

CATHAY GENERAL BANCORP  
 Form 4  
 December 19, 2006

**FORM 4**

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

OMB APPROVAL

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Check this box if no longer subject to Section 16. Form 4 or Form 5 obligations may continue. See Instruction 1(b).

**STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF SECURITIES**

Filed pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, Section 17(a) of the Public Utility Holding Company Act of 1935 or Section 30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

(Print or Type Responses)

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person \*  
**CHIU THOMAS C T**

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol  
**CATHAY GENERAL BANCORP [CATY]**

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer

(Check all applicable)

(Last) (First) (Middle)

3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year)  
**12/15/2006**

Director  10% Owner  
 Officer (give title below)  Other (specify below)

**777 NORTH BROADWAY**

(Street)

4. If Amendment, Date Original Filed(Month/Day/Year)

6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check Applicable Line)  
 Form filed by One Reporting Person  
 Form filed by More than One Reporting Person

**LOS ANGELES, CA 90012**

(City) (State) (Zip)

**Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned**

1. Title of Security (Instr. 3)	2. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year)	2A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year)	3. Transaction Code (Instr. 8)	4. Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5)		5. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned Following Reported Transaction(s) (Instr. 3 and 4)	6. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4)	7. Nature of Ownership (Instr. 4)	
				(A) or (D)	Price				
Common Stock	12/15/2006		G	V	868	\$ 0	166,705	I	By Family Trust
Common Stock							59,732	I	By Pension Fund

Reminder: Report on a separate line for each class of securities beneficially owned directly or indirectly.

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SEC 1474 (9-02)

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**Table II - Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned**  
(e.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities)

1. Title of Derivative Security (Instr. 3)	2. Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative Security	3. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year)	3A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year)	4. Transaction Code (Instr. 8)	5. Number of Derivative Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4, and 5)	6. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year)	7. Title and Amount of Underlying Securities (Instr. 3 and 4)	8. Amount or Number of Shares
Stock Option	\$ 11.0595					01/01/2001 <sup>(1)</sup> 12/31/2009	Common Stock	5,120
Stock Option	\$ 21.0935					01/01/2002 <sup>(1)</sup> 12/31/2010	Common Stock	5,120
Stock Option	\$ 17.285					01/01/2003 <sup>(1)</sup> 12/31/2011	Common Stock	5,120
Stock Option	\$ 11.3435					01/01/2004 <sup>(1)</sup> 12/31/2012	Common Stock	5,120
Stock Option	\$ 37					02/17/2006 <sup>(2)</sup> 02/17/2015	Common Stock	3,500
Stock Option	\$ 36.24					01/25/2007 <sup>(3)</sup> 01/25/2016	Common Stock	3,500

## Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships			
	Director	10% Owner	Officer	Other
CHIU THOMAS C T 777 NORTH BROADWAY LOS ANGELES, CA 90012	X			

## Signatures

Thomas C.T.  
Chiu  
12/19/2006

\*\*Signature of Reporting Person                      Date

## Explanation of Responses:

\* If the form is filed by more than one reporting person, *see* Instruction 4(b)(v).

\*\* Intentional misstatements or omissions of facts constitute Federal Criminal Violations. *See* 18 U.S.C. 1001 and 15 U.S.C. 78ff(a).

(1) The option is fully exercisable.

(2) The option vests in 5 equal annual installments beginning 2/17/06.

(3) The option vests in 5 equal annual installments beginning 1/25/07.

Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed. If space is insufficient, *see* Instruction 6 for procedure.

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