HOME BANCSHARES INC Form S-3ASR November 30, 2018 Table of Contents

As filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on November 30, 2018

Registration No. 333-

## **UNITED STATES**

## SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

#### FORM S-3

## REGISTRATION STATEMENT

**UNDER** 

THE SECURITIES ACT OF 1933

## HOME BANCSHARES, INC.

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Arkansas (State or other jurisdiction of

71-0682831 (IRS Employer

incorporation or organization)

**Identification Number)** 

719 Harkrider, Suite 100

Conway, Arkansas 72032

(501) 339-2929

(Address including zip code, and telephone number, including area code, of registrant s principal executive offices)

C. Randall Sims

**Chief Executive Officer** 

Home BancShares, Inc.

719 Harkrider

Conway, Arkansas 72032

(501) 328-4656

(Name, address, including zip code, and telephone number, including area code, of agent for service)

Copies to:

C. Douglas Buford, Jr.

Courtney C. Crouch, III

Mitchell, Williams, Selig, Gates & Woodyard, P.L.L.C.

425 West Capitol Avenue, Suite 1800

Little Rock, Arkansas 72201

Telephone: (501) 688-8800

Facsimile: (501) 918-7822

**Approximate date of commencement of proposed sale to the public**: From time to time after the effective date of this Registration Statement.

If the only securities being registered on this Form are being offered pursuant to dividend or interest reinvestment plans, please check the following box.

If any of the securities being registered on this Form are to be offered on a delayed or continuous basis pursuant to Rule 415 under the Securities Act of 1933, other than securities offered only in connection with dividend or interest reinvestment plans, check the following box.

If this Form is filed to register additional securities for an offering pursuant to Rule 462(b) under the Securities Act, check the following box and list the Securities Act registration statement number of the earlier effective registration statement for the same offering.

If this Form is a post-effective amendment filed pursuant to Rule 462(c) under the Securities Act, check the following box and list the Securities Act registration statement number of the earlier effective registration statement for the same offering.

If this Form is a registration statement pursuant to General Instruction I.D. or a post-effective amendment thereto that shall become effective upon filing with the Commission pursuant to Rule 462(e) under the Securities Act, check the following box.

If this Form is a post-effective amendment to a registration statement filed pursuant to General Instruction I.D. filed to register additional securities or additional classes of securities pursuant to Rule 413(b) under the Securities Act, check the following box.

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a large accelerated filer, an accelerated filer, a non-accelerated filer, a smaller reporting company, or an emerging growth company. See definitions of large accelerated filer, accelerated filer, smaller reporting company, and emerging growth company in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act.

Large accelerated filer Non-accelerated filer Accelerated filer Smaller reporting company Emerging growth company

If an emerging growth company, indicate by check mark if the registrant has elected not to use the extended transition period for complying with any new or revised financial accounting standards provided pursuant to Section 7(a)(2)(B) of Securities Act.

## CALCULATION OF REGISTRATION FEE

Title of Each Class of Proposed Maximum Proposed Maximum
Amount to be Offering Price Per Aggregate Offering Amount of
Securities to be Registered (1)(2) Security (1)(2)(3) Price (1)(2)(3) Registration Fee (3)

Common Stock, par value \$0.01 per share Preferred Stock, par value \$0.01 per share Rights Warrants Subordinated Debt Securities Total

- (1) Not specified as to each class of securities to be registered pursuant to General Instruction II.E of Form S-3.
- (2) An indeterminate aggregate initial offering price or number of securities of each identified class is being registered as may be issued at indeterminate prices from time to time. The securities registered include unspecified amounts and numbers of securities that may be issued upon conversion of or exchange for securities that provide for conversion or exchange or pursuant to the antidilution provisions of any such securities. Separate consideration may or may not be received for securities issuable on exercise, conversion, or exchange of other securities.
- (3) In accordance with Rules 456(b) and 457(r) under the Securities Act of 1933 (the Securities Act ), the registrant is deferring payment of all of the registration fee subject to the conditions set forth in such rules. Pursuant to Rule 416 under the Securities Act, this registration statement (the Registration Statement ) also covers any additional shares that may be offered or issued in connection with any stock split, stock dividend or similar transaction.

## **PROSPECTUS**

## HOME BANCSHARES, INC.

Common Stock

Preferred Stock

Rights

Warrants

## **Subordinated Debt Securities**

We may offer and sell, from time to time, in one or more offerings, any combination of securities that we describe in this prospectus.

This prospectus provides you with a general description of these securities. We will file prospectus supplements and may provide other offering material at later dates that will contain specific terms of each issuance of securities. These supplements may also add, update or change information contained in 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. This prospectus may not be used to consummate sales of securities unless accompanied by a prospectus supplement.

Our common stock is listed on the NASDAQ Global Select Market under the symbol HOMB.

Investing in our securities involves a high degree of risk. See the section entitled <u>Risk Factors</u> on page 5 of this prospectus and in the documents we filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission that are incorporated in this prospectus by reference for certain risks and uncertainties you should consider.

Neither the Securities and Exchange Commission nor any state securities commission has approved or disapproved of these securities or passed upon the adequacy or accuracy of this prospectus. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense in the United States.

These securities are unsecured and are not deposits and are not insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation or any other governmental agency.

This prospectus is dated November 30, 2018.

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## ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS

This prospectus is a part of a registration statement on Form S-3 that we have filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) utilizing a shelf registration process. Under this shelf registration process, we may, from time to time, sell the securities described in this prospectus in one or more offerings.

The registration statement containing this prospectus, including the exhibits to the registration statement, provides additional information about us and the securities offered under this prospectus. The registration statement, including the exhibits and the documents incorporated herein by reference, can be read on the SEC website or at the SEC offices mentioned under the heading Where You Can Find More Information.

Each time we use this prospectus to offer securities, we will provide a prospectus supplement containing specific information about the amounts, prices and terms of the securities being offered. The prospectus supplement may add, update or change information in this prospectus. If the information in the prospectus is inconsistent with a prospectus supplement, you should rely on the information in that prospectus supplement. You should carefully read both this prospectus and any applicable prospectus supplement. See Where You Can Find More Information for more information.

We have not authorized any dealer, salesman or other person to give any information or to make any representation other than those contained or incorporated by reference in this prospectus or any prospectus supplement. You must not rely upon any information or representation not contained or incorporated by reference in this prospectus or any prospectus supplement. This prospectus and any prospectus supplement do not constitute an offer to sell or the solicitation of an offer to buy any securities other than the registered securities to which they relate, nor do this prospectus and any prospectus supplement constitute an offer to sell or the solicitation of an offer to buy securities in any jurisdiction to any person to whom it is unlawful to make such offer or solicitation in such jurisdiction. You should not assume that the information contained in this prospectus or any prospectus supplement is accurate on any date subsequent to the date set forth on the front of such document or that any information we have incorporated by reference is correct on any date subsequent to the date of the document incorporated by reference, even though this prospectus and any prospectus supplement is delivered or securities are sold on a later date.

Unless otherwise stated or the context otherwise requires, all references to Home BancShares, the Company, we, us and similar terms refer to Home BancShares, Inc. and its consolidated subsidiaries.

Unless otherwise indicated, currency amounts in this prospectus and in any applicable prospectus supplement are stated in U.S. dollars.

# CAUTIONARY NOTE REGARDING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

Some of our statements contained in this document are forward-looking statements within the meaning of Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the Securities Act ), and Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the Exchange Act ). Forward-looking statements relate to future events or our future financial performance and include statements about the competitiveness of the banking industry, potential regulatory obligations, our entrance and expansion into other markets, our other business strategies and other statements that are not historical facts. Forward-looking statements are not guarantees of performance or results. When we use words like anticipate, contemplate, believe, intend, continue, expect, project, predict. estimate, and similar expressions, you should consider them as identifying forward-looking statements, although we may use other phrasing. These forward-looking statements involve risks and uncertainties and are based on our beliefs and assumptions, and on the information available to us at the time that these disclosures were

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prepared. These forward-looking statements involve risks and uncertainties and may not be realized due to a variety of factors, including, but not limited to, the following:

the effects of future local, regional, national and international economic conditions, including inflation or a decrease in commercial real estate and residential housing values;

changes in the level of nonperforming assets and charge-offs, and credit risk generally;

the risks of changes in interest rates or the level and composition of deposits, loan demand and the values of loan collateral, securities and interest-sensitive assets and liabilities;

the effect of any mergers, acquisitions or other transactions to which we or our bank subsidiary may from time to time be a party, including our ability to successfully integrate any businesses that we acquire;

the risk that expected cost savings and other benefits from acquisitions may not be fully realized or may take longer to realize than expected;

the possibility that an acquisition does not close when expected or at all because required regulatory, shareholder or other approvals and other conditions to closing are not received or satisfied on a timely basis or at all;

the reaction to a proposed acquisition transaction of the respective companies customers, employees and counterparties;

diversion of management time on acquisition-related issues;

the ability to enter into and/or close additional acquisitions;

the availability of and access to capital on terms acceptable to us;

increased regulatory requirements and supervision that apply as a result of our exceeding \$10 billion in total assets;

legislation and regulation affecting the financial services industry as a whole, and the Company and its subsidiaries in particular, including the effects resulting from the reforms enacted by the Dodd-Frank Wall

Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act (the Dodd-Frank Act ) and the adoption of regulations by regulatory bodies under the Dodd-Frank Act;

governmental monetary and fiscal policies, as well as legislative and regulatory changes, including as a result of initiatives of the administration of President Donald J. Trump;

the effects of terrorism and efforts to combat it;

political instability;

risks associated with our customer relationship with the Cuban government and our correspondent banking relationship with Banco Internacional de Comercio, S.A. (BICSA), a Cuban commercial bank, through our recently completed acquisition of Stonegate Bank;

the ability to keep pace with technological changes, including changes regarding cybersecurity;

an increase in the incidence or severity of fraud, illegal payments, security breaches or other illegal acts impacting our bank subsidiary or our customers;

the effects of competition from other commercial banks, thrifts, mortgage banking firms, consumer finance companies, credit unions, securities brokerage firms, insurance companies, money market and other mutual funds and other financial institutions operating in our market area and elsewhere, including institutions operating regionally, nationally and internationally, together with competitors offering banking products and services by mail, telephone and the Internet;

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the effect of changes in accounting policies and practices and auditing requirements, as may be adopted by the regulatory agencies, as well as the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board, the Financial Accounting Standards Board, and other accounting standard setters;

higher defaults on our loan portfolio than we expect; and

the failure of assumptions underlying the establishment of our allowance for loan losses or changes in our estimate of the adequacy of the allowance for loan losses.

All written or oral forward-looking statements attributable to us are expressly qualified in their entirety by this Cautionary Note. Our actual results may differ significantly from those we discuss in these forward-looking statements. For other factors, risks and uncertainties that could cause our actual results to differ materially from estimates and projections contained in these forward-looking statements, see the Risk Factors section provided below.

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#### WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION

We are subject to the information requirements of the Exchange Act. Accordingly, we file annual, quarterly and current reports, proxy statements and other information with the SEC, and have filed a registration statement on Form S-3 under the Securities Act relating to the securities offered by this prospectus. This prospectus, which forms part of the registration statement, does not contain all of the information included in the registration statement. For further information, you should refer to the registration statement and its exhibits.

You may review the registration statement and any document we file with the SEC by accessing the website maintained by the SEC at https://www.sec.gov. The site contains reports, proxy and information statements and other information regarding issuers that file electronically with the SEC. In addition to the foregoing, we maintain a website at https://www.homebancshares.com. Our website content is made available for informational purposes only. It should neither be relied upon for investment purposes nor is it incorporated by reference into this prospectus. We make available on our Internet website copies of our Annual Reports on Form 10-K, Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q, Current Reports on Form 8-K and any amendments to such documents as soon as practicable after we electronically file such material with or furnish such documents to the SEC.

#### DOCUMENTS INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE

The SEC allows us to incorporate by reference information that we file with the SEC into this prospectus, which means we can disclose important information to you by referring you to another document. The information incorporated by reference is considered to be part of this prospectus from the date on which we file that document. Any reports filed by us with the SEC after the date of this prospectus and before the termination of the offering of the securities by means of this prospectus will automatically update and, where applicable, supersede information contained in this prospectus or incorporated by reference into this prospectus. We incorporate by reference the documents listed below and any future filings made with the SEC under Sections 13(a), 13(c), 14 or 15(d) of the Exchange Act, until the termination of the offering of the securities offered hereby (in each case excluding any portion of such documents that have been furnished to and deemed not filed with the SEC):

- (a) Our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2017, filed with the SEC on February 27, 2018.
- (b) Our Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q for the quarters ended March 31, 2018, June 30, 2018, and September 30, 2018, filed with the SEC on May 7, 2018, August 6, 2018, and November 5, 2018, respectively.
- (c) Our Current Reports on Form 8-K filed with the SEC on April 20, 2018 and July 2, 2018 (as amended on July 6, 2018).
- (d) The description of our Common Stock contained in our Registration Statement on Form 10, filed under Section 12 of the Exchange Act on April 7, 2006, and all amendments or reports filed for the purpose of updating such description.

Unless otherwise stated in the applicable reports, information furnished under Item 2.02 or 7.01 of our Current Reports on Form 8-K is not incorporated by reference.

You may request a copy of these filings, at no cost, by writing or calling us at the following address:

Home BancShares, Inc.

719 Harkrider, Suite 100

Conway, Arkansas 72032

Attn: Corporate Secretary

(501) 339-2929

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## THE COMPANY

We are a Conway, Arkansas headquartered bank holding company registered under the federal Bank Holding Company Act of 1956. The Company s common stock is traded through the NASDAQ Global Select Market under the symbol HOMB. We are primarily engaged in providing a broad range of commercial and retail banking and related financial services to businesses, real estate developers and investors, individuals and municipalities through our wholly owned community bank subsidiary, Centennial Bank. Centennial Bank has branch locations in Arkansas, Florida, South Alabama and New York City.

We acquire, organize and invest in community banks that serve attractive markets. Our community banking team is built around experienced bankers with strong local relationships. Since opening our first subsidiary bank in 1999, we have acquired and integrated a total of 22 banks with locations in Arkansas, Florida and Alabama, including 17 banks since 2010, seven of which we acquired through Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation assisted transactions. Our subsidiary bank has operated under a single charter and the Centennial Bank name since 2009. In 2015, after acquiring a pool of national commercial real estate loans, we created Centennial Commercial Finance Group (Centennial CFG) to build out a national lending platform focused on commercial real estate as well as commercial and industrial loans. Centennial CFG operates out of our New York City branch office and loan production offices in Los Angeles, California and Dallas, Texas. On June 30, 2018, we acquired Shore Premier Finance (SPF), a marine-lending division of Union Bank & Trust of Richmond, Virginia, and established the SPF division of Centennial Bank to build out a lending platform focusing on commercial and consumer marine loans. In connection with the creation of the SPF division, Centennial Bank has opened a loan production office in Chesapeake, Virginia.

Our principal executive office is located at 719 Harkrider, Suite 100, Conway, Arkansas, and our telephone number is (501) 339-2929.

## **RISK FACTORS**

An investment in our securities involves significant risks. Our business, financial condition, and results of operations could be materially adversely affected by any of these risks. The trading price of our securities could decline due to any of these risks, and you may lose all or part of your investment. Before you make an investment decision regarding the securities, you should carefully consider the risks and uncertainties described under Risk Factors in the applicable prospectus supplement and in our most recent Annual Report on Form 10-K, and in any updates to those Risk Factors in our Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q, together with all of the other information appearing in this prospectus or incorporated by reference into this prospectus and any applicable prospectus supplement, in light of your particular investment objectives and financial circumstances. The risks described in those documents are not the only ones that we face. Additional risks and uncertainties not presently known to us or that we currently deem immaterial may also affect our business operations, our financial results and the value of the securities. The prospectus supplement applicable to each series of securities we offer may contain a discussion of additional risks applicable to an investment in us and the securities we are offering under that prospectus supplement.

## **USE OF PROCEEDS**

Unless otherwise specified in the applicable prospectus supplement, we intend to use the proceeds from the sale of the securities described in this prospectus for general corporate purposes and to support our ongoing and future anticipated growth, including potential acquisitions. Pending such use, we may temporarily invest the proceeds or use them to reduce indebtedness. The applicable prospectus supplement will provide more details on the use of proceeds of any specific offering.

## **DESCRIPTION OF SECURITIES WE MAY OFFER**

This prospectus contains summary descriptions of our common stock, preferred stock, rights and warrants that we may offer from time to time. These summary descriptions are not meant to be complete descriptions of each security. The particular terms of any security will be described in the accompanying prospectus supplement and other offering material. The accompanying prospectus supplement may add, update or change the terms and conditions of the securities as described in this prospectus.

When we use the terms security or securities in this prospectus, we mean any of the securities we may offer with this prospectus, unless we say otherwise.

#### DESCRIPTION OF CAPITAL STOCK

The following is a description of our capital stock and certain provisions of our Restated Articles of Incorporation, Restated Bylaws and certain provisions of applicable law. The following is only a summary and is qualified by applicable law and by the provisions of our Restated Articles of Incorporation and Restated Bylaws, copies of which have been filed with the SEC and are also available upon request from us.

#### General

Under our Restated Articles of Incorporation, as amended, we have authority to issue up to 200,000,000 shares of common stock, par value \$0.01 per share, and up to 5,500,000 shares of preferred stock, par value \$0.01 per share. Each share of our common stock has the same relative rights as, and is identical in all respects to, each other share of our common stock.

As of November 28, 2018, 172,932,360 shares of our common stock were issued and outstanding, and 5,454,420 shares of common stock were reserved for issuance pursuant to the Company s stock option and performance incentive plan. Our common stock is listed on the NASDAQ Global Select Market. The outstanding shares of our common stock are validly issued, fully paid and non-assessable.

As of November 28, 2018, no shares of our preferred stock were issued and outstanding.

#### **Common Stock**

*Voting Rights.* Holders of our common stock are entitled to one vote per share on all matters submitted to a vote of shareholders. Holders of our common stock do not have cumulative voting rights.

Dividend Rights. Holders of our common stock are entitled to dividends when, as, and if declared by our board of directors out of funds legally available for the payment of dividends. Holders of any series of preferred stock we may issue in the future may have a priority over holders of common stock with respect to dividends. The payment of dividends is subject to government regulation, in that regulatory authorities may prohibit banks and bank holding companies from paying dividends in a manner that would constitute an unsafe or unsound banking practice. In addition, a bank may not pay cash dividends if doing so would reduce the amount of its capital below that necessary to meet minimum regulatory capital requirements. State laws also limit a bank s ability to pay dividends. Accordingly, the dividend restrictions imposed on our bank subsidiary by statute or regulation effectively may limit the amount of dividends we can pay.

*Liquidation and Dissolution.* In the event of the liquidation, dissolution and winding up of the Company, the holders of our common stock are entitled to receive ratably all of the assets of the Company available for distribution after satisfaction of all liabilities of the Company, subject to the rights of the holders of any of the Company s preferred shares that may be issued from time to time.

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*Other Rights*. Holders of our common stock have no preferential or preemptive rights with respect to any securities of Home BancShares, and there are no conversion rights or redemption or sinking fund provisions applicable to our common stock.

Restrictions on Ownership. The Bank Holding Company Act (the BHCA) requires any bank holding company, as defined in the BHCA, to obtain the approval of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve prior to the acquisition of 5% or more of our common stock. Any company, as defined in the BHCA, other than a bank holding company would be required to obtain Federal Reserve approval before acquiring control of us. Control generally means (i) the ownership or control of 25% or more of a class of voting securities, (ii) the ability to elect a majority of the directors or (iii) the ability otherwise to exercise a controlling influence over our management and policies. A holder of 25% or more of our outstanding common stock, other than an individual, is subject to regulation and supervision as a bank holding company under the BHCA. In addition, under the Change in Bank Control Act of 1978, as amended, and the Federal Reserve s regulations thereunder, any person, either individually or acting through or in concert with one or more persons, is required to provide notice to the Federal Reserve prior to acquiring, directly or indirectly, 10% or more of our outstanding common stock.

*Modification of Rights.* Our board of directors acting by a majority vote of the members present, without shareholder approval, may amend our Restated Bylaws and may issue shares of our preferred stock under terms determined by the board of directors as described below under Preferred Stock. Rights of holders of our common stock may not otherwise be modified by less than a majority vote of the common stock outstanding. Additionally, under the Arkansas Business Corporation Act of 1987, a majority vote is required for the approval of a merger or consolidation with another corporation, and for the sale of all or substantially all of our assets and liquidation or dissolution of Home BancShares.

*Transfer Agent.* The transfer agent and registrar for our common stock is Computershare, 250 Royall Street, Canton, Massachusetts 02021.

#### **Preferred Stock**

The 5,500,000 shares of our preferred stock, par value \$0.01 per share, are typically referred to as blank check preferred stock. This term means that these shares of preferred stock may be issued with such preferences, limitations, relative rights, and terms as determined by our board of directors. As such, the board of directors can, without shareholder approval, issue preferred stock with voting, dividend, liquidation and conversion rights that could dilute the voting strength of the holders of the common stock and may assist management in impeding an unfriendly takeover or attempted change in control.

The terms of any particular series of preferred stock will be described in the prospectus supplement relating to that particular series of preferred stock.

#### **DESCRIPTION OF RIGHTS**

In this section, we describe the general terms and provisions of the rights to securities that we may offer to our shareholders. Rights may be issued independently or together with any other offered security and may or may not be transferable by the person purchasing or receiving the rights. In connection with any rights offering to our security holders, we may enter into a standby underwriting or other arrangement with one or more underwriters or other persons pursuant to which such underwriters or other person would purchase any offered securities remaining unsubscribed for after such rights offering. Each series of rights will be issued under a separate rights agent agreement to be entered into between us and a bank or trust company, as rights agent, that we will name in the applicable

prospectus supplement. The rights agent will act solely as our agent in connection with the certificates relating to the rights of the series of certificates and will not assume any obligation or relationship of agency or trust for or with any holders of rights certificates or beneficial owners of rights.

The prospectus supplement relating to any rights we offer will include specific terms relating to the offering, including, among others, the date of determining the security holders entitled to the rights distribution, the

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aggregate number of rights issued and the aggregate amount of securities purchasable upon exercise of the rights, the exercise price, the conditions to completion of the offering, the date on which the right to exercise the rights will commence and the date on which the right will expire, and any applicable U.S. federal income tax considerations. To the extent that any particular terms of the rights, rights agent agreements, or rights certificates described in a prospectus supplement differ from any of the terms described here, then the terms described here will be deemed to have been superseded by that prospectus supplement.

Each right would entitle the holder of the rights to purchase for cash the principal amount of securities at the exercise price set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement. Rights may be exercised at any time up to the close of business on the expiration date for the rights provided in the applicable prospectus supplement. After the close of business on the expiration date, all unexercised rights would become void and of no further force or effect.

Holders may exercise rights as described in the applicable prospectus supplement. Upon receipt of payment and the rights certificate properly completed and duly executed at the corporate trust office of the rights agent or any other office indicated in the prospectus supplement, we will, as soon as practicable, forward the securities purchasable upon exercise of the rights. If less than all of the rights issued in any rights offering are exercised, we may offer any unsubscribed securities directly to persons other than security holders, to or through agents, underwriters or dealers or through a combination of such methods, including pursuant to standby arrangements, as described in the applicable prospectus supplement.

The description in the applicable prospectus supplement and other offering material of any rights we offer will not necessarily be complete and will be qualified in its entirety by reference to the applicable rights agent agreement, which will be filed with the SEC if we offer rights. For more information on how you can obtain copies of the applicable rights agent agreement if we offer rights, see Documents Incorporated by Reference and Where You Can Find More Information. We urge you to read the applicable rights agent agreement and the applicable prospectus supplement and any other offering material in their entirety.

#### **DESCRIPTION OF WARRANTS**

We may issue warrants from time to time in one or more series for the purchase of our common stock or preferred stock or any combination of those securities. Warrants may be issued independently or together with any shares of common stock or shares of preferred stock or offered by any prospectus supplement and may be attached to or separate from common stock or preferred stock. Each series of warrants will be issued under a separate warrant agreement to be entered into between us and a warrant agent, or any other bank or trust company specified in the related prospectus supplement relating to the particular issue of warrants. The warrant agent will act as our agent in connection with the warrants and will not assume any obligation or relationship of agency or trust for or with any holders of warrants or beneficial owners of warrants. The specific terms of a series of warrants will be described in the applicable prospectus supplement relating to that series of warrants along with any general provisions applicable to that series of warrants.

The following is a general description of the warrants we may issue. The applicable prospectus supplement will describe the specific terms of any issuance of warrants. The terms of any warrants we offer may differ from the terms described in this prospectus. As a result, we will describe in the prospectus supplement the specific terms of the particular series of warrants offered by that prospectus supplement. Accordingly, for a description of the terms of a particular series of warrants, you should carefully read this prospectus, the applicable prospectus supplement, and the applicable warrant agreement, which will be filed as an exhibit to the registration statement of which this prospectus forms a part.

*Terms.* If warrants are offered by us, the prospectus supplement will describe the terms of the warrants, including the following if applicable to the particular offering:

the title of the warrants;

the total number of warrants;

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the number of shares of common stock purchasable upon exercise of the warrants to purchase common stock and the price at which such shares of common stock may be purchased upon exercise;

the designation and terms of the preferred stock with which the warrants are issued and the number of warrants issued with each share of preferred stock;

the date on and after which the warrants and the related common stock or preferred stock will be separately transferable;

if applicable, the date on which the right to exercise the warrants will commence and the date on which this right will expire;

if applicable, the minimum or maximum amount of the warrants which may be exercised at any one time;

a discussion of federal income tax, accounting and other special considerations, procedures and limitations relating to the warrants; and

any other terms of the warrants including terms, procedures and limitations relating to the exchange and exercise of the warrants.

Warrants may be exchanged for new warrants of different denominations, may be presented for registration of transfer, and may be exercised at the office of the warrant agent or any other office indicated in the prospectus supplement. Before the exercise of their warrants, holders of warrants will not have any of the rights of holders of shares of common stock or shares of preferred stock purchasable upon exercise, including the right to receive payments of dividends, if any, on the shares of common stock or preferred stock purchasable upon such exercise or to exercise any applicable right to vote.

Exercise of Warrants. Each warrant will entitle the holder to purchase a number of shares of common stock or shares of preferred stock at an exercise price as will in each case be set forth in, or calculable from, the prospectus supplement relating to those warrants. Warrants may be exercised at the times set forth in the prospectus supplement relating to the warrants. After the close of business on the expiration date (or any later date to which the expiration date may be extended by us), unexercised warrants will become void. Subject to any restrictions and additional requirements that may be set forth in the prospectus supplement relating thereto, warrants may be exercised by delivery to the warrant agent of the certificate evidencing the warrants properly completed and duly executed and of payment as provided in the prospectus supplement of the amount required to purchase shares of common stock or shares of preferred stock purchasable upon such exercise. The exercise price will be the price applicable on the date of payment in full, as set forth in the prospectus supplement relating to the warrants. Upon receipt of the payment and the certificate representing the warrants to be exercised properly completed and duly executed at the office of the warrant agent or any other office indicated in the prospectus supplement, we will, as soon as practicable, issue and deliver the shares of common stock or shares of preferred stock purchasable upon such exercise. If fewer than all of the warrants represented by that certificate are exercised, a new certificate will be issued for the remaining amount of warrants.

The description in the applicable prospectus supplement and other offering material of any warrants we offer will not necessarily be complete and will be qualified in its entirety by reference to the applicable warrant agreement, which will be filed with the SEC if we offer warrants. For more information on how you can obtain copies of the applicable warrant agreement if we offer warrants, see Documents Incorporated by Reference and Where You Can Find More Information. We urge you to read the applicable warrant agreement and the applicable prospectus supplement and any other offering material in their entirety.

## DESCRIPTION OF SUBORDINATED DEBT SECURITIES

The following description of the subordinated debt securities sets forth certain general terms that may apply to the subordinated debt securities that we may offer under this prospectus. The subordinated debt securities are sometimes referred to as the debt securities. Unless otherwise specified in the applicable prospectus supplement, we will issue the subordinated debt securities under a subordinated indenture, which we will enter into with a trustee to be named in the subordinated indenture. The subordinated indenture is sometimes referred to as the indenture. The form of subordinated indenture is filed as an exhibit to the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part. The trustee under the indenture is referred to as the indenture trustee. The indenture is subject to and governed by the Trust Indenture Act of 1939, as amended (the Trust Indenture Act ), and may be supplemented or amended from time to time. Prior to issuing any debt securities, we will select an indenture trustee for the indenture relating to the issuance of debt securities, qualify such indenture trustee under the Trust Indenture Act and execute such indenture.

The indenture gives us broad authority to set the particular terms of each series of debt securities, including the right to modify certain of the terms contained in the indenture. We will describe the specific terms of a series of debt securities and the extent, if any, to which the specific terms of the debt securities modify the terms of the indenture in the prospectus supplement relating to the debt securities.

This summary is subject to, and qualified in its entirety by reference to, the indenture, which contains the full legal text of the matters described in this section, and the description of the specific terms of the debt securities in the applicable prospectus supplement. The following summary is not complete. You should read all of the provisions of the indenture, including the definitions of certain terms.

Since we are a holding company, our right, and accordingly, the right of our creditors and shareholders, including the holders of the securities offered by this prospectus and any prospectus supplement, to participate in any distribution of assets of any of our subsidiaries upon its liquidation, reorganization or similar proceeding is subject to the prior claims of creditors of that subsidiary, except to the extent that our claims as a creditor of the subsidiary may be recognized.

## **Terms of the Securities**

The debt securities will not be secured by any of our assets. Neither the indenture nor the debt securities will limit or otherwise restrict the amounts of other indebtedness that we may incur, or the amount of other securities that we may issue. The indenture does not limit the principal amount of any particular series of debt securities. The debt securities will be subordinated as described below under Subordination. All of the debt securities issued under the indenture will rank equally and ratably with any additional debt securities issued under the same indenture.

Each prospectus supplement will specify the particular terms of the debt securities offered. The applicable prospectus supplement will describe the terms of any debt securities being offered, including the following, as may be applicable:

the title of the debt securities;

the principal amount being offered and, if a series, the total amount authorized and the total amount outstanding;

any limit on the aggregate principal amount of the debt securities;

the priority of payments on the debt securities;

the issue price or prices (which may be expressed as a percentage of the aggregate principal amount) of the debt securities;

the date or dates, or the method of determining the dates, on which the debt securities will mature;

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the interest rate or rates of the debt securities, or the method of determining those rates;

the interest payment dates, the dates on which payment of any interest will begin and the regular record dates:

if other than the entire principal amount, the portion of the principal amount of the debt securities that will be payable if the maturity date of the debt securities is accelerated;

any event of default applicable to the debt securities;

any covenants included for the benefit of the holders of the debt securities;

provisions, if any, restricting the declaration of dividends or requiring the maintenance of any asset ratio or the creation or maintenance of reserves;

provisions relating to modification of the terms of the debt securities or the rights of holders of the debt securities;

provisions, if any, restricting the incurrence of additional debt or the issuance of additional securities;

restrictions, if any, on transfer, sale or other assignment of the debt securities;

whether the debt securities will be issuable in temporary or permanent global form and, if so, the identity of the depository for such global security, or the manner in which any interest payable on a temporary or permanent global security will be paid;

any terms relating to the conversion of the debt securities into our common shares or preferred shares, including, without limitation, the time and place at which such debt securities may be converted, the conversion price and any adjustments to the conversion price and any other provisions that may be applicable;

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

any mandatory or optional redemption, repurchase or repayment provisions applicable to the debt securities;

the denomination or denominations in which the debt securities are authorized to be issued;

whether any of the debt securities will be issued in bearer form and, if so, any limitations on issuance of such bearer securities (including exchanges for registered securities of the same series);

information describing any book-entry features of the debt securities;

whether any of the debt securities will be issued as original issue discount securities;

the place of payment on the debt securities;

each office or agency where the debt securities may be presented for registration of transfer, exchange or conversion;

the method of determining the amount of any payments on the securities which are linked to an index or determined by a formula;

if other than United States dollars, the currency or currencies in which payments on the debt securities will be payable, and whether the holder may elect payment to be made in a different currency;

the identity of the indenture trustee, the nature of any material relationship between us or our affiliates and the indenture trustee, the percentage of debt securities of a series necessary to require the indenture trustee to take action, and what indemnification the indenture trustee may require before proceeding to take action;

if other than the indenture trustee, the identity of the registrar and/or paying agent;

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any defeasance of certain obligations by us pertaining to the series of debt securities;

a discussion of any material United States federal income tax considerations applicable to the debt securities; and

any other terms, preferences, rights or limitations of, or restrictions on, the debt securities, including any terms that may be required by us or advisable under applicable laws or regulations or in connection with the marketing of the debt securities.

Some of our debt securities may be issued as original issue discount securities. Original issue discount securities bear no interest or bear interest at below-market rates and will be sold at a discount below their stated principal amount. The prospectus supplement will also contain any special tax, accounting or other information relating to original issue discount securities or relating to certain other kinds of securities that may be offered, including securities linked to an index.

## **Acceleration of Maturity**

If an event of default with respect to any outstanding series of debt securities occurs and is continuing, the indenture trustee or the holders of at least 25% in principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of that series may declare the principal amount due and payable immediately by providing written notice of such acceleration to us, and, if notice is given by the holders instead of the indenture trustee, to the indenture trustee. Subject to certain conditions, the declaration of acceleration may be rescinded, and past defaults (except uncured payment defaults and certain other specified defaults) may be waived, by the holders of not less than a majority of the principal amount of debt securities of that series.

You should refer to the prospectus supplement relating to each series of debt securities for the particular provisions relating to acceleration of maturity upon the occurrence and continuation of an event of default.

## **Registration and Transfer**

Unless otherwise indicated in the applicable prospectus supplement, each series of the offered debt securities will be issued in registered form only, without coupons.

Unless otherwise indicated in the applicable prospectus supplement, the debt securities we are offering will be issued in denominations of \$1,000 or an integral multiple of \$1,000. No service charge will be made for any transfer or exchange of the debt securities, but we may require payment of an amount sufficient to cover any tax or other governmental charge payable in connection with a transfer or exchange.

## **Payment and Paying Agent**

We will pay principal, interest and any premium on fully registered debt securities in the designated currency or currency unit at the office of a designated paying agent. At our option, payment of interest on fully registered debt securities may also be made by check mailed to the persons in whose names the debt securities are registered on the days specified in the indentures or any prospectus supplement.

If any amount payable on a debt security or coupon remains unclaimed at the end of two years after such amount became due and payable, the paying agent will release any unclaimed amounts, and the holder of the debt security or

coupon will look only to us for payment.

## **Global Securities**

The debt securities of a series may be issued in whole or in part in the form of one or more global certificates ( Global Securities ) that will be deposited with a depository that we will identify in a prospectus

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supplement. Global Securities may be issued in either temporary or permanent form. Unless and until it is exchanged in whole or in part for individual certificates evidencing debt securities in definitive form represented thereby, a Global Security may not be transferred except as a whole by the depository to a nominee of that depository or by a nominee of that deposit