

COLONIAL BANCGROUP INC

Form 424B5

April 21, 2008

Table of Contents

The information in this Prospectus Supplement is not complete and may be changed. This Prospectus Supplement and the accompanying Prospectus are not offers to sell these securities and are not soliciting an offer to buy these securities in any state where the offer or sale is not permitted.

FILED PURSUANT TO

RULE 424 (B) (5)

REGISTRATION NO: 333-150325

PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT

(To Prospectus dated April 18, 2008)

Subject to Completion, dated April 21, 2008

25,000,000 Shares

The Colonial BancGroup, Inc.

Common Stock

We are offering shares of our common stock. Our common stock is listed on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol CNB. The last reported sale price of our common stock on April 18, 2008 was \$9.92 per share.

Investing in our common stock involves risks. See Risk Factors beginning on page S-7 of this prospectus supplement and in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2007, incorporated by reference herein, before investing in our common stock.

	Per Share	Total
Public offering price	\$	\$
Underwriting discounts and commissions	\$	\$
Proceeds to us (before expenses)	\$	\$

Edgar Filing: COLONIAL BANCGROUP INC - Form 424B5

We have granted the underwriters a 30-day option to purchase up to an additional 3,750,000 shares from us on the same terms and conditions as set forth above to the extent the underwriters sell more than 25,000,000 shares of common stock in this offering.

Neither the Securities and Exchange Commission nor any other regulatory body has approved or disapproved of these securities or passed upon the accuracy or adequacy of this prospectus supplement or the accompanying prospectus. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense.

Lehman Brothers, on behalf of the underwriters, expects to deliver the shares on or about April , 2008

Sole Book-Running Manager

LEHMAN BROTHERS

CREDIT SUISSE

SUNTRUST ROBINSON HUMPHREY

MORGAN KEEGAN & COMPANY, INC.

April , 2008

Table of Contents

You should rely only on the information contained or incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus. We have not, and the underwriters have not, authorized anyone to provide you with different information. We are not making an offer to sell these securities in any jurisdiction where the offer or sale is not permitted. You should assume that the information contained or incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus is accurate as of the date on the front of this prospectus supplement only. Our business, financial condition, results of operations and prospects may have changed since that date.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
Prospectus Supplement	
<u>About this Prospectus Supplement</u>	S-ii
<u>Forward-Looking Statements</u>	S-iii
<u>Prospectus Supplement Summary</u>	S-1
<u>Risk Factors</u>	S-7
<u>Use of Proceeds</u>	S-7
<u>Capitalization</u>	S-8
<u>Price Range of Common Stock</u>	S-9
<u>Underwriting</u>	S-10
<u>Legal Matters</u>	S-14
Prospectus	
About this Prospectus	1
Where You Can Find More Information	1
Ratio of Earnings to Fixed Charges and Preferred Stock Dividends	2
Use of Proceeds	2
Plan of Distribution	2
Description of the Senior Debt Securities	4
Description of the Subordinated Debt Securities	14
Description of Capital Stock	19
Validity of the Securities	22
Experts	22

Table of Contents

ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT

This document is in two parts. The first part is this prospectus supplement, which contains the terms of this offering of shares. The second part is the prospectus dated April 18, 2008, which is part of our Registration Statement on Form S-3 (No. 333-150325).

This prospectus supplement may add to, update or change the information in the accompanying prospectus. If information in this prospectus supplement is inconsistent with information in the accompanying prospectus, this prospectus supplement will apply and will supersede that information in the accompanying prospectus.

It is important for you to read and consider all information contained or incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus in making your investment decision. You should also read and consider the information in the documents to which we have referred you in *Where You Can Find More Information* in the accompanying prospectus.

No person is authorized to give any information or to make any representations other than those contained or incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement or the accompanying prospectus and, if given or made, such information or representations must not be relied upon as having been authorized. This prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus do not constitute an offer to sell or the solicitation of an offer to buy any securities other than the securities described in this prospectus supplement or an offer to sell or the solicitation of an offer to buy such securities in any circumstances in which such offer or solicitation is unlawful. Neither the delivery of this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus, nor any sale made hereunder, shall under any circumstances create any implication that there has been no change in our affairs since the date of this prospectus supplement, or that the information contained or incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement or the accompanying prospectus is correct as of any time subsequent to the date of such information.

In this prospectus supplement, unless otherwise stated or the context otherwise requires, references to *we*, *us*, *our* and *BancGroup* refer to The Colonial BancGroup, Inc. and its consolidated subsidiaries. If we use a capitalized term in this prospectus supplement and do not define the term in this document, it is defined in the accompanying prospectus.

Unless otherwise indicated, all of the information in this prospectus supplement assumes no exercise of the underwriters' option to purchase up to an additional 3,750,000 shares of our common stock.

Table of Contents

FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

This prospectus supplement, the accompanying prospectus and the documents incorporated by reference include forward-looking statements within the meaning of the federal securities laws. Words such as believes, estimates, plans, expects, should, may, might, outlook, anticipates, the negative of these terms and similar expressions, as they relate to us (including our subsidiaries and our management), are intended to identify forward-looking statements. The forward-looking statements in this prospectus supplement are subject to risks and uncertainties that could cause actual results to differ materially from those expressed in or implied by such statements.

In addition to factors mentioned elsewhere in this prospectus supplement or previously disclosed in our Securities and Exchange Commission (the SEC) reports (accessible on the SEC's website at www.sec.gov or on our website at www.colonialbank.com), the following factors, among others, could cause actual results to differ materially from forward-looking statements and future results to differ materially from historical performance. These factors are not exclusive:

losses in our loan portfolio are greater than estimated or expected;

an inability to raise additional capital on terms and conditions that are satisfactory;

the impact of current economic conditions on our ability to borrow additional funds to meet our liquidity needs;

economic conditions affecting real estate values and transactions in our market and/or general economic conditions, either nationally or regionally, that are less favorable than expected;

changes in the interest rate environment which expand or reduce margins or adversely affect critical estimates as applied and projected returns on investments;

deposit attrition, customer loss, or revenue loss in the ordinary course of business;

increases in competitive pressure in the banking industry and from non-banks;

costs or difficulties related to the integration of our businesses and the institutions we acquire are greater than expected;

our inability to realize elements of our strategic plans for 2008 and beyond;

natural disasters in our primary market areas which result in prolonged business disruption or materially impair the value of collateral securing loans;

management's assumptions and estimates underlying critical accounting policies prove to be inadequate or materially incorrect or are not borne out by subsequent events;

Edgar Filing: COLONIAL BANCGROUP INC - Form 424B5

the impact of recent and future federal and state regulatory changes;

current or future litigation, regulatory investigations, proceedings or inquiries;

strategies to manage interest rate risk may yield results other than those anticipated;

changes which may occur in the regulatory environment;

a significant rate of inflation (deflation);

unanticipated litigation or claims;

acts of terrorism or war; and

changes in the securities markets.

Many of these factors are beyond our control. The reader is cautioned not to place undue reliance on any forward-looking statements made by or on behalf of us. Any such statement speaks only as of the date the statement was made or as of such date that may be referenced within the statement. We do not undertake any obligation to update or revise any forward-looking statements.

S-iii

Table of Contents

PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT SUMMARY

This summary highlights selected information about us and this offering. It may not contain all of the information that is important to you in deciding whether to purchase the shares. We encourage you to read the entire prospectus supplement, the accompanying prospectus and the documents that we have filed with the SEC that are incorporated by reference prior to deciding whether to purchase the shares.

The Colonial BancGroup, Inc.

Our principal activity is to supervise and coordinate the business of our subsidiaries, principally Colonial Bank, N.A. (Colonial Bank), and to provide them with capital and services. As of March 31, 2008, Colonial Bank had a total of 342 branches, with 197 branches in Florida, 90 branches in Alabama, 19 branches in Georgia, 18 branches in Texas and 18 branches in Nevada. Colonial Bank conducts a general commercial banking business in its respective service areas and offers a variety of demand, savings and time deposit products as well as extensions of credit through personal, commercial and mortgage loans within each of its market areas. Colonial Bank also provides additional services to its markets through treasury management services, electronic banking services and credit card services. Through its wealth management area, Colonial Bank's wholly owned subsidiaries Colonial Investment Services, Inc., Colonial Investment Services of Florida, Georgia, Nevada and Tennessee offer various insurance products and annuities for sale to the public. These subsidiaries are regulated by each state's department of insurance.

Colonial Bank encounters intense competition in its commercial banking business, generally from other banks located in its respective metropolitan and service areas. Colonial Bank competes for interest-bearing funds with other banks and with many non-bank issuers of commercial paper and other securities. Competition also exists with banks in other metropolitan areas of the United States, many of which are larger in terms of capital resources and personnel. In the conduct of certain aspects of its commercial banking business, Colonial Bank competes with savings and loan associations, credit unions, mortgage banks, factors, insurance companies and other financial institutions. At March 31, 2008, Colonial Bank accounted for approximately 99.8% of our consolidated assets.

Our subsidiary Colonial Brokerage, Inc., a Delaware corporation, provides full service and discount brokerage services and investment advice and is a member of and is regulated by the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority.

We are a Delaware corporation organized in 1974 as a bank holding company under the Bank Holding Company Act of 1956, as amended (the BHCA). We were originally organized as Southland Bancorporation, and our name was changed in 1981. In 1997, pursuant to the Riegle-Neal Interstate Banking and Branching Efficiency Act of 1994, we consolidated our various banking subsidiaries into Colonial Bank. In 2000, pursuant to the Gramm-Leach-Bliley Financial Services Modernization Act (Gramm-Leach), we elected to become a financial holding company which allows us to affiliate with securities firms and insurance companies and to engage in other activities that are financial in nature, incidental to such financial activities, or complementary to such activities.

We derive substantially all of our income from dividends received from Colonial Bank. Various statutory provisions and regulatory policies limit the amount of dividends Colonial Bank may pay without regulatory approval. In addition, federal statutes restrict the ability of Colonial Bank to make loans to us.

Table of Contents

At March 31, 2008, we had 4,623 full-time equivalent employees. Our principal offices are located at 100 Colonial Bank Blvd., Montgomery, Alabama 36117 and our telephone number is (334) 676-5000.

Recent Financial Results

On April 21, 2008, we announced financial results for the quarter ended March 31, 2008. Despite the challenging operating environment for all financial institutions, we reported net income of \$25 million for the first quarter of 2008 compared to net income of \$9 million for the fourth quarter 2007 and \$36 million for the first quarter of 2007. Our earnings per share of \$0.16 for the first quarter represent an increase of \$0.10 over the fourth quarter 2007 and a decrease of \$0.08 from the first quarter 2007. The first quarter's per share results include a \$0.02 reduction for the correction of inadvertent errors discovered in the first quarter which were not material, individually or in the aggregate, to any previous periods and are not expected to be material to our expected results of operations, financial position or cash flows for 2008. These errors related principally to the accounting for the carrying value of certain loans held for sale and the associated derivatives. The increases in net income and net income per share versus the fourth quarter of the prior year were due to a decrease in provision for loan losses which was offset partially by decreases in net interest income and noninterest income and an increase in noninterest expense. The decreases in net income and net income per share versus the first quarter of the prior year were due to higher credit costs, as increases in noninterest income and noninterest expense substantially offset each other. These factors may continue to affect adversely our results through the remainder of 2008.

Net charge-offs were \$33.6 million, or 0.84% annualized of average loans, for the first quarter of 2008, down from 0.88% annualized for the fourth quarter of 2007. The nonperforming assets ratio at March 31, 2008 was 1.65% of period-end loans compared to 0.86% at December 31, 2007, reflecting both the continued deterioration in our residential real estate construction portfolio and our decision to work out many of our nonperforming loans rather than sell them at a deep discount to their intrinsic value. As a result of our work out strategy, nonperforming assets may continue to rise through the second quarter of 2008. We also expect net charge-offs to rise above the first quarter level in the second quarter of 2008. We expect net charge-offs to decline in the last two quarters of 2008 resulting in a net charge-off ratio for the full year of 2008, approximating the annualized ratio for the first quarter of 2008. Our loan loss provision of \$35.5 million for the first quarter 2008 exceeded net charge-offs by \$2 million, increasing the loan loss reserve to \$241 million or 1.50% of period-end loans at March 31, 2008.

Total assets were \$27 billion, of which total loans comprised \$16.1 billion at March 31, 2008 compared to \$15.9 billion at December 31, 2007. Total deposits were \$19 billion at March 31, 2008 and average deposits for the first quarter of 2008 increased 38% annualized from the fourth quarter of 2007 and 17% from the first quarter of 2007.

Our net interest income was \$181.6 million for the first quarter 2008, down \$13.6 million from the fourth quarter of 2007 as our net interest margin contracted by 49 basis points from 3.43% in the fourth quarter 2007 to 2.94% in the first quarter 2008. The rapid reductions in the prime and LIBOR rates in the first quarter repriced approximately half of the Company's loan portfolio. Deposit costs did not decline in tandem with the decline in prime and LIBOR rates due to intense competition for deposit dollars from financial services companies as a result of the illiquid capital markets. The Company expects net interest margin to stabilize near the current level as time deposits and other borrowings reprice into a lower rate environment.

On March 6, 2008 we issued \$250 million of 8.875% Subordinated Notes due 2038. On April 21, 2008 we announced a quarterly dividend of \$0.095 per share. Our Board of Directors will determine future dividend rates based on the results of operations and estimates of performance going forward.

Table of Contents

The Offering

Issuer	The Colonial Bancgroup, Inc.
Common stock offered	25,000,000 shares
Common stock to be outstanding after the offering	183,097,161 shares
Underwriters' option to purchase additional shares	We may sell up to an additional 3,750,000 shares if the underwriters exercise their option to purchase additional shares.
Use of proceeds	The proceeds from this offering will be used for general corporate purposes, including investments in our subsidiaries. See Use of Proceeds.
Dividends	<p>Holders of our common stock are entitled to receive dividends when, as and if declared by our board of directors. During 2007, we paid quarterly dividends to holders of our common stock at the annual rate of \$0.75 per share. On January 23, 2008, we declared a quarterly dividend of \$0.19 per share. On April 21, 2008 we announced a quarterly dividend of \$0.095 per share.</p>
NYSE symbol	CNB
Risk factors	<p>For a discussion of risks associated with an investment in our common stock, please see the sections entitled Risk Factors herein and in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2007, which we refer to as our 2007 Form 10-K.</p> <p>The number of shares of common stock that will be outstanding after this offering is based on the number of shares of common stock outstanding as of March 31, 2008 and excludes the following:</p> <p>4,411,904 shares of common stock subject to options outstanding as of March 31, 2008; and</p> <p>4,404,853 shares of common stock available for future grants under our employee benefits plans as of March 31, 2008.</p>

Table of Contents**Summary Consolidated Financial Data**

The following table sets forth our summary consolidated financial and other data. The audited financial data have been derived from our audited financial statements. You should read the following information in conjunction with our financial statements and notes thereto and the other financial and statistical information that we include or incorporate by reference in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus.

	For The Year Ended December 31,				
	2007	2006	2005	2004	2003
	(In thousands)				
Statement of Income:					
Interest income	\$ 1,556,485	\$ 1,455,585	\$ 1,162,055	\$ 848,017	\$ 780,808
Interest expense	795,111	700,318	452,833	280,769	285,660
Net interest income	761,374	755,267	709,222	567,248	495,148
Provision for loan losses	106,450	22,142	26,838	26,994	37,378
Net interest income after provision for loan losses	654,924	733,125	682,384	540,254	457,770
Noninterest income	186,224	189,222	175,976	153,201	138,627
Noninterest expense	559,678	519,601	515,255	431,649	376,001
Minority interest expense/REIT preferred dividends	12,984				
Income before income taxes	268,486	402,746	343,105	261,806	220,396
Applicable income taxes	87,561	136,933	114,603	88,929	74,785
Net Income	\$ 180,925	\$ 265,813	\$ 228,502	\$ 172,877	\$ 145,611
Earnings Per Common Share:					
Net income:					
Basic	\$ 1.18	\$ 1.73	\$ 1.53	\$ 1.32	\$ 1.17
Diluted	1.17	1.72	1.52	1.31	1.16
Average shares outstanding:					
Basic	153,519	153,598	149,053	131,144	124,615
Diluted	154,391	154,810	150,790	132,315	125,289
Cash dividends per common share	\$ 0.75	\$ 0.68	\$ 0.61	\$ 0.58	\$ 0.56
Statement of Condition Data (at period end):					
Total assets	\$ 25,975,989	\$ 22,784,249	\$ 21,426,197	\$ 18,896,610	\$ 16,267,979
Securities purchased under agreements to resell	2,049,664	605,937	589,902	221,491	
Total securities	3,682,510	3,085,488	2,844,354	3,653,554	3,110,708
Loans, net of unearned income	15,923,178	15,478,889	14,899,864	12,857,811	11,588,895
Loans held for sale	1,544,222	1,474,000	1,097,892	678,496	378,324
Non-time deposits	9,771,573	9,092,663	9,012,943	7,546,038	6,017,435
Total deposits	18,544,267	16,091,054	15,483,449	11,863,695	9,918,434
Long-term debt	4,023,836	2,522,273	2,338,831	2,260,957	2,442,235
Shareholders equity	2,273,571	2,057,335	1,932,691	1,398,291	1,185,452

Table of Contents

	For The Year Ended December 31,				
	2007	2006	2005	2004	2003
	(In thousands)				
Average balances:					
Total assets	\$ 23,854,264	\$ 22,237,690	\$ 20,682,310	\$ 17,433,571	\$ 15,842,491
Cash and due from banks	336,814	376,815	402,528	328,713	339,337
Interest-earning assets	21,636,867	20,409,906	18,943,511	16,173,539	14,736,974
Securities purchased under agreements to resell	1,467,233	592,840	489,688	76,554	
Total securities	3,170,823	3,014,453	3,400,782	3,397,000	2,763,667
Loans, net of unearned income	15,290,766	15,339,699	14,139,380	12,148,513	11,550,930
Loans held for sale	1,613,170	1,374,115	823,177	497,315	373,226
Non-time deposits	9,278,950	9,080,151	8,543,542	6,847,334	5,419,445
Total deposits	16,566,120	15,788,319	13,987,525	10,862,040	9,418,926
Shareholders' equity	2,166,296	1,992,772	1,779,081	1,285,772	1,125,296
Selected Financial Measures:					
Net income to:					
Average assets	0.76%	1.20%	1.10%	0.99%	0.92%
Average shareholders' equity	8.35	13.34	12.84	13.45	12.94
Noninterest income/average assets	0.78	0.85	0.85	0.88	0.88
Noninterest expense/average assets	2.35	2.34	2.49	2.48	2.37
Efficiency ratio	58.68	54.94	58.11	59.76	59.11
Dividend Payout Ratio	64.10	39.53	40.13	44.27	48.28
Shareholders' equity to assets	8.75	9.03	9.02	7.40	7.29
Tangible common equity ratio	4.83	6.26	5.97	5.43	5.65
Tangible capital ratio	6.00	6.26	5.97	5.43	5.65
Book value per share	\$ 14.44	\$ 13.46	\$ 12.53	\$ 10.45	\$ 9.34
Tangible book value per share	\$ 7.63	\$ 9.05	\$ 8.02	\$ 7.50	\$ 7.11
Risk-based capital: (1)					
Tier 1	8.22%	9.09%	9.15%	8.80%	9.41%
Total	11.01	11.77	12.17	11.39	12.55
Tier 1 leverage (1)	6.67	7.81	7.77	7.16	7.54
Total nonperforming assets to net loans, other real estate and repossessions (2)					
	0.86	0.16	0.21	0.29	0.65
Net charge-offs to average loans					
	0.35	0.12	0.14	0.19	0.31
Allowance for loan losses to total loans (net of unearned income)					
	1.50	1.13	1.15	1.16	1.20
Allowance for loan losses to nonperforming loans (2)					
	196	1247	662	548	240
Non-GAAP Measures: (3)					
Core noninterest income/average assets (4)	0.88	0.82	0.85	0.84	0.89
Core noninterest expense/average assets (5)(7)	2.27	2.33	2.42	2.42	2.37
Core efficiency ratio (6)(7)	55.49	55.34	56.58	59.04	58.88

- (1) Refer to Note 18, Regulatory Matters and Restrictions in the Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements contained in our 2007 Form 10-K for additional information.
- (2) Nonperforming loans and nonperforming assets are shown as defined in the Risk Management section of Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations contained in our 2007 Form 10-K.

Table of Contents

- (3) Management believes that these non-GAAP measures provide information that is useful to investors in understanding the performance of the Company's underlying operations and performance trends. Specifically, these measures permit evaluation and comparison of results for ongoing business operations, and it is on this basis that Management internally assesses the Company's performance.
- (4) Excluded from core noninterest income are securities and derivatives gains (losses), net totaling \$4.0 million, \$4.8 million, (\$24.7) million, \$7.5 million, and \$4.8 million for 2007, 2006, 2005, 2004 and 2003, respectively; securities restructuring charges of (\$36.0) million for 2007; gain on sale of mortgage loans of \$3.9 million and merchant services of \$4.9 million for 2007; gain on sale of Goldleaf of \$2.8 million for 2006; gain on sale of branches of \$37.0 million for 2005; and changes in fair value of swap derivatives of (\$12.1) million, (\$0.4) million and (\$6.9) million for 2005, 2004 and 2003, respectively.
- (5) Excluded from core noninterest expense are severance expense of \$6.6 million and \$0.4 million for 2007 and 2006, respectively; merger related expenses of \$4.0 million, \$4.2 million, \$2.0 million and \$0.3 million for 2007, 2005, 2004 and 2003, respectively; and net losses related to the early extinguishment of debt of \$6.9 million, \$9.6 million and \$7.4 million for 2007, 2005 and 2004, respectively.
- (6) This ratio utilizes core noninterest income and core noninterest expense as detailed in notes (4) and (5) above.
- (7) Prior periods have been conformed to the current period presentation.

Table of Contents

RISK FACTORS

You should carefully consider the following risk factors and the risk factors set forth in Item 1A of our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2007, as well as the other information included or incorporated by reference into this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus, before making an investment decision. The following is not intended as, and should not be construed as, an exhaustive list of relevant risk factors. There may be other risks that a prospective investor should consider that are relevant to its own particular circumstances or generally.

Our allowance for loan losses may not be adequate to cover actual loan losses, which may require us to take a charge to our earnings and adversely impact our financial condition and results of operations.

We maintain an allowance for estimated loan losses that we believe is adequate for absorbing any probable losses in our loan portfolio. Management determines the provision for loan losses based upon an analysis of general market conditions, credit quality of our loan portfolio, and performance of our customers relative to their financial obligations with us. The amount of future losses is susceptible to changes in economic, operating, and other conditions, including changes in interest rates that may be beyond our control and such losses may exceed the allowance for estimated loan losses. Although management believes that the allowance for estimated loan losses is adequate to absorb any probable losses on existing loans that may become uncollectible, there can be no assurance that the allowance will prove sufficient to cover actual loan losses in the future. Significant increases to the provisions for loan losses may be necessary if material adverse changes in general economic conditions occur or the performance of our loan portfolio deteriorates. Additionally, federal banking regulators, as an integral part of their supervisory function, periodically review the allowance for estimated loan losses. If these regulatory agencies require us to increase the allowance for estimated loan losses, it could have a negative effect on our results of operations and financial condition.

We may be required to raise additional capital in the future, but that capital may not be available when it is needed, which could adversely affect our financial condition and results of operations.

We are required by federal and state regulatory authorities to maintain adequate levels of capital to support our operations. We anticipate that our current capital resources will satisfy our capital requirements for the foreseeable future. We may at some point, however, need to raise additional capital to maintain such levels and/or support our growth.

Our ability to raise additional capital, if needed, will depend on conditions in the capital markets at that time, which are outside our control, and on our financial performance. Accordingly, we cannot assure you of our ability to raise additional capital, if needed, on terms acceptable to us. If we cannot raise additional capital when needed, our ability to further expand our operations could be materially impaired.

Conditions in the financial markets may limit our access to additional short-term funding to meet our liquidity needs.

We anticipate that our current sources of liquidity, which include deposits, Federal Home Loan Bank advances, cash on hand and short-term borrowings will remain adequate to meet our liquidity needs. However, the limited availability of liquidity as a result of the subprime mortgage crisis may require us to make short-term borrowings, if needed, on terms and conditions that adversely affect our results of operations.

USE OF PROCEEDS

The net proceeds from the sale of the shares of common stock offered hereby (after deducting underwriting discounts and commissions and expenses of the offering) are estimated to be approximately \$ million (\$ million if the underwriters' option to purchase additional shares of common stock is exercised in full). We intend to use the net proceeds from the sale of the shares for general corporate purposes, including investments in our subsidiaries.

Table of Contents**CAPITALIZATION**

The following table sets forth, as of December 31, 2007, our consolidated cash and due from banks and capitalization on an actual basis and as adjusted to give effect to the sale of the common stock offered hereby. You should read this table in conjunction with our consolidated financial statements and related notes thereto which are incorporated by reference.

	At December 31, 2007	
	Actual	As Adjusted (2)
	Dollars in Thousands	
Cash and due from banks	\$ 474,948	
Long-term debt:		
Variable rate subordinated debentures	\$ 7,725	
Subordinated notes	378,709	
Junior subordinated notes	108,256	
Total long-term debt (1)	494,690	
Stockholders equity:		
Preferred stock, \$2.50 par value; 50,000,000 shares authorized and none issued		
Preference stock, \$2.50 par value; 1,000,000 shares authorized and none issued		
Common stock, \$2.50 par value; 400,000,000 shares authorized; 167,407,169 shares issued and 157,440,442 shares outstanding, actual, shares issued and shares outstanding, as adjusted	418,518	
Additional paid in capital	1,004,888	
Retained earnings	1,094,916	
Treasury stock, at cost (9,966,727 shares at December 31, 2007)	(240,336)	
Accumulated other comprehensive loss, net of taxes	(4,415)	
Total shareholders equity	2,273,571	
Total capitalization	\$ 2,768,261	

(1) Does not include \$250,000,000 aggregate principal amount of 8.875% Subordinated Notes due 2038 issued on March 6, 2008.

(2) Adjusted to give effect to the sale of shares of our common stock.

Table of Contents**PRICE RANGE OF COMMON STOCK**

Our common stock is traded on the NYSE under the symbol CNB. The following table sets forth on a per share basis the high and low sales prices for consolidated trading in our common stock as reported on the NYSE and dividends for the quarters indicated.

	Price Range of Common Stock		Dividend Paid per Share
	High	Low	
2006			
First Quarter	\$ 25.34	\$ 23.58	\$ 0.17
Second Quarter	27.27	24.52	0.17
Third Quarter	26.20	23.75	0.17
Fourth Quarter	26.06	24.52	0.17
2007			
First Quarter	\$ 26.80	\$ 23.86	\$ 0.1875
Second Quarter	25.43	23.49	0.1875
Third Quarter	25.50	19.30	0.1875
Fourth Quarter	22.47	12.85	0.1875
2008			
First Quarter	\$ 16.06	\$ 9.57	\$ 0.19
Second Quarter (through April 17, 2008)	10.67	8.56	

The closing price of our common stock on the NYSE on April 18, 2008 was \$9.92.

As of February 20, 2008, there were approximately 10,065 holders of record of our common stock. This number excludes beneficial owners of common stock held in street name.

Table of Contents

UNDERWRITING

Lehman Brothers Inc. is acting as the representative of the underwriters and sole book-running manager of this offering. Under the terms of an underwriting agreement, which we will file as an exhibit to a Current Report on Form 8-K and incorporate by reference in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus, each of the underwriters named below has severally agreed to purchase from us the respective number of shares of common stock shown opposite its name below:

Underwriter	Number of Shares
Lehman Brothers Inc.	
Credit Suisse Securities (USA) LLC	
SunTrust Robinson Humphrey, Inc.	
Morgan Keegan & Company, Inc.	
Total	

The underwriting agreement provides that the underwriters' obligation to purchase shares of common stock depends on the satisfaction of the conditions contained in the underwriting agreement including:

the obligation to purchase all of the shares of common stock offered hereby (other than those shares of common stock covered by their option to purchase additional shares as described below), if any of the shares are purchased;

the representations and warranties made by us to the underwriters are true;

there is no material change in our business or in the financial markets; and

we deliver customary closing documents to the underwriters.

Commissions and Expenses

The following table summarizes the underwriting discounts and commissions we will pay to the underwriters. These amounts are shown assuming both no exercise and full exercise of the underwriters' option to purchase additional shares. The underwriting fee is the difference between the initial price to the public and the amount the underwriters pay to us for the shares.

Per share	No Exercise	Full Exercise
Total		

The representative of the underwriters has advised us that the underwriters propose to offer the shares of common stock directly to the public at the public offering price on the cover of this prospectus supplement and to selected dealers, which may include the underwriters, at such offering price less a selling concession not in excess of \$ _____ per share. After the offering, the representative may change the offering price and other selling terms.

The expenses of the offering that are payable by us are estimated to be approximately \$ _____ (excluding underwriting discounts and commissions).

Option to Purchase Additional Shares

Edgar Filing: COLONIAL BANCGROUP INC - Form 424B5

We have granted the underwriters an option exercisable for 30 days after the date of the underwriting agreement, to purchase, from time to time, in whole or in part, up to an aggregate of 3,750,000 shares at the

S-10

Table of Contents

public offering price less underwriting discounts and commissions. This option may be exercised if the underwriters sell more than shares in connection with this offering. To the extent that this option is exercised, each underwriter will be obligated, subject to certain conditions, to purchase its pro rata portion of these additional shares based on the underwriter's underwriting commitment in the offering as indicated in the table at the beginning of this Underwriting section.

Lock-Up Agreements

We and all of our directors and executive officers have agreed that, subject to certain exceptions, without the prior written consent of Lehman Brothers Inc., we will not directly or indirectly (1) offer for sale, sell, pledge, or otherwise dispose of (or enter into any transaction or device that is designed to, or could be expected to, result in the disposition by any person at any time in the future of) any shares of common stock (including, without limitation, shares of common stock that may be deemed to be beneficially owned by us or them in accordance with the rules and regulations of the Securities and Exchange Commission, or SEC, and shares of common stock that may be issued upon exercise of any options) or securities convertible into or exercisable or exchangeable for common stock, (2) enter into any swap or other derivatives transaction that transfers to another, in whole or in part, any of the economic consequences of ownership of the common stock, (3) make any demand for or exercise any right or file or cause to be filed a registration statement, including any amendments thereto, with respect to the registration of any shares of common stock or securities convertible, exercisable or exchangeable into common stock or any of our other securities or (4) publicly disclose the intention to do any of the foregoing, in each case for a period of 90 days from the date of this prospectus supplement.

The 90-day restricted period described in the preceding paragraph will be extended if:

during the last 17 days of the 90-day restricted period, we issue an earnings release or material news or a material event relating to us occurs; or

prior to the expiration of the 90-day restricted period, we announce that we will release earnings results during the 16-day period beginning on the last day of the 90-day period,

in which case the restrictions described in the preceding paragraph will continue to apply until the expiration of the 18-day period beginning on the issuance of the earnings release or the occurrence of material news or a material event.

Lehman Brothers Inc., in its sole discretion, may release the common stock and other securities subject to the lock-up agreements described above in whole or in part at any time with or without notice. When determining whether or not to release common stock and other securities from lock-up agreements, Lehman Brothers Inc. will consider, among other factors, the holder's reasons for requesting the release, the number of shares of common stock and other securities for which the release is being requested and market conditions at the time.

Certain of our directors and executive officers may purchase shares in the offering on the same basis as the general public. No such shares have been specifically reserved for our directors and executive officers. Any shares so purchased will become subject to the lock-up agreements.

Indemnification

We have agreed to indemnify the underwriters against certain liabilities, including liabilities under the Securities Act, and to contribute to payments that the underwriters may be required to make for these liabilities.

Table of Contents

Stabilization, Short Positions and Penalty Bids

The representative may engage in stabilizing transactions, short sales and purchases to cover positions created by short sales, and penalty bids or purchases for the purpose of pegging, fixing or maintaining the price of the common stock, in accordance with Regulation M under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934:

Stabilizing transactions permit bids to purchase the underlying security so long as the stabilizing bids do not exceed a specified maximum.

A short position involves a sale by the underwriters of shares in excess of the number of shares the underwriters are obligated to purchase in the offering, which creates the syndicate short position. This short position may be either a covered short position or a naked short position. In a covered short position, the number of shares involved in the sales made by the underwriters in excess of the number of shares they are obligated to purchase is not greater than the number of shares that they may purchase by exercising their option to purchase additional shares. In a naked short position, the number of shares involved is greater than the number of shares in their option to purchase additional shares. The underwriters may close out any short position by either exercising their option to purchase additional shares and/or purchasing shares in the open market. In determining the source of shares to close out the short position, the underwriters will consider, among other things, the price of shares available for purchase in the open market as compared to the price at which they may purchase shares through their option to purchase additional shares. A naked short position is more likely to be created if the underwriters are concerned that there could be downward pressure on the price of the shares in the open market after pricing that could adversely affect investors who purchase in the offering.

Syndicate covering transactions involve purchases of the common stock in the open market after the distribution has been completed in order to cover syndicate short positions.

Penalty bids permit the representative to reclaim a selling concession from a syndicate member when the common stock originally sold by the syndicate member is purchased in a stabilizing or syndicate covering transaction to cover syndicate short positions. These stabilizing transactions, syndicate covering transactions and penalty bids may have the effect of raising or maintaining the market price of our common stock or preventing or retarding a decline in the market price of the common stock. As a result, the price of the common stock may be higher than the price that might otherwise exist in the open market. These transactions may be effected on the New York Stock Exchange or otherwise and, if commenced, may be discontinued at any time.

Neither we nor any of the underwriters make any representation or prediction as to the direction or magnitude of any effect that the transactions described above may have on the price of the common stock. In addition, neither we nor any of the underwriters make representation that the representative will engage in these stabilizing transactions or that any transaction, once commenced, will not be discontinued without notice.

Electronic Distribution

A prospectus in electronic format may be made available on the Internet sites or through other online services maintained by one or more of the underwriters and/or selling group members participating in this offering, or by their affiliates. In those cases, prospective investors may view offering terms online and, depending upon the particular underwriter or selling group member, prospective investors may be allowed to place orders online. The underwriters may agree with us to allocate a specific number of shares for sale to online brokerage account holders. Any such allocation for online distributions will be made by the representative on the same basis as other allocations.

Other than the prospectus in electronic format, the information on any underwriter's or selling group member's web site and any information contained in any other web site maintained by an underwriter or selling

Table of Contents

group member is not part of the prospectus or the registration statement of which this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus forms a part, has not been approved and/or endorsed by us or any underwriter or selling group member in its capacity as underwriter or selling group member and should not be relied upon by investors.

Relationships

Certain of the underwriters and their related entities have engaged and may engage in commercial and investment banking transactions with us in the ordinary course of their business. They have received customary compensation and expenses for these commercial and investment banking transactions.

Colonial Brokerage, Inc., our wholly-owned indirect subsidiary and a member of the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority (FINRA), is expected to participate in the offering as a member of the selling group. Accordingly, the offering of the shares will conform to the requirements of Rule 2720 of the Conduct Rules of FINRA, and the underwriters will not confirm the sales of the shares to any accounts over which they exercise discretionary authority without the prior approval of the customer.

European Selling Restrictions

European Economic Area

In relation to each member state of the European Economic Area that has implemented the Prospectus Directive (each, a relevant member state), with effect from and including the date on which the Prospectus Directive is implemented in that relevant member state (the relevant implementation date), an offer of common stock described in this prospectus supplement may not be made to the public in that relevant member state prior to the publication of a prospectus in relation to the common stock that has been approved by the competent authority in that relevant member state or, where appropriate, approved in another relevant member state and notified to the competent authority in that relevant member state, all in accordance with the Prospectus Directive, except that, with effect from and including the relevant implementation date, an offer of common stock may be offered to the public in that relevant member state at any time:

to any legal entity that is authorized or regulated to operate in the financial markets or, if not so authorized or regulated, whose corporate purpose is solely to invest in securities or

to any legal entity that has two or more of (1) an average of at least 250 employees during the last financial year; (2) a total balance sheet of more than 43,000,000 and (3) an annual net turnover of more than 50,000,000, as shown in its last annual or consolidated accounts or

in any other circumstances that do not require the publication of a prospectus pursuant to Article 3 of the Prospectus Directive. Each purchaser of common stock described in this prospectus supplement located within a relevant member state will be deemed to have represented, acknowledged and agreed that it is a qualified investor within the meaning of Article 2(1)(e) of the Prospectus Directive.

For purposes of this provision, the expression an offer to the public in any relevant member state means the communication in any form and by any means of sufficient information on the terms of the offer and the common stock to be offered so as to enable an investor to decide to purchase or subscribe for the common stock, as the expression may be varied in that member state by any measure implementing the Prospectus Directive in that member state, and the expression Prospectus Directive means Directive 2003/71/EC and includes any relevant implementing measure in each relevant member state. The seller of the common stock has not authorized and does not authorize the making of any offer of common stock through any financial intermediary on its behalf, other than offers made by the underwriters with a view to the final placement of the common stock as contemplated in this prospectus supplement. Accordingly, no purchaser of the common stock, other than the underwriters, is authorized to make any further offer of the common stock on behalf of the seller or the underwriters.

Table of Contents

United Kingdom

This prospectus supplement is only being distributed to, and is only directed at, persons in the United Kingdom that are qualified investors within the meaning of Article 2(1)(e) of the Prospectus Directive (Qualified Investors) that are also (i) investment professionals falling within Article 19(5) of the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 (Financial Promotion) Order 2005 (the Order) or (ii) high net worth entities, and other persons to whom it may lawfully be communicated, falling within Article 49(2)(a) to (d) of the Order (all such persons together being referred to as relevant persons). This prospectus supplement and its contents are confidential and should not be distributed, published or reproduced (in whole or in part) or disclosed by recipients to any other persons in the United Kingdom. Any person in the United Kingdom that is not a relevant persons should not act or rely on this document or any of its contents.

If you purchase shares of common stock offered in this prospectus supplement, you may be required to pay stamp taxes and other charges under the laws and practices of the country of purchase, in addition to the offering price listed on the cover page of this prospectus supplement.

LEGAL MATTERS

Certain matters relating to the offering will be passed upon for us by Miller, Hamilton, Snider & Odom L.L.C. Montgomery, Alabama, and Mayer Brown LLP, Chicago, Illinois. John C. H. Miller, Jr. is a member of Miller, Hamilton, Snider & Odom L.L.C. and is Vice Chairman and a member of our Board of Directors. Certain legal matters relating to the offering will be passed upon for the underwriters by Simpson Thacher & Bartlett LLP, New York, New York.

S-14

Table of Contents

PROSPECTUS

THE COLONIAL BANCGROUP, INC.

Senior Debt Securities

Subordinated Debt Securities

Preferred Stock

Common Stock

The securities listed above may be offered and sold, from time to time and/or one or more selling security holders to be identified in the future. We will provide the specific terms of these securities in supplements to this prospectus. You should read this prospectus and the applicable prospectus supplement carefully before you invest in the securities described in the applicable prospectus supplement. Our common stock is listed on the New York Stock Exchange and trades under the ticker symbol **CNB** .

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

This prospectus may not be used to sell securities unless accompanied by the applicable prospectus supplement.

These securities will be our equity securities or unsecured obligations and are not savings accounts, deposits or other obligations of any bank or savings association, and will not be insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, the bank insurance fund or any other governmental agency or instrumentality.

Neither the Securities and Exchange Commission, or SEC, nor any other regulatory body has approved or disapproved of these securities or passed upon the accuracy or adequacy of this prospectus. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense.

Prospectus dated April 18, 2008.

Table of Contents

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
<u>ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS</u>	1
<u>WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION</u>	1
<u>RATIO OF EARNINGS TO FIXED CHARGES AND PREFERRED STOCK DIVIDENDS</u>	2
<u>USE OF PROCEEDS</u>	2
<u>PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION</u>	2
<u>DESCRIPTION OF THE SENIOR DEBT SECURITIES</u>	4
<u>DESCRIPTION OF THE SUBORDINATED DEBT SECURITIES</u>	14
<u>DESCRIPTION OF CAPITAL STOCK</u>	19
<u>VALIDITY OF THE SECURITIES</u>	22
<u>EXPERTS</u>	22

Unless indicated elsewhere in this prospectus or the context requires otherwise, reference to (1) BancGroup, we, us, our, or similar terms are to The Colonial BancGroup, Inc.

Table of Contents

ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS

This prospectus is part of a registration statement that we filed with the SEC using a shelf registration process. Under this shelf registration statement, BancGroup may offer and sell from time to time any combination of senior debt securities, subordinated debt securities, preferred stock, and common stock in one or more offerings up to an indeterminate total dollar amount. The debt securities and preferred stock, may be convertible into or exercisable or exchangeable for common or preferred stock or other securities of us, or debt or equity securities of one or more other entities.

We may use this prospectus in the initial sale of the securities listed above.

Each time we offer and sell securities, we will provide a prospectus supplement that will contain specific information about the terms of that offering. The prospectus supplement may also add, update or change information contained in this prospectus. You should read this prospectus and the applicable prospectus supplement together with the additional information described under the heading **Where you Can Find More Information**.

The registration statement that contains this prospectus, including the exhibits to the registration statement, contains additional information about us and the securities offered under this prospectus. The registration statement can be read at the SEC web site or at the SEC offices mentioned under the heading **Where you Can Find More Information**.

WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION

We file annual, quarterly and current reports, proxy statements and other information with the SEC. You may read and copy any document we file at the SEC's public reference room at 100 F Street, NE, Room 1580, Washington, D.C. 20549. Please call the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330 for further information on the public reference room. Our SEC filings are also available to the public at the SEC's web site at <http://www.sec.gov>. The address of the SEC's web site is provided for the information of prospective investors and not as an active link. You can also inspect reports, proxy statements and other information about us at the offices of the New York Stock Exchange, 20 Broad Street, New York, New York.

The SEC allows us to incorporate by reference into this prospectus the information in documents we file with the SEC, which means that we can disclose important information to you by referring you to those documents. The information incorporated by reference is considered to be a part of this prospectus and should be read with the same care. When we update the information contained in documents that have been incorporated by reference, by making future filings with the SEC, the information incorporated by reference in this prospectus is considered to be automatically updated and superseded. In other words, in all cases, if you are considering whether to rely on information contained in this prospectus or information incorporated by reference into this prospectus, you should rely on the information contained in the document that was filed later. We incorporate by reference the documents listed below and any additional documents we file with the SEC in the future under Sections 13(a), 13(c), 14, or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 until our offering is completed (other than information in such additional documents that are deemed, under SEC rules, not to have been filed):

Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2007;

Current Reports on Form 8-K filed on March 5, 2008 and March 10, 2008 and

The description of our common stock set forth in our registration statement on Form 8-A filed with the SEC on November 22, 1994. You may request a copy of these filings, at no cost, by writing to or telephoning us at the following address:

Attention: Investor Relations

The Colonial BancGroup, Inc.

100 Colonial Bank Boulevard

Edgar Filing: COLONIAL BANCGROUP INC - Form 424B5

Montgomery, Alabama 36117

(334) 676-5000

1

Table of Contents**RATIO OF EARNINGS TO FIXED CHARGES AND PREFERRED STOCK DIVIDENDS**

Our consolidated ratio of earnings to fixed charges for each of the five fiscal years ended December 31, 2003 through 2007 are as follows:

	2007	2006	2005	2004	2003
Income before income taxes	\$ 268,486	\$ 402,746	\$ 343,105	\$ 261,806	\$ 220,396
Fixed charges:					
Interest expense	795,111	700,318	452,833	280,769	285,660
REIT preferred dividends	19,268				
1/3 rent expense	14,595	13,083	12,516	10,656	9,935
Total fixed charges	828,974	713,401	465,349	291,425	295,595
Adjusted earnings	\$ 1,097,460	\$ 1,116,147	\$ 808,454	\$ 553,231	\$ 515,991
Ratio of earnings to fixed charges	1.32x	1.56x	1.74x	1.90x	1.75x
Interest on deposits	\$ 554,833	\$ 469,289	\$ 273,533	\$ 148,136	\$ 142,312
Ratio of earnings to fixed charges excluding interest on deposits	1.98x	2.65x	2.79x	2.83x	2.44x

The fixed charges above exclude interest accrued for uncertain tax positions because each such interest is classified as income tax expense in the Company's Consolidated Statements of Income.

For purposes of computing these ratios, earnings represent income before income taxes and fixed charges. Fixed charges, excluding interest on deposits, include interest (other than on deposits), whether expensed or capitalized, and that portion of rental expense (generally one-third) deemed representative of the interest factor. Fixed charges, including interest on deposits, consist of the foregoing items plus interest on deposits.

USE OF PROCEEDS

We intend to use the net proceeds from the sales of the securities in the manner and for the purposes set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement. Each trust will invest all proceeds received from the sale of its preferred securities and common securities in a particular series of subordinated debt securities of BancGroup. BancGroup intends to use the net proceeds from the issuance of the subordinated debt securities in the manner and for the purposes set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement.

PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION

We may offer and sell the securities from time to time as follows:

through agents;

to or through dealers or underwriters;

directly to other purchasers; or

through a combination of any of these methods of sale.

Table of Contents

In addition, the securities may be issued as a dividend or distribution or in a subscription rights offering to existing holders of securities. In some cases, we may also repurchase securities and reoffer them to the public by one or more of the methods described above.

The securities we distribute by any of these methods may be sold to the public, in one or more transactions, either:

at a fixed price or prices, which may be changed;

at market prices prevailing at the time of sale;

at prices related to prevailing market prices; or

at negotiated prices.

We may solicit offers to purchase securities directly from the public from time to time. We may also designate agents from time to time to solicit offers to purchase securities from the public on our behalf. The prospectus supplement relating to any particular offering of securities will name any agents designated to solicit offers, and will include information about any commissions we may pay the agents, in that offering. Agents may be deemed to be underwriters as that term is defined in the Securities Act.

From time to time, we may sell securities to one or more dealers as principals. The dealers, who may be deemed to be underwriters as that term is defined in the Securities Act, may then resell those securities to the public.

We may sell securities from time to time to one or more underwriters, who would purchase the securities as principal for resale to the public, either on a firm-commitment or best-efforts basis. If we sell securities to underwriters, we will execute an underwriting agreement with them at the time of sale and will name them in the applicable prospectus supplement. In connection with those sales, underwriters may be deemed to have received compensation from us in the form of underwriting discounts or commissions and may also receive commissions from purchasers of the securities for whom they may act as agents. Underwriters may resell the securities to or through dealers, and those dealers may receive compensation in the form of discounts, concessions or commissions from the underwriters and/or commissions from purchasers for whom they may act as agents. The applicable prospectus supplement will include information about any underwriting compensation we pay to underwriters, and any discounts, concessions or commissions underwriters allow to participating dealers, in connection with an offering of securities.

Underwriters, dealers, agents and other persons may be entitled, under agreements that they may enter into with us, to indemnification by us against civil liabilities, including liabilities under the Securities Act.

Underwriters may engage in stabilizing and syndicate covering transactions in accordance with Rule 104 of Regulation M. Rule 104 permits stabilizing bids to purchase the securities being offered as long as the stabilizing bids do not exceed a specified maximum. Underwriters may over-allot the offered securities in connection with the offering, thus creating a short position in their account. Syndicate covering transactions involve purchases of the offered securities by underwriters in the open market after the distribution has been completed in order to cover syndicate short positions. Stabilizing and syndicate covering transactions may cause the price of the offered securities to be higher than it would otherwise be in the absence of these transactions. These transactions, if commenced, may be discontinued at any time.

The underwriters, dealers and agents, as well as their associates, may be customers of or lenders to, and may engage in transactions with and perform services for, us and our subsidiaries in the ordinary course of business.

Colonial Brokerage, Inc., one of our subsidiaries, may act as a member of the selling group for an offering. Accordingly, any offering in which Colonial Brokerage, Inc. is a member of the selling group will conform with the requirements set forth in Rule 2720 of the Conduct Rules of FINRA. The maximum commission or discount to be received by any FINRA member or independent broker/dealer in any particular offering of securities will not exceed 8% of the aggregate principal amount of the securities offered pursuant to this prospectus.

Table of Contents

DESCRIPTION OF THE SENIOR DEBT SECURITIES

The following description of the senior debt securities sets forth the material terms and provisions of the senior debt securities to which any prospectus supplement may relate. The senior debt securities are to be issued under a senior indenture, referred to in this prospectus as the senior indenture, between BancGroup and The Bank of New York Trust Company, N.A., as trustee, the form of which is included as an exhibit to the registration statement of which this prospectus forms a part. The specific terms applicable to a particular issuance of senior debt securities and any variations from the terms set forth below will be set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement.

The following is a summary of the material terms and provisions of the senior indenture and the senior debt securities. You should refer to the senior indenture and the senior debt securities for complete information regarding the terms and provisions of the senior indenture and the senior debt securities.

General

The senior indenture does not limit the aggregate principal amount of senior debt securities which we may issue. We may issue senior debt securities under the senior indenture from time to time in one or more series. The senior indenture does not limit the amount of other indebtedness, other than secured indebtedness which we may issue.

Unless otherwise set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement, the senior debt securities will be our unsecured and unsubordinated obligations and will rank equally with all of our other unsecured and unsubordinated indebtedness.

We are a bank holding company that conducts substantially all of our operations through subsidiaries. As a result, claims of the holders of the debt securities will generally have a junior position to claims of creditors of our subsidiaries, except to the extent that BancGroup may be recognized, and receive payment, as a creditor of those subsidiaries. Claims of our subsidiaries' creditors other than BancGroup include substantial amounts of long-term debt, deposit liabilities, federal funds purchased, securities sold under repurchase agreements, commercial paper, and other short-term borrowings.

The applicable prospectus supplement will describe the following terms of the offered senior debt securities:

the title of the series;

any limit on the aggregate principal amount;

the principal payment dates;

the interest rates, if any, or the method by which the interest rates will be determined, including, if applicable, any remarketing option or similar option. This interest rate may be zero in the case of senior debt securities issued at an issue price representing a discount from the principal amount payable at maturity;

the date or dates from which interest, if any, will accrue or the method by which the date or dates will be determined;

the interest payment dates and regular record dates;

whether and under what circumstances we will pay additional amounts because of taxes or governmental charges that might be imposed on holders of the senior debt securities and, if so, whether and on what terms we will have the option to redeem the senior debt securities in lieu of paying these additional amounts;

Table of Contents

the place or places where the principal of, any premium or interest on or any additional amounts with respect to the senior debt securities will be payable, where any of the senior debt securities may be surrendered for registration of transfer or exchange, and where any of the senior debt securities may be surrendered for conversion or exchange;

whether any of the senior debt securities are to be redeemable at our option and, if so, the date or dates on which, the period or periods within which, the price or prices at which and the other terms and conditions upon which they may be redeemed, in whole or in part, at our option;

whether we will be obligated to redeem or purchase any of the senior debt securities pursuant to any sinking fund or analogous provision or at your option and, if so, the date or dates and other terms and conditions on which the senior debt securities will be redeemed or purchased pursuant to this obligation, and any provisions for the remarketing of the senior debt securities redeemed or purchased;

if other than denominations of \$1,000 and any integral multiple of \$1,000, the denominations in which any senior debt securities will be issuable;

whether the senior debt securities will be convertible into other securities of BancGroup and/or exchangeable for securities of BancGroup or other issuers and, if so, the terms and conditions upon which the senior debt securities will be convertible or exchangeable;

if other than the principal amount, the portion of the principal amount, or the method by which this portion will be determined, of the senior debt securities that will be payable upon declaration of acceleration of the maturity of the senior debt securities;

if other than United States dollars, the currency of payment in which the principal of, any premium or interest on or any additional amounts on the senior debt securities will be payable;

whether the principal of, any premium or interest on or any additional amounts on the senior debt securities will be payable, at our election or you, in a currency other than that in which the senior debt securities are stated to be payable and the dates and other terms upon which this election may be made;

any index, formula or other method used to determine the amount of payments of principal of, any premium or interest on or any additional amounts on the senior debt securities;

whether the senior debt securities are to be issued in the form of one or more global securities and, if so, the identity of the depository for the global security or securities;

whether the senior debt securities are senior or subordinated and, if subordinated, the applicable subordination provisions;

any deletions from, modifications of or additions to the events of default or covenants with respect to the senior debt securities;

whether the provisions described below under **Defeasance and Covenant Defeasance** will be applicable to the senior debt securities;

whether any of the senior debt securities are to be issued upon the exercise of warrants, and the time, manner and place for the senior debt securities to be authenticated and delivered; and

any other terms of the senior debt securities and any other deletions from or modifications or additions to the senior indenture in respect of the senior debt securities.

We will have the ability under the senior indenture to reopen a previously issued series of senior debt securities and issue additional senior debt securities of that series or establish additional terms of that series. We are also permitted to issue senior debt securities with the same terms as previously issued senior debt securities.

Unless otherwise set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement, principal of, premium and interest on and additional amounts, if any, on the senior debt securities will initially be payable at the corporate trust office

Table of Contents

of the trustee, or any other office or agency designated by us for this purpose. Interest on senior debt securities issued:

may be paid by check mailed to the persons entitled to the payments at their addresses appearing on the security register or by transfer to an account maintained by the payee with a bank located in the United States; and

will be payable on any interest payment date to the persons in whose names the senior debt securities are registered at the close of business on the regular record date with respect to the interest payment date.

We will designate the initial paying agents, which will be named in the applicable prospectus supplement, and may, at any time, designate additional paying agents or rescind the designation of any paying agent or approve a change in the office through which any paying agent acts. However, we are required to maintain a paying agent in each place where the principal of, any premium or interest on or any additional amounts with respect to the senior debt securities are payable.

Unless otherwise set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement, you may present the senior debt securities for transfer, duly endorsed or accompanied by a written instrument of transfer if so required by us or the security registrar, or exchange for other senior debt securities of the same series containing identical terms and provisions, in any authorized denominations, and of a like aggregate principal amount, in each case at the office or agency maintained by us for these purposes. This office will initially be the corporate trust office of the trustee. Any transfer or exchange will be made without service charge, although we may require payment of a sum sufficient to cover any tax or other governmental charge and any other expenses then payable. We are not required to:

issue, register the transfer of, or exchange, senior debt securities during a period beginning at the opening of business 15 days before the day of mailing of a notice of redemption of any senior debt securities and ending at the close of business on the day of mailing; or

register the transfer of or exchange any senior debt security selected for redemption, in whole or in part, except the unredeemed portion of any senior debt security being redeemed in part.

We have appointed the trustee as security registrar. The security registrar and any transfer agent initially designated by us will be named in the applicable prospectus supplement. At any time, we may designate additional transfer agents or rescind the designation of any transfer agent or approve a change in the office through which any transfer agent acts. However, we are required to maintain a transfer agent in each place where the principal of, any premium or interest on or any additional amounts with respect to the senior debt securities are payable.

Unless otherwise set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement, we will only issue the senior debt securities in fully registered form without coupons in minimum denominations of \$1,000 and any integral multiple of \$1,000. If the senior debt securities are issued in bearer form, any restrictions and considerations, including offering restrictions and U.S. federal income tax considerations applicable to, and to payment on and transfer and exchange of, these securities will be described in the applicable prospectus supplement.

The senior debt securities may be issued as original issue discount securities which means that they will bear no interest or bear interest at a rate which, at the time of issuance, is below market rates. Senior debt securities issued as original issue discount securities will be sold at a substantial discount below their principal amount. U.S. federal income tax and other considerations applicable to original issue discount securities will be described in the applicable prospectus supplement.

If the purchase price, or the principal of, any premium or interest on or any additional amounts with respect to, any senior debt securities is payable, or if any senior debt securities are denominated, in one or more foreign

Table of Contents

currencies or currency units, the restrictions, elections, U.S. federal income tax considerations, specific terms and other information will be set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement.

Unless otherwise set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement, other than as described below under **Covenants Limitation on Liens on the Stock of Designated Subsidiaries**, the senior indenture does not contain any provisions that would limit our ability to incur indebtedness or that would afford holders of senior debt securities protection in the event of a sudden and significant decline in our credit quality or a takeover, recapitalization or highly leveraged or similar transaction involving us. Accordingly, we could, in the future, enter into transactions that could increase the amount of our outstanding indebtedness that could affect our capital structure or credit rating.

Conversion and Exchange

The terms, if any, on which senior debt securities are convertible into or exchangeable for, either mandatorily or at your or our option, shares of our common stock, our preferred shares or other securities, whether or not issued by us, property or cash, or a combination of any of these, will be set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement.

Global Securities

The senior debt securities may be issued, in whole or in part, in the form of one or more global securities that will be deposited with, or on behalf of, a depository identified in the applicable prospectus supplement and registered in the name of the depository or its nominee. Interests in any global senior debt security will be shown on, and transfers of the senior debt securities will be effected only through, records maintained by the depository and its participants as described below.

The specific terms of the depository arrangement will be described in the applicable prospectus supplement.

Covenants

For purposes of the covenants described below:

The term **Designated Banking Subsidiary** means each of:

each subsidiary of BancGroup that is a depository institution engaged primarily in the commercial banking business the consolidated assets of which constitute 10% or more of BancGroup's Consolidated Banking Assets;

any other subsidiary depository institution designated as a **Designated Banking Subsidiary** by our board of directors; and

any subsidiary of BancGroup that owns any voting shares or certain other rights to acquire voting shares of any **Designated Banking Subsidiary** and their respective successors and assigns; provided any such successor or assignee is a subsidiary of BancGroup.
Consolidated Banking Assets means the aggregate of the assets of all of our banking subsidiaries.

Non-Voting Preferred Stock means preferred stock that is not entitled in the ordinary course to vote for the election of directors. Preferred stock shall be treated as **Non-Voting Preferred Stock** notwithstanding that the holders of such stock are granted the right to vote for the election of directors or to appoint directors upon the happening of certain events outside the ordinary course.

Table of Contents

Limitation on Liens on the Stock of Designated Banking Subsidiaries

Under the senior indenture, we will covenant that, so long as the senior debt securities of a series are outstanding, we will not, nor will we permit any subsidiary to create, incur, assume, guarantee or otherwise permit to exist any indebtedness secured by any security interest on any shares of capital stock of any Designated Banking Subsidiary, unless we concurrently provide that the senior debt securities of such series and, if we elect, any other of our indebtedness that is not subordinate to the senior debt securities of such series and with respect to which the governing instruments require, or pursuant to which we are otherwise obligated, to provide such security, will be secured equally with the indebtedness for at least the time period the other indebtedness is so secured.

Limitation on Disposition of Designated Banking Subsidiaries' Stock

The senior indenture also provides that, so long as the senior debt securities of a series are outstanding and except in a transaction otherwise permitted under the senior indenture, we will not issue, sell, assign, transfer or otherwise dispose of any shares of, securities convertible into, or warrants, rights or options to subscribe for or purchase shares of, capital stock, other than director's qualifying shares and Non-Voting Preferred Stock, of any Designated Banking Subsidiary unless (i) such issuance, sale, assignment, transfer or other disposition is for at least fair value (as determined in good faith by our board of directors) and (ii) we will own, directly or indirectly, at least 80% of the shares of capital stock of such Designated Banking Subsidiary, other than director's qualifying shares and Non-Voting Preferred Stock. Similarly, we will not permit any Designated Banking Subsidiary to issue these types of securities, warrants, rights or options, other than director's qualifying shares and Non-Voting Preferred Stock, of any Designated Banking Subsidiary, if, after giving effect to the transaction and the issuance of the maximum number of shares issuable upon the conversion or exercise of all the convertible securities, warrants, rights or options, we would own, directly or indirectly, less than 80% of the shares of capital stock of the Designated Banking Subsidiary, other than director's qualifying shares and Non-Voting Preferred Stock.

These restrictions do not apply to:

issuances, sales, assignments, transfers or other dispositions to Bancgroup or one or more of its wholly owned subsidiaries;

transactions required by any law, or any regulation or order of any governmental authority;

transactions required as a condition imposed by any governmental authority to the acquisition by BancGroup, directly or indirectly, or any other entity if thereafter:

BancGroup would own, directly or indirectly, at least 80% of the shares of capital stock, other than director's qualifying shares and Non-Voting Preferred Stock, of such other entity, and

our Consolidated Banking Assets would be at least equal to our Consolidated Banking Assets prior thereto, and the other entity is designated a Designated Banking Subsidiary under the senior indenture by our board of directors; and

sales, assignments, transfers or other dispositions of all, but not less than all, of the stock of a Designated Banking Subsidiary (i) for fair value, as determined in good faith by our board of directors and (ii) where the proceeds are invested within 180 days after such transaction in any one or more other Designated Banking Subsidiaries.

The covenant described in the preceding sentence also does not apply to any transaction of the type described below under Merger, Consolidation, Sale, Lease or Conveyance of BancGroup.

Table of Contents

Limitations on Disposition of Stock of Designated Subsidiaries

The senior indenture also provides that, so long as any senior debt securities are outstanding and except in a transaction otherwise governed by the senior indenture, we will not issue, sell, assign, transfer or otherwise dispose of any shares of securities convertible into, or warrants, rights or options to subscribe for or purchase shares of, capital stock, other than preferred stock having no voting rights, of any designated subsidiary. Similarly, we will not permit any designated subsidiary to issue, other than to us, these types of securities, warrants, rights or options, other than director's qualifying shares and preferred stock having no voting rights, of any designated subsidiary, if, after giving effect to the transaction and the issuance of the maximum number of shares issuable upon the conversion or exercise of all the convertible securities, warrants, rights or options, we would own, directly or indirectly, less than 80% of the shares of capital stock of the designated subsidiary, other than preferred stock having no voting rights.

However, we may issue, sell, assign, transfer or otherwise dispose of securities if the consideration is at least a fair market value as determined by our board or if required by law or regulation. We may also merge or consolidate any designated subsidiary into or with another direct or indirect subsidiary, the shares of capital stock of which we owns at least 80% or, subject to the provisions described under *Merger, Consolidation, Sale Lease or Conveyance of a Designated Banking Subsidiary* below, sell, transfer or otherwise dispose of the entire capital stock of any designated subsidiary at one time if the consideration is at least fair market value as determined by our board.

Merger, Consolidation, Sale, Lease or Conveyance of a Designated Banking Subsidiary

We will not permit any of our Designated Banking Subsidiaries to:

merge or consolidate with or into any corporation or other person (other than us or another direct or indirect wholly-owned subsidiary of us), unless the Designated Banking Subsidiary is the surviving entity, or unless we will own, directly or indirectly, at least 80% of the shares of capital stock of such corporation or other person, other than director's qualifying shares and Non-Voting Preferred Stock; or

lease, sell, or convey all or substantially all of its properties and assets to any corporation or other person (other than to us or one of our direct or indirect wholly-owned subsidiaries), unless we will own, directly or indirectly, at least 80% of the shares of capital stock of that corporation or other person, other than director's qualifying shares and Non-Voting Preferred Stock.

However, we may agree to any such merger or consolidation or sale, lease, assignment or transfer of properties and assets if:

it is required by law or

it is required as a condition imposed by any law or any rule, regulation or order of any governmental agency or authority to the acquisition of another entity, if thereafter,

we would own, directly or indirectly, at least 80% of the shares of capital stock of such other entity, other than director's qualifying shares and Non-Voting Preferred Stock, and

our Consolidated Banking Assets would be at least equal to our Consolidated Banking Assets prior thereto, and

the other entity is designated a Designated Banking Subsidiary under the senior indenture our board of directors.

The senior indenture does not restrict the granting by any Designated Banking Subsidiary of mortgages, pledges, security interest or similar rights in respect of such Designated Banking Subsidiary's assets.

Table of Contents

Merger, Consolidation, Sale, Lease or Conveyance of BancGroup

The senior indenture provides that we may not:

consolidate with or merge into any person or convey, transfer or lease our properties and assets as an entirety or substantially as an entirety to any person; or

permit any person to consolidate with or merge into us, or convey, transfer or lease our properties and assets as an entirety or substantially as an entirety to us unless:

the person is a corporation organized and existing under the laws of the United States of America, any state of the United States or the District of Columbia;

the surviving entity expressly assumes the payment of all amounts on all of the senior debt securities and the performance of our obligations under the senior indenture and the senior debt securities;

the surviving entity provides for conversion or exchange rights in accordance with the provisions of the senior debt securities of any series that are convertible or exchangeable into shares of our common stock or other securities ; and

immediately after giving effect to the transaction and treating any indebtedness which becomes an obligation of BancGroup or a subsidiary as a result of the transaction as having been incurred by BancGroup or the subsidiary at the time of the transaction, no event of default, and no event which after notice or lapse of time or both would become an event of default, will have happened and be continuing.

Events of Default

Each of the following events will constitute an event of default under the senior indenture, whether it be voluntary or involuntary or be effected by operation of law or pursuant to any judgment, decree or order of any court or any order, rule or regulation of any administrative or governmental body:

default in the payment of any interest on any senior debt security when the interest becomes due and payable, and continuance of this default for a period of 30 days;

default in the payment of the principal of or any premium on any senior debt security when the principal or premium becomes due and payable either at maturity, upon any redemption, by declaration of acceleration or otherwise;

default in the deposit of any sinking fund payment when due;

default in the performance, or breach, of any covenant or warranty for the benefit of the holders of the senior debt securities, and the continuance of this default or breach for a period of 60 days after we have received written notice from the holders;

Edgar Filing: COLONIAL BANCGROUP INC - Form 424B5

if any event of default under a mortgage, senior indenture or instrument under which we may issue, or by which we may secure or evidence, any indebtedness, including an event of default under any other series of senior debt securities, whether the indebtedness now exists or is later created or incurred, happens and consists of default in the payment of more than \$50,000,000 in principal amount of indebtedness at the maturity of the indebtedness, after giving effect to any applicable grace period, or results in the indebtedness in principal amount in excess of \$50,000,000 becoming or being declared due and payable prior to the date on which it would otherwise become due and payable, and this default is not cured or the acceleration is not rescinded or annulled within a period of 30 days after we have received written notice;

we shall fail within 60 days to pay, bond or otherwise discharge any uninsured judgment or court order for the payment of money in excess of \$50,000,000, which is not stayed on appeal or is not otherwise being appropriately contested in good faith;

Table of Contents

events in bankruptcy, insolvency or reorganization of BancGroup; and

any other event of default, which will be described in the applicable prospectus supplement.

If an event of default with respect to the senior debt securities of any series, other than events of bankruptcy, insolvency or reorganization, occurs and is continuing, either the trustee or the holders of not less than 25% in principal amount of the outstanding senior debt securities of the series may declare the principal amount, or a lesser amount as may be provided for in the senior debt securities, of all outstanding senior debt securities of the series to be immediately due and payable by written notice. At any time after a declaration of acceleration has been made, but before a judgment or decree for payment of money has been obtained by the trustee, generally, the holders of not less than a majority in principal amount of the senior debt securities of the series may rescind and annul the declaration of acceleration. Any event of bankruptcy, insolvency or reorganization will cause the principal amount and accrued interest, or the lesser amount as provided for in the senior debt securities, to become immediately due and payable without any declaration or other act by the trustee or any holder.

The senior indenture provides that, within 90 days after the occurrence of any event which is, or after notice or lapse of time or both would become, an event of default the trustee must transmit, notice of the default to each holder of the senior debt securities unless the default has been cured or waived. However, except in the case of a default in the payment of principal of, or premium or interest, if any, on or additional amounts or any sinking fund or purchase fund installment with respect to any senior debt security, the trustee may withhold this notice if and so long as the board of directors, executive committee or trust committee of directors and/or responsible officers of the trustee determine in good faith that the withholding of the notice is in the best interest of the holders.

If an event of default occurs and is continuing with respect to the senior debt securities of any series, the trustee may, in its discretion, proceed to protect and enforce its rights and the rights of the holders of senior debt securities by all appropriate judicial proceedings. The senior indenture provides that, subject to the duty of the trustee during any default to act with the required standard of care, the trustee will be under no obligation to exercise any of its rights or powers under the senior indenture at the request or direction of any of the holders, unless the holders have offered the trustee reasonable indemnity. Subject to these indemnification provisions, the holders of a majority in principal amount of the outstanding senior debt securities of any series will generally have the right to direct the time, method and place of conducting any proceeding for any remedy available to the trustee, or exercising any trust or power conferred on the trustee, with respect to the senior debt securities of the series.

Modification and Waiver

We and the trustee may modify or amend the senior indenture with the consent of the holders of not less than a majority in principal amount of the outstanding senior debt securities of each series affected by the modification or amendment, so long as the modification or amendment does not, without the consent of each affected holder:

change the stated maturity of the principal of, or any premium or installment of interest on any senior debt security;

reduce the principal amount of, or the rate, or modify the calculation of the rate, of interest on, or any additional amounts with respect to, or any premium payable upon the redemption of, any senior debt security;

reduce the amount of the principal of an original issue discount security that would be due and payable upon a declaration of acceleration of the maturity of the original issue discount security or the amount provable in bankruptcy;

change the redemption provisions of any senior debt security or adversely affect the right of repayment at the option of any holder of any senior debt security;

Table of Contents

change the place of payment or the coin or currency in which the principal of, any premium or interest on or any additional amounts with respect to any senior debt security is payable;

impair the right to institute suit for the enforcement of any payment on or after the stated maturity of any senior debt security, or, in the case of redemption, on or after the redemption date or, in the case of repayment at the option of any holder, on or after the repayment date;

reduce the percentage in principal amount of the outstanding senior debt securities, the consent of whose holders is required in order to take specific actions;

reduce the requirements for quorum or voting by holders of senior debt securities ;

modify any of the provisions regarding the waiver of past defaults and the waiver of specified covenants by the holders of senior debt securities, except to increase any percentage vote required or to provide that other provisions of the senior indenture cannot be modified or waived without the consent of the holder of each senior debt security affected by the modification or waiver;

make any change that adversely affects the right to convert or exchange any senior debt security into or for other securities of BancGroup or other securities, cash or property in accordance with its terms; or

modify any of the above provisions.

We and the trustee may modify or amend the senior indenture and the senior debt securities of any series without the consent of any holder in order to, among other things:

provide for a successor to BancGroup pursuant to a consolidation, merger or sale of assets;

add to our covenants for the benefit of the holders of all or any series of senior debt securities or to surrender any right or power conferred upon us by the senior indenture;

provide for a successor trustee with respect to the senior debt securities of all or any series;

cure any ambiguity or correct or supplement any provision in the senior indenture which may be defective or inconsistent with any other provision, or to make any other provisions with respect to matters or questions arising under the senior indenture which will not adversely affect the interests of the holders of senior debt securities of any series;

change the conditions, limitations and restrictions on the authorized amount, terms or purposes of issue, authentication and delivery of senior debt securities under the senior indenture;

add any additional events of default with respect to all or any series of senior debt securities;

secure the senior debt securities;

provide for conversion or exchange rights of the holders of any series of senior debt securities; or

make any other change that does not materially adversely affect the interests of the holders of any senior debt securities then outstanding under the senior indenture.

The holders of at least a majority in principal amount of the outstanding senior debt securities of any series may, on behalf of the holders of all senior debt securities of that series, waive compliance by us with specified covenants of the senior indenture. The holders of not less than a majority in principal amount of the outstanding senior debt securities on behalf of the holders of all senior debt securities of that series may waive any past default and its consequences with respect to the senior debt securities of that series, except a default:

in the payment of principal, any premium or interest on or any additional amounts with respect to senior debt securities of the series;
or

in respect of a covenant or provision of the senior indenture that cannot be modified or amended without the consent of the holder of each outstanding senior debt security of any series affected.

Table of Contents

Under the senior indenture, we must annually furnish the trustee a statement regarding its performance of specified obligations and any default in its performance under the senior indenture. We are also required to deliver to the trustee, within five days after its occurrence, written notice of any event of default, or any event which after notice or lapse of time or both would constitute an event of default, resulting from the failure to perform or breach of any covenant or warranty contained in the senior indenture or the senior debt securities of any series.

Defeasance and Covenant Defeasance

We may discharge our payment obligations on the senior debt securities, which we refer to as defeasance, or elect to be discharged from complying with the covenants in the senior indenture, except for certain ministerial obligations, like registering transfers or exchanges of the senior debt securities, which we refer to as covenant defeasance.

We may only do this if, among other things:

the defeasance or covenant defeasance does not result in a breach or violation of, or constitute a default under, the senior indenture or any other material agreement or instrument to which we are a party or by which either or them is bound;

no event of default or event which with notice or lapse of time or both would become an event of default with respect to the senior debt securities to be defeased will have occurred and be continuing on the date of establishment of the trust and, with respect to defeasance only, at any time during the period ending on the 123rd day after that date; and

we have delivered to the trustee an opinion of counsel to the effect that you will not recognize income, gain or loss for U.S. federal income tax purposes as a result of the defeasance or covenant defeasance and will be subject to U.S. federal income tax on the same amounts, in the same manner and at the same times as would have been the case if the defeasance or covenant defeasance had not occurred. The opinion of counsel, in the case of defeasance, must refer to and be based upon a letter ruling of the I.R.S. received by us, a Revenue Ruling published by the I.R.S. or a change in applicable U.S. federal income tax law occurring after the date of the senior indenture.

Information Concerning The Trustee

BancGroup and some of its subsidiaries may maintain deposits and conduct other banking transactions with the trustee under the senior indenture in the ordinary course of business.

New York Law to Govern

The senior indenture, the senior debt securities will be governed by, and construed in accordance with, the laws of the State of New York.

Table of Contents

DESCRIPTION OF THE SUBORDINATED DEBT SECURITIES

The following description of the subordinated debt securities sets forth the material terms and provisions of the subordinated debt securities to which any prospectus supplement may relate. The subordinated debt securities are to be issued under an indenture, referred to in this prospectus as the subordinated indenture, between BancGroup and The Bank of New York Trust Company, N.A., as trustee, the form of which is included as an exhibit to the registration statement of which this prospectus forms a part. The specific terms applicable to a particular issuance of subordinated debt securities and any variations from the terms set forth below will be set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement.

The following is a summary of the material terms and provisions of the subordinated indenture and the subordinated debt securities. You should refer to the subordinated indenture and the subordinated debt securities for complete information regarding the terms and provisions of the subordinated indenture and the subordinated debt securities.

General

The subordinated indenture does not limit the aggregate principal amount of subordinated debt securities which we may issue. We may issue subordinated debt securities under the subordinated indenture from time to time in one or more series. The subordinated indenture does not limit the amount of other indebtedness, including senior indebtedness, which we may issue.

Unless otherwise specified in the applicable prospectus supplement, the maturity of the subordinated debt securities will be subject to acceleration only upon our bankruptcy or reorganization. See "Events of Default" below.

We are a bank holding company that conducts substantially all of our operations through subsidiaries. As a result, claims of the holders of the subordinated debt securities will generally have a junior position to claims of creditors of our subsidiaries, except to the extent that BancGroup may be recognized, and receive payment, as a creditor of those subsidiaries. Claims of our subsidiaries' creditors other than BancGroup include substantial amounts of long-term debt, deposit liabilities, federal funds purchased, securities sold under repurchase agreements, commercial paper, and other short-term borrowings.

We may issue the subordinated debt securities in one or more separate series. We will specify in the prospectus supplement relating to a particular series of subordinated debt securities being offered the particular amounts, prices, and terms of those debt securities. These terms may include:

the title and type of the subordinated debt securities;

any limit on the aggregate principal amount or aggregate initial offering price of the subordinated debt securities;

the purchase price of the subordinated debt securities;

the dates on which the principal of the subordinated debt securities will be payable and the amount payable upon acceleration;

the interest rates of the subordinated debt securities, including the interest rates, if any, applicable to overdue payments, or the method for determining those rates, and the interest payment dates for the subordinated debt securities;

the places where payments may be made on the subordinated debt securities;

any mandatory or optional redemption provisions applicable to the subordinated debt securities;

any sinking fund or similar provisions applicable to the subordinated debt securities;

Table of Contents

the authorized denominations of the subordinated debt securities;

if denominated in a currency other than U.S. dollars, the currency or currencies, including the euro or other composite currencies, in which payments on the subordinated debt securities will be payable (which currencies may be different for principal, premium, and interest payments);

any conversion or exchange provisions applicable to the subordinated debt securities;

any events of default applicable to the subordinated debt securities (if not described in this prospectus); and

any other specific terms of the subordinated debt securities.

We will have the ability under the indenture to reopen a previously issued series of senior debt securities and issue additional senior debt securities of that series or establish additional terms of that series. We are also permitted to issue senior debt securities with the same terms as previously issued senior debt securities.

We may issue some of the subordinated debt securities as original issue discount subordinated debt securities. Original issue discount subordinated debt securities bear no interest or bear interest at a below-market rate and will be sold at a discount below their stated principal amount. The prospectus supplement will contain any special tax, accounting, or other information relating to original issue discount subordinated debt securities. If we offer other kinds of subordinated debt securities, including subordinated debt securities linked to an index or payable in currencies other than U.S. dollars, the prospectus supplement relating to those subordinated debt securities will also contain any special tax, accounting, or other information relating to those subordinated debt securities. Persons considering the purchase, ownership, or disposition of original issue discount subordinated debt securities or other kinds of subordinated debt securities, including subordinated debt securities linked to an index or payable in currencies other than U.S. dollars, should consult their own tax advisors concerning the United States federal income tax consequences to them from the purchase, ownership, or disposition of those securities in light of their particular situations, as well as any consequences arising under the laws of any other taxing jurisdiction.

Unless otherwise specified in the prospectus supplement, we will issue the subordinated debt securities only in fully registered form without coupons. You will not be required to pay a service charge for any transfer or exchange of subordinated debt securities, but we may require payment of any taxes or other governmental charges.

Unless otherwise specified in the prospectus supplement, we will pay principal, premium, if any, and interest, if any, on the subordinated debt securities at the corporate trust office of the trustee. You may also make transfers or exchanges of subordinated debt securities at that location. We also have the right to pay interest on any subordinated debt securities by check mailed to the registered holders of the subordinated debt securities at their registered addresses. In connection with any payment on subordinated debt securities, we may require the holder to certify information to BancGroup. In the absence of that certification, we may rely on any legal presumption to enable us to determine our responsibilities, if any, to deduct or withhold taxes, assessments, or governmental charges from the payment.

The subordinated indenture does not contain any provisions that would limit our ability to incur indebtedness or that would afford holders of subordinated debt securities protection in the event of a sudden and significant decline in our credit quality or a takeover, recapitalization or highly leveraged or similar transaction involving us. Accordingly, we could, in the future, enter into transactions that could increase the amount of our outstanding indebtedness that could affect our capital structure or credit rating.

Conversion and Exchange

The subordinated debt securities may be exchangeable for or convertible into other series of our subordinated debt securities. The prospectus supplement will describe the specific terms of any of those

Table of Contents

exchangeable or convertible securities. It will also describe the specific terms of the securities issuable upon the exchange or conversion of those securities.

The holders of subordinated debt securities of a series that are specified to be convertible into our common stock or other securities will be entitled as specified in the applicable prospectus supplement to convert those convertible subordinated debt securities into common stock or such other securities, at the conversion price, at the times, and on the terms set forth in the prospectus supplement. If so specified in the applicable prospectus supplement, the holders of subordinated debt securities of any series may be obligated at maturity, or at any earlier time specified in the prospectus supplement, to exchange that series of subordinated debt securities for capital securities. Capital securities may consist of our common stock, perpetual preferred stock, or other capital securities of BancGroup acceptable to the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, which is our primary federal banking regulator. The terms of any such exchange and of the capital securities that will be issued upon the exchange will be described in the applicable prospectus supplement. Whenever subordinated debt securities are exchangeable for capital securities, we will be obligated to deliver capital securities with a market value equal to the principal amount of those subordinated debt securities. In addition, we will unconditionally undertake, at our expense, to sell the capital securities in a secondary offering on behalf of any holders who elect to receive cash for the capital securities.

Global Securities

The subordinated debt securities may be issued, in whole or in part, in the form of one or more global securities that will be deposited with, or on behalf of, a depository identified in the applicable prospectus supplement and registered in the name of the depository or its nominee. Interests in any global subordinated debt security will be shown on, and transfers of the subordinated debt securities will be effected only through, records maintained by the depository and its participants as described below.

The specific terms of the depository arrangement will be described in the applicable prospectus supplement.

Subordination

The subordinated debt securities will be direct, unsecured general obligations of BancGroup. The subordinated debt securities will be subordinate and junior in right of payment to all senior indebtedness and, under certain circumstances described below, to all other financial obligations. As used in this prospectus, senior indebtedness means the principal of, premium, if any, and interest on all indebtedness for money borrowed by us, whether outstanding on the date the subordinated indenture became effective or created, assumed, or incurred after that date (including all indebtedness for money borrowed by another person that we guarantee). However, senior indebtedness does not include indebtedness that is stated in its terms not to be superior to or to have the same rank as the subordinated debt securities.

The subordinated indenture defines other financial obligations to mean all indebtedness of BancGroup for claims in respect of derivative products, such as interest and foreign exchange rate contracts, commodity contracts, and similar arrangements, except obligations that constitute senior indebtedness and except obligations that are expressly stated in their terms to have the same rank as or not to rank senior to the subordinated debt securities.

If the maturity of any subordinated debt securities is accelerated, the holders of all senior indebtedness outstanding at the time of such acceleration will first be entitled to receive payment in full of all amounts due thereon before the holders of subordinated debt securities will be entitled to receive any payment upon the principal of (or premium, if any) or interest, if any, on the subordinated securities.

No payments on account of principal (or premium, if any) or interest, if any, in respect of the subordinated debt securities may be made if there shall have occurred and be continuing:

a default in the payment of principal of (or premium, if any) or interest on senior indebtedness, or

Table of Contents

an event of default with respect to any senior indebtedness resulting in the acceleration of the maturity thereof; or if any judicial proceeding shall be pending with respect to any such default.

In addition, upon our dissolution, winding-up, liquidation, or reorganization:

we must pay to the holders of senior indebtedness the full amounts of principal of, premium, if any, and interest, if any, on the senior indebtedness before any payment or distribution is made on the subordinated debt securities, and

if, after we have made those payments on the senior indebtedness, there are amounts available for payment on the subordinated debt securities and creditors who hold other financial obligations have not received their full payments, then we will first use amounts available for payment on the subordinated debt securities to pay in full all other financial obligations before we may make any payment on the subordinated debt securities.

No Limitation on Disposition of Voting Stock of Principal Subsidiary Bank

The subordinated indenture does not contain a covenant prohibiting us from selling or otherwise disposing of any shares of voting stock of our subsidiary banks, or securities convertible into, or options, warrants, or rights to purchase shares of, voting stock of our subsidiary banks. The subordinated indenture also does not prohibit our subsidiary banks from issuing any shares of their voting stock or securities convertible into, or options, warrants, or rights to purchase shares of their voting stock.

Consolidation, Merger, and Sale of Assets

We may, without the consent of the holders of any subordinated debt securities, consolidate or merge with any other person or transfer or lease all or substantially all of our assets to another person or permit another corporation to merge into Colonial BancGroup under the same terms described above in Description of the Senior Debt Securities Covenants Merger, Consolidation, Sale, Lease or Conveyance of BancGroup

Events of Default

The subordinated indenture defines an event of default with respect to any series of subordinated debt securities as any one of the following events:

default in the payment of interest on any subordinated debt security of that series and continuance of that default for 30 days;

default in the payment of principal of, or premium, if any, on, any subordinated debt security of that series at maturity;

default in the deposit of any sinking fund payment applicable to any subordinated debt security of that series and continuance of that default for 5 days;

failure by us for 60 days after notice to perform any of the other covenants or warranties in the subordinated indenture applicable to that series;

specified events of bankruptcy, insolvency, or reorganization of BancGroup; and

any other event of default specified with respect to subordinated debt securities of that series.

Edgar Filing: COLONIAL BANCGROUP INC - Form 424B5

Upon the occurrence of specified events of bankruptcy, insolvency, or reorganization, the principal amount (or, if the subordinated debt securities of that series are original issue discount subordinated debt securities, a specified portion of the principal amount) of the outstanding subordinated debt securities of a series will become due and payable immediately. Subject to certain conditions, the holders of a majority in principal amount of the outstanding subordinated debt securities of that series may annul the acceleration. The right of the holders of the

Table of Contents

subordinated debt securities of a series to demand payment in cash upon the occurrence and continuance of an event of default continues to exist so long as the subordinated debt securities of that series have not been exchanged or converted.

Unless otherwise provided in the terms of a series of subordinated debt securities, there is no right of acceleration of the payment of principal of the subordinated debt securities of that series upon a default in the payment of principal or interest or a default in the performance of any covenant or agreement in the subordinated debt securities or the subordinated indenture. In the event of a default in the payment of interest or principal (including a default in the delivery of any capital securities in exchange for subordinated debt securities) or in the performance of any covenant or agreement in the subordinated debt securities or the subordinated indenture, the trustee may, subject to specified limitations and conditions, seek to enforce that payment (or delivery) or the performance of that covenant or agreement.

Subject to the duty of the trustee to act with the required standard of care during a default, the trustee is not obligated to exercise any of its rights or powers under the subordinated indenture at the request or direction of any of the holders of the subordinated debt securities, unless those holders have offered the trustee security or indemnity reasonably satisfactory to the trustee. Subject to that provision for security or indemnity, the holders of a majority in principal amount of the subordinated debt securities of any series then outstanding have the right to direct the time, method, and place of conducting any proceeding for any remedy available to, or exercising any trust or power conferred on, the trustee with respect to the subordinated debt securities of that series.

The subordinated indenture includes a covenant requiring us to file annually with the trustee a certificate of no default or specifying any default that exists.

Modification and Waiver

The subordinated indenture contains provisions providing for the amendment or modification of the subordinated indenture and waiver of compliance with certain provisions or past defaults under the same terms described above in Senior Debt Securities-Modification and Waiver . Additionally, no modification or amendment to the subordinated indenture may, without the consent of the holder of each outstanding subordinated debt security affected:

modify the subordination provisions of the subordinated debt securities of any series in a manner adverse to the holders of the subordinated debt securities; or

adversely affect the right to convert any subordinated debt security.

Defeasance and Covenant Defeasance

The subordinated indenture contains a provision that, if made applicable to any series of subordinated debt securities, permits us to elect defeasance and/or covenant defeasance under the same terms described above in Description of the Senior Debt Securities Defeasance and Covenant Defeasance.

Information Concerning The Trustee

BancGroup and some of our subsidiaries may maintain deposits and conduct other banking transactions with the trustee under the subordinated indenture in the ordinary course of business.

Governing Law

The subordinated indenture and the subordinated debt securities will be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of the State of New York.

Table of Contents

DESCRIPTION OF CAPITAL STOCK

BancGroup's authorized capital stock consists of 400,000,000 shares of BancGroup common stock, par value \$2.50 per share, 50,000,000 shares of preferred stock, \$2.50 par value and 1,000,000 shares of preference stock, \$2.50 par value per share. No shares of preference stock are registered for sale pursuant to this prospectus. As of March 31, 2008, there were outstanding a total of 158,097,161 shares of BancGroup common stock. No shares of preferred stock or preference stock were issued and outstanding.

BancGroup Common Stock

Dividends. Subject to the rights of holders of preferred stock and/or preference stock, if any, to receive certain dividends prior to the declaration of dividends on shares of BancGroup common stock, when and as dividends, payable in cash, stock or other property, are declared by the BancGroup Board of Directors, the holders of BancGroup common stock are entitled to share ratably in such dividends.

Voting Rights. Each holder of BancGroup common stock has one vote for each share held on matters presented for consideration by the shareholders.

Preemptive Rights. The holders of BancGroup common stock have no preemptive rights to acquire any additional shares of BancGroup.

Issuance of Stock. The BancGroup Certificate of Incorporation authorizes the Board of Directors of BancGroup to issue authorized shares of BancGroup common stock without shareholder approval. However, BancGroup's common stock is listed on the NYSE, which requires shareholder approval of the issuance of additional shares of BancGroup common stock under certain circumstances.

Liquidation Rights. In the event of liquidation, dissolution or winding-up of BancGroup, whether voluntary or involuntary, the holders of BancGroup common stock will be entitled to share ratably in any of its assets or funds that are available for distribution to its shareholders after the satisfaction of its liabilities (or after adequate provision is made therefor) and after preferences of any outstanding preferred stock and/or preference stock.

Preferred Stock

The preferred stock may be issued from time to time as a class without series, or if so determined by the Board of Directors of BancGroup, either in whole or in part in one or more series. The voting rights, and such designations, preferences and relative, participating, optional or other special rights, if any, and the qualifications, limitations or restrictions thereof, if any, including, but not limited to, the dividend rights, conversion rights, redemption rights and liquidation preferences, if any, of any wholly unissued series of preferred stock (or of the entire class of preferred stock if none of such shares has been issued), the number of shares constituting any such series and the terms and conditions of the issue thereof may be fixed by resolution of the Board of Directors of BancGroup. Preferred stock may have a preference over the BancGroup common stock with respect to the payment of dividends and the distribution of assets in the event of the liquidation or winding-up of BancGroup and such other preferences as may be fixed by the Board of Directors of BancGroup. The preferred stock is available for possible financing, acquisition transactions, capital management and other general purposes, but BancGroup has undertaken not to use the preferred stock as an anti-takeover device.

Preference Stock

The preference stock may be issued from time to time as a class without series, or if so determined by the Board of Directors of BancGroup, either in whole or in part in one or more series. The voting rights, and such designations, preferences and relative, participating, optional or other special rights, if any, and the qualifications, limitations or restrictions thereof, if any, including, but not limited to, the dividend rights, conversion rights,

Table of Contents

redemption rights and liquidation preferences, if any, of any wholly unissued series of preference stock (or of the entire class of preference stock if none of such shares has been issued), the number of shares constituting any such series and the terms and conditions of the issue thereof may be fixed by resolution of the Board of Directors of BancGroup. Preference stock may have a preference over the BancGroup common stock with respect to the payment of dividends and the distribution of assets in the event of the liquidation or winding-up of BancGroup and such other preferences as may be fixed by the Board of Directors of BancGroup. The preference stock is available for possible financing, acquisition transactions, capital management and other general purposes, including being used as an anti-takeover device.

Change in Control

Certain provisions of the BancGroup Certificate and the BancGroup Bylaws may have the effect of preventing, discouraging or delaying any change in control of BancGroup. The BancGroup Board of Directors is authorized to issue BancGroup preference stock with such rights and privileges, including voting rights, as it may deem appropriate in order to enable BancGroup's Board of Directors to prevent a change in control despite a shift in ownership of the BancGroup common stock. See *Preference Stock*. In addition, the power of BancGroup's Board of Directors to issue additional shares of BancGroup common stock may help delay or deter a change in control by increasing the number of shares needed to gain control. See *BancGroup Common Stock*. The following provisions also may deter any change in control of BancGroup.

Classified Board. BancGroup's Board of Directors is classified into three classes, as nearly equal in number as possible, with the members of each class elected to three-year terms. Thus, one-third of BancGroup's Board of Directors is elected by shareholders each year. With this provision, two annual elections are required in order to change a majority of the Board of Directors. There are currently 16 directors of BancGroup. This provision of the BancGroup Certificate also stipulates that (i) directors can be removed only for cause upon a vote of 80% of the voting power of the outstanding shares entitled to vote in the election of directors, voting as a class, (ii) vacancies in the Board of Directors may only be filled by a majority vote of the directors remaining in office, (iii) the maximum number of directors shall be fixed by resolution of the Board of Directors, and (iv) the provisions relating to the classified Board of Directors can only be amended by the affirmative vote of the holders of at least 80% of the voting power of the outstanding shares entitled to vote in the election of directors, voting as a class.

Business Combinations. Certain *Business Combinations* of BancGroup with a *Related Person* may only be undertaken with the affirmative vote of at least 75% of the outstanding shares of *Voting Stock*, plus the affirmative vote of at least 67% of the outstanding shares of *Voting Stock*, not counting shares owned by the *Related Person*, unless the continuing Directors of BancGroup approve such *Business Combination*. A *Related Person* is a person, or group, who owns or acquires 10% or more of the outstanding shares of BancGroup common stock, provided that no person shall be a *Related Person* if such person would have been a *Related Person* on the date of approval of this provision by BancGroup's Board of Directors, i.e., April 20, 1994. An effect of this provision may be to exclude Robert E. Lowder, the current Chairman, Chief Executive Officer and President of BancGroup, from the definition of *Related Person*. A *Continuing Director* is a director who was a member of the Board of Directors immediately prior to the time a person became a *Related Person*. This provision may not be amended without the affirmative vote of the holders of at least 75% of the outstanding shares of *Voting Stock*, plus the affirmative vote of the outstanding shares of at least 67% of the outstanding *Voting Stock*, excluding shares held by a *Related Person*. This provision may have the effect of giving the incumbent Board of Directors a veto over a merger or other *Business Combination* that could be desired by a majority of BancGroup's shareholders. As of February 20, 2008, the Board of Directors and senior executive officers of BancGroup owned approximately 6.34% of the outstanding shares of BancGroup common stock.

Board Evaluation of Mergers. The BancGroup Certificate permits the Board of Directors to consider certain factors such as the character and financial stability of the other party, the projected social, legal, and economic effects of a proposed transaction upon the employees, suppliers, regulatory agencies and customers and communities of BancGroup, and other factors when considering whether BancGroup should undertake a merger,

Table of Contents

sale of assets, or other similar transaction with another party. This provision may not be amended except by the affirmative vote of at least 80% of the outstanding shares of BancGroup common stock. This provision may give greater latitude to the Board of Directors in terms of the factors which the board may consider in recommending or rejecting a merger or other Business Combination of BancGroup.

Director Authority. The BancGroup Certificate prohibits shareholders from calling special shareholders' meetings and acting by written consent. It also provides that only BancGroup's Board of Directors has the authority to undertake certain actions with respect to governing BancGroup such as appointing committees, electing officers, and establishing compensation of officers, and it allows the Board of Directors to act by majority vote.

Bylaw Provisions. The BancGroup Bylaws provide that shareholders wishing to propose nominees for the Board of Directors or other business to be taken up at an annual meeting of BancGroup shareholders must comply with certain advance written notice provisions. These bylaw provisions are intended to provide for the more orderly conduct of shareholders' meetings but could make it more difficult for shareholders to nominate directors or introduce business at shareholders' meetings.

Delaware Business Combination Statute. Subject to some exceptions, Delaware law prohibits BancGroup from entering into certain business combinations (as defined) involving persons beneficially owning 15% or more of the outstanding BancGroup common stock (or one who is an affiliate of BancGroup and has over the past three years beneficially owned 15% or more of such stock) (either, for the purpose of this paragraph, an Interested Shareholder), unless the Board of Directors has approved either (i) the business combination or (ii) prior to the stock acquisition by which such person's beneficial ownership interest reached 15% (a Stock Acquisition), the Stock Acquisition. The prohibition lasts for three years from the date of the Stock Acquisition. Notwithstanding the preceding, Delaware law allows BancGroup to enter into a business combination with an Interested Shareholder if (i) the business combination is approved by BancGroup's Board of Directors and authorized by an affirmative vote of at least two-thirds of the outstanding voting stock of BancGroup which is not owned by the Interested Shareholder or (ii) upon consummation of the transaction which resulted in the shareholder becoming an Interested Shareholder, such shareholder owned at least 85% of the outstanding BancGroup common stock (excluding BancGroup common stock held by officers and directors of BancGroup or by certain BancGroup stock plans). These provisions of Delaware law apply simultaneously with the provisions of the BancGroup Certificate relating to business combinations with a related person, described above at Business Combinations, but they are generally less restrictive than the BancGroup Certificate.

Control Acquisitions. As it relates to BancGroup, the Change in Bank Control Act of 1978 prohibits a person or group of persons from acquiring control of a bank holding company unless the Federal Reserve has been given 60 days' prior written notice of such proposed acquisition and within that time period the Federal Reserve has not issued a notice disapproving the proposed acquisition or extending for up to another 30 days the period during which such a disapproval may be issued. An acquisition may be made prior to the expiration of the disapproval period if the Federal Reserve issues written notice of its intent not to disapprove the action. Under a rebuttable presumption established by the Federal Reserve, the acquisition of more than 10% of a class of voting stock of a bank holding company with a class of securities registered under Section 12 of the Exchange Act, such as BancGroup, would, under the circumstances set forth in the presumption, constitute the acquisition of control. The receipt of revocable proxies, provided the proxies terminate within a reasonable time after the meeting to which they relate, is not included in determining percentages for change in control purposes.

Table of Contents

VALIDITY OF THE SECURITIES

Unless otherwise indicated in the applicable prospectus supplement, the validity of the securities will be passed upon for us by Miller, Hamilton, Snider & Odom, LLC, Montgomery, Alabama of which John C. H. Miller, Jr., a director of BancGroup, is a member. Such firm received fees for legal services performed in 2007 of approximately \$3,938,000. John C. H. Miller, Jr. beneficially owned 43,242 shares of BancGroup common stock as of February 20, 2008. In addition to his directors fees, Mr. Miller also received a total of \$75,782 in 2007, including \$41,000 for advice provided to BancGroup that extends beyond the legal work for which Miller, Hamilton, Snider & Odom, LLC receives legal fees, use of an automobile at a cost of \$17,450 to BancGroup and the personal use of the company aircraft valued at \$17,332 (using the incremental cost methodology).

Unless otherwise specified in the applicable prospectu supplement, certain legal matters will be passed upon for any underwriters, dealers or agents by Simpson, Thacher and Bartlett LLP, New York, New York.

EXPERTS

The consolidated financial statements and management's assessment of the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting (which is included in Management's Report on Internal Control over Financial Reporting) incorporated in this Prospectus by reference to the Annual Report on Form 10-k for the year ended December 31, 2007 have been so incorporated in reliance on the report of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP, an Independent registered public accounting firm given on the authority of said firm as experts in auditing and accounting.

Table of Contents

25,000,000 Shares

The Colonial BancGroup, Inc.

Common Stock

PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT

April , 2008

Sole Book-Running Manager

LEHMAN BROTHERS

CREDIT SUISSE

SUNTRUST ROBINSON HUMPHREY

MORGAN KEEGAN & COMPANY, INC.