

HOPE BANCORP INC  
Form DEF 14A  
May 01, 2018

---

UNITED STATES  
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
Washington, D.C. 20549  
SCHEDULE 14a

PROXY STATEMENT  
Pursuant to Section 14(A) of The Securities Exchange Act of 1934

Filed by the Registrant

Filed by a Party other than the Registrant

Check the appropriate box:

Preliminary Proxy Statement

Confidential, for Use of the Commission Only (as permitted by Rule 14a-6(e)(2))

Definitive Proxy Statement

Definitive Additional Materials

Soliciting Material Pursuant to §240.14a-12

HOPE BANCORP, INC.  
(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:

Fee paid previously with preliminary materials.

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:



3200 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 1400, Los Angeles, CA 90010  
NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS  
To be Held on Thursday, May 24, 2018  
TO OUR STOCKHOLDERS:

We are pleased to announce that, pursuant to our Bylaws and the call of our board of directors, the Annual Meeting of Stockholders (the “Annual Meeting”) of Hope Bancorp, Inc. will be held at the Oxford Palace Hotel, 745 South Oxford Avenue, Los Angeles, California 90005 on Thursday, May 24, 2018 at 10:30 a.m. Pacific Time. At the Annual Meeting, we will ask you to vote on the following matters, as set forth in greater detail in the accompanying Proxy Statement:

1. Election of Directors. You will have the opportunity to elect 13 persons to serve as members of our board of directors until our next Annual Meeting and until their successors are duly elected and qualified. The following thirteen persons are our nominees for election:

Donald D. Byun	Steven J. Didion	Jinho Doo	Daisy Y. Ha
Jin Chul Jung	Kevin S. Kim	Steven S. Koh	Chung Hyun Lee
William J. Lewis	David P. Malone	John R. Taylor	Scott Yoon-Suk Whang

Dale S. Zuehls

2. Ratification of the Appointment of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm. You will be asked to ratify the appointment of Crowe Horwath LLP as our independent registered public accounting firm for the year ending December 31, 2018.

3. Nonbinding Advisory Vote to Approve Executive Compensation. You will have the opportunity to cast a nonbinding, advisory vote on whether to approve the compensation of the Company’s “Named Executive Officers” as described in the attached Proxy Statement.

4. Nonbinding Advisory Vote on Frequency of Future Advisory Votes on Executive Compensation. You will have the opportunity to cast a nonbinding, advisory vote on whether you would prefer an advisory vote on executive compensation every year, every two years, or every three years.

5. Other Business. If other business is properly raised at the meeting or any postponement or adjournment thereof, you may be asked to vote on these matters as well.

The Board of Directors recommends that you vote in favor of the election of the above nominees, in favor of Proposals 2 and 3 and for the option of “1 Year” for Proposal 4.

We cordially invite all stockholders to attend this meeting in person. Only stockholders of record as of the close of business on March 29, 2018 are entitled to notice of and to vote at the Annual Meeting or at any postponement or adjournment thereof.

Your vote is important. Whether or not you expect to attend the Annual Meeting, please sign, date and return the enclosed Proxy Card in the postage paid envelope provided, or cast your vote by Internet or telephone by following the instructions on your Proxy Card and the Notice of Internet Availability of Proxy Materials, as soon as you can. The vote of every stockholder is important, and we appreciate your cooperation in returning your executed Proxy promptly.

Your Proxy, or your Internet or telephone vote, is revocable and will not affect your right to vote in person if you attend the Annual Meeting in person. If your shares are registered in your name and you attend the Annual Meeting, you may simply revoke your previously submitted Proxy by voting your shares at that time. If you receive more than one Proxy Card or Notice of Internet Availability of Proxy Materials because your shares are registered in different names or addresses, you will need to follow the instructions in each set of proxy materials that you receive to ensure

Edgar Filing: HOPE BANCORP INC - Form DEF 14A

that all your shares will be voted at the Annual Meeting. If your shares are held by a broker or other nominee holder, and are not registered in your name, you will need additional documentation from your broker or other record holder to vote your shares in person at the Annual Meeting. Please indicate on the Proxy Card whether or not you expect to attend the Annual Meeting in person.

We appreciate your continuing support and look forward to seeing you at the Annual Meeting.

---

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Kevin S. Kim

President & Chief Executive Officer

DATED: April 30, 2018

Los Angeles, California

Important Notice Regarding the Availability of Proxy Materials for the Stockholder Meeting to be Held on May 24, 2018

This Proxy Statement and the Company's 2017 Annual Report to Stockholders is available free of charge electronically online at

<http://www.ir-hopebancorp.com/ProxyMaterials/Index?keyGenPage=331167>.

---

TABLE OF CONTENTS	PAGE
<u>GENERAL INFORMATION</u>	<u>4</u>
<u>PROPOSAL 1: Election of Directors</u>	<u>9</u>
<u>Executive Summary</u>	<u>10</u>
<u>Director Nomination Process</u>	<u>11</u>
<u>Director Nominee Qualifications and Experience</u>	<u>12</u>
<u>Corporate Governance</u>	<u>18</u>
<u>Board Leadership Structure</u>	<u>18</u>
<u>Board Independence</u>	<u>19</u>
<u>Board Diversity</u>	<u>19</u>
<u>Committees of the Board</u>	<u>19</u>
<u>Board Communication</u>	<u>22</u>
<u>Equity Ownership Guidelines</u>	<u>22</u>
<u>Board's Role in Risk Oversight</u>	<u>23</u>
<u>Director Compensation</u>	<u>23</u>
<u>PROPOSAL 2: Ratification of Appointment of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm</u>	<u>26</u>
<u>Executive Summary</u>	<u>27</u>
<u>Audit Committee Pre-Approval Policies and Procedures</u>	<u>29</u>
<u>Fees Paid to BDO and KPMG</u>	<u>29</u>
<u>Audit Committee Report</u>	<u>30</u>
<u>PROPOSAL 3: Nonbinding Advisory Vote to Approve Executive Compensation</u>	<u>31</u>
<u>Advisory Resolution</u>	<u>32</u>
<u>Executive Officer Qualifications and Experience</u>	<u>33</u>
<u>Named Executive Officers</u>	<u>36</u>
<u>Compensation Committee Report</u>	<u>37</u>
<u>Compensation Discussion and Analysis</u>	<u>38</u>
<u>Executive Summary</u>	<u>38</u>
<u>What Guides Our Executive Compensation Program</u>	<u>41</u>
<u>Elements of Compensation</u>	<u>43</u>
<u>Other Practices, Policies and Guidelines</u>	<u>48</u>
<u>CEO to Median Employee Pay Ratio</u>	<u>52</u>
<u>Compensation Committee Interlocks and Insider Participation</u>	<u>53</u>
<u>Executive Compensation Tables</u>	<u>54</u>
<u>Security Ownership of Directors and Executive Officers</u>	<u>61</u>
<u>Additional Information About Our Directors and Executive Officers</u>	<u>62</u>
<u>PROPOSAL 4: Nonbinding Advisory Vote on Frequency of Future Advisory Votes on Executive Compensation</u>	<u>64</u>
<u>Executive Summary</u>	<u>65</u>
<u>ANNUAL REPORT ON FORM 10-K</u>	<u>66</u>
<u>OTHER MATTERS</u>	<u>67</u>



## QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ABOUT THE ANNUAL MEETING

The following are brief answers to certain questions that you may have about the Hope Bancorp, Inc. Annual Meeting. We urge you to read carefully the remainder of this Proxy Statement because the information in this section does not provide all of the information that might be important to you with respect the Annual Meeting. Additional important information is contained in the documents incorporated by reference into this Proxy Statement. See “Where You Can Find Additional Information.”

Unless otherwise indicated in this Proxy Statement or the context otherwise requires: references to “we,” “our” or “us” refer to Hope Bancorp, Inc., including our wholly owned subsidiary, Bank of Hope.

**Q:** Why did you send me this Proxy Statement?

**A:** We are delivering this Proxy Statement and the enclosed Proxy Card to you because our board of directors is soliciting your vote at the 2018 Annual Meeting of Stockholders. This Proxy Statement summarizes the information we believe you need to know to cast an informed vote at the Annual Meeting. However, you do not need to attend the Annual Meeting to vote your shares. Instead, you may simply complete, sign and return the enclosed Proxy Card by mail. You may also vote by Internet or telephone, as instructed on the Proxy Card.

The record date for the determination of stockholders entitled to notice of and to vote at the Annual Meeting is March 29, 2018 (the “Record Date”). On that date, 135,515,643 shares of our common stock were outstanding, which is our only class of voting stock. Along with this Proxy Statement and a Proxy Card, we are also sending you our 2017 Annual Report to Stockholders for the year ended December 31, 2017. Electronic copies of this Proxy Statement and the Company’s Annual Report filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2017 are also available electronically online at

<http://www.ir-hopebancorp.com/ProxyMaterials/Index?keyGenPage=331167>. You may request printed copies by mail addressed to Hope Bancorp, Inc., Attn.: Investor Relations, 3200 Wilshire Boulevard, 5th Floor, Los Angeles, CA 90010, by telephoning Ms. Angie Yang at (213) 251-2219 or via email to [investor@bankofhope.com](mailto:investor@bankofhope.com) or [angie.yang@bankofhope.com](mailto:angie.yang@bankofhope.com). By including the foregoing website address, the Company does not intend to and shall not be deemed to incorporate by reference any material contained therein.

**Q:** What am I being asked to vote on?

**A:** Our board of directors is soliciting proxies from holders of our common stock as of the Record Date to vote on the following matters:

Election of 13 persons to serve as members of the Hope Bancorp board of directors until the next Annual Meeting and until their successors are elected and have qualified;

Ratification of the appointment of Crowe Horwath LLP as the Company’s independent registered public accounting firm for the year ending December 31, 2018;

Approval, on an advisory and nonbinding basis, on whether to approve the compensation of the Company’s “Named Executive Officers” as described in the Proxy Statement;

Approval, on an advisory and nonbinding basis, on whether you would prefer an advisory vote on executive compensation every year, every two years, or every three years; and

Such other matters, if any, that may be properly presented for consideration and action at the Annual Meeting.

**Q:** What is the vote required to approve each proposal?

**A:** The vote required to approve each proposal is as follows:

**Election of Directors.** The 13 director nominees who receive the most votes will be elected. Accordingly, if you do not vote for a particular nominee or you indicate “withhold authority to vote” for a particular nominee on your Proxy Card, your abstention will have no effect on the election of directors.

However, your abstention will have an effect on a particular director nominee’s receipt of an affirmative majority of votes cast. Effective February 22, 2018, the Company adopted a plurality-plus voting standard coupled with a mandatory resignation policy for nominees who fail to achieve an affirmative majority of votes cast. Under this policy, if a nominee for election (or re-election) as director in an uncontested election does not receive at least a majority of the votes cast at any meeting called for, among other things, the election of directors, at which a quorum has been confirmed, the director, duly elected in accordance with the requirements of the Delaware General



Corporation Law, shall nonetheless tender his or her resignation (conditioned upon acceptance by the Board) from the Board to the Nomination and Governance Committee

4

---

promptly (and in any event within 2 business days) following said election. In the event that any director does not tender his or her conditional resignation in accordance with this Policy, he or she will not be re-nominated by the Board for re-election at the next annual meeting.

**Ratification of Selection of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm.** The ratification of the appointment of Crowe Horwath LLP (“Crowe Horwath”) as Hope Bancorp’s independent registered public accounting firm for the year ending December 31, 2018 will require the affirmative vote of the holders of a majority of shares of common stock present in person or by proxy and entitled to vote on the matter at the Annual Meeting. Stockholder ratification of the Audit Committee’s selection of Crowe Horwath as our independent registered public accounting firm is not required. We are submitting the selection of Crowe Horwath to you for ratification to obtain our stockholders’ views. If you abstain, your abstention will have the effect of a vote “AGAINST” this proposal.

**Non-binding Advisory Vote to Approve the Named Executive Officers’ Compensation.** The advisory and nonbinding vote to approve Named Executive Officer compensation will require the affirmative vote of the holders of a majority of shares of common stock present in person or by proxy and entitled to vote on the matter at the Annual Meeting. Because your vote is advisory, it will not be binding upon the board and may not be construed as overruling any decision by the board or Human Resources and Compensation Committee. However, the board and the Human Resources and Compensation Committee may, in their sole discretion, take into account the outcome of the vote when considering future executive compensation arrangements. If you abstain, your abstention will have the effect of a vote “AGAINST” this proposal.

**Non-binding Advisory Vote on the frequency of future advisory votes on executive compensation.** The advisory and nonbinding vote to approve the frequency of future advisory votes on executive compensation will require the affirmative vote of the holders of a majority of shares of common stock present in person or by proxy and entitled to vote on the matter at the Annual Meeting. Because your vote is advisory, it will not be binding upon the board and may not be construed as overruling any decision by the board or Human Resources and Compensation Committee. However, the board and the Human Resources and Compensation Committee may, in their sole discretion, take into account the outcome of the vote when considering the frequency of future advisory votes on executive compensation. If you abstain, your abstention will have the effect of a vote “AGAINST” this proposal.

**Q: How does the board of directors recommend that I vote at the Annual Meeting?**

**A: The board of directors recommends that you vote as follows:**

“FOR” the election of each of the 13 director nominees;

“FOR” the ratification of the appointment of our independent registered public accounting firm for the year ending December 31, 2018;

“FOR” the approval, on a non-binding, advisory basis of the compensation paid to our “Named Executive Officers”;

“FOR” the option of “EVERY YEAR” as the preferred frequency for future non-binding, advisory votes on executive paid to our “Named Executive Officers”; and

in the discretion of the proxies as to any other matter that may properly come before the meeting or any postponement or adjournment thereof.

We currently expect that our directors and executive officers will vote their shares “FOR” the foregoing proposals.

**Q: What do I need to do now?**

After you have carefully read this Proxy Statement and have decided how you wish to vote your shares, please vote your shares promptly so that your shares are represented and voted. If you hold stock in your name as a stockholder of record, you must complete, sign, date and mail your Proxy Card in the enclosed postage-prepaid return envelope as soon as possible, or use the Internet as described in the instructions included with your Proxy Card or voting instruction card or call the toll-free telephone number. If you hold your stock in “street name” through a bank or broker or other nominee, you must direct your bank or broker or other nominee to vote by following the instructions you have received from your bank or broker or other nominee.

**Q: What constitutes a quorum for the Annual Meeting?**

The presence at the Annual Meeting, in person or by proxy, of holders of a majority of the outstanding shares of Hope Bancorp common stock as of the Record Date will constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at the Annual Meeting. Abstentions and broker non-votes, if any, will be included in determining the number of shares present at the Annual Meeting for the purpose of determining the presence of a quorum.



Q: If my shares are held in “street name” through a bank, broker or other nominee, will my bank, broker or other nominee vote my shares for me?

A: No. Your bank, broker or other nominee cannot vote your shares without instructions from you, except for certain routine matters. You should instruct your bank, broker or other nominee as to how to vote your shares, by following the directions your bank, broker or other nominee provides to you. Please check the voting form used by your bank, broker or other nominee. Without instructions, your shares will not be voted, which will have the effect described below.

Q: Why is my vote important?

A: If you do not vote by proxy or in person, it will be more difficult to obtain the necessary quorum to hold the Annual Meeting. In addition, your failure to submit a proxy or vote in person, or failure to instruct your bank or broker or other nominee how to vote, or abstaining from voting will have the same effect as a vote “AGAINST” certain of the proposals for your the Annual Meeting.

Q: Can I attend the Annual Meeting and vote my shares in person?

A: Yes. All holders of common stock of Hope Bancorp, including holders of record and holders whose shares are held through banks, brokers, nominees or any other holder of record, are invited to attend the Annual Meeting. Holders of record can vote in person at the Annual Meeting. If you are a holder of record and wish to vote in person, you should bring the enclosed Proxy Card and proof of identity. If you hold your shares in street name through a broker, or beneficially own your shares through another holder of record, you will need to bring with you and provide to the inspector of election proof of identity and a letter from your bank, broker, nominee or other holder of record confirming your beneficial ownership of common stock as of the Record Date and authorizing you to vote such shares (a “legal proxy” from your holder of record) at the Annual Meeting. At the appropriate time during the Annual Meeting, the stockholders present will be asked whether they wish to vote in person. If you wish to vote in person at the Annual Meeting, you should raise your hand at this time to receive a ballot to record your vote.

Q: Can I change or revoke my vote?

A: Yes. If you are a holder of record of Hope Bancorp common stock, you may change your vote or revoke your proxy at any time before it is voted by:

1. signing and returning a Proxy Card with a later date;
2. delivering a written revocation letter to the Company’s corporate secretary;
3. attending the Annual Meeting in person, and voting by ballot at the Annual Meeting (attendance at the Annual Meeting alone will not revoke your proxy); or
4. voting by Internet or telephone at a later time but before the cutoff time for voting.

A revocation letter or later-dated proxy first received by the Company after the vote will not affect the vote. Hope Bancorp’s corporate secretary’s mailing address is: Corporate Secretary, Hope Bancorp, Inc. 3200 Wilshire Blvd. Suite 1400, Los Angeles, California 90010.

If you hold shares of Hope Bancorp common stock in “street name” through a bank or broker or other nominee, you should contact your bank or broker or other nominee to change your vote or revoke your proxy.

Q: How many votes do I have?

A: Each share of common stock that you own entitles you to one vote. The Proxy Card indicates the number of shares of common stock that you own. Our Certificate of Incorporation and Bylaws do not provide for cumulative voting in the election of directors.

Q: How do I vote by proxy?

A: Whether you plan to attend the Annual Meeting or not, we urge you to complete, sign and date the enclosed Proxy Card and return it promptly in the postage prepaid, self-addressed envelope provided. You may also vote by Internet or telephone as described on the enclosed Proxy Card. Returning the Proxy Card will not affect your right to attend the Meeting and vote in person, but will assure that your vote is counted if you become unable to attend the Annual Meeting.

If you properly fill in your Proxy Card and send it to us in time to vote or you timely vote by Internet or telephone, your “Proxies” (the individuals named on your Proxy Card) will vote your shares as you have directed. If you sign the Proxy Card but do not make specific choices, your Proxies will vote your shares as recommended by the board of directors as follows:



“FOR” the election of each of the 13 director nominees;

“FOR” the ratification of the appointment of our independent registered public accounting firm for the year ending December 31, 2018;

“FOR” the approval, on a non-binding, advisory basis of the compensation paid to our “Named Executive Officers”; and

“FOR” the option of “EVERY YEAR” as the preferred frequency for future non-binding, advisory votes on executive compensation paid to our “Named Executive Officers”; and

in the discretion of the proxies as to any other matter that may properly come before the meeting or any postponement or adjournment thereof.

If you hold your shares of our common stock in “street name” (that is, through a bank, broker or other nominee) and you fail to instruct your bank, broker or nominee as to how to vote your shares of common stock, your bank, broker or nominee may, in its discretion, vote your shares, “FOR” the ratification of the appointment of Crowe Horwath as our independent registered public accounting firm for the year ending December 31, 2018.

Under applicable stock exchange requirements, brokers holding shares beneficially owned by their clients are not permitted to cast votes with respect to the election of directors or on the advisory vote to approve executive compensation, unless they have received instructions from the beneficial owner of the shares. It is therefore important that you provide instructions to your broker, if your shares are held by a broker, so that your vote with respect to directors and your non-binding advisory vote on the compensation paid to our Named Executive Officers is counted.

Q: How do I vote by Internet or telephone?

Stockholders of record and many stockholders who hold their shares through a broker or bank will have the option to submit their Proxy Cards or voting instruction cards by Internet or telephone. Please note that there are separate arrangements for using the Internet and telephone depending on whether your shares are registered in our stock records in your name or in the name of a broker, bank or other holder of record. If you hold your shares through a broker, bank or other holder of record, you should check your Proxy Card or voting instruction card forwarded by your broker, bank or other holder of record to see which options are available.

A: Stockholders of record in their own name may submit their proxies:

through the Internet by visiting a website established for that purpose at [www.investorvote.com/HOPE](http://www.investorvote.com/HOPE) and following the instructions provided on that website; or

by telephone by calling the toll-free number 1-800-652-VOTE (8683) in the United States, Puerto Rico or Canada on a touch-tone phone and following the recorded instructions.

Q: How do I vote in person?

If you plan to attend the Annual Meeting and vote in person, we will give you a ballot form when you arrive.

A: However, if your shares are held in the name of your broker, bank, or other nominee, you must bring a properly executed legal proxy from the nominee authorizing you to vote the shares and indicating that you were the beneficial owner of the shares at the close of business on the Record Date.

Q: What will be the effect of broker non-votes?

“Broker non-vote” is the term commonly used to describe the situation in which a broker who is present at a stockholder meeting cannot vote shares with respect to a particular proposal under applicable stock exchange rules because the broker has not received voting instructions from the broker’s customer and the proposal is not

A: considered a routine matter under applicable stock exchange rules. (See “How Do I Vote by Proxy” above.) Broker non-votes will be counted for purposes of determining the presence of a quorum at the Annual Meeting, but will not be counted for purposes of determining the number of votes present in person or by Proxy and entitled to vote with respect to a particular proposal.

Q: Who will pay the costs of solicitation of proxies?

The Company will bear the cost of this solicitation of proxies, including the expense of preparing, assembling, printing and mailing this Proxy Statement and the additional materials used in this solicitation of proxies. The A: proxies will be solicited principally by mail, but our directors, officers and regular employees may solicit proxies personally or by telephone. Although there is no formal agreement to do so, we will reimburse banks, brokerage houses and other custodians, nominees and fiduciaries



for their reasonable expenses in forwarding these proxy materials to their principals. In addition, we may pay for and utilize the services of individuals or companies we do not regularly employ in connection with the solicitation of proxies.

Q: Will any other matters be considered at the Annual Meeting?

We are not aware of any matters to be presented at the Annual Meeting other than the proposals discussed in this Proxy Statement. If other matters are properly presented at the Annual Meeting and may properly be acted upon,

A: then the persons named as Proxies will have the authority to vote all properly executed proxies in accordance with the direction of the board of directors, or, if no such direction is given, in accordance with the judgment of the persons holding such proxies on any such matter, including any proposal to adjourn or postpone the meeting.

Q: How do I present proposals or director nominees for consideration at next year's annual meeting of stockholders?

For a stockholder proposal regarding new business or a director nominee to be considered for inclusion in our proxy statement for our annual meeting of stockholders next year, proposals or nominees will need to comply with timing and other requirements of U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC") Rule 14a-8 regarding the inclusion of stockholder proposals in company-sponsored proxy materials. Rule 14a-8 provides in pertinent part that the proposal must be received at the Company's principal executive offices not less than 120 calendar days

A: before the date of the Company's proxy statement released to stockholders in connection with the previous year's annual meeting. Proposals and nominees that stockholders seek to have included in our Company's 2019 proxy statement must deliver the notice to our Legal Department not later than December 28, 2018. However, if the Company did not hold an annual meeting the previous year, or if the date of this year's annual meeting has been changed by more than 30 days from the date of the previous year's meeting, then the deadline is a reasonable time before the Company begins to print and send its proxy materials.

The persons named as Proxies for the Annual Meeting will have discretionary authority to vote on any stockholder proposal which is not included in our proxy materials for the meeting.

Q: Do I have rights of appraisal or similar rights of dissenters with respect to any matter to be acted upon at the Annual Meeting?

A: None of the proposals to be acted upon at the Annual Meeting and discussed in this Proxy Statement carry rights of appraisal or similar rights of dissenters.



Proposal 1:  
Election of Directors

Our board of directors has nominated 13 directors, who, if elected by the stockholders at our Annual Meeting, will serve until next year's Annual Meeting and until their successors are duly elected and qualified. All nominees are currently directors of the Company.

Board Recommendation:  
Vote FOR all nominees

9

---

Proposal 1 — Election of Directors

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Our Certificate of Incorporation and Bylaws provide that the number of directors may be no less than five and no more than 25, with the exact number to be fixed by resolution of the board of directors or stockholders. Currently, the board of directors has 13 members.

Our board has nominated 13 individuals to serve as the Company's directors until the next Annual Meeting and until their successors are duly elected and qualified. All of the nominees are currently directors and were elected to the board by our stockholders at our 2017 annual meeting. Proxies cannot be voted for a greater number of persons than the number of nominees named.

Each nominee has agreed to serve if elected and the board of directors has no reason to believe that any nominee will become unavailable to serve as a director. The proxy holders named on the Proxy Card will vote all proxies for the election of the 13 nominees listed above unless authority to vote for the election of any of the directors is withheld. If any of the nominees should become unable to serve as a director, the proxies solicited hereby may be voted for a substitute nominee designated by the board of directors. The 13 nominees receiving the highest number of affirmative votes of the shares entitled to be voted at the Annual Meeting for the election of directors shall be elected as directors. Abstentions will have no effect on the election of directors.

However, your abstention will have an effect on a particular director nominee's receipt of an affirmative majority of votes cast. Effective February 22, 2018, the Company adopted a plurality-plus voting standard coupled with a mandatory resignation policy for nominees who fail to achieve an affirmative majority of votes cast. Under this policy, if a nominee for election (or re-election) as director in an uncontested election does not receive at least a majority of the votes cast at any meeting called for, among other things, the election of directors, at which a quorum has been confirmed, the director, duly elected in accordance with the requirements of the Delaware General Corporation Law, shall nonetheless tender his or her resignation (conditioned upon acceptance by the Board) from the Board to the Nomination and Governance Committee promptly (and in any event within 2 business days) following said election. In the event that any director does not tender his or her conditional resignation in accordance with this Policy, he or she will not be re-nominated by the Board for re-election at the next annual meeting.

It is the Company's policy to encourage its director nominees to attend annual meetings of stockholders, and all of the director nominees are expected to attend our Annual Meeting. All director nominees who were elected by the stockholders of Hope Bancorp were in attendance at our 2017 annual meeting.

We believe that each nominee has skills, experience and personal qualities which we seek in our directors and that the combination of these nominees creates an effective, engaged and well-functioning board that serves the Company and our stockholders well.

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS RECOMMENDS A VOTE "FOR" ALL NOMINEES.

## DIRECTOR NOMINATION PROCESS

As specified in its charter, the Nomination and Governance Committee is appointed by the board of directors of the Company to determine the desired composition of the board, to assist the board in identifying qualified individuals to become board members, consistent with criteria approved by the board of directors, and to recommend to the board the director nominees for the annual meetings of stockholders. The Nomination and Governance Committee will utilize the same standards for evaluating director candidates recommended by stockholders as it does for candidates proposed by the board of directors or members thereof.

The Nomination and Governance Committee considers many factors in nominating directors to serve on the board of directors, including the following:

- diversity of professional disciplines and backgrounds;
- experience in business, finance or administration
- familiarity with national and international business matters;
- familiarity and experience with the commercial banking industry;
- personal prominence and reputation in the community, and ability to enhance the reputation of the Bank in the business community;
- availability of time to devote to the work of the board and one or more of its committees;
- specific qualifications which complement and enhance the overall core competencies of the board and/or specific committee assignments;
- activities and associations of each candidate;
- interests of the stockholders as a whole;
- independence determination;
- how the candidate will further the strategic goals of the Company;
- how the candidate's skill set fills a specific need identified by the Committee; and
- the extent to which a nominee may otherwise add diversity to the board of directors.

Nominations, other than those made by or at the direction of the board of directors or by the Nomination and Governance Committee, may only be made pursuant to timely notice in writing to the Secretary of the Company. To be timely, a stockholder's notice must be received at the principal executive offices of the Company (i) in the case of an annual meeting of the stockholders, not less than 100 days, nor more than 120 days, prior to the anniversary of the immediately preceding annual meeting of the stockholders; provided, however, that in the event that the date of the annual meeting of stockholders is more than 30 days before or after such anniversary date, notice by the stockholder to be timely must be so received not later than the close of business on the tenth day following the earlier of the date on which notice or public announcement of the date of the annual meeting of stockholders was first given or made by the Company, and (ii) in the case of a special meeting of the stockholders called for the purpose of electing directors, not later than the close of business on the tenth day following the earlier of the date on which notice or public announcement of the date of the special meeting was first given or made by the Company.

A stockholder's written nomination notice to the Secretary of the Company must set forth: (a) as to each person whom the stockholder proposes to nominate for election or reelection as a director, (i) the name, age, business address and residence address of the person, (ii) the principal occupation or employment of the person, (iii) the class and number of shares of capital stock of the Company that are beneficially owned by the person and (iv) any other information relating to the person that is required to be disclosed in solicitations for proxies for election of directors pursuant to Section 14(a) of the Exchange Act and the rules and regulations of the SEC promulgated thereunder; and (b) as to the stockholder giving the notice, (i) the name and record address of the stockholder and (ii) the class and number of shares of capital stock of the Company that are beneficially owned by the stockholder. The Company may require any proposed nominee to furnish such other information as may reasonably be required by the Company to determine the eligibility of such proposed nominee to serve as a director of the Company. No person nominated by a stockholder shall be eligible for election as a director of the Company unless nominated in accordance with the procedures for the

same, which are set forth in full in the Company's Bylaws. The chairman of the meeting shall, if the facts warrant, determine that a nomination was not made in accordance with the applicable procedures, and, if he should so determine, he shall so declare at the meeting, and the defective nomination shall be disregarded.

DIRECTOR NOMINEE QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE

Our board of directors believes that the following 13 nominees provide our Company with the combined skills, experience and personal qualities needed for an effective, engaged and well-functioning board of directors.

The following is a brief description of our current directors who have been nominated by the board of directors to stand for reelection as a director at the Annual Meeting. The age indicated in each nominee’s biography is as of April 30, 2018, the date of this Proxy Statement. The Company knows of no arrangements, including any pledge by any person of the Company’s securities, the operation of which may, at a subsequent date, result in a change in control of the Company. There are no arrangements or understandings by which any of the directors or nominees for director of the Company were selected. Other than our Director Steven S. Koh, whose son, Peter Koh, currently serves as Chief Credit Officer of Bank of Hope, there are no family relationships between any of the directors, nominees or executive officers.

Donald D. Byun, age 66, has served as a director of Hope Bancorp, Inc. and Bank of Hope since the merger of equals between BBCN Bancorp, Inc. and Wilshire Bancorp, Inc. and their respective subsidiaries BBCN Bank and Wilshire Bank effective July 29, 2016. Previously, he served on the board of directors of the former Wilshire Bancorp and Wilshire Bank from 2004 to 2007 and was re-appointed to the board in July 2009. Mr. Byun established Jay Dee, Inc., an apparel manufacturer, in 1993 and served as President and Chief Executive Officer until his retirement in 2013. He was also Founder, President and Chief Executive Officer of OTO Sportswear from 1988 to 2010. From 2000 to 2004, Mr. Byun served as a director of Los Angeles-based Pacific Union Bank, which was acquired by Hanmi Bank in April 2004. He earned his B.A. in Economics from the College of Economics and Business Administration at Yonsei University in Seoul, Korea.

Director Qualification Highlights

Extensive experience establishing successful business ventures in the apparel manufacturing industry  
 Deep understanding of core commercial customer banking needs  
 Community knowledge and relations

Committee Membership

Nomination & Governance Committee, Chair  
 Executive Committee  
 Director’s Loan Committee

Steven J. Didion, age 52, has served as a director of Hope Bancorp, Inc. and Bank of Hope since the merger of equals between BBCN Bancorp, Inc. and Wilshire Bancorp, Inc. and their respective subsidiaries BBCN Bank and Wilshire Bank effective July 29, 2016. Previously, he served on the board of directors of the former Wilshire Bancorp and Wilshire Bank from January 2014. Mr. Didion is currently General Partner and Portfolio Manager of JCSD Partners, LP and JCSD Partners II, LP, bank-focused hedge funds based in California. He began his career with Salomon Brothers Inc. and moved to Hoefler & Arnett in 1991 to build out the firm’s Bank Research Group. He was appointed Chief Executive Officer of Hoefler & Arnett in 2001 and then initiated the merger with Howe Barnes in 2006. Following three years as Director of the Financial Institutions Group at Howe Barnes Hoefler & Arnett, Mr. Didion left in 2009 to join the Endicott Group, a private equity firm in New York specializing in bank investments. He left Endicott in 2013 to join and manage JCSD Partners. Mr. Didion previously served on the board of the Children’s Hospital Oakland Foundation and Big Brothers/Big Sisters of the Peninsula. He earned his B.A. in Finance from the University of California at Berkeley.

Director Qualification Highlights

Extensive executive leadership and management experience in the financial services industry  
 Capital markets knowledge and experience  
 Deep knowledge and understanding of financial statement analysis

Committee Membership

Asset/Liability Committee, Chair  
 Audit Committee (financial expert)  
 Board Risk Committee



Jinho Doo, age 63, has served as a director of Hope Bancorp, Inc. and Bank of Hope, formerly known as BBCN Bancorp, Inc. and BBCN Bank, since October 29, 2014. He is currently Chief Executive Officer of New York City-based Key Capital Management, LLC, where he manages a hedge fund. From 2007 to 2012, Mr. Doo was Chief Executive Officer of JSD Investment Advisory Services, LLC, based in Los Angeles, during which time he provided investment advisory services to Korean-American community banks and foreign exchange consulting services to financial institutions. Previously, Mr. Doo was a Managing Director at DaeYu Investment Management Co, LTD, in Seoul, Korea and served as Director, Head of Korean Desk, Bonds Division at BZW Asia Hong Kong, an affiliate of Barclays Capital, in Hong Kong. Mr. Doo began his professional career in 1982 as a foreign exchange trader at Standard Chartered Bank, Seoul Branch, and in 1988 joined Los Angeles-based Hanmi Bank, from which he retired in 1996 as Vice President and Manager of the Investment and Accounting department. Mr. Doo earned his B.A. in Portuguese with a minor in Economics from Hankuk University of Foreign Studies in Seoul, Korea and his M.S. in Finance from Texas A&M University in College Station, Texas.

Director Qualification Highlights

Deep knowledge and understanding of financial statement analysis  
 Capital markets knowledge and experience  
 Asset liability management experience

Committee Membership

Audit Committee (financial expert)  
 Nomination & Governance Committee  
 Asset/Liability Committee

Daisy Y. Ha, age 43, has served as a director of Hope Bancorp, Inc. and Bank of Hope since the merger of equals between BBCN Bancorp, Inc. and Wilshire Bancorp, Inc. and their respective subsidiaries BBCN Bank and Wilshire Bank effective July 29, 2016. Previously, she served on the board of directors of the former Wilshire Bancorp and Wilshire Bank from January 2014. Ms. Ha began her legal career as a term law clerk to a United States district court judge in 2000. The following year, she joined the employment law department of Paul Hastings, where she litigated and provided advice on matters of employment law. In 2004, she returned to the United States district court as a career law clerk, assisting in a variety of areas, including general civil law and criminal law. In 2011, she was an appellate court attorney for the California Court of Appeal. Ms. Ha received her B.A., cum laude, from Williams College in Williamstown, Massachusetts and her J.D. from University of California at Berkeley School of Law.

Director Qualification Highlights

Diverse legal experience and background  
 Deep knowledge of employment law  
 Community knowledge and relations

Committee Membership

Human Resource & Compensation Committee  
 Nomination & Governance Committee  
 Board Risk Committee

Jin Chul Jung, age 74, has served as a director of Hope Bancorp, Inc. and Bank of Hope, formerly known as BBCN Bancorp, Inc. and BBCN Bank, since 2011. Mr. Jung served as a director of Center Bank for 13 years and of Center Financial Corporation since its formation in 2000 until its merger with Nara Bank and Nara Bancorp, respectively, to form BBCN Bank and BBCN Bancorp. Mr. Jung served as Chairman of the Board of Center Financial Corporation and Center Bank from 2009 to 2010. He has owned and operated Royal Imex, Inc., an import and wholesale business in the United States for more than 33 years. Mr. Jung also serves as Chairman or Director of various Korean-American community organizations including as President of the Overseas Korean Traders Association, Chairman of the first and fifth World Korean Business Conventions, and as Director of the Centennial Committee of Korean Immigration to the United States. He has received numerous awards and commendations from many civic and governmental agencies such as the Export Industry Official Commendation from the Korea Industry and Commerce Minister. On December 8, 2010, Mr. Jung was presented with a presidential merit award by the Korean government. Mr. Jung received a B.S. in Business Administration from Korea University in Seoul, Korea, as well as an Honorary Ph.D. degree from Dongseo University in Busan, Korea.

Director Qualification Highlights

Extensive executive and management experience of import and wholesale organization  
Deep understanding of core commercial customer banking needs  
Community knowledge and relations

Committee Membership

Human Resource & Compensation Committee  
Director's Loan Committee



Kevin S. Kim, age 60, is President and Chief Executive Officer of Hope Bancorp, Inc. and Bank of Hope, formerly known as BBCN Bancorp, Inc. and BBCN Bank. He has been President and Chief Executive Officer of Hope Bancorp since March 2013 and of Bank of Hope since April 2014. Prior to the merger with Wilshire Bancorp, Inc., Mr. Kim served as Chairman of the board of directors of Hope Bancorp since May 2012 and served as Chairman of the board of directors of BBCN Bank from December 2011 through June 2014. Formerly a director of Center Financial Corporation and Center Bank from 2008 until the merger of equals with Nara Bancorp, Inc. and Nara Bank completed on November 30, 2011, Mr. Kim was the lead negotiator from Center resulting in the creation of BBCN. Prior to joining BBCN as the President and Chief Executive Officer, Mr. Kim practiced law for 18 years, focusing on corporate and business transactions, business acquisitions, tax planning, and real estate transactions. Mr. Kim began his professional career as a Certified Public Accountant working for approximately 10 years at two of the largest public accounting firms. Mr. Kim serves on the boards of directors of the Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce and United Way of Greater Los Angeles. He received a B.A. with a major in English and a minor in International Trade from Hankuk University of Foreign Studies in Seoul, Korea, an M.B.A. from the Anderson School of Management, the University of California, Los Angeles, and a J.D. from Loyola Law School in California. Mr. Kim is a graduate of the ABA Stonier Graduate School of Banking, University of Pennsylvania, and earned his Wharton Leadership Certificate from The Wharton School Aresty Institute of Executive Education.

Director Qualification Highlights

Legal and public accounting background and expertise  
 Public company board and management experience  
 Community knowledge and relations

Committee Membership

Executive Committee  
 Director's Loan Committee

Steven S. Koh, age 72, was named Honorary Chairman of the board of directors on July 6, 2017 in recognition of his 30-plus years of service on the Board, including the former Wilshire Bancorp and Wilshire Bank, during the last 24 years of which he served as Chairman. Upon the merger of equals between BBCN Bancorp, Inc. and Wilshire Bancorp, Inc. and their respective subsidiaries BBCN Bank and Wilshire Bank effective July 29, 2016, Mr. Koh was appointed Chairman of the board of directors of Hope Bancorp, Inc. and Bank of Hope. Previously, he served as a director of Wilshire Bank since 1986 and as Chairman since 1993. Mr. Koh also served as Chairman of the board of directors of Wilshire Bancorp, Inc. since its formation in December 2003 through the merger with BBCN. Mr. Koh is the Chairman of Pacific Steel Corporation, an international steel trading and nationwide distributing company that he founded in 1973. In addition to being well recognized for his contributions to the Bank since 1986, Mr. Koh is highly regarded for his active involvement in community affairs, including the Overseas Korean Traders Association (OKTA) and numerous philanthropic activities for the Korean-American and surrounding ethnic communities. He is the first and only Korean American to serve on the board of directors of Cedars-Sinai, a position he was appointed to in 2016. Mr. Koh received his B.A. and honorary Ph.D. from Yonsei University in Seoul, Korea. He also completed the Executive Management Program at the UCLA Anderson School of Management, the graduate business school at the University of California, Los Angeles.

Director Qualification Highlights

Extensive executive leadership and management experience in several industries, including financial services businesses  
 Vast board experience for private and public companies  
 Community knowledge and relations

Committee Membership

Executive Committee  
 Asset/Liability  
 Committee

Chung Hyun Lee, age 76, has served as a director of Hope Bancorp, Inc. and Bank of Hope, formerly known as BBCN Bancorp, Inc. and BBCN Bank, since 2011. He was one of the founding directors of Center Bank and Center Financial Corporation and continuously served as a director of Center Bank for 26 years and of Center Financial Corporation for 11 years, until the merger with Nara Bank and Nara Bancorp, respectively, to form BBCN Bank and BBCN Bancorp. Mr. Lee owned and operated cosmetics importing businesses in the United States for 35 years and retired from his position as President of NuArt International, Inc. in October 2010. Mr. Lee is active in the broader Korean-American community in Southern California and currently serves as director of the Overseas Korean Trade Association as well as Director of the Korean Chamber of Commerce in Los Angeles. He also has served in the past as Vice Chairman of the Korean Chamber of Commerce in Los Angeles, President of the South Bay Lions Club, Chairman of the Korean American Inter-Cultural Foundation, and Director of the Korean Federation of Los Angeles. He received a B.S. degree in Industrial Engineering from Hanyang University in Seoul, Korea as well as a Masters in Industrial Engineering at the University of Southern California.

Director Qualification Highlights

Extensive experience leading international businesses  
Strategic planning and operations  
Community knowledge and relations

Committee Membership

Director's Loan Committee, Chair  
Audit Committee

William J. Lewis, age 74, has served as a director of Hope Bancorp, Inc. and Bank of Hope, formerly known as BBCN Bancorp, Inc. and BBCN Bank, since September 15, 2014. He previously served as Executive Vice President and Chief Credit Officer of Pasadena-based East West Bank from 2002 to 2013, during which period the bank grew from approximately \$3 billion to approximately \$24 billion. Prior to joining East West Bank, he served as Executive Vice President and Chief Credit Officer at PriVest Bank, based in Costa Mesa, California, from 1998 until it was acquired by American Security Bank in 2002. From 1994 to 1998, he served in the same capacity at Eldorado Bank based in Tustin, California. Previously, Mr. Lewis was Senior Vice President and Chief Credit Officer for Los Angeles-based Sanwa Bank. He began his banking career in 1969 at First Interstate Bank in Los Angeles where he held various branch and credit management positions during his 13-year tenure with the bank. Mr. Lewis earned his B.B.A. in Industrial Administration from the University of New Mexico and his M.B.A. from Golden Gate University. He also completed the Executive Leadership Program at USC Marshall School of Business.

Director Qualification Highlights

Leadership experience at publicly held, growth-oriented financial institutions  
Extensive banking and operational experience  
Extensive credit management background

Committee Membership

Board Risk Committee, Chair  
Human Resource & Compensation Committee  
Director's Loan Committee

David P. Malone, age 67, was appointed Senior Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer of Bank of Hope, effective May 15, 2017, and is responsible for oversight of all support and administrative units of the Bank. He has been a director of Hope Bancorp, Inc. and Bank of Hope, formerly known as BBCN Bancorp, Inc. and BBCN Bank, since May 20, 2014. Previously, he served as Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Bank from June 26, 2014 up until the merger with Wilshire Bancorp, Inc. and Wilshire Bank. Prior to joining the board, Mr. Malone completed a 15-year tenure at Community Bank in Pasadena, California, where he served as Chairman in 2013, President and Chief Executive Officer from 2008 to 2013, and Chief Operating Officer and Chief Financial Officer from 1998 to 2008. Under Mr. Malone's leadership, Community Bank grew into one of the leading financial institutions in Southern California, with more than \$3 billion in assets and 17 offices across five counties. While at Community Bank, Mr. Malone was responsible for transforming the company into a relationship-oriented community bank, developing a high performing sales culture, introducing new business lines, and expanding the bank's geographical footprint. Mr. Malone's efforts helped Community Bank achieve consistent profitability throughout the last recession, generate five consecutive years of balance sheet growth and post record profitability in his last two years as President and Chief Executive Officer. During his professional career, Mr. Malone also served as Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer for both Metrobank and Merchant Bank of California. He began his professional career as a Certified Public Accountant with Arthur Andersen, where he later served as a Senior Manager, providing strategic and operational consulting services to financial institutions in the Western United States. Mr. Malone earned a B.S. degree in Accounting from California State University, Northridge.

**Director Qualification Highlights**

Leadership experience at growth oriented financial institutions  
 Extensive banking and operational experience  
 Financial expertise

**Committee Membership**

Executive Committee  
 Board Risk Committee  
 Asset/Liability Committee

John R. Taylor, age 67, has served as a director of Hope Bancorp, Inc. and Bank of Hope since the merger of equals between BBCN Bancorp, Inc. and Wilshire Bancorp, Inc. and their respective subsidiaries BBCN Bank and Wilshire Bank effective July 29, 2016. He also serves on the board of directors of Kennedy-Wilson Holdings, Inc. serving as the Chairman of the Audit Committee. Previously, Mr. Taylor served on the boards of directors of the former Wilshire Bancorp and Wilshire Bank since November 2011, and also of PennyMac Financial Services, Inc. from 2012 to 2013, where he served as the Chairman of the Audit Committee. Mr. Taylor was a senior audit partner in KPMG LLP's Financial Services practice based in Los Angeles prior to his retirement on September 30, 2011. Mr. Taylor has more than 38 years of public accounting experience as a Certified Public Accountant and provided services to numerous publicly held banks, financial institutions and financial services clients during his 27 years as a KPMG partner. He received his B.S., cum laude, from the University of Southern California in Los Angeles.

**Director Qualification Highlights**

Extensive experience in public accounting and audit services to the financial services industry  
 Deep knowledge of accounting requirements for public-company financial institutions  
 Financial expertise

**Committee Membership**

Audit Committee (financial expert),  
 Chair  
 Board Risk Committee  
 Asset/Liability Committee

Scott Yoon-Suk Whang, age 72, was appointed Chairman of the board of directors of Hope Bancorp, Inc. and Bank of Hope on July 6, 2017. He has been a director of Company and Bank, formerly known as BBCN Bancorp and BBCN Bank, since 2007 and was integrally involved with the two mergers of equals creating Bank of Hope. He previously served in the capacities of Lead Independent Director from July 2016 to July 2017 and from March 2013 to June 2014, and also served as Vice Chairman of the Company from May 2012 through June 2014. Since joining the board, Mr. Whang has been a strong advocate committed to enhancing board leadership and governance. Mr. Whang is the founder and Chairman of Orange Circle Studios, which provides premier lines of gift product and calendar publishing services. He is a goal-oriented entrepreneur who has started three successful companies over the past 20 years, including Codra Enterprises in 1985 and Avalanche Publishing, Inc. in 1990. Previously, Mr. Whang held various management positions with Daewoo Corporation, where he began his career in the early 1970s until he resigned from the position as President of the western division of Daewoo International (USA) in 1985. In 2006, Mr. Whang was chosen as entrepreneur of the year by the Korean American Chamber of Commerce in recognition of his success in the mainstream publishing industry and as an exemplary minority entrepreneur. Mr. Whang graduated from the College of Business Administration at Seoul National University with a B.A. in International Economy.

Director Qualification Highlights

Extensive entrepreneurial experience  
 Strategic planning, management and operations experience  
 Community knowledge and relations

Committee Membership

Executive Committee, Chair  
 Human Resource & Compensation Committee  
 Nomination & Governance Committee

Dale S. Zuehls, age 67, was appointed to the boards of directors of Hope Bancorp, Inc. and Bank of Hope, formerly known as BBCN Bancorp and BBCN Bank, effective March 20, 2014. Mr. Zuehls has more than 40 years of experience in areas of complex auditing, accounting, fraud and forensic accounting, complex tax issues, performance measurement and related consulting matters. In addition to being a Certified Public Accountant, Mr. Zuehls has a Ph.D. in accounting, holds a law degree and is a Certified Fraud Examiner. Previously, Mr. Zuehls held various leadership positions at KPMG and Arthur Andersen & Co., two of the largest international public accounting firms in the world. A recognized expert in complex accounting matters, Mr. Zuehls has taught in Ph.D. and Masters' programs at several Southern California universities and has held numerous seminars on various accounting and tax issues. He serves on the Audit Committee of the largest research foundation at California State University, Los Angeles. Mr. Zuehls earned a B.S. in Accounting at California State University, Los Angeles, an M.A. and Ph.D. from Stafford University in England, and a J.D. from Southwestern University School of Law in Los Angeles.

Director Qualification Highlights

Extensive audit, accounting, fraud, forensic and legal experience  
 Financial expertise  
 Risk management and corporate governance

Committee Membership

Human Resource & Compensation Committee, Chair  
 Audit Committee (financial expert)  
 Nomination & Governance Committee

## CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

In performing its role, our board of directors is guided by our Corporate Governance Guidelines, which establish a framework for the governance of the board and the management of the Company. We believe that sound and prudent corporate governance is essential to the integrity of our Company. Our board of directors oversees the Company's corporate governance and takes seriously its responsibility to promote the best interests of our stockholders, employees, customers and the communities that we serve. Good corporate governance is the basis for our decision-making and control processes and enhances the relationships we have with all of our stakeholders.

The Corporate Governance Guidelines were adopted by our board of directors and reflect regulatory requirements and broadly recognized best governance practices, including the Nasdaq Stock Market corporate governance continued listing standards. The Corporate Governance Guidelines are reviewed regularly and updated as appropriate, but at a minimum on an annual basis. The full text of the Corporate Governance Guidelines can be found on our website at [www.ir-hopebancorp.com](http://www.ir-hopebancorp.com), in the Governance Documents section under the Corporate Governance menu. By including the foregoing website address link, we do not intend to, and shall not be deemed to, incorporate by reference any material contained therein.

In addition, the Company has adopted a Director Code of Ethics and Business Conduct that applies to all directors, as well as a Code of Ethics and Business Conduct which applies to all officers and employees, both of which are in the Corporate Governance section of our website. If the Company makes any substantive amendments to the director or employee versions of the Code of Ethics and Business Conduct or grants any waiver from a material provision of the Code of Ethics and Business Conduct to any director or executive officer, it is the Company's policy to promptly disclose the nature of the amendment or waiver.

### Board Leadership Structure

Our board of directors is committed to having a sound governance structure that promotes the best interest of all Company stockholders. Our leadership structure includes the following principles:

**Yearly Elections.** We believe that yearly elections hold the directors accountable to our stockholders, as each director is subject to re-nomination and re-election each year. Effective February 22, 2018, the Company adopted a plurality-plus voting standard coupled with a mandatory resignation policy for nominees who fail to achieve an affirmative majority of votes cast. Under this policy, if a nominee for election (or re-election) as director in an uncontested election does not receive at least a majority of the votes cast at any meeting called for, among other things, the election of directors, at which a quorum has been confirmed, the director, duly elected in accordance with the requirements of the Delaware General Corporation Law, shall nonetheless tender his or her resignation (conditioned upon acceptance by the Board) from the Board to the Nomination and Governance Committee promptly (and in any event within 2 business days) following said election. In the event that any director does not tender his or her conditional resignation in accordance with this Policy, he or she will not be re-nominated by the Board for re-election at the next annual meeting.

**Independent Oversight.** All of our directors are independent, except for Steven S. Koh, Kevin S. Kim, President and Chief Executive Officer of the Company, and David P. Malone, Senior Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer of the Company. The board has affirmatively determined that the other 10 directors are independent under SEC and Nasdaq Stock Market corporate governance rules, as applicable.

**Chairman of the Board.** The Chairman of the Board is appointed annually by the board of directors. Scott Yoon-Suk Whang has served in the capacity of Chairman since July 6, 2017 and his responsibilities include, among others, presiding at and calling board and stockholder meetings and preparing meeting schedules, agendas and materials in collaboration with our President and Chief Executive Officer.

Lead Independent Director. In the case where the Chairman of the Board is not deemed to be independent, we believe an independent director should be designated to serve in a lead capacity as a liaison between the independent directors and the Chairman. Our Chairman of the Board Mr. Scott Yoon-Suk Whang is deemed to be independent, and, as such, we currently do not have any board member serving in the capacity of Lead Independent Director.

We believe our board structure serves the interests of the stockholders by balancing the practicalities of running the Company with the need for director accountability.

## Board Independence

The Nasdaq Stock Market listing standards require that a majority of the members of a listed company's board of directors qualify as "independent," as affirmatively determined by the board of directors. Our board of directors consults with our legal counsel to ensure that the board of directors' determinations of independence are consistent with all relevant securities and other laws and regulations regarding the definition of "independent," including those set forth in pertinent listing standards of the Nasdaq Stock Market, as in effect from time to time.

Consistent with these considerations, after review of all relevant transactions or relationships between each director, or any of his or her family members, and the Company, its senior management and the Company's independent registered accounting firm, the board of directors affirmatively has determined that all of our directors, other than Steven S. Koh, Kevin S. Kim, our Chief Executive Officer, and David P. Malone, our Chief Operating Officer, are independent directors within the meaning of the applicable the Nasdaq Stock Market listing standards. See "Board Leadership Structure" above.

## Board Diversity

Our board of directors does not have a formal written policy with regard to the consideration of diversity in identifying director nominees. Our Nomination and Governance Committee Charter, however, requires the board's Nomination and Governance Committee to review the qualifications of candidates to the board of directors. This assessment includes the consideration of the following factors, among others:

Personal and professional ethics and integrity, including prominence and reputation, and ability to enhance the reputation of the Company;

Diversity among the existing board members, specific business experience and competence, including an assessment of whether the candidate has experience in, and possesses an understanding of, business issues applicable to the success of the banking industry;

Financial acumen, including whether the candidate, through education or experience, has an understanding of financial matters and the preparation and analysis of financial statements;

Professional and personal accomplishments, including involvement in civic and charitable activities;

Educational background; and

Whether the candidate has expressed a willingness to devote sufficient time to carrying out his or her duties and responsibilities effectively and is committed to service on the board.

As currently comprised, our board of directors is a group of individuals who are drawn from various market sectors and industry groups with a presence in the Company's niche markets, as well as a wealth of banking experience. Board members are individuals with knowledge and experience who serve and represent the communities we serve. Current board representation provides expertise in accounting, auditing, financial reporting, banking, corporate management, investment management, investment banking, strategic planning, business acquisitions, legal, credit review and administration, marketing, international operations, and retail and small business operations. The Nomination and Governance Committee believes that the backgrounds and qualifications of the directors, considered as a group, provide a significant composite mix of experience, knowledge and abilities, as discussed above, which will allow the board to fulfill its responsibilities. Nominees are not discriminated against on the basis of race, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, disability or any other basis.

Committees of the Board

Our Company's board of directors has five principal standing committees, including the Audit Committee, Nomination and Governance Committee, Human Resources and Compensation Committee, Asset/Liability Committee and Board Risk and Compliance Committee.

During 2017, there were 10 regular joint meetings of the Company and Bank boards. All of the current directors attended at least 75% of the aggregate total number of meetings of the board and the committees on which they served during their periods of service in 2017.



### Audit Committee

The Audit Committee is appointed by our board of directors to assist our board in overseeing the Company's accounting and reporting practices, audits of financial statements, and to assist the board in monitoring the integrity of the Company's financial statements, compliance with legal and regulatory related audit and accounting matters, including the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002, qualifications and independence of the Company's independent auditors, and the performance of the Company's internal audit function and independent auditors. The Audit Committee operates under a charter adopted by the board of directors, a copy of which can be found in the Corporate Governance section of our website at [www.ir-hopebancorp.com](http://www.ir-hopebancorp.com). By including the foregoing website address link, we do not intend to, and shall not be deemed to, incorporate by reference any material contained therein.

The current members of the Audit Committee include directors John R. Taylor (Chair), Steven J. Didion, Jinho Doo, Chung Hyun Lee and Dale S. Zuehls. Each of the members of the Audit Committee is "independent" as defined by our policy and the listing standards for the Nasdaq Stock Market and SEC Rule 10a-3. The board of directors has determined that John R. Taylor, Steven J. Didion, Jinho Doo and Dale S. Zuehls each satisfy the requirements established by the SEC for qualification as an "audit committee financial expert." The Audit Committee held 17 meetings in 2017.

### Nomination and Governance Committee

The Nomination and Governance Committee is appointed by our board of directors to assist our board in identifying qualified individuals to become board members, consistent with criteria approved by our board of directors, to determine the composition of the board of directors and to recommend to our board of directors the director nominees for each annual meeting. The Nomination and Governance Committee is also responsible for assuring that an appropriate governance structure is established and maintained and for conducting an annual assessment of our board of directors' performance and effectiveness. The Nomination and Governance Committee operates under a charter adopted by our board of directors, a copy of which can be found in the Corporate Governance section of our website at [www.ir-hopebancorp.com](http://www.ir-hopebancorp.com). By including the foregoing website address link, we do not intend to, and shall not be deemed to, incorporate by reference any material contained therein.

The current members of the Nomination and Governance Committee include directors Donald D. Byun (Chair), Jinho Doo, Daisy Y. Ha, Scott Yoon-Suk Whang and Dale S. Zuehls. Each of the members of the Nomination and Governance Committee is "independent" as defined by our policy and the listing standards for the Nasdaq Stock Market. The Nomination and Governance Committee held 10 meetings in 2017.

### Human Resources and Compensation Committee

The Human Resources and Compensation Committee (also referred to as "Compensation Committee") is appointed by our board of directors to assist our board in establishing the overall compensation of our Chief Executive Officer and executive officers who have the title of "Executive Vice President" or above. The Compensation Committee is also responsible for considering and making recommendations to our board of directors concerning compensation, benefit plans, and implementation of sound personnel policies and practices.

The Compensation Committee monitors the performance of our executive officers in relation to applicable corporate goals and strategies, and seeks to ensure that compensation and benefits are at levels that enable us to attract and retain the high quality employees, are consistent with the strategic goals, are internally equitable and are consistent with all regulatory requirements. The Compensation Committee operates under a charter adopted by our board of directors, a copy of which can be found in the Corporate Governance section of our website at [www.ir-hopebancorp.com](http://www.ir-hopebancorp.com). By including the foregoing website address link, we do not intend to, and shall not be deemed to, incorporate by reference any material contained therein.

The current members of the Compensation Committee include directors Dale S. Zuehls (Chair), Daisy Y. Ha, Jin Chul Jung, William J. Lewis and Scott Yoon-Suk Whang. Each of the members of the Compensation Committee is “independent” as defined by our policy and the listing standards for the Nasdaq Stock Market.

The Compensation Committee meets at least four times a year and also holds special meetings and telephonic meetings to discuss extraordinary items, such as the hiring or dismissal of employees at the Executive Vice President level or above. The Compensation Committee held 10 meetings in 2017. The Chair of the Compensation Committee regularly reports to our board of directors on the Compensation Committee’s actions and recommendations. The Compensation Committee has authority to retain outside counsel, compensation consultants and other advisors to assist as needed.

Additional information regarding the Compensation Committee is provided below under the caption “Compensation Discussion and Analysis - Roles and Responsibilities of Human Resources and Compensation Committee.”

#### Asset/Liability Committee

The Asset/Liability Committee is appointed by our board of directors to assist our board in assessing the adequacy and monitoring the implementation of the Bank's and the Company's Asset/Liability Management Policy (the "ALM Policy") and related procedures. The ALM Policy includes specific policies and procedures relating to (i) interest rate risk, (ii) market/investment risk, (iii) liquidity risk, (iv) credit risk, and (v) capital risk. The Asset/Liability Committee oversees the implementation of processes for managing the Bank's interest rate, liquidity, and similar market risks relating to the Bank's balance sheet and associated activities, including the adoption from time to time of risk limits and capital levels. The Asset/Liability Committee operates under a charter adopted by our board of directors, a copy of which can be found in the Corporate Governance section of our website at [www.ir-hopebancorp.com](http://www.ir-hopebancorp.com). By including the foregoing website address link, we do not intend to, and shall not be deemed to, incorporate by reference any material contained therein.

The current members of the Asset/Liability Committee include directors Steven J. Didion (Chair), Jinho Doo, Steven S. Koh, David P. Malone and John R. Taylor. With the exception of Steven S. Koh and David P. Malone, each of the other members of the Asset/Liability Committee are "independent" as defined by our policy and the listing standards for the Nasdaq Stock Market. The Asset/Liability Committee held nine meetings in 2017.

#### Board Risk Committee

The Board Risk Committee is appointed by our board of directors to assist our board in overseeing the Company's overall risk management program. The Board Risk Committee is responsible for establishing the Company's Enterprise Risk Management ("ERM") Framework and Policy, as well as development of the Company's risk appetite statement, ensuring the appropriateness of the Company's risk identification, measurement, monitoring and control, assessing the adequacy of risk policies established and enterprise risk exposures for each enterprise risk category, and reviewing and approving periodic capital and liquidity stress test assumptions, scenarios and results related to Dodd-Frank stress testing. The Board Risk Committee operates under a charter adopted by our board of directors, a copy of which can be found in the Corporate Governance section of our website at [www.ir-hopebancorp.com](http://www.ir-hopebancorp.com). By including the foregoing website address link, we do not intend to, and shall not be deemed to, incorporate by reference any material contained therein.

The current members of the Risk Committee include directors William J. Lewis (Chair), Steven J. Didion, Daisy Y. Ha, David P. Malone and John R. Taylor. With the exception of David P. Malone, each of the members of the Board Risk Committee is "independent" as defined by our policy and the listing standards for the Nasdaq Stock Market. The Board Risk Committee held eight meetings in 2017.

Our board of directors has two additional standing committees and may establish additional such committees as needed:

#### Executive Committee

The Executive Committee is responsible for making recommendations to the board of directors on issues facing the Company or Bank regarding matters that are not specifically delegated to any other committee, providing overall guidance on strategic matters, including the development of strategic plans and consideration of merger and acquisition opportunities, making decisions regarding time-sensitive business, regulatory and legal matters in circumstances where it is impractical for the full board of directors to do so, subject to subsequent ratification by the full board of directors, reviewing and approving new strategic initiatives, subject to review and approval of the Board Risk Committee, and serving as a resource and sounding board for management on emerging issues. The Executive Committee acts within the authorities and responsibilities specifically delegated by the board of directors and is

subject to an annual self-evaluation of its Charter and Committee performance.

The current members of the Executive Committee include directors Scott Yoon-Suk Whang(Chair), Donald D. Byun, Kevin S. Kim, Steven S. Koh and David P. Malone. The Executive Committee held seven meetings in 2017.

#### Directors Loan Committee

The Directors Loan Committee is responsible for overseeing the credit and lending strategies of the Bank, conducting review and approval of all loans beyond the Management Loan Committee's credit authority level, as well as overseeing the overall lending compliance with the Bank's loan policies. Each member of the Committee shall meet the independence requirements of the Nasdaq Stock Market. The Directors Loan Committee acts within the authorities and responsibilities specifically delegated by the board of directors and is subject to an annual self-evaluation of its Charter and Committee performance.



## BOARD'S ROLE IN RISK OVERSIGHT

Our board of directors oversees an enterprise-wide approach to risk management, designed to support the achievement of organization objectives in the areas of strategy, operations, reporting, and compliance without exposing the organization to undue risk. Our board of directors recognizes that these objectives are important to improve and sustain long-term organizational performance and stockholder value. A fundamental part of risk management is not only identifying the risks our Company faces and implementing steps to manage those risks, but also determining what constitutes the appropriate level of risk based upon our Company's activities.

Our board of directors participates in the Company's annual enterprise risk management assessment, which is led by the Company's Chief Risk Officer, Johann (Min) You. In this process, risk is assessed throughout the Company by focusing on nine areas of risk, including risks relating to: credit, liquidity, interest rate, foreign exchange, operational, country, compliance/legal, strategic and reputation. Risks that simultaneously affect different parts of the Company are identified, and an interrelated response is made. Our board of directors provides ongoing oversight of enterprise-wide risks through a periodic enterprise risk assessment update.

While our board of directors has the ultimate oversight responsibility for the risk management process, various committees of the board also have responsibility for risk management.

In particular, the Board Risk Committee assists our board of directors in fulfilling its oversight responsibility with respect to regulatory, compliance and operational risk and enterprise risk management issues that affect the Company and works closely with the Company's legal and risk departments.

The Audit Committee helps the board of directors monitor financial risk and internal controls from a risk-based perspective and oversees the annual audit plan. It also reviews reports from the Company's internal audit department.

The Director's Loan Committee oversees credit risk by identifying, monitoring, and controlling repayment risk associated with the Bank's lending activities.

The Asset/Liability Committee oversees the implementation of an effective process for managing the Bank's interest rate, liquidity, and similar market risks relating to the Bank's balance sheet and associated activities.

In overseeing compensation, the Human Resource and Compensation Committee strives to design incentives that encourage a conservative level of risk-taking behavior consistent with the Company's business strategy and in compliance with all laws and the Interagency Guidance on Sound Incentive Compensation Policies.

Finally, the Company's Nomination and Governance Committee approves the code of conduct and business ethics policies relating to employees and directors, respectively. In addition, it conducts an annual assessment of corporate governance policies and potential risk associated with governance and related party matters.

## DIRECTOR COMPENSATION

The Company provides cash compensation to its directors commensurate with their positions on the board of directors and the board committees. From time-to-time, the Company also uses stock-based incentive compensation to attract and retain qualified candidates to serve on our board of directors. The Company's compensation and benefits programs are designed to pay directors fairly for work required for an organization of the size and scope of the Company, align the directors' interest with the long-term interests of stockholders, and provide compensation that is transparent and straightforward for stockholders to understand. In setting director compensation, the Company considers the amount of time that directors expend in fulfilling their duties to the Company as well as the skill level and experience required by our board of directors. The Company also considers board compensation practices at similarly situated banks, while keeping in mind the compensation philosophy of the Company and the stockholders' interests.

### Cash Compensation

Effective July 2017, each non-management director received an annual cash retainer of \$66,000, paid in monthly installments of \$5,500. The Chairman of the Board and Honorary Chairman received additional monthly retainers of \$3,500. The committee Chairs of our board of director's standing committees and other board committees each received an additional annual retainer of \$6,000 for their services, paid in monthly installments of \$500. Committee members each received an additional annual retainer of \$12,000, paid in monthly installments of \$1,000. Committee Chairs received the additional annual retainers as members of the committees they chair, in addition to their annual retainers for serving as such committee Chairs.

Prior to July 2017, each non-management director received an annual cash retainer of \$54,000, paid in monthly installments of \$4,500. The Chairman of the Board and Lead Independent Director received additional monthly retainers of \$3,500 and \$2,000, respectively. The committee Chairs of our board of director's standing committees and other board committees each received an additional annual retainer of \$6,000 for their services, paid in monthly installments of \$500. Each director received an additional

\$1,000 per month for their monthly board meeting participation. Committee members each received an additional annual retainer of \$6,000, paid in monthly installments of \$500. Committee Chairs received the additional annual retainers as members of the committees they chair, in addition to their annual retainers for serving as such committee Chairs.

Throughout 2017, each director was given the election to receive \$1,250 per month in cash or to participate in the Bank's health and life insurance policy, up to a cost of \$1,250 per month. The directors also received reimbursement for expenses, which included reasonable travel expenses to attend board and committee meetings, reasonable outside seminar expenses, and other special board-related expenses.

In May 2004, Jin Chul Jung, and Chung Hyun Lee each became a participant in Center Bank's Director Survivor Income Plan ("Director Survivor Income Plan"), which provides for a payment to each director's chosen beneficiary in the amount of \$200,000. Former Center Bank, in return, purchased whole life insurance policies insuring the life of each director in amounts that exceed the benefits payable to such beneficiaries with the Company as owner and beneficiary of each of the insurance policies.

#### Long-Term Equity Incentive Awards

Directors may be granted equity awards upon their appointment to our board of directors. Periodically, the Company reevaluates board compensation, including the grant of new stock options and restricted stock units. In setting director compensation, the Company considers the amount of time that directors expend in fulfilling their duties to the Company, as well as the skill level and experience required by the board of directors. The Company also considers board compensation practices at similarly situated banks, while keeping in mind the compensation philosophy of the Company and the stockholders' interests. Please see "Beneficial Ownership of Directors and Executive Officers" on page 61 of this Proxy Statement, for information concerning stock and options held by our directors.

The following table presents information concerning the compensation of our non-employee directors during 2016.

Name	Fees		Option Awards (\$)	Change in	All Other Compensation (\$) <sup>(2)</sup>	Total (\$)
	Earned or Paid in Cash (\$) <sup>(1)</sup>	Stock Awards (\$)		Pension Value and Nonqualified Deferred Compensation Earnings		
Current						
Scott Yoon-Suk Whang (Chairman of the Board) <sup>(3)</sup>	111,000	—	—	—	15,000	126,000
Donald D. Byun	84,000	—	—	—	15,000	99,000
Steven J. Didion	81,000	—	—	—	15,000	96,000
Jinho Doo	75,000	—	—	—	15,000	90,000
Daisy Y. Ha	75,000	—	—	—	15,000	90,000
Jin Chul Jung	78,000	—	—	—	19,944	97,944
Steven S. Koh <sup>(4)</sup>	118,000	—	—	—	15,000	133,000
Chung Hyun Lee	84,000	—	—	—	19,944	103,944
William J. Lewis	84,000	—	—	—	15,000	99,000
David P. Malone <sup>(5)</sup>	29,000	—	—	—	6,250	35,250
John R. Taylor	84,000	—	—	—	15,000	99,000
Dale S. Zuehls	81,000	—	—	—	15,000	96,000
Retired						
Lawrence Jeon <sup>(6)</sup>	38,000	—	—	—	7,500	45,500
Craig D. Mautner <sup>(6)</sup>	36,000	—	—	—	7,500	43,500



Amounts shown include payment of annual board membership retainer fees for the Company and Bank board (1) meetings, committee membership fees, specific purpose committee membership fees, and chairmanship and lead independent director annual retainers.

Amounts include payments made to current and retired directors for or in lieu of receiving life insurance coverage and health insurance coverage paid by the Company: \$6,250 to Mr. Malone; \$7,500 each to Messrs. Jeon and (2) Mautner; and \$15,000 each to Messrs. Byun, Didion, Doo, Ha, Jhung, Koh, Lee, Lewis, Taylor and Zuehls.

Amounts also include the estimated value of the Director Survivor Income Plan coverage during 2017 of \$4,944 for Messrs. Jhung and Lee based on IRS life insurance valuations.

(3) Mr. Whang was named Chairman of the Board of the Company and Bank effective July 6, 2017.

- (4) Mr. Koh stepped down from his position as Chairman of the Board of the Company and Bank and was named Honorary Chairman effective July 6, 2017.  
Director compensation for Mr. Malone was discontinued effective May 15, 2017, upon his appointment as Senior
- (5) Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer of Bank of Hope. He continues to serve as a non-independent member of the boards of directors of the Company and Bank.
- (6) Messrs. Jeon and Mautner retired from the boards of directors of the Company and Bank effective July 6, 2017.

Proposal 2:

Ratification of the Appointment of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm

The Audit Committee of the board of directors has selected Crowe Horwath LLP (“Crowe Horwath”) as our independent registered public accounting firm for the year ending December 31, 2018 and has further directed that the selection of Crowe Horwath be submitted for ratification by the stockholders at the Annual Meeting.

Board Recommendation:

Vote FOR ratification of Crowe Horwath

Proposal 2 — Ratification of the Appointment of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Audit Committee reports to the board of directors and is responsible for overseeing and monitoring the Company's financial accounting and reporting process, the system of internal controls established by management, the audit process and the process for monitoring compliance with laws and regulations and our Code of Conduct.

Pursuant to its charter, the Audit Committee has the following responsibilities:

- Review the quarterly and audited annual financial statements;
- Review the adequacy of internal control systems and financial reporting procedures with management and the independent auditor; and
- Review and approve the general scope of the annual audit and the fees charged by the independent auditor.

The Audit Committee of the board of directors has selected Crowe Horwath LLP ("Crowe Horwath") as our independent registered public accounting firm for the year ending December 31, 2018. Crowe Horwath was initially engaged by Hope Bancorp, Inc. on May 25, 2017. The Company anticipates that a representative of Crowe Horwath will be present at the Annual Meeting and will be available to respond to your appropriate questions and make such statements as the representative may desire.

Following a competitive request for proposal process undertaken by our Audit Committee and upon the recommendation of our Audit Committee, the Company notified BDO LLP ("BDO") on May 25, 2017 that they had been dismissed as the Company's independent registered public accounting firm for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2017. The Company does not anticipate that a representative of BDO will be present at the Annual Meeting.

BDO was the independent registered public accounting firm for Hope Bancorp, formerly BBCN, from June 24, 2015 through May 25, 2017, including for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2016. The change in accountants was not a result of any dissatisfaction with the quality of professional services rendered by BDO.

BDO's audit reports on the Company's financial statements for the years ended December 31, 2016 and 2015 did not contain an adverse opinion or a disclaimer of opinion and were not qualified or modified as to uncertainty, audit scope or accounting principles, except that BDO issued an adverse audit report on the effectiveness of the Company's internal control over financial reporting in its report of independent registered public accounting firm as of December 31, 2016 due to material weaknesses in our internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2016. Both our Audit Committee and the board of directors have discussed the identified material weaknesses with BDO. The Company has authorized BDO to respond fully to any inquiries of Crowe Horwath concerning the identified material weaknesses.

During the fiscal years ended December 31, 2015 and 2016, and through May 25, 2017, there were no disagreements between the Company and BDO on any matter of accounting principles or practices, financial statement disclosure or auditing scope or procedures, which, if not resolved to the satisfaction of BDO, would have caused BDO to make reference to the matter in their report. Other than advising the Company regarding the existence of material weaknesses in internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2016 discussed above, none of the "reportable events" described in Item 304(a)(1)(v) of Regulation S-K of the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission's (the "SEC") rules and regulations have occurred during the fiscal years ended December 31, 2015 and 2016, or through May 25, 2017.

The Company requested BDO to furnish the Company with a letter addressed to the SEC stating whether BDO agrees with the above statements, and if not, stating the respects in which BDO does not agree. A copy of BDO's letter dated

May 30, 2017, was attached as Exhibit 16.1 to our Form 8-K furnished to the SEC on May 31, 2017.

During the fiscal years ended December 31, 2015 and 2016, and through May 25, 2017, neither the Company nor anyone acting on its behalf consulted Crowe Horwath regarding (1) either the application of accounting principles to a specified transaction, either completed or proposed, or the type of audit opinion that might be rendered on the Company's financial statements, or (2) any matter that was either the subject of a disagreement with BDO on accounting principles or practices, financial statement disclosure or auditing scope or procedures, which, if not resolved to the satisfaction of BDO, would have caused BDO to make reference to the matter in their report, or a "reportable event" as described in Item 304(a)(1)(v) of Regulation S-K of the SEC's rules and regulations.

Neither our Bylaws nor other governing documents or law require stockholder ratification of the selection of Crowe Horwath as the Company's independent registered public accounting firm. However, we are submitting the selection of Crowe Horwath to the stockholders for ratification to obtain our stockholders views. If the stockholders do not ratify the selection of Crowe Horwath, the

Audit Committee will reconsider whether or not to retain that firm. Even if the selection is ratified, the Audit Committee in its discretion may direct the appointment of a different independent registered public accounting firm at any time during the year if the Audit Committee determines that such a change would be in our best interests and the best interests of our stockholders.

The affirmative vote of the holders of a majority of shares present in person or represented by proxy and entitled to vote at the Annual Meeting at which a quorum is present is required to ratify the appointment of Crowe Horwath as the Company's independent registered public accounting firm for the year ending December 31, 2018.

**THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS RECOMMENDS A VOTE "FOR" THE RATIFICATION OF THE APPOINTMENT OF CROWE HORWATH LLP AS THE COMPANY'S INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2018.**

## AUDIT COMMITTEE PRE-APPROVAL POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

The Audit Committee has adopted policies and procedures for the pre-approval of all audit and permitted non-audit services rendered by our independent registered public accounting firm. The policy requires advance approval of all services before the independent public accounting firm is engaged to provide such services. The advance approval of services may be delegated to the Chair of the Audit Committee who has authority to approve up to \$25,000 of services, which must be ratified at the next scheduled Audit Committee meeting.

## FEES PAID TO CROWE HORWATH

Aggregate fees for professional services rendered by Crowe Horwath for the Company with respect to the year ended December 31, 2017 were:

2017
Audit fees
\$2,194,094
Audit-related fees
Tax fees
All other fees
Total fees
\$2,194,094

The audit fees include only fees that are customary under generally accepted auditing standards and are the aggregate fees that we incurred for professional services rendered for the audit of our annual consolidated financial statements for fiscal year 2017. Audit fees also include the fees for the audit of the consolidated financial statements and internal control over financial reporting and review of our quarterly consolidated financial statements included in our quarterly Form 10-Q filings for the second and third quarters of 2017. No audit-related fees, tax fees or other fees were incurred in 2017.

## FEES PAID TO BDO

Aggregate fees for professional services rendered by BDO for the Company with respect to the years ended December 31, 2016 and 2017 were:

	2016	2017
Audit fees	\$3,085,741	\$253,680
Audit-related fees	—	—
Tax fees	—	—
All other fees	—	—
Total fees	\$3,085,741	\$253,680

The audit fees include only fees that are customary under generally accepted auditing standards and are the aggregate fees that we incurred for professional services rendered for the audit of our annual consolidated financial statements for fiscal years 2016 and 2017. Audit fees also include the fees for the audit of the consolidated financial statements and internal control over financial reporting and review of our quarterly consolidated financial statements included in

our quarterly Form 10-Q filings for 2016 and the first quarter of 2017. BDO's 2016 audit fees also reflect the completion of one acquisition completed during the year. Audit fees for 2017 also include the fees for a consent to the inclusion of a past audit report. No audit-related fees, tax fees or other fees were incurred in 2016 and 2017.



## AUDIT COMMITTEE REPORT

The following Audit Committee Report does not constitute soliciting material and shall not be deemed filed or incorporated by reference into any other filings by the Company under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, or under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the “Exchange Act”), except to the extent we specifically incorporate this Report by reference.

In performing its functions, the Audit Committee in 2017 met and held discussions with management of the Company and the Bank and with Crowe Horwath, the independent registered public accounting firm for the Company and the Bank for the year ended December 31, 2017. Management represented to the Audit Committee that all financial statements were prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles, and the Audit Committee has:

- Reviewed and discussed the financial statements with management and the independent auditors;
- Discussed with the independent auditor the matters required to be discussed under Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (“PCAOB”) Auditing Standards No. 61, Communications with Audit Committees; and
- Received the written disclosures and the letter from the independent auditor required by the PCAOB and Independence rule 3526 regarding the independent accountant’s communications with the Audit Committee concerning independence. The Audit Committee also discussed any relationships that may impact the objectivity and independence of Crowe Horwath, and satisfied itself as to Crowe Horwath’s independence.

Based on these discussions and reviews, the Company’s Audit Committee recommended to our board of directors that the Company’s audited financial statements be included in the Company’s Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2017, for filing with the SEC.

Respectfully submitted by the Audit Committee:

JOHN R. TAYLOR (Chair)  
STEVEN J. DIDION  
JINHO DOO  
CHUNG HYUN LEE  
DALE S. ZUEHLS

Date of Audit Committee Report: April 30, 2018

Proposal 3:

Nonbinding Advisory Vote to Approve Compensation Paid to “Named Executive Officers”

Approve the compensation of the Company’s “Named Executive Officers”, as discussed in this Proxy Statement.

Board Recommendation:

Vote FOR approval of compensation paid to “Named Executive Officers”

31

---

Proposal 3 — Nonbinding Advisory Vote to Approve Compensation Paid to “Named Executive Officers”

ADVISORY RESOLUTION

The Company believes that our overall executive compensation program, as described in this Proxy Statement, is designed to pay for performance and directly aligns the interests of our executive officers with the long-term interests of our stockholders.

Our stockholders are asked to vote to approve, on a nonbinding, advisory basis, the compensation of our Named Executive Officers (also referred to as “NEOs”) as disclosed in this Proxy Statement in accordance with the SEC’s rules. Accordingly, the Company asks stockholders annually to vote for or against the following resolution:

“Resolved, that the stockholders of Hope Bancorp, Inc. hereby approve the compensation of the Named Executive Officers as reflected in the Proxy Statement for the Company’s 2018 Annual Meeting of Stockholders, including the Compensation Discussion and Analysis, the Summary Compensation Table, other executive compensation tables and the narrative discussion contained in the Proxy Statement.”

Your vote will be advisory, which means that it will not be binding upon our board of directors or our Compensation Committee. In the event this proposal is not approved by our stockholders, the vote will neither be construed as overruling any decision by our board of directors or our Compensation Committee, nor will it create or imply any additional fiduciary duty by our board of directors or our Compensation Committee. Notwithstanding the foregoing, our board of directors and our Compensation Committee will consider the nonbinding, advisory vote of our stockholders on this proposal when reviewing compensation policies and practices in the future.

Stockholders are encouraged to carefully review the “Compensation Discussion and Analysis” section of this Proxy Statement for a detailed discussion of the Company’s executive compensation program.

Our overall executive compensation policies and procedures are described in the Compensation Discussion and Analysis and the tabular disclosure regarding Named Executive Officer compensation (together with the accompanying narrative disclosure) in this Proxy Statement. We believe that our compensation policies and procedures are centered on a pay-for-performance culture and are aligned with the long-term interests of our stockholders, as described in the Compensation Discussion and Analysis. The Compensation Committee, which is comprised entirely of independent directors, oversees our executive compensation program and monitors our policies to ensure they continue to emphasize programs that reward executives for results that are consistent with stockholder interests.

The Compensation Committee and our board of directors believe that our commitment to these responsible compensation practices justifies a non-binding, advisory vote by stockholders FOR the resolution approving the compensation of our Named Executive Officers as disclosed in this Proxy Statement.

**THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS RECOMMENDS STOCKHOLDERS VOTE “FOR” THE NONBINDING  
ADVISORY RESOLUTION APPROVING THE COMPENSATION OF THE NAMED EXECUTIVE OFFICERS.**

## EXECUTIVE OFFICER QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE

Kevin S. Kim, age 60, is President and Chief Executive Officer of Hope Bancorp, Inc. and Bank of Hope, formerly known as BBCN Bancorp, Inc. and BBCN Bank. He has been President and Chief Executive Officer of Hope Bancorp since March 2013 and of Bank of Hope since April 2014. Prior to the merger with Wilshire Bancorp, Inc., Mr. Kim served as Chairman of the board of directors of Hope Bancorp since May 2012 and served as Chairman of the board of directors of BBCN Bank from December 2011 through June 2014. Formerly a director of Center Financial Corporation and Center Bank from 2008 until the merger of equals with Nara Bancorp, Inc. and Nara Bank completed on November 30, 2011, Mr. Kim was the lead negotiator from Center resulting in the creation of BBCN. Prior to joining BBCN as the President and Chief Executive Officer, Mr. Kim practiced law for 18 years, focusing on corporate and business transactions, business acquisitions, tax planning, and real estate transactions. Mr. Kim began his professional career as a Certified Public Accountant working for approximately 10 years at two of the largest public accounting firms. Mr. Kim serves on the boards of directors of the Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce and United Way of Greater Los Angeles. He received a B.A. with a major in English and a minor in International Trade from Hankuk University of Foreign Studies in Seoul, Korea, an M.B.A. from the Anderson School of Management, the University of California, Los Angeles, and a J.D. from Loyola Law School in California. Mr. Kim is a graduate of the ABA Stonier Graduate School of Banking, University of Pennsylvania, and earned his Wharton Leadership Certificate from The Wharton School Aresty Institute of Executive Education.

David P. Malone, age 67, was appointed Senior Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer of Bank of Hope, effective May 15, 2017, and is responsible for oversight of all support and administrative units of the Bank. He has been a director of Hope Bancorp, Inc. and Bank of Hope, formerly known as BBCN Bancorp, Inc. and BBCN Bank, since May 20, 2014. Previously, he served as Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Bank from June 26, 2014 up until the merger with Wilshire Bancorp, Inc. and Wilshire Bank. Prior to joining the board, Mr. Malone completed a 15-year tenure at Community Bank in Pasadena, California, where he served as Chairman in 2013, President and Chief Executive Officer from 2008 to 2013, and Chief Operating Officer and Chief Financial Officer from 1998 to 2008. Under Mr. Malone's leadership, Community Bank grew into one of the leading financial institutions in Southern California, with more than \$3 billion in assets and 17 offices across five counties. While at Community Bank, Mr. Malone was responsible for transforming the company into a relationship-oriented community bank, developing a high performing sales culture, introducing new business lines, and expanding the bank's geographical footprint. Mr. Malone's efforts helped Community Bank achieve consistent profitability throughout the last recession, generate five consecutive years of balance sheet growth and post record profitability in his last two years as President and Chief Executive Officer. During his professional career, Mr. Malone also served as Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer for both Metrobank and Merchant Bank of California. He began his professional career as a Certified Public Accountant with Arthur Andersen, where he later served as a Senior Manager, providing strategic and operational consulting services to financial institutions in the Western United States. Mr. Malone earned a B.S. degree in Accounting from California State University, Northridge.

Kyu S. Kim, age 57, was appointed Senior Executive Vice President and Regional President of the Bank's Eastern region, effective May 1, 2017, and is responsible for oversight of all commercial lending functions in New York, New Jersey, Illinois, Texas, Virginia, Georgia and Alabama. Previously, she was named Senior Executive Vice President and Head of Community Banking for Bank of Hope upon the merger of equals with Wilshire Bank effective July 29, 2016 and was responsible for leading the business operating units of all legacy commercial lending teams and the retail branch network across the United States. A 20-year veteran of Bank of Hope, formerly known as BBCN Bank, Ms. Kim was promoted to Senior Executive Vice President in May 2013 and was named Chief Operating Officer in August 2013. Previously, she served as Executive Vice President and Chief Commercial Banking Officer of BBCN Bank upon the merger of Nara Bank and Center Bank completed on November 30, 2011. Prior to the merger, Ms. Kim, who is credited with building the former Nara Bank's eastern region presence from the ground up, served as Executive Vice President and Eastern Regional Manager for Nara Bank from April 2008 through November 2011.

Previously, she held the titles Senior Vice President and Eastern Regional Manager from October 2005 through March 2008 and Deputy Regional Manager from July 2003 to September 2005. Ms. Kim also served as the Manhattan Branch Manager from February 2000 to September 2005 and Flushing Branch Manager from September 1998 to February 2000. Prior to joining Nara Bank, Ms. Kim was Vice President and Chief Credit Officer at the former Chicago-based Foster Bank from March 1990 to September 1997. Ms. Kim received her B.B.A. in Finance from the University of Wisconsin, Oshkosh. She completed the Graduate School of Banking at the University of Wisconsin, Madison and the ABA Stonier Graduate School of Banking at the University of Pennsylvania. Ms. Kim also earned her Wharton Leadership Certificate from The Wharton School Aresty Institute of Executive Education.

Alex Ko, age 51, was promoted to Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer of Bank of Hope effective May 1, 2017 and of Hope Bancorp, Inc. effective October 2, 2017. Formerly, he served as Executive Vice President, Chief Financial Strategist and Deputy Chief Financial Officer of Bank of Hope, a position he was appointed to upon the merger of equals of BBCN Bank with Wilshire Bank effective July 29, 2016. Previously, he was the Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer of Wilshire Bancorp, Inc. and Wilshire Bank from April 2010 through July 2016 after having joined Wilshire in April 2008 as Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer. A Certified Public Accountant, Mr. Ko completed a 12-year tenure with KPMG, LLP, where he focused primarily in the area of financial services. He earned his B.A. in Economics from Yonsei University in Seoul, Korea and his M.A. in Accounting from the University of Southern California in Los Angeles.

Steven C. Canup, age 51, is our Executive Vice President and Managing Director of the Corporate Banking Group of Bank of Hope. He joined Bank of Hope effective July 12, 2017 from Banc of California, where he led the expansion of one of the bank's fastest growing divisions as Managing Director and Head of Institutional Banking. Previously, he established and served as President of NewBridge Capital, a non-depository financial services company, in partnership with Wedbush Inc. Prior to this, Mr. Canup was an investment banker and served as Managing Director and Head of Financial Institutions Group at B. Riley & Co., LLC from 2011 to 2013 and a Senior Vice President at FIG Partners, LLC from 2009 to 2011. From 2006 to 2009, he served as a Managing Partner at Concordia Capital Advisors, a specialty private equity fund focused on the banking and specialty finance sectors. Previously, he held Senior Vice President positions at Aames Investment Corp and East West Bancorp, responsible for corporate development and strategy and investor relations. Mr. Canup holds a B.A. in Economics from the University of California, Los Angeles.

Karen Craigmile, age 52, was appointed Executive Vice President and Chief Internal Audit Executive for Bank of Hope, effective March 19, 2018, and is responsible for developing and leading the strategic direction for all internal audit activities in assessing the effectiveness of the bank's system of internal controls. She joined Bank of Hope from Western Alliance Bancorporation where she served as Chief Audit Executive from 2015. Previously, Ms. Craigmile was with Bank of America Corporation from 2004 to 2005 as Corporate Audit Vice President. She rejoined Bank of America in 2010 as Risk Management Senior Executive and was later promoted to Senior Vice President and Corporate Audit Director until 2015. From 2005 to 2010, Ms. Craigmile served under the Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond initially in the Risk and Policy Unit of Operational Risk Management. She later became an Operational Risk Senior Examiner of Banking Supervision and Regulation and was promoted to Deputy Central Point of Contact managing a team of examiners responsible for the supervision of large complex banking organizations. Ms. Craigmile earned her B.S. in Mathematics and Computer Information Systems from Newman University in Wichita, Kansas.

Daniel H. Kim, age 51, was named Executive Vice President and Chief Strategy Officer for Bank of Hope, effective May 1, 2017, and is responsible for all areas of corporate planning and oversight of the Bank's marketing department. He joined Bank of Hope, formerly known as BBCN Bank, on November 25, 2013 as Executive Vice President and Chief Planning Officer. Previously, he was the Executive Vice President, Chief Financial Officer and Corporate Secretary of the former Saehan Bancorp, Inc. and Saehan Bank. Having joined Saehan in September 2003, Mr. Kim directly supervised and provided oversight of numerous departments within the organization, including accounting/investment, central operations administration, human resources, IT, compliance and BSA requirements. From May 1997 to August 2003, Mr. Kim served as First Vice President and Manager of the accounting, corporate planning and investment departments of the former Pacific Union Bank, during which time he successfully consummated that bank's initial public offering. Mr. Kim began his banking career in June 1991 at the former Center Bank, where he last served as Assistant Vice President and Accounting/Investment Officer. Mr. Kim earned his B.A. in Economics/Business from the University of California, Los Angeles.

David W. Kim, age 52, was named Executive Vice President and Chief Retail Banking Officer of Bank of Hope, effective May 1, 2017, and is responsible for oversight of the Bank's branch network, deposit operations administration, treasury management services, loan operations and online/mobile banking, as well as the credit card and wealth management units. Previously, he was appointed Executive Vice President and Chief Operations Officer of Bank of Hope, formerly known as BBCN Bank, upon the merger of equals with Wilshire Bank, effective July 29, 2016, and was responsible for overseeing deposit operations administration, general services and facilities and international trade finance operations. With more than 20 years of experience in the banking industry, he joined the Bank effective April 1, 2014 as Executive Vice President, Chief Administrative Officer and General Counsel and was

named Executive Vice President, General Counsel and Chief Operations Administrator in August 2015. Prior to joining the Bank, Mr. Kim joined United Central Bank in 2011 as part of a turnaround team, where he served as Executive Vice President, Chief Operating Officer and General Counsel. From 2010 to 2011, Mr. Kim was Executive Vice President and Chief Credit Officer of Commonwealth Business Bank. Prior to that, he was Senior Vice President, Chief Operating Officer and General Counsel of Wilshire State Bank from 2005 to 2010. Mr. Kim began his career in the Korean-American banking industry in 1995 at Hanmi Bank, where he served as Senior Vice President, Chief Administrative Officer and General Counsel. Mr. Kim began his banking career with Chase Bank in New York and the International Monetary Fund in Washington, D.C. He received his B.S. in Economics and Public Policy from Indiana University and his J.D. from George Washington University Law School.

Jason K. Kim, age 51, was named Chief Commercial Banking Officer of Bank of Hope, formerly known as BBCN Bank, effective May 1, 2017, and is responsible for oversight of the SBA department, as well as shared oversight responsibility for commercial and commercial real estate lending in the Western Region for Bank of Hope. Previously, he served as Executive Vice President and Chief Lending Officer from December 1, 2011 and was responsible for overseeing the SBA, equipment lease finance and credit card departments. Prior to the merger of equals of Nara Bank and Center Bank creating BBCN, he served as Chief Credit Officer of Center Bank from April 2007 and was promoted to Executive Vice President in December 2010. A 26-year veteran of the Bank, Mr. Kim served as Senior Vice President and Manager of Center Bank's SBA Department from 1991 to 2007 during which time, the SBA department received recognition for having maintained the highest asset quality among more than 800 lenders across the nation, leading to the Bank's receipt of the "Lender of the Year Award" by the U.S. Small Business Administration in 2006. Mr. Kim graduated from the University of California, Los Angeles with a B.A. in Economics.

Peter Koh, age 41, was named Executive Vice President and Chief Credit Officer of Bank of Hope upon the merger of equals of BBCN Bank with Wilshire Bank effective July 29, 2016 and is responsible for oversight of all credit administration functions, as well as the appraisal and special assets departments. Previously, he served in the same capacity for Wilshire Bank, a position he was promoted to in July 2014. Mr. Koh initially joined Wilshire Bank in 2001 and served in various credit-related positions through 2005. He then rejoined Wilshire Bank in June 2007 as Senior Loan Officer and held the position of Chief Credit Review Officer and then Deputy Chief Credit Officer before being appointed as Chief Credit Officer in July 2013. Mr. Koh's father, Steven S Koh, is a director and Honorary Chairman of the board of directors of Hope Bancorp and Bank of Hope. He earned his B.A. from Columbia University in New York and M.B.A. from the Marshall School of Business, University of Southern California.

Janette Mah, age 58, was named Executive Vice President and Chief Mortgage Banking Officer of Bank of Hope, formerly known as BBCN Bank, upon the merger of equals with Wilshire Bank effective July 29, 2016. Having served in the same capacity at Wilshire Bank prior to the merger, she is responsible for mortgage banking, mortgage servicing and warehouse lending operations. Ms. Mah joined Wilshire Bank in June 2009 as Senior Vice President and Home Loan Center Manager and was promoted to Chief Mortgage Banking Officer in July 2013 and Executive Vice President in June 2015. Ms. Mah has more than 30 years of experience in consumer banking and the financial services industry, primarily focused on mortgage lending operations, including First Vice President and Consumer Lending Center Manager for the former Pacific Union Bank from 2001 to 2004. After the acquisition of Pacific Union Bank by Hanmi Bank in April 2004, Ms. Mah became Senior Vice President and Residential Mortgage Center Manager from November 2004 through June 2008 and was later promoted to Consumer Lending Center Manager from July 2008 through May 2009. She earned her B.A. in Linguistics from University of California, Los Angeles.

Lisa K. Pai, age 58, was named Executive Vice President and General Counsel effective April 1, 2018, after having served as Executive Vice President, Chief Administrative Officer and General Counsel of Hope Bancorp, Inc. and Bank of Hope, formerly known as BBCN Bancorp, Inc. and BBCN Bank, upon the merger of equals with Wilshire Bancorp, Inc. and Wilshire Bank, respectively. Previously, she served as Executive Vice President, Chief Legal & Human Resources Officer and Corporate Secretary of Wilshire Bancorp and Wilshire Bank from December 2012. Prior to joining Wilshire, Ms. Pai served as Executive Vice President and Chief Legal and Human Resources Officer at BBCN Bancorp after the merger of Nara Bancorp and Center Financial Corporation in 2011. She also served as Executive Vice President, General Counsel and Chief Risk Officer at Center Financial Corporation from 2007 to 2011. Before joining the banking industry in 1994, Ms. Pai practiced law at the law firm of Thelen, Marrin, Johnson and Bridges. She earned her B.A. in Economics from University of Chicago and her J.D. from University of California, Los Angeles, School of Law.

David Song, age 54, is Bank of Hope's Executive Vice President and Chief Business Banking Officer of Bank of Hope, sharing oversight responsibility for commercial and commercial real estate lending in the Western Region for Bank of Hope. Prior to the merger of equals between BBCN Bank and Wilshire Bank effective July 29, 2016, he was



Executive Vice President and Chief Commercial Banking Officer of Wilshire Bank from September 2009, responsible for the corporate banking division and trade finance department. Mr. Song has more than 25 years of experience in commercial banking and the finance industry, including First Vice President and Team Leader for corporate middle market lending at Comerica Bank from 2003 to 2009 and Vice President and Senior Relationship Manager-Team Leader at Bank of the West from 1998 to 2003. Mr. Song earned his B.S. in Ceramic Engineering/Materials Science & Engineering and his M.B.A. in Finance from University of Washington in Seattle.

Johann (Min) You, age 53, was appointed Executive Vice President and Chief Risk Officer of Bank of Hope, formerly known as BBCN Bank, effective March 3, 2014, and is responsible for all areas of risk, compliance and BSA management. Previously, Mr. You was employed by HSBC USA where he served in roles of increasing responsibility from June 2011 through January 2014. Most recently, he was Senior Vice President and Head of Enterprise Compliance Risk, responsible for compliance risk strategy, risk assessment, risk reporting, compliance risk systems and compliance issue management. From June 2006 to June 2011, Mr. You was Director and Head Consultant at IMAG Consulting Services LLC, where he spearheaded numerous operational, regulatory and risk-based projects for large global financial institutions. Mr. You earned a B.S. in Accounting from the University of Binghamton and is a Certified Anti-Money Laundering Specialist.

Who are the Named Executive Officers?

The Named Executive Officers, whom we also refer to as NEOs, are (i) each person who served as our Chief Executive Officer for any period of time during 2017; (ii) each person who served as our Chief Financial Officer for any period of time during 2017; and (iii) each of the other three most highly compensated executive officers employed by us as of December 31, 2017, whose total compensation for services rendered to us in all capacities during 2017 exceeded \$100,000, and up to two former executive officers who would have been so included on the basis of his or her 2017 compensation if he or she had remained an employee at year end. For 2017, the NEOs are Kevin S. Kim, Alex Ko, David P. Malone, Kyu S. Kim, and Johann (Min) You, as well as our former Chief Financial Officer Douglas J. Goddard, who retired from the Company and Bank effective October 2, 2017.

## Human Resources and Compensation Committee Report

The following report does not constitute soliciting material and should not be deemed incorporated by reference into any other filings by the Company under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, or the Securities and Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, except to the extent we may specifically incorporate the information contained in this report by reference thereto.

The Human Resources and Compensation Committee (“Compensation Committee”) has reviewed and discussed the Compensation Discussion and Analysis (“CD&A”) included in this Proxy Statement with management and, based on such reviews and discussions, has recommended to the board of directors that the CD&A be included in this Proxy Statement and incorporated by reference into the Company’s Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2017.

Respectfully submitted by the members of the Compensation Committee of the board of directors:

DALE S. ZUEHLS (Chair)  
DAISY Y. HA  
JIN CHUL JHUNG  
WILLIAM J. LEWIS  
SCOTT YOON-SUK WHANG

Date: April 30, 2018

## COMPENSATION DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

This Compensation Discussion and Analysis (“CD&A”) provides information about our executive compensation program, the factors that were considered in making compensation decisions for the Named Executive Officers (“NEOs”) of the Company and how we have modified our programs to meet the Company’s needs in the future.

### 2017 Named Executive Officers

Name	Title
Kevin S. Kim	President & Chief Executive Officer
Alex Ko	Executive Vice President & Chief Financial Officer
David P. Malone	Senior Executive Vice President & Chief Operating Officer
Kyu S. Kim	Senior Executive Vice President & Regional President, Eastern Region
Johann (Min) You	Executive Vice President & Chief Risk Officer
Douglas J. Goddard	Formerly Executive Vice President & Chief Financial Officer

### Executive Summary

#### 2017 Financial and Strategic Business Performance

2017 was a year of important achievements in terms of successfully completing the integration of a transformational merger completed mid-2016. At the same time, our first full-year of operations as a \$10 billion-plus financial institution was a year of key investments. While these investments weighed on our performance for 2017, we believe these investments were essential in fortifying our foundation for long-term, sustainable growth.

Notwithstanding the considerably greater regulatory standards and requirements which led to higher levels of investments in our overall enterprise risk infrastructure, net income for 2017 increased 23% to a record \$139.4 million, or \$1.03 per diluted common share, based on 135,684,969 weighted average diluted shares outstanding, from \$113.7 million, or \$1.10 per diluted common share, based on 103,530,318 weighted average diluted shares outstanding, in 2016.

---

Our 2017 financial results included a one-time, non-cash, incremental income tax expense in the Company's consolidated statements of income of \$25.4 million resulting from the revaluation of our deferred tax assets and \*liabilities and low income housing tax credit investments due to the enactment of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act (the "Tax Act") on December 22, 2017. This one-time, non-cash charge, which was recognized during the 2017 fourth quarter, adversely impacted the Company's diluted earnings per share by \$0.19 per share.

At year-end, total assets increased 6% over 2016 to \$14.21 billion, loans receivable increased 5% to \$11.10 billion and total deposits increased 2% to \$10.85 billion. These achievements ranked Bank of Hope as the 6<sup>th</sup> largest bank headquartered in Los Angeles, the 11<sup>th</sup> largest bank in California, and the 85<sup>th</sup> largest financial institution in the nation. Today, Bank of Hope stands proud as the first and only super regional Korean-American Bank, the third largest Asian-American bank in the United States, and the only Korean-American bank to ever be named by Forbes magazine as one of the Best Banks in America, and that's for the last six consecutive years.

With the integration of the merger successfully completed, the Board of Directors and executive management team focused on driving profitable growth of our franchise and creating additional value for all of our stakeholders. During the course of the year, we implemented a corporate transformation plan designed to establish a stronger foundation for improved organizational capacity, employee engagement, risk mitigation and customer experience.

Notwithstanding the significant amount of energy devoted to the successful integration and transformation of our organization, Bank of Hope originated a record \$2.59 billion in new loans to support the growth of its customers. This amounted to a 39% increase over 2016 production volumes and represented a more diversified mix of loans with increasing contributions from some of our newer product offerings.

Today, Bank of Hope is in an enviable competitive position, with unrivaled leadership among our niche peers and unparalleled opportunity to cross-sell a comprehensive offering of products and services. Beyond our initial core strengths in international trade finance, SBA and commercial real estate lending, we have become a diversified financial institution with a strong residential mortgage platform, the only Korean-American bank-issued credit card program and other specialty services, including equipment lease financing, foreign currency and wealth management. Bank of Hope is also the only Korean-American bank with a true national footprint and solid presence in all top geographic markets in the U.S. with the largest Asian-American populations.

We have a tremendous opportunity to establish deeper and stronger relationships with our existing customer base just by cross-selling our other products and services. More importantly, we believe our diversified offering and geographic footprint, coupled with our greater stature in the banking community, position Bank of Hope well to successfully expand into newer markets and a broader customer base in the years ahead.

#### 2017 Stockholder Feedback

Each year, we carefully consider the results of our stockholder say-on-pay vote from the preceding year. At the Company's annual meeting of stockholders on July 6, 2017, approximately 97.5% of the votes cast supported our executive compensation practices. The Compensation Committee considered this a strong endorsement of its decisions and policies, as well as the overall design and direction of the Company's executive compensation program. Nevertheless, the Compensation Committee continued to make enhancements to our executive compensation program in 2017.

#### 2017 Compensation Decisions

The Compensation Committee made the following compensation decisions for fiscal 2017:

**Leadership Continuity:** Our board of directors believes that continuity of leadership following the transformational merger completed mid-2016 is critical to the long-term success of the Company. At the recommendation of our Compensation Committee, our board of directors approved an amended and restated employment agreement with our President and Chief Executive Officer Kevin S. Kim that extended his leadership of the Company through March 31, 2022. The amended employment agreement also brought the compensation of our CEO closer to the market median of our Peer Group.

**Base Salaries:** All of our other NEOs received base salary increases between 5% and 8% in 2017, moving their base salaries closer to market-competitive levels.

**Annual Cash Incentive Awards:** The Compensation Committee awarded Mr. Kim 62% of his target award of 75% of base salary. Our CEO's cash incentive opportunity is based 100% on the Company's performance, and the year-over-year reduction reflects the Company's not meeting its budgeted performance goals. Our other NEOs, whose cash incentive awards are based on the Company's performance and individual goals, received between 75% and 95% of their respective target

award opportunities.

Long-Term Cash Incentive Plan (“Legacy LTIP”): The Company did not meet the required performance targets for a full contribution of deferred compensation. As a result, and in accordance with the terms of their respective plans, the Company contributed 40.5% of the maximum potential award, or \$20,250 and \$12,150 to the deferred compensation accounts of Kevin S. Kim and Kyu S. Kim, respectively.

2017 Long-Term Incentive Plan (“LTIP”): In an effort to align, motivate and reward participants for their contributions to the Company’s long-term financial success and growth, the Compensation Committee established the 2017 Long-Term Incentive Plan (the “LTIP”) effective May 25, 2017. The new LTIP provides for equity grants under the stockholder-approved 2016 Incentive Compensation Plan (also referred to as the “2016 Plan”) that are 50% time-based and 50% performance-contingent on a three-year time frame.

#### Chief Executive Officer (“CEO”) Pay at a Glance

Key components of our executive compensation philosophy focus on the link between compensation and overall business results and stockholder value creation, as well as supporting critical retention needs. Over the past five years, Mr. Kim’s leadership has been integral to our success during this significant time of transition and growth. To this end, in 2014, the Company and Mr. Kim entered into an employment agreement commensurate with his then significantly increased responsibilities. The Compensation Committee also determined, at that time and given the needs of the Company, that Mr. Kim’s base salary, target annual cash incentive opportunity and long-term incentive opportunities were appropriately competitive relative to comparable banks given his new position. In 2017, the Company and Mr. Kim entered into an amended and restated employment agreement commensurate with his even greater responsibilities as the CEO of a \$10 billion-plus financial institution. The amended agreement reflects the Compensation Committee’s determination of the base salary, target annual cash incentive opportunity and long-term incentive opportunities essential for continuity in leadership following our transformational merger completed mid-2016 and competitive relative to a new group of peer banks.

The chart below illustrates the “normalized value” of Mr. Kim’s total annual compensation each year, relative to the cumulative total return to stockholders, since his date of hire. This means that the grant date fair market value of the awards is spread over the vesting period rather than including the full market value of the awards on the date of the grant (which results in significant swings over the multi-year period).

The Compensation Committee believes that this perspective, which does not directly correlate with annual amounts disclosed in the Summary Compensation Table on page 54, provides a more realistic view of how Mr. Kim’s compensation aligns with stockholder value creation.

#### Chief Executive Officer Compensation & Stockholder Returns

\* Reflects equity award values granted pursuant to Mr. Kim’s Employment Agreement, normalized over intended service period (vesting period).

## Best Compensation Practices & Policies

Our executive compensation program is reinforced by the following best-practice governance standards which encourage prudent decision-making and prevent excessive risk-taking behaviors through the following processes, policies and practices:

- Stock ownership policy;
- Clawback policy;
- No tax gross ups;
- No automatic “single trigger” vesting upon a change of control;
- Independent compensation consultant retained; and
- No excessive perquisites.

## What Guides Our Executive Compensation Program

### Compensation Philosophy and Objectives

We believe that the most effective executive compensation programs are those that align the interests of our NEOs with those of our stockholders. A properly structured compensation program will reinforce and support the development of a strong performance-oriented culture within the Company to achieve specific short and long-term strategic objectives while taking into consideration potential risk implications, such as not encouraging imprudent risk-taking that threatens the long-term value of the Company.

The Company’s executive compensation program is designed to provide:

- levels of base salary that are competitive with companies in our peer group;
- annual cash incentives that are tied to our financial results, achievement of our yearly strategic goals and achievement of individual performance objectives;
- long-term equity incentive awards that encourage NEOs to focus their efforts on building stockholder value by meeting longer-term financial and strategic goals; and
- long-term cash incentives that deliver opportunities for performance-based contributions to select NEOs’ deferred compensation accounts.

The Compensation Committee believes that executive compensation should be closely tied to the financial and operational performance of the Company, individual performance and the officer’s level of responsibility, as well as risk management. The Compensation Committee believes that the equity-based portion of our executive compensation should also include meaningful retention features that encourage key employees to remain in the employment of the Company.

## Roles and Responsibilities of the Compensation Committee

The Compensation Committee has strategic and oversight responsibility for the compensation and benefits programs of the Company. The Compensation Committee reviews the compensation recommendations made by the Chief Executive Officer for employees at the Executive Vice President level and above (other than the Chief Executive Officer) and certain other Officers of the Bank who are not Executive Vice Presidents (our Managing Director of Syndicated Lending Group and Director of Human Resources are Senior Vice Presidents) to determine whether the



compensation paid to such employees is reasonable and competitive and whether such compensation serves the interests of the Company's stockholders. The Chief Risk Officer reports directly to the Board Risk Committee and the Chief Internal Audit Executive reports directly to the Audit Committee. The Chairs of the Board Risk Committee and Audit Committee provide input on compensation decisions for the Chief Risk Officer and Chief Internal Audit Executive, respectively, in conjunction with the Compensation Committee.

The Compensation Committee is also responsible for establishing, implementing, and monitoring the compensation structure, policies, and programs of the Company, subject to the overall authority of the board of directors, including assessment of the risk profile of each compensation policy and practice, and for assessing and recommending to the board for approval of the total compensation paid to the Chief Executive Officer and Executive Vice Presidents of the Company. The Compensation Committee periodically reviews the pay practices of companies in our peer group to determine the appropriate compensation mix and levels for our executive officers. The Compensation Committee may engage the advice of outside experts, including compensation consultants.

It is the Compensation Committee’s policy to engage only advisors that the Compensation Committee determines to be sufficiently independent. The Chair of the Compensation Committee regularly reports to the board of directors on the Compensation Committee’s actions and recommendations. A copy of the Compensation Committee’s charter may be found in the Corporate Governance section of our website at [www.ir-hopebancorp.com](http://www.ir-hopebancorp.com).

#### The Role of the Independent Compensation Consultant

Pursuant to authority granted to it under its charter, the Compensation Committee continued its engagement of Pearl Meyer as its independent consultant for fiscal 2017. Pearl Meyer provides expertise on competitive pay practices and program design, and serves as an objective third-party advisor in assessing the reasonableness of compensation levels. Pearl Meyer reports directly to the Compensation Committee. The Compensation Committee has conducted an independence assessment of Pearl Meyer in accordance with the SEC rules and has determined that Pearl Meyer does not have any conflict of interest relating to the work it is performing for the Compensation Committee.

#### The Role of Peer Groups

The Compensation Committee, with input from its compensation consultant, reviews at least annually the composition of peer companies against which the Company evaluates itself for compensation purposes.

Given the new size and scope of the Company following the merger completion of Wilshire Bancorp, Inc., the Compensation Committee, based on the recommendation of Pearl Meyer, revised in November 2016 the peer group (the “2016 Peer Group”) to be used in making 2017 compensation decisions. The 2016 Peer Group approved by our Compensation Committee was as follows:

Banner Corporation	Glacier Bancorp, Inc.	Umpqua Holdings Corporation
Cathay General Bancorp	IBERIABANK Corporation	United Bankshares Inc.
Columbia Banking System, Inc.	PacWest Bancorp	United Community Banks, Inc.
CVB Financial Corp.	PrivateBancorp, Inc..	Valley National Bancorp
First Midwest Bancorp Inc.	Prosperity Bancshares, Inc.	Western Alliance Bancorporation
First Financial Bancorp	Sterling Bancorp	
Fulton Financial Corporation	Trustmark Corporation	

Based on the 2016 Peer Group, as of December 31, 2017, the Company’s total assets were positioned at the 42<sup>d</sup> percentile of 2016 Peer group, operating revenue at the 37<sup>th</sup> percentile and market capitalization at the 26<sup>th</sup> percentile.

Pearl Meyer reviewed our executive officers’ 2017 target compensation relative to compensation of similarly positioned executives among the 2016 Peer Group banks and presented findings from the review to the Compensation Committee in January 2017. The Compensation Committee considered findings from the Pearl Meyer report when making executive compensation decisions for 2017.

In addition to the 2016 Peer Group comparative data, our Compensation Committee may consider other factors that it deems prudent when determining executive compensation. While comparisons can be useful in identifying general compensation trends and overall pay levels, the Compensation Committee recognizes that there may be meaningful differences between our Company and our peers. The Compensation Committee uses the comparison data as a general indicator of market trends in executive compensation, but does not use it exclusively to set compensation levels for the CEO or other NEOs. In addition to peer data, the Compensation Committee also reviews individual and company performance, the position, responsibilities within the Company, and other factors to determine total compensation for the NEOs.



## Elements of Compensation

The four primary elements of our executive compensation structure are base salaries, annual cash incentives, long-term equity incentive awards and long-term cash incentives. The following describes the objectives and policies underlying each of the elements of our executive compensation program.

### Base Salary

Base salary is the fixed component of total direct compensation. We believe that base salaries should be competitive with the salaries paid by comparable banking institutions based on each individual executive officer's experience, performance and geographic location. The Compensation Committee considers a wide variety of factors in determining base salary levels, including individual performance, Company performance, the business or corporate function for which the executive is responsible, the nature and importance of the executive officer's position and role within the Company, the scope of the executive officer's responsibility or internal relationships and the current compensation package in place for the executive officer, including the executive officer's current annual base salary. In setting base salaries, the Compensation Committee also takes into account that target bonuses under our annual incentive program generally are set as a percentage of base salary.

The compensation analysis performed by Pearl Meyer in December 2016 found our NEO's 2016 base salaries were below the market median by 15% or more. To move closer to market-competitive levels, each of our NEOs, other than our Chief Executive Officer, received merit base salary increases in 2017 between 5% and 8%, which is higher than the annual merit adjustments for employees Company-wide.

The increase in the base salary for our Chief Executive Officer reflects a Second Amended and Restated Employment Agreement entered into on April 27, 2017 and effective as of April 1, 2017 with respect to Mr. Kevin S. Kim's service as the Chief Executive Officer and President of both the Company and the Bank, as described beginning on page 50 of this Proxy Statement. The extended and amended employment agreement with our Chief Executive Officer underscored our board of directors' acknowledgment of the successful integration following the transformative merger completed in 2016 and need for continuity in leadership.

The 2017 and 2016 base salaries for the NEOs were as follows:

NEO	2016 Base Salary	2017 Base Salary	Year-over-Year % Change
Kevin S. Kim President & Chief Executive Officer	\$705,000	\$840,000	19.1%
Alex Ko Executive Vice President & Chief Financial Officer	\$310,030	\$325,532	5.0%
David P. Malone Senior Executive Vice President & Chief Operating Officer	\$—	\$450,000	n/a
Kyu S. Kim Senior Executive Vice President & Regional President, Eastern Region	\$338,000	\$358,280	6.0%
Johann (Min) You Executive Vice President & Chief Risk Officer	\$305,000	\$328,860	7.8%
Douglas J. Goddard Formerly Executive Vice President & Chief Financial Officer	\$310,000	\$325,532	5.0%

## Annual Cash Incentive Bonus

We believe that our annual performance-based incentive compensation program, with significant compensation opportunities and incentive criteria primarily tied to the Bank's performance, aligns the interest of our NEOs with those of our stockholders. For 2017, the annual cash incentive for our Chief Executive Officer had a target of 75% of base salary with a maximum of 125% of base salary. For our other NEOs, the target annual cash incentive was 45% of base salary for our senior executive vice president-level management and 40% of base salary for our executive vice president-level management.

The following sections discuss the Compensation Committee's criteria used to determine 2017 annual cash incentive awards for the Chief Executive Officer and other NEOs.

## Chief Executive Officer Award: Performance Measures and Results

In early 2017, the annual cash incentive award opportunity for our Chief Executive Officer was approved by the Compensation Committee. Mr. Kim's annual cash incentive opportunity is based 50% on profitability, 30% on balance sheet growth, and 20% on regulatory and strategic goals. His target 2017 annual cash incentive award opportunity was 75% of salary. The Compensation Committee established threshold and maximum award opportunities and goals, which set Mr. Kim's threshold opportunity at 50% of salary and maximum opportunity at 125% of salary. In early 2018, the Compensation Committee reviewed the Bank's actual financial and regulatory performance relative to approved goals to determine the 2017 annual incentive payout for the CEO. The Compensation Committee may use negative discretion in determining the incentive payout based on the scorecard analysis. The Compensation Committee approved an annual incentive payout to the CEO equal to 46.5% of his salary, or \$390,783, which is rounded down from the scorecard illustrated in the table below.

Performance Measures	Weight	2017 Performance Goals			Actual Results	Bonus Earned
		Minimum	Target	Maximum		
Profitability	50 %					
Return on Average Assets <sup>(1)</sup>	10 %	1.02 %	1.27 %	1.52 %	1.24 %	58,867
Return on Average Equity <sup>(1)</sup>	30 %	7.51 %	9.39 %	11.27 %	8.93 %	163,825
Efficiency Ratio	10 %	48.68 %	46.36 %	44.04 %	48.67 %	42,091
Balance Sheet Growth	30 %					
Deposit Growth (retail)	15 %	8.80 %	11.00 %	13.20 %	1.92 %	—
Total Loan Growth	15 %	9.02 %	11.28 %	13.54 %	5.30 %	—
Regulatory Ratings/ Strategic <sup>(2)</sup>	20 %					
		Lower Range	Current Range	Higher Range	Current Range	\$ 126,000
TOTAL	100 %					\$ 390,783

The Actual Results for Return on Average Assets ("ROA") and Return on Average Equity ("ROE") utilized by the Compensation Committee in determining the cash incentive payout for the Chief Executive Officer exclude the impact of the one-time, non-cash tax expense as a result of the enactment of the Tax Act. ROA and ROE excluding tax reform adjustments are non-GAAP financial measures. A reconciliation of the GAAP to non-GAAP financial measures is provided in the Company's 2017 fourth quarter and full-year news release which was furnished to the SEC as an exhibit to a Form 8-K filed on January 30, 2018.

(2) We are not permitted to disclose regulatory ratings, and the nature of the strategic goals is such that they are not quantifiable.

## Other NEO's Awards: Performance Objectives and Results

Annual cash incentive awards for all other senior employees with a title of First Vice President and above, including NEOs other than the Chief Executive Officer, are paid under the Company's Performance Incentive Plan ("PIP"). The PIP was developed to recognize and reward senior officers, who help enhance stockholder value, profitability and customer satisfaction and help meet the strategic goals of the Company. The program also measures performance against agreed-upon goals in determining an incentive award. The PIP is administered by the Chief Executive Officer and approved by the Compensation Committee.

The PIP defines Bank performance and individual goals and establishes incentive award opportunities for each level of management. In early 2016, the Chief Executive Officer recommended the allocation of incentive opportunities to each NEO (excluding himself) and the award basis for 2016 to the Compensation Committee, which then approved the recommendations. The allocation of each year's PIP accrual, to be paid in the following year, is determined by the relative performance and contribution to the financial results of the Company by each NEO and achievement of

individual performance goals under each NEO's PIP.

The following table summarizes award opportunities and performance basis for each level of management (excluding the Chief Executive Officer).

Level	Target Incentive		Performance Basis	
	as a Percentage of Salary		Bank	Individual
Senior Executive Vice President	45 %		80 %	20 %
Executive Vice President	40 %		75 %	25 %

Edgar Filing: HOPE BANCORP INC - Form DEF 14A

Following is a summary of the Bank performance goals approved for 2017, the respective assigned weights in determining the overall payout opportunity, and actual performance results:

Performance Measures	2017 Target Performance Goal	Weight		Actual Results
		Sr. EVP	EVP	
Profitability		28.00%	26.25%	
Net Income (\$millions)	\$ 175.69	5.60 %	5.25 %	\$ 139.45
Return on Average Equity	9.639 %	5.60 %	5.25 %	7.31 %
Return on Average Assets	1.27 %	5.60 %	5.25 %	1.02 %
Net Interest Margin	3.75 %	5.60 %	5.25 %	3.8 %
Efficiency Ratio	46.36 %	5.60 %	5.25 %	48.67 %
Balance Sheet Growth		26.00%	24.38%	
Deposit Growth (excluding wholesale)	11.00 %	13.00%	12.19%	1.92 %
Total Loan Growth	11.28 %	13.00%	12.19%	5.30 %
Strategic Initiatives		13.00%	12.19%	69.00 %
Regulatory Ratings		13.00%	12.19%	75.00 %
Total Bank Goals		80.00%	75.00%	

Following is a summary of the Individual performance goal categories approved for 2016 and the respective assigned weights in determining the overall payout opportunity:

2017 Individual Goal Category	Sr. EVP Weights	EVP Weights
Meet financial budget goals, including loans, deposits and profitability assigned	2.00 %	2.50 %
Maintain high standards of asset quality, customer service, and employee morale	2.00 %	2.50 %
Satisfactory rating for any applicable internal audits, compliance code of ethics related subjects, minimized (litigation or actual cash losses) and timely implementation of corrective actions	2.00 %	2.50 %
Retain and recruit unit's critical employees	2.00 %	2.50 %
Develop staff by providing adequate trainings	2.00 %	2.50 %
Individual Performance Evaluations Score	10.00 %	12.50 %
Total Individual Goals	20.00 %	25.00 %

Upon the recommendation of the Chief Executive Officer, the Compensation Committee approved the following annual cash incentive awards to the following NEOs, based on the combined achievement of Bank and individual performance in 2017:

NEO	2017 PIP Bonus	% of Target
Alex Ko Executive Vice President & Chief Financial Officer	\$ 124,000	95%
David P. Malone Senior Executive Vice President & Chief Operating Officer	\$ 174,000	86%
Kyu S. Kim Senior Executive Vice President & Regional President, Eastern Region	\$ 129,000	80%
Johann (Min) You Executive Vice President & Chief Risk Officer	\$ 99,000	75%
Douglas J. Goddard Formerly Executive Vice President & Chief Financial Officer	\$—	n/a



As a result of Mr. Goddard's retirement from the Company effective October 2, 2017, Mr. Goddard was not eligible for an annual cash incentive award for his 2017 performance. The Company did not meet the required performance targets against agreed-upon goals, thereby resulting in lower-than-target levels of payouts of annual cash incentive bonuses for 2017 to the NEOs. The variance in payouts to these NEOs relative to target was based on an evaluation of each executive's performance against their individual goals, as well as a subjective evaluation of their individual contributions to the successful integration of the merged companies.

### Long-Term Cash Incentive Plan

The Company has a legacy Long Term Incentive Plan (also referred to as “Legacy LTIP”), which was implemented to incentivize certain executive officers to remain employed by the Company for the long term and to provide a vehicle to build a retirement fund beyond the Company’s 401(k) plan. Following the substantial completion of the physical integration of the merger, the Compensation Committee began evaluating the future of this plan and established a new long-term incentive plan to replace the Legacy LTIP. As of 2017, there are only two NEOs who participate in this plan:

Kyu S. Kim became a Legacy LTIP participant in 2008. According to the terms of her individual Legacy LTIP agreement, Kyu S. Kim is entitled to have up to \$30,000 per year, for a ten-year period beginning in 2008, credited to a deferred compensation account which accrues interest at an annual rate of 6.25%, to be paid out starting when she reaches 65 years of age. The agreement has a five-year vesting cliff of 50% of her total contribution amounts plus accrued interest in her deferred compensation account, with an additional 10% of the total contributions plus accrued interest vesting in each of years six through ten.

Kevin S. Kim became a Legacy LTIP participant in 2014. According to the terms of his individual Legacy LTIP agreement, Kevin S. Kim is entitled to have up to \$50,000 per year, for a five-year period beginning in 2014, credited to a deferred compensation account which accrues interest at an annual rate of 6.25%, to be paid out starting when he reaches 65 years of age. The agreement has a three-year vesting cliff of 50% of his total potential contribution amount plus accrued interest in his deferred compensation account, with an additional 25% of the total contributions plus accrued interest vesting in each of years four and five.

The Legacy LTIP requires the satisfaction of certain performance criteria by each participant each year in order for the NEO to receive full credit for his or her potential yearly contribution. Performance criteria are determined in advance by our board of directors each year.

For 2017, the Compensation Committee established return on average assets and return on average equity target performance goals of 1.12% and 9.75%, respectively, each assigned a weight of 50%. In order to achieve a contribution associated with either goal, at least 90% of target performance must be achieved. Reduced contributions are awarded for performance between 90% and 100% of target for each goal independently. The Company’s return on average assets exceeded 90% of target, however, the return on average equity performance was below 90%, resulting in no contribution for that goal. The Company credited \$20,250 and 12,150 to Kevin S. Kim and Kyu S. Kim’s deferred accounts, respectively, or 40.5% of their maximum contribution opportunity, summarized as follows:

Performance Criteria	Weight	Target Goal	Actual Results	% of Target Achieved	% of Maximum Contribution Awarded
Return on Average Assets	50%	1.12%	1.10%	91.1%	40.5%
Return on Average Equity	50%	9.75%	8.47%	75%	0.0%

The Legacy LTIP provides for full vesting of a participant’s then-current account balance in the event of the participant’s death during employment. The Legacy LTIP provides for accelerated contribution of remaining contribution amounts upon separation from service other than for cause or death and partial accelerated vesting of the balance in the deferred compensation accounts plus such additional contributions upon the occurrence of the executive’s separation from service for good reason within 12 months following a change in control event. Kevin S. Kim’s employment agreement provides for accelerated vesting of his Legacy LTIP account balance upon termination of his employment in circumstances as described beginning on page 50 of this Proxy Statement.

### Long-Term Equity Incentive Awards

The Compensation Committee believes that equity-based compensation ensures that the Company's officers have a personal stake in the long-term success of the Company without encouraging such officers to take inappropriate or unnecessary risks. Equity-based incentive awards have been granted by the Company under two stockholder approved plans, the 2007 Equity Incentive Plan (also referred to as the "2007 Plan") and the 2016 Incentive Compensation Plan (also referred to as the "2016 Plan").

Following the substantial completion of the physical integration of the merger, the Compensation Committee began developing a more formal long-term incentive strategy in 2017 with the following objectives:

- Attract and retain the services of individuals who are likely to make significant contributions to the Company's success;
- Encourage ownership of the Company's common stock by employees;

- Align executives with shareholder interests; and
- Ensure sound risk management by providing a balanced view of performance and aligning rewards with the longer-term time horizon of risk outcomes.

On May 25, 2017, the Company approved a new long-term incentive plan (the “LTIP”). The LTIP provides for long-term incentive opportunities through a combination of time-based and performance-contingent equity grants. A select group of senior management and key executives who impact organization-wide results will be considered for participation by the Compensation Committee on an annual basis, with consideration of input from our CEO. For our NEOs and other executive-level officers, the award will be 50% time-based and 50% performance-contingent. For senior employees with a title of Senior Vice President and First Vice President, the Compensation Committee determined that the 2017 award will be 75% time-based and 25% performance-contingent. Unless determined otherwise by the Compensation Committee, LTIP grants are expected to be granted annually, with overlapping three-year performance cycles. All LTIP awards will be granted under the stockholder-approved 2016 Plan.

With the exception of termination due to disability, death or change in control, participants will generally forfeit all rights to any unvested shares upon termination of employment. The LTIP will be subject to the Company’s clawback policy, as it may be modified from time to time.

The time-based component of LTIP awards will be granted as restricted stock units that vest one-third each on the first three anniversaries of the grant date.

The performance-contingent component of LTIP awards will be granted as performance share units and will be contingent on the achievement of pre-established three-year performance goals, 50% of which will be based on an absolute measure and 50% on a relative measure. At the beginning of the performance period, goals are established which are designed to measure the degree of sustained business success over the set time frame. The Compensation Committee establishes and administers the LTIP performance goals, with consideration of input from management. At the end of the three-year vesting cliff, the Company’s performance against the goals will be assessed to determine the award level.

With input from our compensation consultant and recommendations from our Chief Executive Officer for our other NEOs, the Compensation Committee determined that performance-contingent units awarded in 2017 will vest according to performance against the following goals:

Performance Measure	Weighting	Measurement Perspective	Performance Goals		
			Threshold	Target	Stretch
Cumulative EPS <sup>(1)</sup>	50%	Absolute	4%	6.5%	10%
Total Shareholder Return <sup>(2)(3)</sup>	50%	Relative	30 <sup>th</sup> Percentile	50 <sup>th</sup> Percentile	80 <sup>th</sup> Percentile
Payout as % of Target			50%	100%	150%

- (1) Cumulative earnings per share over an 11-quarter period from April 1, 2017 through December 31, 2019. Total Shareholder Return measured on a relative basis against a defined group of Peer Banks over an 11-quarter period from April 1, 2017 through December 31, 2019. Peer Banks for this purpose will consist of all companies included in the KBW Regional Banking Index (KRX) as of December 31, 2019, excluding the Company if included in the KRX as of that date.
- (2) If the Company’s absolute Total Shareholder Return performance over the period is negative, the payout for this measure will not exceed the target payout regardless of the relative performance ranking.
- (3) If the Company’s absolute Total Shareholder Return performance over the period is negative, the payout for this measure will not exceed the target payout regardless of the relative performance ranking.

Performance below “threshold” for a given performance measure will result in the forfeiture of the respective shares. Performance at or above “stretch” for a given performance measure will result in a payout equal to 150% of the respective target shares. Performance between “threshold - target - stretch” will be determined using a straight line

interpolation and rounded up to the nearest whole number of shares.

Each LTIP participant will have a target award denominated as a percentage of his/her base salary in effect on the date of grant as determined by the Compensation Committee on an annual basis with input from our compensation consultant and recommendations from our Chief Executive Officer for our other NEOs. The following table summarizes award opportunities for each NEO under the LTIP:

47

---

Each LTIP participant will have a target award denominated as a percentage of his/her base salary in effect on the date of grant as determined by the Compensation Committee on an annual basis with input from our compensation consultant and recommendations from our Chief Executive Officer for our other NEOs. The following table summarizes award opportunities for each NEO under the LTIP:

Position	Total Target Award	Time-Based Vesting RSUs	Performance Contingent PSUs
Chief Executive Officer	125%	62.5%	62.5%
Chief Operating Officer	75%	37.5%	37.5%
Other NEOs	10% - 50%	5% - 25%	5% - 25%

The Compensation Committee approved the following LTIP equity awards to be granted to the NEOs in 2017:

	Grant Date	Time-Based Award	Performance-Contingent Award
Kevin S. Kim President & Chief Executive Officer	6/26/2017	28,656	28,656
Alex Ko Executive Vice President & Chief Financial Officer	7/27/2017	2,000	2,000
David P. Malone Senior Executive Vice President & Chief Operating Officer	7/27/2017	8,500	8,500
Kyu S. Kim Senior Executive Vice President & Regional President, Eastern Region	7/27/2017	2,500	2,500
Johann (Min) You Executive Vice President & Chief Risk Officer	7/27/2017	2,500	2,500
Douglas J. Goddard <sup>(1)</sup> Formerly Executive Vice President & Chief Financial Officer	7/27/2017	2,000	2,000

(1) In conjunction with Mr. Goddard's retirement from the Company effective October 2, 2017, he forfeited all rights to unvested shares from his LTIP equity award granted on July 27, 2017.

#### Other Practices, Policies and Guidelines

##### Stock Ownership Guidelines

Our executive compensation program includes stock ownership guidelines for our Chief Executive Officer and non-employee directors. The individuals subject to the guidelines generally have five years from the date the guidelines were adopted, their election to the board or their appointment as Chief Executive Officer to meet the guidelines. If guidelines have not been met within the five-year period, such individuals must retain 100% of the net shares received pursuant to any equity incentive award, after shares are sold or withheld, as the case may be, to pay any exercise price or satisfy any tax obligations arising in connection with the exercise, vesting or payment of the award. Adopted guidelines are as follows:

Role	Guideline
Chief Executive Officer	5x base salary
Non-Employee Directors	3x annual cash retainer

We do not have any stock ownership guidelines or requirement for any of our NEOs other than our Chief Executive Officer.

Currently, our Chief Executive Officer ownership level exceeds the above stated guideline.

Our NEOs are subject to the policy prohibiting the hedging and pledging of our stock, which is discussed under “Hedging and Pledging Prohibition” on page 22 of this Proxy Statement.

### Clawback Policy

Our executive compensation program includes a clawback policy that provides for the recoupment of certain incentive based compensation that was earned, vested and granted to our executive officers, including former executive officers, based on any financial reporting measure, our stock price or total stockholder return. Incentive compensation is subject to recoupment if received within any of the three fiscal years prior to the determination that a material error in our financial statements has occurred requiring an accounting restatement. This policy is intended to comply with Section 954 of the Dodd-Frank Act and any applicable stock exchange rules that may be adopted under such act.

### Other Benefits

The NEOs are entitled to participate in the same benefits programs that are available to all full-time employees. These benefits include health, dental, vision, and life insurance, paid vacation and the Company contributions to the 401(k) Plan, if any. The Company provides limited perquisites to its NEOs, such as auto allowances and club dues, where the club enhances opportunities to meet and network with prospective customers and other business leaders. Please see the footnotes to the Summary Compensation Table on page 54 for further information.

### CEO Employment Agreement

The Company and Mr. Kim entered into an Amended and Restated Employment Agreement (the "Agreement") in July 2014. The following summary presents the material terms of the Agreement and is qualified in its entirety by reference to the Form 8-K previously furnished to the SEC on July 11, 2014.

Term. Mr. Kim became employed as the Chief Executive Officer and President of the Company and the Bank for an initial term of five years, commencing as of April 11, 2014, which term is subject to annual twelve-month extensions. Mr. Kim's employment is "at will," meaning that either he may terminate his employment on 90 days' notice given at any time or the Company may terminate his employment at any time, in either case with or without any specified reason. The Agreement provides for certain payments to Mr. Kim, described below, upon termination of his employment.

Non-equity Compensation. Mr. Kim is to receive an annual base salary, which may be adjusted at the discretion of the Company's board of directors based on annual reviews required by the Agreement. Mr. Kim is eligible to receive annual discretionary cash bonuses based on the reasonable determination of the Company's and Bank's board of directors, or applicable committees of such boards, regarding Mr. Kim's performance of his responsibilities in accordance with specified performance criteria. Such bonuses may range between 50% and 125% of his annual base salary with the target bonus amount at 75% of his annual base salary, depending on the board of directors' reasonable determination of the degree to which he has achieved the specified performance criteria and has an acceptable overall performance evaluation. In addition, Mr. Kim is entitled to an automobile allowance of \$1,450 a month, reimbursement of the cost of monthly membership fees and dues at a specified social club and a specified country club, perquisites and benefit plans available to other executive employees of the Company, and reimbursement of reasonable business-related expenses.

Equity Compensation. Mr. Kim received a grant of 30,000 shares of restricted stock that are subject to forfeiture and are not transferable by Mr. Kim until vested. He also received nonqualified stock options to purchase 200,000 shares of common stock of the Company. Each of these grants vests in five equal annual installments beginning on the first anniversary of date of the award grant. Both of such grants are subject to the terms and conditions of the 2007 Plan. The Agreement also confirms that the previous grant by the Company of 20,000 restricted stock units to Mr. Kim on March 6, 2013 under the 2007 Plan remains in effect. Pursuant to the Agreement, the Company has also undertaken to adopt and implement the 2008 Long-Term Incentive Plan ("LTIP") for Mr. Kim, the material terms of which are discussed on page 36 of this Proxy Statement. On February 24, 2016, the Compensation Committee (with Mr. Kim's consent) recommended, and on February 25, 2016, the board of directors approved a 30,000 share reduction in the number of shares subject to the June 27, 2014 stock option grant to Mr. Kim. Such reduction was made to bring the



total equity grants to Mr. Kim within the individual annual grant limit under the 2007 Plan. The remaining 170,000 stock options vest and become exercisable 40,000 stock options each on the first four anniversaries of the grant date and 10,000 stock options on the fifth anniversary.

Termination Clauses. Upon termination of Mr. Kim's employment for any reason he will be entitled to receive, to the extent not previously paid, all salary earned or accrued through the date of termination, all annual bonuses earned for calendar years completed prior to the date of termination, reimbursement for reasonable and necessary business expenses incurred by him through the date of termination and any other payments and benefits to which he is entitled under applicable compensation arrangements or benefit plans, such as accrued vacation pay, but not including any severance payment provided for in the Company's severance policies applicable to its salaried employees generally. In addition, if Mr. Kim's employment is terminated by the Company without cause or is terminated by Mr. Kim for good reason, as defined in the Agreement, or is terminated as a result of Mr. Kim's death or permanent disability, Mr. Kim may, in the discretion of the Company's board of

directors, be paid an amount equal to a pro rata portion of his annual bonus for the portion of the year completed up to the effective date of his termination, using for this purpose the amount of the annual bonus earned by him in the preceding year. The foregoing amounts are collectively referred to in the Agreement as the (“Accrued Benefits”). Termination Pay. If Mr. Kim’s employment is terminated by the Company without cause or by Mr. Kim with good reason before a change in control of the Company, he will be entitled to receive, in addition to the Accrued Benefits, a lump-sum severance payment in an amount equal to 150% of his then current annual base salary. In addition, all unvested awards granted to Mr. Kim pursuant to the 2007 Plan will vest, subject to certain limitations, and his then-accrued LTIP account balance will vest in full. If Mr. Kim’s termination of employment under the foregoing circumstances occurs within one year after a change in control of the Company, he will be entitled to receive, as his exclusive remedy in respect of such termination, the Accrued Benefits, a lump-sum severance payment in an amount equal to 250% of his then current annual base salary, full vesting of all unvested awards granted or issued to him under the 2007 Plan, and full vesting of his then-accrued LTIP account balance.

Limitations on Payments. The amounts payable to Mr. Kim upon termination of employment will be subject to certain limitations intended to result in such payments not being subject to the penalties imposed on “parachute payments” or on certain nonqualified deferred compensation pursuant to the Internal Revenue Code. In addition, Mr. Kim’s entitlement to amounts other than the Accrued Benefits will be subject to the requirement that he execute a release of all claims against the Company, the Bank and certain related persons arising out of or relating to his employment, the Agreement, his compensation, the circumstances of his termination and other specified matters.

Clawback Features. The Company may, subject to the discretion and approval of the boards of directors of the Company and the Bank, as applicable, and to the extent permitted by governing law, require the reimbursement (with interest) or cancellation of any bonus or other incentive compensation, including stock-based compensation, awarded to Mr. Kim if all of the following factors are present: (a) the award was predicated upon achievement of financial results that were subsequently the subject of a material restatement, (b) the board of directors of the Company or the Bank, as applicable, determines that Mr. Kim has engaged in fraud or intentional misconduct that was a substantial contributing cause to the need for the restatement, and (c) a lower award would have been made to Mr. Kim based upon the restated financial results. The Agreement further provides that in no event shall the total compensation paid upon departure of Mr. Kim from the Company be in an amount that exceeds the level of compensation that applicable bank regulatory authorities consider to constitute safe and sound at the time of such payment, taking into account applicable laws, regulations and regulatory guidance.

#### 2017 CEO Employment Agreement

On April 27, 2017, the Company and the Bank entered into a Second Amended and Restated Employment Agreement (the “2017 Agreement”), effective as of April 1, 2017, with Mr. Kevin S. Kim with respect to his service as the Chief Executive Officer and President of both the Company and the Bank. The 2017 Agreement replaces Mr. Kim’s existing employment agreement entered into with the Company on July 11, 2014.

Term. Mr. Kim will be employed as the Chief Executive Officer and President of the Company and the Bank during the term of the 2017 Agreement and will report in such capacities to the boards of directors of the Company and the Bank, respectively. Mr. Kim has agreed that he will serve as a director of the Company and the Bank during the term of the 2017 Agreement and the Company has agreed that it will use all reasonable efforts to cause Mr. Kim to be nominated for reelection as a director during such term. The 2017 Agreement has an initial term of five years, commencing as of April 1, 2017, which term is subject to annual twelve-month extensions unless the Company or Mr. Kim gives a notice of non-renewal to the other not less than 60 days prior to the end of the initial term or the relevant renewal term, and provided that the term may not be extended beyond March 31, 2024. The 2017 Agreement specifies that Mr. Kim’s employment is to be “at will,” meaning that either he or the Company may terminate his employment, in the case of the Company, effective immediately for Cause or effective following thirty (30) days prior written notice without Cause, and in the case of Mr. Kim, on 90 days’ prior written notice, given at any time, and with or without any specified reason. The 2017 Agreement provides for certain payments to Mr. Kim, described below, upon termination of his employment.

Non-equity Compensation. Mr. Kim will receive an annual base salary at an initial rate of \$840,000 per year, which is referred to as his “Annual Base Salary.” The initial annual rate of salary may be adjusted at the discretion of the Company’s board of directors based on annual reviews required by the 2017 Agreement. Any such adjusted annual rate of salary will thereafter be Mr. Kim’s Annual Base Salary. The 2017 Agreement also provides for annual cash bonuses, which may be based on individual and/or Company-related performance objectives, each of which shall be determined in good faith by the Compensation Committee. The annual target bonus opportunity will equal seventy-five percent (75%) of Mr. Kim’s Annual Base Salary in effect when the bonus terms for any given year are approved, and the actual annual bonus earned may be greater or less than the target bonus opportunity depending on the level of achievement of the goals set by the Compensation Committee. Mr. Kim must receive at least an “Acceptable” overall rating in his annual evaluation to be entitled to payment of any annual bonus for the year in question. In addition, Mr. Kim will be entitled to four (4) weeks of paid vacation per

calendar year, the exclusive use of an automobile of such type and quality as the Company's board deems reasonable, reimbursement of the cost of monthly membership fees and dues at a specified social club and a specified country club, perquisites and benefit plans available to other executive employees of the Company, and reimbursement of reasonable business-related expenses.

**Equity Compensation.** Pursuant to the 2017 Agreement, Mr. Kim will receive annual grants of equity based incentive awards with aggregate grant date fair values equal to at least one hundred and twenty-five percent (125%) of Mr. Kim's Annual Base Salary in effect when the equity awards are granted. The forms and terms of the equity awards will be determined by the Compensation Committee. The 2017 Agreement acknowledges that the Company previously adopted and implemented a Long Term Incentive Plan for Mr. Kim. The 2017 Agreement further provides that if the Company adopts and implements a supplemental executive retirement plan ("SERP") during the term of the 2017 Agreement, the Company may, in its discretion, adopt and implement a SERP for Mr. Kim.

**Termination Clauses.** The 2017 Agreement provides that upon termination of Mr. Kim's employment for any reason he will be entitled to receive, to the extent not previously paid, all salary earned or accrued through the date of termination, all annual bonuses earned for calendar years completed prior to the date of termination, reimbursement for reasonable and necessary business expenses incurred by him through the date of termination and any other payments and benefits to which he is entitled under applicable compensation arrangements or benefit plans, such as accrued vacation pay, but not including any severance payment provided for in the Company's severance policies applicable to its salaried employees generally. In addition, if Mr. Kim's employment has not been terminated by the Company for Cause or by Mr. Kim without Good Reason (as both terms are defined in the 2017 Agreement), Mr. Kim shall be paid an amount equal to a pro rata portion of his annual bonus for the portion of the year completed up to the effective date of his termination, which pro rata portion will be based on actual performance through the entire year and calculated as if Mr. Kim had remained employed. The foregoing amounts are collectively referred to in the 2017 Agreement as the "Accrued Benefits."

**Termination Pay.** If Mr. Kim's employment is terminated by the Company without Cause or by Mr. Kim with Good Reason before a Change in Control of the Company (as defined in the 2017 Agreement), he will be entitled to receive, in addition to the Accrued Benefits, severance pay equal to one hundred and fifty percent (150%) of his then current Annual Base Salary payable in a lump-sum within thirty (30) days after the termination date. In addition, all unvested awards granted to Mr. Kim pursuant to the Equity Incentive Plan as provided in the 2017 Agreement or otherwise will vest; provided that all awards intended to qualify as performance-based compensation for purposes of Internal Revenue Code Section 162(m) shall remain subject to the applicable performance conditions and will vest only to the extent the performance conditions are satisfied. If the Company has adopted a SERP for Mr. Kim, all amounts and other benefits provided to Mr. Kim under the SERP that have accrued as of the date immediately preceding the date of his termination, are subject only to time-based vesting requirements as of the date immediately preceding the date of termination, and are unvested as of that date will automatically become fully vested. If Mr. Kim's termination of employment by the Company without Cause or by Mr. Kim with Good Reason occurs within one year after a Change in Control of the Company, Mr. Kim will be entitled to receive the foregoing amounts and benefits, except that the severance payment will be equal to two hundred and fifty percent (250%) of his then current Annual Base Salary.

**Limitations on Payments.** The amounts payable to Mr. Kim upon termination of employment will be subject to certain limitations intended to result in such payments not being subject to the penalties imposed on "golden parachute" payments or on certain "nonqualified deferred compensation" pursuant to the Internal Revenue Code. In addition, Mr. Kim's entitlement to amounts other than Accrued Benefits will be subject to the requirement that he execute a release of all claims against the Company, the Bank and certain related persons arising out of or relating to his employment, the 2017 Agreement, his compensation, the circumstances of his termination and other specified matters. The release document also includes a release of certain types of claims by the Company and includes exceptions for certain types of claims that may be made by Mr. Kim, including but not limited to claims for indemnification with respect to his

acts as an officer or director of the Company, and retirement or other benefit plan entitlements. Furthermore, certain “golden parachute” and indemnification payments to be made to Mr. Kim pursuant to the 2017 Agreement or otherwise are subject to and conditioned upon compliance with 12 U.S.C. Section 1828(k) and any regulations promulgated thereunder, including 12 C.F.R. Part 359. Finally, the Company is entitled to offset against any severance payable to Mr. Kim any undisputed amounts owed to the Company by Mr. Kim; provided that no amount that constitutes “nonqualified deferred compensation” within the meaning of Section 409A of the Internal Revenue Code may be subject to offset by any other amount unless otherwise permitted by such Section 409A.

Clawback Features. The 2017 Agreement provides that the Company may, subject to the discretion and approval of the boards of directors of the Company and the Bank, as applicable, and to the extent permitted by governing law, require the reimbursement (with interest) or cancellation of any bonus or other incentive compensation, including stock-based compensation, awarded to Mr. Kim if all of the following factors are present: (a) the award was predicated upon achievement of financial results that were subsequently the subject of a material restatement, (b) the board of directors of the Company or

the Bank, as applicable, determines the Mr. Kim has engaged in fraud or intentional misconduct that was a substantial contributing cause to the need for the restatement, and (c) a lower award would have been made to Mr. Kim based upon the restated financial results. The 2017 Agreement further provides that in no event shall the total compensation paid upon departure of Mr. Kim from the Company be in an amount that exceeds the level of compensation that applicable bank regulatory authorities consider to constitute safe and sound at the time of such payment, taking into account applicable laws, regulations and regulatory guidance.

**Confidentiality and Nonsolicitation.** The 2017 Agreement includes provisions requiring Mr. Kim to maintain the confidentiality of confidential and proprietary information of the Company, as defined in Company policies, and to use such information only for permitted purposes. Mr. Kim has also agreed that during the term of the 2017 Agreement and until the first anniversary of the date of termination of his employment he will not solicit any employee of the Company or any individual employed by the Company within six (6) months of Mr. Kim's date of termination for the purpose of inducing the employee to leave the employ of the Company.

#### Compensation Risk Considerations

The Compensation Committee has concluded that the Company's compensation arrangements do not encourage employees to take unnecessary and excessive risks. We do not believe that any risks arising from our compensation policies and practices are reasonably likely to have a material adverse effect on the Company.

#### Tax, Accounting and Regulatory Considerations

We take tax, accounting and regulatory requirements into consideration in choosing the particular elements of our compensation and in establishing the procedures we use to set and pay those elements. We seek to pay compensation in the most tax-effective manner where reasonably possible, and, therefore, we take tax considerations into account.

In doing so, we consider the requirements of Section 162(m) of the Internal Revenue Code. Section 162(m) provides that payments of compensation in excess of \$1,000,000 annually to a covered employee (the Chief Executive Officer and each of the three-highest paid executive officers other than the Chief Executive Officer and the Chief Financial Officer) will not be deductible for purposes of U.S. corporate income taxes unless it is "performance-based" compensation and is paid pursuant to a plan and procedures meeting certain requirements of the Internal Revenue Code. Under our stockholder-approved 2016 Plan and 2015 Executive Annual Incentive Compensation Program, our Compensation Committee may issue awards that qualify as deductible performance-based compensation under Section 162(m). However, we may pay compensation that does not satisfy the requirements of Section 162(m) where we believe that it is in the best overall interests of the Company. We believe that the Chief Executive Officer's 2017 annual cash incentive award is performance-based for purposes of Section 162(m), and that substantially all of the balance of his compensation taxable in 2017 is within the \$1,000,000 annual deduction limit under Section 162(m).

Section 409A of the Internal Revenue Code provides that an employee receiving deferred compensation (including certain types of equity awards) is subject to additional income tax and interest charges unless the deferred compensation is paid pursuant to a plan and procedures meeting certain requirements of Section 409A. It is our intention to deliver any deferred compensation in a manner that which complies with the requirements under Section 409A.

#### CEO to Median Employee Pay Ratio

As required by Section 953(b) of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act, and Item 402(u) of Regulation S-K, we are providing the following information about the relationship of the total annual compensation of our median employee and the total annual compensation of Kevin S. Kim, our President and CEO, as reported in this Proxy Statement.

For the year ended December 31, 2017, the annual total compensation of our CEO was \$2,252,422 as shown on the Summary

Compensation Table. The annual total compensation of our median employee for 2017, excluding the CEO, was \$54,617, resulting in a ratio of 41 to 1, which is a reasonable estimate calculated in a manner consistent with Item 402(u) of Regulation S-K using the following methodology:

We chose December 31, 2017 as the date for establishing the employee population used in identifying our median employee Annual Total Compensation and used January 1, 2017 through December 31, 2017 as the measurement period. As of December 31, 2017, the Company had 1,477 employees, excluding employees on leave of absence. We identified our median employee using the federal taxable income reported for that measurement period in Box 1 of Form W-2 for each employee. We calculated the Annual Total Compensation of the median employee and the Annual Total Compensation of the CEO in accordance with the requirements of Item 402(c)(2)(x) of Regulation S-K.

52

---

The SEC rules for identifying the median compensated employee and calculating the pay ratio based on that employee's annual total compensation allow companies to adopt a variety of methodologies, to apply certain exclusions, and to make reasonable estimates and assumptions that reflect their compensation practices. As such, the pay ratio reported by other companies may not be comparable to the pay ratio reported above, as other companies may have different employment and compensation practices and may utilize different methodologies, exclusions, estimates and assumptions in calculating their own pay ratios.

#### Compensation Committee Interlocks and Insider Participation

The members of our Compensation Committee are Messrs. Dale S. Zuehls (Chair), Daisy Y. Ha, Jin Chul Jhung, William J. Lewis and Scott Yoon-Suk Whang, all of whom satisfy the NASDAQ Stock Market listing requirements and relevant Internal Revenue Service and SEC regulations on director independence. None of the members of the Compensation Committee have ever been an officer or employee of the Company or any of its subsidiaries. In addition, none of our directors or executive officers have served as a director of an entity for which a member of the Compensation Committee is an executive officer.



## EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION TABLES

## I. 2017 Summary Compensation Table

The Summary Compensation Table and related narratives present the compensation paid to or earned by our Named Executive Officers for the three years ended December 31, 2017, 2016 and 2015.

Name and Principal Position	Year	Salary (\$) <sup>(1)</sup>	Bonus (\$) <sup>(2)</sup>	Stock Awards (\$) <sup>(3)</sup>	Options Awards (\$) <sup>(4)</sup>	Non-Equity Incentive Plan Compensation (\$) <sup>(5)</sup>	Change in Pension Value and Nonqualified Deferred Comp Earnings (\$) <sup>(6)</sup>	All Other Compensation (\$) <sup>(7)</sup>	Total (\$)
Kevin S. Kim President & Chief Executive Officer	2017	803,654	1,050	974,734	—	411,033	4,162	57,789	2,252,422
	2016	696,346	1,100	429,500	276,477	670,250	3,406	40,097	2,117,176
	2015	668,077	857	—	—	648,224	2,695	49,190	1,369,043
Alex Ko Executive Vice President & Chief Financial Officer	2017	321,452	1,050	64,910	—	124,000	—	31,634	543,046
	2016	138,301	61,100	120,260	64,699	94,000	—	14,006	492,336
David P. Malone Senior Executive Vice President & Chief Operating Officer	2017	269,544	1,050	275,868	—	174,000	—	12,142	732,603
	2016	269,544	1,050	275,868	—	174,000	—	12,142	732,603
Kyu S. Kim Senior Executive Vice President & Regional President, Eastern Region	2017	353,330	1,050	81,138	—	141,150	1,640	33,139	611,446
	2016	334,250	1,100	154,620	97,003	141,150	1,455	30,567	760,145
	2015	322,308	788	—	—	153,000	1,282	29,976	507,354
Johann (Min) You Executive Vice President & Chief Risk Officer	2017	322,055	1,050	81,138	—	99,000	—	28,654	531,896
	2016	300,317	1,100	146,030	97,003	109,000	—	25,725	679,175
	2015	287,308	857	—	—	100,000	—	23,824	411,989
Douglas J. Goddard Formerly Executive Vice President & Chief Financial Officer	2017	283,149	—	64,910	—	—	—	28,918	376,977
	2016	307,425	1,100	128,850	64,669	93,000	—	26,913	621,957
	2015	298,442	857	—	—	95,000	—	26,238	420,537

- (1) The amounts reported in the Salary column reflect the actual amount paid in each year.
- (2) Each current NEO received holiday bonuses made up of gift cards aggregating approximately \$1,050 in the fourth quarter of 2017.  
Pursuant to SEC regulations regarding the valuation of equity awards, amounts in the “Stock Awards” column represent the aggregate grant date fair value for restricted stock, restricted stock units and performance-contingent restricted stock units granted in each respective year in accordance with FASB ASC Topic 718, excluding the effect of forfeitures. Under the 2016 Plan and in accordance with the objectives of a new long-term incentive plan (the “LTIP”), which is more fully described in the CD&A, Kevin S. Kim was granted 28,656 time-based restricted stock units and 28,656 performance-contingent restricted stock units on June 26, 2017. The closing price of the Company’s Stock on June 26, 2017 was \$18.32. On July 27, 2017, Mr. Ko, Mr. Malone, Ms. Kim, Mr. You and Mr. Goddard were granted 2,000, 8,500, 2,500, 2,500 and 2,000 time-based restricted stock units, respectively, and 2,000, 8,500, 2,500, 2,500 and 2,000 performance-contingent restricted stock units, respectively, under the 2016 Plan and in accordance with the objectives of the new LTIP. The closing price of the Company’s Stock on July 27, 2017 was \$17.65. The LTIP time-based restricted stock units vest one-third each on the first three anniversaries of the grant date. The actual number of LTIP performance-contingent restricted stock units to be earned for the 2017 grant will be based on two performance measures, as more fully described in our CD&A. See Note 11 of the Hope Bancorp consolidated financial statements in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2017, incorporated by reference for information regarding assumptions underlying valuation of equity awards. The amounts reported in the Options Awards column represent the aggregate grant date fair value for stock options granted in each respective year. There were no stock options awarded to the NEOs in 2017. Note that the amounts reported in this column represent the applicable grant date fair values of stock options in accordance with FASB
- (4) ASC Topic 718, which do not necessarily correspond to the actual economic value that will be received by the NEO from the options. See Note 11 of the consolidated financial statements in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2017 for information regarding assumptions underlying valuation of equity awards.  
Amounts shown are for services rendered during the year indicated, but were typically paid in the subsequent year.
- (5) The amounts shown represent annual cash incentive bonuses and Company contribution credits to deferred compensation accounts under the Company’s Long Term Cash Incentive Plan, both of which are more fully described in the CD&A.  
Amounts shown are above-market interest on LTIP deferred accounts, based on the difference between the 6.25% annual interest rate provided on the LTIP accounts and 120% of the applicable federal long-term rate (compounded monthly) in effect at the time the LTIP was established, which was 3.06% for Kevin S. Kim and 4.60% for Kyu S. Kim.
- (6) For 2017, all other compensation for each NEO includes perquisites, matching contributions to the Company’s 401(k) Plan and auto allowance. The Company made matching contributions to the Company’s 401(k) Plan for 2017 in the amount of \$16,200 each for Kevin S. Kim, Mr. Ko, and Mr. Goddard, \$14,441 for Ms. Kim, and \$14,854 for Mr. You. All other compensation in 2017 included auto allowances of \$21,866 for Kevin S. Kim and \$13,800 each for Mr. Ko, Ms. Kim, Mr. You and Mr. Goddard, and \$8,227 for Mr. Malone. All other
- (7) compensation in 2017 also included monthly membership fees at a social club and a country club, aggregating \$18,139 for Kevin S. Kim, and monthly membership fees at a social club, aggregating \$3,915 for Mr. Malone. All other compensation in 2017 also includes the estimated value of the Bank Owned Life Insurance benefit of \$1,584 for Kevin S. Kim, \$1,634 for Mr. Ko, \$3,930 for Ms. Kim and \$1,715 for Mr. Goddard based on the cost of coverage specified by the IRS group-term life insurance premium table.

(8) Douglas J. Goddard retired from the Company effective October 2, 2017.

## II. 2017 Grants of Plan-Based Awards Table

The following summarizes non-equity and equity incentive awards granted to the NEOs during the fiscal year ended December 31, 2017. All awards granted in 2017 were made under the 2016 Plan. No other plan-based awards were granted to NEOs during the year.

	Grant Date	Estimated Future Payouts Under Non-equity Incentive Plan Awards <sup>(1)(2)</sup>			Estimated Future Payouts Under Equity Incentive Plan Awards <sup>(3)</sup>			All Other Stock Awards: Number of Shares or Units (#)	All Other Option Awards: Number of Securities Under-lying Options (#)	Exercise or Base Price of Option Awards (\$/Sh)	Grant Date Fair Value of Stock and Option Awards (\$)
		Threshold (\$)	Target (\$)	Maximum (\$)	Threshold (#)	Target (#)	Maximum (#)				
Kevin S. Kim	3/10/2017	420,000	630,000	1,050,000							
President & Chief Executive Officer	6/26/2017				7,164	14,328	21,492				
Alex Ko	6/26/2017				7,164	14,328	21,492				
Executive Officer	6/26/2017							28,656			524,978
Alex Ko	3/10/2017		130,213								
Executive Vice President & Chief Financial Officer	7/27/2017				500	1,000	1,500				
David P. Malone	7/27/2017				500	1,000	1,500				
Senior Executive Vice President & Chief Operating Officer	7/27/2017							2,000			35,300
David P. Malone	3/10/2017		202,500								
Senior Executive Vice President & Chief Operating Officer	7/27/2017				2,125	4,250	6,375				
Kyu S. Kim	7/27/2017				2,125	4,250	6,375				
Senior Executive Vice President & Regional President,	7/27/2017							8,500			150,025
Kyu S. Kim	3/10/2017		161,226								
Senior Executive Vice President & Regional President,	7/27/2017				625	1,250	1,875				
Senior Executive Vice President & Regional President,	7/27/2017				625	1,250	1,875				
Senior Executive Vice President & Regional President,	7/27/2017							2,500			44,125



## III. 2017 Outstanding Equity Awards at Fiscal Year-End Table

The following table presents information concerning the value of all unexercised options and unvested stock awards awarded to the NEOs and remaining outstanding as of December 31, 2017. This includes options and unvested restricted stock and restricted stock units granted under the 2016 Plan and the 2007 Plan.

Name	Option/Stock Award Grant Date	Option Awards <sup>(1)</sup>				Stock Awards	
		Number of Securities Underlying Unexercised Options (#) Exercisable	Number of Securities Underlying Unexercised Options (#) Unexercisable	Option Exercise Price (\$)	Option Expiration Date	Number of Shares or Units of Stock That Have Not Vested (#) <sup>(2)</sup>	Market Value of Shares or Units of Stock That Have Not Vested (\$) <sup>(3)</sup>
	4/11/2014					12,000	219,000
	6/27/2014	120,000	50,000	15.88	6/27/2024		
	5/26/2016		30,660	16.12	5/26/2026		
Kevin S. Kim President & Chief Executive Officer	9/1/2016	40,000	20,000	17.18	9/1/2026		
	9/1/2016					8,334	152,096
	6/26/2017					28,656	522,972
	6/26/2017					14,328	261,486
	6/26/2017					14,328	261,486
	3/31/2014					1,441	26,298
	4/8/2015					3,378	61,649
Alex Ko Executive Vice President & Chief Financial Officer	9/1/2016	4,000	16,000	17.18	9/1/2026		
	9/1/2016					5,600	102,200
	7/27/2017					2,000	36,500
	7/27/2017					1,000	18,250
	7/27/2017					1,000	18,250
	9/1/2016	13,333	6,667	17.18	9/1/2026		
David P. Malone Senior Executive Vice President & Chief Operating Officer	9/1/2016					4,500	82,125
	7/27/2017					8,500	155,125
	7/27/2017					4,250	77,563
	7/27/2017					4,250	77,563
	6/26/2013					800	14,600
Kyu S. Kim Senior Executive Vice President & Regional President, Eastern Region	9/1/2016	6,000	24,000	17.18	9/1/2026		
	9/1/2026					7,200	131,400
	7/27/2017					2,500	45,625
	7/27/2017					1,250	22,813
	7/27/2017					1,250	22,813
	9/1/2016	6,000	24,000	17.18	9/1/2026		
Johann (Min) You Executive Vice President & Chief Risk Officer	9/1/2016					6,800	124,100
	7/27/2017					2,500	45,625
	7/27/2017					1,250	22,813

	7/27/2017					1,250 22,813
Douglas J. Goddard Formerly Executive Vice President & Chief Financial Officer	9/1/2016	4,000	16,000	17.18	1/2/2018	

Terms of outstanding stock options are for a period of ten years from the date the option is granted. Vested options may be exercised during a period not to exceed three months following the termination of an optionee's continuous service to the Company for any reason other than disability or death or earlier expiration of the option. If an optionee becomes disabled or dies during his service to the Company, the optionee's vested options may be exercised up to 12 months following the date of termination of employment or earlier expiration of the option. Kevin S. Kim was granted 170,000 stock options on June 27, 2014 under the 2007 Plan, which vest and become exercisable as to 40,000 stock options on each of the first four anniversaries of April 11, 2014, the commencement date of his employment as President and Chief Executive Officer of the

Company and Bank (the “Commencement Date”) and 10,000 stock options on the fifth anniversary of the Commencement Date. The vesting schedule reflects a correction from the previously reported schedule. The strike price of these stock options is \$15.88, which is the closing price of the Company’s stock on the grant date of June 27, 2014. Kevin S. Kim was granted 30,660 stock options on May 26, 2016 under the 2007 Plan, which vest and become exercisable on the fifth anniversary of the Commencement Date. The strike price of these stock options is \$16.12, which is the closing price of the Company’s stock on the grant date of May 26, 2016. Kevin S. Kim was granted 60,000 non-qualified stock options on September 1, 2016 under the 2016 Plan, one-third of which was vested and exercisable immediately and an additional one-third vests and becomes exercisable on each of the first two anniversaries of the grant date. Mr. Malone was granted 20,000 non-qualified stock options on September 1, 2016 under the 2016 Plan, one-third of which was vested and exercisable immediately and an additional one-third vests and becomes exercisable on each of the first two anniversaries of the grant date. Mr. Ko, Ms. Kim, Mr. You and Mr. Goddard were granted 20,000, 30,000, 30,000 and 20,000 stock options, respectively, on September 1, 2016 under the 2016 Plan, and these options vest and become exercisable 20% each on each of the first five anniversaries of the grant date. The strike price of the stock options granted on September 1, 2016 is \$17.18, which is the closing price of the Company’s stock on the grant date.

- Kevin S. Kim was granted 30,000 shares of restricted stock pursuant to the 2007 Plan on April 11, 2014, which vest 20% on each of the first five anniversaries of the grant date. Kevin S. Kim was granted 25,000 shares of restricted stock units pursuant to the 2016 Plan on September 1, 2016, one-third of which vested immediately and an additional one-third vests on each of the first two anniversaries of the grant date. Mr. Ko was granted 5,767 restrict stock units on April 8, 2015, 25% of which vested immediately and 25% on each of the first three anniversaries of the grant date. Mr. Ko was granted 6,756 restrict stock units on March 16, 2016, 25% of which vested immediately and 25% on each of the first three anniversaries of the grant date. The equity awards granted to
- (2) Mr. Ko on April 8, 2015 and March 16, 2016 were grants made by Wilshire Bancorp, Inc. prior to the merger and assumed by the Company under the 2016 Plan with the same vesting terms. Mr. Malone was granted 25,000 shares of restricted stock units pursuant to the 2016 Plan on September 1, 2016, one-third of which vested immediately and an additional one-third vests on each of the first two anniversaries of the grant date. Ms. Kim was granted 4,000 restricted stock units pursuant to the 2007 Plan on June 26, 2013, which vest 20% on each of the first five anniversaries of the grant date. Mr. Ko, Ms. Kim, Mr. You and Mr. Goddard were granted 7,000, 9,000, 8,500 and 7,500 restricted stock units, respectively, pursuant to the 2016 Plan on September 1, 2016, which vest 20% on each of the first five anniversaries of the grant date.
- (3) Value based on \$18.25, the closing price per share of our common stock on December 29, 2017, which represented the last trading day of 2017.

#### IV. 2017 Option Exercises and Stock Vested Table

The following table presents information concerning the number of shares acquired and the value realized during 2017 upon the exercise of stock options and the vesting of restricted stock and restricted stock units previously granted to each of the NEOs.

Name	Option Awards		Stock Awards	
	Number of Shares Acquired on Exercise (#)	Value Realized on Exercise (\$) <sup>(1)</sup>	Number of Shares Acquired on Vesting (#)	Value Realized on Vesting (\$) <sup>(2)</sup>
Kevin S. Kim <sup>(3)</sup> President & Chief Executive Officer	—	—	6,000	112,980
			8,333	134,995

Alex Ko <sup>(4)</sup>			
Executive Vice President & Chief Financial Officer	—	—	1,40022,680
David P. Malone <sup>(5)</sup>			
Senior Executive Vice President & Chief Operating Officer			4,50072,900
Kyu S. Kim <sup>(6)</sup>			
Senior Executive Vice President & Regional President, Eastern Region	—	—	800 14,656 1,80029,160
Johann (Min) You <sup>(7)</sup>			
Executive Vice President & Chief Risk Officer			27,540
Douglas J. Goddard <sup>(8)</sup>			
Formerly Executive Vice President & Chief Financial Officer	4,000	7,360	1,50024,300

(1) Values were determined by multiplying the number of stock options exercised by the difference between the closing market price of our common stock on the date of exercise and the stock option exercise price.

(2) Values were determined by multiplying the number of shares or units, as applicable, that vested by the closing market price of our common stock on the vesting date.

Kevin S. Kim was granted 30,000 shares of restricted stock on April 11, 2014, which vest 20% on each of the first five anniversaries of the grant date. Of these restricted stock shares, 6,000 vested on April 11, 2017, on which date the closing market price of our common stock was \$18.83. Kevin S. Kim was granted 25,000 shares of restricted stock units on September 1, 2016, one-third of which vested immediately and an additional one-third vests on each of the first two anniversaries of the grant date. Of these restricted stock units, 8,333 vested on September 1, 2017, on which date the closing market price of our common stock was \$16.20.

Mr. Ko was granted 7,000 restricted stock units on September 1, 2016, which vest 20% each on the first five anniversaries of the grant date. Of these restricted stock units, 1,400 vested on September 1, 2017, on which date the closing market price of our common stock was \$16.20.

Mr. Malone was granted 13,500 restricted stock units on September 1, 2016, one-third of which vested immediately and an additional one-third vests on each of the first two anniversaries of the grant date. Of these restricted stock units, 4,500 vested on September 1, 2017, on which date the closing market price of our common stock was \$16.20.



(6) Ms. Kim was granted 4,000 restricted stock units on June 26, 2013, which vest 20% each on the first five anniversaries of the grant date. Of these restricted stock units, 800 vested on June 26, 2017, and the closing market price of our common stock on the first trading day following the vesting date was \$18.32. Ms. Kim was granted 9,000 restricted stock units on September 1, 2016, which vest 20% each on the first five anniversaries of the grant date. Of these restricted stock units, 1,800 vested on September 1, 2017, on which date the closing market price of our common stock was \$16.20.

(7) Mr. You was granted 8,500 restricted stock units on September 1, 2016, which vest 20% each on the first five anniversaries of the grant date. Of these restricted stock units, 1,700 vested on September 1, 2017, on which date the closing market price of our common stock was \$16.20.

(8) Mr. Goddard was granted 7,500 restricted stock units on September 1, 2016, which vest 20% each on the first five anniversaries of the grant date. Of these restricted stock units, 1,500 vested on September 1, 2017, on which date the closing market price of our common stock was \$16.20. On December 4, 2017, Mr. Goddard exercised 4,000 vested and exercisable stock options at the strike price of \$17.18, which was the closing price of the Company's stock on the grant date of September 1, 2016. The closing market price of our common stock on December 4, 2017 was \$19.02.

#### V. 2017 Nonqualified Deferred Compensation Table

The following table presents information concerning deferred compensation during the fiscal year ended December 31, 2017. Kevin S. Kim and Kyu S. Kim currently are the only NEOs employed with the Company and participating in the Company's Long Term Cash Incentive Plan. A full narrative description of the deferred compensation plan for executives may be found in the CD&A.

Name	Executive Contributions in Last Fiscal Year (\$)	Registrant Contributions in Last Fiscal Year (\$) <sup>(1)</sup>	Aggregate Earnings in Last Fiscal Year (\$) <sup>(2)</sup>	Aggregate Withdrawals/Distributions (\$)	Aggregate Balance at Last Fiscal Year-End (\$) <sup>(3)</sup>
Kevin S. Kim President & Chief Executive Officer	—	20,250	10,090	—	166,964
Kyu S. Kim Senior Executive Vice President & Regional President, Eastern Region	—	12,150	14,042	—	232,351

(1) The full amount of these contributions is reported as 2017 non-equity incentive plan compensation in the Summary Compensation Table.

(2) The earnings on the employee deferred compensation plans are calculated based on the total amount of interest accrued on account balances during 2017. The above-market portion of these interest amounts in 2017, which amounted to \$4,162 for Kevin S. Kim and \$1,640 for Kyu S. Kim are reported in the Summary Compensation Table.



## VI. Potential Payments Upon Termination of Employment or Change in Control

The following table presents the estimated payments and benefits that each NEO would have been entitled to receive if his or her employment had terminated on December 31, 2017 for the various reasons specified in the table. Unless otherwise indicated, all amounts are payable in lump sums.

Name	Cash Severance Arrangements/Compensation (\$)	Acceleration of Unvested Options and Stock Awards (\$) <sup>(1)</sup>	Total Termination Benefits (\$)
Kevin S. Kim			
Voluntary Termination or Retirement			
Involuntary Termination (other than For Cause)	37,500 <sup>(3)</sup>	—	37,500
Involuntary Termination (For Cause)	1,339,241 <sup>(2)(3)</sup>	1,403,445	2,742,686
Termination in Connection with Change in Control	—	—	—
Death	2,179,241 <sup>(2)(3)</sup>	1,403,445	3,582,686
Disability	41,741 <sup>(4)</sup>	1,403,445	1,407,619
Alex Ko	—	1,403,445	1,403,445
Alex Ko			
Voluntary Termination or Retirement			
Involuntary Termination (other than For Cause)	—	—	—
Involuntary Termination (For Cause)	—	—	—
Termination in Connection with Change in Control	—	280,267	280,267
Death	—	280,267	280,267
Disability	—	280,267	280,267
David P. Malone			
Voluntary Termination or Retirement			
Involuntary Termination (other than For Cause)	—	—	—
Involuntary Termination (For Cause)	—	—	—
Termination in Connection with Change in Control	<del>(3)</del>	399,509	399,509
Death	<del>(4)</del>	399,509	399,509
Disability	—	399,509	399,509
Kyu S. Kim			
Voluntary Termination or Retirement			
Involuntary Termination (other than For Cause)	—	—	—
Involuntary Termination (For Cause)	<del>(3)</del>	262,250	262,250
Termination in Connection with Change in Control	<del>(4)</del>	262,250	262,250
Death	—	262,250	262,250

Termination in Connection with Change in Control			
Death			
Disability			
Johann (Min) You			
Voluntary Termination or Retirement			
Involuntary Termination (other than For Cause)	—	—	—
Involuntary Termination (For Cause)	—	241,030	241,030
Termination in Connection with Change in Control	—	241,030	241,030
Death	—	241,030	241,030
Disability			

The 2007 Plan and 2016 Plan allow for vesting of all restricted stock and performance units and stock options upon a change in control, death or the finding of permanent disability. This calculation assumes that each NEO's (1) restricted stock, restricted stock units and performance-based restricted stock units were paid out in stock at the closing price on December 30, 2017, of \$18.25 per share, and that unvested stock options were paid out in the amount of the difference between the stock closing price on December 30, 2017 of \$18.25 per share and the option exercise price.

Pursuant to the terms of Kevin S. Kim's employment agreement, which is described in more detail beginning on page 38 of this Proxy Statement, Kevin S. Kim would have been entitled to cash severance of 150% of his annual (2) base salary, or \$1,260,000, for involuntary termination occurring on December 31, 2017, other than for cause and not in connection with a change in control of the Company, and 250% of his annual base salary, or \$2,100,000 for involuntary termination occurring on December 31, 2017 within one year following a change in control.

The LTIP provides for an increase in the LTIP benefits upon voluntary or involuntary termination of employment without cause, other than as a result of death, including a good reason termination of employment within 12 months following a change of control. Kevin S. Kim's employment agreement provides for the full vesting of his LTIP account balance accrued prior to termination of employment upon involuntary termination of employment without cause, other than as a result of death, including a good reason termination of employment within 12 months following a change of control. As of December 31, 2017, Kevin S. Kim was 75% vested in his LTIP (3) account balance of \$166,964. Under his LTIP agreement, Kevin S. Kim would have been entitled to a benefit of \$162,723, equal to 75.0% of the sum of his account balance on December 31, 2017 and his potential contributions for years thereafter, upon voluntary or involuntary termination of employment without cause, other than as a result of death, including termination within 12 months following a change in control occurring on December 31, 2017, payable in accordance with the terms of his LTIP. As a result of the vesting provisions in his employment agreement, upon an involuntary termination of employment without cause or in connection with a change in control, Kevin S. Kim would have been entitled to an LTIP benefit of \$41,741, equal to an additional 25% of his pre-termination account balance. The amounts included in the table for Kevin S. Kim upon involuntary termination without cause or in connection with a change in control is the difference between this combined benefit \$204,464 and his vested account balance of \$125,223 (75% of \$166,964). Ms. Kim would not have been entitled to any additional LTIP benefit, other than her then-vested benefit, as the result of a change in control or termination of employment occurring on December 31, 2017.

The LTIP allows for payment of 100% of a participant's account balance upon the death of the participant. Kevin S. Kim and Kyu S. Kim are participants in the LTIP, and had LTIP account balances of \$166,964 and \$232,351, respectively, as of December 31, 2017. Kevin S. Kim was 75% vested in his LTIP account balance, and Kyu S. Kim was 100% vested in her LTIP account balance as of December 31, 2017. The amounts included in the table are \$41,741 for Kevin S. Kim (the unvested 25% of his account balance and \$0 for Kyu S. Kim), which reflect the excess of the amounts payable in the event of death occurring on December 31, 2017 over the then-vested benefit amounts.

## SECURITY OWNERSHIP OF DIRECTORS, EXECUTIVE OFFICERS AND CERTAIN BENEFICIAL OWNERS

## I. Beneficial Ownership of Directors and Executive Officers

The following presents information concerning the beneficial ownership of our common stock as of the Record Date for (i) each of our directors, (ii) each of our named executive officers, and (iii) all directors and executive officers as a group.

Name and Address of Beneficial Owner	Amount and Nature of Beneficial Ownership (#) <sup>(1)</sup>	Options/SARs exercisable within 60 days (#) <sup>(2)</sup>	Total Beneficial Ownership (#)	Percentage of Shares Beneficially Owned <sup>(3)</sup>
Non-Executive Directors				
Donald D. Byun	477,728	53,789	531,517	0.39%
Steven J. Didion	60,548	41,469	102,017	0.08%
Jinho Doo	5,000	13,333	18,333	0.01%
Daisy Y. Ha	446,669	45,873	490,542	0.36%
Jin Chul Jhung <sup>(4)</sup>	214,193	1,333	227,526	0.17%
Steven S. Koh	3,889,977	131,677	4,114,244	3.04%
Chung Hyun Lee	238,119	6,667	244,786	0.18%
William J. Lewis	5,000	13,333	18,333	0.01%
John R. Taylor	38,710	13,333	52,043	0.04%
Scott Yoon-Suk Whang <sup>(5)</sup>	68,602	13,333	81,935	0.06%
Dale S. Zuehls	5,000	13,333	18,333	0.01%
Executive Directors and Named Executive Officers				
Kevin S. Kim	540,356	200,000	740,356	0.52%
Alex Ko	15,749	4,000	19,749	0.01%
David P. Malone	7,345	13,333	20,678	0.02%
Kyu S. Kim	13,700	6,000	19,700	0.01%
Johann (Min) You	1,102	6,000	7,102	—%
Douglas J. Goddard	—	—	—	—%
All Directors and Executive Officers as a Group (25 Individuals)				5.06%

Except as otherwise noted, may include shares held by such person's spouse (except where legally separated or if stock is held as separate property) and minor children, and by any other relative of such person who has the same home; shares held in "street name" for the benefit of such person; shares held by a family trust as to which such person is a trustee and primary beneficiary with sole voting and investment power (or shared power with a spouse); or shares held in an Individual Retirement Account or pension plan as to which such person (and/or such person's spouse) is the sole beneficiary and has pass-through voting rights and investment power.

<sup>(2)</sup> Includes shares which the named individual has the right to acquire through the exercise of vested stock options, and shares which the named individual has the right to acquire through the vesting of restricted stock units within

60 days of the Record Date.

- (3) The Percentage of Shares Beneficially Owned is based on the total number of shares of the Company's common stock outstanding as of the Record Date, March 29, 2018, which was 135,515,643.
- (4) Ownership includes 189,193 shares gifted to an irrevocable trust with his spouse as sole trustee to which Mr. Jhung retains the sole voting and investment power.
- (5) Ownership includes 19,933 shares owned by revocable trust and 23,400 shares gifted to his grandchildren, which Mr. Whang retains the sole voting and investment power.

## II. Beneficial Owners of More Than 5% of Our Stock

The following table presents information known to the Company pursuant to SEC filings required by Section 13(d) and Section 13(g) of the Exchange Act as of the Record Date concerning the beneficial owners of more than five percent of the outstanding shares of the Company's common stock.

### Beneficial Owners of More than Five Percent

Name and Address of Beneficial Owner	Amount and Nature of Beneficial Ownership <sup>(1)</sup>	Percentage of Shares Beneficially Owned <sup>(2)</sup>
BlackRock, Inc. 40 East 52 <sup>nd</sup> Street, New York, NY 10022	16,763,614 <sup>(3)</sup>	12.37 %
The Vanguard Group 100 Vanguard Boulevard, Malvern, PA 19355	12,529,941 <sup>(4)</sup>	9.25 %
Fuller and Thaler Asset Management, Inc. 411 Borel Avenue, Suite 300, San Mateo, CA 94402	8,581,639 <sup>(5)</sup>	6.33 %
Dimensional Fund Advisors LP Building One, 6300 Bee Cave Road, Austin, TX 78746	8,214,543 <sup>(6)</sup>	6.06 %

We have relied on the filings with the SEC on Schedule 13G of each of the listed stockholders in determining how many shares each stockholder owns. The public filings on Schedule 13G, including any amendments thereto, by these stockholders reflect ownership information as of December 31, 2017.

<sup>(2)</sup> The percentage of shares beneficially owned is calculated based upon 135,515,643 shares of common stock outstanding as of our Record Date of March 29, 2018.

<sup>(3)</sup> Based solely upon information contained in a Schedule 13G filed with the SEC on January 19, 2018, BlackRock, Inc. has sole power to vote 16,476,173 shares; and sole power to dispose or to direct the disposition of 16,763,614 shares.

<sup>(4)</sup> Based solely upon information contained in a Schedule 13G filed with the SEC on February 9, 2018, The Vanguard Group has sole power to vote or direct the vote of 142,437 shares; shared power to vote or direct the vote of 21,513 shares; sole power to dispose or to direct the disposition of 12,376,977 shares; and shared power to dispose of or to direct the disposition of 152,964 shares.

<sup>(5)</sup> Based solely upon information contained in a Schedule 13G filed with the SEC on February 14, 2018, Fuller and Thaler Asset Management, Inc. has sole power to vote or direct the vote of 8,415,839 shares; and sole power to dispose or to direct the disposition of 8,581,639 shares.

<sup>(6)</sup> Based solely upon information contained in a Schedule 13G filed with the SEC on February 9, 2018, Dimensional Fund Advisors LP has sole power to vote or direct the vote of 8,013,689 shares; and sole power to dispose of or direct the disposition of 8,214,543 shares.

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ABOUT OUR DIRECTORS AND EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

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

Under Section 16(a) of the Exchange Act, our executive officers and directors, and persons who own more than 10% of the Company's common stock, are required to file reports of ownership and changes in ownership with the SEC. The SEC requires executive officers, directors and greater than 10% beneficial owners to furnish to us copies of all Section 16(a) forms they file. Based solely on our review of these reports and of certifications furnished to us, we



believe that during the fiscal year ended December 31, 2016, all executive officers, directors and greater than 10% beneficial owners complied with all applicable Section 16(a) filing requirements; provided, however, that Scott Yoon-Suk Whang failed to timely file three Form 5s, one for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2014, one for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2015, and one for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2016, each of which Form 5s reported two gift transactions.

#### Policies and Procedures for Approving Related Party Transactions

We conduct a review of all related party transactions for potential conflict of interest situations on an ongoing basis, and all such transactions must be reviewed by the Nomination and Governance Committee and ultimately reviewed and approved by our board of directors. As required under its charter, the Nomination and Governance Committee is responsible for reviewing each director's independence (according to the Nasdaq Stock Market, IRS and the SEC standards) and for making recommendations to the board of directors based on its findings.

Our Code of Ethics and Business Conduct for employees requires employees who may have a potential or apparent conflict of interest to notify their supervisor or the Ethics Officer. Our Director Code of Ethics and Business Conduct requires directors to notify

the chair of the Nomination and Governance Committee. A potential conflict is considered to exist whenever an individual has an outside interest, direct or indirect, which could conflict with the individual's duty to the Company or adversely affect the individual's judgment in the discharge of his or her responsibilities at the Company. Prior to consideration of a related party transaction, our board of directors requires full disclosure of all material facts concerning the relationship and financial interest of the relevant individuals in the transaction. The board of directors then determines whether the terms and conditions of the transaction are more or less favorable to the Company than those offered by unrelated third parties. Once the board of directors determines that the terms and conditions are substantially similar to those offered by unrelated parties, the transaction may be permitted if it is approved by a majority of the independent directors entitled to vote on the matter with the interested director abstaining.

All of the transactions reported below were approved by our board of directors in accordance with these policies and procedures, and we believe that the terms of these transactions were not less favorable to us as those we could have obtained from unrelated third parties. The employee and director Code of Ethics and Business Conduct can be found in the Corporate Governance section of our website at [www.ir-hopebancorp.com](http://www.ir-hopebancorp.com). By including the foregoing website address link, we do not intend to, and shall not be deemed to, incorporate by reference any material contained therein.

To identify related party transactions, each year we require our directors and executive officers to complete director and officer questionnaires identifying any transaction with us or any of our subsidiaries in which the officer or director or their family members have an interest. In addition, director independence is discussed on a regular basis at the Nomination and Governance Committee, and the Bank tracks all deposit accounts on a daily basis and loan accounts on a quarterly basis. Directors and executive officers are required to notify the Legal Department of any updates to the information supplied in the questionnaire occurring after the date of its completion.

There are no existing or proposed material transactions between the Company or the Bank and any of our officers, directors, nominees or principal stockholders or the immediate family or associates of the foregoing persons, except as indicated below.

#### Transactions Considered

Some of the directors and officers of the Company and/or the Bank and the immediate families and the business organizations with which they are associated, are customers of, and have had banking transactions with, the Bank in the ordinary course of our business, and we expect to have banking transactions with such persons in the future. All loans made to such persons have been made in the ordinary course of business; on substantially the same terms, including interest rate and collateral, as those prevailing at the time for comparable loans to persons not related to the Bank; and do not involve more than a normal risk of collectability or present other unfavorable features.

iii

Proposal 4:

Nonbinding Advisory Vote on the Frequency of Future Advisory Votes on Executive Compensation

Approve the frequency of future advisory votes on executive compensation, as described in this Proxy Statement.

Board Recommendation:

Vote FOR the OPTION of 1 YEAR

64

---

Proposal 4 — Nonbinding Advisory Vote on the Frequency of Future Advisory Votes on Executive Compensation

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Company believes that our overall executive compensation program, as described in this Proxy Statement, is designed to pay for performance and directly aligns the interests of our executive officers with the long-term interests of our stockholders, and our stockholders have the opportunity to cast an advisory vote on the approval of the compensation of the Company's NEOs as disclosed in this Proxy Statement.

The Dodd-Frank Act also enables our stockholders to indicate how frequently we should seek an advisory vote on the compensation of our NEOs. By voting on this Proposal 4, stockholders may indicate whether they would prefer an advisory vote on executive compensation every year, every two years or every three years. Upon careful consideration, our Compensation Committee and our board of directors have determined that it is most appropriate for our Company to conduct an advisory vote on executive compensation every year, and recommends that you vote for a frequency of every year for future advisory votes on executive compensation. We believe that an annual advisory vote will enable our stockholders to provide timely, direct input on the Company's executive compensation program as disclosed in the Proxy Statement each year, and is consistent with our efforts to engage in an ongoing dialogue with our stockholders regarding executive compensation.

Your vote will be advisory, which means that it will not be binding upon our board of directors or our Compensation Committee. In the event this proposal is not approved by our stockholders, the vote will neither be construed as overruling any decision by our board of directors or our Compensation Committee, nor will it create or imply any additional fiduciary duty by our board of directors or our Compensation Committee. Notwithstanding the foregoing, our board of directors and our Compensation Committee will consider the nonbinding, advisory vote of our stockholders on this proposal when considering the frequency of future advisory votes on executive compensation.

**THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS RECOMMENDS STOCKHOLDERS VOTE "FOR" THE OPTION OF "EVERY YEAR" AS THE PREFERRED FREQUENCY FOR FUTURE ADVISORY VOTES ON EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION.**

Annual Report on Form 10-K

Our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2017, as filed with the SEC pursuant to the Exchange Act, without exhibits, is included with this Proxy Statement. In addition, our Form 10-K is available on the Company's website, [www.ir-hopebancorp.com](http://www.ir-hopebancorp.com), and the SEC maintains a website, <http://www.sec.gov>, which contains information we file with them, including the Form 10-K and the exhibits. If you would also like a copy of the exhibits, please write to: Hope Bancorp, Inc., ATTN: Investor Relations, 3200 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 1400, Los Angeles, CA 90010 or telephone Ms. Angie Yang at (213) 251-2219, or by email at [angie.yang@bankofhope.com](mailto:angie.yang@bankofhope.com).

The SEC has adopted rules that permit companies, brokers and other intermediaries to satisfy the delivery requirements for Proxy Statements and annual reports with respect to two or more stockholders sharing the same address by delivering a single Proxy Statement addressed to those share/stockholders. This process, which is commonly referred to as "householding," potentially means extra convenience for stockholders and cost savings for companies.

This year, a number of brokers with account holders who are Company stockholders will be "householding" our Proxy materials. A single Proxy Statement will be delivered to multiple stockholders sharing an address unless contrary instructions have been received from the affected stockholders. Once you have received notice from your broker that they will be "householding" communications to your address, "householding" will continue until you are notified otherwise or until you revoke your consent. If, at any time, you no longer wish to participate in "householding" and would prefer to receive a separate Proxy Statement and Annual Report, please notify your broker and direct your written request to Hope Bancorp, Inc., Attention: Investor Relations, 3200 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 1400, Los Angeles, CA 90010 or telephone Ms. Angie Yang at (213) 251-2219. We will undertake to furnish any stockholder so requesting a separate copy of these Proxy materials. Stockholders who currently receive multiple copies of the Proxy Statement at their address and would like to request "householding" of their communications should contact their broker.

Other Matters

The board of directors knows of no other matters that will be brought before the Annual Meeting, but if such matters are properly presented at the meeting, proxies solicited hereby will be voted in accordance with the direction of the board of directors, or, if no direction is given, in accordance with the judgment of the persons holding such proxies. All shares represented by duly executed proxies will be voted at the Annual Meeting in accordance with the terms of such proxies.

HOPE BANCORP, INC.  
BY THE ORDER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Kevin S. Kim  
President & Chief Executive Officer

Los Angeles, California  
April 30, 2018



