

AUDIT COMMITTEE CHARTER

Adopted by the Board of Directors of Cathay General Bancorp as amended January 15, 2004

Purpose

The purpose of the Audit Committee (the "Committee") of the board of directors (the "Board") of Cathay General Bancorp (the "Company") is to oversee the accounting and financial reporting processes of the Company and audits of its financial statements. The Committee is not responsible, however, for planning or conducting audits, or determining whether the Company's financial statements are complete and accurate or in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles.

Composition

The Committee shall be composed of three or more directors, as determined by the Board, each of whom shall be "independent" as defined in Section 10A(m) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the "Exchange Act"), and the Rules and Regulations (the "Regulations") of the Securities and Exchange Commission (the "Commission") under the Exchange Act, shall meet the requirements of the Nasdaq Stock Market ("Nasdaq"), and shall meet with the requirements of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation. At least one member of the Committee shall be a "financial expert" as defined in the Regulations and Nasdaq requirements.

Responsibilities

The Committee is charged by the Board with the responsibility to:

1. Appoint and provide for the compensation of the Company's outside auditor, oversee the work of the outside auditor (including resolution of any disagreements between management and the outside auditor regarding financial reporting), evaluate the performance of the outside auditor and, if so determined by the Committee, replace the outside auditor; it being acknowledged that the outside auditor is ultimately accountable to the Board and the Committee, as representatives of the stockholders.
2. Ensure that, as soon as practicable after adoption of registration guidelines or rules by the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board and at all times thereafter, the Company's outside auditor is a "registered public accounting firm" (as defined in Section 2(a)(12) of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002).
3. Receive and evaluate the written disclosures and the letter that the outside auditor is required to deliver to the Committee regarding the outside auditor's independence in accordance with Independence Standards Board Standard No. 1, discuss with the auditor its independence, and, if determined by the Committee as part of its evaluation of such written disclosures and letter, take appropriate action concerning independence of the outside auditor.
4. Meet and discuss with management and the outside auditor the Company's Form 10-Q (including the matters described in SAS 61 with the Company's outside auditor) prior to the filing of the Company's Form 10-Q.
5. Instruct the outside auditor and the internal auditor to advise the Committee if there are any subjects that require special attention.
6. Instruct the outside auditor to report to the Committee on all critical accounting policies of the Company, all alternative treatments of financial information within generally accepted accounting principles that have been discussed with management, ramifications of the use of such alternative disclosures and treatments

and the treatment preferred by the auditors, and other material written communications between the auditors and management.

7. Meet with management and the outside auditor to discuss the annual financial statements and the report of the outside auditor thereon, and to discuss significant issues encountered in the course of the audit work, including: restrictions on the scope of activities; access to required information; the adequacy of internal financial controls; the adequacy of the disclosure of off-balance sheet transactions, arrangements, obligations and relationships in reports filed with the Commission; and the appropriateness of the presentation of any non-GAAP financial measures (as defined in the Regulations) included in any report filed with the Commission or in any public disclosure or release.
8. Review the management letter delivered by the outside auditor in connection with the audit.
9. Following such review and discussions, if so determined by the Committee, recommend to the Board that the annual financial statements be included in the Company's annual report on Form 10-K.
10. Meet at least once each year in separate executive sessions with management, the internal auditor and the outside auditor to discuss matters that any of them or the Committee believes could significantly affect the financial statements and should be discussed privately.
11. Have such meetings with management, the outside auditor and the internal auditor as the Committee deems appropriate to discuss the concept and design of the Company's information and reporting systems and the steps management has taken to address significant issues concerning those matters, and to discuss significant financial risk exposures facing the Company and the steps management has taken to monitor and control such exposures.
12. Review significant changes to the Company's accounting principles and practices proposed by the outside auditor, the internal auditor or management.
13. Review the scope and results of internal audits, internal audit department budget, audit plan, plan changes, activities, organizational structure, staffing and department qualifications, as needed.
14. Evaluate the performance of the internal auditor and, if so determined by the Committee, recommend replacement of the internal auditor.
15. Conduct or authorize such inquiries into matters within the Committee's scope of responsibility as the Committee deems appropriate.
16. Prepare the Committee report required by the Regulations to be included in the Company's annual proxy statement.
17. Establish a procedure for receipt, retention and treatment of any complaints received by the Company about its accounting, internal accounting controls or auditing matters and for the confidential and anonymous submission by employees of concerns regarding questionable accounting or auditing matters.
18. Approve, in advance of their performance, all services to be provided to the Company by its outside auditor, provided that the Committee shall not approve any non-audit services proscribed by Section 10A(g) of the Exchange Act in the absence of an applicable exemption. The Committee may delegate to a designated member or members of the Committee the authority to approve such services so long as any such approval is presented to the full Committee at its next scheduled meeting.
19. Review and approve all related party transactions.
20. Provide minutes of Committee meetings to the Board, and report to the Board on any significant matters arising from the Committee's work.

21. At least annually, evaluate the performance of the Committee, review and reassess this Charter and, if appropriate, recommend changes to the Board.

Authority

By adopting this Charter, the Board delegates to the Committee full and exclusive authority to:

1. Perform each of the responsibilities of the Committee described above.
2. Appoint a chair of the Committee, unless a chair is designated by the Board.
3. Engage outside counsel and other advisors as the Committee determines necessary to carry out its responsibilities.
4. Cause the officers of the Company to provide such funding as the Committee shall determine to be appropriate for payment of compensation to the Company's outside auditor and any legal counsel or other advisers engaged by the Committee, and payment of ordinary administrative expenses of the Committee that are necessary or appropriate in carrying out its duties.
5. Obtain advice and assistance from internal legal or other advisors.