

SVB FINANCIAL GROUP
Form DEF 14A
March 06, 2015
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UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

SCHEDULE 14A

Proxy Statement Pursuant to Section 14(a) of the

Securities Exchange Act of 1934

(Amendment No.)

Filed by the Registrant

Filed by a Party other than the Registrant

Check the appropriate box:

Preliminary Proxy Statement

Confidential, for Use of the Commission Only

(as permitted by Rule 14a-6(e)(2))

Definitive Proxy Statement

Definitive Additional Materials

Soliciting Material Pursuant to § 240.14a-12

SVB FINANCIAL GROUP

(Name of Registrant as Specified In Its Charter)

(Name of Person(s) Filing Proxy Statement if Other Than the Registrant)

Payment of Filing Fee (Check the appropriate box):

No fee required.

.. Fee computed on table below per Exchange Act Rules 14a-6(i)(1) and 0-11.

- 1) Title of each class of securities to which transaction applies:

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- 4) Proposed maximum aggregate value of transaction:

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- 1) Amount Previously Paid:

- 2) Form, Schedule or Registration Statement No.:

- 3) Filing Party:

4) Date Filed:

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Notice of Annual Meeting of Stockholders

Thursday, April 23, 2015

4:30 P.M.

TO THE STOCKHOLDERS:

I am pleased to invite you to attend the 2015 Annual Meeting of Stockholders of SVB Financial Group, a Delaware corporation, which will be held at our offices located at 3005 Tasman Drive, Santa Clara, California 95054, on Thursday, April 23, 2015 at 4:30 p.m., Pacific Time. The purposes of the meeting are to:

1. Elect eleven (11) directors to serve for the ensuing year and until their successors are elected;
2. Ratify the appointment of KPMG LLP as our independent registered public accounting firm for our fiscal year ending December 31, 2015;
3. Approve, on an advisory basis, our executive compensation (*Say on Pay*); and
4. Transact such other business as may properly come before the meeting.

The foregoing items of business are more fully described in the Proxy Statement accompanying this Notice. To assure your representation at the meeting, you are encouraged to vote your shares as soon as possible. Voting instructions are included in: (i) for those stockholders receiving printed proxy materials, the enclosed Proxy Card, and (ii) for all other stockholders, the Notice Regarding the Availability of Proxy Materials (as further described in the Proxy Statement). Any stockholder attending the meeting may vote in person even if such stockholder has previously voted by proxy.

Only stockholders of record at the close of business on February 24, 2015 may vote at the meeting or any postponement or adjournment thereof.

**BY ORDER OF THE BOARD OF
DIRECTORS,**

/s/ Roger F. Dunbar
Roger F. Dunbar
Chairman of the Board

Santa Clara, California

March 6, 2015

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YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO ATTEND THE MEETING IN PERSON. WHETHER OR NOT YOU EXPECT TO ATTEND THE MEETING, PLEASE COMPLETE, DATE, SIGN AND RETURN THE ENCLOSED PROXY CARD, OR VOTE OVER THE TELEPHONE OR THE INTERNET AS PROMPTLY AS POSSIBLE, IN ORDER TO ENSURE YOUR REPRESENTATION AT THE MEETING. IF YOU HAVE RECEIVED PRINTED PROXY MATERIALS, A RETURN ENVELOPE (WHICH IS POSTAGE PREPAID IF MAILED IN THE UNITED STATES) IS ENCLOSED FOR YOUR CONVENIENCE. EVEN IF YOU HAVE VOTED BY PROXY, YOU MAY STILL VOTE IN PERSON IF YOU ATTEND THE MEETING. WE ENCOURAGE YOU TO VOTE: (I) FOR THE ELECTION OF ALL ELEVEN (11) NOMINEES FOR DIRECTOR AND (II) IN FAVOR OF THE ABOVE REMAINING PROPOSALS.

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APPENDIX A

A-1

‡ Indicates matters to be voted on at the Annual Meeting.

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SUMMARY PERFORMANCE AND PROXY INFORMATION

This summary highlights our 2014 performance, as well as information contained elsewhere in this Proxy Statement. This summary does not contain all of the information that you should consider, and you should review the entire Proxy Statement and our Annual Report on Form 10-K.

2014 PERFORMANCE

2014 Financial Performance (compared to 2013)

Assets. All-time high of \$33.0 billion in average total assets (up 42.0%).

Loans. All-time high of \$11.5 billion in average loan balances (up 23.0%).

Deposits. All-time high of \$28.3 billion in average total deposit balances (up 44.4%).

Client Investment Funds. All-time high of \$30.0 billion in average total client investment fund balances (off-balance sheet) (up 24.0%).

EPS. Earnings per diluted share (*EPS*) of \$5.31 (up 13.2%).

Net income. Consolidated net income available to common stockholders of \$263.9 million (up 22.3%).

i Net interest income of \$856.6 million (up 22.8%).

i Noninterest income of \$572.2 million, with non-GAAP core fee income (fee income for deposit services, letters of credit, business credit card, client investment, foreign exchange and lending-related activities) of \$209.6 million⁺ (up 19.4%).

ROE. Return on average equity (annualized) (*ROE*) performance of 10.46%.

TSR. Total Stockholder Return ranked in eighth position against peer group of 20 financial institutions. See *Compensation Discussion and Analysis Competitive Benchmarking Against Peers and Elements of Compensation Equity Incentives*.

Credit Quality. Disciplined credit underwriting, with net charge-offs of 0.32% of average total gross loans.

Capital/Liquidity. Continued strong capital and liquidity levels, including well-capitalized capital ratios.

⁺ This is a non-GAAP financial metric. See Appendix A for reconciliation.

2014 Business Performance

In 2014, we continued to focus on our long-term growth and on our mission to help innovators move their bold ideas forward, fast. Key 2014 highlights include:

Growth in market share, focusing on fast-growth, performing innovation companies

- i We grew our total net client count by 21%.
- i Similar to 2013, approximately 64% of U.S. venture-backed technology and life science companies that went public in 2014 were our clients.

Focus on our global growth

- i We increased our global client count by 60% an annual increase of over 1,000 new global clients.
- i Our average global loans grew by 61%; our average global deposits doubled.

For more information about our 2014 performance, please see our 2014 Year In Review Letter to Our Stockholders.

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ANNUAL MEETING

Time and Date: 4:30 p.m. (Pacific Time), April 23, 2015 *Record Date:* February 24, 2015
Place: SVB Financial Group Corporate Headquarters *Voting:* Stockholders as of record date are entitled to vote
 3005 Tasman Drive
 Santa Clara, California 95054

PROPOSALS AND VOTING RECOMMENDATIONS

Proposal	Board Recommendation	Page Reference
<i>Proposal No. 1</i> - Election of Eleven (11) Directors	For all nominees	2
<i>Proposal No. 2</i> - Ratification of KPMG LLP as Auditors for 2015	For	39
<i>Proposal No. 3</i> - Advisory (Non-Binding) Vote on Executive Compensation	For	60

DIRECTOR NOMINEES

We are seeking your vote FOR all of the director nominees listed below:

Each director nominee is an incumbent director and received at least 98% of the votes cast in 2014.

Board Committee Membership*

Name	Age	Year First Elected	By	Principal Occupation	Independent	Audit	Compensation	Credit	Finance	Governance	Risk
Greg W. Becker	47	2011	Stockholders	President and Chief Executive Officer, SVB Financial Group and Silicon Valley Bank							
Eric A. Benhamou	59	2005	Stockholders	Chairman and Chief Executive	1			X		C	X

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			Officer, Benhamou Global Ventures, LLC						
David M. Clapper	63	2005	Chief Executive Officer, Minerva Surgical, Inc.	1	X		C		X
Roger F. Dunbar	69	2005	Board Chairman SVB Financial Group and Silicon Valley Bank; Retired, Former Global Vice Chairman, Ernst & Young, LLP	1	X			X	X
Joel P. Friedman	67	2005	Retired, Former President, Business Process Outsourcing, Accenture	1				C	X
C. Richard Kramlich	79	2005	Chairman and General Manager, Kramlich Investment Company and KIC Co-Investment Company	1		X		X	
Lata Krishnan	54	2008	Chief Financial Officer, Shah Capital Partners	1	X			X	
Jeffrey N. Maggioncalda	46	2012	Former Chief Executive Officer, Financial Engines	1		X		X	
Kate D. Mitchell	56	2010	Co-Founder and Managing Director, Scale Venture Partners	1	X		C		X

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John F. Robinson	68	2011	Former Deputy Comptroller of the Currency and former Executive Vice President, Washington Mutual Bank	1	C	X	X	X
Garen K. Staglin	70	2012	Proprietor, Staglin Family Vineyard	1			X	X

* C denotes committee chairperson; all memberships as of the date of this Proxy Statement.

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CORPORATE GOVERNANCE HIGHLIGHTS

**BOARD
COMPOSITION**

- ü All independent directors, except for CEO director
- ü Separate Board Chairperson and CEO roles
- ü Independent Board Chairperson
- ü Seasoned Board with diverse experience
- ü Balanced Board tenure:

<i>Number of directors</i>	2	4	5
<i>Years of Service</i>	0-3	4-7	8-11

**BOARD
ACCOUNTABILITY**

- ü Annual election of directors
- ü Majority voting standard in uncontested director elections
- ü Annual Board and committee evaluations
- ü Regularly-held executive sessions of non-management directors
- ü Robust executive and director equity ownership guidelines
- ü Independent Board approval of CEO compensation

**STOCKHOLDER
INTERESTS**

- ü Active stockholder engagement practices
- ü Annual Say on Pay vote
- ü One single voting class – common stock class
- Æ No renewal of poison pill

RISK OVERSIGHT

- ü Board (and individual committee) oversight of risk
- ü Separate Board Risk Committee focused on enterprise wide risk management

AUDITOR MATTERS

As a matter of good corporate practice, we are seeking your ratification of KPMG LLP (KPMG) as our independent registered public accounting firm for the 2015 fiscal year. The following table summarizes the fees billed or expected to be billed by KPMG for 2014: (For more information, see page 59.)

	2014	87%
Audit Fees	\$ 5,139,121	
Audit-Related Fees	278,443	
Tax Fees	663,184	
All Other Fees	115,000	of Total 2014 Fees =
Total		Audit/Audit-Related
	\$ 6,195,748	Fees

EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION

Consistent with our Board’s recommendation and our stockholders’ preference, we submit an advisory vote to approve our executive compensation (otherwise known as *Say on Pay*) on an annual basis. Accordingly, we are seeking your approval, on an advisory basis, of the compensation of our Named Executive Officers, as further described in the *Compensation Discussion and Analysis* section of this Proxy Statement.

2014 Say on Pay

At our April 2014 annual meeting, 98% of the votes cast approved our 2013 executive compensation program as described in our 2014 proxy statement.

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2014 Executive Compensation Highlights

For a summary of the highlights of our 2014 executive compensation and key features of our executive compensation programs, please refer to the Executive Summary of the *Compensation Discussion and Analysis* section of this Proxy Statement on page 29.

IMPORTANT DATES FOR 2016 ANNUAL MEETING

Stockholder proposals for inclusion in our 2016 proxy statement pursuant to SEC Rule 14a-8 must be received by us by November 15, 2015. Notice of stockholder proposals for the 2016 annual meeting outside of SEC Rule 14a-8 must be received by us no earlier than December 26, 2015 and no later than January 24, 2016.

* * * *

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SUMMARY INFORMATION

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Mailed to Stockholders on or about March 13, 2015

PROXY STATEMENT
OF
SVB FINANCIAL GROUP
3003 Tasman Drive
Santa Clara, California 95054

PROXY STATEMENT GENERAL INFORMATION

General

This Proxy Statement is furnished in connection with the solicitation of proxies by, and on behalf of, the Board of Directors (the *Board*) of SVB Financial Group (the *Company*) for use at our 2015 Annual Meeting of Stockholders to be held at our offices located at 3005 Tasman Drive, Santa Clara, California 95054, on Thursday, April 23, 2015 at 4:30 p.m., Pacific Time, and at all postponements or adjournments thereof (the *Meeting*). (For directions to attend the Meeting in person, please contact us at the telephone number below.)

Record Date

Only stockholders of record on February 24, 2015 (the *Record Date*) will be entitled to vote at the Meeting. At the close of business on the Record Date, there were 51,021,075 shares of our Common Stock, \$0.001 par value (the *Common Stock*), outstanding.

Principal Executive Offices

The Company is a Delaware corporation and financial holding company for Silicon Valley Bank (the *Bank*) and its affiliates. Our principal executive offices are located at 3003 Tasman Drive, Santa Clara, California 95054, and our telephone number at that location is (408) 654-7400.

Important Notice Regarding the Availability of Proxy Materials for the Meeting

This Proxy Statement and our 2014 Annual Report on Form 10-K are available electronically at www.svb.com/proxy. See also *Information About Voting and Proxy Solicitation Delivery of Proxy Materials* below.

PROXY STATEMENT INFORMATION

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Proposal No. 1

ELECTION OF DIRECTORS

The Board of Directors Recommends a Vote For All Nominees

Pursuant to our amended and restated bylaws (the *Bylaws*), the Board of Directors (the *Board*) shall consist of at least eight (8), but no more than thirteen (13) members, with the exact number to be fixed by the Board of Directors. As of the Record Date, the number of directors authorized by the Board is fixed at eleven (11).

Under our Bylaws, the Board shall not have more than two directors who do not meet the definition of an Outside Director. An Outside Director is any director who meets the independence and experience requirements of the SEC and Nasdaq Stock Market, Inc. (*Nasdaq*) and who, in the opinion of the Board, has the ability to exercise independent judgment in carrying out the responsibilities of a director of the Company. All of our current directors, except for our Chief Executive Officer, are considered Outside Directors.

Majority Voting Policy

The Governance Committee of our Board has adopted a majority voting policy applicable to uncontested director elections (i.e., elections where the number of nominees is not greater than the number of directors to be elected). Under this policy, any of our director nominees in an uncontested election who receives a greater number of votes withheld his or her election than votes for such election shall, promptly following certification of the stockholder vote, offer his or her resignation to the Board for consideration. The Governance Committee will act within 90 days after certification of the stockholder vote to determine whether to accept the director's resignation, and thereafter submit such resignation and its recommendation to the Board for consideration at its next scheduled meeting. The Board expects that the director whose resignation is under consideration abstain from participating in any decision or deliberation regarding that resignation. Following the Board's decision, we will publicly disclose the decision made with respect to any resignation.

Director Qualifications

PRIMARY AREAS OF DIRECTOR QUALIFICATIONS

The Board recognizes that it is of utmost importance to assemble a body of directors that, taken together, has the skills, qualifications, experience and attributes appropriate for functioning as a board, and working with management, effectively. The Governance Committee of the Board is responsible for maintaining a well-rounded and diverse board that has the requisite range of skills and qualifications to oversee the Company effectively. The Governance Committee has not formally established any minimum qualifications for director candidates. However, in light of our

Client Industry Experience with our key client industries technology, life science and healthcare, venture capital/private equity and premium wine to help deepen our knowledge of the innovation markets we do business in.

Banking/Financial Services Experience with the banking or financial services industry, including regulatory experience, to support and grow our core business.

business, the primary areas of experience and qualifications sought by the Governance Committee in director candidates include, *but are not limited to*, the primary areas identified on the right.

The Board believes that our incumbent directors, as a whole, have these areas of experience and each possesses particular attributes which qualify him or her to serve on the Board, as further noted in his or her respective biography below. *(For each director, we have highlighted certain key areas of qualifications. The fact that an area is not highlighted does not mean that the director does not possess such qualification.)*

Global Experience working outside of the United States and/or with global companies, to help the expansion of our global presence.

Leadership Experience from holding significant leadership positions, including as a CEO of a successful company or a head of a significant business, to help us drive business strategy, growth and performance.

Finance Experience with finance and/or financial reporting processes to help drive operating and financial performance.

Risk Management Experience with key risk management functions to help oversee the risks we face.

Public Company Experience working with publicly-traded companies and corporate governance issues.

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Moreover, the Board believes, and expects, that all of our directors demonstrate strong strategic and/or innovative thinking, and also possess the following attributes enabling the Board to function effectively as a collective body: integrity, collegial spirit, sound business judgment, professionalism, ability to generate public confidence, ability to act independently, and availability and commitment to serve. (For more information, see *Corporate Governance Principles and Board Matters-Consideration of Director Nominees* below.)

Nominees for Director

All proxies will be voted FOR the election of the following eleven (11) nominees recommended by the Board for a term of one year, unless authority to vote for the election of directors (or for any particular nominee) is withheld. All of the nominees served as directors of the Company since the last annual meeting of stockholders in April 2014. All of our incumbent directors are nominees for re-election to the Board and were recommended by the Governance Committee.

If any of the nominees should unexpectedly decline or be unable to act as a director, the proxies may be voted for a substitute nominee designated by the Board. As of the date of this Proxy Statement, the Board has no reason to believe that any nominee will become unavailable and has no present intention to nominate persons in addition to or in lieu of those listed below. Our directors serve until the next annual meeting of stockholders and until their successors are elected and qualified, or until their earlier death, resignation or removal.

Director Biographies

The biographical information for each of the director nominees is as follows:

Greg W. Becker

Board Committees: N/A
Independent: No

Mr. Becker, age 47, was appointed the President and Chief Executive Officer of the Company and the Bank in April 2011. He first joined us in 1993 as part of the Northern California Technology Division, and since then, has served in a number of executive and senior management positions, including Division Manager of Venture Capital (1999-2002), Chief Banking Officer (2002-2003), Chief Operating Officer (2003-2008) and President of Silicon Valley Bank (since 2008). Mr. Becker has served as a director of the Company since 2011.

Private Chairman, Silicon Valley Leadership Group, a non-profit organization with an emphasis on issues of importance to employers, employees and residents of Silicon Valley (since 2011)

Directorships:

Bay Area Council, a public policy advocacy organization (since 2011) (as director and executive committee member)

Other Prior

Experience: President, Board of Trustees, Silicon Valley and Monterey Bay Area Chapter of the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society (2004-2011)

Education: Bachelor's degree in Finance from Indiana University

Skills/ In particular, Mr. Becker's key areas of skills/qualifications include, but are not limited to:

Qualifications:

Leadership current role as the Company's CEO, as well as held other prior leadership roles within the Company

Client Industry and **Banking/Financial Services** extensive experience with the Company and within the banking industry working with public and private technology, life science and venture capital clients

Table of Contents**Eric A. Benhamou****Board Committees:** **Independent:**
Governance, *Chair* Yes

Finance

Risk

Mr. Benhamou, age 59, is Chairman and CEO of Benhamou Global Ventures, LLC, which he founded in 2003. Benhamou Global Ventures, LLC invests and plays an active role in innovative high tech firms throughout the world. He also sits on various public and private technology company boards, and serves a variety of educational and philanthropic organizations. Mr. Benhamou has served as a director of the Company since 2005.

**Public
Directorships:**

Chairman, Cypress Semiconductor, a semiconductor company (since 1993)

Finjan Corporation, a global provider of proactive web security solutions (since 2006)

**Private
Directorships:**

ConteXtream, a carrier equipment vendor for intellectual property based media services (since 2007)

Qubell, an application deployment and configuration management platform (since 2014)

**Other
Experience:**

Executive committee member, Stanford University School of Engineering (since 1996)

Chairman of the Israel Venture Network, a venture philanthropy organization for a stronger Israeli society (since 2000)

**Prior
Directorships:**

Load Dynamix (formerly SwiftTest, Inc.), a commercial IP network testing tool developer (2010-2014)

Purewave, Inc., a developer of outdoor compact base stations for the 4G marketplace (2010-2014)

RealNetworks, Inc., creator of digital media services and software (2003-2012)

Chairman, 3Com Corporation, a public networking solutions provider (1990-2010)

Voltaire Ltd., a public grid computing network solutions company (2007-2011)

Dasient, a security company that provides malware detection and prevention solutions (2010-2011)

Chairman of the Board of Directors of Palm, Inc., a public mobile products provider (1999-2007)

Other private directorships: Atrica, Go Networks, WisdomArk (various dates from 2000-2008)

**Other Prior
Experience:**

Executive committee member, Ben Gurion University of Negev (2000-2013)

Visiting professor, INSEAD Business School (2003-2012)

Interim Chief Executive Officer of Palm, Inc. (2001-2003)

Chief Executive Officer, 3Com Corporation (1990-2000), and other various senior management positions

Executive committee member, Computer Science and Telecommunications Board (CSTB) (2003-2008)

Member, US-Israel Science and Technology Commission (2003)

Executive committee member, TechNet

Co-founder and Vice President of Engineering, Bridge Communications (1981-1987)

Education:

Engineering degree from l'École Nationale Supérieure d'Arts et Métiers in Paris, France

Master's degree in Science from the School of Engineering at Stanford University

Several honorary doctorates

**Skills/
Qualifications:**

In particular, Mr. Benhamou's key areas of skills/qualifications include, but are not limited to:

Client Industry in-depth experience with both public and private technology companies (as part of management and/or as a director and venture capital investor); current role as Chairman and CEO of Benhamou Global Ventures

Global strategic and operational experience in the global markets, particularly in Europe and Israel

Leadership held a variety of key executive positions, including Chairman and CEO roles of 3Com Corporation and Palm, Inc.

Table of Contents**David M. Clapper****Board Committees:** Credit, *Chair* **Independent:** Yes

Audit

Risk

Mr. Clapper, age 63, has been the Chief Executive Officer of Minerva Surgical, a medical device company, since May 2011. He has had an extensive career in the healthcare and medical device industries, including serving as the President and Chief Executive Officer (2005-2008) of SurgRx, Inc., a privately held medical device manufacturer, until its acquisition by Ethicon Endo-Surgery in 2008, as well as a variety of public and private company directorships. Mr. Clapper has served as a director of the Company since 2005.

**Private
Directorships:**

Carbylan Therapeutics, a pharmaceutical company (since 2014)

Arqos Surgical, Inc., a technology holding company (since 2011)

CORRX, Inc., a medical device company (since 2011)

Corinth Medical, a medical device company (since 2011)

RELIGN Corporation, a medical device company (since 2011)

MOSIAX, Inc., a medical device company (since 2011)

**Prior
Directorships:**

IOGYN, Inc., a medical device company (2011-2014)

Neomend, a designer of surgical sealants and adhesion prevention products (acquired by CR Bard) (2010-2012)

Baxano, a private medical device manufacturer (2009-2011)

Dfine, Inc., a private electro-surgical system developer (2007-2011)

Sierra Surgical Technologies, a private surgical device company (2007-2011)

Other directorships completed prior to 2009 include: Pulmonx, a private medical device company (2003-2006); Conor Medsystems, a public developer of drug delivery technology (acquired by Johnson and Johnson) (2004-2007); St. Francis Medical Technology, a private medical device manufacturer (acquired by Kyphon/Medtronic) (2006); Novacept, a private medical device company (acquired by Cytoc/Hologic) (1999-2004); Focal, Inc., a public company developer of surgical sealants (acquired by Genzyme/Sanofi) (1994-1999)

**Other Prior
Experience:**

President and Chief Executive Officer, Novacept (1999-2004)

President and Chief Executive Officer, Focal, Inc. (1994 to 1999)

Various management positions at Johnson & Johnson, a public company provider of professional consumer health care products and services (1977-1993)

Education: Bachelor's degree in Marketing from Bowling Green State University

**Skills/
Qualifications:** In particular, Mr. Clapper's key areas of skills/qualifications include, but are not limited to:

Client Industry deep experience with both a variety of public and private life science companies (as part of management and/or as a director)

Leadership current role as CEO of Minerva Surgical, as well as held other prior CEO positions of other life science companies

Table of Contents**Roger F. Dunbar****Board Committees:**Risk, *Chair***Independent:**

Yes

Audit

Finance

Governance

Mr. Dunbar, age 69, is our current Chairman of the Board of Directors, and subject to his election, he is expected to continue to serve as our Board Chairman during the 2015-2016 director term. Mr. Dunbar retired from Ernst and Young in 2004, where he served in a variety of positions since 1974, including key leadership positions. Mr. Dunbar has served as a director of the Company since 2005.

Private Directorships: Desert Mountain Property, Inc. (since 2009)

Desert Mountain Club, Inc. (since 2009)

Prior Experience with Ernst & Young: Global Vice Chairman, Strategic Growth Markets and Venture Capital (2000-2004)

Member, Global Practice Council, London, United Kingdom (2000-2004)

Member, Global Management Committee, London, United Kingdom (2000-2004)

Member of US Area Managing Partners Leadership Group (1992-2000)

Client Service Partner and other key positions, including Partner-in-Charge and Area Managing Partner, Silicon Valley and the Pacific Northwest Area (1974-2000)

Prior Directorships: Advisory Board Member, SVB Financial Group and Silicon Valley Bank (2001-2004)

Other Prior Experience: Teacher, Santa Clara University's Graduate School of Business

Teacher, Ernst & Young's National Education Program

Advisory Boards, Santa Clara University and Cal Poly San Luis Obispo

Joint Venture Silicon Valley's 21st Century Education Board

U.S. Naval Officer (1967-1980)

Education: Bachelor's degree in Business from San Francisco State University

Master's degree in Business Administration from Santa Clara University

Certified public accountant, inactive, and a member of the California State Board of Accountancy and the AICPA

In particular, Mr. Dunbar's key areas of skills/qualifications include, but are not limited to:

**Skills/
Qualifications:**

Client Industry and Global deep experience working with both public and private companies and venture capital firms through Ernst & Young, as well as in the global markets, particularly in United Kingdom and Israel

Leadership held a variety of key executive positions, including Global Vice Chairman of Ernst & Young

Finance and Risk Management extensive domestic and international capital markets, finance, accounting and audit experience with Ernst & Young

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BOARD & CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

Table of Contents**Joel P. Friedman****Board Committees:**Finance, *Chair***Independent:**

Yes

Governance

Risk

Mr. Friedman, age 67, retired from Accenture, a public company global management consulting firm in 2005, where he held the position of President of the Business Process Outsourcing (*BPO*) organization. Over the course of his 34-year career with Accenture, Mr. Friedman held a variety of senior leadership roles. Mr. Friedman has served as a director of the Company since 2005.

Public Directorships: NeuStar, a provider of essential clearinghouse services to the communications industry (since 2006)

Private Directorships: Advisory Director, FTV Capital (formerly Financial Technology Ventures), (since 2005)

Advisory Director, Community Gatepath, a non-profit organization dedicated to enabling persons with disabilities to live as fully integrated members of the community (since 2013; director from 1991-2012)

Prior Experience with Accenture: President of the BPO organization

Managing Partner, Banking and Capital Markets

Managing General Partner, Accenture Technology Ventures

Founder, Accenture strategy consulting practice

Prior Directorships: EXL Service (Advisory Director), a provider of offshore business process outsourcing solutions (2008-2011)

Endeca Technologies, Inc., a provider of enterprise search solutions (2006-2011) (acquired by Oracle)

Junior Achievement of Northern California, a non-profit organization that assists young people understand the economics of life (2004-2010)

Other directorships completed prior to 2009 include: Accenture, a global management consulting firm (2001-2005); Seisint, Inc.; Calico Commerce, Inc.; Rivio Inc.; and TheBrain Technologies.

Other Prior Experience: Dean's Advisory Council for Stanford Graduate School of Business (1998-2004)

Education: Bachelor's degree in Economics from Yale University

Master's degree in Business Administration from Stanford University

Skills/Qualifications: In particular, Mr. Friedman's key areas of skills/qualifications include, but are not limited to:

Client Industry and Banking/Financial Services extensive experience working with venture capital firms and within the banking industry through Accenture

Leadership held a variety of key executive positions, including President of the Business Process Outsourcing organization within Accenture

Finance deep experience with corporate finance and capital markets through Accenture

Table of Contents**C. Richard Kramlich****Board Committees:**
Compensation**Independent:**
Yes

Finance

Mr. Kramlich, age 79, is Chairman and General Manager of Kramlich Investment Company and KIC Co-Investment Company, both investment companies, as well as Chairman and Co-Founder of New Enterprise Associates (NEA), a venture capital firm founded in 1978. Prior to founding NEA, Mr. Kramlich held a variety of senior management positions with financial services firms. Mr. Kramlich has served as a director of the Company since 2005.

**Public
Directorships:**

Zhone Technologies, provider of broadband access equipment (since 1999)

Sierra Monitor Corporation, provider of hazardous gas detection systems (since 1984)

**Private
Directorships:**

Kramlich Investment Co., an investment company (since 2013)

KIC Co-Investment Co., an investment company (since 2013)

Tabula, a semiconductor company (since 2005)

Visual Edge Technologies, an imaging solutions company (since 2002)

Xoom, a money transfer company (since 2004)

TriAlpha Energy, a nuclear fusion research company (since 2006)

Movius, a messaging, collaboration and mobile media solutions company (since 2007)

**Prior
Directorships:**

Financial Engines, an investment advisory firm (1997-2011)

Kor Technology, an aerospace defense technology company (acquired by Mercury Computer) (2006-2011)

Force10 Networks (acquired by Dell Inc.) (2000-2011)

Other directorships completed prior to 2009 include: Silicon Graphics; 3Com Corporation (acquired by Hewlett-Packard); Healthon/WebMD; Immunex (acquired by Amgen); Juniper Networks; Macromedia (acquired by Adobe); Semiconductor Manufacturing International; Celetronix (acquired by Jabil); Decru (acquired by NetApp); Chalone Wine Group (acquired by Diageo); Ascend Communications (acquired by Lucent Technologies); Dallas Semiconductor (acquired by Maxim Integrated Products); Foveon (acquired by Sigma Corporation); InfoGear (acquired by Cisco Systems); NetSolve (acquired by Cisco Systems); NEXT HOP (acquired by U4EA Technologies); MaxiScale Technology; Fabric7 Systems; Informative (acquired by Satmetrix, Inc.)

**Other Prior
Experience:**

General Partner, Arthur Rock & Associates (1969-1977)

Executive Vice President, Gardner & Preston Moss (1964-1969)

Chairman and President, National Venture Capital Association

Education:

Bachelor's degree in History from Northwestern University

Master's degree in Business Administration from Harvard University

Skills/

Qualifications:

In particular, Mr. Kramlich's key areas of skills/qualifications include, but are not limited to:

Client Industry deep experience and knowledge of the venture capital industry and innovation companies (as a venture capital investor and/or a director); current role as chairman and co-founder of NEA

Global strategic and operational experience in the global markets, particularly in China

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Lata Krishnan

Board Committees:
Audit

Independent:
Yes

Finance

Ms. Krishnan, age 54, is the Chief Financial Officer of Shah Capital Partners (*Shah Capital*), a leading mid-market technology private equity fund that she joined upon its inception in 2003. Prior to joining Shah Capital, Ms. Krishnan held various corporate accounting and finance positions with leading financial firms. Ms. Krishnan has served as a director of the Company since 2008.

Private Directorships: Chair, American India Foundation, an organization dedicated to accelerating social and economic development in India (since 2001)

The Commonwealth Club, a public affairs forum (since 2004)

Other Fellow, American Leadership Forum (since 1998)

Experience:

Prior Directorships: Enlighted, Inc., an information technology consulting firm (2010-2013)

TiE, a non-profit global network of entrepreneurs and professionals

Global Heritage Fund, an international heritage conservancy (2009-2011)

CEO Women, an organization to create economic opportunities for low-income immigrant and refugee women (2009-2011)

America's Foundation for Chess, a foundation committed to children's education (2003-2011)

Global Philanthropy Forum, a council on world affairs (2006-2011)

Narika, a shelter for abused women in the Asian community (1998-2011)

Other Prior Experience: Co-Founder and Chief Financial Officer, SMART Modular Technologies, Inc., a manufacturer of computer memory modules (1989-1999)

Various corporate accounting and finance positions with Montgomery Services

Various corporate accounting and finance positions with Arthur Andersen & Company LLP

Various corporate accounting and finance positions with Hill Vellacott & Company in London

Education: Bachelor's degree with honors from the London School of Economics

Member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales

Skills/Qualifications: In particular, Ms. Krishnan's key areas of skills/qualifications include, but are not limited to:

Client Industry and Finance served as co-founder and chief financial officer of a technology company; experience with a leading technology private equity fund; served in a variety of accounting/finance positions

Global deep experience in global markets, particularly in India and the United Kingdom

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Jeffrey N. Maggioncalda

Board Committees:
Compensation

Independent:
Yes

Credit

Mr. Maggioncalda, age 46, is the former Chief Executive Officer of Financial Engines, an independent investment advisory firm. Mr. Maggioncalda served in this role since Financial Engines' s inception in 1996 until 2014. Mr. Maggioncalda also served as a director of the company from 2011 to 2014.

Prior Directorships: Financial Engines, an independent investment advisory firm (2011-2014)

Affinity Circles, a social networking developer

Other Prior Experience: Summer Associate, McKinsey & Co., a strategy consulting firm (1995)

Associate, Cornerstone Research, an economic and financial consulting firm (1991-1994)

Education: Bachelor' s degree in Economics and English from Stanford University

Master' s degree in Business Administration from Stanford University

Skills/Qualifications: In particular, Mr. Maggioncalda' s key areas of skills/qualifications include, but are not limited to:

Leadership former role as CEO and director of Financial Engines

Banking/Financial Services extensive experience in the investment advisory industry

Table of Contents**Kate D. Mitchell****Board Committees:** **Independent:**
Compensation, *Chair* Yes

Audit

Risk

Ms. Mitchell, age 56, is Managing Partner and Co-Founder of Scale Venture Partners (*Scale*), a venture capital firm where she leads investments in software and business services and is instrumental in building the firm's team and strategic direction. Prior to founding Scale in 1996, Ms. Mitchell held a variety of senior management positions with Bank of America. Ms. Mitchell has served as a director of the Company since 2010.

Private Directorships: mBlox, Inc., a mobile transaction network provider (since 2010)

PeopleMatter (PMW Technologies, Inc.), a provider of human resource management solutions (since 2014)

New Century Hospice, a provider of hospice services for patients, families and healthcare providers (since 2014)

National Venture Capital Association, a trade association focused on regulatory and economic policy impacting the venture industry and the companies that are funded by venture capital (2007-2011 and since 2014)

Other Member, Steering Committee, Private Equity Women Investor Network, a forum for senior women in private equity (since 2010)

Experience: Member, Nasdaq Private Market Advisory Council, an advisory forum related to private capital markets (since 2014)

Co-Chair, NVCA Diversity Task Force, a forum to increase opportunities for women and minorities in venture capital and entrepreneurship (since 2014)

Prior Directorships: Wayport, Inc. (2000-2008)

Friends of the San Francisco Public Library (2007-2010)

Chairman, National Venture Capital Association (2010-2011)

Member of National Venture Capital Association Executive Committee (2007-2011)

Jaspersoft, Inc., a manufacturer of business intelligence software (2009-2014)

Other directorships completed prior to 2009 include: Songbird Medical (1998-2005); Acusphere, Inc., a public pharmaceutical company (1999-2005); Tonic Software, Inc. (2000-2005); Pavilion Technologies, Inc. (2004-2007)

Other Prior Experience: Silicon Valley Bank Venture Capital Advisory Board (2008-2013)

Various senior management positions in finance and technology (including Senior Vice President), Bank of America

Various finance and lending positions at Bank of California (now Union Bank of California)

Education:

Bachelor's degree in Political Science from Stanford University

Master's degree in Business Administration from Golden Gate University

Skills/

In particular, Ms. Mitchell's key areas of skills/qualifications include, but are not limited to:

Qualifications:

Client Industry deep experience and knowledge of the venture capital industry and innovation companies (as a venture capital investor and/or a director); current role as co-founder and partner of Scale Ventures

Banking/Financial Services held a variety of key executive positions at a large global bank

Finance extensive finance and asset/liability management experience at two nationally-recognized banks

Table of Contents**John F. Robinson****Board Committees:****Independent:**Audit, *Chair*

Yes

Compensation

Credit

Risk

Mr. Robinson, age 68, is a former Executive Vice President of Washington Mutual Bank, a financial lending institution. Prior to his position with Washington Mutual, Mr. Robinson served with the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency as a Deputy Comptroller. Mr. Robinson has served as a director of the Company since 2010.

Public Directorships: Federal Home Loan Bank of San Francisco (since 2011)

Other Directorships: National Outdoor Leadership School Advisory Committee (since 2007)

Experience:

Prior Directorships: Operation HOPE, a non-profit organization focusing on economic improvements for poverty-stricken people in America (2004-2013)

Federal Home Loan Bank of San Francisco (2004-2005 and 2007-2008)

Long Beach Mortgage Corporation, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Washington Mutual Bank (2004-2006)

Long Beach Securities Corporation, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Washington Mutual Bank (2004-2006)

Other Prior Experience: Executive Vice President, Washington Mutual Bank, a financial lending institution (2002-2008)

Deputy Comptroller, Office of the Comptroller of the Currency (1997-2002)

Education: Bachelor's degree in Business Administration from Washington University in St. Louis

Master's degree in Business Administration from Harvard University

Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA)

Skills/Qualifications: In particular, Mr. Robinson's key areas of skills/qualifications include, but are not limited to:

Banking/Financial Services deep banking and regulatory experience, especially as a former bank regulator

Risk Management held a variety of executive risk management positions at a nationally-recognized bank

Table of Contents**Garen K. Staglin****Board Committees:**

Credit

Independent:

Yes

Governance

Mr. Staglin, age 70, is the founder and proprietor of Staglin Family Vineyard, founded in 1985 in the Rutherford region of Napa Valley. Over the past 40 years, Mr. Staglin has also held a variety of positions in the financial and insurance services industries. Mr. Staglin has served as a director of the Company since 2011.

Public Directorships: Chairman, EXL Services, a provider of outsourcing services to global companies (since 2005)

Private Directorships: Senior Advisor and Advisory Director, FTV Capital (formerly Financial Technology Ventures), (since 2004)

Vice Chairman, Profit Velocity Solutions, a manufacturing analytics firm (since 2007)

Chairman, Nvoice Payments, an electronic payment service provider (since 2010)

Other Experience: Founder and President, International Mental Health Research Organization, devoted to raising awareness and funding research to find a cure for major mental illnesses (since 1995)

Founder and Co-Chairman, One Mind 4 Research, a non-profit organization devoted to accelerating cures and treatments for all brain disorders (since 2010)

Prior Directorships: Advisory Director, Specialized Bicycle, a manufacturer of cycling equipment (1995-2014)

Chairman, Free Run Technologies, an internet and technology services company (2003-2014)

Bottomline Technologies, a provider of payment and invoice automation software and services (2007-2012)

Advisory Board, Blaze Mobile, a mobile payments company (2006-2011)

Global Document Solutions, a document processing outsourcing company (2005-2010)

Solera Holdings, Inc., an automotive insurance software service provider (2005-2011)

Other directorships completed prior to 2009 include: First Data Corporation, a payment solutions provider (1992-2003); Quick Response Services, a retail management and supply chain services company (1991-2001); CyberCash, Inc., a micro-payments and platform company (1996-2000); Chairman, Safelite Auto Glass, a national auto glass provider (1993-1999)

Other Prior Experience: Founder and President, Bring Change 2 Mind, an organization devoted to removing the stigma associated with mental illness (2009-2014)

Education: Bachelor's degree in Engineering-Electrical and Nuclear from the University of California, Los Angeles

Master's degree in Business Administration, Finance and Systems Analysis from Stanford University Graduate School of Business

**Skills/
Qualifications:**

In particular, Mr. Staglin's key areas of skills/qualifications include, but are not limited to:

Client Industry and Banking/Financial Services extensive experience working within the wine and transaction/payment processing industries, as well as experience working with innovation companies (as a director)

Leadership held a variety of leadership roles, including his Chairman role with EXL Services as well as other founder and president roles with various non-profit organizations

Vote Required

Any nominee who receives a greater number of votes cast for his or her election than votes cast withheld his or her election will be elected.

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CORPORATE GOVERNANCE PRINCIPLES AND BOARD MATTERS

We are committed to having sound corporate governance principles. These principles are important to the way in which we manage our business and to maintaining our integrity in the marketplace. Our Corporate Governance Guidelines and the charters of the Audit Committee, Compensation Committee, Credit Committee, Finance Committee, Governance Committee and Risk Committee of our Board are available at www.svb.com under *Corporate Governance*. The contents of the website are not incorporated herein by reference and the website address provided above and throughout this Proxy Statement is intended to be an inactive textual reference only.

Board Independence, Leadership and Risk Oversight

The Board has determined that, with the exception of Mr. Becker, our President and Chief Executive Officer, all of our current directors and director nominees, are independent within the meaning of the director independence standards set by Nasdaq and the SEC, as currently in effect.

Board Leadership Separate Chairperson/CEO Roles

The Board has determined that it is in the best interests of the Company to maintain the Board chairperson and chief executive officer positions separately. It believes that having an outside, independent director serve as chairperson is the most appropriate leadership structure for the Board, as it enhances the Board's independent oversight of management and our strategic planning, reinforces the Board's ability to exercise its independent judgment to represent stockholder interests, and strengthens the objectivity and integrity of the Board. Moreover, an independent chairperson can more effectively lead the Board in objectively evaluating the performance of management, including the chief executive officer, and guide it through appropriate Board governance processes.

Mr. Dunbar, our current Chairman of the Board, is independent within the meaning of the director independence standards described above. Subject to his election, Mr. Dunbar is expected to serve as the Board's Chairman for the 2015-2016 term.

Risk Oversight and Risk Committee

Oversight of risks to the Company is carried out by the Board as a whole and by each of its various committees. The Board receives periodic reports from management on our overall risk management, including, on at least an annual basis, an assessment of our key risks.

Effective as of January 1, 2015, the Board formed a new Risk Committee, currently comprised of the chairpersons of each of the Board and the Audit, Compensation, Credit, Finance and Governance Committees. The Risk Committee has the primary oversight responsibility for the Company's enterprise-wide risk management (*EWRM*) framework, including the oversight of risk management policies, and the monitoring of the Company's risk profile. In addition, the Risk Committee is responsible for overseeing the Company's compliance with its risk appetite statement, which sets forth the levels of various acceptable key risks underlying the Company's business. The Risk Committee also oversees compliance with, and recommends any changes for Board approval to, the Company's risk appetite statement.

Additionally, each Board committee is engaged in overseeing the Company's risks in its respective areas of oversight. For example, the Audit Committee regularly oversees our risks relating to our accounting and financial reporting. The Compensation Committee engages in periodic risk assessments to review and evaluate our compensation programs in relation to our risks. The Finance Committee actively oversees our capital, liquidity and financial management and the associated risks (whether as an ongoing matter or as it relates specifically to a transaction, such as an equity or debt

securities offering). Moreover, the Credit Committee routinely oversees our management of credit risks. Each committee chairperson regularly reports back to both the Risk Committee and the full Board on its risk oversight activities. In addition, the Board routinely engages in discussions with management about the Company's risks.

Executive Sessions

The Company's independent directors meet in regularly scheduled executive sessions at which only independent directors are present. Mr. Becker, our President and Chief Executive Officer, is generally not present at these executive sessions, but will from time to time, at the Board's discretion, meet with the independent directors without other members of management present.

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Committee Independence and Audit Committee Financial Experts

The Board has determined that each of the current members of the Audit Committee, Compensation Committee, Governance Committee and Risk Committee are independent under Nasdaq director independence standards.

In addition, the Board has determined that each of Messrs. Robinson and Dunbar and Ms. Krishnan are audit committee financial experts, as defined under SEC rules, and possess financial sophistication, as defined under the rules of Nasdaq.

Annual Board Evaluation

The Governance Committee of the Board annually conducts, in coordination with the full Board, an evaluation of the Board's performance and effectiveness, either the Board as a whole and/or on an individual director basis. The Governance Committee develops and implements a process for such evaluation and review, which may involve outside consultants or advisers and may include a review of how certain attributes affect Board effectiveness, such as Board size, meeting frequency, quality and timing of information provided to the Board, director communication, director education, director skills and qualifications, director independence and Board strategy sessions. The results of the evaluation are discussed with the Board. The Governance Committee also leads an evaluation of the performance and effectiveness of each of the Board's committees. All Board and committee evaluations are typically conducted on an annual basis. See *Board Committees Committee Governance* below.

Meeting Attendance

Board and Committee Meetings

The Board held ten (10) meetings during fiscal year 2014. For the number of committee meetings held in 2014, see *Board Committees Committee Responsibilities and Meetings* below. Each director attended in person or via teleconference 75% or more of the total number of meetings of the Board, and of the committees on which he or she served, which were held during the period for which he or she was a director or committee member.

Stockholder Meetings

It is the Board's policy that each director employs his or her best efforts to attend each of our annual stockholder meetings. Nine of our eleven then-serving Board members attended our 2014 Annual Meeting of Stockholders.

Consideration of Director Nominees

Stockholder Nominees

The Governance Committee will consider Board nominees proposed by stockholders. The Governance Committee has no formal policy with regard to stockholder nominees as it considers all nominees on their merits, as discussed below. Any stockholder nominations proposed for consideration by the Governance Committee should include the nominee's name and qualifications for Board membership and should be addressed to:

SVB Financial Group

3003 Tasman Drive

Santa Clara, California 95054

Attn: General Counsel and Corporate Secretary

Facsimile: (408) 969-6500

In addition, our Bylaws permit stockholders to nominate directors for consideration at an annual stockholder meeting. For a description of the process for nominating directors in accordance with the Bylaws, please see *Stockholder Proposals and Director Nominations* below.

Board Diversity; Selection and Evaluation of Director Candidates

While the Board has not formally adopted a policy governing board diversity, it recognizes the importance of assembling a well-rounded, diverse body of directors. The Governance Committee, with the participation of the full Board, is primarily responsible for reviewing the composition of the Board and for identifying candidates for membership on the Board, all in light of our ongoing requirements, its assessment of the Board's performance and any input received from stockholders or other key constituencies. The Governance Committee makes determinations as to whether to recommend directors for re-election or director candidates' nomination to the Board based on their skills, character, judgment and business experience, as well as their

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ability to diversify and add to the Board's existing strengths. The Governance Committee typically seeks an appropriate mix of individuals with diverse backgrounds and skills complementary to our business and strategic direction. This assessment typically includes areas of expertise in industries important to us (such as technology; life science and healthcare; energy and resource innovation; premium wine; and venture capital and private equity), functional expertise in areas such as banking/financial services, public companies, global markets, legal/regulatory, accounting, finance, operations, information technology and risk management, and an assessment of an individual's abilities to work constructively with the other Board members and management. The Governance Committee also seeks certain characteristics common to all Board members, such as integrity, strong professional reputation, proven leadership, record of achievement, collegiality and ability and commitment to devote sufficient time and energy to Board service.

Communications with the Board

Individuals who wish to communicate with our Board may do so by sending an e-mail to our Board at *bod@svb.com*. Any communications intended for non-management directors should be sent to the e-mail address above to the attention of the Board Chairman. Board-related communications are reviewed by the Chairman of the Board and shared with the full Board as he determines appropriate.

Code of Ethics

We have a Code of Ethics for Principal Executive Officer and Senior Financial Officers (the *Code of Ethics*) that also applies to our principal financial officer and principal accounting officer. A copy of this Code of Ethics is available on our website at www.svb.com under *Corporate Governance*, or can be obtained without charge by any person requesting it. To request a copy of our Code of Ethics, please contact: Kristi Gilbaugh, SVB Financial Group, 3003 Tasman Drive, Santa Clara, California 95054, or by telephone (408) 654-7400.

We intend to disclose any waivers from or changes to our Code of Ethics by posting such information on our website. No waivers or substantive changes were made during fiscal year 2014.

Table of Contents**BOARD COMMITTEES**

Our Board has the following committees, each of which meets on a regular basis: (1) Audit Committee, (2) Compensation Committee, (3) Credit Committee, (4) Finance Committee, (5) Governance Committee and (6) Risk Committee.

Committee Members

As of the date of this Proxy Statement, the members of each of our Board committees are as follows: (The names of the respective committee chairperson are bolded.)

Audit	Compensation	Credit	Finance	Governance	Risk
John Robinson	Kate Mitchell	Dave Clapper	Joel Friedman	Eric Benhamou	Roger Dunbar
Dave Clapper	Dick Kramlich	Jeff Maggioncalda	Eric Benhamou	Roger Dunbar	Eric Benhamou
Roger Dunbar	Jeff Maggioncalda	John Robinson	Roger Dunbar	Joel Friedman	Dave Clapper
Lata Krishnan	John Robinson	Garen Staglin	Dick Kramlich	Garen Staglin	Joel Friedman
Kate Mitchell			Lata Krishnan		Kate Mitchell
					John Robinson

Committee Governance*Committee Charters*

Each committee is governed by a charter that is approved by the Board, which sets forth each committee's purpose and responsibilities. The Board reviews the committees' charters, and each committee reviews its own charter, on at least an annual basis, to assess the charters' content and sufficiency, with final approval of any proposed changes required by the full Board. Stockholders and other interested persons may view a copy of each committee's charter on our website, www.svb.com under *Corporate Governance*.

Annual Committee Evaluations

The Governance Committee, in coordination with the Board, implements and develops a process to conduct an assessment of committee performance and effectiveness. Typically, the assessments are conducted on an annual basis, and include a self-assessment by each committee, as well as a performance review of each committee by non-committee members. The review includes an evaluation of various areas that may include committee sizes, committee composition, committee performance, committee coordination with one another and committee involvement of the full Board. The results of the committee performance assessments are reviewed by each committee, as well as by the Governance Committee, and discussed with the full Board.

Committee Responsibilities and Meetings

The key oversight responsibilities of the Board's committees, and the number of meetings held by each committee during 2014, are as follows:

Audit Committee

Number of meetings held in 2014: 9

Our corporate accounting and financial reporting processes and the quality and integrity of our financial statements and reports.

The selection, engagement and termination of our independent auditors.

The qualification, independence and performance of our independent auditors.

Our internal auditing function and other functions, including information technology, security, legal and regulatory matters.

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Compensation Committee

Number of meetings held in 2014: 9

Our overall compensation strategies, plans, policies and programs.

The approval of director and executive compensation.

The assessment of compensation-related risks.

Credit Committee

Number of meetings held in 2014: 9

The credit and lending strategies, objectives and risks of the Company and the Bank.

The credit management and lending practices of the Company and the Bank, including reviewing internal credit policies and establishing portfolio limits.

The quality and performance of the credit portfolio of the Company and the Bank.

Finance Committee

Number of meetings held in 2014: 9

The financial strategies and objectives of the Company and the Bank, including the annual budget

The financial risk management of the Company and the Bank, including capital planning and stress testing processes.

The capital and liquidity management of the Company and the Bank.

The review of the Company and Bank's financial performance and compliance with applicable financial regulatory requirements.

The review of certain corporate development matters, such as strategic investments.

Governance Committee

Number of meetings held in 2014: 4

Our general corporate governance practices, including review of our Corporate Governance Guidelines.

The annual performance evaluation of our Board and its committees.

The identification and nomination of director candidates.

Our regulatory compliance of the Company and the Bank, including our Bank Secrecy Act compliance.

Risk Committee

Number of meetings held in 2014: N/A¹

The operation of our EWRM framework, including oversight of our EWRM policies.

Our compliance with our risk appetite statement.

Our overall risk profile.

¹ Our Risk Committee was formed and became effective as of January 1, 2015.

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REPORT OF THE AUDIT COMMITTEE OF THE BOARD

The Report of the Audit Committee of the Board shall not be deemed incorporated by reference by any general statement incorporating by reference this Proxy Statement into any filing under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the Act), or under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the Exchange Act), except to the extent that we specifically incorporate the information contained in the report by reference, and shall not otherwise be deemed filed under such acts.

Our Audit Committee has prepared the following report for inclusion in this Proxy Statement. The Audit Committee is governed by a Board-adopted charter, a copy of which is available on our website at www.svb.com. The charter specifies, among other things, the scope of the committee's responsibilities and how those responsibilities are performed. The Audit Committee members are independent as defined by Nasdaq, the listing standard applicable to us.

The primary responsibility of the Audit Committee is to act on behalf of the Board in fulfilling the Board's responsibility with respect to overseeing our accounting and reporting practices and the quality and integrity of our financial statements and reports, and our internal control over financial reporting. The committee also reviews the qualifications, independence, and performance of the registered public accounting firm engaged as our independent auditors. Management has the primary responsibility for the financial statements and the reporting process, as well as for our internal controls. Our independent registered public accounting firm, KPMG LLP, is responsible for expressing an opinion on the conformity of our audited financial statements with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles, as well as an opinion on the effectiveness of our internal control over financial reporting. In addition, the Audit Committee oversees our internal audit function, which is responsible for reviewing and evaluating the effectiveness of our internal controls, as well as other management functions including information technology and security.

The Audit Committee has reviewed and discussed with management its assessment and report on the effectiveness of our internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2014, which it made using the criteria set forth by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission in Internal Control - Integrated Framework (1992). The committee also has reviewed and discussed with KPMG LLP its review and report on our internal control over financial reporting.

Moreover, the Audit Committee has reviewed and discussed with management and the independent auditors the audited financial statements. The Audit Committee discussed with the independent auditors the matters required to be discussed by Public Company Accounting Oversight Board Auditing Standard No. 16, *Communications with Audit Committees*. In addition, the Audit Committee received from the independent auditors the written disclosures and the letter required by applicable requirements of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board regarding the independent accountant's communications with the Audit Committee concerning independence, including Rule 3526, *Communication with Audit Committees Concerning Independence*, and has discussed with the independent auditors the auditors' independence from us and our management.

In reliance on the reviews and discussions referred to above, the Audit Committee recommended to our Board of Directors that the audited financial statements be included in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2014, for filing with the SEC.

This report is included herein at the direction of the members of the Audit Committee.

AUDIT COMMITTEE

John Robinson (Chair)

David Clapper

Roger Dunbar

Lata Krishnan

Kate Mitchell

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COMPENSATION COMMITTEE REPORT

This Compensation Committee Report shall not be deemed incorporated by reference by any general statement incorporating by reference this Proxy Statement into any filing under the Act or the Exchange Act, except to the extent that we specifically incorporate the information contained in the report by reference, and shall not otherwise be deemed filed under such acts.

The Compensation Committee has reviewed and discussed with management the Compensation Discussion and Analysis set forth in this Proxy Statement. Based on this review and these discussions, the Compensation Committee recommended to our Board of Directors that the Compensation Discussion and Analysis be included in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2014 and this Proxy Statement.

This report is included herein at the direction of the members of the Compensation Committee.

COMPENSATION COMMITTEE

Kate Mitchell (Chair)

C. Richard Kramlich

Jeff Maggioncalda

John Robinson

Compensation Committee Interlocks and Insider Participation

During 2014, the Compensation Committee performed all compensation functions of the Board, except for the approval of CEO compensation, which was approved by the independent members of the Board based on the Compensation Committee's recommendation. (See discussion above under *Board Committees Committee Responsibilities and Meetings* for additional information on the Compensation Committee.) Mr. Becker does not participate in any of the Board or Compensation Committee discussions related to the evaluation of his performance or the recommendation/determination of his compensation. See descriptions of related transactions between us and each of the members of the Compensation Committee, if any, under *Certain Relationships and Related Transactions* below.

None of the members of the Compensation Committee has ever been one of our officers or employees and none of our executive officers serves, or in the past fiscal year served, as a member of the board of directors or compensation committee of any entity that has one or more of its executive officers serving on our Board.

Table of Contents**COMPENSATION FOR DIRECTORS**

The following table sets forth the amounts earned or paid to each non-employee member of our Board of Directors during the year ended December 31, 2014.

Elements of Director Compensation

	Name	Fees Earned or Paid in Cash	Stock Awards (\$)(1)	Total
	Roger F. Dunbar	\$ 192,250	\$ 200,020	\$ 392,270
The Compensation Committee establishes	Eric A. Benhamou	76,000	100,063	176,063
the compensation arrangement for directors,	David M. Clapper	92,750	100,063	192,813
using a combination of annual retainer fees,	Joel P. Friedman	77,250	100,063	177,313
meeting fees and annual equity awards. There	C. Richard			
were no material changes to the compensation	Kramlich	68,500	100,063	168,563
arrangement with our directors in 2014. We paid	Lata Krishnan	72,000	100,063	172,063
a total of \$2.0 million in compensation to our	Jeffrey N.			
non-employee directors for the year 2014, as	Maggioncalda	73,000	100,063	173,063
well as for 2013.	Kate D. Mitchell	87,250	100,063	187,313
	John F. Robinson	91,250	100,063	191,313
	Garen K. Staglin	67,750	100,063	167,813

The current annual term for directors began on April 24, 2014, following their election by stockholders at our 2014 Annual Meeting on that date, and is expected to end on April 23, 2015, the date of our 2015 Annual Meeting.

Our non-employee director compensation arrangement for 2014 was as follows:

(1) Values indicated for equity awards reflect the fair value of grants made during the fiscal year. These stock awards represent annual equity grants of restricted stock units made to directors for the 2014-2015 director term. Such values were computed in accordance with the Financial Accounting Standards Board Accounting Standards Codification Topic 718. The amounts disclosed may never be realized. Assumptions used in calculating these amounts are included in the note entitled Share-Based Compensation in our audited financial statements included in our 2014 Annual Report on Form 10-K. As of December 31, 2014, the directors have in aggregate 10,339 restricted stock units outstanding, scheduled to vest in full on April 23, 2015.

<i>Annual Director Retainer Fee</i>	\$35,000
<i>Annual Chairperson Fee</i>	\$90,000, Board Chair
	\$20,000, Audit Committee Chair
	\$15,000, Compensation Committee and Risk Committee* Chairs

<i>Board Meeting Fees</i>	\$12,000, all other committee chairs \$1,000 (in-person)/\$500 (telephonic)
<i>Committee Meeting Fees</i>	\$3,000 per day, for extended strategic planning meetings \$2,500 (in-person)/\$1,250 (telephonic), Audit Committee \$1,500 (in-person)/\$750 (telephonic), all other committees \$5,000 per day, for extended Audit Committee strategic planning meetings
<i>Annual Equity Retainer Award</i> <i>(in restricted stock units)</i>	\$3,000 per day, for extended strategic planning meetings for all other committees Total grant value of approximately \$200,000 and \$100,000 for the Board Chair and each of the other non-employee directors, respectively. Awards vest in full upon the completion of their annual director term. * Effective for 2015

The members of the Board are also eligible for reimbursement for their reasonable expenses incurred in connection with attendance at meetings or the performance of their director duties in accordance with Company policy.

The Compensation Committee previously approved a voluntary deferral arrangement and form of agreement under the 2006 Equity Incentive Plan which allows non-employee directors to elect an irrevocable deferral of the receipt of restricted stock unit awards until the earliest of: (a) a specific future settlement date that meets the requirements of Internal Revenue Code 409A, (b) separation from service, (c) the date of a change in control, (d) death, or (e) date of disability. Elections will apply to restricted stock unit awards received during 2014. Ms. Krishnan and Ms. Mitchell elected to defer the receipt of their 2014 equity grants of 940 restricted stock units each.

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Director Equity Ownership Guidelines

Under our equity ownership guidelines for our non-employee directors, as revised by the Compensation Committee in 2014, within five years of assuming the role, each non-employee member of the Board of Directors is expected to hold shares of our common stock that have a minimum value equivalent to 600% of his or her annual retainer.

The Compensation Committee is responsible for setting and periodically reviewing the guidelines. Equity ownership requirements for directors are established based upon a competitive review and subsequent recommendations by Pay Governance, the Compensation Committee's independent compensation consultant.

The Governance Committee is responsible for overseeing director compliance with these guidelines, and reviews directors' holdings on a quarterly basis. Any exceptions to meeting the guidelines due to personal financial or other reasons are reviewed and determined by the Governance Committee.

As of December 31, 2014, all non-employee directors were in compliance with the applicable ownership guidelines.

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CERTAIN RELATIONSHIPS AND RELATED TRANSACTIONS

Related Party Transactions Policy

We currently have in place a written policy on related party transactions (*Related Party Policy*), which governs the transactions involving us and certain related persons that are required to be disclosed under Item 404 of Regulation S-K (*S-K 404*). Under the Related Party Policy, any transaction, arrangement or relationship in which:

we are a participant;

the aggregate amount involved will or may be expected to exceed \$120,000 in any calendar year; and

a related person has or will have a direct or indirect material interest, will be considered an interested transaction and will be required to be approved by the Audit Committee of the Board of Directors. Transactions not required to be disclosed under S-K 404 are excluded from this policy. Any of the following persons is considered a related person under the Related Party Policy:

Any director or executive officer of the Company;

Any nominee for director of the Company;

Any holder of more than 5% of our Common Stock; and

Any immediate family member of any of the above.

Our management has primary responsibility for identifying such related party transactions, which may include, from time to time, loan transactions by the Company or the Bank, investments through SVB Capital, or other business transactions involving us or our subsidiaries. The Audit Committee has responsibility for reviewing these transactions for potential conflicts of interests and approving them (or denying approval, as the case may be). The Credit Committee also reviews and approves related party loan transactions. Under the Related Party Policy, the Audit Committee's approval may be granted in advance, ratified, or based on certain standing approvals previously authorized by resolution. The Audit Committee may delegate its approval authority under the Related Party Policy to the committee chairperson.

Insider Loan Policy

The Bank has in place a policy which permits the Bank to make loans to directors, executive officers and principal stockholders of the Bank or its affiliates (*Insiders*) and the related interests of those Insiders (*Insider Loans*). The Insider Loan policy is designed to comply with Regulation O of the Federal Reserve Act (*Regulation O*). Insider Loans qualify for an exemption from Section 402 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 as they are made by the Bank

and subject to Regulation O.

Pursuant to Regulation O, the Insider Loan policy authorizes the Bank to make Insider Loans if such Insider Loans: (a) are approved in advance by a majority of the Board of Directors of the Bank for Insider Loans where the aggregate amount of all outstanding extensions of credit to the Insider and to all related interests of the Insider exceeds \$500,000; (b) are extended under substantially the same terms and conditions and rates as those prevailing at the time of the Insider Loan for comparable transactions with non-Insider Bank clients; and (c) do not have more than a normal risk of failure of repayment to the Bank or other unfavorable features. The Insider whose credit extension is subject to Board approval must not participate either directly or indirectly in the voting to approve such extension of credit. Prior approval of the Board of Directors of the Bank is not required for an extension of credit made pursuant to a line of credit that was approved by the Board of Directors within 14 months of the date of the extension.

The Insider Loan policy also limits the aggregate amount of all loans to any Insider and his or her related interests. The Insider Loan policy also prohibits the Bank from paying an overdraft on a personal bank account of an Insider except if the overdraft is inadvertent, the aggregated amount of all overdrafts to the Insider at any time is \$1,000 or less and the overdraft is outstanding for less than five business days.

Loan Transactions

Additionally, during 2014, the Bank made loans to related parties, including certain companies in which certain of our directors or their affiliated venture funds are beneficial owners of ten percent or more of the equity securities of such companies. Such loans: (a) were made in the ordinary course of business; (b) were made on substantially the same terms, including interest rates and collateral, as those prevailing at the time for comparable transactions with other persons; and (c) did not involve more than the normal risk of collectibility or present other unfavorable features.

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Prior to their respective appointments as executive officers, each of Mr. China and Mr. Cox received a mortgage loan through the Bank's Employee Home Ownership Program (*EHOP*), an employee benefit program whereby eligible employees of the Bank and its affiliates receive preferential terms on mortgage loans. Mr. China's *EHOP* mortgage loan amount was \$1,176,000, with a principal balance of \$1,020,989 as of December 31, 2014. Mr. China's loan matures April 1, 2016. Mr. Cox's *EHOP* mortgage loan amount was \$310,553, with a principal balance of \$266,158 as of December 31, 2014. Mr. Cox's loan matures October 1, 2018.

Fund Investments*Managed Funds*

In 2000, we formed Silicon Valley BancVentures, LP (*SVBV*). The fund is managed by its general partners, which is a subsidiary of the Company and holds an interest in the fund. Mr. Kramlich invested in the fund (\$1.0 million) and holds a noncontrolling interest.

Employee Funds

In 2000, we created SVB Qualified Investors Fund, LLC (*QIF*), a \$7.6 million investment fund of funds for employees that met certain eligibility requirements. *QIF* invests capital provided by current or former SVB employees into venture capital funds, most of which are managed by us or our affiliates. All employee participants are required to invest in this fund with their own money, but we manage the fund and pay all administrative costs associated with the fund. The following executive officers participated in *QIF*, each with individual commitment amounts ranging between \$50 thousand and \$0.5 million: Messrs. Becker and Verissimo and Ms. Parsons. *QIF* is also a limited partner of, and holds an interest in, *SVBV* (\$2.0 million).

In 2005, we formed SVB Qualified Investors Fund II, LLC (*QIF II*), a \$5.1 million investment fund of funds following the same strategy as *QIF*. The following current executive officers participate in *QIF II*, each with individual commitment amounts ranging between \$50 thousand and \$0.3 million: Messrs. Becker and Verissimo and Ms. Parsons.

In 2013, we formed SVB Qualified Investors Fund III, LLC (*QIF III*), a \$4.0 million investment fund for employees meeting certain eligibility requirements, including those that were directly engaged in providing services to our funds business. *QIF III*'s principal purpose is to invest in a select number of venture capital funds managed by us or third parties. Certain of our current executive officers participate in *QIF III*, each with commitment amounts ranging between \$50 thousand and \$0.5 million: Messrs. Becker, China, Descheneaux, Verissimo and Wallace and Ms. Parsons.

SECTION 16(a) BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP REPORTING COMPLIANCE

We believe, based on a review of Forms 3, 4 and 5 and amendments thereto filed with the SEC and other information known to us, that during fiscal year 2014 our directors, officers (as defined in the rules under Section 16 of the Exchange Act), and any greater than 10% stockholders have complied with all Section 16(a) filing requirements in a timely manner.

Table of Contents**INFORMATION ON EXECUTIVE OFFICERS**

Our executive officers perform policy-making functions for us within the meaning of applicable SEC rules. They may also serve as officers of the Bank and/or our other subsidiaries. There are no family relationships among our directors or executive officers.

The following information outlines the name and age of each of our executive officers (as of the date of this Proxy Statement) and his or her principal occupation with the Company, followed by biographical information of each such executive officer:

Name	Age	Principal Occupation
Greg W. Becker	47	President and Chief Executive Officer
Marc C. Cadieux	48	Chief Credit Officer
John D. China	49	Head of Relationship Banking
Philip C. Cox	48	Head EMEA and India and President of the UK Branch
Michael R. Descheneaux	47	Chief Financial Officer
Michelle A. Draper	47	Chief Marketing Officer
Christopher D. Edmonds-Waters	52	Head of Human Resources
Joan S. Parsons	56	Head of Specialty Banking
Marc J. Verissimo	59	Chief Risk Officer
Bruce E. Wallace	50	Chief Operations Officer
Michael S. Zuckert	56	General Counsel

Executive Biographies

Mr. Greg W. Becker's biography can be found under Proposal No. 1 Election of Directors above.

Mr. Marc C. Cadieux joined us in 1992 as an Assistant Vice President and has held a variety of positions with us, including Division Risk Manager for the Company's Eastern Division, where he was responsible for overseeing our commercial lending activities in the eastern United States, the United Kingdom and Israel. Mr. Cadieux was appointed Assistant Chief Credit Officer in 2009 and was later appointed as Chief Credit Officer in 2013, where he currently oversees our credit administration function.

Other Prior Experience: Loan Workout Officer, Pacific Western Bank (1990-1992)
Various credit positions with Bank of New England (1988-1990)

**Education/
Other:**

Bachelor's degree in economics from Colby College

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EXECUTIVE OFFICERS & COMPENSATION

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Mr. John D. China joined us in 1996 as a Senior Relationship Manager and has held a variety of positions with the Company, including Head of Venture Capital Group and Head of Private Equity Group. Mr. China was appointed the Head of Relationship Management in 2010. In 2014, Mr. China was appointed the Head of Relationship Banking, where he is responsible for overseeing all aspects of our relationships within the venture capital and private equity, private bank and commercial bank communities.

Other Experience: Director, California Israel Chamber of Commerce, a non-profit organization dedicated to strengthening business and trade relations between California and Israel (since 2011)
 Advisory Board Member, DEMO, an organization dedicated to emerging technology development (since 2010)
 Director, Astia.org, a not-for-profit organization dedicated to the success of women-led, high-growth ventures (since 2009)
 Advisory Council, Advancing Science in America, a non-profit organization dedicated to advancing science and technology in the United States (since 2013)

Other Prior Experience: Director, Executive Council of New York City, a global community of senior executives (2001-2003)

Education/Other: Bachelor's degree in Industrial Engineering from Stanford University

Mr. Philip C. Cox joined us in 2009 as Head of UK, Europe & Israel, where he was responsible for the overall strategic direction of the Company in the UK, Europe and Israel, as well as the establishment of our UK Branch banking business. He was appointed as Head of Europe, Middle East and Asia (*EMEA*) and India and President of the UK Branch in 2012, where he is focused on the international development of our business and is responsible for our UK branch.

Prior Directorships: Entrepreneur First, an organization devoted to developing high-growth tech startups in London (2011-2014)

Other Prior Experience: Head of Commercial Banking, Bank of Scotland (2008-2009)
 Chief Executive Officer, European Business, Torex Retail PLC, a manufacturing and industrial software company (2005-2008)

Education/ Associate of the Association of Corporate Treasurers, UK

Other: Member of the Chartered Institute of Bankers, UK

Mr. Michael R. Descheneaux joined us in 2006 as the Managing Director of Accounting and Financial Reporting, and was appointed as Chief Financial Officer in 2007, where he is responsible for all our finance, treasury, accounting and legal functions, as well as our funds management business. He also plays a key role in our global strategy and growth.

Prior Directorships: Director, SPD Silicon Valley Bank, our joint venture bank in China (2012-2014)

Other Prior Experience: Managing Director, Navigant Consulting, a business consulting firm (2004-2006)
Independent consultant (2002-2004)
Various leadership positions with Arthur Andersen for the Central and Eastern Europe Region (1995-2002)

- i Lead Partner of financial services practice
- i Lead audit partner of telecommunications/high-tech practice

Technical expert on U.S. GAAP and generally accepted auditing standards matters

Education/Other: Bachelor's degree in Business Administration from Texas A&M University
Certified public accountant
Member of the Texas State Board of Public Accountancy and the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants
Associate member of the Association of Certified Fraud Examiners

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Ms. Michelle A. Draper joined us in 2013 as Chief Marketing Officer, where she is responsible for the strategy and execution of our global marketing initiatives. Prior to joining us, she was Senior Vice President of Institutional Services Marketing at Charles Schwab & Co.

Other Prior Experience: Various senior-level marketing positions at Charles Schwab & Co., overseeing advertising, brand marketing and other key marketing strategies (1992-2013)

Education/Other: Bachelor's degree in journalism from California Polytechnic State University – San Luis Obispo

Mr. Christopher D. Edmonds-Waters joined us in 2003 as Director of Organization Effectiveness, and in 2007, was appointed to his current role as Head of Human Resources, where he oversees our human resources function, which includes our compensation, global mobility, recruiting and learning and development functions.

Other Prior Experience: Various senior-level positions at Charles Schwab & Co. (1996-2003), launching the company's online training system
Various leadership roles with Macy's California, managing corporate training programs

Education/Other: Bachelor's degree in Intercultural Communications from Arizona State University
Master's degree in Human Resources and Organization Development from the University of San Francisco

Ms. Joan S. Parsons joined us in 1994 and has served in a variety of leadership positions throughout the Company, including Eastern Division Manager and Chief Banking Officer. Ms. Parsons was appointed Head of U.S. Banking in 2008, and was appointed Head of Specialty Banking in 2014, where she is responsible for all specialty debt products; sponsor finance, mezzanine finance, life science and healthcare, and energy and resource innovation practices; loan syndications, non-credit product sales and SVB Analytics.

Private Directorships: Director, Leukemia & Lymphoma Society (since 2011)
Director, Planstrong Investment Management (since 2005)

Other Prior Experience: Vice President of Corporate Banking, Fleet Bank of Massachusetts (1992-1994)
Vice President, Barclays Bank PLC (1984-1992)

Banking Officer, Mellon Bank (1981-1983)

Education/ Bachelor's degree in Economics and Art History from Wheaton College
Other:

Mr. Marc J. Verissimo joined us in 1993 and has served in a variety of leadership positions throughout the Company, including Manager of our Corporate Finance Group and our Risk Management Group. Mr. Verissimo was named Chief Strategy Officer in 2002. He is currently the Chief Risk Officer, where he is responsible for overseeing our credit, enterprise-wide risk management, corporate compliance and security functions.

Prior Entrepreneurs Foundation, a non-profit organization dedicated to strengthening the ties between
Directorships: entrepreneurial companies in the Bay Area and the communities in which they operate and their employees reside (2005-2012)
High Street Partners, Inc., a cross-border finance and administrative services firm (2009-2010)

Education/ Bachelor's degree in Agricultural Economics from the University of California, Davis
Other: Master's degree in Business Administration from Harvard University

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Mr. Bruce E. Wallace joined us in 2008 as the Head of Global Services, where he was responsible for our operations, product management, global transaction banking and service delivery. He was later appointed Chief Operations Officer in 2011, where he is responsible for leading all bank and non-bank operations and information technology services.

Private Directorships: Director, SPD Silicon Valley Bank, our joint venture bank in China (since 2012)

Other Prior Experience: Senior Vice President and Manager of Treasury Management Operations, Wells Fargo & Company (2005-2008)
Various senior management positions in banking operations, Wells Fargo & Company (1987-2005)

Education/Other: Bachelor's degree in Accounting from California State University, Sacramento

Mr. Michael S. Zuckert joined us in 2014 as General Counsel, where he is responsible for all our legal matters. Prior to joining us, he served in a wide range of legal positions within the financial services industry. Most recently, he served as Deputy General Counsel of Citigroup from 2009-2014, where he served as general counsel for its non-core assets business, Citi Holdings, and also focused on mergers and acquisitions.

Private Directorships: American Red Cross – Bay Area, a non-profit organization providing relief to those affected by disasters (since 2015)
Law Foundation of Silicon Valley, a non-profit organization providing free legal services to Silicon Valley individuals in need (since 2015)

Other Prior Experience: Various senior-level legal positions at Citigroup Inc. (2002-2014)
Various senior-level positions at Morgan Stanley & Co. Inc. (2000-2002 and 1987-1999)
Vice President and General Counsel, TheStreet.com, Inc., an online financial news provider (1999-2000)

Education/Other: Bachelor's degree in History and Law and Society from Brown University
Juris Doctor degree from New York University School of Law

EXECUTIVE OFFICERS & COMPENSATION

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COMPENSATION DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

This Compensation Discussion and Analysis (*CD&A*) discusses our 2014 executive compensation program, as it relates to our five named executive officers (each, an *NEO*): (i) **Greg Becker**, President and Chief Executive Officer (*CEO*); (ii) **Michael Descheneaux**, Chief Financial Officer (*CFO*); (iii) **Phil Cox**, Head of EMEA, India and President of UK Branch; (iv) **Joan Parsons**, Head of Specialty Banking; and (v) **John China**, Head of Relationship Banking.

CD&A EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Under the primary oversight of our Compensation Committee of the Board of Directors (the *Committee*), our executive compensation program is designed to attract, incent and retain talented individuals to lead our corporate growth and to deliver sustained strong performance over the long term.

We did not make any material changes to the design of our executive compensation program for 2014, and we continued to review and enhance our practices in accordance with our executive compensation philosophy. (See *Executive Compensation Philosophy and Objectives* below.) We continued to align executive pay with our business objectives and stockholder interests. Moreover, we continued to base incentive compensation on Company and individual performance without encouraging undue risk-taking.

The compensation paid to our executives for 2014 was commensurate with overall performance, as well as our outperformance relative to peers. As discussed under 2014 Performance of the Summary Information section at the beginning of this Proxy Statement, we continued to deliver strong performance in 2014, focusing on the long-term global growth of our franchise. As further discussed in this CD&A, our NEOs were compensated to reflect that strong business performance, as well as their individual performance.

2014 EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION HIGHLIGHTS

Continued Focus on Pay for Performance

Strong incentive compensation and performance alignment. In 2014, the key elements of our executive incentive compensation continued to be tied to: (i) annual return on average equity (*ROE*) and total stockholder return (*TSR*) over a three-year performance period, and (ii) our Company stock price.

Type of Incentive Compensation	Earnings Opportunity	Relevant Performance Metric	2014 Outcomes	
Annual Cash Incentives (<i>ICP</i>)	Executive pool subject to maximum aggregate funding of 200% of corporate target	ROE against our corporate target and against peer performance	140% of executive pool funded based on ROE and overall Company performance	110% of corporate target achieved; ranked in 6th highest position against 20 peers
	Actual payout dependent on Company/individual performance		Individual payouts varied	
Performance-Based Restricted Stock Units (<i>PRSUs</i>)	0% to 150% of target award	TSR against peer performance	Not yet earned (2014 was first year of three-year performance period)	For 2014 only, ranked in 8th highest position against 20 peers
Restricted-Stock Units (<i>RSUs</i>)	Fixed award	Company stock price*	Value subject to Company stock price performance	11% Increase in Stock Price in One Year (2014)

* Earnings opportunity is generally based on economic benefit derived from Company stock price performance

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CEO pay consistent with Company performance. The Committee takes into consideration a variety of factors in determining actual CEO compensation. For illustrative purposes, the graphs below show the general directional comparison between our CEO’s total compensation (as reported in our 2014 Summary Compensation Table) and two selected key financial performance metrics:

- i **Earnings per share (EPS)** while not a direct performance metric used for compensation purposes, EPS is one of several key financial metrics used to evaluate overall Company performance.
- i **Relative ROE performance** relative ROE performance as measured against our peer group is one of two performance metrics used for purposes of funding our annual cash incentive plan. (See *Annual Cash Incentives* below.)

Continued emphasis of target performance-based pay and balance of short-term/long-term pay for our CEO. A significant portion of our CEO’s target annual compensation represents performance-based and long-term pay.

Performance-Based:	Fixed Pay:	Long-Term Pay:	Short-Term Pay:
Annual cash incentives, PRSUs and stock options	Base salary and RSUs	PRSUs, RSUs and stock options	Base salary and annual cash incentives

KEY AREAS OF FOCUS AND RESULTS FOR 2014

FOCUS ON LONG-TERM

Extended performance periods for performance-based executive equity awards
(from one year to three years)

FOCUS ON STOCKHOLDER ALIGNMENT

Increased CEO’s equity ownership guidelines to 6x annual base salary
(increased guidelines for other NEOs as well)

FOCUS ON STOCKHOLDER SUPPORT

98% approval from stockholders in our most recent Say on Pay vote last year

FOCUS ON STOCKHOLDER INTERESTS

Lower annual equity burn rate of 1.42% under equity plan

(Say on Pay vote submitted annually)

(compared to 2.18% for 2013)

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EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION GOVERNANCE AND PRACTICES

OVERSIGHT AND
GOVERNANCE

- ü ***Independent oversight of executive compensation.*** Our Board of Directors (comprised of all independent directors except for our CEO) oversees and approves the compensation of our CEO. (Our CEO does not participate in the Board's discussions or decisions regarding his compensation.) Our Compensation Committee (comprised of all independent directors) makes recommendations to the Board about our CEO's compensation, and oversees and approves the compensation of all other executive officers.
- ü ***Independent compensation consultant to the Committee.*** The Committee utilizes an independent compensation consulting firm that does not provide any other services to the Company.
- ü ***Active Committee engagement.*** In 2014, the Committee held 9 meetings to discuss compensation matters.

ALIGNMENT WITH
STOCKHOLDER
INTERESTS

- ü ***Robust executive equity ownership guidelines.*** Our executives are subject to robust equity ownership guidelines. In 2014, the Committee revised the guidelines and increased the minimum requirement applicable to the CEO to six (6) times annual base salary.
- ü ***Active stockholder engagement.*** As part of our proxy statement preparation process, we routinely and proactively reach out to our key stockholders to solicit their feedback about our executive compensation program, including our equity incentive plan.
- ü ***Focus on stockholder return.*** The primary performance metrics for our executives performance-based restricted stock units and the funding of our ICP are the Company's relative total stockholder return performance and return on equity performance, respectively, which in both cases include performance as measured against our peers.

COMPENSATION
RISK
MITIGATION
AND
MANAGEMENT

- ü ***Compensation risk management.*** The Committee, together with its compensation consultant and our Chief Risk Officer, conduct annual compensation risk assessments. Based on those assessments, we do not believe that our compensation program creates risks that are reasonably likely to have a material adverse effect on the Company. In addition, our compensation program is regularly reviewed as part of our enterprise-wide risk management and internal audit programs.
- ü ***Our incentives are subject to certain minimums and maximum limits.*** We establish minimum thresholds for certain incentives where awards/payouts may not be earned or made unless actual performance meets or exceeds thresholds, such as our PRSUs. We also establish maximum limits, such as for our executive PRSU awards, our annual cash incentives funding, and our broad-based profit sharing plan.
- Æ ***No hedging or pledging.*** Pursuant to our Insider Trading Policy, our directors, executive officers (including our NEOs) and employees are not permitted to hedge ownership by selling puts in or selling short any of our publicly-traded securities at any time. Additionally, we have not permitted any of our executive officers to pledge,

or use as collateral, our securities to secure personal loans or other obligations.

- 
- approval
 - i No liberal share recycling
 - i No single-trigger vesting upon change in control
 - i Annual burn rate maximum of 2.5%
 - i Each full value award share counted as 2 shares
 - i No tax gross-ups for plan awards
 - i Minimum 3-year time-based vesting for full value awards (our typical practice for executives is 4 years)
 - i Minimum 1-year vesting for performance-based full value awards (our typical practice for executives is 3 years, including additional time-based vesting)
 - i Maximum 7-year term for options

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EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION PHILOSOPHY AND OBJECTIVES

There were no changes to our executive compensation philosophy for 2014.

We continue to design and carry out our executive compensation program and practices based on our overarching compensation philosophy, the key objectives of which are to:

Align compensation with business objectives and stockholder interests. Our executive compensation plans are designed to:

- i Tie pay to Company and individual performance through appropriate performance metrics.
- i Provide for executive equity ownership to align economic interests with stockholders.
- i Provide the opportunity for compensation based upon stockholder returns, relative performance against peers, and key financial measures.
- i Take into account the dynamics of the market and business environment within which the Company and management operate.

Establish **an appropriate mix of pay** between performance-based and non-performance-based pay, as well as long-term and short-term compensation, with emphases on performance-based pay and long-term incentive compensation.

Design incentive compensation on Company and individual performance without encouraging undue risk-taking.

Pay competitively, relying primarily on external market standards while also considering internal parity and the importance of recruiting and maintaining a cohesive, top-talent executive management team.

Maintain strong governance practices over our program, including independent Board-level oversight.

Our compensation philosophy and program take into consideration our business objectives, the relative complexity this business diversity represents in an organization of our size, stockholder interests, appropriate risk management practices, emerging trends in executive compensation (particularly for financial institutions), applicable regulatory requirements, and market practices.

2014 Advisory Vote on 2013 Executive Compensation (Say on Pay)

We submit an advisory vote on executive compensation, or Say on Pay, to our stockholders on an annual basis. In 2014, 98% of the votes cast approved our 2013 executive compensation program (as described in our 2014 proxy statement). In light of the strong support and other feedback we solicited from our stockholders last year, the Committee made no material changes to our compensation philosophy, policies or overall program. Nevertheless, the Committee continues to pursue its pay-for-performance approach in determining executive compensation. The Committee will continue to consider changes to the program on an ongoing basis, as appropriate, in light of evolving factors such as business environment and competition for talent.

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Compensation Governance

The Company's executive compensation program is supported by strong corporate governance and Board-level oversight:

Role of Compensation Committee. All members of the Committee are independent under applicable Nasdaq rules. The Committee has primary oversight of our executive compensation program as provided in its charter, including the design and administration of executive compensation plans in a manner consistent with the executive compensation philosophy described above. The Committee reviews and approves the compensation of all executive officers (except for the CEO), and recommends the compensation of the CEO for the approval of the independent members of the Board. In carrying out its oversight responsibilities, the Committee routinely reports to the Board on the actions it has taken, as well as confers with the Board on compensation matters, as necessary. The Committee also makes recommendations for all other compensation-related matters that require Board approval. Committee members hold meetings on a regular basis (9 meetings in 2014), and routinely meet in executive session without management present.

Role of the Independent Board Members. Subject to the recommendation of the Committee, all of the independent directors of the Board (all Board members except the CEO) review and approve the compensation for the CEO. Such review and approval are typically conducted during the executive session portion of the Board's meetings, where neither the CEO nor any other member of management is present.

Role of Compensation Committee Consultant. The Committee has retained Pay Governance LLC, an independent executive compensation consultant, to provide advice and recommendations on all compensation matters under its oversight responsibilities as defined in the Committee's charter. The Committee in its sole discretion selects the consultant, and determines its compensation and the scope of its responsibilities. In 2014, Pay Governance assisted the Committee with advice and recommendations regarding the Company's compensation philosophy and strategies; advice on executive and director compensation levels and practices, including review and recommendations on CEO and other executive compensation and evaluation of CEO pay and Company performance; advice on the Company's Compensation and Performance Peer Groups; guidance on the design of our compensation plans and executive/director stock ownership guidelines; evaluation of performance metrics and peer performance; assistance with the Committee's periodic review of potential risks associated with our compensation programs; recommendations regarding our equity incentive plan; and periodic reports to the Committee on market and industry compensation trends and regulatory developments. The Committee did not engage Pay Governance for any additional services outside of executive and director compensation consulting during 2014. In addition, the Committee does not believe there were any potential conflicts of interest that arose from any work performed by Pay Governance during 2014.

Role of Chief Executive Officer. At the Committee's request, our CEO will attend portions of the Committee's meetings and executive sessions to discuss the Company's performance and compensation-related matters. While he does not participate in any deliberations relating to his own compensation, he shares his assessment of the performance of the other executive officers with the Committee. Based on his assessments and the Company's

overall performance, our CEO makes recommendations to the Committee on any compensation decisions or changes for the other executive officers. The Committee considers the CEO's recommendations, as well as data and analyses provided by management, but retains full discretion to approve, or recommend for the independent members of the Board to approve, all executive compensation.

Table of Contents**Competitive Benchmarking Against Peers****Peer Group****(20 companies)**

Consistent with 2013, for 2014, the Committee continued to benchmark and compare our compensation and performance with our peer companies:

Associated Banc-Corp

Compensation. In making compensation decisions for 2014, the Committee considered competitive compensation data from the Company's Peer Group, which included companies that are similarly-sized, have some business model similarities and compete with us for our talent. A list of our Peer Group companies is set forth at the right.

Bank of Hawaii Corp

BOK Financial Corp

Performance. In measuring our relative performance for purposes of 2014 compensation decisions, specifically the PRSU awards for our executives, the Committee considered performance data from the Peer Group. To determine the funding of our Incentive Compensation Plan and consistent with the year 2013, the Committee also considered performance data from the Peer Group, as modified with the following changes (*Performance Peer Group*): (i) added certain larger companies with similar business models Comerica Incorporated, Huntington Bancshares, and Zions Bancorporation, and (ii) excluded certain companies based on size, performance and/or business model PacWest, First Citizens, and Investors Bancorp. (See *Annual Cash Incentives ICP Funding* and *Equity Incentives.*)

City National Corporation
Commerce Bancshares, Inc.

Cullen/Frost Bankers, Inc.

East West Bancorp, Inc.

The Committee, with the Committee's compensation consultant and management, reviews on at least an annual basis, the composition of the Peer Group. In determining the composition, the Committee considers various factors and characteristics including market capitalization, asset size, assets under management, number of employees, business model and complexity of the platform, and performance on financial and market-based measures. There were no changes to the Peer Group from 2013, except for the removal of CVB Financial Corp. and Raymond James Financial, Inc. due to their different business models and/or market focus.

First Citizens Bancshares, Inc.
FirstMerit Corporation

First Republic Bancorp

Investors Bancorp, Inc.

MB Financial, Inc.

PacWest Bancorp

Prosperity Bancshares, Inc.

Signature Bank

TCF Financial Corporation

UMB Financial Corporation

Umpqua Holdings Corporation

Valley National Bancorp

Webster Financial Corp.

It is important to note that in determining executive compensation, the Committee does not solely rely on comparative data from these peer groups. Such comparative data provides helpful market information about our peer companies, but the Committee does not target any specific positioning or percentile, nor does it use a formulaic approach, in determining executive pay levels. The Committee also utilizes other resources, including published compensation surveys and proxy data. All such comparative peer data and supplemental resources are considered, along with the Company's pay for performance and internal parity objectives. All applicable information is reviewed and considered in aggregate, and the Committee does not place any particular weighting on any one factor.

Table of Contents**2014 Executive Compensation***Summary of 2014 Executive Compensation Components*

	Component and Purpose	2014 Key Highlights
Annual Cash Incentive Compensation	Base Salary	Each NEO received in 2014 increases to his or her base salary due to merit increases and/or changes in job responsibilities.
	<i>Provides ongoing fixed cash pay.</i>	
	Annual Cash Incentives	<i>Funding of 2014 ICP Pool</i>
	<i>Provides short-term (annual) performance-based cash incentive compensation opportunity under our ICP.</i>	No material changes to the ICP funding methodology from 2013 to 2014. Funding of our annual ICP pool is determined and approved by the Committee and is subject to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i ROE performance against our annual target ROE (2/3 of the pool); and i Relative ROE performance against peer performance (1/3 of the pool) <p>Based on the Company's ROE performance above its annual target and its ranking against its peers, as well as the Company's overall performance, 140% of the 2014 executive incentive pool was funded. This funding is also based on the Company's overall performance in 2014.</p> <p><i>Individual 2014 ICP Awards</i></p> <p>Individual ICP awards were determined subject to the extent of pool funding, and overall Company and individual performance.</p> <p>Annual incentive targets were increased for two NEOs and decreased for one NEO.</p> <p>For 2014, each NEO received between 134% to 162% of his or her target payout.</p>
Long-Term Equity Incentive Compensation	Stock Options	<i>2014 Equity Compensation:</i>

Benefits / Perks	<p><i>Provides incentives for long-term creation of stockholder value over a four-year period.</i></p> <p>Performance-Based Restricted Stock Units (PRSUs)</p> <p><i>Provides incentives to motivate and retain executives and to reward for our TSR performance relative to peer performance.</i></p> <p>Restricted Stock Units (RSUs)</p> <p><i>Provides incentives for retention and long-term creation of stockholder value over a four-year period.</i></p> <p>Health/Welfare and Retirement Programs; Perquisites</p> <p>As further discussed below, executives receive health, welfare and retirement benefits that are generally available to employees. We do not have any executive perquisite programs.</p> <p>In addition, because Mr. Cox is based in the United Kingdom, we provided certain benefits to Mr. Cox which we believe are customary under UK employment standards. Some of those benefits may be deemed perquisites and are further disclosed below.</p> <p><i>(See Compensation for Named Executive Officers Summary Compensation Table and Other Post-Employment Payments below.)</i></p>	<p>Consistent with prior years, the Committee continued to use a mix of equity awards which included stock options, PRSUs and RSUs.</p> <p>Stock options and RSUs continued to be subject to annual vesting over a four year period.</p> <p>Mr. Cox received a special grant of RSUs, subject to a four-year cliff vesting period, due to his expanded responsibilities and for retention purposes. (See Equity Incentives below.)</p> <p><i>Longer PRSU Performance Period:</i></p> <p>The performance period for 2014 PRSUs was lengthened from one year to three years (from 2014-2016).</p>
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Table of Contents**Elements of Compensation*****Base Salary***

We provide base salaries in order to provide executives with a reasonable level of fixed short-term compensation. Executive base salary levels are typically reviewed at least annually by the Committee and adjusted as appropriate, typically as merit increases, promotions or changes in responsibilities, or market adjustments. Base salaries are determined on an individual basis. When determining any base salary increases, the Committee considers an individual's total compensation package, his or her performance, Company performance, comparative peer and market compensation data, internal parity, and other relevant factors, including the scope of the executive's responsibilities relative to peers and other executives, and retention concerns.

In 2014, each NEO received merit increase adjustments to their base salaries based on individual performance, salary market positioning relative to peers, and internal parity, as appropriate. In addition, the salary increases for Mr. China and Ms. Parsons reflect their expanded responsibilities in connection with their respective appointments as Head of Relationship Banking and Head of Specialty Banking, respectively, in 2014, as well as alignment of their respective overall allocation mix of pay with one another. Mr. Cox's salary increase also reflected his expanded responsibilities for our increasing business activities in Europe.

NEO	Percentage Increase	2014 Annual Base Salary
Greg Becker	4.2 %	\$ 875,000
Michael Descheneaux	5.0	525,000
Phil Cox*	8.7	350,000
Joan Parsons	12.5	450,000
John China	20.0	450,000

* Reflects U.S. dollar amount approved at the time of approval in April 2014; actually paid in British pounds.

Annual Cash Incentives

Our executives participate in the Company's Incentive Compensation Plan (*ICP*), an annual cash incentive plan that rewards performance against individual and Company objectives.

NEO	Annual ICP Target (% of Annual Base Salary)
Greg Becker	80 %
Michael Descheneaux	50
Phil Cox	75
Joan Parsons	60
John China	60

Each executive participant is assigned an incentive target, stated as a percentage of the individual's annual base salary. In 2014, annual ICP targets:

Increased from 70% to 80% for Mr. Becker;
Decreased from 80% to 60% for Mr. China; and
Increased from 50% to 60% for Ms. Parsons.

These adjustments were made in order to align targets with comparative peer and market compensation, balance overall total target pay mix, and maintain internal parity among the executive team, as applicable.

No changes made to annual ICP targets for Messrs. Descheneaux and Cox.

ICP Funding

Each year, the Committee establishes one or more metrics that it will use to measure Company performance for ICP funding purposes. Based on those metrics and overall Company performance, the Committee will also determine the extent to which the Company will fund the incentive pool.

For 2014, the Committee continued to utilize the same methodology for funding the ICP as in 2013. The Committee continued to believe that ROE is an appropriate indicator of financial performance that is directly related to the creation of

EXECUTIVE OFFICERS & COMPENSATION

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stockholder value, especially if performance is measured against the Company's objectives, as well as peer performance. Accordingly, the Committee continued to apply the following two performance metrics:

i *ROE Against our Annual Target ROE (Two-Thirds (2/3) of Pool)* - Two-thirds (2/3) of the total incentive pool is funded based on the Company's performance relative to our Board-approved annual target ROE. The graph to the right illustrates the relationship in 2014 between: (i) achieved ROE as a percentage of our annual target ROE (which was budgeted for 2014 at 9.74%), and (ii) the percentage of the target incentive pool accrued. There is a funding maximum of 200% of target (for achievement of 150% or over of our target ROE).

In addition, the Committee retains discretion to determine the extent to which the Company met its ICP performance target, including discretion to consider adjustments for certain out of the ordinary items, such as non-recurring accounting items. Adjustments are determined by the Committee, in consultation with the Audit Committee. For 2014 and consistent with prior years, the Committee excluded 50% of the gains on non-marketable securities over budget (net of noncontrolling interests). In addition, for 2014, the Committee excluded losses primarily attributable to certain foreign currency translation adjustment losses recognized at the end of 2014 in connection with the Company's strategic decision to sell its lending business in India. These losses were due to changes in foreign exchange rates of the India Rupee since the inception of the business in 2008.

i *ROE Against Performance Peer Group (One-Third (1/3) of Pool)* - For 2014, the Committee also established ROE relative to the Peer Group as an additional ICP performance metric to fund 1/3 of the total pool. As illustrated in the graph to the right, there is no payout if our performance falls in the bottom quintile, and a payout maximum in the top quintile. (See *Competitive Benchmarking Against Peers* above regarding the Peer Group.)

For 2014, the Committee determined that: (i) 2/3 of the executive ICP pool would be funded at 120% of target, based on the Company's ROE performance, as adjusted, after taking into account the adjustments as discussed above; and (ii) 1/3 of the executive ICP pool would be funded at 163% of target, based on the Company's relative ROE

*The Committee retains discretion to fund up to 50% of the target ICP pool for performance below the 90% threshold, if and when it believes that making partial ICP payments are in the Company's interests. The Committee decides whether and to what extent it will fund or spend the provisional pool and in no way does this pool represent a form of guaranteed incentive payments. The Committee did not approve any provisional funding pool for 2014 because of the Company's above-target ROE performance.

performance, ranking in the sixth position against the Performance Peer Group. In addition to these two ROE metrics, the Committee took into consideration the overall strong performance of the Company and the executive team in 2014. In particular, they took into consideration: overall strong executive leadership as a team; outstanding annual financial performance, including, in particular, growth in fee income due to higher transaction volume, and strong overall performance relative to peers; continued progress towards global expansion efforts; and continued focus on risk management. As a result, the Committee approved funding the overall executive ICP pool at 140% of total target.

2014 NEO ICP Awards

The Committee determines actual annual cash incentive awards for the NEOs based upon the individual's target incentive level, the Company's performance, and the NEO's individual performance. ICP awards for NEOs may be at, above, or below the target incentive and are determined by the Committee (or in the case of the CEO, by the Board).

In determining each NEO's performance, the Committee considered a variety of factors that it believed to be relevant, including each NEO's contributions to (i) the Company's business and financial results, (ii) the Company's successful execution of its 2014 corporate initiatives, and (iii) broader leadership within the organization. For Mr. Becker, the Committee considered the performance assessment conducted by the independent members of the Board. For the other NEOs, the Committee considered the performance assessments conducted by Mr. Becker. In addition to these management assessments, the Committee considered its direct observations and assessments of each NEO's performance, with input from the Board.

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The independent members of the Board had determined that the CEO, and the Committee determined that the other NEOs, had earned the following incentive awards for 2014 based on the following primary factors considered:

Greg Becker	ICP Amount: \$935,000
<p>Profitable 2014:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i Annual EPS increased by 13.2% i Annual consolidated net income available to common stockholders increased by 22.3% <p>Strong Company growth (all-time high average totals):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i Total assets increased by 42.0% i Loan balances, net of unearned income, increased by 23.0% i Total deposits and total client investment fund balances increased by 44.4% and 24.0% respectively <p>Growth in market share; continued positive client satisfaction survey results</p> <p>Strong execution of our global strategy, including growth in global loans and deposits, and overall performance of the UK branch</p>	<p>Substantial progress made on payments business initiative, including strong credit card fee income growth due to higher transaction volume and continued development of innovative payment solutions</p> <p>Continued focus on enterprise-wide risk management, including regulatory compliance</p> <p>Company ranked as the # Best Bank in America by <i>Forbes</i> magazine¹</p> <p>Company named as America's Best Managed Company in Banking in 2014 by <i>Forbes</i> magazine²</p> <p>Placed third as 2015 Best CEO for Mid-Cap Banks by <i>Institutional Investor</i> Magazine³</p>
Michael Descheneaux	ICP Amount: \$425,000
<p>Outstanding execution of our overall financial management, including continued strong capital and liquidity</p> <p>Strong management of relations with investors, credit ratings agencies and other key constituents</p> <p>Strong leadership in capital planning and stress testing initiative</p> <p>Successful execution of equity offering</p>	<p>Continued effective leadership of Finance, SVB Capital and other areas of oversight</p> <p>Significant contribution towards long-term strategic and financial planning</p> <p>Named 2015 Best CFO for Mid-Cap Banks by <i>Institutional Investor</i> magazine³</p>
Phil Cox	ICP Amount: \$375,000
<p>Effective leadership of UK Branch</p>	<p>Significant contribution towards long-term strategic planning and global expansion efforts</p>

Strong global expansion efforts
 Continued global promotion of the Company's brand
 Continued growth in market share in the U.K. and Israel
 Effective management of the sale of the Company's lending business in India

Silicon Valley Bank recognized as Service Provider of the Year by *Investor Allstars Awards London* for the third consecutive year in 2014⁴

Joan Parsons and John China

(as applicable to their respective areas of oversight)

ICP Amount: \$380,000 each

Effective leadership of sales and relationship teams	Continued strengthening of client relationships
Continued growth in market share	Effective cross-selling; growth in core fee income
Exceptional loan and deposit growth	Significant contribution towards long-term strategic planning and global expansion efforts
Positive client satisfaction survey results	
Continued strong credit quality	

¹ America's Best and Worst Banks 2015, *Forbes.com*, December 22, 2014

² America's Best-Managed Companies, *Forbes.com*, December 10, 2014

³ All-America Executive Team Highlights Best of Corporate U.S., *InstitutionalInvestor.com*, November 4, 2014

⁴ Investor AllStars 2014, *InvestorAllStars.com*, September 24, 2014

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Equity Incentives

The Company believes that equity-based awards, particularly in combination with the Company's equity ownership guidelines as discussed below, tie each of the NEOs' compensation to the Company's long-term financial performance and align the interests of the NEOs and our stockholders.

In 2014, the Committee continued to focus on long-term, sustainable performance and alignment with stockholders. As a result, it continued its emphasis on long-term equity compensation. The Committee determined a target equity award total value for each NEO, and granted a mix of performance-based and non-performance based equity awards based on the allocation as set forth to the left. Grants were made effective as of April 29, 2014. See *Compensation for Named Executive Officers – Outstanding Equity Awards at Fiscal Year End*.

The **stock options** and **restricted stock units (RSUs)** are subject to annual vesting over a four-year period. The stock options have a maximum term of seven years. The Committee did not establish performance-based criteria, as the increase in the value of these stock options, and the value of the RSUs, are inherently tied to the future performance of the Company's common stock.

The **performance-based restricted stock units (PRSUs)** are subject to performance-based vesting over a three-year period (from 2014 through 2016) and to the extent earned, are subject to additional time-based vesting through January 30, 2017.

The Committee determines the performance conditions upon which the awards are earned, which for the 2014-2016 performance period, was the Company's TSR performance as ranked against the Peer Group (*Relative TSR*). After the end of the three-year performance period, the Committee will determine whether (and to what extent) the NEOs had earned the PRSUs, based on the Company's Relative TSR. The PRSUs are subject to a maximum payout at 150% of target award. No payout is made if the Company ranks in the bottom five peer companies.

For 2014 only, the Company ranked in the eighth position against the Peer Group.

The Committee typically makes equity awards to each NEO at the time the individual is hired or promoted, and annually thereafter. The size of the awards reflects the overall number of shares available to the Company under our equity incentive plan, the Committee's determination of an appropriate annual equity burn rate (the percentage of total shares outstanding that the Company has issued during the year in the form of equity compensation), the NEO's role and performance, and the market compensation data for the NEO's external peers.

Special Equity Award

In 2014, Mr. Cox received an equity grant of 3,225 RSUs in light of his expanded responsibilities in Europe and for retention purposes. The award is subject to cliff vesting at the end of a four-year period. In addition, the award is subject to certain performance conditions during the four-year vesting period, including meeting certain standards of professional conduct, compliance with applicable legal, regulatory and Company requirements in all material respects, and achieving a "successful" employee performance rating.

⁵ TSR is calculated, with dividends reinvested (if any), by dividing (i) the dividend-adjusted average closing stock price for the last two months of the applicable performance period, minus the dividend-adjusted average closing stock price for the two months immediately preceding the performance period, by (ii) the dividend-adjusted average closing stock price for the two months immediately preceding the performance period.

Table of Contents**Executive Benefits***Employee Retirement Benefits*

Our U.S.-based NEOs are eligible to participate in our SVB Financial Group 401(k) and Employee Stock Ownership Plan, our qualified retirement plan that is generally available to all of the Company's U.S. employees. Our NEOs participate in the plan on the same terms as all other eligible employees. Other than our 401(k) plan, SVB Financial Group does not provide any pension, excess retirement, or SERPs to our NEOs.

Under our 401(k) plan, our U.S. employees, including our NEOs, may make voluntary pre-tax deferrals up to the maximum provided for by IRS regulations. The Company provides dollar-for-dollar matching contributions up to a maximum of 5% of cash compensation or the Internal Revenue Section 401(a) compensation limit, whichever is less. Company 401(k) matching contributions vest immediately upon deposit into the individual's 401(k) account.

The plan also includes an Employee Stock Ownership Plan (*ESOP*). Under the plan, we may make discretionary annual contributions for U.S. employees, as determined by the Committee. ESOP contributions may be in the form of cash, the Company's common stock, or a combination of both, and are subject to certain vesting conditions. Contributions are determined based on the Company's performance and are not adjusted to reflect individual performance.

Similar to 2013, for 2014, the Committee established performance criteria based on the Company's ROE, similar to the ICP, to fund the ESOP contribution, and set the funding level to a 2.5% (of eligible compensation) funding level based on target ROE performance, up to a maximum funding of 5%. Based on the Company's 2014 above-target ROE performance, the Committee approved a contribution of 3.0% of eligible compensation in cash (50%) and the Company's common stock (50%) for all eligible participants.

Mr. Cox participates in a defined contribution pension plan that is available to all eligible U.K.-based employees.

Deferred Compensation

We do not provide NEOs with any Company-funded deferred compensation benefits. However, in order to help them achieve their retirement objectives, we offer each NEO the opportunity to tax-defer a portion of their income, beyond what is allowed to be deferred in the Company's qualified retirement plan. Specifically, under our Deferred Compensation Plan (*DCP*), each individual may defer 5% to 50% of their base pay and 5% to 100% of eligible incentive payments during each plan year. The DCP is an unfunded plan, and participating executives bear the risk of forfeiture in the event that we cannot fund DCP liabilities. We do not match executive deferrals to the DCP, nor do we make any other contributions to the DCP. See *Compensation for Named Executive Officers Non-Qualified Deferred Compensation* below.

We establish and maintain a bookkeeping account for each participant which reflects compensation deferrals made by the executive along with any associated earnings, expenses, gains and losses. The amount in a participant's account is adjusted for hypothetical investment earnings or losses in an amount equivalent to the gains or losses reported by the investment options selected by the participant from among the investment options designated for this purpose by the Company. A participant may, in accordance with rules and procedures we establish, change the investments to be used for the purpose of calculating future hypothetical investment adjustments to the participant's account. The account of each participant is adjusted each business day to reflect: (a) the hypothetical investment earnings and/or losses described above; (b) participant deferrals; and (c) distributions or withdrawals from the account. Distributions or withdrawals from the DCP shall be made in full accordance with the requirements of Internal Revenue Code

Section 409A.

No NEOs participated in the DCP in 2014. Among the NEOs, only Mr. Becker holds a balance due to deferrals made under the plan in 2005.

Health and Welfare Benefits

Our U.S.-based NEOs are eligible to participate in our standard health and welfare benefits program, which provides medical, dental, life, accident, and disability coverage to all of our eligible U.S.-based employees. We also provide Mr. Cox comparable health and welfare benefits, which are also available to all of our eligible U.K.-based employees. We do not provide executives with any health and welfare benefits that are not generally available to other Company employees.

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Time Away From Work

Under our time away from work policy, U.S. exempt employees, including our U.S.-based NEOs, do not accrue vacation benefits. Rather, such employees are expected to manage their time away from work, subject to the demands and needs of their jobs. Non-exempt U.S. employees and other non-U.S. employees, including Mr. Cox, continue to accrue vacation benefits formulaically.

Executive Termination Benefits

See *Compensation for Named Executive Officers Other Post-Employment Payments* below.

Perquisites

We do not have any executive perquisite programs. From time to time, on a limited or exception basis, we may provide other benefits that we believe are related to a business purpose or are customary outside of the U.S. that may otherwise be considered perquisites. We disclose those benefits as required by applicable rules. Specifically for 2014, we have reported the following benefits for Mr. Cox that may be deemed perquisites, but are customary in the U.K. or otherwise *de minimis*, such as car allowance benefits, gym subsidy benefits, miscellaneous home office expenses, and spousal meals for business or client events. See *Compensation for Named Executive Officers Summary Compensation Table*.

Stock Option and Other Equity Practices

Grant Practices for Executive Officers

The Committee approved all equity grants in 2014 made to executive officers of the Company, except that the independent members of the Board approved equity grants made to the Chief Executive Officer. Annual equity compensation grants to executives have typically been approved during the second quarter of the year, and grants have been made effective during an open trading window pursuant to our Insider Trading Policy. The exercise price for stock option grants is equal to the closing market price on the grant's effective date and grants typically have an annual vesting period of four years, subject to continued employment or service. All 2014 grants to our NEOs were made in accordance with this practice.

For newly-hired executive officers, the Committee approves an equity grant amount prior to, or shortly after, the executive's start of employment, and the effective grant date is typically set during an open trading window after they commence employment. This approach ensures that the exercise price of stock options reflects a fair market price, since the exercise price for stock option grants is equal to the closing market price on the grant's effective date.

Grant Practices for Other Employees

The Board has delegated authority to the Equity Awards Committee to make equity grants to non-executive employees under our 2006 Equity Incentive Plan. The Equity Awards Committee is a committee of two, comprised of our Chief Executive Officer and the Chair of our Board. The Equity Awards Committee may not make equity grants to executives or any non-executive employee that reports directly to the Chief Executive Officer.

The Equity Awards Committee may make grants only within established individual employee and aggregate share limits and in accordance with established requirements regarding the term, vesting period, exercise price and other terms and conditions for the grant. In addition, all grants of stock options, stock appreciation rights, and restricted

stock units made by the Equity Awards Committee must be made (or become effective) on the first Monday of each month or, where the first Monday is a Company-observed U.S. holiday, on the first Tuesday of such month. The Equity Awards Committee must approve all grants in writing on or before the date of grant, subject to the respective employee remaining an employee as of the date of grant. Finally, management updates the Committee regarding all grants made by the Equity Awards Committee on a regular basis. Any grant that does not meet the requirements established for the Equity Awards Committee must be made by the Board, the Committee or other authorized committee.

The Committee typically approves annual grants to all eligible employees, as well as any other grants that the Equity Awards Committee is not authorized to approve.

Prohibitions Against Hedging

Pursuant to our Insider Trading Policy, our directors, executive officers (including our NEOs) and employees are not permitted to hedge ownership by selling puts in or selling short any of the Company's publicly-traded securities at any time. Additionally, we discourage, and have not permitted, any of our executive officers to pledge, or use as collateral, our securities to secure personal loans or other obligations.

Table of Contents**Section 162(m)**

Section 162(m) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the *Code*) limits our deductibility of compensation paid to our CEO and each of the next three most highly compensated executive officers (excluding the Chief Financial Officer) in excess of \$1,000,000, but excludes performance-based compensation from this limit. Stock options qualify for this tax deductibility. However, in order to maintain flexibility and promote simplicity in the Committee's administration of and oversight over executive compensation arrangements, other compensation arrangements, such as time-based restricted stock units that vest based solely on continued service, and performance-based restricted stock units that vest solely upon achievement of performance goals (as determined by the Committee), and ICP payments, do not qualify for tax deductibility. This design allows the Committee to balance tax deductibility with other business priorities that affect stockholder value.

Equity Ownership Guidelines for Executive Officers

The Company maintains stock ownership guidelines for the Company's executive officers, including the NEOs. These stock ownership guidelines reflect the Board's belief in the importance of aligning the economic interests of stockholders and management.

The Compensation Committee is responsible for setting and periodically reviewing the guidelines. Guidelines for each executive position are determined based on factors including the executive role, scope of responsibilities, base salary levels, Company stock price performance and market data. In 2014, the Committee revised the equity ownership guidelines applicable to executive officers by establishing the guidelines based on the value of the Company's common stock as a percentage of annual base salary. Guidelines were previously set as a fixed minimum of shares, the number of which was determined by a multiple of annual base salary. Specifically, the minimum requirement for the CEO increased to six times annual base salary, whereas previously the requirement was based on five times annual base salary. The revised guidelines for current executive officers are as follows:

	Stock Value as Percentage of Annual Base Salary
Chief Executive Officer	600%
Chief Financial Officer	
Chief Operations Officer	
Chief Risk Officer	
Chief Credit Officer	300%
Head of Relationship Banking	
Head of Specialty Banking	
Head EMEA India & President UK Branch	
Head of Human Resources	200%
Chief Marketing Officer	

General Counsel

All members of executive management are expected to attain the minimum level of ownership by May 23, 2017. New executive officers (hired after May 23, 2012) are expected to attain the minimum level of ownership by the fifth anniversary of the date of his or her assumption of the applicable position.

The Governance Committee monitors compliance with these guidelines and reviews executive equity holdings on a quarterly basis. In evaluating whether executives are meeting the ownership guidelines, the Governance Committee considers the following as shares owned: (1) shares privately held, (2) shares owned through investment in the Company's stock fund in the SVB Financial Group 401(k) and Employee Stock Ownership Plan, and (3) earned but unvested awards of restricted stock awards and restricted stock units (subject to either time-based or performance-based vesting). The Committee does not count vested or unvested stock options towards the ownership guidelines. Exceptions to meeting the guidelines due to personal financial or other reasons are reviewed and determined by the Governance Committee.

As of December 31, 2014, all of our NEOs were in compliance with the applicable ownership guidelines or have made significant progress towards meeting the guidelines, as determined by the Governance Committee.

Table of Contents**COMPENSATION FOR NAMED EXECUTIVE OFFICERS****Summary Compensation Table**

The following table sets forth the compensation paid to our NEOs for the years ended December 31, 2012, 2013 and 2014.

and Principal Position	Year	Salary (\$)(1)	Bonus (\$)(2)	Stock Awards (\$)(3)	Stock Option Awards (\$)(3)	Non-Equity Incentive Plan Compensation (\$)(4)	All Other Compensation (\$)(5)		Total (\$)
Becker,	2014	869,167	-	1,175,470	1,070,211	935,000	22,924	(6)	4,072
ident and Chief	2013	835,613	-	1,336,868	867,018	925,000	22,389	(7)	3,986
utive Officer	2012	932,713 (8)	-	901,180	766,556	820,119 (9)	25,000	(10)	3,445
el Descheneaux,	2014	520,833	600	517,225	470,896	425,000	21,347	(11)	1,955
f Financial Officer	2013	499,780	-	739,544	474,665	450,000	22,389	(12)	2,186
	2012	576,198 (13)	-	540,708	474,664	335,907 (14)	25,000	(15)	1,952
ox (16),	2014	328,013	600	536,229 (17)	171,239	375,000	53,464	(18)	1,464
d EMEA India &									
UK Branch									
arsons,	2014	441,667	600	282,044	256,837	380,000	24,067	(19)	1,385
d of Specialty	2013	399,780	-	405,327	257,910	350,000	22,389	(20)	1,435
king	2012	443,146 (21)	-	296,102	250,972	332,548 (22)	25,000	(23)	1,347
hina,	2014	437,500	600	282,044	256,837	380,000	21,890	(24)	1,378
d of Relationship	2013	373,113	-	412,438	235,961	1,072,500 (25)	22,389	(26)	2,116
king	2012	404,109 (27)	-	205,984	180,045	375,000	59,815	(28)	1,224

(1) Includes: (a) charitable donations of vacation time; and (b) for 2012, one-time payouts for unused and accrued vacation time in light of the adoption of our time away from work policy and our elimination of vacation accruals for exempt U.S. employees (*Accrued Vacation Payout*). See *Executive Benefits Time Away From Work* above.

(2) Reflects the value of a cash gift card given to the executive.

(3) Values indicated for equity awards reflect the fair value of grants made during the fiscal year. Such values were computed in accordance with the Financial Accounting Standards Board Accounting Standards Codification Topic 718 (*ASC Topic 718*). The amounts disclosed may never be realized. Assumptions used in calculating these amounts are included in the note entitled *Share-Based Compensation* in our audited financial statements included in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the applicable year. The amounts disclosed under the *Stock Awards*

column also include the fair value grants of certain performance-based restricted stock unit awards reported based on achievement at target level. Such awards are subject to a maximum of 150% of target level. For details of 2014 grants, see *Grants of Plan-Based Awards* below.

- (4) Includes: (a) ICP payments; (b) for 2012, payments under the Long-Term Cash Incentive Plan (*Cash LTIP*), which was terminated in 2013; and (c) for 2013, Mr. China's one-time long term cash retention award.
- (5) Included in this column for 2014 are deemed perquisites provided to Mr. Cox and reimbursement payments of income taxes incurred by the NEOs on imputed income (*Imputed Income Tax Reimbursements*). For 2014, such imputed income was primarily associated with spousal travel and attendance to our business events where our NEOs' spouses or significant others were invited, and expected, to attend.
- (6) Other compensation for Mr. Becker in 2014 is comprised of: (a) ESOP contribution of \$7,800; (b) 401(k) Plan matching contribution (*401(k) Match*) of \$13,000; and (c) Imputed Income Tax Reimbursement of \$2,124.
- (7) Other compensation for Mr. Becker in 2013 is comprised of: (a) ESOP contribution of \$9,639; and (b) 401(k) Match of \$12,750.
- (8) Salary compensation for Mr. Becker in 2012 includes a one-time Accrued Vacation Payout of \$124,615.
- (9) Non-Equity Incentive Plan Compensation for Mr. Becker in 2012 is comprised of: (a) Cash LTIP payment of \$120,119; and (b) ICP payment of \$700,000.
- (10) Other compensation for Mr. Becker in 2012 is comprised of: (a) ESOP contribution of \$12,500; and (b) 401(k) Match of \$12,500.
- (11) Other compensation for Mr. Descheneaux in 2014 includes: (a) ESOP contribution of \$7,800; (b) 401(k) Match of \$13,000; and (c) estimated Imputed Income Tax Reimbursement of \$547.
- (12) Other compensation for Mr. Descheneaux in 2013 includes: (a) ESOP contribution of \$9,639; (b) and 401(k) Match of \$12,750.
- (13) Salary compensation for Mr. Descheneaux in 2012 includes a one-time Accrued Vacation Payout of \$70,283.
- (14) Non-Equity Incentive Plan Compensation for Mr. Descheneaux in 2012 is comprised of: (a) Cash LTIP payment of \$60,907; and (b) ICP payment of \$275,000.
- (15) Other compensation for Mr. Descheneaux in 2012 is comprised of: (a) ESOP contribution of \$12,500; and (b) 401(k) Match of \$12,500.

(16) For reporting purposes in this Proxy Statement and where applicable, any compensation for Mr. Cox paid or otherwise denominated in British pounds was converted to U.S. Dollars based on a currency exchange rate of approximately 1.56, as of December 31, 2014. Compensation is only provided for 2014, as that is the first year for which Mr. Cox was designated as an NEO.

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- (17) Equity compensation for Mr. Cox in 2014 includes a one-time special grant of 3,225 restricted stock units (subject to four-year cliff vesting).
- (18) Other compensation for Mr. Cox in 2014 is comprised of: (a) Group Personal Pension Scheme employer contribution (*U.K. Pension*) of \$39,362; (b) certain deemed perquisites of \$13,338, comprised of (i) \$11,675 in U.K. car allowance benefits, and (ii) other de minimis perquisites, including miscellaneous home office expenses, gym subsidies and meals for Mr. Cox's spouse at business events where spouses were invited, and expected to attend; and (c) estimated Imputed Income Tax Reimbursement of \$764.
- (19) Other compensation for Ms. Parsons in 2014 is comprised of: (a) ESOP contribution of \$7,800; (b) 401(k) Match of \$13,000; and (c) Imputed Income Tax Reimbursement of \$3,267.
- (20) Other compensation for Ms. Parsons in 2013 is comprised of: (a) ESOP contribution of \$9,639; and (b) 401(k) Match of \$12,750.
- (21) Salary compensation for Ms. Parsons in 2012 includes a one-time Accrued Vacation Payout of \$66,638.
- (22) Non-Equity Incentive Plan Compensation for Ms. Parsons in 2012 is comprised of: (a) Cash LTIP payment of \$102,548; and (b) ICP payment of \$230,000.
- (23) Other compensation for Ms. Parsons in 2012 is comprised of: (a) ESOP contribution of \$12,500; and (b) 401(k) Match of \$12,500.
- (24) Other compensation for Mr. China in 2014 is comprised of: (a) ESOP contribution of \$7,800; (b) 401(k) Match of \$13,000; and (c) Imputed Income Tax Reimbursement of \$1,090.
- (25) Non-Equity Incentive Plan Compensation for Mr. China in 2013 is comprised of: (a) one-time long term cash retention award of \$597,500; and (b) ICP payment of \$475,000.
- (26) Other compensation for Mr. China in 2013 includes: (a) ESOP contribution of \$9,639; and (b) 401(k) Match of \$12,750.
- (27) Salary compensation for Mr. China in 2012 includes a one-time Accrued Vacation Payout of \$57,885.
- (28) Other compensation for Mr. China in 2012 is comprised of: (a) Retention Plan (*RP*) payment of \$34,815 (executive officer participation in the plan has been discontinued); (b) ESOP contribution of \$12,500; and (c) 401(k) Match of \$12,500.

EXECUTIVE OFFICERS & COMPENSATION

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The following table sets forth all plan-based awards, including both equity awards and non-equity incentive awards under plans, made to our NEOs during the year ended December 31, 2014.

	Grant Date	Compensation Committee or Board Approval Date	Estimated Future Payouts Under Non-Equity Incentive Plan Awards (1)			Estimated Future Payouts Under Equity Incentive Plan Awards (2)			All Other Stock Awards; Number of Shares of Stock or Units (3)	All Other Option Awards; Number of Securities Underlying Options (4)	Exercise or Base Price of Option Awards (4)	Grant Date of Award
			Threshold (\$)	Target (\$)	Maximum (\$)	Threshold (#)	Target (#)	Maximum (#)				
ker	April 24, 2014	April 24, 2014	-	700,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	\$ -	\$ -
ker	April 29, 2014	April 24, 2014	-	-	-	3,427	6,854	10,281	-	-	-	-
ker	April 29, 2014	April 24, 2014	-	-	-	-	-	-	4,032	-	-	-
ker	April 29, 2014	April 24, 2014	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	24,343	107.98	1,000
aux	April 23, 2014	April 23, 2014	-	262,500	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
aux	April 29, 2014	April 23, 2014	-	-	-	1,508	3,016	4,524	-	-	-	-
aux	April 29, 2014	April 23, 2014	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,774	-	-	-