidation, dissolution or winding up; and

any other terms of that series.

Table of Contents

Shares of our preferred stock, when issued against full payment of their purchase price, will be validly issued, fully paid and non-assessable.

Voting Rights

The voting rights of preferred stock of any series will be described in the applicable prospectus supplement.

Under regulations of the Federal Reserve Board, if the holders of any series of preferred stock become entitled to vote for the election of directors because dividends on that series are in arrears, that series may then be deemed a class of voting securities, and a holder of 25% or more of that series (or a holder of 5% or more if it otherwise exercises a controlling influence over us) may then be subject to regulation as a bank holding company. In addition, in that event:

any bank holding company may be required to obtain Federal Reserve Board approval, and any foreign bank, and any company that controls a foreign bank, that has certain types of U.S. banking operations may be required to obtain Federal Reserve Board approval under the International Banking Act of 1978, to acquire 5% or more of that series of preferred stock; and

any person other than a bank holding company may be required to obtain Federal Reserve Board approval under the Change in Bank Control Act of 1978 to acquire 10% or more of that series of preferred stock.

Dividends

Holders of each series of preferred stock will be entitled to receive, when, as, and if our board declares, cash dividends payable at the dates and at the rates per share as described in the applicable prospectus supplement. Those rates may be fixed, variable or both. Dividends may be cumulative or noncumulative and may be payable in preference to, or in such relation to, the dividends payable on any other class or classes or series of our stock, as described in the applicable prospectus supplement.

Liquidation Rights

In the event of our voluntary or involuntary liquidation, dissolution, or winding up, preferred stockholders of any particular series will be entitled, subject to creditors' rights and holders of any series of preferred stock ranking senior as to liquidation rights, but before any distribution to common stockholders or holders of any series of preferred stock ranking junior as to liquidation rights, to receive a liquidating distribution in the amount of the liquidation preference, if any, per share as mentioned in the applicable prospectus supplement, plus accrued and unpaid dividends for the current dividend period. This would include any accumulation of unpaid dividends for prior dividend periods, if dividends on that series of preferred stock are cumulative. If the amounts available for distribution upon our liquidation, dissolution or winding up are not sufficient to satisfy the full liquidation rights of all the outstanding preferred stock of that series and all stock ranking equal to that series of preferred stock, then the holders of each series of that stock will share ratably in any distribution of assets in proportion to the full respective preferential amount, which may include accumulated dividends, to which they are entitled. After the full amount of the liquidation preference is paid, the holders of preferred stock will not be entitled to any further participation in any distribution of our assets.

Conversion and Exchange

The terms on which preferred stock of any series may be converted into or exchanged for another class or series of securities will be described in the applicable prospectus supplement.

Table of Contents

Redemption

The terms on which any series of preferred stock may be redeemed will be described in the applicable prospectus supplement. All shares of preferred stock which we redeem, purchase or acquire, including shares surrendered for conversion or exchange, shall be retired and restored to the status of authorized but unissued shares of preferred stock undesignated as to series.

Other Rights

The shares of a series of preferred stock may have the preferences, conversion, or other rights, voting powers, restrictions, limitations as to dividends, qualifications, terms or conditions of redemption, or other rights as may be described in the applicable prospectus supplement, our restated certificate of incorporation, or as otherwise required by law.

Title

We, the transfer agent and the registrar for a series of preferred stock, and any of our or their agents may treat the registered owner of that preferred stock as the absolute owner of that stock, whether or not any payment for that preferred stock shall be overdue and despite any notice to the contrary, for any purposes.

DESCRIPTION OF DEBT SECURITIES

The following briefly summarizes the general terms and provisions of the debt securities that we may offer. The specific terms of a series of debt securities that we may offer will be described in a prospectus supplement relating to that series of debt securities. The debt securities will be issued under an indenture to be entered into between us and the trustee identified in the applicable prospectus supplement. A form of the indenture has been filed as an exhibit to the registration statement of which this prospectus is part. The terms of the debt securities will include those stated in the indenture (including any supplemental indenture that specifies the terms of a particular series of debt securities) as well as those made part of the indenture by reference to the Trust Indenture Act of 1939, as in effect on the date of the indenture. The indenture will be subject to and governed by the terms of the Trust Indenture Act of 1939. We have summarized the material portions of the indenture below, but you should read the indenture for other provisions that may be important to you.

The following description, and any description of our debt securities in a prospectus supplement, may not be complete and is qualified in all respects by reference to the provisions of the indenture and the form of certificates evidencing the debt securities relating to the particular series of our debt securities. You are encouraged to read the more detailed provisions of these documents and laws for provisions that may be important to you. You can obtain copies of our restated certificate of incorporation and restated bylaws (including amendments to each) by following the directions under the heading **Where You Can Find More Information** .

General

The debt securities will be our direct unsecured general obligations. The debt securities will be either senior debt securities or subordinated debt securities. We will establish the terms of each series of debt securities that we will issue under the indenture by a resolution of our board of directors. We will detail the terms of the debt securities that we will offer in an officers' certificate under the indenture or by a supplemental indenture. We will describe the particular terms of each series of debt securities that we issue in a prospectus supplement relating to that series. The specific terms described in any prospectus supplement may differ from the terms described below.

Table of Contents

Under the indenture, we can issue an unlimited amount of debt securities, including debt securities that are convertible into or exchangeable for our other securities, including our common stock. We may issue the debt securities:

in one or more series,

with the same or various maturities,

at par,

at a premium, or

at a discount.

We will describe in the applicable prospectus supplement the terms of the series of debt securities being offered, including:

the initial offering price,

the aggregate principal amount of that series of debt securities,

the title of the debt securities,

any limit on the aggregate principal amount of the debt securities,

the date or dates on which we will pay the principal on the debt securities,

the maturity date,

the per annum rate or rates (which may be fixed or variable) or the method used to determine such rate or rates (including any commodity, commodity index, stock exchange index or financial index) at which the debt securities will bear interest,

the date or dates from which interest will accrue,

the date or dates on which interest will commence and be payable,

any regular record date for the interest payable on any interest payment date,

the place or places where we will pay the principal, premium, and interest with respect to the debt securities,

the terms and conditions upon which we may redeem the debt securities,

any obligation we have to redeem or purchase the debt securities under any sinking fund or similar provisions or at the option of a holder of debt securities,

the denominations in which we will issue the debt securities, if we issue them other than in denominations of \$1,000 and any integral multiple thereof,

whether we will issue the debt securities in the form of certificated debt securities or global securities,

the currency of denomination of the debt securities,

any addition to or change in the events of default that are described in this prospectus or in the indenture,

any change in the acceleration provisions that are described in this prospectus or in the indenture,

the ranking of the debt securities of the series, including the relative degree, if any, to which the debt securities of such series shall be subordinated to one or more other series of debt securities or other obligations of the Company in right of payment, whether outstanding or not,

any addition to or change in the covenants described in this prospectus or in the indenture with respect to the debt securities,

Table of Contents

any other terms of the debt securities, which may modify or delete any provision of the indenture as it applies to that series, and

any depositories, interest rate calculation agents, exchange rate calculation agents or other agents with respect to the debt securities.

We may issue debt securities that provide that we must only pay an amount less than our stated principal amount if our maturity date accelerates. In the prospectus supplement, we will also provide you with information on the federal income tax considerations and other special considerations that apply to any of the particular debt securities.

Conversion or Exchange Rights

We will set forth in the prospectus supplement the terms under which a series of debt securities may be convertible into or exchangeable for our common stock or our other securities. We will include provisions as to whether conversion or exchange is mandatory, at the option of the holder or at our option. We may include provisions pursuant to which the number of shares of our common stock or our other securities that the holders of the series of debt securities receive would be subject to adjustment.

Form, Exchange and Transfer

Each debt security will be represented by either one or more global securities registered in the name of The Depository Trust Company, or DTC, as depository, or a nominee of DTC (a book-entry debt security), or a certificate issued in definitive registered form (a certificated debt security).

We will describe whether the particular series of debt securities will be a book-entry debt security or a certificated debt security in the applicable prospectus supplement. Except as described under *Global Debt Securities and Book-Entry System* below, we will not issue book-entry debt securities in certificated form.

Certificated Debt Securities

If you hold certificated debt securities, you may transfer or exchange certificated debt securities at the trustee's office or at paying agencies as provided for in the indenture. We will not charge you any service charge for any transfer or exchange of certificated debt securities, but may require you to pay a sum sufficient to cover any tax or other governmental charge that may be required in connection with your transfer or exchange.

You may transfer certificated debt securities and the right to receive the principal, premium and interest on certificated debt securities only by surrendering the certificate representing your certificated debt securities. After you surrender your certificated debt securities, we or the trustee will reissue your certificate to the new holder or we or the trustee will issue a new certificate to the new holder.

Global Debt Securities and Book-Entry System

A global debt security is a debt security that represents, and is denominated in an amount equal to the aggregate principal amount of, all outstanding debt securities of a series, or any portion thereof, in either case having the same terms, including the same:

original issue date,

date or dates on which we must pay principal and interest, and

interest rate or method of determining interest.

Table of Contents

If we decide to issue debt securities in the form of one or more global securities, then we will deposit each global debt security representing book-entry debt securities with, or on behalf of, the depositary and will also register the global debt security in the name of the depositary or its nominee.

The prospectus supplement will describe the specific terms of the depositary arrangement for debt securities of a series that are issued in global form. None of our company, the trustee, any payment agent or the security registrar will have any responsibility or liability for any aspect of the records relating to or payments made on account of beneficial ownership interests in a global debt security or for maintaining, supervising or reviewing any records relating to these beneficial ownership interests.

Consolidation, Merger and Sale of Assets

Unless we provide otherwise in the prospectus supplement applicable to a particular series of debt securities, the indenture will not contain any covenant that restricts our ability to merge or consolidate, or sell, convey, transfer or otherwise dispose of all or substantially all of our assets. However, any successor to or acquirer of such assets must assume all of our obligations under the indenture or the debt securities, as appropriate. If the debt securities are convertible into or exchangeable for our other securities, the person with whom we consolidate or merge or to whom we sell all of our property must make provisions for the conversion of the debt securities into securities that the holders of the debt securities would have received if they had converted the debt securities before the consolidation, merger or sale.

Covenants

Unless stated otherwise in the applicable prospectus supplement and in a supplement to the indenture, a resolution of our board of directors or an officers' certificate delivered under the indenture, the debt securities will not contain any restrictive covenants, including covenants that limit or restrict our business or operations, the pledging of our assets or the incurrence by us of indebtedness. We will describe in the applicable prospectus supplement any material covenants in respect of a series of debt securities.

Ranking

Unless stated otherwise in the applicable prospectus supplement and in a supplement to the indenture, a resolution of our board of directors or an officers' certificate delivered under the indenture, the debt securities will rank equally and ratably with our other unsecured and unsubordinated debt. The debt securities will not be secured by any properties or assets and will represent our unsecured debt.

We are a holding company and we will depend upon the earnings and cash flow of our subsidiaries to meet our obligations under the debt securities. Since the creditors of any of our subsidiaries would generally have a right to receive payment that is superior to our right to receive payment from the assets of that subsidiary, holders of our debt securities will be effectively subordinated to creditors of our subsidiaries. In addition, there are regulatory provisions which limit the amount of dividends the Bank can pay to us as well as regulatory provisions which limit the Bank's ability to make loans and advances to us.

Events of Default Under the Indenture

Under the indenture, an event of default means, with respect to any series of debt securities, any of the following:

default in the payment of any interest on any debt security of that series when it becomes due and payable, and the continuance of that default for a period of 30 days (unless we deposit the entire amount of the payment with the trustee or with a paying agent prior to the expiration of the 30-day period);

Table of Contents

default in the payment of principal or premium on any debt security of that series when due and payable;

default in the deposit of any sinking fund payment, when and as due on any debt security of that series;

default in the performance or breach of any of our other covenants or warranties in the indenture (other than a covenant or warranty that has been included in the indenture solely for the benefit of a series of debt securities other than that series), which default continues uncured for a period of 60 days after we receive written notice from the trustee or we and the trustee receive written notice from the holders of at least 25% in principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of that series as provided in the indenture;

some events of bankruptcy, insolvency or reorganization of the Company; and

any other event of default provided with respect to debt securities of that series that is described in the applicable supplement to this prospectus.

No event of default for a particular series of debt securities, except for the events of default relating to events of bankruptcy, insolvency or reorganization, will necessarily constitute an event of default for any other series of debt securities.

If an event of default for debt securities of any series occurs and is continuing, then the trustee or the holders of not less than 25% in principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of that series may declare to be due and payable immediately the principal (or, if the debt securities of that series are discount securities, that portion of the principal amount as may be specified in the terms of that series) and premium of all debt securities of that series. In the case of an event of default resulting from events of bankruptcy, insolvency or reorganization, the principal (or such specified amount) and premium of all outstanding debt securities will become and be immediately due and payable without any declaration or other act by the trustee or any holder of outstanding debt securities. At any time after a declaration of acceleration with respect to debt securities of any series, but before the trustee has obtained a judgment or decree for payment of the money due, the holders of a majority in principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of that series may, subject to us having paid or deposited with the trustee a sum sufficient to pay overdue interest and principal that has become due other than by acceleration and certain other conditions, rescind and annul such acceleration if all events of default, other than the non-payment of accelerated principal and premium with respect to debt securities of that series, have been cured or waived as provided in the indenture. For information as to waiver of defaults see the discussion under **Modification of Indenture; Waiver** below. We refer you to the prospectus supplement relating to any series of debt securities that are discount securities for the particular provisions relating to acceleration of a portion of the principal amount of the discount securities upon the occurrence of an event of default and the continuation of an event of default.

The indenture provides that the trustee will be under no obligation to exercise any of its rights or powers under the indenture at the request of any holder of outstanding debt securities unless the trustee receives indemnity satisfactory to it against any loss, liability or expense. Subject to some rights of the trustee, the holders of a majority in principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of any series shall have the right to direct the time, method and place of conducting any proceeding for any remedy available to the trustee or exercising any trust or power conferred on the trustee with respect to the debt securities of that series.

No holder of any debt security of any series will have any right to institute any proceeding, judicial or otherwise, with respect to the indenture or for the appointment of a receiver or trustee, or for any remedy under the indenture, unless:

that holder has previously given the trustee written notice of a continuing event of default under the debt securities of that series; and

Table of Contents

the holders of at least 25% in principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of that series have made written request, and offered reasonable indemnity, to the trustee to institute such proceeding as trustee, and the trustee shall not have received from the holders of a majority in principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of that series a direction inconsistent with that request and has failed to institute the proceeding within 60 days.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, the holder of any debt security will have an absolute and unconditional right to receive payment of the principal, premium and any interest with respect to that debt security on or after the due dates expressed in that debt security and to institute suit for the enforcement of payment.

The indenture requires us, within 90 days after the end of our fiscal year, to furnish to the trustee a statement of our compliance with the indenture. The indenture provides that the trustee may withhold notice to the holders of debt securities of any series of any default or event of default (except in payment on any debt securities of that series) with respect to debt securities of that series if it in good faith determines that withholding notice is in the interest of the holders of those debt securities.

Modification of Indenture; Waiver

We and the trustee may modify and amend the indenture with the consent of the holders of at least a majority in principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of each series affected by the modifications or amendments. We and the trustee may not make any modification or amendment without the consent of the holder of each affected debt security then outstanding if that amendment will:

change the amount of debt securities whose holders must consent to an amendment or waiver;

reduce the rate of, or extend the time for payment of, interest (including default interest) on any debt security;

reduce the principal of, or premium on, or change the fixed maturity of any debt security or reduce the amount of, or postpone the date fixed for, the deposit of any sinking fund payment or analogous obligation with respect to any series of debt securities;

reduce the principal amount of discount securities payable upon acceleration of maturity;

waive a default in the payment of the principal, premium or interest with respect to any debt security (except a rescission of acceleration of the debt securities of any series by the holders of at least a majority in aggregate principal amount of the then outstanding debt securities of that series and a waiver of the payment default that resulted from that acceleration);

make the principal, premium or interest with respect to any debt security payable in currency other than that stated in the debt security;

make any change to certain provisions of the indenture relating to, among other things, the right of holders of debt securities to receive payment of the principal, premium and interest with respect to those debt securities and to institute suit for the enforcement of any payment and to waivers or amendments; or

waive a redemption payment with respect to any debt security or change any of the provisions with respect to the redemption of any debt securities.

Except for some specified provisions of the indenture, the holders of at least a majority in principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of any series may on behalf of the holders of all debt securities of that series waive our compliance with provisions of the indenture. The holders of a majority in principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of any series may on behalf of the holders of all the debt securities of that series waive any past default under the indenture with respect to that series and its consequences, except a default in the payment of the principal, premium or any interest with respect to any debt security of that series; provided,

Table of Contents

however, that the holders of a majority in principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of any series may rescind an acceleration and its consequences, including any related payment default that resulted from the acceleration.

Defeasance of Debt Securities and Certain Covenants in Certain Circumstances

The indenture provides that, unless the terms of the applicable series of debt securities provide otherwise we may defease such series of debt securities. Upon defeasance, we may be discharged from any and all obligations under the debt securities of any series (except for some obligations to register the transfer or exchange of debt securities of the series, to replace stolen, lost or mutilated debt securities of the series, and to maintain paying agencies and certain provisions relating to the treatment of funds held by paying agents) (legal defeasance) or we may be excused from compliance with certain restrictive covenants contained in the indenture, as well as any additional covenants contained in a supplement to the indenture, a resolution of the board of directors or an officers certificate delivered pursuant to the indenture (covenant defeasance). We will be discharged, under either legal defeasance or covenant defeasance, on the 91st day after we deposit with the trustee, in trust, money and/or U.S. government obligations or, in the case of debt securities denominated in a single currency other than U.S. dollars, foreign government obligations, that, through the payment of interest and principal in accordance with their terms, will provide money in an amount sufficient in the opinion of a nationally recognized firm of independent public accountants to pay and discharge each installment of principal, premium and interest, and any mandatory sinking fund payments for the debt securities of that series on the stated maturity in accordance with the terms of the indenture and those debt securities.

Legal defeasance or covenant defeasance will be effective only if, among other things, we have delivered to the trustee an officers certificate and an opinion of counsel stating that holders of the debt securities of the series which we wish to defease will:

not recognize income, gain or loss for United States federal income tax purposes as a result of the deposit, defeasance and discharge and

will be subject to United States federal income tax on the same amount and in the same manner and at the same times as would have been the case if the deposit, defeasance and discharge had not occurred.

We may exercise our legal defeasance option even though we have also exercised our covenant defeasance option.

Regarding the Trustee

We will identify the trustee with respect to any series of debt securities in the prospectus supplement relating to the applicable debt securities. If the trustee becomes one of our creditors, it will be subject to limitations in the indenture on its rights to obtain payment of claims or to realize on some property received for any such claim, as security or otherwise. The trustee is permitted to engage in other transactions with us. If, however, it acquires any conflicting interest, it must eliminate that conflict or resign.

The holders of a majority in principal amount of the then outstanding debt securities of any series may direct the time, method and place of conducting any proceeding for exercising any remedy available to the trustee.

If an event of default occurs and is continuing, the trustee will be required to use the degree of care and skill of a prudent man in the conduct of his own affairs. The trustee will become obligated to exercise any of its powers under the indenture at the request of any of the holders of debt securities only after those holders have offered the trustee

indemnity satisfactory to it.

Governing Law

The indenture and the debt securities will be governed by and construed under the laws of the State of New York.

Table of Contents

DESCRIPTION OF WARRANTS

The following summary of the terms of our warrants describes general terms that apply to the warrants. The particular terms of any warrants will be described more specifically in the prospectus supplement relating to such warrants.

We may issue warrants to purchase common stock, preferred stock, debt securities, or other securities of the Company or any combination of the foregoing. We may issue warrants independently or together with other securities. Warrants sold with other securities may be attached to or separate from the other securities. We will issue warrants under one or more warrant agreements between us and a warrant agent that we will name in the prospectus supplement.

The prospectus supplement relating to any warrants we are offering will include specific terms relating to the offering. We will file the form of any warrant agreement with the SEC, and you should read the warrant agreement for provisions that may be important to you. The prospectus supplement will include some or all of the following terms:

the title of the warrants;

the aggregate number of warrants offered;

the designation, number and terms of the common stock, preferred stock, debt securities, or other securities purchasable upon exercise of the warrants, and procedures that will result in the adjustment of those numbers;

the exercise price or prices of the warrants;

the dates or periods during which the warrants are exercisable;

the designation and terms of any securities with which the warrants are issued;

if the warrants are issued as a unit with another security, the date, if any, on and after which the warrants and the other security will be separately transferable;

if the exercise price is not payable in U.S. dollars, the foreign currency, currency unit or composite currency in which the exercise price is denominated;

any minimum or maximum amount of warrants that may be exercised at any one time;

any terms, procedures and limitations relating to the transferability, exchange or exercise of the warrants;
and

any other terms of the warrants.

Before exercising their warrants, holders of warrants will not have any of the rights of holders of the securities purchasable upon such exercise, including the right to receive dividends, if any, or payments upon our liquidation, dissolution or winding-up or to exercise voting rights, if any.

Transfer Agent and Registrar

The Transfer Agent and Registrar for any warrant will be set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement.

Table of Contents

**ANTI-TAKEOVER PROVISIONS IN
CATHAY S CERTIFICATE OF INCORPORATION AND BYLAWS**

The following includes a brief description of certain of the provisions of Cathay's restated certificate of incorporation and restated bylaws (each as amended). This description is subject to and qualified in its entirety by reference to our restated certificate of incorporation and restated bylaws (each as amended), copies of which have been filed with the SEC and are also available upon request from us.

General

Our restated certificate of incorporation and restated bylaws (each as amended) contain certain provisions that deal with matters of corporate governance and certain rights of stockholders which might be deemed to have a potential anti-takeover effect. These provisions may have the effect of discouraging a future takeover attempt which is not approved by the board of directors but which individual stockholders may deem to be in their best interest, or in which stockholders may receive a substantial premium for their shares over then current market prices. As a result, stockholders who might desire to participate in such a transaction may not have an opportunity to do so. Such provisions will also render the removal of an incumbent board of directors or management more difficult.

Certain Certificate of Incorporation Provisions

Our restated certificate of incorporation has certain provisions that could make more difficult the acquisition of Cathay by means of a tender offer, a proxy contest, merger or otherwise. These provisions include: (i) a requirement that any Business Combination (as defined in the restated certificate of incorporation) be approved by the affirmative vote of not less than 80% of the voting power of the then outstanding shares, voting together as a single class, excluding voting stock beneficially owned by an interested stockholder unless certain conditions are met, including without limitation: (a) the Business Combination is approved by a majority of Continuing Directors (as defined in the restated certificate of incorporation) or certain minimum price requirements are satisfied, (b) consideration to be received by holders of a particular series of stock is in cash or in the same form as has been previously paid by an Interested Stockholder (as defined in the restated certificate of incorporation) in connection with its acquisition of beneficial ownership of shares of such class, (c) there has been no failure to declare and pay at the regular date thereof any full regular dividends payable in accordance with the terms of any outstanding capital stock, other than common stock, except as approved by a majority of the Continuing Directors, (d) there has been no reduction in the amount, or change in the frequency of payment, of any dividends regularly paid on the common stock, (e) the Interested Stockholder has not received the benefit, directly or indirectly, of any loans, advances, guarantees, pledges or other financial assistance or tax credits or tax advantages by the Corporation, and (f) a proxy or information statement describing the Business Combination has been mailed to all stockholders of the Corporation at least 30 days prior to consummation of such Business Combination, (ii) a requirement that any Stock Repurchase (as defined in the restated certificate of incorporation) from an Interested Stockholder shall be approved by the affirmative vote of a majority of the votes entitled to be cast by the holders of such stock which is beneficially owned by persons other than such Interested Stockholder, voting together as a single class, unless (a) the Stock Repurchase is made pursuant to a tender offer or exchange offer made available on the same basis to all holders of such class of capital stock, or (b) the Stock Repurchase is made pursuant to an open market program approved by a majority of the Continuing Directors, and (iii) the ability of the board of directors to issue preferred stock at such time and on such terms and conditions as it deems appropriate.

Directors

Certain provisions of our restated certificate of incorporation and restated bylaws (each as amended) will impede changes in majority control of the board of directors. Our restated certificate of incorporation and/or restated bylaws (each as amended) provide that: our board is divided into three classes so that approximately

Table of Contents

one-third of the total number of directors is elected each year (this classified board of directors is intended to provide for continuity of the board of directors and to make it more difficult and time consuming for a stockholder group to use its voting power to gain control of the board of directors without consent of the incumbent board of directors); any vacancy occurring in the board of directors, including a vacancy created by an increase in the number of directors, is generally filled by a majority vote of the directors then in office for the remainder of the unexpired term; a director, in general, may be removed from office at any time only for cause and only by the affirmative vote of eighty percent (80%) of the then-outstanding shares of capital stock entitled to vote generally in the election of directors, voting together as a single class; stockholders may vote their shares cumulatively for directors in the event there is a holder of forty percent (40%) or more of our outstanding capital stock entitled to vote; prohibition on taking action by shareholder written consent or for shareholders to call for a special meeting; and procedures for the nomination of directors and submission of matters to the vote of our stockholders.

Delaware Anti-Takeover Statute

We are subject to Section 203 of the Delaware General Corporation Law, which prohibits a publicly held Delaware corporation from engaging in a business combination with an interested stockholder for a period of three years after the date of the transaction in which the person becomes an interested stockholder, unless:

before that date, the board of directors of the corporation approves either the business combination or the transaction that resulted in the stockholder s becoming an interested stockholder;

upon consummation of the transaction that resulted in the stockholder s becoming an interested stockholder, the interested stockholder owns at least 85% of the outstanding voting stock, excluding shares held by directors, officers and employee stock plans; or

on or after the consummation date, the business combination is approved by the board of directors and by the affirmative vote at an annual or special meeting of stockholders of at least 66-2/3% of the outstanding voting stock that is not owned by the interested stockholder.

For purposes of Section 203, a business combination includes a merger, asset sale or other transaction resulting in a financial benefit to the interested stockholder. An interested stockholder is generally a person who, together with affiliates and associates of that person, (a) owns 15% or more of the corporation s voting stock or (b) is an affiliate or associate of the corporation and was the owner of 15% or more of the outstanding voting stock of the corporation at any time within the three year period immediately prior to the date on which it is to be determined whether such person is an interested stockholder.

PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION

We may sell these securities offered under this prospectus in public offerings through one or more underwriters or dealers, through other agents, or directly to one or more purchasers or a combination thereof. Underwriters and agents in any distribution contemplated hereby will be named in the applicable prospectus supplement. The terms of any distribution, including, but not limited to, at the market equity offerings as defined in Rule 415 of the Securities Act, will also be set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement. Underwriters or agents could make sales in privately negotiated transactions and/or any method permitted by law, including sales deemed to be at the market equity offerings, which includes sales made directly on or through the facilities of the NASDAQ Global Select Market (the

existing trading market for our common stock), or any other securities exchange or quotation or trading service on which such securities may be listed, quoted or traded at the time of sale, or sales made to or through a market maker other than on an exchange.

Underwriters, dealers and agents that participate in the distribution of these securities may be underwriters as defined in the Securities Act and any discounts or commissions received by them and any profit on the resale

Table of Contents

of these securities by them may be treated as underwriting discounts and commissions under the Securities Act. Any underwriting compensation paid to underwriters or agents in connection with the offering of securities, and any discounts, concessions or commissions allowed by underwriters to participating dealers, will be set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement. The prospectus supplement will also describe other terms of the offering, including the initial public offering price, any discounts or concessions allowed or reallocated or paid to dealers and any securities exchanges on which these securities may be listed.

The distribution of these securities may occur from time to time in one or more transactions at a fixed price or prices, at market prices prevailing at the time of sale, at prices related to the prevailing market prices or at negotiated prices.

This prospectus, together with any applicable prospectus supplement, may also be used by our affiliates in connection with offers and sales of the securities in market-making transactions at negotiated prices related to prevailing market prices at the time of sale. Such affiliates may act as principals or agents in such transactions. None of our affiliates have any obligation to make a market in the securities and each may discontinue any market-making activities at any time, without notice, at its sole discretion.

This prospectus, together with any applicable prospectus supplement, may also be used by one or more selling securityholders to be identified in the future in connection with the resale of securities. The applicable prospectus supplement will identify the selling securityholders and the terms of the securities. Selling securityholders may be deemed to be underwriters in connection with the securities they resell and any profits on the sales may be deemed underwriting discounts and commissions under the Securities Act. The selling securityholders will receive all the proceeds from the sale of securities. We will not receive any proceeds from sales by selling securityholders.

We and/or one or more selling securityholders may have agreements with the underwriters, dealers and agents, including our affiliates, to indemnify them against certain civil liabilities, including liabilities under the Securities Act, or to contribute with respect to payments which the underwriters, dealers, or agents may be required to make as a result of those certain civil liabilities.

If we and/or one or more selling securityholders sell a security offered by this prospectus to an underwriter for public offering and sale, the underwriter may make a market for that security, but the underwriter will not be obligated to do so and could discontinue any market-making without notice at any time. Therefore, we cannot give any assurances to you concerning the liquidity of any security offered by this prospectus.

Underwriters and agents and their affiliates may be customers of, engage in transactions with, or perform services for us or our subsidiaries in the ordinary course of their businesses. In connection with the distribution of the securities offered under this prospectus, we and/or one or more selling securityholders may enter into swap or other hedging transactions with, or arranged by, underwriters or agents or their affiliates. These underwriters or agents or their affiliates may receive compensation, trading gain, or other benefits from these transactions.

LEGAL MATTERS

Unless otherwise indicated in the applicable prospectus supplement, certain legal matters will be passed upon for us by Wachtell, Lipton, Rosen & Katz, New York, New York and Perry P. Oei, Esquire, our General Counsel. As of November 8, 2013, Mr. Oei was the beneficial owner of 1,685 shares of our common stock, options to purchase 17,000 shares of our common stock and 8,558 restricted stock units. Unless otherwise provided in the applicable prospectus supplement, certain legal matters will be passed upon for any underwriters or agents by their own counsel.

Table of Contents

EXPERTS

The consolidated financial statements of Cathay General Bancorp and subsidiaries as of December 31, 2012 and 2011, and for each of the years in the three-year period ended December 31, 2012, and management's assessment of the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2012, have been incorporated by reference herein and in the registration statement in reliance upon the reports of KPMG LLP, independent registered public accounting firm, incorporated by reference herein, and upon the authority of said firm as experts in accounting and auditing.

Table of Contents

1,846,374 Warrants

Each Warrant is to Purchase One Share of Common Stock

Cathay General Bancorp

PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT

Deutsche Bank Securities

December 4, 2013