

VECTOR GROUP LTD  
Form DEF 14A  
April 16, 2010

**Table of Contents**

**SCHEDULE 14A  
(Rule 14a-101)**

**INFORMATION REQUIRED IN PROXY STATEMENT**

**SCHEDULE 14A INFORMATION  
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 Rule 14a-11(c) or Rule 14a-12

Vector Group Ltd.  
(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:
  - (2) Aggregate number of securities to which transaction applies:
  - (3) Per unit price or other underlying value of transaction computed pursuant to Exchange Act Rule 0-11 (set forth the amount on which the filing fee is calculated and state how it was determined):
  - (4) Proposed maximum aggregate value of transaction:
  - (5) Total fee paid:

- o Fee paid previously with preliminary materials.
  
  - o Check box if any part of the fee is offset as provided by Exchange Act Rule 0-11(a)(2) and identify the filing for which the offsetting fee was paid previously. Identify the previous filing by registration statement number, or the Form or Schedule and the date of its filing.
    - (1) Amount Previously Paid:
  
    - (2) Form, Schedule or Registration Statement No.:
  
    - (3) Filing Party:
  
    - (4) Date Filed:
-

**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS

PROXY STATEMENT

INTRODUCTION

BOARD PROPOSAL 1 -- NOMINATION AND ELECTION OF DIRECTORS

EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION

SUMMARY COMPENSATION TABLE FOR YEARS 2007 -- 2009

GRANTS OF PLAN-BASED AWARDS IN 2009

OUTSTANDING EQUITY AWARDS AT DECEMBER 31, 2009

OPTION EXERCISES AND STOCK VESTED IN YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2009

PENSION BENEFITS AT 2009 FISCAL YEAR END

NON-EMPLOYEE DIRECTOR COMPENSATION IN FISCAL YEAR 2009

BOARD PROPOSAL 2 -- RATIFICATION OF APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT REGISTERED

CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM

MISCELLANEOUS

HOUSEHOLDING OF ANNUAL MEETING MATERIALS

---

**Table of Contents**

**VECTOR GROUP LTD.  
100 S.E. Second Street  
Miami, Florida 33131**

**NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS  
To Be Held June 11, 2010**

**To the Stockholders of Vector Group Ltd.:**

The Annual Meeting of Stockholders of Vector Group Ltd., a Delaware corporation (the Company), will be held at the Miami Tower, 100 S.E. Second Street, 19th Floor Auditorium, Miami, Florida 33131 on Friday, June 11, 2010 at 11:00 a.m., and at any postponement or adjournment thereof, for the following purposes:

1. To elect seven directors to hold office until the next annual meeting of stockholders and until their successors are elected and qualified.
2. To ratify the appointment of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP as our independent registered certified public accounting firm for the year ending December 31, 2010; and
3. To transact such other business as properly may come before the meeting or any adjournments or postponements of the meeting.

Every holder of record of Common Stock of the Company at the close of business on April 15, 2010 is entitled to notice of the meeting and any adjournments or postponements thereof and to vote, in person or by proxy, one vote for each share of Common Stock held by such holder. A list of stockholders entitled to vote at the meeting will be available to any stockholder for any purpose germane to the meeting during ordinary business hours from May 31, 2010 to June 11, 2010, at the headquarters of the Company located at 100 S.E. Second Street, 32nd Floor, Miami, Florida 33131. A proxy statement, form of proxy and the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2009 are enclosed herewith.

By Order of the Board of Directors,

Howard M. Lorber  
*President and Chief Executive Officer*

Miami, Florida  
April 16, 2010

**IT IS IMPORTANT THAT PROXIES BE RETURNED PROMPTLY. THEREFORE, WHETHER OR NOT YOU EXPECT TO ATTEND THE MEETING IN PERSON, PLEASE SIGN AND RETURN THE ENCLOSED PROXY AS SOON AS POSSIBLE IN THE ENCLOSED POSTAGE PRE-PAID ENVELOPE.**

---

**Table of Contents**

**VECTOR GROUP LTD.  
100 S.E. Second Street  
Miami, Florida 33131**

**PROXY STATEMENT**

**INTRODUCTION**

The enclosed proxy is solicited on behalf of the board of directors of Vector Group Ltd., a Delaware corporation (the Company). The proxy is solicited for use at the annual meeting of stockholders to be held at the Miami Tower, 100 S.E. Second Street, 19th Floor Auditorium, Miami, Florida 33131 on Friday, June 11, 2010, at 11:00 a.m., and at any postponement or adjournment. The Company's offices are located at 100 S.E. Second Street, 32nd Floor, Miami, Florida 33131, and its telephone number is (305) 579-8000.

**VOTING RIGHTS AND SOLICITATION OF PROXIES**

Every holder of record of Common Stock of the Company at the close of business on April 15, 2010 is entitled to notice of the meeting and any adjournments or postponements and to vote, in person or by proxy, one vote for each share of Common Stock held by such holder. At the record date, the Company had outstanding 71,272,731 shares of Common Stock. This proxy statement, accompanying notice and proxy and the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2009 are first being mailed to stockholders on or about April 21, 2010.

Any stockholder giving a proxy has the power to revoke the proxy prior to its exercise. A proxy can be revoked by an instrument of revocation delivered at or prior to the annual meeting to Marc N. Bell, the secretary of the Company, by a duly executed proxy bearing a date or time later than the date or time of the proxy being revoked, or at the annual meeting if the stockholder is present and elects to vote in person. Mere attendance at the annual meeting will not serve to revoke a proxy. A stockholder whose shares are held in a brokerage or bank account will need to obtain a legal proxy from the broker, bank or other intermediary in order to vote at the meeting.

All proxies received and not revoked will be voted as directed. If no directions are specified, proxies which have been signed and returned will be voted **FOR** the election of the board's nominees and **FOR** the ratification of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP as the Company's independent registered certified public accounting firm. Provided a quorum is present at the meeting, the nominees receiving a majority of the votes cast by holders of Common Stock voting in person or by proxy at the meeting will be elected as directors. The proposal to ratify the appointment of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP as the Company's independent registered certified public accounting firm will require approval of a majority of the votes cast. A New York Stock Exchange member broker who holds shares in street name for a customer has the authority to vote shares held on behalf of that customer on Proposal No. 2 to ratify the Company's independent registered certified public accounting firm even if the broker does not receive instructions from the customer. However, effective this year, New York Stock Exchange rules no longer permit member brokers who do not receive instructions from customers who hold their shares in street name to vote on Proposal No. 1 to elect directors. Abstentions and shares held of record by a broker or its nominee that are voted on any matter are included in determining the number of votes present for quorum purposes. Broker shares that are registered as being present at the

meeting but are not voted, or a broker non-vote , on any matter will be included in determining whether a quorum is present.

---

**Table of Contents**

**SECURITY OWNERSHIP OF CERTAIN BENEFICIAL OWNERS AND MANAGEMENT**

The following table sets forth, as of the record date, the beneficial ownership of the Company's Common Stock, the only class of voting securities, by:

each person known to the Company to own beneficially more than five percent of the Common Stock;

each of the Company's directors and nominees;

each of the Company's named executive officers (as such term is defined in the Summary Compensation Table below); and

all directors and executive officers as a group.

Unless otherwise indicated, each person possesses sole voting and investment power with respect to the shares indicated as beneficially owned, and the business address of each person is 100 S.E. Second Street, Miami, Florida 33131.



**Table of Contents**

<b>Name and Address of Beneficial Owner</b>	<b>Number of Shares</b>	<b>Percent of Class</b>
High River Limited Partnership(1) Hopper Investments, LLC Barberry Corp. Tortoise Corp. Reindeer Holding LLC Reindeer Subsidiary LLC Arnos Corp. Unicorn Associates Corporation ACF Industries Holding Corp. Highcrest Investors Corp. Buffalo Investors Corp. Starfire Holding Corporation Little Meadow Corp. Carl C. Icahn 767 Fifth Avenue New York, NY 10153	13,423,919	18.8%
Bennett S. LeBow(2) Dr. Phillip Frost(3) 4400 Biscayne Boulevard Miami, FL 33137	8,975,141 8,788,630	12.6% 11.8%
Howard M. Lorber(4)(6)(7) Jefferies Group, Inc.(5) 520 Madison Avenue New York, NY 10022	4,717,179 3,750,787	6.6% 5.3%
Henry C. Beinstein(6)(8) Gagnon Securities LLC 1370 Avenue of the Americas New York, NY 10019	55,487	(*)
Robert J. Eide(6)(10) Aegis Capital Corp. 810 Seventh Avenue New York, NY 10019	75,489	(*)
Jeffrey S. Podell(6) 173 Doral Court Roslyn, NY 11576	77,012	(*)
Jean E. Sharpe(6) 350 Cherry Street Bedford Hills, NY 10507	59,149	(*)
Richard J. Lampen(7) J. Bryant Kirkland III(7) Marc N. Bell(7) Ronald J. Bernstein(6)(7)(9)(11) Liggett Vector Brands Inc. 3800 Paramount Parkway; Suite 250 Morrisville, NC 27560	236,779 80,000 26,191 364,654	(*) (*) (*) (*)

Edgar Filing: VECTOR GROUP LTD - Form DEF 14A

All directors and executive officers as a group (10 persons)	14,667,081	20.4%
--	------------	-------

(\*) The percentage of shares beneficially owned does not exceed 1% of the outstanding Common Stock.

(1) Based upon a Form 4 filed by the named entities on July 18, 2006. Barberry Corp. ( Barberry ) is the sole member of Hopper Investments LLC, which is the general partner of High River Limited Partnership. Starfire Holding Corporation ( Starfire ) owns 100% of Buffalo Investors Corp., which owns 99.34% of Highcrest

**Table of Contents**

Investors Corp., which owns 100% of ACF Industries Holding Corp., which owns 100% of Unicorn Associates Corporation, which owns 100% of Arnos Corp., which owns 100% of Tortoise Corp, which owns 100% of Reindeer Holding LLC, which owns 100% of Reindeer Subsidiary LLC. Each of Barberry, Starfire and Little Meadow Corp. are 100% owned by Mr. Icahn. Mr. Icahn, by virtue of his relationship to these entities, may be deemed to indirectly beneficially own the shares held by these entities.

- (2) Includes 5,716,064 shares of Common Stock held by LeBow Gamma Limited Partnership, a Delaware limited partnership, 3,138,248 shares of Common Stock held by LeBow Epsilon 2001 Limited Partnership, a Delaware limited partnership, and 120,829 shares held by The Bennett and Geraldine LeBow Foundation, Inc., a Florida not-for-profit corporation. Bennett S. LeBow Revocable Trust is the sole stockholder of LeBow Holdings, Inc., a Nevada corporation, which is the sole stockholder of LeBow Gamma, Inc., a Nevada corporation, which is the general partner of LeBow Gamma Limited Partnership. LeBow Epsilon 2001 LLC, a Delaware limited liability company, is the general partner of LeBow Epsilon 2001 Limited Partnership. Mr. LeBow is the sole trustee of Bennett S. LeBow Revocable Trust, a director and officer of LeBow Holdings, Inc., a director and officer of LeBow Gamma, Inc. and a manager and sole member of LeBow Epsilon 2001 LLC. Mr. LeBow and family members serve as directors and executive officers of the foundation, and Mr. LeBow possesses shared voting power and shared dispositive power with the other directors of the foundation with respect to the foundation's shares of Common Stock.
- (3) Based upon a Form 4 filed by Dr. Frost on January 19, 2010, which reports ownership of 5,287,439 shares of Common Stock owned by Frost Gamma Investments Trust, a trust organized under Florida law, and \$50 million principal amount of the Company's 6.75% Variable Interest Senior Convertible Note due 2014 held by Frost Nevada Investments Trust, a trust organized under Nevada law. The notes are convertible into 3,490,691 shares of Common Stock. Dr. Frost is the sole trustee of Frost Gamma Investments Trust and Frost Nevada Investments Trust. As the sole trustee, Dr. Frost may be deemed the beneficial owner of all shares owned by the trusts, by virtue of his power to vote or direct the vote of such shares or to dispose or direct the disposition of such shares owned by the trusts. Includes 10,500 shares owned by Dr. Frost's spouse, as to which shares Dr. Frost disclaims beneficial ownership.
- (4) Includes 2,040,940 shares of Common Stock held directly by Mr. Lorber, 2,209,627 shares held by Lorber Epsilon 1999 Limited Partnership, a Delaware limited partnership, 78,764 shares held by Lorber Alpha II Limited Partnership, a Nevada limited partnership, 19 shares in an Individual Retirement Account and 387,829 shares acquirable by Mr. Lorber upon exercise of currently exercisable options to purchase Common Stock. There are 1,384,805 shares that are pledged to secure a bank line of credit; 1,306,041 of those shares are owned by Mr. Lorber and 78,764 of those shares are owned by Lorber Alpha II Limited Partnership. Mr. Lorber exercises sole voting power and sole dispositive power over the shares of Common Stock held by the partnerships and by himself. Lorber Epsilon 1999 LLC, a Delaware limited liability company, is the general partner of Lorber Epsilon 1999 Limited Partnership. Lorber Alpha II Limited Partnership is the sole member of, and Mr. Lorber is the manager of, Lorber Epsilon 1999 LLC. Lorber Alpha II, Inc., a Nevada corporation, is the general partner of Lorber Alpha II Limited Partnership. Mr. Lorber is a director, officer and controlling shareholder of Lorber Alpha II, Inc. Mr. Lorber disclaims beneficial ownership of 14,475 shares of Common Stock held by Lorber Charitable Fund. Lorber Charitable Fund is a New York not-for-profit corporation, of which family members of Mr. Lorber serve as directors and executive officers.
- (5) Based on Schedule 13G filed by the named entity on April 9, 2010, which reports ownership of 3,662,593 shares of common stock and \$1.413 million principal amount of the Company's 6.75% Variable Interest Senior Convertible Exchange Notes due 2014 (convertible into 86,951 shares of Common Stock) and \$22,000 principal amount of the Company's 3.875% Variable Interest Senior Convertible Debentures due 2026 (convertible into 1,243 shares of Common Stock). Jefferies Group, Inc. ( Jefferies ) is a publicly-traded Delaware corporation that is

managed by its Board of Directors. Richard Handler is the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Jefferies.

- (6) The named individual is a director of the Company.
- (7) The named individual is an executive officer of the Company.
- (8) Includes 543 shares beneficially owned by Mr. Beinstein's spouse, as to which shares Mr. Beinstein disclaims beneficial ownership.

**Table of Contents**

- (9) Includes 303,876 shares issuable upon exercise of outstanding options to purchase Common Stock exercisable within 60 days of the record date.
- (10) The shares are pledged to secure a margin loan to Mr. Eide.
- (11) The named individual is an executive officer of the Company's subsidiaries Liggett Vector Brands Inc. and Liggett Group LLC.

**BOARD PROPOSAL 1 NOMINATION AND ELECTION OF DIRECTORS**

The by-laws of the Company provide, among other things, that the board, from time to time, shall determine the number of directors of the Company. The size of the board is presently set at seven. The present term of office of all directors will expire at the 2010 annual meeting. Seven directors are to be elected at the 2010 annual meeting to serve until the next annual meeting of stockholders and until their respective successors are duly elected and qualified or until their earlier resignation or removal.

It is intended that proxies received will be voted **FOR** election of the nominees named below unless marked to the contrary. In the event any such person is unable or unwilling to serve as a director, proxies may be voted for substitute nominees designated by the present board. The board has no reason to believe that any of the persons named below will be unable or unwilling to serve as a director if elected.

**The board recommends that stockholders vote FOR election of the nominees named below.**

**Information with Respect to Nominees**

The following table sets forth certain information, as of the record date, with respect to each of the nominees. Each nominee is a citizen of the United States.

<b>Name and Address</b>	<b>Age</b>	<b>Principal Occupation</b>
Bennett S. LeBow Vector Group Ltd. 100 S.E. Second Street Miami, FL 33131	72	Chairman of the Board; Private Investor
Howard M. Lorber Vector Group Ltd. 100 S.E. Second Street Miami, FL 33131	61	President and Chief Executive Officer
Ronald J. Bernstein Liggett Vector Brands Inc. 3800 Paramount Parkway Morrisville, NC 27560	56	President and Chief Executive Officer, Liggett Group LLC and Liggett Vector Brands Inc.
Henry C. Beinstein Gagnon Securities LLC 1370 Avenue of the Americas New York, NY 10022	67	Partner, Gagnon Securities LLC
Robert J. Eide	57	Chairman and Chief Executive Officer,

Aegis Capital Corp.  
810 Seventh Avenue  
New York, NY 10019  
Jeffrey S. Podell  
173 Doral Court  
Roslyn, NY 11576  
Jean E. Sharpe  
350 Cherry Street  
Bedford Hills, NY 10507

Aegis Capital Corp.

69 Chairman of the Board and President, Newsote, Inc.

63 Private Investor

**Table of Contents**

**Business Experience and Qualifications of Nominees**

The Company believes that the combination of the various qualifications, skills and experiences of its directors contribute to an effective and well-functioning board and that individually and as a whole, the directors possess the necessary qualifications to provide effective oversight of the business, and provide quality advice to the Company's management. Details regarding the experience and qualifications of the directors are set forth below.

Bennett S. LeBow is the Chairman of the Company's Board of Directors and has been a director of the Company since October 1986. Mr. LeBow, currently a private investor, served as Executive Chairman from January 2006 until his retirement on December 30, 2008. He served as the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of the Company from June 1990 to December 2005. Mr. LeBow served as President and Chief Executive Officer of Vector Tobacco Inc., a subsidiary of the Company engaged in the development and marketing of low nicotine and nicotine-free cigarette products and the development of reduced risk cigarette products, from January 2001 until December 2007 and as a director from October 1999 until December 2007. Mr. LeBow was Chairman of the Board of New Valley Corporation from January 1988 to December 2005 and served as its Chief Executive Officer from November 1994 to December 2005. New Valley Corporation was a majority-owned subsidiary of the Company until December 2005, when the Company acquired the remaining minority interest, engaged in the real estate business and seeking to acquire additional operating companies and real estate properties. Mr. LeBow's pertinent experience, qualifications, attributes and skills include his decades of experience as an investor and the knowledge and experience in the cigarette industry he has attained through his service as our Chief Executive Officer from 1990 to 2005 and as Chairman of the Board since 1990.

Howard M. Lorber has been President and Chief Executive Officer of the Company since January 2006 and has served as a director of the Company since January 2001. He served as President and Chief Operating Officer of the Company from January 2001 to December 2005. From November 1994 to December 2005, Mr. Lorber served as President and Chief Operating Officer of New Valley Corporation, where he also served as a director. Mr. Lorber was Chairman of the Board of Directors of Hallman & Lorber Assoc. Inc., consultants and actuaries of qualified pension and profit sharing plans, and various of its affiliates from 1975 to December 2004 and has been a consultant to these entities since January 2005; Chairman of the Board of Directors since 1987 and Chief Executive Officer from November 1993 to December 2006 of Nathan's Famous, Inc., a chain of fast food restaurants; a director of United Capital Corp., a real estate investment and diversified manufacturing company, since May 1991; and the Vice Chairman of the Board of Ladenburg Thalmann Financial Services Inc. since May 2001. He is also a trustee of Long Island University. In addition to his decades of experience as a real estate investor and service as a director of other publicly-traded corporations, Mr. Lorber's pertinent experience, qualifications, attributes and skills include his knowledge and experience at the Company attained through his service as our President since 2001 and CEO since 2006 as well as his leadership and service as New Valley's President and Chief Operating Officer from 1994 to 2005.

Ronald J. Bernstein has served as President and Chief Executive Officer of Liggett since September 1, 2000 and of Liggett Vector Brands since March 2002 and has been a director of the Company since March 2004. From July 1996 to December 1999, Mr. Bernstein served as General Director and, from December 1999 to September 2000, as Chairman of Liggett-Ducat Ltd., the Company's former Russian tobacco business sold in 2000. Prior to that time, Mr. Bernstein served in various positions with Liggett commencing in 1991, including Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer. Mr. Bernstein's pertinent experience, qualifications, attributes and skills include the knowledge and experience in the cigarette industry he has attained through his 19 years of employment with our tobacco and real estate subsidiaries.

Henry C. Beinstein has been a director of the Company since March 2004. Since January 2005, Mr. Beinstein has been a partner of Gagnon Securities LLC, a broker-dealer and FINRA member firm, and has been a money manager and registered representative at such firm since August 2002. He retired in August 2002 as the Executive Director of

Schulte Roth & Zabel LLP, a New York-based law firm, a position he had held since August 1997. Before that, Mr. Beinstein had served as the Managing Director of Milbank, Tweed, Hadley & McCloy LLP, a New York-based law firm, commencing November 1995. Mr. Beinstein was the Executive Director of Proskauer Rose LLP, a New York-based law firm, from April 1985 through October 1995. Mr. Beinstein is a certified public accountant in New York and New Jersey and prior to joining Proskauer was a partner and National Director of



## **Table of Contents**

Finance and Administration at Coopers & Lybrand. Mr. Beinstein also serves as a director of Ladenburg Thalmann Financial Services Inc. and Castle Brands Inc. Mr. Beinstein has been licensed as a Certified Public Accountant in the state of New York since 1968. Mr. Beinstein's pertinent experience, qualifications, attributes and skills include financial literacy and expertise, managerial experience through his years at Coopers & Lybrand, Proskauer Rose LLP, Milbank, Tweed, Hadley & McCloy LLP and Schulte Roth & Zabel LLP, and the knowledge and experience he has attained through his service as a director of the Company and other publicly traded corporations.

Robert J. Eide has been a director of the Company since November 1993. Mr. Eide has been the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Aegis Capital Corp., a registered broker-dealer and FINRA member firm, since 1984. Mr. Eide also serves as a director of Nathan's Famous, Inc. and Ladenburg Thalmann Financial Services Inc. Mr. Eide has been a member of the New York State Bar Association since 1979. Mr. Eide's pertinent experience, qualifications, attributes and skills include financial literacy and expertise, managerial experience, and the knowledge and experience he has attained through his service as a director of the Company and other publicly traded corporations.

Jeffrey S. Podell has been a director of the Company since November 1993. Mr. Podell has been the Chairman of the Board and President of Newsote, Inc., a privately-held holding company, since 1989. Mr. Podell also serves as a director of Ladenburg Thalmann Financial Services Inc. Mr. Podell was a member of the New York State Bar Association from 1965 until March 2010. Mr. Podell's pertinent experience, qualifications, attributes and skills include managerial experience and the knowledge and experience he has attained through his service as a director of the Company and other publicly traded corporations.

Jean E. Sharpe has been a director of the Company since May 1998. Ms. Sharpe is a private investor and has engaged in various philanthropic activities since her retirement in September 1993 as Executive Vice President and Secretary of the Company and as an officer of various of its subsidiaries. Ms. Sharpe previously served as a director of the Company from July 1990 until September 1993. Ms. Sharpe has been a member of the New York State Bar Association since 1979. Ms. Sharpe's pertinent experience, qualifications, attributes and skills include the knowledge and managerial experience she has attained as serving as our general counsel from 1988 until 1993 and her service as a director of the Company.

## **Board of Directors and Committees**

The board of directors, which held eight meetings in 2009, currently has seven members. Each director attended at least 75% of the aggregate number of meetings of the board and of each committee, which the director served as a member, during such period. To ensure free and open discussion and communication among the independent directors of the board, the independent directors meet in executive sessions periodically, with no members of management present. The chair of the corporate governance and nominating committee presides at the executive sessions.

The Company's Corporate Governance Guidelines provide that the board shall be free to choose its chair in any way it deems best for the Company at any time. The board believes that it is desirable to have the flexibility to decide whether the roles of Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer should be combined or separate in light of the Company's circumstances from time to time. The roles of Chief Executive Officer and Chairman of the Board are presently held by two different directors. The Chief Executive Officer is responsible for setting the strategic direction of the Company and the day-to-day leadership and performance of the Company, while the Chairman of the Board provides guidance to the Chief Executive Officer, reviews the agenda for board meetings and presides over meetings of the full board.

The board of directors oversees the risks that could affect the Company through its committees and reports of officers responsible for particular risks within the Company.

The board of directors has four committees established in accordance with the Company's bylaws: the executive committee, audit committee, compensation committee, and corporate governance and nominating committee. The board has determined that four of the Company's non-employee directors (Henry C. Beinstein, Robert J. Eide, Jeffrey S. Podell and Jean E. Sharpe) have no material relationship with the Company and meet the New York Stock Exchange listing standards for independence. Each of the members of the audit committee,

**Table of Contents**

compensation committee, and corporate governance and nominating committee meets the New York Stock Exchange listing standards for independence.

The executive committee, whose members are presently Messrs. LeBow, chairman, Lorber and Eide, did not meet in 2009. The executive committee exercises, in the intervals between meetings of the board, all the powers of the board in the management and affairs of the Company, except for matters expressly reserved by law for board action.

The audit committee, whose members are presently Messrs. Beinstein, chairman, Eide and Podell and Ms. Sharpe, met ten times in 2009. The committee is governed by a written charter which requires that it discuss policies and guidelines to govern the process by which risk assessment and risk management are handled and that it meet periodically with management to review and assess the Company's major financial risk exposures and the manner in which such risks are being monitored and controlled. Accordingly, in addition to its other duties, the audit committee periodically reviews the Company's risk assessment and management, including in the areas of legal compliance, internal auditing and financial controls. In this role, the audit committee considers the nature of the material risks the Company faces, and the adequacy of the Company's policies and procedures designed to respond to and mitigate these risks and receives reports from management and other advisors. Although the board's primary risk oversight has been assigned to the audit committee, the full board also receives regular reports from members of senior management on areas of material risk to the Company, including operational, financial, competitive and legal risks. In addition to an ongoing compliance program, the board encourages management to promote a corporate culture that understands risk management and incorporates it into the overall corporate strategy and day-to-day business operations. The Company's board of directors and its audit committee regularly discuss with management the Company's major risk exposures, their potential financial impact on the Company, and the steps (both short-term and long-term) the Company takes to manage them. The audit committee oversees the Company's financial statements, system of internal controls, and auditing, accounting and financial reporting processes and risks related thereto; the audit committee appoints, compensates, evaluates and, where appropriate, replaces the Company's independent accountants; reviews annually the audit committee charter; and reviews and pre-approves audit and permissible non-audit services. See Audit Committee Report . Each of the members of the audit committee is financially literate as required of audit committee members by the New York Stock Exchange and independent as defined by the rules of the Securities and Exchange Commission. The board of directors has determined that Mr. Beinstein is an audit committee financial expert as defined by the rules of the Securities and Exchange Commission.

The compensation committee, whose members in 2009 included Mr. Eide (until March 9, 2009), Messrs. Podell and Beinstein, and Ms. Sharpe (effective March 9, 2009) met seven times in 2009. Effective March 9, 2009, Mr. Eide resigned from the compensation committee, Mr. Podell was appointed chairman of the committee, and Ms. Sharpe was appointed as a member of the committee. The committee is governed by a written charter. The compensation committee is responsible for risks relating to employment policies and the Company's compensation and benefits systems. To aid the compensation committee with its responsibilities, the compensation committee retains an independent consultant, as necessary, to understand the implications of compensation decisions being made. The compensation committee reviews, approves and administers management compensation and executive compensation plans. The compensation committee also administers the Company's 1998 Long-Term Incentive Plan, the Amended and Restated 1999 Long-Term Incentive Plan and the Senior Executive Annual Bonus Plan. See Compensation Discussion and Analysis on page 9. In March 2009, the compensation committee formed a Performance-Based Compensation Subcommittee ( Subcommittee ), consisting of Messrs. Beinstein and Podell, and delegated to the Subcommittee the authority to grant compensation to executive officers that is intended to qualify as performance-based compensation exempt from the \$1 million deduction limitation of Section 162(m) of the Internal Revenue Code.

The corporate governance and nominating committee, whose members are presently Ms. Sharpe, chair, and Messrs. Eide and Beinstein, met twice in 2009. The committee is governed by a written charter. This committee is

responsible for the oversight of risks relating to the management and board succession planning. The committee assists the board of directors in identifying individuals qualified to become board members and recommends to the board the nominees for election as directors at the next annual meeting of stockholders, develops and recommends to the board the corporate governance guidelines applicable to the Company, and oversees the evaluation of the

## **Table of Contents**

board and management. In recommending candidates for the board, the committee takes into consideration the following criteria established by the board in the Company's corporate governance guidelines:

personal qualities and characteristics, accomplishments and reputation in the business community;

current knowledge and contacts in the communities in which the Company does business and in the Company's industry or other industries relevant to the Company's business;

ability and willingness to commit adequate time to board and committee matters;

the fit of the individual's skills and personality with those of other directors and potential directors in building a board that is effective, collegial and responsive to the needs of the Company; and

diversity of viewpoints, background, experience and other demographics.

The committee also considers such other factors as it deems appropriate, including judgment, skill, diversity, experience with businesses and other organizations of comparable size, the interplay of the candidate's experience with the experience of other board members, and the extent to which the candidate would be a desirable addition to the board and any committees of the board. The committee does not assign specific weights to particular criteria and no particular criteria is necessarily applicable to all nominees. The Company believes that the backgrounds and qualifications of the directors, considered as a group, should provide a significant composite mix of experience, knowledge and abilities that will allow the board to fulfill its responsibilities. The committee will consider nominees recommended by stockholders, which nominations should be submitted by directing an appropriate letter and resume to Marc N. Bell, the secretary of the Company, 100 S.E. Second Street, 32nd Floor, Miami, Florida 33131. If the Company were to receive recommendations of candidates from the Company's stockholders, the committee would consider such recommendations in the same manner as all other candidates.

## **Corporate Governance Materials**

The Company's corporate governance guidelines, code of business conduct and ethics and current copies of the charters of the Company's audit committee, compensation committee, and corporate governance and nominating committee are all available in the investor relations section of the Company's website ([www.vectorgroup ltd.com/invest.asp](http://www.vectorgroup ltd.com/invest.asp)) and are also available in print to any stockholder who requests it.

## **EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION**

### **Compensation Discussion and Analysis**

#### ***Compensation Objectives***

The primary objectives of the compensation committee of the board of directors with respect to executive compensation are:

to base management's pay, in part, on achievement of the Company's goals;

to provide incentives to enhance stockholder value;

to provide competitive levels of compensation;

to recognize individual initiative and achievement; and

to assist the Company in attracting talented executives to a challenging and demanding environment and to retain such executives for the benefit of the Company and its subsidiaries.

The Company attempts to achieve these objectives through its compensation plans that tie a substantial portion of the executives' overall compensation to the Company's financial performance. While the compensation of the Company's executives is largely the result of negotiated agreements, which are reviewed annually, the Company's compensation philosophy is intended to reward its executives with competitive compensation, while rewarding outstanding performance with above-average total compensation.

## **Table of Contents**

Independent compensation consultants may be retained from time to time for advice and guidance in assessing whether our compensation program is reasonable and competitive. In connection with the employment agreements entered into with Mr. Lorber, the Company's President and Chief Executive Officer, and Ronald J. Bernstein, President and Chief Executive of the Company's Liggett and Liggett Vector Brands subsidiaries, in 2006 and 2005, respectively, the compensation committee engaged the services of GK Partners as consultants. Based on the opinion of GK Partners with respect to Mr. Lorber's and Mr. Bernstein's compensation provided for in their employment agreements at that time, the compensation committee believes that the compensation of Mr. Lorber and Mr. Bernstein was reasonable and competitive with the compensation of similarly situated executives at such time. During 2008, the compensation committee engaged GK Partners in connection with an amendment to the Company's Supplemental Retirement Plan, which increased Mr. Lorber's benefits thereunder. See Supplemental Retirement Plan on page 19. During 2009, the compensation committee engaged GK Partners in connection with the restricted stock grant awarded to Mr. Lorber and option grants to Messrs. Lorber, Lampen, Kirkland and Bell. See Equity Compensation on page 12.

Compensation arrangements, as reflected in the employment agreements with the Company's executive officers, are usually negotiated on an individual basis between the Chief Executive Officer and each of the other executives. While the compensation committee has delegated to the Chief Executive Officer the responsibility of negotiating these employment agreements and his input is given significant consideration by the compensation committee, the compensation committee and the board have final authority over all compensation matters.

### ***Compensation Components***

The key components of the Company's executive compensation program consist of a base salary, an annual performance-based bonus pursuant to the Senior Executive Annual Bonus Plan, the 1999 Amended and Restated Long-Term Incentive Plan (the 1999 Plan) and various benefits, including the Company's Supplemental Retirement Plan, the Liggett Vector Brands Inc. 401(k) plan and the use of corporate aircraft by the President and Chief Executive Officer. The employment agreements with the Company's named executive officers also provide for severance compensation in the event of termination other than for cause during the term of the agreement or, in certain cases, following a change in control during the term of the agreements.

### ***Base Salary***

Base salaries for the Company's named executive officers are established based on their overall business experience and managerial competence in their respective executive roles, as well as their personal contributions to the Company and are intended to provide a competitive level of fixed compensation. The compensation committee believes that executive base salaries should be targeted at competitive levels while rewarding outstanding performance with above-average total compensation. Base salaries are reviewed annually, based on recommendations by the Company's Chief Executive Officer with respect to the salaries of executive officers other than himself, and may be increased from time to time based on review of Company and individual executive performance. Automatic cost of living adjustments to base salary are included under the terms of the employment agreements of Messrs. Lorber and Bernstein.

Effective January 1, 2009, as a result of the cost of living provision, the base salary of Mr. Lorber was increased to \$2,807,729. Mr. Bernstein's salary was not increased after he waived his contractual cost-of-living increase of \$6,189. In March 2009, as part of the annual compensation review process, the compensation committee increased Mr. Lampen's base salary from \$750,000 to \$800,000, effective January 1, 2009. The salaries and target bonus opportunities of the other named executive officers were not changed.

Effective January 1, 2010, as a result of the cost of living provision, the base salary of Mr. Lorber was increased to \$2,873,149 and the base salary of Mr. Bernstein was increased to \$853,450. The compensation committee did not

adjust the salaries or target bonus opportunities of the other named executive officers in February 2010 as part of the annual compensation review process.

***Annual Bonus Plan***

The Company's executive officers are eligible to participate in the Senior Executive Annual Bonus Plan (the Bonus Plan), which was adopted by the board of directors in January 2006 and approved by the Company's



**Table of Contents**

stockholders in May 2006. Under the Bonus Plan, unless another committee is designated by the Board, the compensation committee selects participants in the Bonus Plan, determines the amount of their award opportunities, selects the performance criteria and the performance goals for each year and administers and interprets the Bonus Plan. An eligible executive may (but need not) be selected to participate in the Bonus Plan each year. In March 2009, the compensation committee formed the Subcommittee, consisting of Messrs. Beinstein and Podell, and delegated to the Subcommittee the authority to grant compensation to executive officers under the Bonus Plan that is intended to qualify as performance-based compensation exempt from the \$1 million deduction limitation of Section 162(m) of the Internal Revenue Code.

In 2009, each of the Company's named executive officers participated in the Bonus Plan. The Bonus Plan performance criteria for 2009 varied among the participants depending upon the entity that employed the participant. For Messrs. Lorber, Lampen, Kirkland and Bell, the criteria were based 37.5% on adjusted earnings before interest and taxes, or Adjusted EBIT, for Liggett, 37.5% on cash distributions to stockholders of the Company and 25% on adjusted earnings before interest, taxes and amortization, or Adjusted EBITA, for Douglas Elliman Realty, LLC. For Mr. Bernstein, the criteria were based 90% on adjusted EBIT for Liggett and 10% on Adjusted EBIT of Vector Tobacco Inc. These measures were chosen because Adjusted EBIT is commonly used as a measure of performance in the tobacco industry and Adjusted EBITA is commonly used to measure performance in the real estate brokerage industry and are, in each case, the drivers of the business and stockholder value in those industries. Under the terms of their respective employment agreements, for 2009, Messrs. Lorber, Lampen, Kirkland, Bell and Bernstein were eligible to receive a target bonus of 100%, 33%, 25%, 25% and 50% of their respective base salaries. Depending on the level of achievement of the performance criteria, the actual amounts of incentive bonuses could also exceed the target bonus amounts. The Committee may exercise negative discretion with respect to any award to reduce any amount that would otherwise be payable under the Bonus Plan.

In 2009, the performance goals for Messrs. Lorber, Lampen, Kirkland, Bell and Bernstein were set at levels which were believed to be reasonably achievable based on internal corporate plans. For Messrs. Lorber, Lampen, Kirkland and Bell, the satisfaction of the performance criteria were as follows:

percentages of target bonus based on Liggett Adjusted EBIT were \$123,750,000 (50%), \$148,250,000 (100%), and \$155,400,000 (125%); the actual Liggett Adjusted EBIT for 2009 were \$162,341,000;

percentages of target bonus based on dividends per share of the Company were \$1.40 (50%), \$1.60 (100%), and \$1.80 and above (125%); the actual dividends paid in 2009 were \$1.60 per share; and,

percentages of target bonus based on Douglas Elliman Adjusted EBITA were \$8,000,000 (50%), \$12,000,000 (100%), and \$15,000,000 and above (125%); the actual Douglas Elliman Adjusted EBITA for 2009 were \$25,193,000.

Based on the actual results of 2009 compared to the established performance criteria, bonuses equal to 115.625% of target bonus amounts were achieved for Messrs. Lorber, Lampen, Kirkland and Bell, and they were awarded bonuses of 115.625% of their respective target bonus amounts.

The minimum level of Liggett's Adjusted EBIT and Vector Tobacco's Adjusted EBIT were satisfied for Mr. Bernstein to be awarded a bonus. For Mr. Bernstein, the satisfaction of the performance criteria were as follows:

percentages of target bonus based on Liggett Adjusted EBIT were \$148,250,000 (0%), \$158,250,000 (100.0%) and \$166,250,000 and above (200%); the actual Liggett Adjusted EBIT for 2009 were \$162,341,000; and,

percentages of target bonus based on Vector Tobacco Adjusted EBIT were a loss of \$7,500,000 (33.3%), a loss of \$6,000,000 (100%), a loss of less than \$4,500,000 (200%); the actual Vector Tobacco Adjusted EBIT for 2009 were a loss of \$6,085,000.

Based on the actual results of 2009 compared to the established performance criteria, 145.64% of Mr. Bernstein's target bonus was achieved, which is 72.82% of his base salary.

Bonus amounts for achieving performance criteria in between the amounts listed above are determined by linear interpolation between the higher and lower amounts. The actual performance-based bonus payments made to the

## **Table of Contents**

selected participants for the years ended December 31, 2007, 2008 and 2009 are set forth in the column labeled Non-Equity Incentive Compensation in the Summary Compensation Table on page 15.

### ***Equity Compensation***

Long-term equity compensation is intended to provide a variable pay opportunity that rewards long-term performance by the Company as a whole. For several years prior to 2009, no awards had been made, as the named executive officers had outstanding awards.

On April 7, 2009, the compensation committee awarded Mr. Lorber a restricted stock grant of 525,000 shares of the Company's Common Stock under the 1999 Plan in order to provide him a meaningful incentive to remain with the Company and enhance its value beyond January 1, 2013 when he is eligible for full retirement. Under the terms of the award, one-fifth of the shares (105,000) will vest on September 15, 2010 and on each anniversary thereof through September 15, 2014. In the event Mr. Lorber's employment with the Company is terminated for any reason other than his death, his disability or a change of control (as defined in his Restricted Share Agreement) of the Company, any remaining balance of the shares not previously vested will be forfeited by Mr. Lorber. The compensation committee noted that Mr. Lorber has not received a restricted stock award since a 2005 award which would be fully vested on September 15, 2009. The compensation committee consulted with GK Partners concerning the award and were advised that, in the consultant's opinion, the award would be reasonable and appropriate in the context of current market practices.

On December 3, 2009, options to purchase shares of Common Stock were awarded to Messrs. Lorber, Lampen, Kirkland and Bell in order to recognize past and current performance, to serve as a means to incentivize and retain these key executives and to replace benefits (including the dividend equivalents described below) associated with the options that were exercised prior to expiration in October 2009. The Subcommittee also took into consideration the fact that Mr. Lorber had not received an option award since 2001 and that Messrs. Lampen, Kirkland and Bell had not received option awards since 1999 and determined that it was appropriate to grant awards for a number of shares which approximated in each case, the number of shares under the 1999 awards that were exercised earlier in the year. The Subcommittee consulted with GK Partners concerning the awards and were advised that, in the consultant's opinion, the awards would be reasonable and appropriate in the context of current market practices.

### ***Dividend Equivalents***

Under the terms of various stock option grants made to the Company's named executive officers under the Company's stock plans, cash and stock dividend equivalent payments are made to the executive officers with respect to the shares of Common Stock underlying the unvested or unexercised portion of the options. These payments are made at the same rate as dividends paid on the Company's issued and outstanding shares of Common Stock. Named executive officers received payments for such dividend equivalent rights on options for 2009 as follows: Mr. Lorber \$1,849,157; Mr. Lampen \$250,152; Mr. Kirkland \$115,767; and Mr. Bell \$125,076. In accordance with the rules of the SEC, these amounts have not been separately reported in the Summary Compensation Table because the value of the dividend equivalent rights was included in the initial grant date fair value of the underlying options grants which is reported in the table.

### ***Supplemental Retirement Plan***

The Company's named executive officers and certain other management employees are eligible to participate in the Supplemental Retirement Plan, which was adopted by the board of directors in January 2002 to promote retention of key executives and to provide them with financial security following retirement. As described more fully and quantified in the Pension Benefits table on page 19, the Supplemental Retirement Plan provides for the payment to a

participant at his normal retirement date of a lump sum amount that is the actuarial equivalent of a single life annuity commencing on that date. The single life annuity amounts for the named executives were determined by the Company's board of directors giving consideration to a variety of pertinent factors including (but not limited to) the executive's level of annual compensation.

***Other Benefits***

The Company's executive officers are eligible to participate in all of its employee benefit plans, such as medical, dental, vision, group life, disability and accidental death and dismemberment insurance and Liggett Vector

## **Table of Contents**

Brands 401(k) plan. These benefits are designed to provide a safety net of protection against the financial catastrophes that can result from illness, disability or death. The Company also provides vacation and other paid holidays to its executive officers, as well as certain other perquisites further described below and in the Summary Compensation Table. Finally, the Company's executive officers are eligible to receive certain payments upon retirement pursuant to the Supplemental Retirement Plan.

### ***Perquisites***

The Company provides the perquisites or personal benefits to its named executive officers discussed below. The Company's corporate aircraft are made available for the personal use of Mr. Lorber and other executive officers at Mr. Lorber's discretion. The Company's corporate aircraft policy permits personal use of corporate aircraft by executives, subject to an annual limit of \$200,000 for personal use by Mr. Lorber. For purposes of determining the amounts allowable under the policy, the value of the personal usage is calculated using the applicable standard industry fare level formula established by the Internal Revenue Service (as distinguished from the incremental cost used for determining the value included in the Summary Compensation Table), and Mr. Lorber and any other executive officers pay income tax on such value. In addition, Mr. Lorber is entitled to a car and driver provided by the Company, a \$7,500 per month allowance for lodging and related business expenses and two club memberships. See the Summary Compensation Table for details regarding the value of perquisites received by the named executive officers.

### ***Change in Control Provisions***

The employment agreement entered into between the Company and Mr. Lorber contains change in control provisions. The purpose of these provisions is to avoid the distraction and loss of key management personnel that may occur in connection with rumored or actual corporate transactions and/or other fundamental corporate changes and to provide adequate protection to key management personnel in the event that their employment is terminated following a change of control. A change in control provision protects stockholder interests by enhancing employee focus during rumored or actual change in control activity through incentives to remain with the Company despite uncertainties while a transaction is under consideration or pending and assurance of severance and benefits for terminated executives. A detailed summary of these provisions is set forth under the heading "Payments Made Upon a Change in Control" on page 21.

### ***Inter-Relationship of Elements of Compensation Packages***

The various elements of the compensation package for the Company's executive officers are not directly inter-related. For example, if it does not appear as though the target bonus will be achieved, the number of options that will be granted is not affected. There is no significant interplay of the various elements of total compensation between each other. If options that are granted in one year become underwater due to a decrease in the Company's stock price, the amount of the bonus amount or compensation to be paid the executive officer for the next year is not impacted. Similarly, if options become extremely valuable due to a rising stock price, the amount of compensation or bonus to be awarded for the next year is not affected. However, the compensation committee does evaluate the total value of executive remuneration when making decisions with respect to any particular element thereof. While the compensation committee has discretion to make exceptions to any compensation or bonus payouts under the Bonus Plan, it did not approve any exceptions to the Bonus Plan with regard to any named executive officers in 2009.

## **Tax and Accounting Implications**

### ***Deductibility of Executive Compensation***

The compensation committee reviews and considers the deductibility of executive compensation under Section 162(m) of the Internal Revenue Code, which generally provides that no publicly held company may deduct compensation in excess of \$1,000,000 paid in any taxable year to its chief executive officer or any of its three other highest compensated officers (other than the Chief Financial Officer) at year-end unless:

the compensation is payable solely on account of the attainment of performance goals;

the performance goals are determined by a compensation committee of two or more outside directors;

**Table of Contents**

the material terms under which compensation is to be paid are disclosed to and approved by the stockholders of the Company; and

the compensation committee certifies that the performance goals were met.

Determinations with respect to compensation intended to be deductible under Section 162(m) are made by the Subcommittee, which consists of Messrs. Podell and Beinstein. In certain situations, the compensation committee or the Subcommittee has in the past and may in the future approve compensation that will not meet these deductibility requirements in order to ensure appropriate and competitive levels of total compensation for the Company's executive officers. In this regard, for 2009, the amount of base salary and restricted stock in excess of \$1,000,000 paid to Mr. Lorber for 2009 was not deductible for federal income tax purposes under Section 162(m) of the Internal Revenue Code.

***Accounting for Stock-Based Compensation***

Beginning on January 1, 2006, the Company began accounting for stock-based payments including stock option and restricted stock awards under the Plans in accordance with the requirements of Financial Accounting Standards Board Accounting Standards Codification Topic 718 ( FASB ASC Topic 718 ).

**Compensation Committee Report**

The compensation committee has reviewed and discussed the Compensation Discussion and Analysis set forth above with management and, based on such review and discussion, has recommended to the board of directors that the Compensation Discussion and Analysis be included in this proxy statement.

THE COMPENSATION COMMITTEE

Jeffrey S. Podell, Chairman  
Henry C. Beinstein  
Jean E. Sharpe

**Table of Contents****SUMMARY COMPENSATION TABLE FOR YEARS 2007 2009**

The following table below summarizes the compensation of the named executive officers for the years ended December 31, 2009, 2008 and 2007. The named executive officers are the Company's Chief Executive Officer, Chief Financial Officer, and the three other most highly compensated executive officers ranked by their total compensation in the table below (not taking into account the amount in the Change in Pension Value and Nonqualified Deferred Compensation Earnings column).

Job Position	Year	Salary (\$)(1)	Bonus (\$)	Stock Awards (\$)	Option Awards (\$)	Non-Equity Incentive Plan Compensation (\$)(3)	Change in Pension Value and Nonqualified	All Other Compensation (\$)
							Deferred Compensation Earnings (\$)(4)	
Chief Executive Officer	2009	\$ 2,807,729	\$ 0	\$ 6,467,250(2)	\$ 2,867,690(2)	\$ 3,246,436	\$ 1,485,000	\$ 207,172(5)
	2008	\$ 2,764,329	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 2,764,329	\$ 1,390,000	\$ 268,403(5)
	2007	\$ 2,666,727	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 3,066,736	\$ 1,592,000	\$ 266,138(5)
Chief Financial Officer	2009	\$ 800,000	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 1,183,934(2)	\$ 308,333	\$ 265,000	\$ 7,350(6)
	2008	\$ 750,000	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 250,000	\$ 232,000	\$ 6,900(6)
	2007	\$ 750,000	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 287,500	\$ 210,000	\$ 6,750(6)
Chief Operating Officer	2009	\$ 375,000	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 591,967(2)	\$ 108,398	\$ 45,000	\$ 7,350(6)
	2008	\$ 375,000	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 93,750	\$ 41,000	\$ 6,900(6)
	2007	\$ 350,000	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 100,625	\$ 39,000	\$ 6,750(6)
Chief Technology Officer	2009	\$ 400,000	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 591,967(2)	\$ 115,625	\$ 79,000	\$ 7,350(6)
	2008	\$ 400,000	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 100,000	\$ 71,000	\$ 6,900(6)
	2007	\$ 375,000	\$ 67,187	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 107,813	\$ 66,000	\$ 6,750(6)
Chief Accounting Officer	2009	\$ 829,959	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 604,401	\$ 429,000	\$ 7,350(6)
	2008	\$ 829,959	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 594,633	\$ 372,000	\$ 6,900(6)
	2007	\$ 799,459	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 399,730	\$ 336,000	\$ 6,750(6)

(1) Reflects actual base salary amounts paid for 2009, 2008 and 2007.

(2) Represents the aggregate grant date fair value of grants of restricted stock or stock options granted under the 1999 Plan for the year ended December 31, 2009 as determined in accordance with FASB ASC Topic 718, rather than an amount paid to or realized by the named executive officer. Assumptions used in the calculation of such amount are included in note 11 to the Company's audited financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2009 included in its Annual Report on Form 10-K filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on March 1, 2010. The FASB ASC Topic 718 amounts from these grants may never be realized by the named executive officer.

(3)



These amounts reflect performance-based cash awards under the Bonus Plan paid during 2010, 2009 and 2008 in respect of service performed in 2009, 2008 and 2007, respectively. This plan is discussed in further detail on page 10 under the heading Annual Bonus Plan .

- (4) Amounts shown are solely an estimate of the increase in actuarial present value of the named executive officer's accrued benefit at the later of age 60 during active service or the completion of eight years of full-time continuous service under the Company's pension plans. Assumptions are further described under the Pension Benefits at 2009 Fiscal Year End table on page 19. The amounts reflect the actuarial increase in the present value of the named executive officer's benefits under the Supplemental Retirement Plan determined using interest rate and mortality rate assumptions consistent with those used in the Company's financial statements. No amount is payable from this plan before a participant attains the later of age 60 during active service or the completion of eight years of full-time continuous service (except in the case of death, disability or termination without cause). There can be no assurance that the amounts shown will ever be realized by the named executive officers. For Mr. Bernstein, the reported amount also includes \$4,000 in 2009 in connection with Liggett Group Inc. Retirement Plan for Salaried Non-Bargaining Unit Employees (the Qualified Plan ).
- (5) Represents \$109,822 for personal use of corporate aircraft, a \$90,000 allowance paid for lodging and related business expenses and \$7,350 for 401(k) plan matching contributions in 2009. For purposes of determining the value of corporate aircraft use, the personal use is calculated based on the aggregate incremental cost to the Company. For

**Table of Contents**

flights on corporate aircraft, aggregate incremental cost is calculated based on a cost-per-flight-mile charge developed by a nationally recognized and independent service as reflective of the operating costs of the aircraft.

(6) Represents 401(k) plan matching contributions.

**Employment Agreements and Severance Arrangements**

On January 27, 2006, the Company and Howard M. Lorber entered into an Amended and Restated Employment Agreement (the Amended Lorber Agreement), which replaced his prior employment agreements with the Company and with New Valley Corporation. The Amended Lorber Agreement has an initial term of three years effective as of January 1, 2006, with an automatic one-year extension on each anniversary of the effective date unless notice of non-extension is given by either party within 60 days before this date. Mr. Lorber's salary is subject to an annual cost of living adjustment. As of January 1, 2010, Mr. Lorber's annual base salary was \$2,873,149. In addition, the Company's board must periodically review his base salary and may increase but not decrease it from time to time in its sole discretion. Mr. Lorber is eligible on an annual basis to receive a target bonus of 100% of his base salary under the Bonus Plan. During the period of his employment, Mr. Lorber is entitled to various benefits, including a Company-provided car and driver, a \$7,500 per month allowance for lodging and related business expenses, two club memberships and dues, and use of corporate aircraft in accordance with the Company's Corporate Aircraft Policy. Following termination of his employment by the Company without cause (as defined in the Amended Lorber Agreement), termination of his employment by him for certain reasons specified in the Amended Lorber Agreement or upon death or disability, he (or his beneficiary in the case of death) would continue to receive for a period of 36 months following the termination date his base salary and the bonus amount earned by him for the prior year (with such bonus amount limited to 100% of base salary). In addition, all of Mr. Lorber's outstanding equity awards would be vested and any stock options granted after January 27, 2006 would continue to be exercisable for no less than two years or the remainder of the original term if shorter. Following termination of his employment for any of the reasons described above (other than death or disability) within two years of a change in control (as defined in the Amended Lorber Agreement), he would receive a lump sum payment equal to 2.99 times the sum of his then current base salary and the bonus amount earned by him for the prior year (with such bonus amount limited to 100% of base salary). In addition, Mr. Lorber is indemnified against excise taxes that are imposed on change-of-control payments under Section 4999 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986. In the event of a termination of his employment under the circumstances where he is entitled to the severance payments discussed above, Mr. Lorber will also be credited with an additional 36 months of service towards vesting under the Company's Supplemental Retirement Plan.

On January 27, 2006, the Company entered into Employment Agreements (the Other Executive Agreements) with Richard J. Lampen, the Company's Executive Vice President, J. Bryant Kirkland III, the Company's Vice President and, effective April 1, 2006, Chief Financial Officer, and Marc N. Bell, the Company's Vice President, General Counsel and Secretary. The Other Executive Agreements replaced prior employment agreements with the Company or New Valley Corporation. The Other Executive Agreements have an initial term of two years effective as of January 1, 2006, with an automatic one-year extension on each anniversary of the effective date unless notice of non-extension is given by either party within 60 days before this date. As of January 1, 2009, the annual base salaries provided for in these Other Executive Agreements were \$800,000 for Mr. Lampen (increased from \$750,000 in February 2009, effective as of January 1, 2009), \$375,000 for Mr. Kirkland and \$400,000 for Mr. Bell. In addition, the Company's board must periodically review these base salaries and may increase but not decrease them from time to time in its sole discretion. These executives are eligible to receive a target bonus of 33.3% for Mr. Lampen, and 25% for Messrs. Kirkland and Bell, of their base salaries under the Bonus Plan. Following termination of their employment by the Company without cause (as defined in the Other Executive Agreements), termination of their employment by the executives for certain reasons specified in the Other Executive Agreements or upon death or disability, they (or their beneficiaries in the case of death) would continue to receive for a period of 24 months following the termination date their base salary and the bonus amount earned by them for the prior year (with such bonus amount limited to 33.3% of

base salary for Mr. Lampen and 25% of base salary for Messrs. Kirkland and Bell).

**Table of Contents**

On November 11, 2005, Liggett, a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Company, and Ronald J. Bernstein entered into an Employment Agreement (the "Bernstein Employment Agreement"), pursuant to which Mr. Bernstein serves as President and Chief Executive Officer of Liggett and affiliated companies. The Bernstein Employment Agreement has an initial term expiring December 31, 2008, with an automatic one-year extension on each anniversary of the effective date unless notice of non-extension is given by either party within six months before this date. As of January 1, 2010, Mr. Bernstein's annual base salary was \$853,450. Mr. Bernstein's salary is subject to an annual cost of living adjustment. Under the terms of the Bernstein Employment Agreement, Mr. Bernstein is eligible on an annual basis to receive a bonus of up to 100% of his base salary under the Bonus Plan predicated on Liggett and Vector Tobacco meeting certain pre-established operating goals. Following termination of his employment without cause, he would continue to receive his base salary for a period of 24 months.

**Restricted Stock and Option Awards****GRANTS OF PLAN-BASED AWARDS IN 2009**

The table below provides information with respect to incentive compensation granted to each of the named executive officers for the year ended December 31, 2009.

Name	Grant Date	Estimated Future Payouts Under Non-Equity Incentive Plan Awards(1)			Estimated Future Payouts Under Equity Incentive Plan Awards	All Other Stock Awards: Number of	All Other Option Awards: Number of Securities Underlying	Exercise or Base Price of Option Awards (\$)	Grant Date	Fair Value of Stock and Option Awards (\$)
		Threshold (\$)	Target (\$)	Maximum (\$)						
Howard M. Lorber	2/23/09 4/7/09 12/3/09	\$ 0	\$ 2,807,729	\$ 3,509,661		525,000(2)				
							800,000(3)	\$ 14.07		\$ 9,334,940
Richard J. Lampen	2/23/09 12/3/09	\$ 0	\$ 266,667	\$ 333,333			160,000(3)	\$ 14.07		\$ 1,183,934
J. Bryant Kirkland II	2/23/09 12/3/09	\$ 0	\$ 93,750	\$ 117,188			80,000(3)	\$ 14.07		\$ 591,967
Marc N. Bell	2/23/09 12/3/09	\$ 0	\$ 100,000	\$ 125,000			80,000(3)	\$ 14.07		\$ 591,967
	2/23/09	\$ 0	\$ 414,980	\$ 829,959						

Ronald J.  
Bernstein

- (1) The amounts shown above represent the awards made under the Bonus Plan on February 23, 2009. Target levels are equal to 100% of base salary for Messrs. Lorber, 50% of base salary for Mr. Bernstein, 33.3% of base salary for Mr. Lampen and 25% of base salary for Messrs. Kirkland and Bell. The maximum amount is 125% of the target amount for Messrs. Lorber, Lampen, Kirkland and Bell and 200% of the target amount for Mr. Bernstein. There is no minimum amount. The compensation committee approved the performance criteria for determining the award opportunities for each named executive officer under the Bonus Plan. The actual bonus amounts earned for 2009 have been determined and paid in 2010 and are reflected in the Non-Equity Incentive Plan Compensation column in the Summary Compensation Table on page 15.
- (2) Under the terms of the award, one-fifth of the restricted stock award (105,000 shares) will vest on September 15, 2010 and on each anniversary thereof through September 15, 2014. In the event Mr. Lorber's employment agreement with the Company is terminated for any reason other than his death, disability or a change in control (as defined in his Restricted Share Agreement) with the Company, any remaining balance of the shares not previously vested will be forfeited by Mr. Lorber. In connection with the award, Mr. Lorber paid the Company \$50,000, the amount of the par value of the shares.
- (3) Options granted in 2009 to the named executive officers were granted under the 1999 Plan, have a ten-year term and vest on the fourth anniversary of the date of grant. The holders are entitled to dividends at the rate paid on Common Stock. The exercise price of the options was the closing price of the Common Stock on the date of grant.

**Table of Contents****OUTSTANDING EQUITY AWARDS AT DECEMBER 31, 2009**

The table below provides information with respect to the outstanding equity awards of the named executive officers as of December 31, 2009.

Name	Option Awards					Stock Awards			
	Number of Securities Underlying Unexercised Options (#) Exercisable	Number of Securities Underlying Unexercised Options (#) Unexercisable	Equity Incentive Plan Awards: Number of Securities Underlying Unexercised Options (#) Unearned	Exercise Price (\$)	Expiration Date	Number of Shares or Units of Stock That Have Not Vested (#)	Market Value of Shares or Units of Stock That Have Not Vested (\$)	Equity Incentive Plan Awards: Number of Shares, Units or Other Rights That Have Not Vested (#)	Market Payout Value of Awards (\$)
Howard M. Lorber	387,829			\$ 12.32	1/22/11	525,000(1)	\$ 7,350,000(2)		
		800,000(3)		\$ 14.07	12/3/19				
Richard J. Lampen		160,000(3)		\$ 14.07	12/3/19				
J. Bryant Kirkland III		80,000(3)		\$ 14.07	12/3/19				
Marc N. Bell		80,000(3)		\$ 14.07	12/3/19				
Ronald J. Bernstein	303,876			\$ 14.59	8/16/16				

(1) Restricted stock award vesting as to 105,000 shares on each of September 15, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013 and 2014, subject to earlier vesting upon death, disability or change of control. See Restricted Stock and Option Awards on page 17.

- (2) The market value of the restricted stock equals the number of shares of restricted stock multiplied by the closing price of the Common Stock on December 31, 2009, which was \$14.00 per share, and does not include the cash dividends accrued at December 31, 2009 of \$610,000 on non-vested shares payable upon vesting.
- (3) Option grants vest on December 3, 2013. See Employment Agreements and Severance Arrangements on page 16.

**OPTION EXERCISES AND STOCK VESTED IN YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2009**

The table below provides information with respect to the number of options or shares of restricted stock granted under the Plans to the named executive officers in previous years that were exercised or vested during 2009, as well as, in the case of option exercises, the market value of the Common Stock less the exercise price on the exercise date and, in the case of restricted stock awards, the market value of the stock on the vesting date.

Name	Option Awards		Stock Awards(1)	
	Number of Shares	Value	Number of Shares	Value Realized
	Acquired on Exercise (#)	Realized on Exercise (\$)(2)	Acquired on Vesting (#)	Value Realized on Vesting (\$)
Howard M. Lorber	814,443	\$ 4,129,226	175,815	\$ 2,774,282
Richard J. Lampen	162,886	\$ 832,347		
J. Bryant Kirkland III	73,295	\$ 374,537		
Marc N. Bell	81,441	\$ 407,205		
Ronald J. Bernstein			15,193	\$ 220,796

- (1) Reflects shares received upon vesting of restricted stock awards under the 1999 Plan made in 2005. Does not include cash dividends accrued on such shares while non-vested and received upon vesting, which totaled \$930,509 and \$86,198 for Messrs. Lorber and Bernstein, respectively. See Restricted Stock and Option Awards on page 17.
- (2) Represents the difference between the exercise price and the market price of the Common Stock on the date of exercise for each option.

**Table of Contents****PENSION BENEFITS AT 2009 FISCAL YEAR END**

The table below quantifies the benefits expected to be paid from the Company's Supplemental Retirement Plan and, in the case of Mr. Bernstein, also from Liggett's Qualified Plan. The terms of the plans are described below the table.

<b>Name</b>	<b>Plan Name</b>	<b>Number of Years of Credited Service (#)(1)</b>	<b>Present Value of Accumulated Benefit \$(2),(3)</b>	<b>Payments During Last Fiscal Year (\$)</b>
Howard M. Lorber	Supplemental Retirement Plan	8	\$ 11,403,567(4)	\$ 0
Richard J. Lampen	Supplemental Retirement Plan	6	\$ 1,259,518	\$ 0
J. Bryant Kirkland III	Supplemental Retirement Plan	6	\$ 237,084	\$ 0
Marc N. Bell	Supplemental Retirement Plan	6	\$ 400,759	\$ 0
Ronald J. Bernstein	Supplemental Retirement Plan	8	\$ 2,456,061	\$ 0
	Qualified Plan	2	\$ 42,100	\$ 0

- (1) Equals number of years of credited service as of December 31, 2009. Credited service under the Supplemental Retirement Plan is based on a named executive officer's period of full time continuous covered employment after commencing participation in the Supplemental Retirement Plan.
- (2) Represents actuarial present value in accordance with the same assumptions outlined in note 9 to the Company's audited financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2009 included in its Annual Report on Form 10-K filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on March 1, 2010.
- (3) Includes amounts which the named executive officer is not currently entitled to receive because such amounts are not vested.
- (4) Does not include \$6,054,868 related to an award that vests in January 2013 and will be recognized as an expense in the years ending December 31, 2010, 2011 and 2012.

**Supplemental Retirement Plan**

The Supplemental Retirement Plan provides for the payment to a participant at his normal retirement date of a lump sum amount that is the actuarial equivalent of a single life annuity commencing on that date. The normal retirement date under the Supplemental Retirement Plan is defined as the January 1st following attainment by a participant of the later age 60 or the completion of eight years of employment following January 1, 2002 (in the case of Messrs. Lorber and Bernstein) or January 1, 2004 (in the case of Messrs. Lampen, Kirkland and Bell).



Edgar Filing: VECTOR GROUP LTD - Form DEF 14A

The following table sets forth for each named executive officer his hypothetical single life annuity, his normal retirement date and his projected lump sum payment at his normal retirement date.

<b>Name</b>	<b>Hypothetical Single Life Annuity</b>	<b>Normal Retirement Date</b>	<b>Lump-Sum Equivalent</b>
Howard M. Lorber	\$ 1,051,875	January 1, 2010	\$ 10,855,666
	\$ 735,682	January 1, 2013	\$ 7,121,988
Richard J. Lampen	\$ 250,000	January 1, 2014	\$ 2,625,275
J. Bryant Kirkland III	\$ 202,500	January 1, 2026	\$ 2,126,473
Marc N. Bell	\$ 200,000	January 1, 2021	\$ 2,100,220
Ronald J. Bernstein	\$ 438,750	January 1, 2014	\$ 4,607,358

No benefits are payable under the Supplement Retirement Plan if a named executive officer resigns without good reason before attaining his normal retirement date. In the case of a participant who becomes disabled prior to his normal retirement date or whose service is terminated without cause, the participant's benefit consists of a pro-

## **Table of Contents**

rata portion of the full projected retirement benefit to which he would have been entitled had he remained employed through his normal retirement date, as actuarially discounted back to the date of payment. The beneficiary of a participant who dies while working for the Company or a subsidiary (and before becoming disabled or attaining his normal retirement date) will be paid an actuarially discounted equivalent of his projected retirement benefit; conversely, a participant who retires beyond his normal retirement date will receive an actuarially increased lump sum payment to reflect the delay in payment using a post-retirement interest rate of 7.5%. The lump sum amount under the Supplemental Retirement Plan is paid six months following the named executive officer's retirement on or after his normal retirement date or termination of employment without cause, along with interest at the prime lending rate as published in the Wall Street Journal on the lump sum amount for this six-month period.

In April 2008, the compensation committee of the board approved an amendment to the Supplemental Retirement Plan to provide Mr. Lorber with an additional benefit under the Supplemental Retirement Plan equal to a \$735,682 lifetime annuity beginning January 1, 2013. The compensation committee approved this amendment to provide an incentive for Mr. Lorber to remain with the Company past his current retirement date under the Supplemental Retirement Plan, which is January 1, 2010. This additional benefit vests in full on January 1, 2013, subject to Mr. Lorber remaining continuously employed by the Company through that date, subject to partial vesting for termination of employment under certain circumstances. In addition, in the event of a termination of Mr. Lorber's employment under the circumstances where he is entitled to severance payments under his employment agreement, Mr. Lorber will be credited with an additional 36 months of service towards vesting under the Supplemental Retirement Plan. See *Employment Agreements and Severance Arrangements* on page 16. As a result of the additional benefit granted to him, Mr. Lorber will be eligible to receive a total lump sum retirement benefit of \$20,607,948 in 2013, an increase of \$7,121,988 over the benefit he would have been entitled to receive under the Supplemental Retirement Plan prior to the amendment, assuming a January 1, 2013 retirement date.

In January 2006, the Company amended and restated the Supplemental Retirement Plan. The amendments to the Supplemental Retirement Plan were intended, among other things, to cause the plan to meet the applicable requirements of the deferred compensation provisions of Section 409A of the Internal Revenue Code. The Supplemental Retirement Plan is intended to be unfunded for tax purposes, and payments under the Supplemental Retirement Plan will be made out of the Company's general assets.

## **Qualified Plan**

Liggett's salaried employees are entitled to benefits payable under the Qualified Plan based on a formula that yields an annual amount payable over the participant's life beginning at age 65. Liggett discontinued providing additional benefits under the Qualified Plan for service on and after January 1, 1994. As of December 31, 2009, none of the named executive officers was eligible to receive any benefits under the Qualified Plan, except for Mr. Bernstein who is entitled to a monthly benefit of \$372 at age 65.

## **Potential Termination and Change in Control Payments**

The compensation payable to named executive officers upon voluntary termination, involuntary termination without cause, termination for cause, termination following a change in control and in the event of disability or death of the executive is described below.

### ***Payments Made Upon Termination***

Regardless of the manner in which a named executive officer's employment terminates, unless terminated for cause, he or she may be entitled to receive amounts earned during his or her term of employment. Such amounts include:

unpaid base salary through the date of termination;

any accrued and unused vacation pay;

any unpaid award under the Plans or bonus under the Bonus Plan with respect to a completed performance period;

**Table of Contents**

all accrued and vested benefits under the Company's compensation and benefit programs, including the pension plan and the Supplemental Retirement Plan; and

with respect solely to Mr. Lorber, payment by the Company of a tax gross-up for any excise taxes and related income taxes on gross-ups for benefits received upon termination of employment.

***Payments Made Upon Involuntary Termination of Employment without Cause or for Good Reason, Death or Disability***

In the event of the termination of a named executive officer by the Company without cause or by the named executive officer for good reason, or upon the death or disability of a named executive officer, in addition to the benefits listed under the heading "Payments Made Upon Termination", the named executive officer or his designated beneficiary upon his death will receive the following benefits:

with respect to the named executive officers, payments for a specified period of either 24 or 36 months (the "Severance Period") equal to 100% of the executive's then-current base salary and (except for Mr. Bernstein) the most recent bonus paid to the executive (up to the amount of the executive's target bonus under his employment agreement);

with respect to the named executive officers, continued participation, at the Company's expense, during the Severance Period in all employee welfare and health benefit plans, including life insurance, health, medical, dental and disability plans which cover the executive and the executive's eligible dependents (or, if such plans do not permit the executive and his eligible dependents to participate after his termination, the Company is required to pay an amount each quarter (not to exceed \$35,000 per year in the case of Messrs. Lampen, Kirkland and Bell) to keep them in the same economic position on an after-tax basis as if they had continued in such plans);

with respect solely to Mr. Bernstein, a pro rata amount of any award under the Bonus Plan for which the performance period has not been completed based upon 100% of the target bonus amount for such period to the extent that Mr. Bernstein is terminated on or after July 1 of the applicable year and bonuses are otherwise paid to the management of Liggett for that year;

acceleration of the vesting of his restricted shares upon death or disability; and

with respect solely to Mr. Lorber, acceleration of the vesting of all outstanding equity awards.

***Payments Made Upon a Change in Control***

***Howard M. Lorber***

Mr. Lorber's employment agreement has a change in control provision if his employment is terminated without cause or by the executive for good reason within two years of a change in control, Mr. Lorber will be entitled to receive the following severance benefits:

a lump-sum cash payment equal to 2.99 times the sum of his base salary plus the last annual bonus earned by him up to 100% of base salary (including any deferred amount) for the performance period immediately preceding the date of termination;

participation by Mr. Lorber and his eligible dependents in all welfare benefit plans in which they were participating on the date of termination until the earlier of (x) the end of the employment period under his employment agreement and (y) the date that he receives equivalent coverage and benefit under the plans and programs of a subsequent employer;

continued participation at the Company's expense for 36 months in life, disability, accident, health and medical insurance benefits substantially similar to those received by Mr. Lorber and his eligible dependents prior to such termination, subject to reduction if comparable benefits are actually received from a subsequent employer;

full vesting of his outstanding equity awards;

**Table of Contents**

crediting of an additional period of three years plus any remaining term of his employment agreement as continuous service under the Supplemental Retirement Plan; and

termination of certain restrictive covenants in his employment agreement, including covenants not to compete and non-solicitation covenants.

*Richard J. Lampen, J. Bryant Kirkland III, Marc N. Bell and Ronald J. Bernstein*

While their respective employment agreements do not contain any change of control provisions, in the event of the termination of Messrs. Lampen, Kirkland, Bell and Bernstein by the Company without cause or by the named executive officer for good reason upon a change of control, such named executive officers will receive the same severance benefits described in the previous section.

***Definition of Change in Control***

Pursuant to the employment agreement between the Company and Mr. Lorber, a change in control is deemed to occur if:

a person unaffiliated with the Company acquires more than 40 percent control over its voting securities;

the individuals who, as of January 1, 2006 are members of the Company's board of directors (the Incumbent Board), cease to constitute at least two-thirds of the Incumbent Board; however, a newly-elected board member that was elected or nominated by two-thirds of the Incumbent Board shall be considered a member of the Incumbent Board;

the Company's stockholders approve a merger, consolidation or reorganization with an unrelated entity, unless the Company's stockholders would own at least 51 percent of the voting power of the surviving entity; the individuals who were members of the Incumbent Board constitute at least a majority of the members of the board of directors of the surviving entity; and no person (other than one of the Company's affiliates) has beneficial ownership of 40 percent or more of the combined voting power of the surviving entity's then outstanding voting securities;

the Company's stockholders approve a plan of complete liquidation or dissolution of the Company; or

the Company's stockholders approve the sale or disposition of all or substantially all of the Company's assets.

***Definition of Termination for Cause***

Under each of the employment agreements with Messrs. Lorber, Lampen, Kirkland and Bell, termination by the Company for cause is defined as:

the executive being convicted of or entering a plea of nolo contendere with respect to a criminal offense constituting a felony;

the executive committing in the performance of his duties under his employment agreement one or more acts or omissions constituting fraud, dishonesty or willful injury to the Company which results in a material adverse effect on the business, financial condition or results of operations of the Company;

the executive committing one or more acts constituting gross neglect or willful misconduct which results in a material adverse effect on the business, financial condition or results of operations of the Company;

the executive exposing the Company to criminal liability substantially and knowingly caused by the executive which results in a material adverse effect on the business, financial condition or results of operations of the Company; or

the executive failing to substantially perform his duties under his employment agreement (excluding any failure to meet any performance targets or to raise capital or any failure as a result of an approved absence or any mental or physical impairment that could reasonably be expected to result in a disability), after written warning from the board specifying in reasonable detail the breach(es) complained of.

**Table of Contents**

Under the employment agreement between Liggett and Mr. Bernstein, "cause" is defined as:

a material breach by Mr. Bernstein of his duties and obligations under his employment agreement which breach is not remedied to the satisfaction of the board of directors of Liggett ( "Liggett Board" ), within 30 days after receipt by Mr. Bernstein of written notice of such breach from the Liggett Board;

Mr. Bernstein's conviction or indictment for a felony;

an act or acts of personal dishonesty by Mr. Bernstein intended to result in personal enrichment of Mr. Bernstein at the expense of the Company or any of its affiliates or any other material breach or violation of Mr. Bernstein's fiduciary duty owed to the Company or any of its affiliates;

material violation of any Company or Liggett policy or the Company's Code of Business Conduct and Ethics; or

any grossly negligent act or omission or any willful and deliberate misconduct by Mr. Bernstein that results, or is likely to result, in material economic, or other harm, to the Company or any of its affiliates (other than any act or omission by Mr. Bernstein if it was taken or omitted to be done by Mr. Bernstein in good faith and with a reasonable belief that such action or omission was in the best interests of the Company).

***Definition of Termination for Good Reason***

Under each of the employment agreements with Messrs. Lorber, Lampen, Kirkland and Bell, termination by the executive for "good reason" is defined as:

a material diminution of the executive's duties and responsibilities provided in his employment agreement, including, without limitation, the failure to elect or re-elect the executive to his position (including with respect solely to Mr. Lorber, his position as a member of the board) or the removal of the executive from any such position;

a reduction of the executive's base salary or target bonus opportunity as a percentage of base salary or any other material breach of any material provision of his employment agreement by the Company;

relocation of the executive's office from the Miami (or with respect solely to Mr. Lorber, the Miami or New York City) metropolitan areas;

the change in the executive's reporting relationship from direct reporting to the board, in the case of Mr. Lorber, to the Executive Chairman and the Chief Executive Officer, in the case of Mr. Lampen, or to the Executive Chairman, Chief Executive Officer or the Executive Vice President, in the case of Messrs. Kirkland and Bell; or

the failure of a successor to all or substantially all of the Company's business or assets to promptly assume and continue his employment agreement obligations whether contractually or as a matter of law, within 15 days of such transaction.

Under the employment agreement with Mr. Bernstein, "good reason" exists if, without the prior written consent of Mr. Bernstein:



the Liggett board removes Mr. Bernstein as President and Chief Executive Officer of Liggett, other than in connection with the termination of his employment;

Mr. Bernstein is not appointed as a member of the Liggett board;

the Liggett board reduces Mr. Bernstein's rate of salary or bonus opportunity or materially reduces Mr. Bernstein's welfare, perquisites or other benefits described in his employment agreement;

Mr. Bernstein's duties and responsibilities at Liggett are significantly diminished or there are assigned to him duties and responsibilities materially inconsistent with his position;

Liggett fails to obtain a written agreement reasonably satisfactory to Mr. Bernstein from any successor of the Company to assume and perform his employment agreement; or

**Table of Contents**

there occurs a change of control and Mr. Bernstein is required to relocate more than 50 miles from Mr. Bernstein's current work location.

***Assumptions Regarding Post Termination Payment Tables***

The following tables were prepared as though each named executive officer's employment was terminated on December 31, 2009 (the last business day of 2009) using the closing price of the Company's Common Stock as of that day (\$14.00). The amounts under the columns which reflect a Change in Control assume that a change in control occurred on December 31, 2009. However, the executives' employment was not terminated on December 31, 2009 and a change in control did not occur on that date. There can be no assurance that a termination of employment, a change in control or both would produce the same or similar results as those described if either or both of them occur on any other date or at any other price, or if any assumption is not correct in fact.

***Tax Gross-Up Assumptions***

Mr. Lorber was assumed to be subject to the maximum federal and state income and other payroll taxes, including excise taxes, aggregating to a net combined effective tax of approximately 62%, when calculating his excise tax gross-up.

Calculations for any tax gross-up are based on Mr. Lorber's taxable wages (Form W-2, Box 1) for the years 2004 through 2008.

No other named executive officer is entitled to an excise tax gross-up under the terms of his employment agreement.

***Equity-Based Assumptions***

Stock options held by Messrs. Lorber, Lampen, Kirkland and Bell would have vested on December 31, 2009 with respect to a change in control or termination by him on death or disability.

No other named executive officer held unvested options at that date.

Stock options that become vested due to a change in control are valued based on their spread (i.e., the difference between the stock's fair market value and the exercise price).

It is possible that IRS rules would require these items to be valued using a valuation method such as the Black-Scholes model if they continued after a change in control. Using a Black-Scholes value in lieu of the spread would cause higher value for excise taxes and the related tax gross-up payment.

Restricted stock held by Mr. Lorber would have vested on December 31, 2009 in the event of respect to a change of control, or termination by Mr. Lorber on death or disability.

***Incentive Plan Assumptions***

All amounts under the Bonus Plan were deemed to have been earned for 2009 in full based on actual performance and are not treated as subject to the excise tax upon a change in control.

***Retirement Benefit Assumptions***

All benefits were assumed to be payable in a single lump sum at the participant's earliest retirement-eligible date.

For Mr. Lorber, the present value of the additional service credit for retirement benefits of three additional years is already included in the present value of accumulated benefit disclosed in the Pension Benefits table on page 19.

**Table of Contents****Howard M. Lorber**

	<b>Termination by Company without Cause  or by Named Executive Officer  with Good Reason  or Disability</b>	<b>Death</b>	<b>Termination by Company for Cause or Voluntary Termination by Named Executive Officer Without Good Reason</b>	<b>Termination by Company without Cause  or by Named Executive Officer with Good Reason  upon a Change in Control</b>
Cash Severance Acceleration of Long Term Incentive Grants at Target Value of Accelerated Unvested Equity(3)	\$ 16,716,174(1)	\$ 16,716,174(1)		\$ 16,660,453(2)
Benefits Continuation(4)	\$ 7,960,000	\$ 7,960,000		\$ 7,960,000
Value of Supplemental Retirement Plan(5)	\$ 74,928	\$ 74,928		\$ 74,928
Excise Tax and Gross-Up	\$ 10,855,666	\$ 10,855,666		\$ 10,855,666

(1) Reflects the value of the sum of Mr. Lorber's 2009 base salary (\$2,807,729) and last paid bonus limited to 100% of base salary (\$2,764,329) paid over a period of 36 months after termination.

(2) Reflects the value of the sum of Mr. Lorber's 2009 base salary (\$2,807,729) and last paid bonus limited to 100% of base salary (\$2,764,329) for a period of 2.99 years paid in a lump-sum payment commencing after termination.

(3) Reflects the value of 525,000 unvested stock options or restricted stock and related dividends that vested upon the event using the closing price of the Company's Common Stock on December 31, 2009 (\$14.00) and related dividends. The executive also had vested but unexercised stock options on that date. See Outstanding Equity Awards at December 31, 2009 on page 18.

(4) Reflects the value of premium payments to be made for life insurance, medical, dental and disability plans for 36 months at the Company's cost, based on 2009 premiums.

(5) This amount includes amounts that the named executive officer accrued under the Supplemental Retirement Plan as of December 31, 2009, which are disclosed in the Pension Benefits table on page 19.

**Richard J. Lampen**

	<b>Termination by Company without Cause  or by Named Executive Officer  with Good Reason  or Disability</b>	<b>Death</b>	<b>Termination by Company for Cause or Voluntary Termination by Named Executive Officer Without Good Reason</b>	<b>Termination by Company without Cause or by Named Executive Officer with Good Reason  upon a Change in Control</b>
Cash Severance(1)	\$ 2,100,000	\$ 2,100,000		\$ 2,100,000
Acceleration of Long Term Incentive Grants at Target Value of Accelerated Unvested Equity(2)				
Benefits Continuation(3)	\$ 63,587	\$ 63,587		\$ 63,587
Value of Supplemental Retirement Plan(4) Excise Tax and Gross-Up	\$ 1,179,484	\$ 1,965,807		\$ 1,179,484

(1) Reflects the value of the sum of Mr. Lampen's 2009 base salary (\$800,000) and last paid bonus limited to 33% of base salary (\$250,000) paid over a period of 24 months commencing after termination.

(2) Reflects the value of any unvested stock options or restricted stock and related dividends that vested upon the event using the closing price of the Company's Common Stock on December 31, 2009 (\$14.00) and related dividends. See Outstanding Equity Awards at December 31, 2009 on page 18.

(3) Reflects the value of premium payments to be made for life insurance, medical, dental and disability plans for 24 months at the Company's cost, based on 2009 premiums.

**Table of Contents**

- (4) This amount includes amounts that the named executive officer accrued under the Supplemental Retirement Plan as of December 31, 2009, which are disclosed in the Pension Benefits table on page 19.

**J. Bryant Kirkland III**

	<b>Termination by Company without Cause  or by Named Executive Officer  with Good Reason  or Disability</b>		<b>Death</b>	<b>Termination by Company for Cause or Voluntary Termination by Named Executive Officer Without Good Reason</b>	<b>Termination by Company without Cause or by Named Executive Officer with Good Reason  upon a Change in Control</b>
Cash Severance(1) Acceleration of Long Term Incentive Grants at Target Value of Accelerated Unvested Equity(2)	\$	937,500	\$ 937,500		\$ 937,500
Benefits Continuation(3) Value of Supplemental Retirement Plan(4)	\$	28,904	\$ 28,904		\$ 28,904
Excise Tax and Gross-Up	\$	182,327	\$ 668,535		\$ 182,327

- (1) Reflects the value of the sum of Mr. Kirkland's 2009 base salary (\$375,000) and last paid bonus limited to 25% of base salary (\$93,750) paid over a period of 24 months commencing after termination.
- (2) Reflects the value of any unvested stock options or restricted stock and related dividends that vested upon the event using the closing price of the Company's Common Stock on December 31, 2009 (\$14.00) and related dividends. See Outstanding Equity Awards at December 31, 2009 on page 18.
- (3) Reflects the value of premium payments to be made for life insurance, medical, dental and disability plans for 24 months at the Company's cost, based on 2009 premiums.
- (4) This amount includes amounts that the named executive officer accrued under the Supplemental Retirement Plan as of December 31, 2009, which are disclosed in the Pension Benefits table on page 19.

**Marc N. Bell****Termination by****Termination by**

	<b>Company without Cause or by Named Executive Officer with Good Reason or Disability</b>	<b>Death</b>	<b>Termination by Company for Cause or Voluntary Termination by Named Executive Officer Without Good Reason</b>	<b>Company without Cause or by Named Executive Officer with Good Reason upon a Change in Control</b>
Cash Severance(1) Acceleration of Long Term Incentive Grants at Target Value of Accelerated Unvested Equity(2)	\$ 1,000,000	\$ 1,000,000		\$ 1,000,000
Benefits Continuation(3) Value of Supplemental Retirement Plan(4) Excise Tax and Gross-Up	\$ 52,218	\$ 52,218		\$ 52,218
	\$ 334,560	\$ 947,920		\$ 334,560

(1) Reflects the value of the sum of Mr. Bell's 2009 base salary (\$400,000) and last paid bonus limited to 25% of base salary (\$100,000) paid over a period of 24 months commencing after termination.

(2) Reflects the value of any unvested stock options or restricted stock and related dividends that vested upon the event using the closing price of the Company's Common Stock on December 31, 2009 (\$14.00) and related dividends. See Outstanding Equity Awards at December 31, 2009 on page 18.

(3) Reflects the value of premium payments to be made for life insurance, medical, dental and disability plans for 24 months at the Company's cost, based on 2009 premiums.

**Table of Contents**

- (4) This amount includes amounts that the named executive officer accrued under the Supplemental Retirement Plan as of December 31, 2009, which are disclosed in the Pension Benefits table on page 19.

**Ronald J. Bernstein**

	<b>Termination by Company without Cause or by Named Executive Officer  with Good Reason  or Disability</b>		<b>Death</b>	<b>Termination by Company for Cause or Voluntary Termination by Named Executive Officer Without Good Reason</b>	<b>Termination by Company without Cause or by Named Executive Officer with Good Reason  upon a Change in Control</b>	
Cash Severance(1)	\$	1,659,918	\$	1,659,918	\$	1,659,918
Acceleration of Long Term Incentive Grants at Target Value of Accelerated Unvested Equity(2)						
Benefits Continuation(3)	\$	40,107	\$	40,107	\$	40,107
Value of Retirement Benefits(4) Excise Tax and Gross-Up	\$	2,299,995	\$	3,449,992	\$	2,299,995

- (1) Reflects the value of the sum of Mr. Bernstein's 2009 base salary (\$829,959) paid over a period of 24 months commencing after termination.
- (2) Reflects the value of any unvested stock options or restricted stock and related dividends that vested upon the event using the closing price of the Company's Common Stock on December 31, 2009 (\$14.00) and related dividends. The executive also had vested but unexercised stock options on that date. See Outstanding Equity Awards at December 31, 2009 on page 18.
- (3) Reflects the value of premium payments to be made for life insurance, medical, dental and disability plans for 24 months at the Company's cost, based on 2009 premiums.
- (4) This amount includes amounts that the named executive officer accrued under the Supplement Retirement Plan as of December 31, 2009, which is disclosed in the Pension Benefits table on page 19. The amount does not include the value of Mr. Bernstein's monthly payment of \$372 at age 65 under the Qualified Plan, which is disclosed in the Pension Benefits payable on page 19 because lump sum payments are not generally available to participants in the Qualified Plan. If the lump sum option had been available to Mr. Bernstein in the Qualified Plan, the amounts shown would have been increased by approximately \$35,000.



## Compensation of Directors

The compensation of the non-employee directors is designed to be simple and easy for stockholders to understand and to be fair based on the amount of work required of directors of the Company. Each of the non-employee directors receives:

annual cash retainer fee of \$50,000 (increased from \$35,000, effective January 1, 2010);

\$2,500 per annum for each committee membership (\$5,000 for the committee chairman);

\$1,000 per meeting for each board meeting attended in person or by telephone;

\$500 per meeting for each committee meeting attended in person or by telephone;

periodic grants of restricted shares;

reimbursement for reasonable out-of-pocket expenses incurred in serving on our board; and

access to our health, dental and life insurance coverage.

No stock options to purchase Common Stock were granted to the non-employee directors in 2009. During the second quarter of 2010, the Company intends to grant 10,000 restricted shares of Common Stock under the 1999 Plan to each of its five non-employee directors in order to align the director's interests with the long-term interests of the stockholders. The stock grant will vest in three equal annual installments commencing on the first anniversary of

**Table of Contents**

the date of grant based on continued service as a director, subject to earlier vesting upon death, disability or the occurrence of a change in control.

The table below summarizes the compensation the Company paid to the non-employee directors for the year ended December 31, 2009.

**NON-EMPLOYEE DIRECTOR COMPENSATION IN FISCAL YEAR 2009**

Name	Fees Earned  or Paid in Cash (\$)	Stock Awards (\$)	Option Awards (\$)	Non-Equity Incentive Plan Compensation (\$)	Changes in Pension Value and Nonqualified Deferred	All Other Compensation (\$)	Total (\$)
					Compensation Earnings (\$)		
Henry C. Beinstein	\$ 62,500					\$ 3,078(1)	\$ \$65,578
Robert J. Eide	\$ 58,250					\$ 1,037(1)	\$ 59,287
Bennett S. LeBow	\$ 44,500					\$ 34,169(2)	\$ 78,669
Jeffrey S. Podell	\$ 58,375					\$ 1,829(1)	\$ 60,204
Jean E. Sharpe	\$ 61,375					\$ 21,495(2)	\$ 82,870

(1) Represents life insurance premiums paid by the Company.

(2) Represents health and life insurance premiums paid by the Company.

(3) In June 2007, the Company awarded each director 11,025 shares of the Company's Common Stock, which vest equally in June 2008, 2009 and 2010 and accordingly, each director holds 3,674 shares of unvested restricted stock.

**Compensation Committee Interlocks and Insider Participation**

No member of the Company's compensation committee is, or has been, an employee or officer of the Company other than Ms. Sharpe who joined the compensation committee in March 2009. Ms. Sharpe retired as an officer of the Company in 1993. During 2009, (i) no member of the Company's compensation committee had any relationship with the Company requiring disclosure under Item 404 of Regulation S-K; and (ii) none of the Company's executive officers served on the compensation committee (or equivalent) or board of directors of another entity whose executive officer(s) served on the Company's compensation committee or board of directors.

**Audit Committee Report**

The audit committee report 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 or under the Securities Exchange Act of

1934, except to the extent the Company specifically incorporates this information by reference, and shall not otherwise be deemed filed under such Acts.

Management is responsible for the Company's internal controls and the financial reporting process, including its financial statements and management's assessment of the effectiveness of the Company's internal control over financial reporting. PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP, the Company's independent registered certified public accounting firm, issues opinions on the conformity of the Company's audited financial statements with generally accepted accounting principles and on the effectiveness of the Company's internal control over financial reporting. The audit committee reviews these processes on behalf of the board of directors. In this context, the committee has reviewed and discussed with management and PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP the audited financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2009, management's assessment of the effectiveness of the Company's internal control over financial reporting and the evaluation by PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP of the effectiveness of the Company's internal control over financial reporting.

The audit committee has discussed with PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP the matters required to be discussed by Statement of Auditing Standards No. 61, *Communication with Audit Committees*, as modified or supplemented,

**Table of Contents**

which includes, among other items, matters related to the conduct of the audit of the Company's financial statements. The audit committee also has received written disclosures and the letter from PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP required by applicable requirements of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board regarding PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP's communications with the audit committee concerning independence, and has discussed with PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP its independence from the Company. The audit committee has also considered whether the provision of the services described under the caption "Audit Fees and Non-Audit Fees" is compatible with maintaining the independence of the independent auditors.

Based on the review and discussions referred to above, the audit committee recommended to the board of directors that the audited financial statements and management's assessment of the effectiveness of the Company's internal control over financial reporting be included in the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2009 filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

This report is submitted by the audit committee of the Company.

Henry C. Beinstein, Chairman  
Robert J. Eide  
Jeffrey S. Podell  
Jean E. Sharpe

**Audit and Non-Audit Fees**

The audit committee reviews and approves audit and permissible non-audit services performed by PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP, as well as the fees charged by PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP for such services. In accordance with Section 10A(i) of the Securities Exchange Act, before PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP is engaged to render audit or non-audit services, the engagement is approved by the audit committee. All of the services provided and fees charged by PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP in 2009 and 2008 were pre-approved by the audit committee.

*Audit Fees.* The aggregate fees billed by PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP for professional services for the audit of the annual financial statements of the Company and its consolidated subsidiaries, audit of effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting under Sarbanes-Oxley Section 404, audits of subsidiary financial statements, reviews of the financial statements included in the Company's quarterly reports on Form 10-Q, comfort letters, consents and review of documents filed with the SEC were \$1,928,009 for 2009 and \$1,996,466 for 2008.

*Audit-Related Fees.* No fees were billed by PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP for audit-related professional services in 2009 and 2008.

*Tax Fees.* The aggregate fees billed by PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP for professional services for tax services were \$48,466 in 2009 and \$60,050 in 2008. The services were primarily for federal and state tax advice.

*All Other Fees.* The aggregate fees billed by PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP for other services were \$17,126 in 2009 and \$6,000 in 2008. The 2009 amounts consisted of \$14,126 related to consulting regarding the Company's real estate investments and \$3,000 for accounting research software. The 2008 amounts consisted of licensing of accounting research software.

**Pre-Approval Policies and Procedures**

The audit committee has adopted a policy that requires advance approval of all audit, audit-related, tax and other services performed by the independent registered certified public accounting firm. The policy provides for

pre-approval by the audit committee of specifically defined audit and non-audit services. Unless the specific service has been previously pre-approved with respect to that year, the audit committee must approve the permitted service before the independent registered certified public accounting firm is engaged to perform it. The audit committee approved all services provided by PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP.

**Table of Contents****Equity Compensation Plan Information**

The following table summarizes information about the options, warrants and rights and other equity compensation under the Company's equity plans as of December 31, 2009.

<b>Plan Category</b>	<b>Number of securities to be issued upon exercise of outstanding options, warrants and rights (a)</b>	<b>Weighted-average exercise price of outstanding options, warrants and rights (b)</b>	<b>Number of securities remaining available for future issuance under equity compensation plans (excluding securities reflected in column (a)) (c)</b>
Equity compensation plans approved by security holders(1)	2,202,828	\$ 14.51	3,783,653
Equity compensation plans not approved by security holders			
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,202,828</b>	<b>\$ 14.51</b>	<b>3,783,653</b>

(1) Includes options to purchase shares of the Company's Common Stock under the following stockholder-approved plans: 1998 Long-Term Incentive Plan and Amended and Restated 1999 Long-Term Incentive Plan.

**Certain Relationships and Related Party Transactions**

The board of directors has adopted a written policy for the review and approval of transactions between the Company and its directors, director nominees, executive officers, greater than five percent beneficial owners and their immediate family members. The policy covers any related party transaction that meets the minimum threshold for disclosure in the Company's proxy statement under the relevant Securities and Exchange Commission rules. The audit committee is responsible for reviewing and, if appropriate, approving or ratifying any related party transactions. In determining whether to approve, disapprove or ratify a related party transaction, the audit committee will take into account, among other factors it deems appropriate, (i) whether the transaction is on terms no less favorable to the Company than terms that would have been reached with an unrelated third party, (ii) the extent of the interest of the related party in the transaction and (iii) the purpose and the potential benefits to the Company of the transaction.

The related party transactions described in this proxy statement entered into before this policy was adopted were approved by the board of directors or the audit committee.

As of the record date, Jefferies was the beneficial owner of 5.3% of the Common Stock. Jefferies or its affiliates have from time to time provided investment banking, general financing and banking services to the Company and its affiliates, for which they have received customary compensation. During 2009, the Company paid to Jefferies and its affiliates fees in the amount of approximately \$4,547,000. In October 2009, the Company entered into an agreement

with Jefferies & Company, Inc. where Jefferies would provide advisory services to the Company in connection with current and potential real estate transactions and investments. The agreement is on a month-to-month basis, terminable by either party on five business days' notice, and provides for a \$50,000 per month payment plus out-of-pocket expenses. The Company and Jefferies or its affiliates may provide similar services in the future. Affiliates of Jefferies owned convertible notes of the Company in 2009.

In September 2006, the Company entered into an agreement with Ladenburg Thalmann Financial Services Inc. (NYSE Amex: LTS) pursuant to which the Company agreed to make available to LTS the services of Mr. Lampen to serve as the President and Chief Executive Officer of LTS and to provide certain other financial and accounting services, including assistance with complying with Section 404 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002. LTS paid the Company \$600,000 for 2009 under the agreement and pays the Company at a rate of \$600,000 per year in 2010. The agreement is terminable by either party upon 30 days' prior written notice. The Company beneficially owns 8.3% of the LTS shares and various executive officers and directors of the Company serve as members of the Board of Directors of LTS.

In October 2008, the Company acquired for \$4,000,000 an approximate 11% interest in Castle Brands Inc. (NYSE Amex: ROX), a publicly traded developer and importer of premium branded spirits. Mr. Beinstein serves as

**Table of Contents**

an independent director of Castle, and Mr. Lampen is serving as Castle's interim President and Chief Executive Officer and as a director. In October 2008, the Company entered into an agreement with Castle where the Company agreed to make available the services of Mr. Lampen as well as other financial and accounting services. Castle paid the Company management fees of \$100,000 for 2009 under the agreement and pays the Company at a rate of \$100,000 per year in 2010. In December 2009, the Company was part of a consortium, which included Dr. Phillip Frost, who is a beneficial owner of approximately 11.8% of the Company's common stock and Mr. Lampen, that agreed to provide a line of credit to Castle. The three-year line was for a maximum amount of \$2,500,000, bears interest at a rate of 11% per annum on amounts borrowed, pays a 1% annual commitment fee and is collateralized by Castle's receivables and inventory. The Company's commitment under the line is \$900,000; no amounts had been drawn or were outstanding under the credit line as of December 31, 2009.

In addition to its interests in LTS and Castle, the Company has investments in other entities where Dr. Frost has a relationship. These include: (i) three investments in 2006, 2008 and 2009 totaling approximately \$11,000,000 for 10,057,110 shares in OPKO Inc. (NYSE Amex: OPK); (ii) a \$500,000 investment in 2008 for 2,259,796 shares in Cardo Medical Inc. (OTC BB: CDOM); and (iii) a \$375,000 investment in 2008 in Cocystal Discovery Inc. (one-third funded in March 2010). Dr. Frost is a director, executive officer and/or more than 10% stockholder of these entities as well as of LTS and Castle. Additional investments in entities where Dr. Frost has a relationship may be made in the future.

On May 11, 2009, the Company issued in a private placement a 6.75% Variable Interest Senior Convertible Note due 2014 in the principal amount of \$50,000,000 to an entity affiliated with Dr. Frost. The purchase price was paid in cash (\$38,224,650) and by tendering \$11,005,000 principal amount of the Company's 5% Notes due 2011, valued at 107% of principal amount. The Company recognized interest expense of \$4,933,120 in 2009 related to notes owned by the entity affiliated with Dr. Frost.

Mr. Lorber serves as a consultant to Hallman & Lorber. During 2009, Mr. Lorber and Hallman & Lorber and its affiliates received ordinary and customary insurance commissions aggregating approximately \$329,000 on various insurance policies issued for the Company and its subsidiaries and investees. Hallman & Lorber and its affiliates have continued to provide services to the Company in 2009.

In March 2010, the Company entered into a services agreement, effective April 1, 2010, with Myeloma Health LLC, an affiliate of Mr. LeBow, whereby approximately 75% of the time of Dr. Anthony Albino, Vector Tobacco Inc.'s Senior Vice President of Public Health, will be spent on Myeloma matters. Under the agreement, Myeloma will reimburse the Company for 75% of Dr. Albino's salary, which is presently \$340,000 per year.

**BOARD PROPOSAL 2 RATIFICATION OF APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT REGISTERED CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM**

The Company asks that stockholders ratify the appointment of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP, which has been the independent registered certified public accounting firm for the Company since December 1986, as its independent registered public accounting firm for the year ending December 31, 2010. It is expected that one or more representatives of such firm will attend the annual meeting and be available to respond to any questions. These representatives will be given an opportunity to make statements at the annual meeting if they desire.

If the appointment is not ratified, the adverse vote will be considered as an indication to the audit committee that it should consider selecting another independent registered certified public accounting firm for the following fiscal year. Even if the selection is ratified, the Company's audit committee, in its discretion, may select a new independent registered certified public accounting firm at any time during the year if it believes that such a change would be in its best interest.



Approval of the ratification of the appointment of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP as the Company's independent registered certified public accounting firm for the year ending December 31, 2010 requires the affirmative vote of the majority of shares of Common Stock present or represented, and entitled to vote thereon, at the annual meeting.

**The board recommends that stockholders vote FOR Proposal 2 to ratify the appointment of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP as the Company's independent registered certified public accounting firm for the year ending December 31, 2010.**

**Table of Contents**

**MISCELLANEOUS**

**Annual Report**

The Company has mailed, with this proxy statement, a copy of the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2009 to each stockholder as of the record date. If a stockholder requires an additional copy of such Annual Report, the Company will provide one, without charge, on the written request of any such stockholder addressed to the Company's Secretary, Marc N. Bell, at Vector Group Ltd., 100 S.E. Second Street, 32nd Floor, Miami, Florida 33131.

**Section 16(a) Beneficial Ownership Reporting Compliance**

Section 16(a) of the Exchange Act requires directors and executive officers of the Company, as well as persons who beneficially own more than 10% of a registered class of the Company's equity securities, to file reports of initial beneficial ownership and changes in beneficial ownership on Forms 3, 4 and 5 with the SEC. These persons are also required by SEC regulations to furnish the Company with copies of all reports that they file. As a practical matter, the Company assists its directors and officers by monitoring transactions and completing and filing Section 16 reports on their behalf.

To the Company's knowledge, based solely on review of the copies of such reports furnished to the Company and representations that no other reports were required, during and with respect to the fiscal year ended December 31, 2009, all reporting persons have timely complied with all filing requirements applicable to them with the exception of two settlements of option contracts totaling 1,050 shares each by Dr. Frost on September 30, 2009 and October 1, 2009, which were reported on December 22, 2009.

**Communications with Directors**

Any stockholder and other interested parties wishing to communicate with any of the Company's directors regarding the Company may write to the director, c/o the Company's Secretary, Marc N. Bell, at Vector Group Ltd., 100 S.E. Second Street, 32nd Floor, Miami, Florida 33131. The secretary will forward these communications directly to the director(s) in question. The independent directors of the board review and approve this communication process periodically to ensure effective communication with stockholders and other interested parties.

Although the Company does not have a policy with regard to board members' attendance at the annual meeting of stockholders, all of the directors are invited to attend such meeting. Three of the Company's directors were in attendance at the Company's 2009 annual meeting.

**Stockholder Proposals for the 2010 Annual Meeting**

Proposals of stockholders intended to be presented at the 2011 annual meeting of stockholders of the Company and included in the Company's proxy statement for that meeting pursuant to Rule 14a-8 of the Exchange Act must be received by the Company at its principal executive offices, 100 S.E. Second Street, 32nd Floor, Miami, Florida 33131, Attention: Marc N. Bell, Company Secretary, on or before December 21, 2010 in order to be eligible for inclusion in the Company's proxy statement relating to that meeting. Notice of a stockholder proposal submitted outside the processes of Rule 14a-8 will be considered untimely unless submitted by March 6, 2011.

**IMPORTANT NOTICE REGARDING THE AVAILABILITY OF PROXY MATERIAL FOR THE STOCKHOLDER MEETING TO BE HELD ON JUNE 11, 2010**

**A copy of this proxy statement, the enclosed proxy card and the 2009 Annual Report of Vector Group Ltd., together with directions to the meeting, can be found at the website address:  
[www.vectorgrouppltd.com/invest.asp](http://www.vectorgrouppltd.com/invest.asp).**

#### **HOUSEHOLDING OF ANNUAL MEETING MATERIALS**

Some banks, brokers, broker-dealers and other similar organizations acting as nominee record holders may be participating in the practice of householding proxy statements and annual reports. This means that only one copy of this proxy statement and the Annual Report may have been sent to multiple stockholders in your household. If

**Table of Contents**

you would prefer to receive separate copies of a proxy statement or Annual Report for other stockholders in your household, either now or in the future, please contact your bank, broker, broker-dealer or other similar organization serving as your nominee. Upon written or oral request to Vector Group Ltd., 100 S.E. Second Street, 32nd Floor, Miami, Florida 33131, or via telephone at 305-579-8000, we will provide separate copies of the Annual Report and/or this proxy statement.

**Other Matters**

All information in this proxy statement concerning the Common Stock has been adjusted to give effect to the 5% stock dividends paid on an annual basis to the stockholders of the Company since September 1999 with the most recent dividend paid on September 29, 2009.

The cost of this solicitation of proxies will be borne by the Company. The Company has hired Georgeson Shareholder Communications Inc. ( Georgeson ) to solicit proxies. Georgeson will solicit by personal interview, mail, telephone and email, and will request brokerage houses and other custodians, nominees and fiduciaries to forward soliciting material to the beneficial owners of Common Stock held of record by such persons. The Company will pay Georgeson a customary fee covering its services and will reimburse Georgeson for reasonable expenses incurred in forwarding soliciting material to the beneficial owners of Common Stock. In addition, some of the directors, officers and regular employees of the Company may, without additional compensation, solicit proxies personally or by telephone.

The Board knows of no other matters which will be presented at the annual meeting. If, however, any other matter is properly presented at the annual meeting, the proxy solicited by this proxy statement will be voted in accordance with the judgment of the person or persons holding such proxy.

By Order of the Board of Directors,

Howard M. Lorber  
*President and Chief Executive Officer*

Dated: April 16, 2010

**Table of Contents**

VECTOR GROUP LTD.  
PROXY  
**SOLICITED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR USE AT THE 2010 ANNUAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS OF VECTOR GROUP LTD.**

The undersigned stockholder of Vector Group Ltd. (the Company ) hereby constitutes and appoints each of Marc N. Bell and J. Bryant Kirkland III attorney and proxy of the undersigned, with power of substitution, to attend, vote and act for the undersigned at the 2010 Annual Meeting of Stockholders of the Company, a Delaware corporation, to be held at the Miami Tower, 100 S.E. Second Street, 19<sup>th</sup> Floor Auditorium, Miami, Florida 33131 on Friday, June 11, 2010 at 11:00 a.m. local time, and at any adjournments or postponements thereof, with respect to the following on the reverse side of this proxy card and, in their discretion, on such other matters as may properly come before the meeting and at any adjournments or postponements thereof.

(Continued and to be signed on the reverse side.)

The Board of Directors recommends a vote FOR the election of directors. PLEASE SIGN, DATE AND RETURN PROMPTLY IN THE ENCLOSED ENVELOPE. PLEASE MARK YOUR VOTE IN BLUE OR BLACK INK AS SHOWN HERE x

Item 1. Election of Directors:

FOR ALL NOMINEES

WITHHOLD AUTHORITY FOR ALL NOMINEES

FOR ALL EXCEPT (See instructions below)

Nominees:  Bennett S. LeBow,  Howard M. Lorber,  Ronald J. Bernstein,  Henry C. Beinstein,  Robert J. Eide,  Jeffrey S. Podell and  Jean E. Sharpe

Item 2. Approval of ratification of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP as independent registered certified public accounting firm for the year ending December 31, 2010.

FOR

AGAINST

ABSTAIN

INSTRUCTION: To withhold authority to vote for any individual nominee(s), mark FOR ALL EXCEPT and fill in the circle next to each nominee you wish to withhold, as shown here: x

**The shares represented by this proxy will be voted in the manner directed by the undersigned stockholder. If not otherwise directed, this proxy will be voted FOR the election of the nominees and FOR the ratification of the independent registered certified public accounting firm.**

To change the address on your account, please check the box at right and indicate your new address in the address space above. Please note that changes to the registered name(s) on the account may not be submitted via this method.

Signature of Stockholder \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Signature of Stockholder \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

NOTE: Please sign exactly as your name or names appear on this Proxy. When shares are held jointly, each holder should sign. When signing as executor, administrator, attorney, trustee or guardian, please give full title as such. If the signer is a corporation, please sign full corporate name by duly authorized officer, giving full title as such. If signer is a partnership, please sign in partnership name by authorized person.