

Allegiance Bancshares, Inc.
Form S-3
January 18, 2017

As filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on January 18, 2017

Registration No. 333- _____

UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20549

FORM S-3
REGISTRATION STATEMENT

UNDER
THE SECURITIES ACT OF 1933

Allegiance Bancshares, Inc.
(Exact Name of Registrant as Specified in its Charter)

Texas
(State or other jurisdiction of incorporation or organization)

26-3564100
(I.R.S. Employer
Identification Number)

8847 West Sam Houston Parkway, N., Suite 200
Houston, Texas 77040
(281) 894-3200
(Address, including zip code and telephone number, including area code, of registrant's principal executive offices)

George Martinez
Chairman and Chief Executive Officer
Allegiance Bancshares, Inc.
8847 West Sam Houston Parkway, N., Suite 200
Houston, Texas 77040
(281) 894-3200
(Name, address, including zip code and telephone number, including area code, of agent for service)

Copy to:

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711 Louisiana Street, Suite 2300

Houston, Texas 77002-2770

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Approximate date of commencement of proposed sale to the public: From time to time after the effective date of this registration statement.

If the only securities being registered on this form are being offered pursuant to dividend or interest reinvestment plans, please check the following box.

If any of the securities being registered on this form are to be offered on a delayed or continuous basis pursuant to Rule 415 under the Securities Act of 1933, other than securities offered only in connection with dividend or interest reinvestment plans, check the following box.

If this form is filed to register additional securities for an offering pursuant to Rule 462(b) under the Securities Act, please check the following box and list the Securities Act registration statement number of the earlier effective registration statement for the same offering.

If this form is a post-effective amendment filed pursuant to Rule 462(c) under the Securities Act, check the following box and list the Securities Act registration statement number of the earlier effective registration statement for the same offering.

If this form is a registration statement pursuant to General Instruction I.D. or a post-effective amendment thereto that shall become effective upon filing with the Commission pursuant to Rule 462(e) under the Securities Act, check the following box.

If this form is a post-effective amendment to a registration statement filed pursuant to General Instruction I.D. filed to register additional securities or additional classes of securities pursuant to Rule 413(b) under the Securities Act, check the following box.

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

Large accelerated filer Accelerated filer

Nonaccelerated filer Smaller reporting company

CALCULATION OF REGISTRATION FEE

Title of Each Class of Securities to be Registered	Amount to be Registered(1)	Proposed Maximum Offering Price Per Unit (2)	Proposed Maximum Aggregate Offering Price(1)(2)(3)	Amount of Registration Fee(4)
Debt Securities				
Common Stock, par value \$1.00 per share				
Preferred Stock, par value \$1.00 per share				
Warrants				
Units				
Total	\$150,000,000		\$150,000,000	\$17,385

There are being registered hereunder such indeterminate number of shares of common stock, shares of preferred stock, warrants, units and/or principal amount of debt securities of the registrant as shall have an aggregate initial offering price not to exceed \$150,000,000. Also being registered hereunder by the registrant are an indeterminate number of shares of common stock, shares of preferred stock, warrants, units, or debt securities as shall be issuable upon exercise, conversion, or exchange of any securities that provide for such issuance. If any debt securities are (1) issued at an original issue discount, then the offering price shall be in such greater principal amount as shall result in an aggregate initial offering price not to exceed \$150,000,000. In addition, pursuant to Rule 416 of the rules and regulations under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, or the Securities Act, the shares being registered hereunder include such indeterminate number of shares of common stock, preferred stock, warrants or units as may be issuable with respect to the shares being registered hereunder as a result of stock splits, stock dividends or similar transactions.

The proposed maximum offering price per unit will be determined from time to time by the registrant in connection (2) with, and at the time of, the issuance of the securities registered hereunder, and is not specified as to each class of securities to be registered pursuant to General Instruction II.D of Form S-3 under the Securities Act.

(3) Excludes any accrued interest, distributions and dividends, if any.

(4) Pursuant to Rule 457(o) under the Securities Act, the registration fee has been calculated on the basis of the proposed maximum aggregate offering price.

The registrant hereby amends this registration statement on such date or dates as may be necessary to delay its effective date until the registrant shall file a further amendment which specifically states that this registration statement shall thereafter become effective in accordance with Section 8(a) of the Securities Act or until the registration statement shall become effective on such date as the Securities and Exchange Commission, acting pursuant to said Section 8(a), may determine.

The information in this prospectus is not complete and may be changed. We may not sell these securities until the registration statement filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission is effective. This prospectus is not an offer to sell these securities and it is not soliciting an offer to buy these securities in any state where the offer or sale is not permitted.

PROSPECTUS Subject to Completion, dated January 18, 2017

\$150,000,000

Debt Securities

Common Stock

Preferred Stock

Warrants

Units

By this prospectus, Allegiance Bancshares, Inc. may offer from time to time debt securities of one or more series; shares of its common stock; shares of one or more series of its preferred stock; warrants to purchase our securities; and units of our securities.

When we offer securities, we will provide you with a prospectus supplement describing the terms of the specific issue of securities being offered, including the price at which those securities are being offered to the public.

We may offer and sell these securities to or through one or more underwriters, dealers and agents, or directly to purchasers, on a continuous or delayed basis.

You should read this prospectus and any prospectus supplement carefully before you decide to invest. This prospectus may not be used to sell securities unless it is accompanied by a prospectus supplement that further describes the securities being offered to you.

Our common stock is listed for trading on the NASDAQ Global Market under the symbol "ABTX." We expect that any common stock sold pursuant to a prospectus supplement will be listed on such exchange, subject to official notice of issuance. We have not yet determined whether any of the other securities that may be offered by this prospectus will be listed on any exchange. If we decide to apply to list any such securities on a securities exchange upon their issuance, the prospectus supplement relating to those securities will disclose the exchange on which we will apply to have those securities listed. Any prospectus supplement will contain information, where applicable, as to any other listing on the NASDAQ Global Market or any other securities exchange of the other securities covered by the prospectus supplement.

Investing in our securities involves risks. See the section entitled "Risk Factors" beginning on page 6 of this prospectus and our most recent annual report on Form 10-K, which is incorporated herein by reference, as well as any additional risk factors included in, or incorporated by reference into, the applicable prospectus supplement. You should carefully read this prospectus together with the documents we incorporate by reference and the prospectus supplement before you invest in our securities.

This prospectus is not an offer to sell any securities other than the securities offered hereby. This prospectus is not an offer to sell securities in any jurisdictions or in any circumstances in which such an offer is unlawful.

Neither the Securities and Exchange Commission nor any state securities commission has approved or disapproved of these securities or determined if this prospectus is truthful or complete. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense.

The offered securities are not savings accounts, deposits or other obligations of any bank or savings associations and are not insured or guaranteed by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation or any other governmental agency and are subject to investment risks.

The date of this prospectus is , 2017.

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You should rely only on the information contained in or incorporated by reference in this prospectus and in the applicable prospectus supplement when deciding whether to invest. We have not authorized anyone to give oral or written information about this offering, the Company, or the securities offered hereby that is different from the information included or incorporated by reference in this prospectus. If anyone provides you with different information, you should not rely on it. You should assume that the information contained in this prospectus is accurate only as of the date on the front cover of this prospectus. Our business, financial condition, results of operations and prospects may have changed since that date.

ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS

This prospectus is part of a registration statement that we filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission, or the SEC, using a “shelf” registration process. Under this shelf registration statement, we may from time to time offer and sell, in one or more offerings, either separately or together, shares of our common stock, shares of one or more series of our preferred stock, senior debt securities of one or more series, subordinated debt securities of one or more series, warrants to purchase our securities and unit purchase agreements as described in this prospectus and an applicable prospectus supplement.

Each time we sell securities we will provide a prospectus supplement containing specific information about the terms of the securities being offered thereby. The prospectus supplement may include a discussion of any risk factors or other special considerations that apply to those securities. The prospectus supplement may also add, update or change the information in this prospectus. If there is any inconsistency between the information in this prospectus (including the information incorporated by reference herein) and information in any prospectus supplement, you should rely on the information in the applicable prospectus supplement, as it will control. You should carefully read both this prospectus and the applicable prospectus supplement together with additional information described under the heading “Where You Can Find More Information” or incorporated herein by reference as described under the heading “Incorporation of Certain Documents by Reference.”

References in this prospectus to “the Company,” “we,” “us” and “our” are to Allegiance Bancshares, Inc. In this prospectus, we sometimes refer to the debt securities, common stock, preferred stock, warrants and unit purchase agreements we may offer as “offered securities.”

ABOUT ALLEGIANCE BANCSHARES, INC.

Allegiance Bancshares, Inc. is a Texas corporation headquartered in Houston, Texas and is a bank holding company registered under the Bank Holding Company Act of 1956. Through our wholly-owned subsidiary, Allegiance Bank, a Texas state chartered bank, we provide a diversified range of commercial banking services to Houston metropolitan area-based small to medium-sized businesses and individual customers. We currently operate 16 full-service banking locations in the Houston metropolitan area. Our common stock is traded on the NASDAQ Global Market under the symbol “ABTX.”

Our principal executive offices are located at 8847 West Sam Houston Parkway, N., Suite 200, Houston, Texas 77040, and our telephone number is (281) 894-3200. Our website is www.allegiancebank.com. References to our website are not intended to be active links and the information on such website is not, and you must not consider that information to be, a part of this prospectus.

SPECIAL NOTE REGARDING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

This prospectus and the documents incorporated herein by reference contain statements that are “forward-looking statements” within the meaning of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995.

Forward-looking statements included in this prospectus or the documents incorporated by reference herein are based on various facts and derived utilizing numerous important assumptions and are subject to known and unknown risks, uncertainties and other factors that may cause our actual results, performance or achievements to be materially different from any future results, performance or achievements expressed or implied by such forward-looking statements. Forward-looking statements include the information concerning our future financial performance, business and growth strategy, projected plans and objectives, as well as projections of macroeconomic and industry trends, which are inherently unreliable due to the multiple factors that impact economic trends, and any such variations may be material. Statements preceded by, followed by or that otherwise include the words “believes,” “expects,” “anticipates,” “intends,” “projects,” “estimates,” “plans” and similar expressions or future or conditional verbs such as “will,” “should,” “would,” “may” and “could” are generally forward-looking in nature and not historical facts, although not all forward-looking statements include the foregoing. You should understand that any such forward-looking statement are difficult to predict. Although we believe that the expectations reflected in these statements are reasonable as of the date made, actual results may prove to be materially different from the results expressed or implied by the forward-looking statements:

- risks related to the concentration of our business in the Houston metropolitan area, including risks associated with volatility or decreases in oil and gas prices or prolonged periods of lower oil and gas prices;

- general market conditions and economic trends nationally, regionally and particularly in the Houston metropolitan area;

- our ability to retain executive officers and key employees and their customer and community relationships;

- our ability to recruit and retain successful bankers that meet our expectations in terms of customer and community relationships and profitability;

- risks related to our strategic focus on lending to small to medium-sized businesses;

- our ability to implement our growth strategy, including through the identification of acquisition candidates that will be accretive to our financial condition and results of operations;

risks related to any businesses we acquire in the future, including exposure to potential asset and credit quality risks and unknown or contingent liabilities, the time and costs associated with integrating systems, technology platforms, procedures and personnel, the need for additional capital to finance such transactions and possible failures in realizing the anticipated benefits from such acquisitions;

potential impairment on the goodwill we have recorded or may record in connection with business acquisitions;

risks associated with our owner-occupied commercial real estate loan and other commercial real estate loan portfolios, including the risks inherent in the valuation of the collateral securing such loans;

risks associated with our commercial and industrial loan portfolio, including the risk for deterioration in value of the general business assets that generally secure such loans;

the accuracy and sufficiency of the assumptions and estimates we make in establishing reserves for potential loan losses and other estimates;

risk of deteriorating asset quality and higher loan charge-offs;

time and effort necessary to resolve nonperforming assets;

potential changes in the prices, values and sales volumes of commercial and residential real estate securing our real estate loans;

changes in market interest rates that affect the pricing of our loans and deposits and our net interest income;

potential fluctuations in the market value and liquidity of the securities we hold for sale;

risk of impairment of investment securities, goodwill, other intangible assets or deferred tax assets;

the effects of competition from a wide variety of local, regional, national and other providers of financial, investment and insurance services, which may adversely affect our pricing and terms;

our ability to maintain an effective system of disclosure controls and procedures and internal controls over financial reporting;

- risks associated with fraudulent and negligent acts by our customers, employees or vendors;
- our ability to keep pace with technological change or difficulties when implementing new technologies;
- risks associated with system failures or failures to protect against cybersecurity threats, such as breaches of our network security;
- risks associated with data processing system failures and errors;
- the institution and outcome of litigation and other legal proceedings against us or to which we become subject;
- our ability to maintain adequate liquidity and to raise necessary capital to fund our acquisition strategy and operations or to meet increased minimum regulatory capital levels;
- our ability to comply with various governmental and regulatory requirements applicable to financial institutions;
- the impact of recent and future legislative and regulatory changes, including changes in banking, securities and tax laws and regulations and their application by our regulators, such as the further implementation of the Dodd-Frank Act;
- governmental monetary and fiscal policies, including the policies of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, or the "Federal Reserve";
- our ability to comply with supervisory actions by federal and state banking agencies;
- changes in the scope and cost of Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, or "FDIC", insurance and other coverage;
- systemic risks associated with the soundness of other financial institutions; and
- other risks and uncertainties listed from time to time in our reports and documents filed with the SEC.

Other factors not identified above, including those described under the headings "Risk Factors" and "Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations" in our most recent Annual Report on Form 10-K (our "Latest Form 10-K") and in any of our Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q, Current Reports on Form 8-K or other filings that we have made with the SEC since the date of the Latest Form 10-K that are incorporated by reference in this prospectus, may also cause actual results to differ materially from those described in our forward-

looking statements. Most of these factors are difficult to anticipate and are generally beyond our control. You should consider these factors in connection with considering any forward-looking statements that may be made by us. We undertake no obligation to release publicly any revisions to any forward-looking statements, to report events or to report the occurrence of unanticipated events unless we are required to do so by law.

RISK FACTORS

An investment in our securities involves certain risks. Before making an investment decision, you should carefully read and consider the risk factors set forth in our Latest Form 10-K under the heading “Risk Factors” as well as any updated or additional disclosure about risk factors included in any of our Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q, Current Reports on Form 8-K or other filings that we have made with the SEC since the date of the Latest Form 10-K that are incorporated by reference in this prospectus. We may also include updated or additional disclosure about risk factors in an applicable prospectus supplement under the heading “Risk Factors.” Additional risks and uncertainties of which we are not aware or that we believe are not material at the time could also materially and adversely affect our business, financial condition, results of operations or liquidity. In any case, the value of the securities offered by means of this prospectus and any applicable prospectus supplement could decline and you could lose all or part of your investment.

RATIO OF FIXED CHARGES TO EARNINGS

As of September 30, 2016, we did not have any shares of preferred stock outstanding. The following table presents the ratio of our combined fixed charges and preferred stock dividends to earnings for the periods indicated.

	Nine Months Ended							Year Ended December 31, September	
	2016	2015	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011		
Excluding interest on deposits	25.74	9.10	11.19	61.41	713.80	—	—		
Including interest on deposits	4.13	3.27	3.39	3.48	3.40	2.87	1.96		

For purposes of computing this ratio (i) earnings consists of income before income taxes plus fixed charges and preferred stock dividends, (ii) fixed charges and preferred stock dividends, excluding interest on deposits, includes interest expense (other than on deposits), preferred stock dividends and the estimated portion of rental expense attributable to interest, and (iii) fixed charges and preferred stock dividends, including interest on deposits, includes all interest expense, preferred stock dividends and the estimated portion of rental expense attributable to interest.

USE OF PROCEEDS

Unless otherwise indicated in the applicable prospectus supplement, we expect to use the net proceeds from the sale of offered securities by us for general corporate purposes, including:

- maintenance of consolidated capital to support our growth, enabling us to continue to satisfy our regulatory capital requirements;
- contributions of capital to Allegiance Bank to support Allegiance Bank's growth, enabling it to continue to satisfy its regulatory capital requirements;
- financing of acquisitions of financial institutions, their branches or their assets; and
- refinancing, reduction or repayment of debt.

The prospectus supplement with respect to an offering of offered securities may identify different or additional uses for the proceeds of that offering.

Except as otherwise stated in an applicable prospectus supplement, pending the application of the net proceeds from the sale of offered securities, we expect to either deposit such net proceeds in deposit accounts or invest them in short-term obligations.

THE SECURITIES WE MAY OFFER

The descriptions of the securities contained in this prospectus, together with the applicable prospectus supplements, summarize certain material terms and provisions of the various types of securities that we may offer. The particular material terms of the securities offered by a prospectus supplement, to the extent not described in this prospectus, will be described in that prospectus supplement. If indicated in the applicable prospectus supplement, the terms of the offered securities may differ from the terms summarized below. The prospectus supplement will also contain, where applicable, material U.S. federal income tax considerations relating to the offered securities, and will contain information regarding the securities exchange, if any, on which the offered securities will be listed. The descriptions of our securities being offered appearing herein and in the applicable prospectus supplement do not contain all of the information that you may find useful or that may be important to you. You should refer to the provisions of the actual documents that govern those securities and whose terms are summarized herein and in the applicable prospectus supplement, because those documents, and not the summaries, define your rights as holders of the relevant securities. For more information, please review the forms of these documents, which are or will be filed with the SEC and will be available as described under the heading "Where You Can Find More Information" below.

We may offer and sell from time to time, in one or more offerings, the following:

- our debt securities of one or more series, which debt securities may be our senior, unsecured debt securities or our subordinated, unsecured debt securities;
- shares of our common stock;
- shares of one or more series of our preferred stock;
- warrants, which may be exercisable for debt securities, common stock or preferred stock; and/or
- unit purchase agreements to which investors would acquire units of two or more of the foregoing securities.

DESCRIPTION OF DEBT SECURITIES

General

We may issue senior debt securities and subordinated debt securities, which in each case will be unsecured, direct, general obligations of the Company.

The senior debt securities will rank equally in right of payment with all of our other unsecured and unsubordinated debt. The subordinated debt securities will be subordinate and junior in right of payment to our senior indebtedness, including our senior debt securities as described below under “–Ranking–Subordinated Debt Securities” and in the prospectus supplement applicable to any subordinated debt securities that we may offer. For purposes of the descriptions under the heading “Description of Debt Securities,” we may refer to the senior debt securities and the subordinated debt securities collectively as the “debt securities.” The debt securities will be effectively subordinated to the creditors and preferred equity holders of our subsidiaries, if any.

We will issue senior debt securities under a senior debt indenture and issue subordinated debt securities under a subordinated debt indenture. We refer to the senior debt indenture or subordinated debt indenture, together with any applicable supplemental indentures thereto, in this prospectus as an “indenture” and collectively as the “indentures.” The indentures permit one or more series of senior debt securities or subordinated debt securities, as the case may be, to be established and issued thereunder. Any such series of senior debt securities or subordinated debt securities and their terms and conditions will be established by means of the adoption of a supplemental indenture, the adoption of a resolution of our board of directors or the adoption of a resolution of our board of directors and the action of certain officers of the Company acting pursuant to authority delegated to them by such resolution of the board of directors and evidenced by an officers’ certificate setting forth the terms and conditions of the series of debt securities established by that resolution and the action of such authorized officers. Generally, multiple series of debt securities will vary from one another with regard to the rate at which interest accrues on such debt securities and the term of such debt securities, and the senior debt securities and subordinated debt securities will vary from one another with regard to the priority of payment.

The indentures meet the requirements of the Trust Indenture Act of 1939, as amended, or the “Trust Indenture Act”, and will be qualified under and governed by the Trust Indenture Act. The trustee meets the requirements of the Trust Indenture Act for trustees under indentures being qualified under the Trust Indenture Act.

The descriptions under the heading “Description of Debt Securities” relating to the senior debt securities and subordinated debt securities and the indentures are summaries of their provisions. The summaries are not complete and are qualified in their entirety by reference to the indentures and senior and subordinated debt securities and the further descriptions in the applicable prospectus supplement. A copy of the form of each indenture has been filed with the SEC as an exhibit to the registration statement that includes this prospectus. We will file a copy of each supplemental indenture, board resolution and board resolution and related officers’

certificate establishing a series of debt securities and setting the respective series' terms and conditions with the SEC in connection with the offer and sale of the first debt securities of such series to be offered and sold and will file the form of debt security representing the debt securities of such series with the SEC in connection with the offering of such debt securities. Whenever we refer in this prospectus or in any prospectus supplement to particular sections or defined terms of an indenture, those sections or defined terms are incorporated by reference in this prospectus or in the prospectus supplement, as applicable. You should refer to the provisions of the indentures for provisions that may be important to you.

The terms and conditions described under this heading are terms and conditions that apply generally to the debt securities. The particular terms of any series of debt securities will be summarized in the applicable prospectus supplement. Those terms may differ from the terms summarized below.

Except as set forth in the indentures and described in the prospectus supplements, the indentures do not limit the amount of senior debt securities or subordinated debt securities we may issue under the indentures. We are not required to issue all of the debt securities of one series at the same time and, unless otherwise provided in an indenture and described in a prospectus supplement, we may, from time to time, issue additional debt securities under that series without the consent of the holders of the outstanding debt securities of that series. Additional debt securities issued in this manner will have the same terms and conditions as the outstanding debt securities of that series, except for their original issue date and issue price, and will be consolidated with, and form a single series with, the previously outstanding debt securities of that series. In certain instances, additional debt securities of a series sold may be issued with a different CUSIP number from that assigned to previously issued debt securities of that issue.

The debt securities of our subordinated debt series may have such terms and conditions as will permit such subordinated debt securities to qualify as Tier 2 capital under the regulatory capital requirements for bank holding companies. In such case, the subordinated debt securities will be subordinated to depositors and general creditors, will have a minimum term of five years, will be unsecured, will not have credit-sensitive features or other provisions that are inconsistent with safe and sound banking practice, and will have limited events of default and other provisions that will permit holders thereof to accelerate payment of principal of, or interest on, such subordinated debt securities only upon the occurrence of our bankruptcy, receivership, insolvency, liquidation or similar proceeding. Additionally, any redemption prior to maturity of our subordinated debt series that are intended to qualify as Tier 2 capital will require the prior approval of the Federal Reserve.

Terms and Conditions of Debt Securities to be Described in the Prospectus Supplement

The prospectus supplement relating to any debt securities of a series that we may offer will set forth the price or prices at which the debt securities will be offered to the public and the specific terms and conditions of the debt securities of that series to the extent such terms and conditions are not described in this prospectus. The prospectus supplement will set forth the

aggregate principal amount of the debt securities of a series being offered by means of such prospectus supplement and the price(s) (expressed as a percentage of the principal amount) at which the debt securities will be offered and sold to the public. Each series of debt securities will be established and its terms and conditions set by a supplemental indenture. These terms and conditions of the debt securities may include, without limitation, the following:

• the title and amount of the series of the debt securities and whether they are senior debt securities or subordinated debt securities;

• any limit on the aggregate principal amount of the debt securities of such series that may be issued;

• if other than the principal amount of those debt securities, the portion of the principal amount payable upon declaration of acceleration of the maturity of the debt securities of the series;

• the maturity date or dates, or the method for determining the maturity date or dates, on which the principal of the debt securities of the series will be payable and any rights of extension;

• the rate or rates, which may be fixed or variable, or the method of determining the rate or rates, at which the debt securities of the series will bear interest, if any;

• the date or dates from which any interest will accrue on the debt securities of the series, the date or dates on which accrued interest will be payable and the regular related record dates for the payment of accrued interest;

• the place or places where payments of principal, interest or premium, if any, will be payable, where the debt securities of the series may be surrendered for registration of transfer or exchange, and where notices or demands to or upon us may be served;

• the period or periods within which, the price or prices at which, and the other terms and conditions upon which, the debt securities of the series may be redeemed, in whole or in part, at our option, if we are to have such an option;

• with respect to our subordinated debt securities, the terms of the subordination of those debt securities in the right of payment to our senior indebtedness;

• prepayment rights, if any, applicable to the debt securities of the series and any premium payable in connection with any such prepayment;

• our obligation, if any, to redeem, repay or purchase the debt securities of the series pursuant to any sinking fund or analogous provision or at the option of a holder of the debt securities, and the period or periods within which, or the date and dates on which, the price or prices at which, and the other terms and conditions upon which, the debt

securities will be redeemed, repaid or purchased, in whole or in part, pursuant to that obligation;

whether the amount of payments of principal of and premium, if any, or interest, if any, on the debt securities of the series may be determined with reference to an index, formula or other method, and the manner in which the amounts are to be determined;

affirmative, negative and, in the case of our senior debt securities, financial covenants applicable with respect to the debt securities of the series;

any additions to, modifications of, or deletions from the terms of the debt securities of the series with respect to events of default, amendments, merger, consolidation and sale or covenants set forth in the indenture;

whether the debt securities of the series will be issued in certificated or book-entry form;

the denomination of the debt securities of the series, if other than \$1,000 and any integral multiple thereof;

if the debt securities of the series will be initially issuable in global form, the depository or its nominee with respect to the debt securities and the circumstances under which the global security may be registered for transfer or exchange in the name of a person other than the depository or its nominee;

the conditions upon which definitive debt securities of the series will be issued to beneficial owners;

the applicability, if any, of the discharge, defeasance and covenant defeasance provisions of the indenture to the debt securities of the series and any additional or different terms on which such debt securities may be discharged or defeased;

whether the debt securities of the series can be converted into or exchanged for other securities of the Company, and the related terms and conditions;

in the case of our subordinated debt securities, provisions relating to any modification of the subordination provisions of the subordinated debt securities of the series, which are described elsewhere in this prospectus;

whether the debt securities of the series will be sold as part of units consisting of debt securities, common stock, preferred stock and/or warrants;

any trustee, depository, authenticating agent, paying agent, transfer agent, registrar or other agent with respect to the debt securities of the series; and

any other terms of the debt securities of the series not inconsistent with the provisions of its applicable indenture.

Unless otherwise specified in the applicable prospectus supplement relating to the debt securities of a particular series, the debt securities will not be listed on any securities exchange.

We may offer and sell our debt securities at a substantial discount below their stated principal amount. The debt securities sold on that basis may be original issue discount securities, which means that less than the entire principal amount of the original issue discount securities will be payable upon declaration of acceleration of their maturity. Special federal income tax, accounting and other considerations applicable to original issue discount securities will be described in the applicable prospectus supplement.

Any material federal income tax considerations applicable to any discounted debt securities or to debt securities issued at par that are treated as having been issued at a discount for federal income tax purposes are not described in this prospectus and will be supplemented in the applicable prospectus supplement.

Special federal income tax, accounting and other considerations applicable to debt securities, the principal, premium, if any, or interest of which may be determined by reference to an index, formula or other method will be described in the applicable prospectus supplement.

Except as may be otherwise set forth in the prospectus supplement by which we offer particular debt securities, the indentures do not contain any provisions that would limit our ability to incur indebtedness, including indebtedness senior to the debt securities, or that would afford holders of debt securities protection in the event of a highly leveraged or similar transaction involving the Company. The indentures do not contain specific provisions that would afford debt securityholders protection in the event of a change of control, although such provisions may be included in the terms and conditions of the debt securities of a series by means of the supplemental indenture establishing that series. You should refer to the applicable prospectus supplement for information with respect to the deletion, modification or addition of any of the events of default or covenants that may be included in the debt securities of a series that are described below, including any addition of a covenant or other provision providing event risk or similar protection.

For purposes of the descriptions under the heading “Description of Debt Securities,” “subsidiary” means a corporation, a partnership, business or statutory trust, or a limited liability company a majority of the outstanding voting equity securities or a majority of the voting membership or partnership interests or beneficial interests in a trust, as the case may be (collectively, referred to as “voting equity securities”), of which is owned or controlled, directly or indirectly, by us or by one or more of our other subsidiaries. For the purposes of this definition, “voting equity securities” means securities having voting power for the election of directors, managers, managing partners or trustees, as the case may be, whether at all times or only so long as no senior class of stock has voting power by reason of any contingency.

Interest and Interest Rates

General

In the applicable prospectus supplement, we will designate the debt securities of a series as either bearing interest at a fixed rate of interest or bearing interest at a floating rate of interest. Each debt security will begin to accrue interest from the date it is originally issued. Interest on each such debt security will be payable in arrears on the interest payment dates set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement and as otherwise described below and at maturity or, if earlier, the redemption date described below. Interest will be payable to the holder of record of the debt securities at the close of business on the record date for each interest payment date, which record dates will be specified in such prospectus supplement. As used in the indentures, the term “business day” means any day, other than a Saturday or Sunday, that is neither a legal holiday nor a day on which banking institutions are generally authorized or required by law or regulation to close in Houston, Texas.

Fixed Rate Debt Securities

If a series of debt securities being offered pursuant to this prospectus will bear interest at a fixed rate of interest, the debt securities of that series will bear interest at the annual interest rate specified on the cover page of the applicable prospectus supplement. Interest on those debt securities will be payable semi-annually in arrears on the interest payment dates for those debt securities or at such other intervals as are established in the terms of the debt securities of a particular series. If the maturity date, any redemption date or an interest payment date is not a business day, we will pay principal, premium, if any, and interest on the next business day, and no interest will accrue on, from and after the maturity date, the redemption date or that interest payment date. Interest on the fixed rate debt securities will be computed on the basis of a 360-day year of twelve 30-day months.

Floating Rate Debt Securities

If a series of debt securities being offered will bear interest at a floating rate of interest, the debt securities of that series will bear interest during each relevant interest period at the rate determined as set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement and as otherwise set forth below. Each floating rate debt security will have an interest rate basis or formula.

The floating rate debt securities may have a maximum or minimum rate limitation. In no event, however, will the rate of interest on the debt securities be higher than the maximum rate of interest permitted by New York law as that law may be modified by United States law of general application.

The trustee or another bank or investment banking firm designated by us will act as the calculation agent for floating rate debt securities and, in that capacity, will compute the interest accruing on the debt securities unless otherwise specified in the applicable prospectus supplement.

If any interest payment date for the debt securities of a series bearing interest at a floating rate (other than the maturity date or a redemption date) would otherwise be a day that is not a business day, then the interest payment date will be postponed to the following date which is a business day, unless that business day falls in the next succeeding calendar month, in which case the interest payment date will be the immediately preceding business day. If the maturity date of such debt securities (or a tax or other redemption date, if earlier than the stated maturity date for those debt securities) falls on a day which is not a business day, then we will make the required payment of principal, premium, if any, and interest on the following day which is a business day, as if it were made on the date the payment was due. Interest will not accrue on, from or after the stated maturity date (or any tax or other redemption date) as a result of this delayed payment.

The calculation agent will reset the rate of interest on the debt securities of a series bearing interest at a floating rate on each interest payment date. If any of the interest reset dates for the debt securities is not a business day, that interest reset date will be postponed to the next succeeding business day, unless that day is in the next succeeding calendar month, in which case the interest reset date will be the immediately preceding business day. The interest rate set for the debt securities on a particular interest reset date will remain in effect during the interest period commencing on that interest reset date. Each interest period will be the period from and including the interest reset date to but excluding the next interest reset date or until the maturity date of the debt securities, as the case may be. The interest reset date relating to each interest period will be determined as set forth in the terms of each series of floating rate debt securities.

All percentages resulting from any calculation will be rounded to the nearest one hundred-thousandth of a percentage point, with five one-millionths of a percentage point rounded upward. Dollar amounts used in any calculation will be rounded to the nearest cent (with one-half cent being rounded upward).

The calculation agent will promptly notify the trustee of each determination of the interest rate, as well as of the interest period, the amount of interest expected to accrue for that interest period and the interest payment date related to each interest reset date, as soon as such information becomes available. The trustee will make such information available to the holders of the relevant debt securities upon request. The calculation agent's determination of any interest rate and its calculation of the amount of interest for any interest period will be final and binding in the absence of a manifest error.

So long as floating rate debt securities of a series are outstanding, we will at all times maintain a calculation agent as to the debt securities of that series. We will appoint a bank, trust company, investment banking firm or other financial institution to act as the successor calculation agent to the trustee or any of its successors in that capacity in the event that:

any calculation agent is unable or unwilling to act;

any calculation agent fails duly to establish the floating interest rate for a series of floating rate debt securities; or

we propose to remove any calculation agent.

Ranking

Senior Debt Securities

The senior debt securities of a series that we issue under the senior debt indenture will rank equally in right of payment of the principal of and premium, if any, and interest on such senior debt securities with all of our other existing and future unsecured and unsubordinated debt, including the senior debt securities of any other series.

Subordinated Debt Securities

As provided in the subordinated debt indenture and as described in the prospectus supplement describing the applicable series of subordinated debt securities, the payment of the principal of and premium, if any, and interest on the subordinated debt securities of any series, including amounts payable on any redemption or repurchase in accordance with the terms of such subordinated debt securities, will be subordinated to the extent and in the manner provided in the terms of the subordinated debt securities of a series in right of payment to the prior payment in full of all of our senior indebtedness, which is defined below. If there is a distribution to our creditors in a liquidation or winding up of the Company, or in a bankruptcy, reorganization, insolvency, receivership or similar proceeding relating to the Company, the holders of senior debt will first be entitled to receive payment in full of all amounts due on the senior debt (or provision shall be made for such payment in cash) before any payments may be made on the subordinated debt securities. Because of this subordination, holders of our senior debt securities and general creditors of the Company may recover more of the indebtedness of the Company owed to them, ratably, than will the holders of subordinated debt securities in the event of a distribution of assets upon bankruptcy, reorganization, insolvency, receivership or similar proceeding, or a liquidation, termination or winding up of the Company.

The supplemental indenture, board resolution or board resolution and related officers' certificate establishing a series of subordinated debt securities will set forth the terms and conditions under which, if any, we will not be permitted to pay some or all of the principal of or premium, if any, or interest on the subordinated debt securities of a series upon the occurrence of an event of default or other circumstances arising under or with respect to senior indebtedness of the Company, including senior debt securities.

As discussed above, the indentures may place no limitation on the amount of indebtedness that we may incur, and the subordinated debt indenture will not limit the amount of debt senior to the subordinated debt securities of any series that we may incur. We expect to incur from time to time additional indebtedness constituting senior debt, which may include indebtedness that is senior to the subordinated debt securities but subordinate to our other obligations.

"Senior indebtedness" under the subordinated debt indenture means the principal of, and premium, if any, and interest, including interest accruing after the commencement of any bankruptcy proceeding relating to the Company, on, or substantially similar payments we will make in respect of the following categories of indebtedness, whether that indebtedness was

outstanding at the date of execution of the subordinated debt indenture or thereafter incurred, created or assumed: our other indebtedness evidenced by notes, debentures, or bonds or other securities, whether issued under the provisions of any indenture (including indentures other than the senior debt indenture), fiscal agency agreement, debenture or note purchase agreement or other agreement, including the senior debt securities that may be offered by means of this prospectus and one or more prospectus supplements;

our indebtedness for money borrowed or represented by purchase-money obligations, as defined below;

our obligations as lessee under leases of property whether made as part of a sale and leaseback transaction to which we are a party or otherwise;

indebtedness, obligations and liabilities of others in respect of which we are liable contingently or otherwise to pay or advance money or property or as guarantor, endorser or otherwise or which we have agreed to purchase or otherwise acquire and indebtedness of partnerships and joint ventures that is included in our consolidated financial statements;

reimbursement and other obligations relating to letters of credit, bankers' acceptances and similar obligations;

obligations under various hedging and similar arrangements and agreements, including interest rate and currency hedging agreements and swap and nonswap forward agreements;

all our obligations issued or assumed as the deferred purchase price of property or services other than trade accounts payable and accrued liabilities arising in the ordinary course of business; and

deferrals, renewals or extensions of any of the indebtedness or obligations described in the eight clauses above.

However, "senior indebtedness" excludes:

any indebtedness, obligation or liability referred to in the nine clauses above as to which, in the instrument creating, governing or evidencing that indebtedness, obligation or liability, it is expressly provided that such indebtedness, obligation or liability is not senior in right of payment to, is junior in right of payment to, or ranks equally in right of payment with, other specified types of indebtedness, obligations and liabilities of the Company, including subordinated debt securities of one or more series;

any indebtedness, obligation or liability that is subordinated to other of our indebtedness, obligations and liabilities to substantially the same extent as or to a greater extent than the subordinated debt securities are subordinated; and

the subordinated debt securities issued pursuant to the subordinated debt indenture and our outstanding junior subordinated indentures and, unless expressly provided in the terms thereof, any of our indebtedness to our subsidiaries.

As used above, the term “purchase-money obligations” means indebtedness, obligations evidenced by a note, debenture, bond or other instrument, whether or not secured by a lien or other security interest issued to evidence the obligation to pay or a guarantee of the payment of, and any deferred obligation for the payment of, the purchase price of property but excluding indebtedness or obligations for which recourse is limited to the property purchased, issued or assumed as all or a part of the consideration for the acquisition of property or services, whether by purchase, merger, consolidation or otherwise, but does not include any trade accounts payable.

The applicable prospectus supplement and supplemental indenture may further describe the provisions, if any, applicable to the subordination of the subordinated debt securities of a particular series. The applicable prospectus supplement will describe as of a recent date the approximate amount of our senior debt outstanding as to which the subordinated debt securities of that series will be subordinated.

Structural Subordination

Because the Company is a holding company, our cash flows and consequent ability to service our obligations, including both our senior debt securities and subordinated debt securities, are dependent on dividends, distributions and other payments of earnings and other funds by our subsidiaries, particularly Allegiance Bank, to us. The payment of dividends and other distributions by our subsidiaries is contingent on their earnings and is subject to the requirements of federal banking regulations and other restrictions. For example, various banking laws applicable to Allegiance Bank limit the payment of dividends and other distributions by Allegiance Bank to us, and may, therefore, limit our ability to pay accrued interest owing on our outstanding senior debt securities and subordinated debt securities on any interest payment date or the principal of such senior debt securities and subordinated debt securities at their maturity. In addition, the debt securities will be structurally subordinated to all indebtedness and other liabilities of the our subsidiaries, because any right of the Company to receive any assets of its subsidiaries upon their liquidation or reorganization, and the consequent right of the holders of the debt securities to participate in those assets, will be effectively subordinated to the claims of that subsidiary’s secured and unsecured creditors. If the Company itself is recognized as a creditor of that subsidiary, our claims would still be subordinate to any security interest in the assets of that subsidiary and any indebtedness of that subsidiary senior to that held by the Company. Claims from creditors (other than us) on our subsidiaries may include long-term and medium-term debt and substantial obligations related to deposit liabilities, federal funds purchased, securities sold under repurchase agreements, other short-term borrowings and trade

payables. Any capital loans that we make to Allegiance Bank would be subordinate in right of payment to deposits and to other indebtedness of Allegiance Bank.

Unsecured Obligations

Our senior debt securities and subordinated debt securities will be unsecured.

Conversion or Exchange of Debt Securities

The applicable prospectus supplement will describe the terms, if any, on which a series of debt securities may be converted into or exchanged for other of our securities. These terms will include whether conversion or exchange will be mandatory, at our option or at the option of the holder. We will also describe in the applicable prospectus supplement relating to any such convertible or exchangeable debt securities how we will calculate the amount or number of our other securities that holders of debt securities would receive if they were to convert or exchange their debt securities, the conversion price or exchange ratio and other terms related to conversion or exchange and any antidilution protections.

Redemption of Securities

We may redeem the debt securities, in whole or in part, at the prescribed redemption price, at the times and on the terms described in the applicable prospectus supplement. If we exercise that redemption option, we will notify the trustee and the registrar of the redemption date and of the principal amount of debt securities of the series to be redeemed.

Notice of redemption will be given to each holder of the debt securities to be redeemed at their addresses, as shown on the security register, at least 60 days prior to the date set for such redemption. The notice will set forth: the redemption date; the price at which the debt securities will be redeemed; if less than all of the outstanding debt securities of such series are to be redeemed, the identification (and, in the case of partial redemption, the respective principal amounts) of the particular debt securities to be redeemed; the place or places where such debt securities maturing after the redemption date are to be surrendered for payment of the price at which such debt securities will be redeemed; whether the redemption is for a sinking fund; the CUSIP number applicable to the debt securities to be redeemed; and if all or a portion of the redemption price is to be paid in cash or common stock or other securities or property, a statement whether the Company has elected to pay the redemption price in cash or common stock or other securities and, if applicable, the portion of such payment.

At or prior to the opening of business on the redemption date, we will deposit or cause to be deposited with the trustee or with a paying agent (or, if we are acting as our own paying agent with respect to the debt securities being redeemed, we will segregate and hold in trust as provided in the indenture) an amount of money sufficient to pay the aggregate redemption price of all of the debt securities or the part thereof to be redeemed on that date. On the redemption date, the price at which the debt securities will be redeemed will become due and payable upon all of the debt securities to be redeemed, and interest, if any, on the debt securities to be redeemed will cease to accrue on and after that date.

Upon surrender of any such debt securities

for redemption, we will pay those debt securities surrendered at the price set for such redemption.

If we elect to redeem debt securities, we will be required to notify the trustee of the aggregate principal amount of debt securities to be redeemed and the redemption date. If fewer than all the debt securities are to be redeemed, the trustee is required to select the debt securities to be redeemed proportionately, by lot or in a manner it deems fair and appropriate or as required by law. Any of the debt securities to be redeemed only in part must be surrendered at the office or agency established by us for such purpose, and we will execute, and the trustee will authenticate and deliver to you without service charge, new debt securities of the same series, containing identical terms and conditions, of any authorized denominations as requested by you, in an aggregate principal amount equal to and in exchange for the unredeemed portion of the debt securities you surrender.

Payment and Paying and Transfer Agent

We will make all payments of principal of and premium, if any, and interest on the debt securities of each series offered pursuant to this prospectus to the depository for the debt securities of that series, which will be The Depository Trust Company, or "DTC", for so long as those debt securities remain in book-entry form. If certificated securities are issued as to the debt securities of any series, we will pay the principal of and the premium, if any, and interest on those debt securities by wire transfer in accordance with the instructions given to us by the holders of those debt securities. Except as otherwise noted below, all other payments with respect to certificated debt securities will be made at the office or agency of the paying agent within Houston, Texas unless we elect to make interest payments by check mailed to the holders at their address set forth in the register of holders.

Under the terms of the indentures, we and the trustee will treat the registered holder of such debt securities (i.e., DTC (or its nominee)) as the owner thereof for all purposes, including the right to receive payments and for all other purposes. Consequently, neither we nor the trustee or any of our respective agents has or will have any responsibility or liability for:

any aspects of the records of DTC or any direct or indirect participant therein relating to or payments made on account of any such debt securities, any such payments made by DTC or any direct or indirect participant therein, or maintaining, supervising or reviewing the records of DTC or any direct or indirect participant therein relating to or payments made on account of any such debt securities; or

DTC or any direct or indirect participant therein. Payments by participants to the beneficial owners of our debt securities held through participants are the responsibility of such participants, as is now the case with securities held for the accounts of customers registered in "street name."

We will maintain an office or agency in Houston, Texas, where debt securities of each series may be presented for registration of transfer or for exchange and an office or agency where such debt securities may be presented and surrendered for payment. The trustee under the

indentures, will also be the registrar and paying agent for the debt securities of each series unless it resigns from such position or it is otherwise replaced in such capacities as provided in the applicable indentures. Holders will not have to pay any service charge for any registration of transfer or exchange of debt securities, but we may require payment of a sum sufficient to cover any tax or other governmental charge payable in connection with such registration of transfer.

Same-Day Settlement

The debt securities will trade in the same-day funds settlement system in the United States until maturity. Purchases of debt securities in secondary market trading must be settled in immediately available funds. See "Book Entry Issuance."

Denomination, Payment, Registration and Transfer

Unless otherwise specified in the applicable prospectus supplement, we will issue the debt securities of a series in denominations of \$1,000 or integral multiples of \$1,000.

Unless otherwise specified in the applicable prospectus supplement, we will pay the principal of, and applicable premium, if any, and interest on the debt securities of any series at the corporate trust office of the trustee, the address of which will be stated in the applicable prospectus supplement. At our option, we may pay interest by check mailed to the address of the person entitled to the interest payment as it appears in the register for the applicable debt securities or by wire transfer of funds to that person at an account maintained within the United States.

Any defaulted interest, which means interest not punctually paid or duly provided for on any interest payment date with respect to a debt security, will immediately cease to be payable to the registered holder on the applicable regular record date by virtue of his having been the registered holder on such date. We may pay defaulted interest either to the person in whose name the debt security is registered at the close of business on a special record date for the payment of the defaulted interest to be fixed by the trustee, notice of which is to be given to the holder of the debt security not less than ten days before the special record date, or at any time in any other lawful manner, all as more completely described in the indenture or supplemental indenture.

Subject to limitations imposed upon debt securities issued in book-entry form, the holder may exchange debt securities of any series for other debt securities of the same series and of a like aggregate principal amount and tenor but in different, authorized denominations upon surrender of the debt securities at the corporate trust office of the applicable trustee. In addition, subject to limitations imposed upon debt securities issued in book-entry form, the holder may surrender debt securities of any series for registration of transfer or exchange at the corporate trust office of the applicable trustee. Every debt security surrendered for registration of transfer or exchange must be duly endorsed or accompanied by a written instrument of transfer. No service charge will be imposed for any registration of transfer or exchange of any debt securities, but we may require payment of a sum sufficient to cover any tax or other governmental charge payable in connection with any registration of transfer or exchange of any debt securities. If the applicable prospectus supplement refers to any transfer agent in addition to the applicable

trustee, which additional transfer agent is initially designated by us with respect to any series of debt securities, we may at any time rescind the designation of that transfer agent or approve a change in the location through which any transfer agent acts, except that we will be required to maintain a transfer agent in each place of payment for that series of debt securities. We may at any time designate additional transfer agents with respect to any series of debt securities. If we redeem the debt securities of any series, neither we nor any trustee will be required to: issue, register the transfer of, or exchange debt securities of any series during a period beginning at the opening of business 15 days before any selection of debt securities of that series to be redeemed and ending at the close of business on the day of mailing of the relevant notice of redemption;

register the transfer of, or exchange any debt security, or portion of any debt security, called for redemption, except the unredeemed portion of any debt security being redeemed in part; or

issue, register the transfer of, or exchange any debt security that has been surrendered for repayment at the option of the holder, except the portion, if any, of the debt security not to be repaid.

Global Securities

We may issue the debt securities of a series in whole or in part in the form of one or more global securities to be deposited with, or on behalf of, a depository or with a nominee for a depository identified in the applicable prospectus supplement relating to that series. We will issue global securities in registered form and in either temporary or permanent form. The specific terms of the depository arrangement with respect to a series of debt securities will be described in the prospectus supplement relating to that series.

Our obligations with respect to the debt securities of any series, as well as the obligations of the applicable trustee with respect to the debt securities of such series, run only to persons who are registered holders of debt securities. For example, once we make payment to the registered holder, we have no further responsibility for that payment even if the recipient is legally required to pass the payment along to an individual investor but fails to do so. As an indirect holder, an investor's rights relating to a global security will be governed by the account rules of the investor's financial institution and of the depository and/or participant of the depository, as well as general laws relating to transfers of debt securities.

An investor should be aware that when debt securities are issued in the form of global securities:

the investor cannot have a note or certificate representing his or her debt securities registered in his or her own name;

the investor cannot receive physical certificates for his or her debt securities unless the conditions for issuance of physical certification are met;

the investor must look to his or her bank or brokerage firm or related DTC participant for payments on the debt securities and protection of his or her legal rights relating to the debt securities;

the investor may not be able to sell interests in the debt securities to some insurance or other institutions that are required by law to hold the physical certificates of debt that they own;

the depositary's policies will govern payments, transfers, exchanges and other matters relating to the investor's interest in the global security; and

the depositary will usually require that interests in a global security be purchased or sold within its system and settled using same-day funds.

The prospectus supplement for a series of debt securities will list the special situations, if any, in which a global security will be exchanged for physical certificates representing debt securities represented by the global securities. After that exchange, the investor may choose whether to hold debt securities directly or indirectly through an account at the investor's bank or brokerage firm. In that event, investors must consult their banks or brokers to find out how to have their interests in debt securities transferred to their own names so that they may become direct holders. When a global security is exchanged for physical certificates, the depositary, and not us or one of the trustees, is responsible for deciding the names of the institutions that will be the initial direct holders of the debt securities represented by the global security.

Merger, Consolidation or Sale of Assets

We will not be permitted to consolidate with or merge into any other entity, or sell, lease, transfer or convey all or substantially all of our properties and assets, either in one transaction or a series of transactions, to any other entity and no other entity will consolidate with or merge into us, or sell, lease, transfer or convey all or substantially all of its properties and assets to us unless:

(1) either:

the Company is the continuing entity; or

the successor entity, if other than the Company, formed by or resulting from any consolidation or merger, or which has received the transfer of our properties and assets, expressly assumes payment of the principal of, and premium, if any, and interest on all of the outstanding debt securities and the due and punctual performance and observance of all of the covenants and conditions contained in the applicable indenture; and

(2) immediately after giving effect to the transaction and treating any indebtedness that becomes our obligation as a result of that transaction as having been incurred by us at the time of the transaction, no event of default under the applicable indenture, and no event which, after notice, the lapse of time or both, would become an event of default will have occurred and be continuing.

The conditions described in (1) and (2) above would not apply to the direct or indirect transfer of the stock, assets or liabilities of any of our subsidiaries to another of our direct or indirect subsidiaries.

Except as provided in this prospectus or as may otherwise be provided in the applicable prospectus supplement, the applicable indenture and the terms of the debt securities will not contain any event risk or similar covenants that are intended to afford protection to holders of any debt securities in the event of a merger, a highly leveraged transaction or other significant corporate event involving us or our subsidiaries, whether or not resulting in a change of control, which may adversely affect holders of the debt securities.

Additional Covenants and/or Modifications to the Covenant Described Above

Any covenants of the Company in addition to, and/or modifications to, the covenant relating to mergers, consolidations and sales of assets described above with respect to any series of debt securities, including any covenants relating to limitations on incurrence of indebtedness or incurrence of liens or any affirmative covenants, other negative covenants or financial covenants, will be set forth in the indenture and described in the prospectus supplement relating to that series of debt securities.

Unless the applicable prospectus supplement indicates otherwise, the indentures do not contain a restrictive covenant on the incurrence of debt of the type described above, nor do they contain any other provision which restricts us from, among other things:

• incurring or becoming liable on any secured or unsecured senior or subordinated indebtedness or general obligations;
or

• paying dividends or making other distributions on our capital stock; or

• purchasing or redeeming our capital stock; or

• creating any liens on our property for any purpose.

Events of Default; Right to Accelerate

Senior Debt Securities. Under the senior debt indenture, but subject to any modifications or deletions provided in any supplemental indenture or board resolution or board resolution and related officers' certificate with respect to or establishing the terms and conditions of the senior debt securities of any specific series, an event of default will occur with respect to the senior debt securities upon the occurrence of any of the following events:

failure to pay any installment of interest payable on any senior debt security of the series for 30 days;

failure to pay principal of, or premium, if any, on, any senior debt security of the series when due, whether at maturity, upon redemption, by declaration of acceleration of maturity or otherwise;

default in making any sinking fund payment when due, for any senior debt security of the series;

default in the performance or breach of any other covenant or warranty of the Company contained in the senior debt indenture, other than a covenant added to the senior debt indenture solely for the benefit of any other series of senior debt securities issued under that senior debt indenture, continuing for 90 days after written notice as provided in the senior debt indenture;

the entry by a court having proper jurisdiction of a decree or order for relief in respect of us (or, in each case, any significant subsidiary of ours) in an involuntary case or proceeding under any bankruptcy, insolvency, reorganization or similar law or adjudging us bankrupt or insolvent or approving as properly filed a petition seeking our reorganization, arrangement, adjustment or composition or appointing a custodian, receiver, liquidator, assignee, trustee or similar official for us or of any substantial part of our property, or ordering our winding up or liquidation and such decree or order shall have continued unstayed and in effect for a period of 60 consecutive days;

if we (or, in each case, any significant subsidiary of ours) commence a voluntary case or proceeding under any bankruptcy, insolvency, reorganization law or to be adjudicated a bankrupt or insolvent, or we consent to the entry of a decree or order for relief in an involuntary case or proceeding under any bankruptcy, insolvency, reorganization or similar law, to the commencing of any bankruptcy or insolvency case or proceeding or to the filing of any petition or appointment of, or taking possession by, a custodian, receiver, liquidator, assignee, trustee or similar official for us or of any substantial part of our property or any assignment for the benefit of our creditors or our taking of any action in furtherance of such action;

default in the delivery of any shares of common stock or other securities or property when required to be delivered upon the conversion of, or the exchange of, any senior debt securities of a series and that default continues for a period of 10 days; or

any other event of default as is described in the prospectus supplement relating to any series of senior debt securities being offered for sale.

If any bankruptcy or insolvency-related event of default described above occurs, the principal amount and interest on the senior debt securities will become immediately due and payable, subject to the broad equity powers of a federal bankruptcy court and the determination

by that court of the nature and status of the payment claims of the holders of the senior debt securities. If any other event of default described above or established as a term of the senior debt securities of a series occurs and is continuing, the senior debt trustee or the holders of 25% of the aggregate principal amount of the outstanding senior debt securities of that series may accelerate the maturity of the outstanding senior debt securities of that series and declare the principal of and accrued and unpaid interest on such senior debt securities to be immediately due and payable. Upon such a declaration, the principal of (or such lesser amount as may be provided for in the terms of the senior debt securities of that series) and all accrued and unpaid interest on such senior debt securities will become immediately due and payable upon notice of such declaration being given in writing to the Company and, if the acceleration is by the holders, the senior debt trustee. At any time after a declaration of acceleration with respect to the senior debt securities of a series has been made, but before a judgment or decree for payment of the money due has been obtained, the holders of a majority in aggregate principal amount of outstanding senior debt securities of that series may rescind and annul the consequences of the event of default, but only if certain conditions have been satisfied.

Subordinated Debt Securities. Under the subordinated debt indenture, but subject to any modifications or deletions provided in any supplemental indenture or board resolution or board resolution and related officers' certificate with respect to any specific series of subordinated debt securities, an event of default will occur with respect to the subordinated debt securities upon the occurrence of any of the following events:

failure to pay any installment of interest payable on any subordinated debt security of the series for 30 days;

failure to pay principal of, or premium, if any, on, any subordinated debt security of the series when due, whether at maturity, upon redemption, by declaration of acceleration of maturity or otherwise;

default in making any sinking fund payment when due, for any subordinated debt security of the series;

default in the performance or breach of any other covenant or warranty of the Company contained in the subordinated debt indenture, other than a covenant added to the subordinated debt indenture solely for the benefit of any other series of subordinated debt securities issued under that subordinated debt indenture, continuing for 90 days after written notice as provided in the subordinated debt indenture;

the entry of a decree or order for relief in respect of the Company by a court having jurisdiction in the premises in an involuntary proceeding under Chapter 7 (liquidation) or Chapter 11 (reorganization) of the U.S. Bankruptcy Code as now or hereafter in effect, and such decree or order shall have continued unstayed and in effect for a period of 60 consecutive days;

if we commence a bankruptcy or insolvency proceeding or consent to the entry of an order in an involuntary proceeding under Chapter 7 (liquidation) or Chapter 11 (reorganization) of the U.S. Bankruptcy Code as now or hereafter in effect; or

such other events of default as are described in the prospectus supplement relating to any series of subordinated debt securities being offered for sale.

If an event of default based on the entry of a decree or order for relief in a bankruptcy or insolvency proceeding or the commencement by us of a bankruptcy or insolvency proceeding or our consent to the entry of an order in an involuntary bankruptcy or insolvency proceeding that adjudicates us as being insolvent occurs, the principal amount and interest on the subordinated debt securities shall become immediately due and payable, subject to the broad equity powers of a federal bankruptcy court and the determination by that court of the nature and status of the payment claims of the holders of the subordinated debt securities. Unless the terms of the subordinated debt securities of a series provide otherwise, if any non-insolvency event of default described above or established as a term of the subordinated debt securities of a series occurs and is continuing, the subordinated debt trustee or the holders of 25% of the aggregate principal amount of the outstanding subordinated debt securities of that series may accelerate the maturity of the outstanding subordinated debt securities of that series and declare the principal of and accrued and unpaid interest on such subordinated debt securities to be immediately due and payable. Upon such a declaration, the principal of (or such lesser amount as may be provided for in the terms of the subordinated debt securities of that series) and all accrued and unpaid interest on such subordinated debt securities will become immediately due and payable upon notice of such declaration being given in writing to the Company and, if the acceleration is by the holders, the subordinated debt trustee. At any time after a declaration of acceleration with respect to the subordinated debt securities of a series has been made, but before a judgment or decree for payment of the money due has been obtained, the holders of a majority in aggregate principal amount of outstanding subordinated debt securities of that series may rescind and annul the consequences of the event of default, but only if certain conditions have been satisfied.

We may offer subordinated debt securities of a series that we intend to qualify as “Tier 2 capital” under the federal regulatory rules and guidelines for bank holding company capital. For such subordinated debt securities to so qualify as “Tier 2 capital,” the maturity of such subordinated debt securities may not be accelerated upon the occurrence and continuation of an event of default unless the event of default is one based on the entry of a decree or order for relief in a bankruptcy or insolvency proceeding or the commencement by us of a bankruptcy or insolvency proceeding or our consent to the entry of an order in an involuntary bankruptcy or insolvency proceeding as discussed above. Notwithstanding the discussion appearing above of the rights of the subordinated debt trustee or holders of subordinated debt securities to accelerate the maturity of such subordinated debt securities upon the occurrence of a non-insolvency event of default, the terms of the subordinated debt securities of a series intended to qualify as “Tier 2 capital” will expressly limit the rights of the subordinated debt trustee and the holders of the subordinated debt securities of such series to declare an acceleration of the maturity of such subordinated debt securities upon the occurrence of a non-insolvency default and such limitation will be described in any prospectus supplement by which we offer subordinated debt securities of

that series for sale. As a consequence of that limitation, with respect to our subordinated debt securities of a series intended to qualify as “Tier 2 capital,” neither the trustee nor the holders of the subordinated debt securities of any series or any group of holders of any portion of the outstanding subordinated debt securities of one or more series will have the right to accelerate the subordinated debt securities of any series in the event of a default in the payment of principal of, or premium, if any, or interest on, the subordinated debt securities of that series or as a result of our nonperformance of any other covenant applicable to or obligation arising under the terms of the subordinated debt securities of that series or the subordinated debt indenture. If we default in our obligation to pay any interest on the subordinated debt securities when due and payable and such default continues for a period of 30 days, or if we default in our obligation to pay the principal amount due upon maturity, or if we breach any covenant or agreement contained in the subordinated debt indenture and that default continues for any grace period, then the subordinated debt trustee may, subject to certain limitations and conditions, seek to enforce its rights and the rights of the holders of subordinated debt securities of the performance of any covenant or agreement in the indenture. As a result of such limitations on the rights and remedies of the holders of subordinated debt securities of a series intended to qualify as “Tier 2 capital”, the holders of our senior debt securities, holders of our other senior indebtedness, holders of our subordinated debt securities of a series not intended to qualify as “Tier 2 capital” and our general creditors would be able to act to recover amounts owing to them prior to the holders of our subordinated debt securities.

Collection of Indebtedness

If an event of default relating to our failure to pay interest or principal, to make a sinking fund or analogous payment occurs with respect to the debt securities of a series issued under an indenture, we must pay to the applicable trustee for the benefit of the holders of the affected debt securities the amount of the principal of, and premium, if any, and accrued and unpaid interest on, such debt securities and, to the extent legally enforceable, interest on any such overdue amounts at the rate determined as prescribed in the terms of such debt securities. If we fail to pay such amounts, the applicable trustee may institute a suit against us to collect the amounts due and payable. If the debt securities as to which such a failure of payment occurs are subordinated debt securities intended to qualify as “Tier 2 capital,” the amounts we would be required to pay to the subordinated debt trustee upon such a failure of payment or performance would not include any principal, premium or interest that would not be due without the maturity of such subordinated debt securities being accelerated.

Trustee Action

The indentures provide that, subject to the duty of the trustee upon the occurrence of an event of default to act with the required standard of care, the trustee will be under no obligation to exercise any of its rights or powers under the applicable indenture at the request or direction of any of the holders of debt securities unless such holders shall have offered to the trustee indemnity or security reasonably satisfactory to the trustee against the costs, expenses and liabilities that may be incurred by it in complying with such request or direction. Subject to certain provisions, the holders of a majority in aggregate principal amount of the outstanding

debt securities of the affected series will have the right to direct the time, method, and place of conducting any proceeding for any remedy available to the trustee or exercising any trust or power conferred on the trustee with respect to the subject debt securities.

Limitations on Suits by Holders

No holder of debt securities shall have any right to institute any proceeding, judicial or otherwise, with respect to the indentures, or for the appointment of a receiver or trustee, or for any other remedy under the indentures, unless: such holder has previously given written notice to the trustee of a continuing event of default with respect to the applicable debt securities;

the holders of not less than 25% in aggregate principal amount of the applicable debt securities shall have made written request to the trustee to institute proceedings in respect of such event of default in its own name as trustee under the applicable indenture;

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