

First American Financial Corp  
Form DEF 14A  
March 30, 2016  
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**UNITED STATES**  
**SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION**  
**Washington, DC 20549**

**SCHEDULE 14A**  
**Proxy Statement Pursuant to Section 14(a) of the**  
**Securities Exchange Act of 1934**

Filed by the Registrant ☒ x

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))**
- ☒ x Definitive Proxy Statement
- ☐ .. Definitive Additional Materials
- ☐ .. Soliciting Material under §240.14a-12

**FIRST AMERICAN FINANCIAL CORPORATION**

**(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):

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x 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:

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(1) Amount Previously Paid:

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

(3) Filing Party:

(4) Date Filed:

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March 30, 2016

Dear Fellow Stockholder,

You are cordially invited to attend our annual meeting of stockholders at 1 p.m. Pacific time on May 10, 2016, at the executive offices of First American Financial Corporation, located at 1 First American Way, Santa Ana, California 92707.

With this letter, we are including the notice for the annual meeting, the proxy statement and the proxy card. We are also including a copy of our 2015 annual report. A map and directions to our executive offices can be found on the inside back cover of the proxy statement.

We have made arrangements for you to vote your proxy over the Internet or by telephone, as well as by mail with the traditional proxy card. The proxy card contains instructions on these methods of voting.

Your vote is important. Whether or not you plan on attending the annual meeting on May 10, 2016, we hope you will vote as soon as possible.

Thank you for your continued support of First American Financial Corporation.

**Parker S. Kennedy**

*Chairman of the Board*

**Dennis J. Gilmore**

*Chief Executive Officer*

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## **NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS**

### **To be Held on May 10, 2016**

The annual meeting of stockholders of First American Financial Corporation, a Delaware corporation (our "Company"), will be held at 1 p.m. Pacific time on May 10, 2016, at the executive offices of the Company, located at 1 First American Way, Santa Ana, California 92707, for the following purposes:

1. To elect the three persons named in the accompanying proxy statement to serve as Class III directors on our board of directors for a three year term expiring on the date of the 2019 annual meeting of stockholders;
2. To approve, on an advisory basis, the Company's executive compensation;
3. To ratify the selection of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP as the Company's independent registered public accounting firm for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2016; and
4. To transact such other business as may properly come before the meeting or any postponements or adjournments thereof.

Only stockholders of record at the close of business on March 16, 2016 are entitled to notice of the meeting and an opportunity to vote.

**Important Notice Regarding the Availability of Proxy Materials for the Stockholder Meeting to Be Held on May 10, 2016: First American Financial Corporation's notice of annual meeting and proxy statement, annual report and other proxy materials are available at [www.firstam.com/proxymaterials](http://www.firstam.com/proxymaterials).**

We hope you will attend the meeting to vote in person. However, if you are unable to attend the meeting and vote in person, please submit a proxy as soon as possible, so that your shares can be voted at the meeting in accordance with your instructions. You may submit your proxy (1) over the Internet, (2) by telephone, or (3) by mail. For specific instructions, please refer to the questions and answers commencing on page 2 of the proxy statement and the instructions on the proxy card.

**Jeffrey S. Robinson**

*Vice President and Secretary*

Santa Ana, California

March 30, 2016

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## **PROXY STATEMENT**

### **Solicitation of Proxies by the Board of Directors**

Our board of directors (our **Board**) is soliciting proxies from holders of our common stock for use at the annual meeting of our stockholders to be held on May 10, 2016, at 1 p.m. Pacific time. The meeting will be held at the executive offices of First American Financial Corporation, a Delaware corporation (our **Company** or **First American**), located at 1 First American Way, Santa Ana, California 92707. We have included a map and directions to our executive offices on the inside back cover of the proxy statement for your convenience.

We are mailing this proxy statement and the enclosed proxy card, notice of annual meeting, stockholders letter and 2015 annual report to our stockholders on or about April 1, 2016. In lieu of a proxy card, holders of shares held in street name through a bank, broker or other nominee are receiving a voting instruction form from their bank, broker or other nominee. As used herein, references to **proxy** or **proxy card** also refer to the voting instruction form provided to street name holders.

The remainder of this proxy statement has been divided into three sections. You should read all three sections.

- I. **Questions and answers:** this section provides answers to a number of frequently asked questions.
- II. **Proposals to be voted on:** this section provides information relating to the proposals to be voted on at the stockholders' meeting.
- III. **Required information:** this section contains information that is required by law to be included in this proxy statement and which has not been included in Sections I or II.

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### *Why have I been sent these proxy materials?*

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Our Board has sent you this proxy statement and the accompanying proxy card to ask for your vote, as a stockholder of our Company, on certain matters that will be voted on at the annual meeting.

### *What matters will be voted on at the meeting?*

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The matters scheduled to be voted on at the meeting are:

- the election of three persons to serve on the Board as Class III directors until the next annual meeting at which Class III directors are elected or as soon as their successors are duly elected and qualified;
- an advisory vote to approve executive compensation, which we will refer to as a "Say on Pay" vote;
- the ratification of the Company's selection of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP ( "PwC" ) as its independent registered public accounting firm for the 2016 fiscal year; and
- any other business properly raised at the meeting or any postponement or adjournment thereof.

At the time this proxy statement was mailed, our Board was not aware of any other matters to be voted on at the annual meeting.

### *Does our Board have any recommendations with respect to the listed proposals?*

---

Our Board recommends you vote **FOR** : (1) all of its nominees for director; (2) the Say on Pay proposal; and (3) the ratification of PwC as our Company's independent registered public accounting firm for the 2016 fiscal year.

### *Who may attend the annual meeting?*

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All stockholders of the Company.

***Who is entitled to vote?***

---

Stockholders of record as of the close of business on March 16, 2016, the record date, or those with a valid proxy from a bank, brokerage firm or similar organization that held our shares on the record date are entitled to vote on the matters to be considered at the annual meeting.

***Who is a stockholder of record?***

---

A stockholder of record is a person or entity whose name appears as an owner of one or more shares of our common stock on the records of our transfer agent as of its close of business on the record date.

***How many shares are entitled to vote at the meeting?***

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As of the record date, 109,264,533 shares of our common stock, par value \$0.00001 per share, were issued, outstanding and entitled to vote at the meeting.

***How many votes do I have?***

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Each share of common stock is entitled to one vote on each proposal.

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**I. Questions and Answers**

***How many votes are needed to elect each director?***

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Those candidates receiving the highest number of affirmative votes, up to the number of Class III directors to be elected, will be elected as Class III directors. However, under our bylaws in uncontested elections, such as the election of Class III directors at this year's annual meeting, any nominee who does not receive a majority of votes cast for his or her election (meaning more votes for than withheld) would be required to tender his or her resignation promptly following the failure to receive the required vote. Within 90 days of the certification of the stockholder vote, our Board would then be required to decide whether to accept the resignation. If the Board accepts the resignation offer, it will thereafter determine whether to fill the resulting vacancy or reduce the size of the Board.

***Who are the director nominees?***

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The three nominees for Class III directors are:

Anthony K. Anderson      Parker S. Kennedy      Mark C. Oman

See page 8 for biographical information regarding the nominees.

***How many votes are needed to approve, on an advisory basis, the Company's executive compensation?***

---

The affirmative vote of a majority of the shares present and entitled to vote at the annual meeting are needed to approve, on an advisory basis, the Company's executive compensation presented herein.

***Is the Board of Directors bound by the Say on Pay vote?***

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No. The Say on Pay vote is advisory and non-binding.

***How many votes are needed to ratify PwC as the Company's independent registered public accounting firm?***

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The affirmative vote of a majority of the shares present and entitled to vote at the annual meeting are needed to ratify PwC as the Company's independent registered public accounting firm.

### *What happens if the Company's choice of PwC as its independent registered public accounting firm is not ratified by the stockholders?*

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If the stockholders do not ratify PwC as the Company's independent registered public accounting firm for the 2016 fiscal year, the audit committee of the Board (the Audit Committee) will reconsider its choice of PwC as the Company's independent registered public accounting firm and may retain a different independent registered public accounting firm; however, the Audit Committee may nonetheless determine that it is in the Company's, and its stockholders', best interests to retain PwC as the Company's independent registered public accounting firm. Additionally, even if stockholders ratify the Audit Committee's selection of PwC as the Company's independent registered public accounting firm, the Audit Committee may at any time determine that it is in the Company's, and its stockholders', best interests to retain a different firm.

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### **I. Questions and Answers**

#### ***How do I vote?***

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You can vote on matters that properly come before the meeting in one of four ways:

*You may vote by mail.*

You do this by signing and dating the proxy card and mailing it in the enclosed, prepaid and addressed envelope within the required time. If you mark your voting instructions on the proxy card, your shares will be voted as you instruct.

*You may vote by telephone.*

You do this by following the instructions accompanying the proxy card. If you submit your proxy by telephone, your shares will be voted as you instruct. You do not have to separately mail in your proxy card. Some stockholders may not be able to submit their proxy by telephone.

*You may vote on the Internet.*

You do this by following the instructions accompanying the proxy card. If you submit your proxy on the Internet, your shares will be voted as you instruct. You do not have to separately mail in your proxy card. Some stockholders may not be able to submit their proxy on the Internet.

*You may vote in person at the meeting.*

You can vote in person at the meeting. However, if you hold your shares in street name (in the name of a bank, broker or other nominee), you must request and receive, prior to the meeting, a legal proxy from your bank, broker or other nominee giving you the right to vote your shares at the meeting and you must present the legal proxy at the meeting in order to vote your shares.

***What happens if I sign and return my proxy card, but don't mark my votes?***

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Dennis J. Gilmore, chief executive officer, or Kenneth D. DeGiorgio, executive vice president, will vote your shares as proxies in accordance with the recommendations of the Board reflected herein or in their discretion on any other matters that may properly come before the annual meeting or any adjournments or postponements thereof.

### *Can I revoke my proxy?*

---

You have the power to change or revoke your proxy at any time before the polls close at the meeting. You may do this by:

- signing and returning another proxy card with a later date;
- if you are a stockholder of record, submitting written notice of your revocation to our secretary at our mailing address on the cover page of this proxy statement;
- submitting your proxy by telephone or on the Internet (only your latest proxy is counted); or
- voting in person at the meeting, provided that if your shares are held in street name (in the name of a bank, broker or other nominee), you have obtained a legal proxy from your bank, broker or nominee giving you the right to vote your shares at the meeting. Attendance at the meeting will not by itself constitute revocation of a proxy.

Please note that any change to your proxy that is provided by telephone or the Internet must be submitted by 11:59 p.m. Central time on May 9, 2016.



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**I. Questions and Answers**

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***What happens if my shares are held under the name of a brokerage firm?***

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If your shares are held in street name, your brokerage firm, under certain circumstances, may vote your shares. Brokerage firms have authority under NYSE rules to vote customers' unvoted shares on certain routine matters. We believe that the proposal to ratify the selection of the Company's independent registered public accounting firm is a routine matter under NYSE rules. If you do not submit your proxy, your brokerage firm has discretion to either:

- vote your shares on routine matters; or
- leave your shares unvoted.

Please note that the election to the Board of the three nominees named in this proxy statement is considered a non-routine matter under NYSE Rule 452. Accordingly, if you are a street name holder and do not submit your proxy to your broker, your broker will not have discretion to vote your shares with respect to that proposal, resulting in broker non-votes (as described below). The Say on Pay proposal is similarly considered non-routine under NYSE Rule 452.

We encourage you to provide instructions to your brokerage firm by submitting your proxy. This ensures that your shares will be voted at the meeting. You may have granted to your stockbroker discretionary voting authority over your account. Your stockbroker may be able to vote your shares depending on the terms of the agreement you have with your stockbroker.

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***Who will count the votes?***

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An employee of the Company's transfer agent will serve as the inspector of elections and count the votes.

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***What does it mean if I get more than one proxy card?***

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It means that you have multiple accounts at the transfer agent and/or with stockbrokers. Please sign and return all proxy cards to ensure that all your shares are voted.

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***What is "householding" and do we do it?***

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Although we do not "household" for our registered stockholders, some brokers, banks or similar entities holding our common stock for their customers may deliver only one copy of our proxy materials to a household with multiple stockholders sharing the same address, unless contrary instructions have been received from the affected stockholders. This procedure, referred to as "householding," reduces the volume of duplicate materials stockholders receive and reduces mailing expenses. Stockholders sharing an address whose shares of our common stock are held by such an entity should contact such entity if they now receive (1) multiple copies of our proxy materials and wish to receive only one copy of these materials per household in the future, or (2) a single copy of our proxy materials and wish to receive separate copies of these materials in the future. Alternatively, if you wish to receive a separate set of proxy materials for this year's annual meeting, we will deliver them promptly upon request to our secretary at our address indicated on the first page of this proxy statement or at (714) 250-3000.

*What constitutes a quorum?*

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A "quorum" refers to the number of shares that must be represented at a meeting in order to lawfully conduct business. A majority of the outstanding shares of common stock entitled to vote at the annual meeting, present in person or represented by proxy, will constitute a quorum at the meeting. Without a quorum, no business may be transacted at the annual meeting. However, whether or not a quorum exists, a majority of the shares represented at the annual meeting, either in person or by proxy, may adjourn the annual meeting to another date, time and place. Abstentions and broker non-votes (defined below) will be counted for the purpose of determining the presence or absence of a quorum for the transaction of business.

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### **I. Questions and Answers**

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#### ***What is a broker non-vote and how is it treated?***

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A broker non-vote occurs with respect to a proposal if the proposal is considered non-routine under NYSE Rule 452 (as described above) and the broker has not received voting instructions from a beneficial owner and, therefore, does not have the discretionary authority to vote shares held by the beneficial owner with respect to such proposal. Broker non-votes are treated as present for purposes of establishing the presence or absence of a quorum. A broker non-vote will not affect the outcome of the election of directors. The election of directors is determined by a plurality of the votes cast, and no absolute number of affirmative votes is required. The determination of whether a director is required to resign after failing to receive more for votes than withheld votes in an uncontested election will not be affected by broker non-votes because broker non-votes will not count as votes cast for or withheld from a director nominee. Similarly, broker non-votes will not count as votes cast for or against the Say on Pay proposal and will have no effect on the results of that proposal. We do not anticipate broker non-votes occurring with respect to the auditor ratification proposal because that matter is considered routine under NYSE Rule 452.

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#### ***How are abstentions treated?***

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Abstentions are treated as present and entitled to vote but not as votes cast under Delaware law. Because the election of directors proposal is determined by a plurality of the votes cast, abstentions have no effect on the outcome of that proposal. The determination of whether a director is required to resign after failing to receive more for votes than withheld votes in an uncontested election will not be affected by abstentions. However, since the proposal to ratify the selection of the Company's independent public registered accounting firm and the Say on Pay proposal require the affirmative vote of a majority of the shares present and entitled to vote, abstentions will have the same effect as a vote against those proposals.

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#### ***What percentage of stock do the directors and executive officers own?***

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Together, they owned approximately 3.2% of our common stock as of the record date. See pages 15 through 16 for more details.

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#### ***When are stockholder proposals for our next annual meeting due in order to be included in the proxy statement?***

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We will consider proposals submitted by stockholders for inclusion in the proxy statement for the annual meeting to be held in 2017 if they are received no later than the close of business on December 2, 2016 and comply with all other requirements of SEC Rule 14a-8. This date assumes that the date of our next annual meeting will not be advanced or delayed by more than 30 calendar days from the one-year anniversary of the date of the current annual meeting. See page 57 for more details.

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#### ***Who is paying the cost of preparing, assembling and mailing the notice of the annual meeting of stockholders, proxy statement and form of proxy, and the solicitation of the proxies?***

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The Company. We will also pay brokers and other nominees for the reasonable expenses of forwarding solicitation materials to their customers who own our common stock.

*Who may solicit proxies?*

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In addition to this proxy statement, our directors, officers and other regular administrative employees may solicit proxies. None of them will receive any additional compensation for such solicitation. MacKenzie Partners, Inc., 105 Madison Avenue, New York, NY 10016, has been engaged by the Company to solicit proxies at an estimated cost of \$12,500 plus reimbursement of reasonable expenses.

**Table of Contents****I. Questions and Answers*****How will solicitors contact me?***

People soliciting proxies may contact you in person, by mail, by telephone, by e-mail or by facsimile.

***Who are the largest principal stockholders outside of management?***

The following table lists as of the record date the persons or groups of stockholders who are known to us to be the beneficial owners of more than 5% of our common stock. The information regarding beneficial owners of more than 5% of our common stock was gathered by us from the filings made by such owners with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the "SEC") or from informal sources. Shares that may be acquired within 60 days are treated as outstanding for purposes of determining the amount and percentage beneficially owned. This table does not include shares beneficially owned by our directors and officers and entities controlled by them. See the tables under the heading "Security Ownership of Management" on pages 15 through 16 for that information.

<b>Name of Beneficial Owner</b>	<b>Amount and Nature of Beneficial Ownership</b>	<b>Percent of Class</b>
FMR LLC(1)	9,775,932	8.9%
BlackRock, Inc.(2)	9,127,228	8.4%
The Vanguard Group(3)	8,850,485	8.1%
T. Rowe Price Associates, Inc.(4)	8,168,486	7.5%
Ariel Investments, LLC(5)	6,144,140	5.6%

- (1) According to a Schedule 13G/A filed on February 12, 2016, as of December 31, 2015, FMR LLC, through its subsidiaries, affiliates and other companies, including FMR Co., Inc. (an investment advisor that had beneficial ownership of 5% or more of our common stock) and Abigail P. Johnson, through her family members' direct and indirect control of FMR and its affiliates, beneficially owned 9,775,932 shares of our common stock and had sole dispositive power over all 9,775,932 shares. Directly or indirectly, FMR had sole voting power over 657,603 shares of our common stock. According to the Schedule 13G/A, neither FMR LLC nor Abigail P. Johnson has the sole power to vote or direct the voting of the shares owned directly by the various investment companies registered under the Investment Company Act ("Fidelity Funds") advised by Fidelity Management & Research Company, a wholly owned subsidiary of FMR LLC, which power resides with the Fidelity Funds' Boards of Trustees. The address of FMR and Ms. Johnson is 245 Summer Street, Boston, Massachusetts 02210.
- (2) According to a Schedule 13G/A filed on January 26, 2016, as of December 31, 2015, BlackRock, Inc. beneficially owned 9,127,228 shares of our common stock and had sole voting power over 8,884,513 shares and sole dispositive power over 9,127,228 shares. The address for BlackRock is 55 East 52<sup>nd</sup> Street, New York, NY 10055.
- (3) According to a Schedule 13G/A filed on February 10, 2016, as of December 31, 2015, The Vanguard Group beneficially owned 8,850,485 shares of our common stock and had sole voting power over 137,651 shares, shared voting power over 5,500 shares, sole dispositive power over 8,713,834 shares and shared dispositive power over 136,651 shares. The address for The Vanguard Group is 100 Vanguard Blvd., Malvern, PA 19355.
- (4) According to a Schedule 13G/A filed on February 12, 2016, as of December 31, 2015, T. Rowe Price Associates, Inc. beneficially owned 8,168,486 shares of our common stock. These shares are owned by various individual and institutional investors, which T. Rowe Price Associates, Inc. serves as an investment adviser with sole voting power over 1,620,342 shares and sole dispositive power over 8,168,486 shares of our common stock. For the purposes of the reporting requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, T. Rowe Price Associates is deemed to be a beneficial owner of such shares; however, T. Rowe Price Associates expressly disclaims that it is, in fact, the beneficial owner of such shares. The address of T. Rowe Price Associates is 100 E. Pratt Street, Baltimore, MD 21202.
- (5) According to a Schedule 13G/A filed on February 12, 2016, as of December 31, 2015, Ariel Investments, LLC beneficially owned 6,144,140 shares of our common stock and had sole voting power over 5,798,553 shares and sole dispositive power over 6,144,140 shares. The address for Ariel Investments is 200 E. Randolph Drive, Suite 2900, Chicago, IL 60601.

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**Information Regarding the Nominees for Election**

The following list provides information with respect to each person nominated and recommended to be elected as a Class III director by our Board, to serve for a three-year term expiring on the date of the 2019 annual meeting of stockholders. Each of the nominees is currently serving as a director of the Company.

***ANTHONY K. ANDERSON***

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Mr. Anderson, 60, has been a director since November 2012. He retired as a partner of Ernst & Young LLP in 2012, after serving the firm for 35 years, including as managing partner for the Pacific Southwest region and later for the Midwest region, and as vice chair and a member of the firm's governing executive board. He is currently a director of Avery Dennison Corporation (NYSE: AVY), AAR Corp. (NYSE: AIR) and Exelon Corporation (NYSE: EXC). Mr. Anderson served on the board of the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago from 2008 to 2010. He is a member of the American, California and Illinois Institutes of Certified Public Accountants. With 35 years of public accounting experience, including significant experience auditing and advising major international, insurance and financial services companies, Mr. Anderson deepens the Board's ability to oversee and guide accounting and financial matters. His extensive managerial experience at Ernst & Young and his service on other boards brings additional insight into implementing strategies to drive strategic growth and customer satisfaction, as well as corporate governance matters.

***PARKER S. KENNEDY***

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Mr. Kennedy, 68, serves as chairman of the Board and has been a director of the Company since June 2010, when we separated from The First American Corporation. Mr. Kennedy served as executive chairman of the Company from the separation until his retirement as an employee in February 2012. From 2003 until the separation, he served as The First American Corporation's chairman and chief executive officer. Previously he also served as The First American Corporation's president from 1993 to 2004. He served as a director of The First American Corporation and its successor entity, CoreLogic, Inc., from 1987 to 2011, and was CoreLogic, Inc.'s executive chairman from the separation to May 2011. Mr. Kennedy also served on the First Advantage Corporation board until 2009. We believe that Mr. Kennedy, who has worked with us in various capacities for over 35 years, has unparalleled executive experience in our industry. He also brings to the Company an incomparable understanding of our history and culture.

***MARK C. OMAN***

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Mr. Oman, 61, has been a director since March 2013. In 2011, he retired from Wells Fargo & Company, after serving it or its predecessors since 1979. At Wells Fargo he held numerous positions, including senior executive vice president (home and consumer finance) from 2005 until his retirement and group executive vice president (home and consumer finance) from 2002 to 2005. Mr. Oman also served as a director and the chief executive officer of Wachovia Preferred Funding Corp. from 2009 to 2011. He is currently involved with several private ventures and is a director of American Caresource Holdings, Inc. (NASDAQ: ANCI). Mr. Oman brings to the Board important insights into the mortgage market and working with large mortgage lenders.

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II. Proposals

**Information Regarding the Other Incumbent Directors**

The following list provides information with respect to the individuals currently serving as Class I directors, whose current term expires at the 2017 annual meeting of stockholders, followed by similar information with respect to the Class II directors, whose term expires in 2018.

*Class I Directors Term Expiring 2017*

***JAMES L. DOTI***

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Mr. Doti, 69, has been a director since June 2010, when we separated from The First American Corporation. He is the president and Donald Bren Distinguished Chair of Business and Economics at Chapman University. He served as a director of The First American Corporation from 1993 until the separation. He served on the boards of Standard Pacific Corp. until 2012 and Fleetwood Enterprises, Inc. until 2009. As president of Chapman University and with a doctorate in economics from the University of Chicago, Dr. Doti gives our Company insight into the organizational challenges that large companies face and the impact of the economic environment on the Company.

***MICHAEL D. MCKEE***

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Mr. McKee, 70, has been a director since March 2011. He is currently chief executive officer of Bentall Kennedy U.S., L.P., one of the largest privately-owned real estate investment advisory firms in the United States. Mr. McKee also served as the chief executive officer of The Irvine Company, a privately-held real estate development and investment company, from 2007 to 2008, as vice chairman of its board of directors from 1999 to 2008 and as an executive officer of that company since 1994. Prior to that, he was a partner with the law firm of Latham & Watkins LLP from 1986 to 1994. Mr. McKee is currently chairman of HCP, Inc. (NYSE: HCP), Realty Income Corporation (NYSE: O) and the Tiger Woods Foundation. He also previously served as a director of Mandalay Resort Group, Irvine Apartment Communities, Inc. and Oasis Residential Inc. Mr. McKee brings to the Board significant operating and executive management experience. This experience, combined with Mr. McKee's extensive background in the real estate industry, facilitates the Board's oversight of the Company's operations and enhances its ability to assess strategic opportunities.

***THOMAS V. MCKERNAN***

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Mr. McKernan, 71, has been a director since March 2011. He serves as chairman of the board of AAA Auto Club Enterprises and the Automobile Club of Southern California (the Auto Club). Mr. McKernan served as chief executive officer of the Auto Club from 1991 until his retirement in 2012. Mr. McKernan also serves as a director of Payden & Rygel Investment Group and as a trustee of certain funds associated therewith. Other positions held by Mr. McKernan include directorships with various companies and membership on various advisory councils. In addition, he served as vice chairman of the board of California Physicians Service, Inc., which operates as Blue Shield of California, and its subsidiary, Blue Shield of California Life & Health Insurance Company, until September 2009. Through his operating and executive management experience, much of it gained in the process of transforming the Auto Club into a leader in the California insurance industry, Mr. McKernan brings to the Company valuable insight into the challenges facing an insurance company that is executing on a strategic growth plan. His extensive experience participating in the management of insurance company investment portfolios also has been of significant value to the Company.

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**II. Proposals**

*Class II Directors Term Expiring 2018*

***DENNIS J. GILMORE***

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Mr. Gilmore, 57, is our chief executive officer and has been a director since June 2010, when we separated from The First American Corporation. From 2008 until the separation, he served as chief executive officer of The First American Corporation's financial services group. He also served as chief operating officer of The First American Corporation from 2004 to 2008. As the Company's chief executive officer, Mr. Gilmore provides our Board of Directors in-depth insight into the Company's businesses, challenges and opportunities, as well as significant experience in the real estate settlement services industry.

***MARGARET M. MCCARTHY***

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Ms. McCarthy, 62, has been a director since June 2015. She has served as executive vice president of operations and technology for Aetna, Inc. (NYSE: AET) since 2010. She is responsible for innovation, technology, data security, data analytics, service operations, procurement and real estate. Prior to joining Aetna in 2003, she served in information technology-related roles at CIGNA Healthcare and Catholic Health Initiatives, among others. Ms. McCarthy also worked in technology consulting at Accenture and was a consulting partner at Ernst & Young. She also serves on various advisory boards and councils, including for IBM, Intel Capital and the MIT Center for Information Systems Research. Given her extensive experience managing large groups of employees, complex processes and enterprise-critical technology, Ms. McCarthy brings to the Board valuable insights into areas of critical import to the operations of the Company.

***VIRGINIA M. UEBERROTH***

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Ms. Ueberroth, 76, has been a director since June 2010, when we separated from The First American Corporation. She is chairman of the Ueberroth Family Foundation, a philanthropic organization, and a director of Hoag Memorial Hospital Presbyterian. She served as a director of The First American Corporation from 1988 until the separation. Through Ms. Ueberroth's experience in philanthropic causes, the Company derives an appreciation for its stakeholders in the community.

See the section entitled "Security Ownership of Management," which begins on page 15, for information pertaining to stock ownership of our directors. There are no family relationships among any of the directors or nominees or any of the executive officers of the Company. There are no arrangements or understandings between any director and any other person pursuant to which any director was or is to be selected as a director.



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**Item 1. Election of Class III Directors**

Our certificate of incorporation provides for a classified Board. Each person elected as a Class III director at the annual meeting of stockholders will serve for a three-year term expiring on the date of the 2019 annual meeting and until his successor in office is elected and qualified. Our Board has nominated the following individuals for election as Class III directors:

Anthony K. Anderson  
Parker S. Kennedy  
Mark C. Oman

**Unless otherwise specified by you in your proxy card, the proxies solicited by our Board will be voted FOR the election of the Class III director nominees.** If any nominee should become unable or unwilling to serve as a director, the proxies will be voted for such substitute nominee(s) as shall be designated by our Board. Our Board presently has no knowledge that any of the nominees will be unable or unwilling to serve.

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### **Item 2. Advisory Vote to Approve Executive Compensation**

Pursuant to the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act of 2010 and Section 14A of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, we are seeking the advice of our stockholders on the compensation of our named executive officers as presented in the Executive Compensation section of this proxy statement commencing on page 23. Specifically, we are seeking stockholder approval of the following resolution:

RESOLVED, that the stockholders of First American Financial Corporation approve, on an advisory basis, the compensation of the company's named executive officers, as disclosed in the Compensation Discussion and Analysis, the 2015 Summary Compensation Table and the related compensation tables, notes and narrative in the Proxy Statement for the Company's 2016 annual meeting of stockholders.

We refer to this proposal as a Say on Pay proposal. As part of its process in determining executive compensation levels for 2015, the Compensation Committee has reviewed the results of last year's Say on Pay proposal, in which approximately 98% of the Company's shares present and entitled to vote approved 2014 executive compensation. The stockholder support for the prior Say on Pay proposal reinforces the Compensation Committee's belief that it should continue its practice of implementing and overseeing executive compensation programs that provide for a substantial portion of the executive officer's total compensation to be related to the Company's consolidated financial performance. It also reinforces the Compensation Committee's sense that, for executive officers, the mix of compensation should be weighted heavily toward at-risk pay, in particular, the annual incentive bonus (a portion of which consists of equity vesting over four years) and should include a substantial portion of equity. This is consistent with the overall philosophy of maintaining a pay mix that results fundamentally in a pay-for-performance orientation and a strong alignment between the interests of executive officers and long-term stockholders.

The Compensation Committee believes 2015 was an exceptional year for the Company. In particular, under the leadership of its management team, the Company's revenue grew over 10% to \$5.2 billion with net income, reflecting the Company's continued vigilance on expenses, growing 23% to \$433 million. Return on equity\* was 10.0%, compared to 8.7% in 2014. Moreover, during the year the Company generated its strongest cash flow since becoming an independent public company over five years ago.

The Company also made significant strides toward achieving its long-term strategic goals. For example, it increased the market share in its direct residential title insurance business, while posting the highest pre-tax margin in its Title Insurance and Services segment since 2012. The Company also assembled the most comprehensive database of real property records in the United States and leveraged that data to increase operational efficiency, to more effectively manage risk in its title insurance business and to introduce new products to the market. The Company continued to focus on expense management, as reflected by better-than-target incremental controllable expenses as a percentage of incremental net operating revenue. At 8.8%, total stockholder return exceeded the return generated by the Company's primary industry competitor and major market indices.

The full results of the 2015 executive compensation program are included in the section entitled Compensation Discussion and Analysis below commencing on page 23. Stockholders are urged to read the Compensation Discussion and Analysis as well as the 2015 Summary Compensation Table and related compensation tables and narrative, appearing on pages 41 through 53, in their entirety.

\* For Compensation Committee purposes, return on equity is defined as the net income attributable to the Company divided by average invested stockholders equity (total equity excluding accumulated other comprehensive income and noncontrolling interests). This is a non-GAAP financial measure. Please see Appendix A for the rationale behind the presentation of this measure and a reconciliation to the nearest GAAP financial measure.

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**Item 2. Advisory Vote to Approve Executive Compensation**

While this vote to approve executive compensation is not binding, the Compensation Committee intends to review the results of the vote in connection with its ongoing analysis of the Company's compensation programs. The Company includes a Say on Pay proposal in its proxy materials on an annual basis and thus, the next Say on Pay proposal will occur at the Company's 2016 annual meeting.

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**Item 3. Ratification of Selection of Independent Auditor**

The Audit Committee has selected PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP ( PwC ) to serve as our independent registered public accounting firm for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2016. Representatives of PwC are expected to be present at the annual meeting, and, if they do attend the annual meeting, will have an opportunity to make a statement and be available to respond to appropriate questions.

Selection of our independent registered public accounting firm is not required to be submitted for stockholder approval, but the Audit Committee is seeking ratification of its selection of PwC from our stockholders as a matter of good corporate governance. If the stockholders do not ratify this selection, the Audit Committee will reconsider its selection of PwC and will either continue to retain this firm or appoint a new independent registered public accounting firm. Even if the selection is ratified, the Audit Committee may, in its discretion, appoint a different independent registered public accounting firm at any time during the year if it determines that such a change would be in our Company's best interests and those of its stockholders.

**Table of Contents****Security Ownership of Management**

The following table sets forth the total number of our shares of common stock beneficially owned and the percentage of the outstanding shares so owned as of the record date by:

- each director (and each nominee for director);
- each executive officer named in the 2015 Summary Compensation Table on page 41 (each, a named executive officer); and
- all directors and executive officers as a group.

Unless otherwise indicated in the notes following the table, the stockholders listed in the table are the beneficial owners of the listed shares with sole voting and investment power (or, in the case of individual stockholders, shared power with such individual's spouse) over the shares listed. Shares subject to rights exercisable within 60 days after the record date are treated as outstanding when determining the amount and percentage beneficially owned by a person or entity.

Stockholders	Number of Common shares	Percent if greater than 1%
<i>Directors</i>		
Anthony K. Anderson	6,177	
James L. Doti	40,750	
Dennis J. Gilmore	401,607	
Parker S. Kennedy(1)	2,642,370	2.4%
Margaret M. McCarthy	5,740	
Michael D. McKee	23,418	
Thomas V. McKernan	33,418	
Mark C. Oman	15,933	
Virginia M. Ueberroth(2)	137,094	
<i>Named executive officers who are not directors</i>		
Kenneth D. DeGiorgio	42,699	
Christopher M. Leavell	100,412	
Mark E. Seaton	18,178	
Matthew F. Wajner	4,454	
<i>All directors, named executive officers and other executive officers as a group (13 persons)</i>	3,472,250	3.2%

- (1) Includes 2,466,686 shares held by Kennedy Enterprises, L.P., a California limited partnership of which Mr. Kennedy is the sole general partner. The limited partnership agreement pursuant to which the partnership was formed provides that the general partner has all powers of a general partner as provided in the California Uniform Limited Partnership Act, including the power to vote securities held by the partnership, provided that the general partner is not permitted to cause the partnership to sell, exchange or hypothecate any of its shares of stock of the Company without the prior written consent of all of the limited partners. Of the shares held by the partnership, 460,536 are allocated to the capital accounts of Mr. Kennedy. The balance of the shares held by the partnership is allocated to the capital accounts of the other limited partners, who are relatives of Mr. Kennedy. Except to the extent of his voting power over the shares allocated to the capital accounts of the limited partners, Mr. Kennedy disclaims beneficial ownership of all shares held by the partnership other than those allocated to his own and his wife's capital accounts. Also included are 27,087 shares over which Mr. Kennedy has investment power pursuant to a power of attorney for Mr. Kennedy's mother, who does not share his household. She holds these shares in a personal account and Mr. Kennedy disclaims beneficial



ownership of these securities.

**Table of Contents****III. Required Information**

- (2) Includes 5,000 shares held by a nonprofit corporation of which Ms. Ueberroth is an officer and whose six-member board of directors is chaired by Ms. Ueberroth and also composed of her husband and children. In her capacity as an officer of that corporation, Ms. Ueberroth has the power, as do certain other officers, to direct the voting and disposition of the shares. Ms. Ueberroth disclaims beneficial ownership of these shares.

The shares set forth in the table above include shares that the following individuals have the right to acquire within 60 days of the record date in the amounts set forth below:

<b>Individuals</b>	<b>Shares</b>
Anthony K. Anderson	2,020
James L. Doti	2,020
Dennis J. Gilmore	
Parker S. Kennedy	2,020
Margaret M. McCarthy	
Michael D. McKee	2,020
Thomas V. McKernan	2,020
Mark C. Oman	1,089
Virginia M. Ueberroth	2,020
Kenneth D. DeGiorgio	
Christopher M. Leavell	
Mark E. Seaton	
Matthew F. Wajner	382

**Board and Committee Meetings**

Our Board held five meetings during 2015. No incumbent director attended less than 75% of the meetings of the Board and the committees (if any) on which the director served. From time to time, our Board may act by unanimous written consent as permitted by the laws of the State of Delaware. Our Board's standing committees include an audit, nominating and corporate governance, and compensation committee.

*Audit Committee*

The members of the Audit Committee are Messrs. Doti (chair), McKernan and Oman. The functions performed by this committee include:

- reviewing internal auditing procedures and results;
- selecting our independent registered public accounting firm;
- engaging with our compliance and risk management executives to review the state of enterprise risk management and compliance programs with a view to understanding the steps management has taken to monitor and control the Company's major risk exposures;

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- reviewing with internal counsel the state of litigation, claims and regulatory matters;
- discussing with management, internal audit and external advisors the state of internal controls and management tone;
- directing and supervising investigations into matters within the scope of its duties;

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### III. Required Information

- reviewing with the independent registered public accounting firm the plan and results of its audit and determining the nature of other services to be performed by, and fees to be paid to, such firm; and
- supervising the oversight of the Company's investment portfolios.

Our Audit Committee met six times during 2015. This committee's charter is posted in the corporate governance section of our Web site at [www.firstam.com](http://www.firstam.com). Our Board of Directors has determined that Messrs. Doti, McKernan and Oman are audit committee financial experts within the meaning of the SEC's rules and regulations and that each member of the Audit Committee meets the requirement of independence established in the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, and the New York Stock Exchange listing standards.

#### *Compensation Committee*

The members of the Compensation Committee are Messrs. McKee (chair) and Oman. This committee establishes compensation rates and procedures with respect to our executive officers, including bonus awards, monitors our equity compensation plans and makes recommendations to the Board regarding director compensation. Our Compensation Committee met five times during 2015. This committee's charter is posted in the corporate governance section of our Web site at [www.firstam.com](http://www.firstam.com).

Additional information concerning the Compensation Committee's processes and procedures surrounding non-employee director compensation is included in the section entitled "2015 Director Compensation," which begins on page 54. Additional information concerning the executive compensation policies and objectives established by the Compensation Committee, the Compensation Committee's processes and procedures for consideration and determination of executive compensation, and the role of executive officers and the Compensation Committee's compensation consultant in determining executive compensation is included in the section entitled "Compensation Discussion and Analysis," which begins on page 23, under the subsection entitled "Role of the Compensation Committee" on page 24.

#### *Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee*

The members of the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee are Mss. McCarthy and Ueberroth (chair) and Mr. Anderson. This committee is responsible for identifying individuals qualified to become directors of our Company; recommending that the Board select the nominees identified by this committee for all directorships to be filled by the Board or by the stockholders; and developing, recommending to the Board and periodically reviewing the corporate governance principles applicable to our Company. This committee held four meetings during 2015. This committee's charter is posted in the corporate governance section of our Web site at [www.firstam.com](http://www.firstam.com). The committee has adopted procedures by which certain stockholders of the Company may recommend director nominees to the Board. In particular, the committee has established a policy whereby it will accept and consider, in its discretion, director recommendations from any stockholder holding in excess of five percent of the Company's outstanding shares of common stock. Such recommendations must include the name and credentials of the recommended nominee and should be submitted to the secretary of the Company at our address indicated on the first page of this proxy statement. The committee will evaluate director candidates recommended by stockholders for election to our Board in the same manner and using the same criteria as used for any other director candidate (as described below). If the committee determines that a stockholder-recommended candidate is suitable for membership on our Board, it will include the candidate in the pool of candidates to be considered for nomination upon the occurrence of the next vacancy on our Board or in connection with the next annual meeting of stockholders.

As stated in its charter, while the committee has no specific minimum qualifications in evaluating a director candidate, this committee takes into account all factors it considers appropriate in identifying and evaluating candidates for membership on our Board, including some or all of the following: strength of character, an inquiring and independent mind, practical wisdom, mature judgment, career specialization, relevant technical skills,

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### **III. Required Information**

reputation in the community, diversity and the extent to which the candidate would fill a present need on the Board. This committee makes recommendations to the full Board as to whether or not incumbent directors should stand for re-election. However, if our Company is legally required by contract or otherwise to provide third parties with the ability to nominate directors, the selection and nomination of such directors generally is not subject to the committee process for identifying and evaluating nominees for director. The committee conducts all necessary and appropriate inquiries into the background and qualifications of possible candidates and may engage a search firm to assist in identifying potential candidates for nomination.

The Company does not have a formal policy for the consideration of diversity in identifying nominees for director. However, the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee recognizes the benefits associated with a diverse board and, as indicated above, considers diversity as a factor when identifying and evaluating candidates for membership on our Board. The committee utilizes a broad conception of diversity, including professional and educational background, prior experience on other boards of directors (both public and private), political and social perspectives as well as race, gender and national origin. Utilizing these factors, and the factors described above, the committee makes recommendations, as it deems appropriate, regarding the composition and size of the Board. The priorities and emphasis of this committee and of the Board may change from time to time to take into account changes in business and other trends and the portfolio of skills and experience of current and prospective Board members.

Our corporate governance guidelines also contain a mandatory retirement policy, which provides that no person is eligible for election as a director if on January 1 of the year of the election he or she is age 77 or older.

### **Independence of Directors**

The Board has affirmatively determined that each member of the Audit Committee, the Compensation Committee and the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee, as well as each other member of the Board, except Dennis J. Gilmore (who is not independent), is independent as that term is defined in the corporate governance rules of the New York Stock Exchange for listed companies, and that each member of the Audit Committee and the Compensation Committee is independent under the additional standards applicable to the respective committee. In making these determinations, the Board considered the following relationships between directors and the Company: Mr. McKee and Ms. McCarthy are affiliated with, and Messrs. Anderson and Oman were previously affiliated with, entities that do business with or that represent clients that do business with the Company in the ordinary course from time to time; each of Messrs. Anderson, Doti, Kennedy and McKernan and Ms. Ueberroth is or recently was affiliated with one or more nonprofit organizations to which the Company and/or its management has made donations from time to time; and Mr. Kennedy receives standard board fees for his service as a director of the Company's trust subsidiary, as further described in the section entitled "2015 Director Compensation," which begins on page 54. Each of the relationships above, while considered by the Board, falls within the Company's categorical independence standards contained in the Board's corporate governance guidelines, which are available on the corporate governance section of the Company's Web site at [www.firstam.com](http://www.firstam.com). The Board also considered the following relationships between Mr. Kennedy and the Company: he was employed by the Company as its executive chairman until his retirement in February 2012; for serving as chairman of the Board, he receives Company provided office space and secretarial assistance as set forth in the section entitled "2015 Director Compensation," which begins on page 54; he may from time to time attend certain subsidiary board meetings as well as certain meetings with management; and his son is employed by a subsidiary of the Company as further described in the section entitled "Transactions with Management and Others," which begins on page 20.

### **Board Leadership Structure; Meetings of Independent Directors**

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Our Board believes it is important to select the Company's chairman and the Company's chief executive officer in the manner it considers in the best interests of the Company at any given point in time. Accordingly, the chairman

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### III. Required Information

and chief executive officer positions may be filled by one individual or by two different individuals. Our Board has determined at this time that it is appropriate to separate the roles of chairman and chief executive officer and these positions are currently held by different individuals, Mr. Kennedy and Mr. Gilmore, respectively.

In addition to a chairman, we also have a lead independent director, currently Mr. Doti. The lead director is responsible for chairing and coordinating the agenda for the executive sessions of independent directors or, as applicable, the non-management directors, which are those directors who are not employees of the Company. In 2015 the non-management directors met one time in executive session without management present and the independent directors met four times in executive session. In addition, the lead director is to provide advice to the chairman with respect to the following: (i) establishing an appropriate schedule for Board meetings; (ii) preparing agendas for the meetings of the Board and its committees; (iii) the retention of consultants who report directly to the Board; (iv) the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee's oversight and implementation of the Company's corporate governance policies; and (v) the Compensation Committee's oversight of the implementation of and compliance with the Company's policies and procedures for evaluating and undertaking executive and incentive-based compensation.

Our Board believes this to be the most effective leadership structure for the Company at this time because it effectively allocates authority, responsibility, and oversight between management, the chairman of the Board and the lead director and capitalizes on the experience and strengths of our current management team. It does this by giving primary responsibility for the operational leadership and strategic direction of the Company to our chief executive officer, enabling the lead director to facilitate our Board's independent oversight of management and consideration of key governance matters, and allowing our chairman to promote communication between management and our Board. The Board believes that its programs for overseeing risk, as described under the Risk Oversight section below, would be effective under a variety of leadership frameworks. Accordingly, the Board's risk oversight function did not significantly impact its selection of the current leadership structure.

#### Risk Oversight

The Board's responsibilities in overseeing the Company's management and business to maximize long-term stockholder value include oversight of the Company's key risks and management's processes and controls to manage those risks appropriately. Management, in turn, is responsible for the day-to-day management of risk and implementation of appropriate risk management controls and procedures.

Although risk oversight permeates many elements of the work of the full Board and the committees, the Audit Committee has the most direct and systematic responsibility for overseeing risk management, and has been designated by the Board as its risk oversight committee. To that end, the Audit Committee charter provides for a variety of regular and recurring responsibilities relating to risk, including:

- having responsibility for the internal audit function, with that function reporting directly to the committee;
- overseeing the independent registered public accounting firm;
- receiving reports from management and the independent auditor regarding the adequacy and effectiveness of various internal controls;



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- reviewing regularly with management legal and regulatory matters that could have a significant impact on the Company;
- supervising the oversight of the Company's investment portfolios;
- overseeing the Company's compliance program with respect to legal and regulatory requirements and risks; and
- discussing with management and the independent auditor the Company's guidelines and policies with respect to risk assessment and risk management, including the Company's major risk exposures and the steps management has taken to monitor and control such exposures.

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### **III. Required Information**

In performing these functions, the committee regularly receives reports from management, including the Company's enterprise risk management committee on which senior officers of the Company sit, and internal and external auditors regarding the Company's enterprise risk management program, compliance program, investment portfolios, information security and business continuity programs, extraordinary claims and losses and noteworthy litigation.

Separately, the Compensation Committee oversees the Company's compensation policies and practices and has assessed whether the Company's compensation policies encourage excessive risk taking. The Compensation Committee has concluded that these policies and practices do not create risks that are reasonably likely to have a material adverse effect on the Company. In arriving at that conclusion the Compensation Committee considered, among other factors, the Company's review and approval processes surrounding certain compensatory arrangements; the metrics used to determine variable compensation, including the performance measures selected by the Compensation Committee and performance ranges associated with the metrics; the Compensation Committee's oversight of inclusion or exclusion of extraordinary items in the financial results upon which certain compensatory arrangements are based; the inclusion of overall Company performance in the determination of divisional leader compensation; the portion of variable compensation paid in restricted stock units, which generally vest over four years; the extent to which qualitative judgments are involved in the compensatory arrangements; the amount of compensation paid as sales commissions, the number of people to whom such compensation is paid and the localized nature of the commission payments; controls, such as actuarial studies on claims, underwriting controls and quality checks that the Company employs; and the extent to which compensatory arrangements can be changed if circumstances evidence increased risk associated with such arrangements.

#### **Director Attendance at Annual Meetings**

Our directors are expected to attend the annual meetings of our stockholders. At last year's annual meeting, eight of the Company's directors attended in person.

#### **Stockholder and Interested Party Communications with Directors**

Stockholders and other interested parties may communicate directly with members of the Board, including the chairman, lead director or any of the other non-management directors of the Company (individually or as a group) by writing to such director(s) at the business addresses provided under each director's name in the corporate governance section of our Web site at [www.firstam.com](http://www.firstam.com). Directors receiving such communications will respond as such directors deem appropriate, including the possibility of referring the matter to management of the Company, to the full Board or to an appropriate committee of the Board.

The Audit Committee has established procedures to receive, retain and address complaints regarding accounting, internal accounting controls or auditing matters, and for the submission by our employees of concerns regarding questionable accounting or auditing matters. Our 24-hour, toll-free hotline is available for the submission of such concerns or complaints at 1-800-589-3259. To the extent required by applicable law, individuals wishing to remain anonymous or to otherwise express their concerns or complaints confidentially are permitted to do so.

#### **Transactions with Management and Others**

The Board of Directors has adopted a written policy regarding related party transactions, which generally prohibits transactions between the Company and/or its affiliates, on the one hand, and the Company's directors, officers (or officers of affiliates), stockholders holding in excess of 5% of the Company's common stock or any of their immediate family members, on the other hand, without prior approval. The approving body may be either the Board or the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee, or, if the proposed

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transaction involves \$1,000,000 or less and it is impractical to seek the approval of the Board or that committee, then the chairman of the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee may review and pre-approve the transaction (or the chairman of the Audit Committee if the chairman of the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee is a party to the transaction). The policy prohibits directors of the Company from entering into any transaction with the Company or any of its affiliates outside of the ordinary course of business, except for transactions previously approved and in effect on the date the policy took effect.

Certain transactions are excluded from the application of the policy and are, therefore, permitted without prior approval. For example, compensatory arrangements (including the arrangement noted in the next paragraph) for service as an officer or director of the Company are excluded from the policy, as are transactions between the Company and its affiliates (other than directors and officers). In cases where the potential transaction would involve the officer, director, large stockholder or any of their immediate family members only in an indirect fashion, the policy does not apply where such indirect interest results solely from ownership of less than 10% of, or being a director of, the entity entering into the transaction with the Company. In addition, arms-length ordinary course transactions involving annual payments of \$100,000 or less are permitted without prior approval.

Mr. Kennedy's son is employed by a subsidiary of the Company as a vice president, area manager. His combined annual base salary and incentive compensation bonus for 2015 was approximately \$450,000. He received standard employee benefits and participated in the standard, performance-based incentive compensation program available to similarly-situated employees of his level and experience.

**Executive Officers**

The following provides information regarding the Company's current executive officers:

<b>Name</b>	<b>Position(s) Held</b>	<b>Age</b>
Dennis J. Gilmore	Chief Executive Officer	57
Kenneth D. DeGiorgio	Executive Vice President	44
Christopher M. Leavell	Chief Operating Officer, First American Title Insurance Company	53
Mark E. Seaton	Executive Vice President, Chief Financial Officer	38
Matthew F. Wajner	Vice President, Chief Accounting Officer	40

All officers of the Company are appointed annually by the Board on the day of its election.

**Dennis J. Gilmore** has served as our chief executive officer since June 2010, when we separated from The First American Corporation. From April 2008 until the separation, he served as chief executive officer of The First American Corporation's financial services group. Previously, Mr. Gilmore served as The First American Corporation's chief operating officer from 2004 to 2008. He served as an executive vice president of The First American Corporation from 2003 to 2004 and served as president of the property information business segment from 1998 to 2005. From 1988 to 1998, he served in various managerial roles with The First American Corporation's subsidiaries.

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**Kenneth D. DeGiorgio** has served as executive vice president since June 2010, when we separated from The First American Corporation. He was senior vice president and general counsel of The First American Corporation from 2004 until the separation. From 2006 to 2012, he also served as secretary of the Company or The First American Corporation, as applicable. Mr. DeGiorgio was vice president and associate general counsel of The First American Corporation from 2001 to 2004, and served as regulatory and acquisition counsel from 1999 to 2001.

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**III. Required Information**

- **Christopher M. Leavell** has served as chief operating officer of the Company's subsidiary, First American Title Insurance Company, since December 2011. He was its executive vice president and division president with responsibility for the lender-focused title business and national production services from 2008 to 2011. Prior to that time, Mr. Leavell served as president of the default information services group from 2005 to 2008. He was president of eAppraiseIT, then a subsidiary of The First American Corporation, from 1999 to 2005. Mr. Leavell began his career with First American in 1997 as the general manager of the California Lenders Advantage division of First American Title Insurance Company. Prior to joining First American, Mr. Leavell held various managerial and finance positions at Weyerhaeuser Mortgage Company and Countrywide.
- **Mark E. Seaton** has served as executive vice president, chief financial officer since March 2013. From 2010 until 2013, he served as our senior vice president, finance, in which capacity he oversaw the Company's investment management, investor relations, treasury and financial planning activities. Mr. Seaton has been employed with First American since 2006, including service as director of investor relations of The First American Corporation from 2007 to 2010. Prior to joining The First American Corporation, Mr. Seaton worked in the private equity and investment banking industries.
- **Matthew F. Wajner** has served as vice president, chief accounting officer since March 2013. From 2010 until 2013, he served as our controller and prior to that as our director of SEC reporting. From 2009 until the separation in June 2010 he served as The First American Corporation's director of SEC reporting. From 2006 to 2009 Mr. Wajner was a divisional controller for various operations of JPMorgan Chase & Co. and entities acquired by it. Mr. Wajner was also an auditor with PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP and Arthur Andersen LLP.

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## **Compensation Discussion and Analysis**

The Compensation Committee (the Committee) believes 2015 was an exceptional year for the Company. In particular, under the leadership of its management team, the Company's revenue grew over 10% to \$5.2 billion with net income, reflecting the Company's continued vigilance on expenses, growing 23% to \$433 million. Return on equity\* was 10.0%, compared to 8.7% in 2014. Moreover, during the year the Company generated its strongest cash flow since becoming an independent public company over five years ago.

The Company also made significant strides toward achieving its long-term strategic goals. For example, it increased the market share in its direct residential title insurance business, while posting the highest pre-tax margin in its Title Insurance and Services segment since 2012. The Company also assembled the most comprehensive database of real property records in the United States and leveraged that data to increase operational efficiency, to more effectively manage risk in its title insurance business and to introduce new products to the market. The Company continued to focus on expense management, as reflected by better-than-target incremental controllable expenses as a percentage of incremental net operating revenue. At 8.8%, total stockholder return exceeded the return generated by the Company's primary industry competitor and major market indices.

The named executive officers' bonuses were paid out at 171% of target amounts, reflecting the results of the two financial metrics utilized by the Committee: return on equity and pretax margin. The annual incentive plan gives the Committee the discretion to adjust the payout (within specified parameters) to account for factors that may impact the Company's return on equity or pretax margin but were unanticipated or were investments intended to create long-term stockholder value. The Committee determined that no such adjustment was warranted.

As part of its process in determining executive compensation levels for 2015, the Committee has reviewed the results of last year's Say on Pay proposal, in which approximately 98% of the Company's shares present and entitled to vote approved 2014 executive compensation. The stockholder support for the prior Say on Pay proposal reinforces the Committee's belief that it should continue its practice of implementing and overseeing executive compensation programs that provide for a substantial portion of the executive officers' total compensation to be related to the Company's consolidated financial performance. It also reinforces the Committee's sense that, for executive officers, the mix of compensation should be weighted heavily toward at-risk pay, in particular, the annual incentive bonus, and should include a substantial portion of equity. This is consistent with the overall philosophy of maintaining a pay mix that results fundamentally in a pay-for-performance orientation and a strong alignment between the interests of executive officers and long-term stockholders.

The Committee believes that the results of the 2015 executive compensation program, as disclosed and discussed herein, reflect its pay-for-performance philosophy. The results of the 2015 executive compensation program are also believed to have met the Company's objective to develop and administer compensation programs that will continue to attract and retain executives critical to the Company's long-term strategy and success, provide compensation levels that are competitive with title industry competitors and other peer group companies, motivate executives to enhance long-term stockholder value without taking excessive risk to achieve short term gains, and encourage the identification and implementation of best business practices.

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\* For Committee purposes, return on equity is defined as the net income attributable to the Company divided by average invested stockholders' equity (total equity excluding accumulated other comprehensive income and noncontrolling interests). This is a non-GAAP financial measure. Please see Appendix A for the rationale behind the presentation of this measure and a reconciliation to the nearest GAAP financial measure.





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### **Compensation Discussion and Analysis**

#### *Named Executive Officers*

This discussion addresses the compensation programs applicable to the Company's named executive officers, who currently hold (and held as of December 31, 2015) the following positions:

Dennis J. Gilmore	Chief Executive Officer
Kenneth D. DeGiorgio	Executive Vice President
Christopher M. Leavell	Chief Operating Officer, First American Title Insurance Company
Mark E. Seaton	Executive Vice President, Chief Financial Officer
Matthew F. Wajner	Vice President, Chief Accounting Officer

#### ***I. The Company's Compensation Philosophy & Objectives***

The Company's executive officer compensation program, which is administered by the Committee, is designed to enhance stockholder value by providing that a substantial portion of the executive officer's total compensation be related to the Company's consolidated financial performance and a lesser portion to the Committee's qualitative analysis of the contribution of each individual executive officer to the Company. The Company's policy is designed to develop and administer programs that will:

- attract and retain executives critical to the Company's long-term strategy and success;
- provide compensation levels that are competitive with other companies in the title insurance and settlement services industry and the other companies in the Company's peer group, as that peer group is identified by the Committee from time to time;
- motivate executive officers to enhance long-term stockholder value; and
- encourage the identification and implementation of best business practices.

#### ***II. Role of the Compensation Committee***

##### **A. General**

The Committee is comprised of independent members of the Board of Directors. The Committee reviews and approves the base salaries of the executive officers of the Company, their annual incentive bonus programs, their long-term incentive compensation and other incentive and executive benefit plans. It also reviews and makes recommendations to the Board of Directors regarding director compensation. The Committee, in consultation with the independent compensation consultants that it retains, analyzes the reasonableness of the compensation paid to the executive officers. In discharging its functions, as described in more detail below, the Committee reviews compensation data from comparable

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companies and from relevant surveys, which it utilizes to assess the reasonableness of compensation for the Company's executive officers.

The Committee's function is more fully described in its charter which has been approved by the Company's Board of Directors. The charter is available in the corporate governance section of the Company's Web site at [www.firstam.com](http://www.firstam.com).

The Company's chief executive officer and, as appropriate, certain other executive officers may attend the portion of the Committee's meetings where individual executive officer performance is discussed. Directors other than Committee members also may attend Committee meetings, including the portion where executive officer performance is discussed. While the Committee may meet with the Company's chief executive officer to discuss his own compensation package and his recommendations with respect to the other executive officers, all ultimate decisions regarding executive compensation are made solely by the Committee, with input from its compensation consultant.

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Compensation Discussion and Analysis

**B. Interaction with Compensation Consultants**

In making its determinations with respect to executive officer compensation, the Committee engages the services of Frederic W. Cook & Co., Inc. to assist with its review of the compensation package of the chief executive officer and other executive officers. In addition, the compensation consultant has assisted the Committee with related projects, such as evaluating non-employee director pay levels, advice with respect to the design of executive compensation programs, review of annual management incentive bonus plans, preparation or review of certain of the Company's compensation-related disclosures and related tasks.

The Committee retains the compensation consultant directly, although in carrying out assignments, the compensation consultant also interacts with Company management to the extent necessary and appropriate. The compensation consultant performs no services for management, though at the direction of the Committee it does assist in the preparation or review of certain of the Company's compensation-related disclosures, including this Compensation Disclosure and Analysis, and related projects. The Committee has assessed the independence of the consultant and has concluded that no conflict of interest exists that would prevent the consultant from serving as an independent consultant to the Committee.

***III. Compensation Structure***

**A. Pay Elements Overview**

The Company utilizes four main components of compensation:

- *Base Salary*: fixed pay that takes into account an individual's role and responsibilities, experience, expertise and individual performance;
- *Annual Cash Bonus*: variable cash bonus that is designed to reward executive officers based on Company performance;
- *Annual Equity Bonus*: stock-based awards, which currently take the form of restricted stock units ( RSUs ), that are designed to reward executive officers based on Company performance; and
- *Long-Term Equity Incentives*: stock-based awards, which currently take the form of RSUs, that the Committee awards to further align management's incentives with the interests of long-term stockholders.

**B. Pay Elements**

***(1) Base Salary***

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The Committee sets base salaries for executive officers based on the individual's position within the Company and his current and sustained performance results. The Committee reviews executive officer base salaries each year and makes any adjustments it deems necessary based on, among other factors, the overall performance of the Company, new roles and/or responsibilities assumed by the executive officer, the general performance of the business units or departments over which the executive officer has responsibility, the significance of the executive officer's impact on the achievement of the Company's strategic goals, the executive officer's length of service with the Company and the executive officer's base salary relative to the base salaries of similar individuals in peer companies. The Committee gives no specific weighting to any one factor in setting the level of base salary and the process ultimately relies on the subjective exercise of the Committee's judgment. Although the Committee targets base salaries at or around market median, based on the Company's peer group and relevant compensation survey data (discussed further below), the Committee also takes into account the factors described above, as well as the executive officer's potential as a key contributor and amounts that may be required to recruit new executive officers.

Other than in the case of new hires or promotions, the Committee generally determines base salaries for executive officers around the beginning of each calendar year. As described below under VII.A. Employment Agreements, Messrs. Gilmore, DeGiorgio, Leavell and Seaton have employment agreements with the Company

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that specify their respective minimum base salaries. These minimum base salaries are indicated in the column entitled "Minimum Base Salary" in the table below. These amounts may be increased at the discretion of the Committee.

In January and February of 2015, the Committee reviewed executive officer base salaries and determined that market conditions did not warrant an adjustment to executive officer salaries at such time.

In summary, the base salaries of the named executive officers as of December 31, 2014, as of December 31, 2015, and the minimum base salary as required by their respective employment agreements are as follows:

Named Executive Officer	December 31, 2014 Base Salary	December 31, 2015 Base Salary	Minimum Base Salary
Gilmore, D.	\$ 900,000	\$ 900,000	\$ 900,000
DeGiorgio, K.	\$ 725,000	\$ 725,000	\$ 725,000
Leavell, C.	\$ 675,000	\$ 675,000	\$ 675,000
Seaton, M.	\$ 525,000	\$ 525,000	\$ 525,000
Wajner, M.	\$ 260,000	\$ 260,000	None

In January and February of 2016, the Committee reviewed executive officer base salaries and determined that Mr. Gilmore's base salary would increase to \$950,000; Mr. DeGiorgio's base salary would increase to \$750,000; Mr. Leavell's base salary would increase to \$700,000; Mr. Seaton's base salary would increase to \$575,000; and Mr. Wajner's base salary would increase to \$275,000. These decisions reflect the Committee's evaluation of the performance of the named executive officers, taking into account the input of the chief executive officer with respect to the other executive officers, and the benchmarking analysis performed for the Committee by the Committee's compensation consultant.

**(2) Annual Cash Bonus**

The Committee considers the annual cash bonus to be a critical component of the executive officer compensation program. The annual cash bonus is tied to the annual performance of the Company. In recent years the annual cash bonus, together with the Performance RSUs described below, have accounted for a substantial portion, if not the majority of the compensation paid to the named executive officers. This emphasis on annual incentive compensation, as opposed to fixed base salary and long-term equity incentive compensation, reflects the view that key components of the Company's business operations are cyclical in nature. Accordingly, the Company believes that an incentive structure tied to annual performance is a more effective means of motivating and rewarding executive officers to enhance long-term stockholder value.

As was the case in recent years, the Committee structured payouts under the 2015 cash bonus program to be based on measurable performance against specific financial targets which the Committee believes to be key drivers of stockholder value. Like 2014, financial targets collectively accounted for 100% of the cash bonus payout for 2015, with the resulting amount being subject to adjustment of up to 30 percentage points in the discretion of the Committee (the "Discretionary Adjustment"). The Discretionary Adjustment gives the Committee the ability to adjust the cash bonus payout for unanticipated factors such as regulatory changes or meaningful changes in interest rates or success on strategic initiatives designed to create long-term stockholder value such as investments in technology, risk management efforts or market share gains in key markets.

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For 2015, the Committee increased target cash bonus amounts as follows:

- *Mr. Gilmore.* Mr. Gilmore's target cash bonus increased from \$1,225,000 to \$1,323,000;
- *Mr. DeGiorgio.* Mr. DeGiorgio's target cash bonus increased from \$500,000 to \$650,000;

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### Compensation Discussion and Analysis

- *Mr. Leavell.* Mr. Leavell's target cash bonus increased from \$500,000 to \$600,000;
- *Mr. Seaton.* Mr. Seaton's target cash bonus increased from \$375,000 to \$450,000; and
- *Mr. Wajner.* Mr. Wajner's target cash bonus increased from \$97,500 to \$117,000(1).

(1) Mr. Wajner's target cash bonus and target annual equity bonus (described below) were subject to adjustment to reflect an increasing percentage of equity in the event that his aggregate salary, cash bonus and equity bonus exceeded certain levels. His original target cash bonus of \$117,000 was ultimately adjusted to \$109,200.

The increase in the target cash bonus amounts reflected the Committee's evaluation of peer group compensation data and other relevant market data.

The 2015 annual cash bonus payable to each executive officer was determined by adjusting the applicable portion of the target cash bonus amount (listed in the table below under the column entitled "Percentage of Target") based on objective financial criteria in two areas (each listed in the table below under the column entitled "Metric"), with the result being subject to any Discretionary Adjustment as described above. Each financial metric had associated with it a threshold 50% payout level, a 100% payout level and a 175% payout level (listed in the table below under the columns entitled "Threshold", "Target" and "Maximum", respectively). With respect to both financial metrics (and subject to the Discretionary Adjustment), results below the threshold 50% payout level would not result in any payment and results above the maximum would not result in any additional payment. The percentage payout for results between the threshold and maximum were to be determined on a linear sliding scale basis between the two metric points on either side of the actual result (i.e., between the threshold and the target, or the target and the maximum, as applicable).

As in 2014, for 2015 the two financial metrics utilized by the Committee were:

- *Pretax Margin:* the pretax income of the Company divided by the gross revenue of the Company, excluding, in the discretion of the Committee, the effects of net realized investment gains/losses and non-operating items, such as asset impairments and legal settlements; and
- *Return on Equity:* net income attributable to the Company divided by average invested stockholders' equity (total equity excluding accumulated other comprehensive income and noncontrolling interests), subject to the same potential adjustments as apply to the pretax margin metric.

The Committee set the target financial metric payout levels at the pretax margin and return on equity set forth in the Company's financial plan, which was unanimously approved by the Company's Board of Directors. The Committee believes these metrics, and the related performance levels, are indicators as to whether the Company, given the environment in which it is operating, has generated value for stockholders. The Committee also believes these metrics are utilized by stockholders, potential stockholders and their advisors in determining the value of the Company.

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The performance levels and actual performance for 2015 with respect to the financial metrics are as follows:

Metric	Percentage of Target	Threshold	Target	Maximum	Actual 2015 Results(1)	Metric Payout Percentage
Pretax Margin	50%	4.6%	6.6%	8.6%	8.4%	167%
Return on Equity(2)	50%	5.0%	7.1%	9.2%	9.8%	175%
Total	100%					171%

- (1) For purposes of determining performance level achievement, the Compensation Committee uses preliminary results and only adjusts the annual cash bonus amount if final results would result in a greater than 5% change in the bonus amount. As a result, the number in the Actual 2015 Results column may differ from the results reported in the Company's financial statements.



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- (2) For Committee purposes, return on equity is defined as the net income attributable to the Company divided by average invested stockholders' equity (total equity excluding accumulated other comprehensive income and noncontrolling interests). This is a non-GAAP financial measure. Please see Appendix A for the rationale behind the presentation of this measure and a reconciliation to the nearest GAAP financial measure.

In determining the actual results for the financial metrics, the Committee made no adjustments to the results. In considering whether a Discretionary Adjustment should be made to the cash bonus, the Committee took into account notable achievements, as well as challenges, towards enhancing value for long-term stockholders, including increases in the Company's direct title business market share and decreases in its agency market share; expense management, as reflected by lower-than-target incremental controllable expenses as a percentage of incremental net operating revenue; strong title pretax margin results; the assembly of the largest real property database in the United States; new product development in the data business; and the effectiveness of the Company's efforts in risk management.

Each named executive officer's cash bonus for 2015 was determined by adjusting the target cash bonus amount based on the level of achievement of the financial metrics. The following table summarizes the computation of the 2015 annual cash bonuses for each named executive officer. It also provides the cash bonus amount for 2014 for comparison purposes. The amounts in the table below are reflected in the 2015 Summary Compensation Table under the column entitled "Non-Equity Incentive Plan Compensation."

Named Executive Officer	2015 Target Annual Cash Bonus	2015 Metric Result	2015 Actual Cash Bonus Amount	2014 Actual Cash Bonus Amount
Gilmore, D.	\$ 1,323,000	171%	\$ 2,262,330	\$ 1,156,400
DeGiorgio, K.	\$ 650,000	171%	\$ 1,111,500	\$ 472,000
Leavell, C.	\$ 600,000	171%	\$ 1,026,000	\$ 472,000
Seaton, M.	\$ 450,000	171%	\$ 769,500	\$ 354,000
Wajner, M.	\$ 109,200(1)	171%	\$ 186,732	\$ 92,040

- (1) Mr. Wajner's target cash bonus was subject to adjustment in the event that his aggregate salary, cash bonus and equity bonus exceeded certain levels. His original target cash bonus of \$117,000 was ultimately adjusted to \$109,200.

For 2015 cash bonuses the Committee continued its practice of utilizing a performance unit arrangement for named executive officers intended to enable the Company to deduct for tax purposes under Section 162(m) of the Internal Revenue Code the entire amount of the cash bonus awarded for 2015 performance. The arrangement involves the granting of performance units under the Company's incentive compensation plan in an amount approximating the maximum amount of the cash bonus, followed by a reduction of the amount of performance units to eliminate the excess units when the actual cash bonus has been determined. The remaining units are then converted into dollars and paid in cash in the bonus amount determined by the Committee. These performance units would not be payable unless the 2015 net income of the Company was at least \$25 million. Net income excludes (a) asset write-downs, (b) litigation or claim judgments or settlements, (c) the effect of changes in tax laws, accounting principles, or other laws or provisions affecting reported results, (d) any reorganization and restructuring programs, (e) extraordinary, unusual and/or nonrecurring items of gain or loss and (f) foreign exchange gains and losses ("Extraordinary Items"). The Committee determined that this target was met for 2015, with the result that the named executive officers ultimately received performance units for 2015, which the Committee subsequently converted into cash in the amount shown in the preceding table in the column labeled "2015 Actual Cash Bonus Amount."

In February 2016 the Committee determined target cash bonus amounts for 2016. The Committee determined that Mr. Gilmore's target cash bonus amount would increase from \$1,323,000 to \$1,395,000; Mr. DeGiorgio's target cash bonus amount would increase from \$650,000 to \$700,000; Mr. Leavell's target cash bonus amount



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### **Compensation Discussion and Analysis**

would increase from \$600,000 to \$650,000; Mr. Seaton's target cash bonus amount would increase from \$450,000 to \$500,000; and Mr. Wajner's target cash bonus amount would increase from \$117,000 to \$124,000. These increases took into account the Committee's assessment of executive performance, the peer group benchmarking data, and other relevant market data.

Subject to the Committee's ability to award a different amount, for 2016 the cash bonuses of the executive officers will again be determined based on the Company's return on equity (weighted 50%) and pretax margin (weighted 50%). As was the case in 2015, actual performance could result in payouts ranging from 50% to 175% of target, or 0% if performance is below threshold levels.

For 2016, as was the case with respect to 2015, non-metric factors can result in a Discretionary Adjustment that can modify the cash bonus payout by up to +/- 30 percentage points.

The target cash bonus amount will be adjusted in the same manner as in 2015, in that results below the threshold 50% payout level do not result in any payment and results above the maximum do not result in any additional payment. The percentage payout for results between the threshold and maximum are determined on a linear sliding scale basis between the two metric points on either side of the actual result (i.e., between the threshold and the target, or the target and the maximum, as applicable).

The Committee believes that retaining the two primary financial metrics utilized in the past, coupled with evaluation of a potential Discretionary Adjustment based on internal or external factors as described above, advances the objective of the Company's annual cash bonus program and properly balances the importance of (i) compensating based on objective short-term financial results that are important to investors, and (ii) retaining the ability to take into account the Committee's subjective determination with respect to long-term value creation and overall performance.

For 2016, the Committee again established a performance unit arrangement for the named executive officers. The Committee granted to the named executive officers performance units with a maximum cash value approximately equal to the maximum potential amount of the 2016 annual cash bonus using the metrics described above (including the potential Discretionary Adjustment of up to 30 percentage points). This resulted in performance unit awards of \$2,900,000, \$1,435,000, \$1,332,500, \$1,025,000 and \$254,200, respectively, to Messrs. Gilmore, DeGiorgio, Leavell, Seaton and Wajner. These performance units, which were issued under the Company's 2010 Incentive Compensation Plan, provide that they will not be payable unless the net income of the Company for 2016 is at least \$25 million, excluding Extraordinary Items. As in 2015, the award agreements give the Committee complete discretion to reduce the actual amount of bonus payable to any lesser amount. It is expected that such a reduction will be made when the Committee determines the actual 2016 cash bonuses and that the performance units will be utilized to pay such amounts.

### ***(3) Annual Equity Bonus***

As with the annual cash bonus, the Committee considers the annual equity bonus, which is paid in the form of RSUs tied to the annual performance of the Company (Performance RSUs), to be a critical component of the executive officer compensation program. The annual equity bonuses, together with the annual cash bonuses, have accounted for a substantial portion, if not the majority of the compensation paid to the named executive officers. Similar to the annual cash bonus, the Company's practice of granting Performance RSUs reflects the view that key components of the Company's business operations are cyclical in nature. However, because these Performance RSUs vest over a four-year

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period, this practice also discourages executive officers from taking excessive risks for short-term gains. Taken together, the Company believes that this incentive structure tied to annual performance is an effective means of motivating and rewarding executive officers to enhance long-term stockholder value.

As in prior years, the Committee structured payouts of 2015 Performance RSUs to be based on measurable performance against specific financial targets which the Committee believes to be key drivers of stockholder

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### Compensation Discussion and Analysis

value. Performance RSUs granted for 2015 performance were based on the same financial targets as the 2015 annual cash bonus and subject to a Discretionary Adjustment.

For 2015, the Committee increased the target Performance RSU amounts as follows:

- *Mr. Gilmore.* Mr. Gilmore's target Performance RSU amount increased from \$1,225,000 to \$1,617,000;
- *Mr. DeGiorgio.* Mr. DeGiorgio's target Performance RSU amount increased from \$500,000 to \$650,000;
- *Mr. Leavell.* Mr. Leavell's target Performance RSU amount increased from \$500,000 to \$600,000;
- *Mr. Seaton.* Mr. Seaton's target Performance RSU amount increased from \$375,000 to \$450,000; and
- *Mr. Wajner.* Mr. Wajner's target Performance RSU amount increased from \$32,500 to \$39,000(1).

- (1) Mr. Wajner's target cash bonus and target Performance RSU amount were subject to adjustment to reflect an increasing percentage of equity in the event that his aggregate salary, cash bonus and equity bonus exceeded certain levels. His original target Performance RSU amount of \$39,000 was ultimately adjusted to \$46,800.

The increase in the target Performance RSU amounts reflected the Committee's evaluation of peer group compensation data and other relevant market data.

Like the 2015 annual cash bonuses, the amount of 2015 Performance RSUs awarded to each executive officer was determined by adjusting the applicable portion of the target Performance RSU amount (listed in the table below under the column entitled "Percentage of Target") based on objective financial criteria in two areas (each listed in the table below under the column entitled "Metric"), with the result being subject to a Discretionary Adjustment. Each financial metric had associated with it a threshold 50% payout level, a 100% payout level and a 175% payout level (listed in the table below under the columns entitled "Threshold", "Target" and "Maximum", respectively). With respect to both financial metrics (and subject to the Discretionary Adjustment), results below the threshold 50% payout level would not result in any payment and results above the maximum would not result in any additional payment. The percentage payout for results between the threshold and maximum were to be determined on a linear sliding scale basis between the two metric points on either side of the actual result (i.e., between the threshold and the target, or the target and the maximum, as applicable).

For 2015 Performance RSUs the Committee utilized the same two financial metrics utilized for the 2015 cash bonus program (i.e., pretax margin and return on equity) and the same threshold payout levels of 50%, 100% and 175% (listed in the table below under the columns entitled "Threshold", "Target" and "Maximum", respectively), with target financial metric payout levels set at the pretax margin and return on equity set forth in the Company's budget.

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The performance levels and actual performance for 2015 with respect to the financial metrics are as follows:

Metric	Percentage of Target	Threshold	Target	Maximum	Actual 2015 Results(1)	Metric Payout Percentage
Pretax Margin	50%	4.6%	6.6%	8.6%	8.4%	167%
Return on Equity(2)	50%	5.0%	7.1%	9.2%	9.8%	175%
Total	100%					171%

- (1) For purposes of determining performance level achievement, the Compensation Committee uses preliminary results and only adjusts the Performance RSU amount if final results would result in a greater than 5% change in the amount. As a result, the number in the Actual 2015 Results column may differ from the results reported in the Company's financial statements.
- (2) For Committee purposes, return on equity is defined as the net income attributable to the Company divided by average invested stockholders' equity (total equity excluding accumulated other comprehensive income and noncontrolling interests). This is a non-GAAP financial measure. Please see Appendix A for the rationale behind the presentation of this measure and a reconciliation to the nearest GAAP financial measure.

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The amount of 2015 Performance RSUs awarded to each executive officer was determined by adjusting the target Performance RSU amount based on the level of achievement of the financial metrics, or 171% of target. As with the annual cash bonus, the Committee determined that no Discretionary Adjustment was warranted. The following table summarizes the computation of the 2015 Performance RSU amount for each named executive officer. It also provides the Performance RSU amount for 2014 (then referred to as Bonus RSUs) for comparison purposes.

Named Executive Officer	2015 Target Performance	2015 Metric Result	2015 Actual Performance RSU	2014 Performance RSU
	RSU Amount		Amount	Amount
Gilmore, D.	\$ 1,617,000	171%	\$ 2,765,070	\$ 1,156,400
DeGiorgio, K.	\$ 650,000	171%	\$ 1,111,500	\$ 472,000
Leavell, C.	\$ 600,000	171%	\$ 1,026,000	\$ 472,000
Seaton, M.	\$ 450,000	171%	\$ 769,500	\$ 354,000
Wajner, M.	\$ 46,800(1)	171%	\$ 80,028	\$ 30,680

(1) Mr. Wajner's target Performance RSU amount was subject to adjustment in the event that his aggregate salary, cash bonus and equity bonus exceeded certain levels. His original target equity bonus of \$39,000 was ultimately adjusted to \$46,800.

RSUs are denominated in units of the Company's common stock. In accordance with Company policy, the number of units granted to a named executive officer in 2016 for 2015 performance was determined by dividing the dollar amount of the Performance RSUs that the Committee determined to be granted by the closing price of the Company's stock on February 23, 2016, the second day on which the New York Stock Exchange was open for trading following the filing of the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K. These shares are not actually issued to the recipient on the grant date. Instead, when an RSU vests, the recipient is entitled to receive the shares. Dividends paid on the Company's common stock are treated as if they were paid at the same time with respect to the RSUs and immediately reinvested in additional RSUs having the same vesting requirements as the RSUs initially granted.

The Performance RSUs awarded to named executive officers vest at a rate of 25% on each anniversary of the date of grant. Vesting accelerates in certain circumstances, including upon the death or disability of the recipient and upon the one-year anniversary of the early retirement or normal retirement of the recipient or the date on which the recipient is terminated without cause. Early retirement means the termination of the recipient's employment, other than for cause, after having reached age 55 and 10 years of service. Normal retirement means the termination of the recipient's employment, other than for cause, after having reached age 62, irrespective of the number of years of service. It is a condition of early vesting in the event of disability, termination without cause or retirement that the recipient sign a separation agreement in a form satisfactory to the Company. A holder of RSUs has none of the rights of a stockholder unless and until shares are actually delivered to the holder.

The Performance RSUs issued in 2015 and 2016 to the Company's named executive officers, based on the level of achievement in 2014 and 2015, respectively, provided that, except in the case of death, disability or certain change-in-control scenarios, none of the Performance RSUs would vest unless certain performance criteria were met. In particular, as with the annual cash bonuses, Performance RSUs would not vest unless the net income of the Company in the year of grant was at least \$25 million, excluding Extraordinary Items. This condition on vesting is intended to qualify the Performance RSUs as performance-based compensation under Section 162(m) of the Internal Revenue Code, although there can be no guarantee that the Performance RSUs will so qualify.

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It should be noted that as required by applicable rules, the 2015 Summary Compensation, 2015 Grants of Plan-Based Awards and Outstanding Equity Awards at 2015 Fiscal Year End tables in this proxy statement reflect Performance RSUs issued to the named executive officers in 2015 for performance in 2014. Similarly, the



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### **Compensation Discussion and Analysis**

Performance RSUs issued in 2016 for performance in 2015 are not reflected in those tables contained in this proxy statement. Applicable rules require that these tables only reflect equity awards issued to the named executive officers in 2015.

In February 2016 the Committee determined target Performance RSU amounts for 2016. The Committee determined that Mr. Gilmore's target Performance RSU amount would increase from \$1,617,000 to \$1,705,000; Mr. DeGiorgio's target Performance RSU amount would increase from \$650,000 to \$700,000; Mr. Leavell's target Performance RSU amount would increase from \$600,000 to \$650,000; Mr. Seaton's target Performance RSU amount would increase from \$450,000 to \$500,000; and Mr. Wajner's target Performance RSU amount would increase from \$39,000 to \$41,000. These increases reflected the Committee's assessment of peer group compensation data and other relevant market data.

Subject to the Committee's ability to award a different amount, for 2016 the Performance RSU amounts for the executive officers are again expected to be determined based on the Company's return on equity (weighted 50%) and pretax margin (weighted 50%). As was the case for 2015, actual performance could result in payouts ranging from 50% to 175% of target, or 0% if performance is below threshold levels. For 2016, as was the case with respect to 2015, non-metric factors can result in a Discretionary Adjustment that can modify the amount by up to +/- 30 percentage points.

The target Performance RSU amount will be adjusted in the same manner as in 2015, in that results below the threshold 50% payout level do not result in any payment and results above the maximum do not result in any additional payment. The percentage payout for results between the threshold and maximum are determined on a linear sliding scale basis between the two metric points on either side of the actual result (i.e., between the threshold and the target, or the target and the maximum, as applicable).

#### ***(4) Long-Term Equity Incentive***

The Committee has continued its practice of providing long-term incentives to its executive officers through the issuance of RSUs. For 2016, the Committee again evaluated alternative forms of long-term incentive compensation. The Committee continues to believe that RSUs effectively align the interests of executive officers with those of its long-term stockholders. The Committee believes that long-term incentive awards in the form of RSUs, particularly when coupled with the Performance RSUs, incentivizes executive officers to have a long-term perspective on the Company's performance and, at the same time, discourages them from taking excessive risk to achieve short term gains. RSUs issued as part of the Company's long-term incentive program will sometimes be referred to as Long-Term Incentive RSUs, to distinguish them from the previously described Performance RSUs awarded to the named executive officers primarily on the basis of the annual performance of the Company.

In determining the amount of Long-Term Incentive RSUs to grant to executive officers, the Committee reviews the performance of the executive officers following the completion of the year and the results of the other pay elements, together with market compensation data, among other factors, and awards the amount of Long-Term Incentive RSUs that it deems appropriate.

In connection with 2015 performance, the Committee awarded \$2,000,000, \$960,000, \$900,000, \$610,000, and \$120,000 of Long-Term Incentive RSUs to Messrs. Gilmore, DeGiorgio, Leavell, Seaton and Wajner, respectively. The Committee's determination of the amount to be awarded to Mr. Gilmore reflected its conclusion that he, as chief executive officer, is ultimately responsible for the steps that have been taken to enhance the Company's operational efficiency and advance its strategic goals, including increasing its market share in the direct residential title

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insurance business, assembling the most comprehensive database of real property records in the United States, and maintaining an effective risk management structure, among others. All of these steps, it believes, continue to significantly enhance the current earnings and the earnings potential of the Company, as well as the Company's total stockholder return. With respect to the other named executive officers, the

**Table of Contents****Compensation Discussion and Analysis**

Committee's determination took into account the recommendations of Mr. Gilmore, market data and a review of the accomplishments in various aspects of the Company's business that occurred during the year.

The terms and conditions of Long-Term Incentive RSUs are identical to the Performance RSUs issued to the named executive officers except that vesting does not accelerate upon early retirement or termination without cause.

The approximate dollar values of the Long-Term Incentive RSUs issued to each of the named executive officer recipients of such awards for 2015 performance are provided in the following table, together with the comparable amount for 2014 performance:

Named Executive Officer	Long-Term Incentive RSUs Granted in 2016 in connection with 2015 Performance(1)	Long-Term Incentive RSUs Granted in 2015 in connection with 2014 Performance(1)
Gilmore, D.	\$ 2,000,000	\$ 1,400,000
DeGiorgio, K.	\$ 960,000	\$ 810,000
Leavell, C.	\$ 900,000	\$ 750,000
Seaton, M.	\$ 610,000	\$ 460,000
Wajner, M.	\$ 120,000	\$ 100,000

(1) The actual dollar value of the RSUs may differ slightly from these dollar amounts in the table due to rounding. The Long-Term Incentive RSUs granted in 2016 for 2015 performance were issued on February 23, 2016, and the Long-Term Incentive RSUs issued in 2015 in connection with 2014 performance were issued on February 25, 2015, in both cases pursuant to the Company's policy of issuing RSUs to executive officers on the second day on which the New York Stock Exchange is open for trading following the filing of the Annual Report on Form 10-K.

As indicated above with respect to Performance RSUs, it should be noted that, as required by applicable rules, Long-Term Incentive RSUs granted in 2016 in connection with 2015 performance are not reflected in the 2015 Summary Compensation table, the 2015 Grants of Plan-Based Awards table or the Outstanding Equity Awards at 2015 Fiscal Year End table contained herein. Those tables reflect Long-Term Incentive RSUs granted in 2015 in connection with 2014 performance.

*Summary of Base Salary, Cash Bonus, and Equity Incentive Compensation Paid for 2015.* The following table summarizes for each named executive officer the amount paid for 2015 in the form of total base salary, cash bonus (paid in 2016 for 2015 performance), Performance RSUs (granted in 2016 for 2015 performance) and Long-Term Incentive RSUs (granted in 2016 in connection with 2015 performance). This table is not a substitute for the compensation tables required by the Securities and Exchange Commission and included under the heading "Executive Compensation Tables" herein, but it provides a more accurate picture of how the Committee viewed its compensation actions for the named executive officers based on performance for 2015:

Named Executive Officer	Base Salary Paid in 2015	2015 Actual Cash Bonus (Paid in 2016)	Performance RSUs Issued in 2016 in connection	Long-Term Incentive RSUs Issued in 2016 in connection	Total for 2015	Total for 2014
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	with 2015 Performance			with 2015 Performance		
Gilmore, D.	\$ 900,000	\$ 2,262,330	\$ 2,765,070	\$ 2,000,000	\$ 7,927,400	\$ 4,612,800
DeGiorgio, K.	\$ 725,000	\$ 1,111,500	\$ 1,111,500	\$ 960,000	\$ 3,908,000	\$ 2,479,000
Leavell, C.	\$ 675,000	\$ 1,026,000	\$ 1,026,000	\$ 900,000	\$ 3,627,000	\$ 2,369,000
Seaton, M.	\$ 525,000	\$ 769,500	\$ 769,500	\$ 610,000	\$ 2,674,000	\$ 1,693,000
Wajner, M.	\$ 260,000	\$ 186,732	\$ 80,028	\$ 120,000	\$ 646,760	\$ 482,720

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### **Compensation Discussion and Analysis**

#### ***(5) Other Executive Officer Benefits***

Executive officers are entitled to employee benefits generally available to all full-time employees of the Company (subject to fulfilling any minimum service requirement), including elements such as the health and welfare benefits. The executive officers also receive an incremental disability insurance benefit that is not available to all employees. In designing these elements the Company seeks to provide an overall level of benefits that is competitive with the level of benefits offered by similar companies in the markets in which it operates.

Named executive officers may participate in several benefit plans that provide benefits upon retirement. Such retirement benefits include: the First American Financial Corporation 401(k) Savings Plan, the First American Financial Corporation Pension Plan, the Executive Supplemental Benefit Plan (the "SERP") and the First American Financial Corporation Deferred Compensation Plan. The first two plans are generally available to employees (except that the Pension Plan is limited to individuals who became participants before 2002), while the remaining two plans are limited to a select group of management. The First American Financial Corporation 401(k) Savings Plan is a tax-qualified profit-sharing plan, which authorizes company matching contributions based on the amount of employee pretax contributions and a schedule that ties the amount of matching contributions to the Company's profitability. For 2015, for each \$1.00 employees contributed to the plan up to 3% of the employee's eligible compensation, the Company provided a match of \$1.50. Further explanation of the other three plans can be found in connection with the 2015 Pension Benefits and 2015 Nonqualified Deferred Compensation tables in the "Executive Compensation Tables" section. The Company believes that these plans provide a valuable recruiting and retention mechanism for its executive officers and enable it to compete more successfully for qualified executive talent.

#### ***(6) Staking Grants***

On June 1, 2010, the Committee awarded to certain key executives of the Company, including Messrs. Gilmore, DeGiorgio and Leavell, a performance-based RSU award referred to as a "Staking Grant" designed to incentivize these executives to maximize the value of the Company for its stockholders following the Company's separation from its former parent. The Committee intended these awards to only deliver value to the recipients when substantial value is delivered to the Company's stockholders.

Based on the closing price of the Company's stock on the date of grant, the Staking Grant made to Messrs. Gilmore, DeGiorgio and Leavell had a potential maximum payout value of \$3.0 million, \$1.4 million and \$1.0 million, respectively. The award agreements provided that, in general, up to one third of the RSUs subject to the Staking Grant would vest on June 1 of 2013, 2014 and 2015 if and only if the recipient remained employed by the Company and the Company, as of such potential vesting date, had met the compounded annual total stockholder return criteria, as follows:

- If the Company's compounded annual total stockholder return from the separation date equaled at least 10 percent, then 50 percent of the RSUs eligible for vesting as of the applicable date would vest;
- If the Company's compounded annual total stockholder return from the separation date equaled at least 12 percent, then 100 percent of the RSUs eligible for vesting as of the applicable date would vest; and

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- To the extent the compounded annual total stockholder return were to be between 10 percent and 12 percent, then between 50 percent and 100 percent of the RSUs eligible for vesting would vest on a proportionate basis.

The Company achieved in full the compounded annual total stockholder return requirements associated with these awards in October of 2012, thus providing for 100 percent vesting of the awards on each applicable vesting date, subject to the continued employment requirement, which was also satisfied on each applicable vesting date. As such, the staking grants are now fully vested.

The form agreement evidencing the Staking Grant award is attached as an exhibit to the Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q filed by the Company on August 9, 2010.

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Compensation Discussion and Analysis

**C. Pay Mix**

The Committee utilizes the particular elements of compensation described above because it believes that they represent a well-proportioned mix of stock-based compensation, retention value and at-risk compensation which produces short-term and long-term performance incentives and rewards. By following this portfolio approach, the Committee endeavors to provide each named executive officer with a measure of security with respect to the minimum level of compensation he is entitled to receive, while motivating each named executive officer to focus on the business metrics that will produce a high level of performance for the Company with corresponding increases in stockholder value and long-term wealth creation for the named executive officer, as well as reducing the risk of loss of top executive talent to competitors.

For named executive officers, the mix of compensation is weighted heavily toward at-risk pay and, in particular, the annual incentive bonus. This pay mix is consistent with the overall philosophy of maintaining a pay mix that results fundamentally in a pay-for-performance orientation for the Company's executive officers.

**D. Pay Levels and Benchmarking**

Overall compensation levels for named executive officers are determined based on a number of factors, including each individual's roles and responsibilities within the Company, each individual's experience and expertise, the compensation levels for peers within the Company, compensation levels in the marketplace for similar positions and performance of the individual and the Company as a whole. In determining these compensation levels, the Committee considers all forms of compensation and benefits.

In order to determine competitive compensation practices, the Committee primarily relies upon data compiled from public filings of selected companies (comparator companies) that it considers appropriate comparators for the purpose of developing executive compensation benchmarks. The comparator companies for 2015 (meaning the companies used in connection with determinations of 2015 salaries, target cash bonuses for 2015, target Performance RSUs for the annual equity bonus and Long-Term Incentive RSUs issued as long-term equity incentive in connection with 2015 performance) are identified below. In addition, the Committee periodically considers nationally recognized survey data published by various consulting firms. Proxy data was used exclusively to develop benchmarks for the executive officers except for Mr. Wajner, for who nationally recognized survey data was used.

To assist it in determining the amount and mix of 2015 compensation commensurate with each named executive officer's role, the Committee examined a group of companies with characteristics similar to the Company, including, in some cases, the business lines in which they operate as well as financial measures and other metrics such as market capitalization, revenues and employee counts.

The comparator companies for 2015 were:

- American Financial Group, Inc.
- Cincinnati Financial Corporation
- Assurant, Inc.
- Fidelity National Financial, Inc.

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- The Hanover Insurance Group, Inc.
- Kemper Corporation (f/k/a Unitrin, Inc.)
- Mercury General Corporation
- Old Republic International Corporation
- W.R. Berkeley Corporation
- White Mountains Insurance Group, Ltd.

These companies are the same as those utilized by the Committee with respect to 2014 executive compensation decisions and the same group of companies was used for the purposes of 2016 executive compensation decisions. The peer companies represent the Committee's continuing efforts to identify a significant number of comparable companies notwithstanding the fact that there is only one other company in the Company's primary industry with financial and operational characteristics similar to the Company's.



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### **Compensation Discussion and Analysis**

After consideration of the data collected on competitive compensation levels and relative compensation within the executive officer group, the Committee determines each individual executive officer's target total compensation or total compensation opportunities based on Company and individual performance and the need to attract, incentivize and retain an experienced and effective management team. The Committee examines the relationship of each executive officer's base salary, target annual incentive bonus opportunity and potential long-term incentive awards (if such an amount has been determined) to market data at the 25<sup>th</sup>, 50<sup>th</sup>, and 75<sup>th</sup> percentiles. The Committee does not believe, however, that compensation or compensation opportunities should be structured toward a uniform relationship to any specific percentile of the market data, especially in light of the different financial characteristics of the Company's business units (such as the relationship of revenues to net income). Accordingly, total compensation for specific individuals will vary based on a number of factors in addition to Company and individual performance, including scope of duties, tenure, institutional knowledge and/or difficulty in recruiting a replacement executive officer.

#### **E. Conclusion**

The final level and mix of compensation determined by the Committee is considered within the context of both the objective data from a competitive assessment of compensation and performance, as well as discussion of the subjective factors as outlined above. The Committee believes that each of the compensation packages for the named executive officers is within the competitive range of practices when compared to the objective comparative data even where qualitative factors have influenced the compensation decisions.

#### ***IV. Timing of Equity Grants***

The Company's general policy with respect to equity awards to executive officers is, after Committee approval, to issue the awards on the second day on which the New York Stock Exchange is open for trading following the filing of the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K. In the case of RSUs denominated in dollars and stock options, pricing (that is, the number of shares or units issued for each dollar denominated RSU award or the strike price with respect to stock options) is determined as of that date. The price of Company common stock used for these purposes is the last sale price reported for a share of the Company's common stock on the New York Stock Exchange on that date. Because the performance criteria utilized in the Staking Grant was designed to measure total stockholder return from the June 1, 2010 separation of the Company from its prior parent company, the Committee issued the Staking Grant awards on June 1, 2010 and the number of RSUs was determined by dividing the dollar value of the award by the final when issued price of the Company's stock on June 1, 2010.

#### ***V. Adjustment or Recovery of Awards***

The Company has adopted a clawback policy applicable to all executive officers. The policy generally provides for the return by the responsible executive officer(s) of compensation, including equity awards, received during the three full fiscal years prior to the announcement of a restatement of financial information to the extent such compensation would not have been received under the restated results. In addition, under Section 304 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002, if the Company is required to restate its financial statements due to material noncompliance with any financial reporting requirements as a result of misconduct, the chief executive officer and chief financial officer may be required to reimburse the Company for any bonus or other incentive-based or equity-based compensation received during the 12 months following the first public issuance of the non-complying document and any profits realized from the sale of securities of the Company during that twelve-month period.

#### ***VI. Consideration of Prior Amounts Realized***

The Company's philosophy is to incentivize and reward executive officers for future performance. Accordingly, prior stock compensation gains (option gains or restricted stock awarded in prior years) generally are not considered in setting future compensation levels.

**Table of Contents****Compensation Discussion and Analysis*****VII. Employment Agreements and Post-Termination Payments*****A. Employment Agreements**

Messrs. Gilmore, DeGiorgio, Leavell and Seaton are parties to employment agreements with the Company. Messrs. Gilmore and DeGiorgio originally entered into their employment agreements in 2008 and Messrs. Leavell and Seaton originally entered into their employment agreements in 2014. Each of the agreements were most recently renewed in 2015 and the term of each of the agreements now expires on December 31, 2018. The decision to renew the agreements reflected the Committee's favorable evaluation of the performance of these executives, its view that the contracts provide an important retention incentive and the potential benefit to the Company from the non-competition, non-solicitation and other covenants in the contracts. The agreements specify minimum base salaries equal to the base salaries paid to such individuals at the time of execution thereof, namely \$900,000, \$725,000, \$675,000 and \$525,000 for Messrs. Gilmore, DeGiorgio, Leavell and Seaton, respectively. Determinations regarding bonus amounts, long term incentive awards and any increases in base salary remain at the discretion of the Committee.

The agreements provide that if the Company terminates the executive's employment without cause, the executive is entitled to an amount representing twice the sum of the executive's base salary and the second largest of the prior three years' bonuses. Half of this sum would be paid over the first year following termination in twelve equal monthly installments, and the other half would be paid at the end of this one-year period. The executive's receipt of these amounts would be contingent on the Company's receipt of a release from the executive as well as the executive's compliance with certain non-solicitation and confidentiality provisions contained within the agreement. In addition, if the executive's employment is terminated without cause and the executive would otherwise, during the term of the agreement, have reached his early retirement date under the SERP, then the executive's benefit will be deemed vested on his early retirement date notwithstanding the termination. No additional benefits are payable in the event that the executive voluntarily terminates or termination is on account of death or disability or is for cause.

Under the agreements, cause is defined to include (1) the executive officer's physical or mental inability to perform the essential functions of his job, (2) willful breach of any fiduciary duties owed to the Company, (3) willful failure to comply with applicable rules and regulations, (4) gross incompetence in the performance of job duties, (5) commission of crimes involving moral turpitude, fraud, or misrepresentation, (6) the failure to perform duties consistent with a commercially reasonable standard of care, (7) refusal to perform job duties or reasonable directives from his superior or the Board of Directors and (8) any gross negligence or willful misconduct resulting in loss or damage to the reputation of the Company.

The agreements are attached as an exhibit to the Form 10-K filed by the Company on February 19, 2016.

**B. Change-in-Control Arrangements**

The Company's 2010 Incentive Compensation Plan (except as otherwise provided in an award agreement) generally provides for the accelerated vesting of awards in the event of a change-in-control of the Company. Award agreements evidencing outstanding RSUs provide that vesting will not accelerate as a result of a change-in-control that has been approved by the Company's incumbent Board of Directors. There are no longer any awards outstanding that accelerate upon a change-in-control that is approved by the incumbent Board of Directors.

Prior to January 1, 2011, the SERP generally provided for the accelerated vesting of benefits in the event of a change-in-control of the Company that was not approved by the Company's incumbent directors and, upon the subsequent termination of the participant's employment for any reason, the commencement of benefits as though the participant had attained normal retirement age. The Company amended the SERP, effective as of January 1, 2011, to, among other changes, require as a condition to the commencement of benefits the involuntary

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### Compensation Discussion and Analysis

termination of the participant within 36 months of the change-in-control. In that event the amendments also provided for an actuarial reduction in the benefit payable to participants who had not yet reached age 55. Participants age 55 and older would receive the benefit they would otherwise have been entitled to at termination absent a change in control.

The document evidencing the SERP is attached as an exhibit to the Form 10-K filed by the Company on March 1, 2011 and Amendment No. 1 thereto is attached as an exhibit to the Form 10-K filed on February 23, 2015.

*Change-in-Control Agreements.* As part of the Company's efforts to retain key employees, it has entered into agreements with each of the named executive officers to provide for certain benefits in the event the executive officer is terminated following a change-in-control. In October 2010 the Company amended these agreements to eliminate the excise tax gross-up for benefits payable under the agreements, to eliminate the obligation of the Company to pay benefits if the executive voluntarily terminates employment within 30 days of the one year anniversary of a change-in-control (commonly referred to as a "single trigger" provision) and to reduce the multiple of base and bonus payable from three to two. In the opinion of the Committee, these changes reflected current best practices with respect to such agreements.

Under the agreement a "change-in-control" means any one of the following with respect to the Company:

- a merger or consolidation of the Company in which the Company's stockholders end up owning less than 50% of the voting securities of the surviving entity;
- the sale, transfer or other disposition of all or substantially all of the Company's assets or the complete liquidation or dissolution of the Company;
- a change in the composition of the Company's Board of Directors over a two-year period as a result of which fewer than a majority of the directors are incumbent directors, as defined in the agreement; or
- the acquisition or accumulation by any person or group, subject to certain limited exceptions, of at least 25% of the Company's voting securities.

If the termination of the executive officer's employment occurs without cause or if the executive officer terminates his employment for good reason within 36 months following the change-in-control, the Company is required to pay the following benefits in one lump sum within ten business days:

- the executive officer's base salary through and including the date of termination and any accrued but unpaid annual incentive bonus;
- an annual incentive bonus for the year in which the termination occurs in an amount equal to the target bonus for the year of termination (or if there is no target annual incentive bonus or under certain other specified circumstances, the average of the annual incentive bonuses paid for the three prior years), prorated through the date of termination;

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- accrued and unpaid vacation pay;
- unreimbursed business expenses;
- two times the executive officer's annual base salary in effect immediately prior to the termination; and
- two times the executive's target bonus (or if there is no target annual incentive bonus or under certain other specified circumstances, two times the average of the annual incentive bonuses paid for the three prior years).

In addition, for a period of 24 months following the date on which the executive officer's employment terminates, the Company will provide the same level of benefits and perquisites that the executive officer received at the time of termination or, if more favorable to the executive officer, at the time at which the change-in-control occurred.

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**Compensation Discussion and Analysis**

These benefits include tax-qualified and nonqualified savings plan benefits (excluding, however, any supplemental benefit plans), medical insurance, disability income protection, life insurance coverage and death benefits. To the extent that the executive officer cannot participate in the plans previously available, the Company will provide such benefits (or a cash equivalent) on the same after-tax basis as if they had been available. These obligations are reduced by any welfare benefits made available to the executive officer from subsequent employers.

If the amount payable under the agreements, together with other payments and benefits, would constitute an excess parachute payment under the Internal Revenue Code and, consequently, be subject to excise tax, the change-in-control agreements provide for a reduction in the amount payable to that amount that would result in the elimination of the excise tax, provided that the reduced amount exceeds the amount the executive officer would receive if the excise tax had been applied.

The change-in-control agreements would initially have expired on December 31, 2012; however, they automatically extend for additional one-year periods unless either party notifies the other not later than the preceding January 1 that it does not wish to extend the term.

The form change-in-control agreement is attached as an exhibit to the Form 10-Q filed by the Company on November 1, 2010.

**C. Retirement Programs**

As noted above, the Company maintains four programs that provide retirement benefits to the named executive officers: the First American Financial Corporation 401(k) Savings Plan, the First American Financial Corporation Pension Plan, the SERP and the First American Financial Corporation Deferred Compensation Plan. The First American Financial Corporation 401(k) Savings Plan is described above under III.B.5 Other Executive Officer Benefits. Explanation of the other three plans can be found in connection with the 2015 Pension Benefits and 2015 Nonqualified Deferred Compensation Plan tables in the Executive Compensation Tables section.

As part of its efforts to curtail the Company's expenses, in 2010 management recommended certain changes to the benefits payable under the SERP. In response to this recommendation and based on its own analysis of practices at comparable companies with respect to similar plans, effective January 1, 2011, the Committee closed the SERP to new participants and, as part of the amendments described above, fixed as of December 31, 2010 the compensation used to determine benefits payable under the SERP. The amendments also capped the annual benefit to a maximum of \$500,000 for the Company's chief executive officer and \$350,000 for other participants.

**D. Payments due Upon Termination and/or a Change-in-Control**

Calculations and further explanation of the payments due the named executive officers upon termination of employment and/or a change-in-control are found under the portion of the Executive Compensation Tables section of this document entitled 2015 Potential Payments Upon Termination or Change-in-Control.

***VIII. Stock Ownership Guidelines, Clawback Policy and Anti-Hedging Policy***

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The Company has adopted guidelines requiring its chief executive officer to hold Company stock with a value equal to at least five times his base salary and each of the other named executive officers to hold stock with a value equal to at least three times their respective base salaries. In addition, as noted above under V. Adjustment or Recovery of Awards, the Company has adopted a clawback policy applicable to all executive officers. The policy generally provides for the return by the responsible executive officer(s) of compensation received during the three full fiscal years prior to the announcement of a restatement of financial information to



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### **Compensation Discussion and Analysis**

the extent such compensation would not have been received under the restated results. In addition, in January 2016, the Company added a provision to its employee form of Restricted Stock Unit Award Agreement whereby the recipient agrees to repay incentive-based compensation erroneously paid to him or her due to material errors in the financial statements of the Company to the extent any policy adopted by the New York Stock Exchange (or any other exchange on which securities of the Company are listed) pursuant to Section 10D of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 requires the Company to recover such compensation. The Company also has adopted policies generally prohibiting executive officers and certain other employees from holding Company securities in a margin account, pledging Company securities as collateral and hedging ownership of Company securities by engaging in short sales or trading in option contracts involving Company securities.

## ***IX. Impact of Tax and Accounting***

As a general matter, the Committee takes into account the various tax and accounting implications of compensation vehicles employed by the Company.

When determining amounts of long-term incentive grants to executive officers and employees, the Committee examines the accounting cost associated with the grants. Under accounting guidance, grants of stock options and RSUs result in an accounting charge for the Company. The accounting charge is equal to the fair value of the instruments being issued. For RSUs the cost is generally equal to the fair value of the stock on the date of grant times the number of shares granted, although a discount was applied with respect to the Staking Grants, reflecting the uncertainty of the achievement of the performance criteria. Generally, this expense is amortized over the requisite service period. With respect to stock options, the Company calculates the fair value of the option and takes that value into account as an expense over the vesting period, after adjusting for possible forfeitures.

The Committee intends to design the Company's compensation programs to conform to Section 162(m) of the Internal Revenue Code and related regulations so that total compensation paid to its named executive officers will not exceed \$1,000,000 in any one year, except for compensation payments that qualify as performance-based. However, the Company may pay compensation which is not deductible in certain circumstances.

## ***Compensation Committee Report***

The Compensation Committee has reviewed and discussed the foregoing Compensation Discussion and Analysis with management. Based on its review and discussion with management, the Compensation Committee on March 8, 2016 recommended to the Board of Directors that the Compensation Discussion and Analysis be included in this proxy statement and incorporated by reference in the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2015.

### **Compensation Committee**

Michael D. McKee, Chairman

Mark C. Oman



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The following tables set forth compensation information for the Company's named executive officers pursuant to the specific requirements of applicable regulations. The Company believes that the 2015 Summary Compensation Table below does not completely reflect its perspective on compensation for its named executive officers. Rather, the Company believes that its perspective is more completely reflected in the Compensation Discussion and Analysis section above.

The following 2015 Summary Compensation Table sets forth compensation awarded to or earned by our named executive officers for the years indicated.

## 2015 Summary Compensation Table

Name and Principal Position	Year	Salary (\$)	Bonus(1) (\$)	Awards(2) (\$)	Stock Incentive Plan Compensation(1) (\$)	Change in Pension Value and Nonqualified Deferred Compensation Earnings(3) (\$)	All Other Compensation (\$)	Total (\$)
Dennis J. Gilmore Chief Executive Officer	2015	\$ 900,000	\$ 0	\$ 2,556,355	\$ 2,262,330	\$ 0	\$ 8,003(4)	\$ 5,726,688
	2014	\$ 900,000	\$ 0	\$ 2,095,882	\$ 1,156,400	\$ 1,438,048	\$ 5,917	\$ 5,596,247
	2013	\$ 900,000	\$ 0	\$ 2,903,101	\$ 995,925	\$ 0	\$ 13,282	\$ 4,812,308
Kenneth D. DeGiorgio Executive Vice President	2015	\$ 725,000	\$ 0	\$ 1,281,959	\$ 1,111,500	\$ 0	\$ 8,532(5)	\$ 3,126,991
	2014	\$ 725,000	\$ 0	\$ 1,000,183	\$ 472,000	\$ 451,531	\$ 6,413	\$ 2,655,127
	2013	\$ 725,000	\$ 0	\$ 1,368,741	\$ 487,800	\$ 0	\$ 13,760	\$ 2,595,301
Christopher M. Leavell COO of principal subsidiary	2015	\$ 675,000	\$ 0	\$ 1,221,942	\$ 1,026,000	\$ 47,976	\$ 9,661(6)	\$ 2,980,579
	2014	\$ 675,000	\$ 0	\$ 950,179	\$ 472,000	\$ 931,920	\$ 7,392	\$ 3,036,491
	2013	\$ 675,000	\$ 0	\$ 1,318,734	\$ 487,800	\$ 0	\$ 14,603	\$ 2,496,137
Mark E. Seaton EVP, Chief Financial Officer	2015	\$ 525,000	\$ 0	\$ 813,960	\$ 769,500	\$ 0	\$ 7,425(7)	\$ 2,115,885
	2014	\$ 520,192	\$ 0	\$ 534,934	\$ 354,000	\$ 0	\$ 5,400	\$ 1,414,526
	2013	\$ 445,000	\$ 0	\$ 414,339	\$ 343,492	\$ 0	\$ 12,731	\$ 1,215,562
Matthew F. Wajner(9)	2015	\$ 260,000	\$ 0	\$ 130,659	\$ 186,732	\$ 0	\$ 6,984(8)	\$ 584,375

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VP, Chief	2014	\$ 260,000	\$ 0	\$ 90,809	\$ 92,040	\$ 0	\$ 5,400	\$ 448,249
	2013	\$ 254,217	\$ 0	\$ 19,489	\$ 89,836	\$ 0	\$ 9,164	\$ 372,706

### Accounting Officer

- (1) As required by applicable rules, cash portions of the annual incentive bonus amounts that were paid through performance units, or were otherwise based upon the achievement of pre-determined performance metrics, are included under the column entitled Non-Equity Incentive Plan Compensation, as opposed to the column entitled Bonus.
- (2) The amounts shown are the grant date fair value of stock awards granted in the year indicated as computed in accordance with FASB ASC Topic 718 using the closing price of our common stock on the grant date. The values set forth under this column for each year reflect the grants made in that year based on performance metrics from the prior year (e.g., amounts reported for 2015 are based on performance metrics from 2014). For information on the valuation of the awards, refer to Note 15 to our consolidated financial statements in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2015.
- (3) Reflects the change in the present value of the benefit from the end of the year preceding the applicable fiscal year to the end of the applicable fiscal year for both the qualified and non-qualified pension plans (which are entitled the First American Financial Corporation Pension Plan and the First American Financial Corporation Executive Supplemental Benefit Plan). Change in pension value for 2015 is (\$173,326) for Mr. Gilmore and (\$6,234) for Mr. DeGiorgio, but is disclosed as \$0 in the 2015 Summary Compensation Table pursuant to disclosure rules. Messrs. Seaton and Wajner are not participants in either of these plans. See 2015 Pension Benefits table for assumptions. Amounts in the column do not include earnings under the Company's deferred compensation plan as such earnings are neither above market nor preferential. The Company's deferred compensation plan provides a return based on a number of investment crediting options.
- (4) This amount consists of (a) Company contributions of \$5,850 to his account in the Company's tax qualified 401(k) savings plan, (b) life insurance premiums of \$578 and (c) Company paid executive long-term disability insurance premium of \$1,575.
- (5) This amount consists of (a) Company contributions of \$5,850 to his account in the Company's tax qualified 401(k) savings plan, (b) life insurance premiums of \$1,107 and (c) Company paid executive long-term disability insurance premium of \$1,575.
- (6) This amount consists of (a) Company contributions of \$5,850 to his account in the Company's tax qualified 401(k) savings plan, (b) life insurance premiums of \$2,236 and (c) Company paid executive long-term disability insurance premium of \$1,575.
- (7) This amount consists of Company contributions of \$5,850 to his account in the Company's tax qualified 401(k) savings plan and (b) Company paid executive long-term disability insurance premium of \$1,575.

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- (8) This amount consists of Company contributions of \$5,850 to his account in the Company's tax qualified 401(k) savings plan and (b) Company paid executive long-term disability insurance premium of \$1,134.
- (9) Mr. Wajner became an executive officer on March 27, 2013.

**2015 Grants of Plan-Based Awards**

The following table contains information concerning awards of RSUs and performance units made by the Company to each of our named executive officers during fiscal year 2015.

Name	Grant Date	Approval Date	Estimated Future Payouts Under Non-Equity Incentive Plan Awards			Estimated Future Payouts Under Equity Incentive Plan Awards			Grant Date Fair Value of Stock Awards (\$)
			Threshold (\$)	Target (\$)	Maximum (\$)	Threshold (#)	Target (#)	Maximum (#)	
Dennis J. Gilmore	2/25/2015(1)	2/6/15			\$ 2,712,150				
	2/25/2015(2)	2/6/15					32,870		\$ 1,156,367
	2/25/2015(3)	2/6/15					39,795		\$ 1,399,988
Kenneth D. DeGiorgio	2/25/2015(1)	2/6/15			\$ 1,332,500				
	2/25/2015(2)	2/6/15					13,416		\$ 471,975
	2/25/2015(3)	2/6/15					23,024		\$ 809,984
Christopher M. Leavell	2/25/2015(1)	2/6/15			\$ 1,230,000				
	2/25/2015(2)	2/6/15					13,416		\$ 471,975
	2/25/2015(3)	2/6/15					21,318		\$ 749,967
Mark E. Seaton	2/25/2015(1)	2/6/15			\$ 922,500				
	2/25/2015(2)	2/6/15					10,062		\$ 353,981
	2/25/2015(3)	2/6/15					13,075		\$ 459,979
Matthew F. Wajner	2/25/2015(1)	2/6/15			\$ 207,870				
	2/25/2015(2)	2/6/15					872		\$ 30,677
	2/25/2015(3)	2/6/15					2,842		\$ 99,982

- (1) Awards represent the maximum amount payable with respect to performance units awarded under the Company's incentive compensation plan for 2015. None of the awards were payable unless, as was the case, the net income of the Company for 2015 was at least \$25 million, excluding (a) asset write-downs, (b) litigation or claim judgments or settlements, (c) the effect of changes in tax laws, accounting principles, or other laws or provisions affecting reported results, (d) any reorganization and restructuring programs, (e) extraordinary, unusual and/or nonrecurring items of gain or loss and (f) foreign exchange gains and losses ( "Extraordinary Items" ). The Compensation Committee has the discretion to reduce the amount of the performance units. See "Compensation Discussion and Analysis" III. Compensation Structure B. Pay Elements (2) Annual Cash Bonus. The amounts identified in the Non-Equity Incentive Plan Compensation column of the 2015 Summary Compensation Table are the actual amounts paid under the plan.
- (2) Grants represent the portion of the 2014 annual bonus, paid in 2015, in the form of Performance RSUs (formerly referred to as "Bonus RSUs" ). Vesting of Performance RSUs occurs at a rate of 25% per year on each anniversary of the grant date, and would not occur unless, as was the case, the net income of the Company for 2015 was at least \$25 million, excluding Extraordinary Items.
- (3) Grants represent Long-Term Incentive RSUs which were issued to the named executive officers in 2015 for 2014 performance. Vesting of Long-Term Incentive RSUs occurs at a rate of 25% per year on each anniversary of the grant date, and would not occur unless, as was the case, the net income of the Company for 2015 was at least \$25 million, excluding Extraordinary Items.

**Table of Contents****Executive Compensation Tables****Outstanding Equity Awards at 2015 Fiscal Year-End**

The following table shows outstanding equity awards of the Company held by the named executive officers as of December 31, 2015.

Name	Grant Date(1)	Stock Awards	
		Number of Shares or Units of Stock That Have Not Vested	Market Value of Shares or Units of Stock That Have Not Vested(2)
		(#)	(\$)
Dennis J. Gilmore	2/29/2012	29,391	\$ 1,055,137
	3/4/2013	64,279	\$ 2,307,616
	2/27/2014	62,183	\$ 2,232,370
	2/25/2015	74,686	\$ 2,681,227
Kenneth D. DeGiorgio	2/29/2012	13,066	\$ 469,069
	3/4/2013	30,314	\$ 1,088,273
	2/27/2014	29,680	\$ 1,065,512
	2/25/2015	37,452	\$ 1,344,527
Christopher M. Leavell	2/29/2012	7,832	\$ 281,169
	3/4/2013	29,197	\$ 1,048,172
	2/27/2014	28,191	\$ 1,012,057
	2/25/2015	35,699	\$ 1,281,594
Mark E. Seaton	2/29/2012	1,806	\$ 64,835
	3/4/2013	9,181	\$ 329,598
	2/27/2014	15,870	\$ 569,733
	2/25/2015	23,776	\$ 853,558
Matthew F. Wajner	3/20/2012	177	\$ 6,354
	12/20/2012	846	\$ 30,371
	3/20/2013	425	\$ 15,258
	2/27/2014	2,692	\$ 96,643
	2/25/2015	3,814	\$ 136,923

(1) Awards vest 25% on each anniversary of the grant date and will be fully vested on the fourth anniversary of the grant date.

(2) The market value was calculated by multiplying the number of unvested units shown in the table by \$35.90, which was the closing market price on December 31, 2015, the last trading day of our fiscal year.

**2015 Option Exercises and Stock Vested**

The following table sets forth information concerning value realized by each of the named executive officers upon exercise of stock options and vesting of stock during 2015.

Name	Option Awards		Stock Awards	
	Number of Shares Acquired on Exercise	Value Realized Upon Exercise	Number of Shares Acquired on Vesting	Value Realized on Vesting
	(#)	(\$)	(#)	(\$)
Dennis J. Gilmore	279,488	\$ 4,948,395	228,384	\$ 8,042,527
Kenneth D. DeGiorgio	0	\$ 0	97,546(1)	\$ 3,436,151(1)
Christopher M. Leavell	0	\$ 0	68,687	\$ 2,420,876
Mark E. Seaton	0	\$ 0	12,321	\$ 429,327
Matthew F. Wajner	0	\$ 0	2,193	\$ 77,233

(1) All of the shares vested in 2015 will be distributed at a later date pursuant to a deferred compensation arrangement.

**Table of Contents****Executive Compensation Tables****2015 Pension Benefits**

The following table shows the actuarial present value of the accumulated retirement benefits payable upon normal retirement age to each of the named executive officers, computed as of December 31, 2015. The amounts are based upon benefits provided to the named executive officers under the tax-qualified First American Financial Corporation Pension Plan ( Pension Plan ) and First American Financial Corporation Executive Supplemental Benefit Plan ( SERP ). Messrs. Seaton and Wajner are not participants in either of these plans.

Name	Plan Name	Number of Years Credited Service(1) (#)	Present Value of Accumulated Benefits(2) (\$)	Payments During Last Fiscal Year (\$)
Dennis J. Gilmore(3)	Pension Plan	22.6	\$ 174,775	\$ 0
	SERP	22.6	\$ 6,361,976	\$ 0
Kenneth D. DeGiorgio	Pension Plan	16.8	\$ 41,544	\$ 0
	SERP	16.8	\$ 1,271,090	\$ 0
Christopher M. Leavell	Pension Plan	18.5	\$ 87,055	\$ 0
	SERP	18.5	\$ 3,224,786	\$ 0

- (1) Credited years of service for benefit calculation purposes under the Pension Plan is the time between the participant's commencement of participation in the plan and the date that benefit accruals were frozen, April 30, 2008, subject to the accrual rules. The credited years of service shown in the table is the time between the participant's commencement of participation in the plan and December 31, 2015. Credited years of service for the SERP is generally equal to credited years of service under the Pension Plan without regard to the Pension Plan's freezing of credited years of service as of April 30, 2008, and does not affect the benefit to the executive after minimum service requirements are met.
- (2) Pension Plan benefits are based on credited service as of April 30, 2008, and final average pay as of December 31, 2001. Although the benefit was frozen as of April 30, 2008, participants are still eligible to accrue service for vesting and early retirement eligibility purposes. The following assumptions were used for calculating present values: interest rate of 4.31%, post-retirement mortality per the RP-2014 Table for Healthy Annuitants (without collar or amount adjustments using 2006 base rates) with Fully Generational Scale MP-2015, benefit is payable as a 40% single life annuity and 60% lump sum, lump sum interest rate and mortality of IRC Section 417(e) November 2015 segment rates and prescribed mortality with projection. SERP eligibility requires 10 years of service and 5 years of participation in the plan with the benefit dependent on age at retirement between 55 and 62, rather than credited years of service. The following assumptions were used for calculating present values: interest rate of 4.33%, post-retirement mortality per the RP-2014 Table for Healthy Annuitants (without collar or amount adjustments using 2006 base rates) with Fully Generational Scale MP-2015, benefit is payable as a 50% joint and survivor annuity and spouse is assumed to be one year younger than the participant.
- (3) Mr. Gilmore is eligible for early retirement under the Pension Plan and the SERP due to his age and meeting certain service requirements, as described further below.

**(1) Pension Plan**

At the separation from The First American Corporation ( TFAC ), the Company assumed TFAC's pension plan. Subject to certain conditions of age and tenure, all regular employees of TFAC and participating subsidiaries were eligible to join the Pension Plan until December 31, 2001. No employees have been eligible to join the Pension Plan after that date. In order to participate, during plan years ending on or prior to December 31, 1994, an employee was required to contribute 1.5% of pay (i.e., base salary plus cash bonuses, commissions and other pay) to the plan. As a result of amendments that were adopted in 1994, during plan years commencing after December 31, 1994, an employee was not required to contribute to the plan in order to participate.



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Normal retirement age is defined under the Pension Plan as the later of the employee's attainment of age 65 or three years of service. Upon retirement at normal retirement age, an employee receives full monthly benefits which are equal, when calculated as a life annuity: (i) for years of credited service as of December 31, 1994, to 1% of the first \$1,000 and 1.25% of remaining final average pay (i.e., the average of the monthly pay, as defined above, during the five highest paid consecutive calendar years out of the last 10 years prior to retirement) times the number of years of credited service as of December 31, 1994; and (ii) for years of credited service after December 31, 1994, to 0.75% of the first \$1,000 and 1% of the remaining final average pay times the number of years of credited service subsequent to December 31, 1994.

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**Executive Compensation Tables**

Effective December 31, 2000, the Pension Plan was amended to exclude from the calculation of benefits (i) any pay earned after December 31, 2001, and (ii) any service earned after December 31, 2005. Effective December 31, 2002, the Pension Plan was amended to reduce the rate at which future benefits accrue for participants who had not yet attained age 50 by spreading the accrual of the benefit that would have accrued during 2003 to 2005 over extended periods ranging from 5 to 20 years, depending on the participant's age as of December 31, 2002. The Pension Plan was amended in February 2008 to eliminate benefit accruals for service after April 30, 2008.

A participant with at least three years of service may elect to retire after attaining age 55, but prior to age 65, and receive reduced benefits. A participant with at least three years of service who has not yet attained age 55 may elect to terminate from service and commence an actuarially reduced benefit. Benefits are reduced 1/180<sup>th</sup> for each of the first 60 months and by 1/360<sup>th</sup> for each of any additional months by which the benefit commencement date precedes the participant's normal retirement date. Benefit payment options include various annuity options, a form of benefit that is reduced prior to the commencement of the participant's Social Security benefits and a lump sum. Prior to July 1, 2015, a lump sum optional form of benefit was available only if an employee terminated prior to age 55. Effective for terminations of employment after June 30, 2015, employees may elect to take their benefit in a single lump sum regardless of age when they separate from the Company.

Federal tax law limits the maximum amount of pay that may be considered in determining benefits under the Pension Plan. The limit on pay that could be recognized by tax-qualified retirement plans was \$200,000 in 1989. This amount was adjusted for inflation for each year through 1993, when the limit was \$235,840. In 1993, this limit was decreased to \$150,000 for plan years beginning in 1994. The \$150,000 limit has been adjusted for inflation and was increased to \$160,000 as of January 1, 1997, and to \$170,000 as of January 1, 2000. The highest final average pay that could be considered in determining benefits accruing under the Pension Plan before 1994 is \$219,224, and since the plan does not consider pay earned after December 31, 2001, the highest final average pay that can be considered in determining benefits accruing after 1993 is \$164,000.

**(2) SERP**

The SERP provides retirement benefits for, and pre-retirement death benefits with respect to, certain key management personnel. The plan was originally adopted by TFAC in 1985 and has been amended a number of times since then. It was assumed by the Company on June 1, 2010, for its share of then current and retired plan participants, in connection with the separation from TFAC. Under the plan, as originally adopted, upon retirement at normal retirement date (the later of age 65 or completion of 10 years of service) the participant received a joint life and 50% survivor annuity benefit equal to 35% of final average compensation. Final average compensation was determined for those three calendar years out of the last 10 years of employment preceding retirement in which final average compensation is the highest. Final average compensation included base salary and commissions, cash bonuses and stock bonuses that are granted to compensate for past services (such as Performance RSUs, as described below).

Under the original plan, the benefit was reduced by 5% for each year prior to normal retirement date in which retirement occurs and, until age 70, increased by 5% (compounded in order to approximate the annuitized value of the benefit had retirement occurred at age 65) for each year after such date in which retirement occurs. With respect to such postponed retirement, the plan took into account covered compensation received until age 70, so that the retirement benefit of an executive who retired after normal retirement date was determined as the greater of the annuitized benefit or the benefit calculated using final average compensation until age 70.

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To be eligible to receive benefits under the plan, a participant must be at least age 55, have been an employee of the Company or one of its subsidiaries for at least 10 years and covered by the plan for at least five years. The original pre-retirement death benefit consisted of 10 annual payments, each of which equals to 50% of final average compensation. Subject to applicable legal rules, the Board of Directors can, in its discretion, pay the

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### **Executive Compensation Tables**

participant or beneficiary in an actuarial equivalent lump sum or other form of benefit. Also under the original plan, in the event of a change-in-control (as defined in the plan) of the Company, a participant who retired after the change-in-control would receive the same benefits as if he were retiring upon the attainment of his normal retirement date.

The SERP was amended in September 2005 to provide that participants who thereafter engage in competition with the Company, either during their employment with or following their departure from the Company, forfeit their right to receive any vested benefits under the plan. Competition is defined to include involvement with a competing business, the misappropriation, sale, use or disclosure of the Company's trade secrets, confidential or proprietary information and solicitation of Company employees or customers.

To reduce the costs of the plan, the plan was further amended in October 2007. Among other changes, this amendment (i) reduced the normal retirement date to the latest of age 62, the date on which the participant completes 10 years of service and the date on which the participant was covered, in combination, by the plan or the Management Supplemental Benefit Plan for five years; (ii) changed the period over which final average compensation was determined to the five full calendar years preceding retirement; (iii) reduced the maximum benefit payable to a joint life and 50% survivor annuity benefit equal to 30% of final average compensation; (iv) eliminated any increased benefit for postponed retirement beyond the normal retirement date; and (v) provided for accelerated vesting only upon a change-in-control that is not approved by the Company's incumbent Board of Directors. The benefit is reduced by 5.952% for each year prior to age 62 in which retirement actually occurs. Participants who were vested as of the effective date of the amendment, November 1, 2007, are entitled to receive the higher of the benefit as calculated under the amended plan and the benefit to which the participant would have been entitled had he retired on October 31, 2007.

The plan was further amended effective January 1, 2011 to (i) close the plan to new participants; (ii) fix the period over which the final average compensation is calculated as the five-year period ending on December 31, 2010, irrespective of the participant's actual retirement date; (iii) cap the maximum annual benefit at \$500,000 for the Company's chief executive officer and at \$350,000 for all other participants; (iv) reduce the pre-retirement death benefit to 10 annual payments of 15% of final average compensation (which final average compensation is limited to the cap described above); and (v) provide 100% vesting in connection with a change in control and provide that, if within 36 months following the change in control, the participant's employment is terminated by the Company without cause or by the participant for good reason the participant will be entitled to benefits equal to the benefits provided by the plan (subject to reductions for early retirement) or, if the participant is not yet eligible for early retirement, subject to an actuarial reduction.

Finally, the plan was amended effective January 21, 2015 to update the definition of Spouse to reflect the Supreme Court decision in *U.S. v. Windsor*.

**Table of Contents****Executive Compensation Tables****2015 Nonqualified Deferred Compensation**

As reflected in the following table, certain of the named executive officers have elected to participate in the First American Financial Corporation Deferred Compensation Plan (the "Deferred Compensation Plan") and/or elected to defer receipt of shares from RSUs granted under the First American Financial Corporation 2010 Incentive Compensation Plan. Messrs. Seaton and Wajner did not have any deferred compensation.

<b>Name</b>	<b>Executive Deferrals in Last FY(1)</b>	<b>Registrant Contributions in Last FY</b>	<b>Aggregate Earnings in Last FY(2)</b>	<b>Aggregate Withdrawals/ Distributions</b>	<b>Aggregate Amount of Deferred Compensation at Last FYE(3)</b>
	<b>(\$)</b>	<b>(\$)</b>	<b>(\$)</b>	<b>(\$)</b>	<b>(\$)</b>
Dennis J. Gilmore	\$ 200,000	\$ 0	\$ (12,846)	\$ 0	\$ 2,351,271
Kenneth D. DeGiorgio	\$ 3,672,151	\$ 0	\$ 429,328	\$ 0	\$ 8,806,854
Christopher M. Leavell	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ (9,401)	\$ 0	\$ 167,876

- (1) Represents the amount contributed during the year to the Deferred Compensation Plan plus the value of any RSUs vested during the year but subject to deferred distribution.
- (2) Represents earnings or losses on participant-selected investment options in the Deferred Compensation Plan and/or the increase or decrease in the fair market value of the deferred RSUs, including dividend equivalents thereon. These amounts are not reflected in the 2015 Summary Compensation Table.
- (3) These amounts are as of December 31, 2015. The following amounts are included in the fiscal year-end balance and previously were reported as compensation to the listed officers in the Summary Compensation Table for 2010 through 2014 (except for Mr. Leavell, who was not a named executive officer in 2010); Mr. Gilmore, \$650,000 and Mr. DeGiorgio, \$3,263,184. Additional amounts were contributed by the executives prior to the Company's separation from its former parent company.

The Deferred Compensation Plan offers a select group of management and highly compensated employees the opportunity to elect to defer portions of their base salary, commissions and certain eligible cash bonuses. A committee appointed by the Board of Directors is responsible for administering the plan. The plan is unfunded and unsecured. However, the Company informally funds the plan through variable universal life insurance and absorbs all insurance charges. The Company maintains a deferral account for each participating employee on a fully vested basis for all deferrals. Participants can choose to have their cash benefits paid in one lump sum or in quarterly payments upon termination of employment or death. Subject to the terms and conditions of the plan, participants also may elect scheduled and nonscheduled in-service withdrawals of compensation deferred prior to January 1, 2005, and the earnings and losses attributable thereto. Withdrawals of compensation deferred after December 31, 2004, and the earnings and losses attributable thereto, must be scheduled by the participant at the time the participant elects to defer such compensation.

Participants allocate their deferrals among a variety of investment crediting options offered under the plan. The investment crediting rates are based upon the rates of return available under certain retail mutual funds.

For all participants who joined the Deferred Compensation Plan prior to December 31, 2001, the plan provides a pre-retirement death benefit equal to the lesser of 15 times the amount deferred in the participant's first year of participation or \$2 million. The death benefit is reduced beginning at age 61 by 20% per year. Participants who join the plan after December 31, 2001 are not eligible for this death benefit. The Company maintains term life insurance policies to fund this enhanced pre-retirement death benefit.

The First American Financial Corporation 2010 Incentive Compensation Plan offers a select group of management and highly compensated employees the opportunity to defer the payment of their RSUs to a future date beyond the scheduled vesting date. Participants may elect to defer the payment of a particular vesting tranche of an award to a future date while employed with the Company or upon termination of employment. With respect to deferrals to a future date while employed, participants must specify the year in which they wish to receive the payment of the RSUs, provided that such year exceeds the scheduled vesting date. The resulting

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### **Executive Compensation Tables**

deferred distribution date will be the anniversary of the grant date in the year selected. If the participant terminates employment prior to the scheduled vesting date, the deferral election will not apply and the payment of such RSUs will be handled pursuant to the terms of the RSU Award Agreement. If the participant terminates employment after a scheduled vesting date but prior to the deferred distribution date, the participant will receive the payment of the deferred RSUs upon termination. If the initial deferred election is made after the grant date, the deferred RSUs will be paid following the later of the termination date or five years from the scheduled vesting date.

### **2015 Potential Payments upon Termination or Change-in-Control**

The following tables describe payments and other benefits that would be provided to the named executive officers under the specified circumstances upon a change-in-control of the Company or their termination on December 31, 2015. For further discussion, see Compensation Discussion and Analysis VII. Employment Agreements and Post-Termination Payments.

**Table of Contents****Executive Compensation Tables***Dennis J. Gilmore*

Executive Payments and Benefits Upon Termination	Involuntary Termination				Change-in-Control With Termination			
	Voluntary		Without Cause/ Good		Without Cause/ for Good		Without Cause/ Death	
	Termination(1)	For Cause	Reason	Termination	Cause	Death	Disability	
	Amounts due to Triggering Event							
Severance	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 6,425,600(2)	\$ 0	\$ 7,680,000(3)	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
Bonus	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 2,940,000(4)	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
Accelerated Vesting of								
RSUs(5)	\$ 4,361,024	\$ 0	\$ 4,361,024	\$ 8,276,350	\$ 8,276,350	\$ 8,276,350	\$ 8,276,350	\$ 8,276,350
Benefit Continuation	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 170,884(6)	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
<b>Incremental Severance Sub-Total</b>	<b>\$ 4,361,024</b>	<b>\$ 0</b>	<b>\$ 10,786,624</b>	<b>\$ 8,276,350</b>	<b>\$ 19,067,234</b>	<b>\$ 8,276,350</b>	<b>\$ 8,276,350</b>	<b>\$ 8,276,350</b>
<b>Previously Earned/Vested</b>								
<b>Amounts</b>								
Deferred Compensation								
Plan	\$ 2,351,271	\$ 2,351,271	\$ 2,351,271	\$ 2,351,271	\$ 2,351,271	\$ 2,426,271(7)	\$ 2,351,271	\$ 2,351,271
Vested 401(k) Savings								
Plan Balance	\$ 877,518	\$ 877,518	\$ 877,518	\$ 877,518	\$ 877,518	\$ 877,518	\$ 877,518	\$ 877,518
Vested Pension Plan(8)	\$ 166,506	\$ 166,506	\$ 166,506	\$ 0	\$ 166,506	\$ 84,672(9)	\$ 166,506	\$ 166,506
Vested SERP	\$ 8,386,924	\$ 0	\$ 8,386,924	\$ 0	\$ 8,386,924	\$ 4,119,890	\$ 8,386,924	\$ 8,386,924
<b>Total Walk-Away Value</b>	<b>\$ 16,143,243</b>	<b>\$ 3,395,295</b>	<b>\$ 22,568,843</b>	<b>\$ 11,505,139</b>	<b>\$ 30,849,453</b>	<b>\$ 15,784,701</b>	<b>\$ 20,058,569</b>	<b>\$ 20,058,569</b>

(1) Voluntary termination would qualify as early retirement under the SERP and the Company's RSU grant agreements.

(2) Represents two times the executive's base salary in effect immediately prior to the date of termination and two times the median of the executive's last three annual incentive bonuses.

(3) Represents two times the executive's base salary in effect immediately prior to the date of termination and two times the executive's target annual incentive bonus for the current fiscal year, or if there is no such target, the average annual discretionary incentive bonus earned by the executive during the last three completed fiscal years.

(4) Represents the pro rata portion of the executive's target annual bonus for the year of termination. Also assumes that, while any outstanding performance units would vest in the event of a change-in-control of the Company, the Compensation Committee would exercise its discretion to reduce any performance units awarded to the amount of the target annual incentive bonus.

(5) The Company's 2010 Incentive Compensation Plan and related agreements provide for acceleration of all unvested RSUs in the event of a change-in-control of the Company that is not approved by the Board of Directors and in the event of death or disability. In the event of termination after meeting early retirement (age 55 with 10 years of service) or normal retirement (age 62), or involuntary termination without cause (absent a change-in-control), all unvested Performance RSUs vest one year after termination. Unvested Long-Term Incentive RSUs vest one year after termination provided the normal retirement criterion is met at the time of termination.

(6) Represents cash payments to the executive to cover the cost of purchasing the benefits on an after-tax basis.

(7) Represents the sum of (a) the vested balance on December 31, 2015, of \$2,351,271 and (b) a \$75,000 pre-retirement death benefit equal to 15 times the amount deferred in the participant's first year of participation.

(8) Mr. Gilmore is eligible for early retirement, defined as retirement at age 55 or older with satisfaction of vesting requirements. The benefits of those eligible for early retirement are valued as immediately payable, with payment form election of 40% single life annuity and 60% lump sum, and appropriate reduction factors for the single life annuity payment form.



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- (9) Represents the lump sum present value equal to one-half of the accrued benefit, converted to a qualified joint and survivor form and payable to female spouse three years younger than the participant at the latter of the participant's current age or age 55.

**Table of Contents****Executive Compensation Tables***Kenneth D. DeGiorgio*

Executive Payments and Benefits Upon Termination	Involuntary Termination				Change-in-Control With  Termination			
	Voluntary Termination	Without  Cause/  Good			for Good  Reason/  Without			
		For Cause	Reason	Without Termination	Cause	Death	Disability	
Amounts due to Triggering Event								
Severance	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 3,338,000(1)	\$ 0	\$ 4,050,000(2)	\$ 0	\$ 0	
Bonus	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 1,300,000(3)	\$ 0	\$ 0	
Accelerated Vesting of RSUs(4)	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 1,613,059	\$ 3,967,381	\$ 3,967,381	\$ 3,967,381	\$ 3,967,381	
Benefit Continuation	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 174,668(5)	\$ 0	\$ 0	
Enhanced SERP(6)	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 1,336,455(7)	\$ 1,091,018(8)	\$ 1,770,573(9)	
Incremental Severance Sub-Total	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 4,951,059	\$ 3,967,381	\$ 10,828,504	\$ 5,058,399	\$ 5,737,954	
Previously Earned/Vested Amounts								
Deferred RSUs(10)	\$ 3,436,151	\$ 3,436,151	\$ 3,436,151	\$ 3,436,151	\$ 3,436,151	\$ 3,436,151	\$ 3,436,151	
Deferred Compensation Plan	\$ 1,269,469	\$ 1,269,469	\$ 1,269,469	\$ 1,269,469	\$ 1,269,469	\$ 1,881,844(11)	\$ 1,269,469	
Vested 401(k) Savings Plan Balance	\$ 698,784	\$ 698,784	\$ 698,784	\$ 698,784	\$ 698,784	\$ 698,784	\$ 698,784	
Vested Pension Plan	\$ 41,544	\$ 41,544	\$ 41,544	\$ 0	\$ 41,544	\$ 19,865(12)	\$ 41,544	
Total Walk-Away Value	\$ 5,445,948	\$ 5,445,948	\$ 10,397,007	\$ 9,371,785	\$ 16,274,452	\$ 11,095,043	\$ 11,183,902	

- (1) Represents two times the executive's base salary in effect immediately prior to the date of termination and two times the median of the executive's last three annual incentive bonuses.
- (2) Represents two times the executive's base salary in effect immediately prior to the date of termination and two times the executive's target annual incentive bonus for the current fiscal year, or if there is no such target, the average annual discretionary incentive bonus earned by the executive during the last three completed fiscal years.
- (3) Represents the pro rata portion of the executive's target annual bonus for the year of termination. Also assumes that, while any outstanding performance units would vest in the event of a change-in-control of the Company, the Compensation Committee would exercise its discretion to reduce any performance units awarded to the amount of the target annual incentive bonus.
- (4) The Company's 2010 Incentive Compensation Plan and related agreements provide for acceleration of all unvested RSUs in the event of a change-in-control of the Company that is not approved by the Board of Directors and in the event of death or disability. In the event of termination after meeting early retirement (age 55 with 10 years of service) or normal retirement (age 62), or involuntary termination without cause (absent a change-in-control), all unvested Performance RSUs vest one year after termination. Unvested Long-Term Incentive RSUs vest one year after termination provided the normal retirement criterion is met at the time of termination.
- (5) Represents cash payments to the executive to cover the cost of purchasing the benefits on an after-tax basis.
- (6) Enhanced SERP refers to any payments which accrue to the executive, who is not yet vested, under the various scenarios for the SERP.
- (7) If a qualifying termination occurs within 36 months after a change-in-control of the Company, the executive becomes 100% vested in the benefit in the amount the executive would have been entitled to receive had he attained his early retirement date, with an actuarial reduction if the executive had not reached early retirement age. Represents the enhanced present value of the benefit calculated using the following assumptions: RP-2014 Table for Healthy Annuitants (without collar or amount adjustments using 2006 base rates) with Fully Generational Scale MP-2015 and a discount rate of 4.33%.
- (8) Represents the present value of 10 annual payments equal to 15% of the participant's final average compensation, calculated using a 4.33% discount rate.
- (9) Represents the present value of the benefit calculated using the following assumptions: RP-2014 Table for Healthy Annuitants (without collar or amount adjustments using 2006 base rates) with Fully Generational Scale MP-2015, a discount rate of 4.33% and participant remains disabled until earliest retirement date at age 55.
- (10) Represents shares from vested RSUs that would have otherwise been distributed had they not been deferred pursuant to a deferred compensation arrangement.
- (11) Represents the sum of (a) the vested balance on December 31, 2015 of \$1,269,469 and (b) a \$612,375 pre-retirement death benefit equal to 15 times the amount deferred in the participant's first year of participation.

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- (12) Represents the lump sum present value equal to one-half of the accrued benefit, converted to a qualified joint and survivor form and payable to female spouse three years younger than the participant at the latter of the participant's current age or age 55.

**Table of Contents****Executive Compensation Tables***Christopher M. Leavell*

Executive Payments and Benefits Upon Termination Amounts due to Triggering Event	Involuntary Termination			Change-in-Control With Termination			
	Voluntary Termination	For Cause	Without Cause/ Good Reason	Without Cause/ Good Reason	Without Cause/ Good Reason	Death	Disability
Severance	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 3,238,000(1)	\$ 0	\$ 3,750,000(2)	\$ 0	\$ 0
Bonus	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 1,200,000(3)	\$ 0	\$ 0
Accelerated Vesting of							
RSUs(4)	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 1,649,246	\$ 3,622,992	\$ 3,622,992	\$ 3,622,992	\$ 3,622,992
Benefit Continuation	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 137,633(5)	\$ 0	\$ 0
Enhanced SERP (6)	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 2,864,056(7)	\$ 1,352,704(8)	\$ 3,043,689(9)
<b>Incremental Severance Sub -Total</b>	<b>\$ 0</b>	<b>\$ 0</b>	<b>\$ 4,887,246</b>	<b>\$ 3,622,992</b>	<b>\$ 11,574,681</b>	<b>\$ 4,975,696</b>	<b>\$ 6,666,681</b>
<b>Previously Earned/Vested Amounts</b>							
Deferred Compensation Plan	\$ 167,876	\$ 167,876	\$ 167,876	\$ 167,876	\$ 167,876	\$ 635,126(10)	\$ 167,876
Vested 401(k) Savings Plan							
Balance	\$ 489,055	\$ 489,055	\$ 489,055	\$ 489,055	\$ 489,055	\$ 489,055	\$ 489,055
Vested Pension Plan	\$ 87,055	\$ 87,055	\$ 87,055	\$ 0	\$ 87,055	\$ 42,841(11)	\$ 87,055
<b>Total Walk-Away Value</b>	<b>\$ 743,986</b>	<b>\$ 743,986</b>	<b>\$ 5,631,232</b>	<b>\$ 4,279,923</b>	<b>\$ 12,318,667</b>	<b>\$ 6,142,718</b>	<b>\$ 7,410,667</b>

- (1) Represents two times the executive's base salary in effect immediately prior to the date of termination and two times the median of the executive's last three annual incentive bonuses.
- (2) Represents two times the executive's base salary in effect immediately prior to the date of termination and two times the executive's target annual incentive bonus for the current fiscal year, or if there is no such target, the average annual discretionary incentive bonus earned by the executive during the last three completed fiscal years.
- (3) Represents the pro rata portion of the executive's target annual bonus for the year of termination. Also assumes that, while any outstanding performance units would vest in the event of a change-in-control of the Company, the Compensation Committee would exercise its discretion to reduce any performance units awarded to the amount of the target annual incentive bonus.
- (4) The Company's 2010 Incentive Compensation Plan and related agreements provide for acceleration of all unvested RSUs in the event of a change-in-control of the Company that is not approved by the Board of Directors and in the event of death or disability. In the event of termination after meeting early retirement (age 55 with 10 years of service) or normal retirement (age 62), or involuntary termination without cause (absent a change-in-control), all unvested Performance RSUs vest one year after termination. Unvested Long-Term Incentive RSUs vest one year after termination provided the normal retirement criterion is met at the time of termination.
- (5) Represents cash payments to the executive to cover the cost of purchasing the benefits on an after-tax basis.
- (6) Enhanced SERP refers to any payments which accrue to the executive, who is not yet vested, under the various scenarios for the SERP.
- (7) If a qualifying termination occurs within 36 months after a change-in-control of the Company, the executive becomes 100% vested in the benefit in the amount the executive would have been entitled to receive had he attained his early retirement date, with an actuarial reduction if the executive had not reached early retirement age. Represents the enhanced present value of the benefit calculated using the following assumptions: RP-2014 Table for Healthy Annuitants (without collar or amount adjustments using 2006 base rates) with Fully Generational Scale MP-2015 and a discount rate of 4.33%.
- (8) Represents the present value of 10 annual payments equal to 15% of the participant's final average compensation, calculated using a 4.33% discount rate.
- (9)

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Represents the present value of the benefit calculated using the following assumptions: RP-2014 Table for Healthy Annuitants (without collar or amount adjustments using 2006 base rates) with Fully Generational Scale MP-2015, a discount rate of 4.33% and participant remains disabled until earliest retirement date at age 55.

- (10) Represents the sum of (a) the vested balance on December 31, 2015 of \$167,876 and (b) a \$467,250 pre-retirement death benefit equal to 15 times the amount deferred in the participant's first year of participation.
- (11) Represents the lump sum present value equal to one-half of the accrued benefit, converted to a qualified joint and survivor form and payable to female spouse three years younger than the participant at the latter of the participant's current age or age 55.

**Table of Contents****Executive Compensation Tables***Mark E. Seaton*

Executive Payments and Benefits Upon Termination	Involuntary Termination							
	Without Cause/ Good				Change-in-Control With Termination for Good Reason/ Without Cause			
	Without Cause/ Good				Change-in-Control With Termination for Good Reason/ Without Cause			
	Without Cause/ Good				Change-in-Control With Termination for Good Reason/ Without Cause			
	Without Cause/ Good				Change-in-Control With Termination for Good Reason/ Without Cause			
Executive Payments and Benefits Upon Termination	Voluntary Termination For Cause		Reason	Termination	Cause		Death	Disability
<b>Amounts due to Triggering Event</b>								
Severance	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 2,275,000(1)	\$ 0	\$ 2,850,000(2)	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
Bonus	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 900,000(3)	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
Accelerated Vesting of RSUs(4)	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 755,085	\$ 1,817,725	\$ 1,817,725	\$ 1,817,725	\$ 1,817,725	\$ 1,817,725
Benefit Continuation	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 144,592(5)	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
<b>Incremental Severance Sub-Total</b>	<b>\$ 0</b>	<b>\$ 0</b>	<b>\$ 3,030,085</b>	<b>\$ 1,817,725</b>	<b>\$ 5,712,317</b>	<b>\$ 1,817,725</b>	<b>\$ 1,817,725</b>	<b>\$ 1,817,725</b>
<b>Previously Earned/Vested Amounts</b>								
Vested 401(k) Savings Plan Balance	\$ 235,723	\$ 235,723	\$ 235,723	\$ 235,723	\$ 235,723	\$ 235,723	\$ 235,723	\$ 235,723
<b>Total Walk-Away Value</b>	<b>\$ 235,723</b>	<b>\$ 235,723</b>	<b>\$ 3,265,808</b>	<b>\$ 2,053,448</b>	<b>\$ 5,948,040</b>	<b>\$ 2,053,448</b>	<b>\$ 2,053,448</b>	<b>\$ 2,053,448</b>

- (1) Represents two times the executive's base salary in effect immediately prior to the date of termination and two times the median of the executive's last three annual incentive bonuses.
- (2) Represents two times the executive's base salary in effect immediately prior to the date of termination and two times the executive's target annual incentive bonus for the current fiscal year, or if there is no such target, the average annual discretionary incentive bonus earned by the executive during the last three completed fiscal years.
- (3) Represents the pro rata portion of the executive's target annual bonus for the year of termination. Also assumes that, while any outstanding performance units would vest in the event of a change-in-control of the Company, the Compensation Committee would exercise its discretion to reduce any performance units awarded to the amount of the target annual incentive bonus.
- (4) The Company's 2010 Incentive Compensation Plan and related agreements provide for acceleration of all unvested RSUs in the event of a change-in-control of the Company that is not approved by the Board of Directors and in the event of death or disability. In the event of termination after meeting early retirement (age 55 with 10 years of service) or normal retirement (age 62), or involuntary termination without cause (absent a change-in-control), all unvested Performance RSUs vest one year after termination. Unvested Long-Term Incentive RSUs vest one year after termination provided the normal retirement criterion is met at the time of termination.
- (5) Represents cash payments to the executive to cover the cost of purchasing the benefits on an after-tax basis.

**Table of Contents****Executive Compensation Tables***Matthew F. Wajner*

Executive Payments and Benefits Upon Termination	Involuntary Termination				Change-in-Control With Termination for Good Reason/ Without Cause			
	Voluntary Termination	For Cause	Without Cause/ Good Reason	Without Termination	Without Cause	Death	Disability	
	Amounts due to Triggering Event							
Severance	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 832,000(1)	\$ 0	\$ 0	
Bonus	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 156,000(2)	\$ 0	\$ 0	
Accelerated Vesting of RSUs(3)	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 70,579	\$ 285,549	\$ 285,549	\$ 285,549	\$ 285,549	
Benefit Continuation	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 99,816(4)	\$ 0	\$ 0	
Incremental Severance Sub-Total	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 70,579	\$ 285,549	\$ 1,373,365	\$ 285,549	\$ 285,549	
Previously Earned/Vested Amounts								
Vested 401(k) Savings Plan Balance	\$ 84,745	\$ 84,745	\$ 84,745	\$ 84,745	\$ 84,745	\$ 84,745	\$ 84,745	
Total Walk-Away Value	\$ 84,745	\$ 84,745	\$ 155,324	\$ 370,294	\$ 1,458,110	\$ 370,294	\$ 370,294	

- (1) Represents two times the executive's base salary in effect immediately prior to the date of termination and two times the executive's target annual incentive bonus for the current fiscal year, or if there is no such target, the average annual discretionary incentive bonus earned by the executive during the last three completed fiscal years.
- (2) Represents the pro rata portion of the executive's target annual bonus for the year of termination. Also assumes that, while any outstanding performance units would vest in the event of a change-in-control of the Company, the Compensation Committee would exercise its discretion to reduce any performance units awarded to the amount of the target annual incentive bonus.
- (3) The Company's 2010 Incentive Compensation Plan and related agreements provide for acceleration of all unvested RSUs in the event of a change-in-control of the Company that is not approved by the Board of Directors and in the event of death or disability. In the event of termination after meeting early retirement (age 55 with 10 years of service) or normal retirement (age 62), or involuntary termination without cause (absent a change-in-control), all unvested Performance RSUs vest one year after termination. Unvested Long-Term Incentive RSUs vest one year after termination provided the normal retirement criterion is met at the time of termination.
- (4) Represents cash payments to the executive to cover the cost of purchasing the benefits on an after-tax basis.

**Table of Contents****III. Required Information****2015 Director Compensation**

The following table sets forth the cash and other compensation earned by non-employee directors of the Board during the fiscal year ended December 31, 2015.

Name	Fees Earned or Paid in Cash (\$)	Stock Awards (1) (\$)	All Other Compensation (\$)	Total (\$)
Anthony K. Anderson	87,000	93,966	0	180,966
Hon. George L. Argyros(2)	30,315	93,966	0	124,281
James L. Doti	142,000	93,966	0	235,966
Parker S. Kennedy(3)	236,000	93,966	10,400	340,366
Margaret M. McCarthy(4)	34,301	40,651	0	74,953
Michael D. McKee	96,616	93,966	0	190,582
Thomas V. McKernan	94,000	93,966	0	187,966
Mark C. Oman	95,000	93,966	0	188,966
Herbert B. Tasker(2)	47,740	93,966	0	141,706
Virginia M. Ueberroth	95,000	93,966	0	188,966

(1) The amounts shown are the grant date fair value of stock awards granted in the year as computed in accordance with FASB ASC Topic 718 using the closing price of our common stock on the grant date. For information on the valuation of the awards, refer to Note 15 to our consolidated financial statements in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2015.

(2) Messrs. Argyros and Tasker retired from the Board effective May 12, 2015. Their cash retainers were prorated accordingly.

(3) Mr. Kennedy received \$10,400 for service on the board of directors of First American Trust, FSB, a subsidiary of the Company. In addition, the Company maintains an office for Mr. Kennedy and provides administrative support.

(4) Ms. McCarthy was appointed to the Board effective July 27, 2015. Her annual retainer and stock awards were prorated accordingly.

The aggregate number of unvested RSUs held by each non-employee director as of December 31, 2015 was as follows:

Name	Restricted Stock Units (#)
Anthony K. Anderson	5,843
Hon. George L. Argyros	0
James L. Doti	5,843
Parker S. Kennedy	5,843
Margaret M. McCarthy	1,021
Michael D. McKee	5,843
Thomas V. McKernan	5,843
Mark C. Oman	5,734
Herbert B. Tasker	0
Virginia M. Ueberroth	5,843



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Compensation of non-employee directors consists of several components. The 2015 annual cash retainer was \$70,000. The chairman of the Board received an additional retainer of \$150,000. The lead independent director of the Company received an additional retainer of \$25,000. The chairs of the Audit Committee, the Compensation Committee, and the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee received an additional retainer equal to \$25,000, \$15,000, and \$10,000, respectively. The fee paid for attending each Board and committee meeting was \$2,000 for in person meetings and generally \$1,000 for telephonic meetings. On February 25, 2015, the

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### **III. Required Information**

Company granted to each non-employee director RSUs with a grant date fair value of \$93,966. Director RSUs vest over three years, subject to continued service on the Board. All outstanding awards vest upon retirement irrespective of length of service prior to such retirement. Directors may also receive additional compensation for serving on the board of directors of certain of the Company's subsidiaries (payments are described in footnote three to the table above).

The Board of Directors has established stock ownership guidelines for non-employee directors whereby such directors are expected to own at least five times their cash annual retainer in Company common stock. RSUs issued to directors are included for purposes of meeting the guidelines. Directors have five years following commencement of service to satisfy the guidelines.

#### **Code of Ethics**

The Board of Directors has adopted a code of ethics that applies to the Company's principal executive officer, principal financial officer, principal accounting officer or controller, and persons performing similar functions. A copy of this code of ethics is posted in the corporate governance section of the Company's Web site at [www.firstam.com](http://www.firstam.com). To the extent the Company waives or amends any provisions of this code of ethics, it will disclose such waivers or amendments on the above Web site. The Board also has adopted a broader code of ethics and conduct, applying to all employees, officers and directors, which also has been posted to the Web site at the address stated above. Each of these codes is available in print to any stockholder who requests it. Such request should be sent to the secretary at our address indicated on the first page of this proxy statement.

#### **Corporate Governance Guidelines**

The Board has adopted corporate governance guidelines which have been posted in the corporate governance section of the Web site at [www.firstam.com](http://www.firstam.com) and are available in print to any stockholder who requests them. Such request should be sent to the secretary at our address indicated on the first page of this proxy statement. In addition to stating the standards that the Board applies in determining whether or not its members are independent, these guidelines state the qualifications and responsibilities of our directors and describe fundamental aspects of our Board and certain of its committees.

#### **Compensation Committee Interlocks and Insider Participation**

During 2015 our Compensation Committee consisted of its current members, Messrs. McKee and Oman. In addition, Herbert B. Tasker was a member of the Compensation Committee until his retirement from the Board on May 12, 2015 and Parker S. Kennedy was a member from May 12, 2015 to February 26, 2016. Each member is not currently and has not formerly been an employee or officer of the Company (other than Mr. Kennedy who was employed by the Company as its executive chairman until his retirement in February 2012) and there were and are no compensation committee interlocks involving any of the members of the Compensation Committee. See also the section entitled "Transactions with Management and Others," which begins on page 20, regarding Mr. Kennedy's son's employment by a subsidiary of the Company.

#### **Report of the Audit Committee**

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The Audit Committee of the Board of Directors reviews the Company's accounting policies and financial reporting and disclosure practices, system of internal controls, audit process and the process for monitoring compliance with laws, regulations and corporate policies. The Board adopted a revised written charter for the Audit Committee on March 27, 2013. The Audit Committee has reviewed the Company's audited consolidated financial statements and discussed them with management.

The Audit Committee has discussed with PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP, the Company's independent registered public accounting firm, the matters required to be discussed under applicable rules adopted by the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board.

**Table of Contents****III. Required Information**

The Audit Committee has received the written disclosures and the letter from PricewaterhouseCoopers required by applicable requirements of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board regarding the independent accountant's communications with the Audit Committee concerning independence, and has discussed with PricewaterhouseCoopers its independence.

Based on the review and discussions noted above, the Audit Committee recommended to the Board that the audited consolidated financial statements be included in the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2015, and be filed with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission.

**Audit Committee**

James L. Doti, Chairman

Thomas V. McKernan

Mark C. Oman

**Securities Authorized for Issuance under Equity Compensation Plans**

The following table sets forth details regarding equity securities of the Company that were authorized for issuance under equity compensation plans of the Company as of December 31, 2015.

Plan Category	Equity Compensation Plan Information		
	Number of securities to be issued upon exercise of outstanding options, warrants and rights (a)	Weighted-average exercise price of outstanding options, warrants and rights(2) (b)	Number of securities remaining available for future issuance under equity compensation plans (excluding securities reflected in column (a)) (c)
(in thousands, except weighted-average exercise price)			
Equity compensation plans approved by security holders	2,313(1)	\$ 27.66	8,318(3)
		\$	

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Equity compensation not approved by security holders

	2,313	\$	27.66	8,318
(1) Consists of unexercised outstanding stock options and unvested or undistributed restricted stock units under the First American Financial Corporation 2010 Incentive Compensation Plan. See Note 15 to the Company's consolidated financial statements in the Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2015 for additional information.				
(2) Calculated solely with respect to outstanding unexercised stock options.				
(3) Consists of the sum of the shares remaining under the First American Financial Corporation 2010 Incentive Compensation Plan and the shares remaining under the Company's Employee Stock Purchase Plan.				

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

Rules adopted by the SEC require our officers and directors, and persons who own more than ten percent of our issued and outstanding common stock, to file reports of their ownership, and changes in ownership, of our shares with the SEC on prescribed forms. Officers, directors and greater-than-ten-percent stockholders are required by the SEC's rules to furnish us with copies of all such forms they file with the SEC.

Based solely on the review of the copies of the forms received by us, or written representations from reporting persons that they were not required to file a Form 5 to report previously unreported ownership or changes in ownership, we believe that, since the filing of last year's proxy statement, our officers, directors and greater-than-ten-percent beneficial owners timely complied with all such filing requirements, except that a reportable event for Parker S. Kennedy not involving a purchase or sale of securities was reported late on his Form 5 filed on January 27, 2016.

**Table of Contents****III. Required Information****Relationship with Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm**

PwC was selected by our Audit Committee as the independent registered public accounting firm to audit our consolidated financial statements for the year ending December 31, 2015. This firm has served as our independent accountants since our June 1, 2010 separation from The First American Corporation.

A representative of PwC is expected to be present at the meeting. The representative will have the opportunity to make any desired statement and to answer any appropriate questions by the stockholders.

**Principal Accounting Fees and Services**

The aggregate fees for 2015 and 2014 in the four categories of service set forth in the table below are as follows:

<b>Aggregate fees billed in year(1)</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2014</b>
Audit Fees	\$ 5,736,796	\$ 6,397,520
Audit-Related Fees(2)	\$ 754,306	\$ 723,401
Tax Fees(3)	\$ 183,273	\$ 205,029
All Other Fees(4)	\$ 31,689	\$ 31,584

(1) All amounts include fees, out-of-pocket expenses, local sales and other taxes where applicable, and other disbursements.

(2) These fees were incurred primarily for procedures performed for internal control reports, consultations concerning compliance with certain government regulations and financial accounting and reporting standards, and information security assessments.

(3) These fees were incurred primarily for tax advice, compliance, and planning.

(4) These fees were incurred primarily for services related to software licensing and human resources benchmarking.

**Policy on Audit Committee Pre-approval of Audit and Permissible Nonaudit Services of Independent Auditor**

The Audit Committee's policy is to pre-approve all engagements of the Company's independent principal registered public accounting firm for audit and nonaudit services. All of these engagements must be pre-approved by the Audit Committee or a designated member of that committee on an individual basis. The Audit Committee or its designee has pre-approved all engagements included in the audit, audit-related, tax and other categories in the table above.

**Stockholder Proposals**

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In order for a proposal by you or your fellow stockholders to be included in the proxy statement and form of proxy solicited by our Board for our next annual meeting of stockholders, the proposal must be received at our address indicated on the first page of this proxy statement no later than the close of business on December 2, 2016 and must comply with all other requirements of SEC Rule 14a-8.

If you wish to submit a proposal for consideration at next year's annual meeting without including the same in the proxy statement and form of proxy solicited by our Board, you should inform our secretary no later than the close of business on February 9, 2017, of your intention to do so. If you wait longer, the holders of the proxies solicited by our Board may vote on your proposal at their discretion. Proposals also must be submitted in accordance with the other applicable provisions of the Company's bylaws, including the notice provisions.

These deadlines assume that the date of our next annual meeting will not be advanced or delayed by more than 30 calendar days from the one year anniversary of the date of the current annual meeting. If such an event occurs, we will provide you with notice in our earliest possible quarterly report on Form 10-Q or on Form 8-K of the respective dates by which such proposals must be received.

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**III. Required Information**

**Appraisal Rights**

You are not entitled to appraisal rights in connection with the approval of the proposals to be voted upon at the meeting.

**General Information**

**We will, upon the written request of any stockholder on the record date for the annual meeting, furnish without charge a copy of our Annual Report on Form 10-K filed with the SEC for the year 2015 and will furnish, at a charge of \$10, a copy of the exhibits thereto. If applicable, such request should contain a representation that the person requesting this material was a beneficial owner of our shares on the record date. Such request should be sent to the secretary at our address indicated on the first page of this proxy statement.**

The Board is not aware of any matters to come before the meeting other than those set forth on the notice accompanying this proxy statement. If any other matters come before the meeting, the holders of the proxies will vote thereon in their discretion.

By Order of the Board of Directors

Jeffrey S. Robinson

Vice President and Secretary

Santa Ana, California

March 30, 2016



**Table of Contents****Non-GAAP Financial Measures**

This proxy statement contains an adjusted return on average equity financial measure that is not presented in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP). The Company is presenting this non-GAAP financial measure because the Company's Compensation Committee uses this measure as a factor in assessing performance for the purpose of making compensation decisions. The Company does not intend for this non-GAAP financial measure to be a substitute for any GAAP financial information. Below, this non-GAAP financial measure is presented with, and reconciled to, the most directly comparable GAAP financial measure. Investors should use this non-GAAP financial measure only in conjunction with the comparable GAAP financial measure.

Adjusted return on average equity is a non-GAAP financial measure because it excludes from total equity accumulated other comprehensive loss and noncontrolling interests. The reconciliation of adjusted return on average equity to the most directly comparable GAAP financial measure is set forth below:

	<b>Year Ended December 31,</b>	
	<b>2015</b>	<b>2014</b>
Net income attributable to the Company	\$ 288,086	\$ 233,534
Total equity	\$ 2,761,665	\$ 2,576,044
Return on average total equity	10.8%	9.3%
Non-GAAP Adjustments:		
GAAP total equity	\$ 2,761,665	\$ 2,576,044
Accumulated other comprehensive loss	239,003	199,106
Noncontrolling interests	(3,163)	(3,127)
Adjusted total equity	\$ 2,997,505	\$ 2,772,023
Adjusted return on average total equity	10.0%(1)	8.7%(1)

- (1) Preliminary calculations of adjusted return on average equity (9.8% for 2015 and 8.6% for 2014) were utilized by the Compensation Committee for purposes of determining compensation metric results for the annual incentive plan. The plan provides for no adjustment to the resulting payout if the final calculation of the metric would result in a bonus amount that differs by five percent or less from the amount determined by the preliminary calculation.

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1 First American Way, Santa Ana, CA 92707

800.854.3643 [www.firstam.com](http://www.firstam.com) NYSE: FAF

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**ANNUAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS**

**Tuesday, May 10, 2016**

**1:00 p.m. Pacific Time**

**At the home office of**

**First American Financial Corporation**

**1 First American Way, Santa Ana, California 92707**

***Your Vote Is Important to the Company!***

**First American Financial Corporation  
1 First American Way  
Santa Ana, California 92707**

**proxy**

**This proxy is solicited by the Board of Directors for use at the Annual Meeting on May 10, 2016.**

The undersigned stockholder of First American Financial Corporation hereby revokes all previously granted proxies and appoints Dennis J. Gilmore and Kenneth D. DeGiorgio, and each of them, with power to each of substitution, to attend the annual meeting of the stockholders of said corporation to be held May 10, 2016, at 1:00 p.m. Pacific Time at the home office of First American Financial Corporation, 1 First American Way, Santa Ana, California, and any adjournments or postponements thereof; and to vote the shares of the undersigned at such meeting as indicated on the reverse side hereof, with all powers that the undersigned would have if acting in person; and with discretionary authority to act on such other matters as may properly come before said meeting or any adjournments or postponements thereof.

**THE SHARES REPRESENTED HEREBY SHALL BE VOTED SPECIFICALLY ON THE PROPOSALS LISTED ON THE REVERSE SIDE HEREOF AS THERE SPECIFIED. WHERE NO SPECIFICATION IS MADE, SAID SHARES SHALL BE VOTED FOR ALL ITEMS.**

*See reverse for voting instructions.*

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Shareowner Services

P.O. Box 64945  
St. Paul, MN 55164-0945

**COMPANY #**

**Vote by Internet, Telephone or Mail**

**24 Hours a Day, 7 Days a Week**

Your phone or Internet vote authorizes the named proxies to vote your shares in the same manner as if you marked, signed and returned your proxy card.

**INTERNET/MOBILE**    [www.proxypush.com/faf](http://www.proxypush.com/faf)

Use the Internet to vote your proxy until 11:59 p.m. (CT) on  
May 9, 2016.

**PHONE 1-866-883-3382**

Use a touch-tone telephone to vote your proxy until  
11:59 p.m. (CT) on May 9, 2016.

**MAIL**    Mark, sign and date your proxy card and return  
it in the postage-paid envelope provided.

**If you vote your proxy by Internet or by Telephone, you  
do NOT need to mail back your Proxy Card.**

***TO VOTE BY MAIL AS THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS RECOMMENDS ON ALL ITEMS BELOW,***

***SIMPLY SIGN, DATE, AND RETURN THIS PROXY CARD.***

ò *Please detach here* ò

**The Board of Directors Recommends a Vote FOR Items 1, 2 and 3.**

<b>1.</b>	Election of	01 Anthony K. Anderson	“ Vote FOR all nominees “	Vote WITHHELD
	Class III	02 Parker S. Kennedy	(except as marked)	from all nominees
	directors:	03 Mark C. Oman		

(Instructions: To withhold authority to vote for any indicated nominee, write the number(s) of the nominee(s) in the box provided to the right.)

2. Advisory Vote to Approve Executive Compensation. ☐ For ☐ Against ☐ Abstain
3. To ratify the selection of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP as the Company's independent registered public accounting firm for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2016. ☐ For ☐ Against ☐ Abstain

**THIS PROXY WHEN PROPERLY EXECUTED WILL BE VOTED AS DIRECTED OR, IF NO DIRECTION IS GIVEN, WILL BE VOTED FOR ITEMS 1, 2 AND 3.**

Address Change? Mark box, sign, and indicate changes below: ☐ Date

Signature(s) in Box

Please sign exactly as your name(s) appears on this Proxy. If held in joint tenancy, all persons should sign. Trustees, administrators, etc., should include title and authority. Corporations should provide full name of corporation and title of authorized officer signing the Proxy.