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First American Financial Corp  
Form 10-K  
February 17, 2017

UNITED STATES

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

FORM 10-K

ANNUAL REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934  
For the fiscal year ended December 31, 2016

OR

TRANSITION REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF  
1934

For the transition period from            to

Commission file number 001-34580

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Incorporated in Delaware            26-1911571  
(State or other jurisdiction of        (I.R.S. Employer

incorporation or organization) Identification No.)

1 First American Way, Santa Ana, California 92707-5913

(Address of principal executive offices) (Zip Code)

(714) 250-3000

Registrant's telephone number, including area code

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Securities registered pursuant to Section 12(b) of the Act:

Common	New York Stock Exchange
(Title of each class)	(Name of each exchange on which registered)

Securities registered pursuant to Section 12(g) of the Act:

None

Indicate by check mark if the registrant is a well-known seasoned issuer, as defined in Rule 405 of the Securities Act. Yes No

Indicate by check mark if the registrant is not required to file reports pursuant to Section 13 or Section 15(d) of the Act. Yes No

Indicate by check mark whether registrant: (1) has filed all reports required to be filed by Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to file such reports), and (2) has been subject to such filing requirements for the past 90 days. Yes No

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant has submitted electronically and posted on its corporate Web site, if any, every Interactive Data File required to be submitted and posted pursuant to Rule 405 of Regulation S-T (§ 232.405 of this chapter) during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to submit and post such files). Yes No

Indicate by check mark if disclosure of delinquent filers pursuant to Item 405 of Regulation S-K (§ 229.405) is not contained herein, and will not be contained, to the best of registrant's knowledge, in definitive proxy or information statements incorporated by reference in Part III of this Form 10-K or any amendment to this Form 10-K.

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

Large accelerated filer Accelerated filer

Non-accelerated  
filer (Do not check if  
a smaller reporting  
company) Smaller reporting company

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a shell company (as defined in Rule 12b-2 of the Act). Yes No

The aggregate market value of voting and non-voting common equity held by non-affiliates of the registrant as of June 30, 2016 was \$4,346,358,102.

On February 10, 2017, there were 109,966,920 shares of common stock outstanding.

DOCUMENTS INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE

Portions of the registrant's definitive proxy statement with respect to the 2017 annual meeting of the stockholders are incorporated by reference in Part III of this report. The definitive proxy statement or an amendment to this Form 10-K will be filed no later than 120 days after the close of registrant's fiscal year.

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FIRST AMERICAN FINANCIAL CORPORATION

AND SUBSIDIARY COMPANIES

INFORMATION INCLUDED IN REPORT

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THIS ANNUAL REPORT ON FORM 10-K CONTAINS FORWARD LOOKING STATEMENTS WITHIN THE MEANING OF SECTION 27A OF THE SECURITIES ACT OF 1933, AS AMENDED, AND SECTION 21E OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934, AS AMENDED. THESE FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS CAN BE IDENTIFIED BY THE FACT THAT THEY DO NOT RELATE STRICTLY TO HISTORICAL OR CURRENT FACTS AND MAY CONTAIN THE WORDS “BELIEVE,” “ANTICIPATE,” “EXPECT,” “INTEND,” “PLAN,” “PREDICT,” “ESTIMATE,” “PROJECT,” “WILL BE,” “WILL CONTINUE,” “WILL LIKELY RESULT,” OR OTHER SIMILAR WORDS AND PHRASES OR FUTURE OR CONDITIONAL VERBS SUCH AS “WILL,” “MAY,” “MIGHT,” “SHOULD,” “WOULD,” OR “COULD.” THESE FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS INCLUDE, WITHOUT LIMITATION, STATEMENTS REGARDING FUTURE OPERATIONS, PERFORMANCE, FINANCIAL CONDITION, PROSPECTS, PLANS AND STRATEGIES. THESE FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS ARE BASED ON CURRENT EXPECTATIONS AND ASSUMPTIONS THAT MAY PROVE TO BE INCORRECT.

RISKS AND UNCERTAINTIES EXIST THAT MAY CAUSE RESULTS TO DIFFER MATERIALLY FROM THOSE SET FORTH IN THESE FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS. FACTORS THAT COULD CAUSE THE ANTICIPATED RESULTS TO DIFFER FROM THOSE DESCRIBED IN THE FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS INCLUDE, WITHOUT LIMITATION:

- INTEREST RATE FLUCTUATIONS;
- CHANGES IN THE PERFORMANCE OF THE REAL ESTATE MARKETS;
- VOLATILITY IN THE CAPITAL MARKETS;
- UNFAVORABLE ECONOMIC CONDITIONS;
- IMPAIRMENTS IN THE COMPANY’S GOODWILL OR OTHER INTANGIBLE ASSETS;
- FAILURES AT FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS WHERE THE COMPANY DEPOSITS FUNDS;
- CHANGES IN APPLICABLE LAWS AND GOVERNMENT REGULATIONS;
- HEIGHTENED SCRUTINY BY LEGISLATORS AND REGULATORS OF THE COMPANY’S TITLE INSURANCE AND SERVICES SEGMENT AND CERTAIN OTHER OF THE COMPANY’S BUSINESSES;
- USE OF SOCIAL MEDIA BY THE COMPANY AND OTHER PARTIES;
- REGULATION OF TITLE INSURANCE RATES;
- LIMITATIONS ON ACCESS TO PUBLIC RECORDS AND OTHER DATA;
- CHANGES IN RELATIONSHIPS WITH LARGE MORTGAGE LENDERS AND GOVERNMENT-SPONSORED ENTERPRISES;
- CHANGES IN MEASURES OF THE STRENGTH OF THE COMPANY’S TITLE INSURANCE UNDERWRITERS, INCLUDING RATINGS AND STATUTORY CAPITAL AND SURPLUS;
- LOSSES IN THE COMPANY’S INVESTMENT PORTFOLIO;
- MATERIAL VARIANCE BETWEEN ACTUAL AND EXPECTED CLAIMS EXPERIENCE;
- DEFALCATIONS, INCREASED CLAIMS OR OTHER COSTS AND EXPENSES ATTRIBUTABLE TO THE COMPANY’S USE OF TITLE AGENTS;
- ANY INADEQUACY IN THE COMPANY’S RISK MITIGATION EFFORTS;
- SYSTEMS DAMAGE, FAILURES, INTERRUPTIONS AND INTRUSIONS, OR UNAUTHORIZED DATA DISCLOSURES;
- ERRORS AND FRAUD INVOLVING THE TRANSFER OF FUNDS;
- THE COMPANY’S USE OF A GLOBAL WORKFORCE;
- INABILITY OF THE COMPANY’S SUBSIDIARIES TO PAY DIVIDENDS OR REPAY FUNDS;
- INABILITY TO REALIZE THE BENEFITS OF, AND CHALLENGES ARISING FROM, THE COMPANY’S ACQUISITION STRATEGY; AND

OTHER FACTORS DESCRIBED IN THIS ANNUAL REPORT ON FORM 10-K, INCLUDING UNDER THE CAPTION "RISK FACTORS" IN ITEM 1A OF PART I.

THE FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS SPEAK ONLY AS OF THE DATE THEY ARE MADE. THE COMPANY DOES NOT UNDERTAKE TO UPDATE FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS TO REFLECT CIRCUMSTANCES OR EVENTS THAT OCCUR AFTER THE DATE THE FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS ARE MADE.

## PART I

### Item 1. Business

#### The Company

First American Financial Corporation (the “Company”) was incorporated in the state of Delaware in January 2008 to hold the financial services businesses of the Company’s prior parent. On June 1, 2010, the Company’s common stock was listed on the New York Stock Exchange under the ticker symbol “FAF.” The businesses operated by the Company’s subsidiaries have, in some instances, been in existence since the late 1800s.

The Company has its executive offices at 1 First American Way, Santa Ana, California 92707-5913. The Company’s telephone number is (714) 250-3000.

#### General

The Company, through its subsidiaries, is engaged in the business of providing financial services through its title insurance and services segment and its specialty insurance segment. The title insurance and services segment provides title insurance, closing and/or escrow services and similar or related services domestically and internationally in connection with residential and commercial real estate transactions. It also provides products, services and solutions involving the use of real property related data, including data derived from its proprietary database, which are designed to mitigate risk or otherwise facilitate real estate transactions. It maintains, manages and provides access to title plant records and images and, in addition, provides banking, trust, document custodial and investment advisory services. The specialty insurance segment issues property and casualty insurance policies and sells home warranty products. In addition, our corporate function consists of certain financing facilities as well as the corporate services that support our business operations. Financial information regarding these business segments and the corporate function is included in “Item 7. Management’s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations” and “Item 8. Financial Statements and Supplementary Data” of Part II of this report.

The substantial majority of our business is dependent upon activity in the real estate and mortgage markets, which are cyclical and seasonal. In the current market environment, we are focused on growing our core title insurance and settlement services business, strengthening our enterprise through data and process advantage and managing and actively investing in complementary businesses that support our core title and settlement services business. We are also focused on continued improvement of our customers’ experiences with our products, services and solutions, and we remain committed to efficiently managing our business to market conditions throughout business cycles.

#### Title Insurance and Services Segment

Our title insurance and services segment issues title insurance policies on residential and commercial property in the United States and offers similar or related products and services internationally. This segment also provides closing and/or escrow services; accommodates tax-deferred exchanges of real estate; provides products, services and solutions involving the use of real property related data designed to mitigate risk or otherwise facilitate real estate transactions; maintains, manages and provides access to title plant records and images; provides evidence of title; and provides banking, trust, document custodial and investment advisory services. In 2016, 2015, and 2014 the Company derived 92.1%, 92.5% and 92.0% of its consolidated revenues, respectively, from this segment.

#### Overview of Title Insurance Industry

In most instances mortgage lenders and purchasers of real estate desire to be protected from loss or damage in the event of defects in the title they acquire. Title insurance is a means of providing such protection.

Title Policies. Title insurance policies insure the interests of owners or lenders against defects in the title to real property. These defects include adverse ownership claims, liens, encumbrances or other matters affecting title. Title insurance policies generally are issued on the basis of a title report, which is typically prepared after a search of one or more of public records, maps, documents and prior title policies to ascertain the existence of easements, restrictions, rights of way, conditions, encumbrances or other matters affecting the title to, or use of, real property. In certain limited instances, a visual inspection of the property is also made. To facilitate the preparation of title reports, copies and/or abstracts of public records, maps, documents and prior title policies may be compiled and indexed to specific properties in an area. This compilation is known as a "title plant."



The beneficiaries of title insurance policies usually are real estate buyers and mortgage lenders. A title insurance policy indemnifies the named insured and certain successors in interest against title defects, liens and encumbrances existing as of the date of the policy and not specifically excepted from its provisions. The policy typically provides coverage for the real property mortgage lender in the amount of its outstanding mortgage loan balance and for the buyer in the amount of the purchase price of the property. In some cases the policy might provide insurance in a greater amount, such as where the buyer anticipates constructing improvements on the property. In addition, certain homeowner's policies provide inflation coverage which could increase the coverage amount above the purchase price of the underlying property by a specified amount. The potential for claims under a title insurance policy issued to a mortgage lender generally ceases upon repayment of the mortgage loan. The potential for claims under a title insurance policy issued to a buyer generally ceases upon the sale or transfer of the insured property.

Before issuing title policies, title insurers typically seek to limit their risk of loss by accurately performing title searches and examinations and, in many instances, curing title defects identified therein. These searches, examinations and curative efforts distinguish title insurers from other insurers, such as property and casualty insurers. Whereas title insurers generally insure against losses arising out of circumstances existing as of the date of the policy, property and casualty insurers generally insure against losses arising out of events that occur subsequent to policy issuance. As a result of these differences, title insurers typically experience relatively low claims, as a percentage of premiums, when compared to property and casualty insurers, but have relatively high expenses. The primary costs of a title insurer pertain to personnel and other costs associated with the search and examination process, the curative process, the preparation of preliminary reports or commitments, title plant maintenance, and sales, as well as technology and other administrative expenses.

**The Closing Process.** Title insurance is essential to the real estate closing process in most transactions involving real property mortgage lenders. In a typical residential real estate sale transaction where title insurance is issued, a real estate broker, lawyer, developer, lender, closer or other participant involved in the transaction orders the title insurance on behalf of an insured. Once the order has been placed, a title insurance company or an agent typically conducts a title search to determine the current status of the title to the property. When the search is complete, the title insurer or agent prepares, issues and circulates a commitment or preliminary report to the parties to the transaction. The commitment or preliminary report identifies the conditions, exceptions and/or limitations that the title insurer intends to attach to the policy and identifies items appearing on the title that must be eliminated prior to closing.

The closing or settlement function, sometimes called an escrow in the western United States, is, depending on the local custom in the region, performed by a lawyer, an escrow company or a title insurance company or agent, generally referred to as a "closer." Once documentation has been prepared and signed, and any required mortgage lender payoff demands are obtained, the transaction closes. The closer typically records the appropriate title documents and arranges the transfer of funds to pay off prior loans and extinguish the liens securing such loans. Title policies are then issued, typically insuring the priority of the mortgage of the real property mortgage lender in the amount of its mortgage loan and the buyer in the amount of the purchase price. The time between the opening of the title order and the issuance of the title policy is usually between 30 and 90 days. Before a closing takes place, however, the closer typically requests that the title insurer or agent provide an update to the commitment to discover any adverse matters affecting title and, if any are found, works with the seller to eliminate them so that the title insurer or agent issues the title policy subject only to those exceptions to coverage which are acceptable to the title insurer, the buyer and the buyer's lender.

**Issuing the Policy: Direct vs. Agency.** A title insurance policy can be issued directly by a title insurer or indirectly on behalf of a title insurer through agents, which usually operate independently of the title insurer and often issue policies for more than one insurer. Where the policy is issued by a title insurer, the search is performed by or on behalf of the title insurer, and the premium is collected and retained by the title insurer. Where the policy is issued by an agent, the search is typically performed by or on behalf of the agent, and the agent collects, and retains a portion of, the premium. The agent remits the remainder of the premium to the title insurer as compensation for the insurer bearing the risk of loss in the event a claim is made under the policy and for other services the insurer may provide.

The percentage of the premium retained by an agent varies from region to region. A title insurer is obligated to pay title claims in accordance with the terms of its policies, regardless of whether it issues its policy directly or indirectly through an agent. In addition, as part of the policy, a title insurer may issue a closing protection letter that protects a lender from certain misuse of funds by the title insurer's agent. When a loss to the title insurer occurs under a policy issued through an agent or a closing protection letter, under certain circumstances the title insurer may seek recovery of all or a portion of the loss from the agent or the agent's errors and omissions insurance carrier.

**Premiums.** The premium for title insurance is typically due and earned in full when the real estate transaction is closed. Premiums generally are calculated with reference to the policy amount. The premium charged by a title insurer or an agent is subject to regulation in most areas. Such regulations vary from state to state.

## Our Title Insurance Operations

**Overview.** We conduct our title insurance and closing business through a network of direct operations and agents. Through this network, we issue policies in the 49 states that permit the issuance of title insurance policies and the District of Columbia. We also offer title insurance, closing services and similar or related products and services, either directly or through third parties in other countries, including Canada, the United Kingdom, Australia, South Korea and various other established and emerging markets as described in the “International Operations” section below.

**Customers, Sales and Marketing.** The mortgage market in the United States is concentrated. We believe that the top five mortgage lenders by volume collectively originate or are involved in approximately 30% of the mortgage origination volume in the United States. These institutions purchase title insurance policies and other products and services from us. These institutions also benefit from our products and services which are purchased for their benefit by others, such as title insurance policies purchased by borrowers as a condition to the making of a loan. The refusal of one or more of these or other significant lending institutions to purchase products and services from us or to accept our products and services that are to be purchased for their benefit could have a material adverse effect on the title insurance and services segment.

We distribute our title insurance policies and related products and services through our direct and agent channels. In our direct channel, the distribution of our policies and related products and services occurs through sales representatives located at numerous offices throughout the United States where real estate transactions are handled. Title insurance policies issued and other products and services delivered through this channel are primarily delivered in connection with sales and refinances of residential and commercial real property.

Within the direct channel, our sales and marketing efforts are focused on the primary sources of business referrals. For residential business referred by local or decentralized customers, we market to real estate agents and brokers, mortgage brokers, real estate attorneys, mortgage originators, homebuilders and escrow service providers. For refinance and default related business referred by customers with centrally managed platforms, we market to mortgage originators, servicers, and government-sponsored enterprises. For the commercial business we market primarily to commercial real estate investors, including real estate investment trusts, insurance companies and asset managers, as well as to law firms, commercial banks, investment banks, mortgage brokers and the owners of commercial real estate. We also market directly to national homebuilders focused on newly constructed residential property. In some instances we may supplement the efforts of our sales force with general marketing. Our marketing efforts emphasize our product offerings, the quality and timeliness of our services, our financial strength, process innovation and our national presence. We also provide educational information on our website and through other means to help consumers better understand our services and the homebuying/settlement process in general.

**Underwriting.** Before a title insurance policy is issued, a number of underwriting decisions are made. For example, matters of record revealed during the title search may require a determination as to whether an exception should be taken in the policy. We believe that it is important for the underwriting function to operate efficiently and effectively at all decision-making levels so that transactions may proceed in a timely manner. To perform this function, we have underwriters at the regional, divisional and corporate levels with varying levels of underwriting authority.

**Agency Operations.** As described above, we also issue title insurance policies through a network of agents. Our agreements with our issuing agents typically state the conditions under which the agent is authorized to issue our title insurance policies. The agency agreement also typically prescribes the circumstances under which the agent may be liable to us if a policy loss occurs. Such agency agreements typically are terminable without cause after a specified notice period has been met and are terminable immediately for cause. As is standard in our industry, our agents typically operate with a substantial degree of independence from us and frequently act as agents for other title insurers. We evaluate the profitability of our agency relationships on an ongoing basis, including a review of premium splits, deductibles and claims. As a result, from time to time we may terminate or renegotiate the terms of some of our agency relationships.

In determining whether to engage an independent agent, we often obtain information about the agent, including the agent's experience and background. We maintain loss experience records for each agent and also maintain agent representatives and agent auditors. Our agents typically are subject to audit or examination. In addition to routine examinations, other examinations may be triggered if certain "warning signs" are evident. Adverse findings in an agency audit may result in various actions, including, if warranted, termination of the agency relationship.

**International Operations.** We provide products and services in a number of countries outside of the United States, and our international operations accounted for approximately 5.9% of our title insurance and services segment revenues in 2016. Today we have direct operations and a physical presence in several countries, including Canada, the United Kingdom and Australia. While reliable data are not available, we believe that we have the largest market share for title insurance outside of the United States. The Company's revenues from external customers and long-lived assets are broken down between domestic and foreign operations in Note 21 Segment Financial Information to the consolidated financial statements included in "Item 8. Financial Statements and Supplementary Data" of Part II of this report.

Our range of international products and services is designed to lower our clients' risk profiles and reduce their operating costs through enhanced operational efficiencies. In established markets, primarily British Commonwealth countries, we have combined title insurance with customized processing offerings to enhance the speed and efficiency of the mortgage and conveyancing processes. In these markets we also offer products designed to mitigate risk and otherwise facilitate real estate transactions.

Our international operations present risks that may not exist to the same extent in our domestic operations, including those associated with differences in the nature of the products provided, the scope of coverage provided by those products and the manner in which risk is underwritten. Limited claims experience in certain foreign jurisdictions makes it more difficult to set prices and reserve rates. There may also be risks associated with differences in legal systems and/or unforeseen regulatory changes.

**Title Plants.** Our collection of data and records on, or which impact, title to property – known as title plants – constitutes one of our principal assets. A title search is typically conducted by searching the abstracted information from public records or utilizing a title plant holding information abstracted from public records. While public title records generally are indexed by reference to the names of the parties to a given recorded document, our title plants primarily arrange their records on a geographic basis. Because of this difference, title plant records generally may be searched more effectively, which we believe reduces the risk of errors associated with the search. Many of our title plants also index prior policies, adding to searching efficiency. Certain locations utilize jointly owned plants or utilize a plant under a joint user agreement with other title companies. In addition to these ownership interests, we are in the business of maintaining, managing and providing access to title plant records and images that may be owned by us or other parties. We believe that our title plants, whether wholly or partially owned or utilized under a joint user agreement, are among the most comprehensive in the industry.

**Reserves for Claims and Losses.** We provide for losses associated with title insurance policies, closing protection letters and other risk based products based upon our historical experience and other factors by a charge to expense when the related premium revenue is recognized. The resulting reserve for incurred but not reported claims, together with the reserve for known claims, reflects management's best estimate of the total costs required to settle all claims reported to us and claims incurred but not reported, and are considered to be adequate for such purpose. Each period the reasonableness of the estimated reserves is assessed; if the estimate requires adjustment, such an adjustment is recorded.

**Reinsurance and Coinsurance.** We plan to continue our practice of assuming and ceding large title insurance risks through reinsurance. In reinsurance arrangements, the primary insurer retains a certain amount of risk under a policy and cedes the remainder of the risk under the policy to the reinsurer. The primary insurer pays the reinsurer a premium in exchange for accepting this risk of loss. The primary insurer generally remains liable to its insured for the total risk, but is reinsured under the terms of the reinsurance agreement. Prior to 2010, our title reinsurance arrangements primarily involved other industry participants. Beginning in January of 2010, we established a global reinsurance program involving treaty reinsurance provided by a global syndicate of highly rated non-industry reinsurers. Subject to the treaty limits and certain other limitations, the program generally covers claims made while the program is in effect.

We also serve as a coinsurer in connection with certain commercial transactions. In a coinsurance scenario, two or more insurers are selected by the insured and each coinsurer is liable for its specified percentage share of the total liability.

Competition. The business of providing title insurance and related products and services is highly competitive. The number of competing companies and the size of such companies vary in the different areas in which we conduct business. Generally, in areas of major real estate activity, such as metropolitan and suburban localities, we compete with many other title insurers and agents. Our major nationwide competitors in our principal markets include Fidelity National Financial, Inc., Stewart Title Guaranty Company, Old Republic International Corporation and their affiliates. In addition to these national competitors, small nationwide, regional and local competitors, as well as numerous agency operations throughout the country, provide aggressive competition on the local level. We are currently the second largest provider of title insurance in the United States, based on the most recent American Land Title Association market share data.

We believe that competition for title insurance, closing services and related products and services is based primarily on quality, price, customer relationships and the timeliness of the delivery of our products. Customer service is an important competitive factor because parties to real estate transactions are usually concerned with time schedules and costs associated with delays in closing transactions. In certain transactions, such as those involving commercial properties, financial strength and scope of coverage are also important. In addition, we regularly evaluate our pricing and agent splits, and based on competitive, market and regulatory conditions and claims history, among other factors, adjust our prices and agent splits as and where appropriate.

**Trust and Investment Advisory Services.** Our federal savings bank subsidiary offers trust and investment advisory services, deposit services and asset management services. As of December 31, 2016 this company administered fiduciary and custodial assets having a market value in excess of \$3.1 billion which includes managed assets of \$1.4 billion, and had assets of \$3.1 billion, deposits of \$2.9 billion and stockholder's equity of \$237.0 million.

### Specialty Insurance Segment

**Property and Casualty Insurance.** Our property and casualty insurance business provides insurance coverage to residential homeowners and renters for liability losses and typical hazards such as fire, theft, vandalism and other types of property damage. We are licensed to issue policies in all 50 states and the District of Columbia and actively issue policies in 47 states. The majority of policy liability is in the western United States, including approximately 63% in California. In certain markets we also offer preferred risk auto insurance to better compete with other carriers offering bundled home and auto insurance. We market our property and casualty insurance business using both direct distribution channels, including cross-selling through our existing closing-service activities, and through a network of independent brokers. We purchase reinsurance to limit risk associated with large losses from single events.

**Home Warranties.** Our home warranty business provides residential service contracts that cover residential systems, such as heating and air conditioning systems, and certain appliances against failures that occur as the result of normal usage during the coverage period. Coverage is typically for one year and is renewable annually at the option of the contract holder and upon our approval. Coverage and pricing typically vary by geographic region. Fees for the warranties generally are paid at the closing of the home purchase or directly by the consumer. Renewal premiums may be paid by a number of different options. In addition, under the contract, the holder is responsible for a service fee for each trade call. First year warranties primarily are marketed through real estate brokers and agents, and we also increasingly market directly to consumers. We generally sell renewals directly to consumers. Our home warranty business currently operates in 39 states and the District of Columbia.

### Corporate

The Company's corporate function consists primarily of certain financing facilities as well as the corporate services that support our business operations.

### Regulation

Many of our subsidiaries are subject to extensive regulation by applicable domestic or foreign regulatory agencies. The extent of such regulation varies based on the industry involved, the nature of the business conducted by the subsidiary (for example, licensed title insurers are subject to a heightened level of regulation compared to underwritten title companies or agencies), the subsidiary's jurisdiction of organization and the jurisdictions in which it operates. In addition, the Company is subject to regulation as both an insurance holding company and a savings and loan holding company.

Our domestic subsidiaries that operate in the title insurance industry or the property and casualty insurance industry are subject to regulation by state insurance regulators. Each of our underwriters, or insurers, is regulated primarily by the insurance department or equivalent governmental body within the jurisdiction of its organization, which oversees

compliance with the laws and regulations pertaining to such insurer. For example, our primary title insurance underwriter, First American Title Insurance Company, is a Nebraska corporation and, accordingly, is primarily regulated by the Nebraska Department of Insurance. Insurance regulations pertaining to insurers typically place limits on, among other matters, the ability of the insurer to pay dividends to its parent company or to enter into transactions with affiliates. They also may require approval of the insurance commissioner prior to a third party directly or indirectly acquiring “control” of the insurer.



In addition, our insurers are subject to the laws of other jurisdictions in which they transact business, which laws typically establish supervisory agencies with broad administrative powers relating to issuing and revoking licenses to transact business, regulating trade practices, licensing agents, approving policy forms, accounting practices and financial practices, establishing requirements pertaining to reserves and capital and surplus as regards policyholders, requiring the deferral of a portion of all premiums in a reserve for the protection of policyholders and the segregation of investments in a corresponding amount, establishing parameters regarding suitable investments for reserves, capital and surplus, and approving rate schedules. The manner in which rates are established or changed ranges from states which promulgate rates, to states where individual companies or associations of companies prepare rate filings which are submitted for approval, to a few states in which rate changes do not need to be filed for approval. In addition, each of our insurers is subject to periodic examination by regulatory authorities both within its jurisdiction of organization as well as the other jurisdictions where it is licensed to conduct business.

Our foreign insurance subsidiaries are regulated primarily by regulatory authorities in the regions, provinces and/or countries in which they operate and may secondarily be regulated by the domestic regulator of First American Title Insurance Company as a part of the First American insurance holding company system. Each of these regions, provinces and countries has established a regulatory framework with respect to the oversight of compliance with its laws and regulations. Therefore, our foreign insurance subsidiaries generally are subject to regulatory review, examination, investigation and enforcement in a similar manner as our domestic insurance subsidiaries, subject to local variations.

Our underwritten title companies, agencies and property and casualty insurance agencies are also subject to certain regulation by insurance regulatory or banking authorities, including, but not limited to, minimum net worth requirements, licensing requirements, statistical reporting requirements, rate filing requirements and marketing restrictions.

In addition to state-level regulation, our domestic subsidiaries that operate in the insurance business, as well as our home warranty and banking subsidiaries and other subsidiaries, are subject to regulation by federal agencies, including the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (“CFPB”). The CFPB has broad authority to regulate, among other areas, the mortgage and real estate markets, including our domestic subsidiaries, in matters which impact consumers. This authority includes the enforcement of federal consumer financial laws, including the Real Estate Settlement Procedures Act. Regulations issued by the CFPB, or the manner in which it interprets and enforces existing consumer protection laws, have impacted and could continue to impact the way in which we conduct our businesses and the profitability of those businesses.

In addition, our home warranty and settlement services businesses are subject to regulation in some states by insurance authorities or other applicable regulatory entities. Our federal savings bank is regulated by the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, with the Federal Reserve Board supervising its parent holding company, and is subject to regulation by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation.

#### Investment Policies

The Company’s investment portfolio activities such as policy setting, compliance reporting, portfolio reviews, and strategy are overseen by an investment committee made up of certain senior executives. Additionally, certain of the Company’s regulated subsidiaries have established and maintain investment committees to oversee their own investment portfolios. The Company’s investment policies are designed to comply with regulatory requirements and to align the investment portfolio asset allocation with strategic objectives. For example, our federal savings bank is required to maintain at least 65% of its asset portfolio in loans or securities that are secured by real estate. Our federal savings bank currently does not make real estate loans, and therefore fulfills this regulatory requirement through investments in mortgage-backed securities. In addition, applicable law imposes certain restrictions upon the types and amounts of investments that may be made by our regulated insurance subsidiaries.

The Company's investment policies further provide that investments are to be managed to maximize long-term returns consistent with liquidity, regulatory and risk objectives, and that investments should not expose the Company to excessive levels of market, credit, liquidity, and interest rate risks.

As of December 31, 2016, our debt and equity securities portfolio consisted of 92% of fixed income securities. As of that date, 60% of our fixed income investments were held in securities that are United States government-backed or rated AAA, and 94% of the fixed income portfolio were rated or classified as investment grade. Percentages are based on the estimated fair values of the securities. Credit ratings reflect published ratings obtained from Standard & Poor's Rating Services, DBRS, Inc., Fitch Ratings, Inc. and Moody's Investor Services, Inc. If a security was rated differently among the rating agencies, the lowest rating was selected.

In addition to our debt and equity securities portfolio, we maintain certain money-market and other short-term investments. We also hold strategic equity investments in companies engaged in our businesses or similar or related businesses.

#### Employees

As of December 31, 2016, the Company employed 19,531 people on either a part-time or full-time basis.

#### Available Information

The Company maintains a website, [www.firstam.com](http://www.firstam.com), which includes financial information and other information for investors, including open and closed title insurance orders (which typically are posted approximately 10 to 12 days after the end of each calendar month). The Company's Annual Reports on Form 10-K, Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q, Current Reports on Form 8-K and amendments to those reports filed or furnished pursuant to Section 13(a) or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 are available free of charge through the "Investors" page of the website as soon as reasonably practicable after the Company electronically files such material with, or furnishes it to, the Securities and Exchange Commission. The Company's website and the information contained therein or connected thereto are not intended to be incorporated into this Annual Report on Form 10-K, or any other filing with the Securities and Exchange Commission unless the Company expressly incorporates such materials.

#### Item 1A. Risk Factors

You should carefully consider each of the following risk factors and the other information contained in this Annual Report on Form 10-K. The Company faces risks other than those listed here, including those that are unknown to the Company and others of which the Company may be aware but, at present, considers immaterial. Because of the following factors, as well as other variables affecting the Company's operating results, past financial performance may not be a reliable indicator of future performance, and historical trends should not be used to anticipate results or trends in future periods.

1. Conditions in the real estate market generally impact the demand for a substantial portion of the Company's products and services and the Company's claims experience

Demand for a substantial portion of the Company's products and services generally decreases as the number of real estate transactions in which its products and services are purchased decreases. The number of real estate transactions in which the Company's products and services are purchased decreases in the following situations:

- when mortgage interest rates are high or rising;
- when the availability of credit, including commercial and residential mortgage funding, is limited; and
- when real estate values are declining.

These circumstances, particularly declining real estate values and the increase in foreclosures that often results therefrom, also tend to adversely impact the Company's title claims experience.

2. Unfavorable economic conditions may have a material adverse effect on the Company

Historically, uncertainty and negative trends in general economic conditions in the United States and abroad, including significant tightening of credit markets and a general decline in the value of real property, have created a difficult operating environment for the Company's businesses and other companies in its industries. In addition, the Company holds investments in entities, such as title agencies and settlement service providers, as well as securities in its investment portfolio, which may be negatively impacted by these conditions. The Company also owns a federal savings bank into which it deposits some of its own funds and some funds held in trust for third parties. This bank invests those funds and any realized losses incurred will be reflected in the Company's consolidated results. The likelihood of such losses, which generally would not occur if the Company were to deposit these funds in an unaffiliated entity, increases when economic conditions are unfavorable. Depending upon the ultimate severity and duration of any economic downturn, the resulting effects on the Company could be materially adverse, including a significant reduction in revenues, earnings and cash flows, challenges to the Company's ability to satisfy covenants or otherwise meet its obligations under debt facilities, difficulties in obtaining access to capital, challenges to the Company's ability to pay dividends at currently anticipated levels, deterioration in the value of its investments and increased credit risk from customers and others with obligations to the Company.

3. Unfavorable economic or other conditions could cause the Company to write off a portion of its goodwill and other intangible assets

The Company performs an impairment test of the carrying value of goodwill and other indefinite-lived intangible assets annually in the fourth quarter, or sooner if circumstances indicate a possible impairment. Finite-lived intangible assets are subject to impairment tests on a periodic basis. Factors that may be considered in connection with this review include, without limitation, underperformance relative to historical or projected future operating results, reductions in the Company's stock price and market capitalization, increased cost of capital and negative macroeconomic, industry and company-specific trends. These and other factors could lead to a conclusion that goodwill or other intangible assets are no longer fully recoverable, in which case the Company would be required to write off the portion believed to be unrecoverable. Total goodwill and other intangible assets reflected on the Company's consolidated balance sheet as of December 31, 2016 are \$1.1 billion. Any substantial goodwill and other intangible asset impairments that may be required could have a material adverse effect on the Company's results of operations and financial condition.

4. Failures at financial institutions at which the Company deposits funds could adversely affect the Company

The Company deposits substantial funds in financial institutions. These funds include amounts owned by third parties, such as escrow deposits. Should one or more of the financial institutions at which deposits are maintained fail, there is no guarantee that the Company would recover the funds deposited, whether through Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation coverage or otherwise. In the event of any such failure, the Company also could be held liable for the funds owned by third parties.

5. Changes in government regulation could prohibit or limit the Company's operations, make it more burdensome to conduct such operations or result in decreased demand for the Company's products and services

Many of the Company's businesses, including its title insurance, property and casualty insurance, home warranty, banking, trust and investment businesses, are regulated by various federal, state, local and foreign governmental agencies. These and other of the Company's businesses also operate within statutory guidelines. The industry in which the Company operates and the markets into which it sells its products are also regulated and subject to statutory guidelines. Changes in the applicable regulatory environment, statutory guidelines or interpretations of existing regulations or statutes, enhanced governmental oversight or efforts by governmental agencies to cause customers to refrain from using the Company's products or services could prohibit or limit its future operations or make it more burdensome to conduct such operations or result in decreased demand for the Company's products and services. The

impact of these changes would be more significant if they involve jurisdictions in which the Company generates a greater portion of its title premiums, such as the states of Arizona, California, Florida, Michigan, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania and Texas. These changes may compel the Company to reduce its prices, may restrict its ability to implement price increases or acquire assets or businesses, may limit the manner in which the Company conducts its business or otherwise may have a negative impact on its ability to generate revenues, earnings and cash flows.

6. Scrutiny of the Company's businesses and the industries in which it operates by governmental entities and others could adversely affect its operations and financial condition

The real estate settlement services industry, an industry in which the Company generates a substantial portion of its revenue and earnings, is subject to continuous scrutiny by regulators, legislators, the media and plaintiffs' attorneys. Though often directed at the industry generally, these groups may also focus their attention directly on the Company's businesses. In either case, this scrutiny may result in changes which could adversely affect the Company's operations and, therefore, its financial condition and liquidity.

Governmental entities have routinely inquired into certain practices in the real estate settlement services industry to determine whether certain of the Company's businesses or its competitors have violated applicable laws, which include, among others, the insurance codes of the various jurisdictions and the Real Estate Settlement Procedures Act and similar state, federal and foreign laws. The CFPB, for example, has actively been utilizing its regulatory authority over the mortgage and real estate markets by bringing enforcement actions against various participants in the mortgage and settlement industries. Departments of insurance in the various states, the CFPB and other federal regulators and applicable regulators in international jurisdictions, either separately or together, also periodically conduct targeted inquiries into the practices of title insurance companies and other settlement services providers in their respective jurisdictions.

Further, from time to time plaintiffs' lawyers may target the Company and other members of the Company's industry with lawsuits claiming legal violations or other wrongful conduct. These lawsuits may involve large groups of plaintiffs and claims for substantial damages. Any of these types of inquiries or proceedings may result in a finding of a violation of the law or other wrongful conduct and may result in the payment of fines or damages or the imposition of restrictions on the Company's conduct which could impact its operations and financial condition. Moreover, these laws and standards of conduct often are ambiguous and, thus, it may be difficult to ensure compliance. This ambiguity may force the Company to mitigate its risk by settling claims or by ending practices that generate revenues, earnings and cash flows.

7. The use of social media by the Company and other parties could result in damage to the Company's reputation and adversely affect its business or results of operations

The Company increasingly utilizes social media to communicate with customers, current and potential employees and other individuals interested in the Company. Information delivered by the Company, or by third parties about the Company, via social media can be easily accessed and rapidly disseminated, and could result in reputational harm, decreased customer loyalty or other issues that could diminish the value of the Company's brand or result in significant liability.

8. Regulation of title insurance rates could adversely affect the Company's results of operations

Title insurance rates are subject to extensive regulation, which varies from state to state. In many states the approval of the applicable state insurance regulator is required prior to implementing a rate change. This regulation could hinder the Company's ability to promptly adapt to changing market dynamics through price adjustments, which could adversely affect its results of operations, particularly in a rapidly declining market.

9. Changes in certain laws and regulations, and in the regulatory environment in which the Company operates, could adversely affect the Company's competitive position and results of operations

Federal officials are currently discussing various potential changes to laws and regulations that could impact the Company's businesses, including changes to the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act, the reform or privatization of government-sponsored enterprises such as the Federal National Mortgage Association (Fannie Mae) and the Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation (Freddie Mac), and tax reform, including changes

that could affect the mortgage interest deduction, among others. Changes in these areas, and more generally in the regulatory environment in which the Company and its customers operate, could adversely impact the volume of mortgage originations in the United States and the Company's competitive position and results of operations.

10. The Company may find it difficult to acquire necessary data

Certain data used and supplied by the Company are subject to regulation by various federal, state and local regulatory authorities. Compliance with existing federal, state and local laws and regulations with respect to such data has not had a material adverse effect on the Company's results of operations, financial condition or liquidity to date. Nonetheless, federal, state and local laws and regulations in the United States designed to protect the public from the misuse of personal information in the marketplace and adverse publicity or potential litigation concerning the commercial use of such information may affect the Company's operations and could result in substantial regulatory compliance expense, litigation expense and a loss of revenue. The suppliers of data to the Company face similar burdens. As a result of these and other factors, the Company may find it financially burdensome to acquire necessary data.

11. Changes in the Company's relationships with large mortgage lenders or government-sponsored enterprises could adversely affect the Company

The mortgage market in the United States is concentrated. Due to the consolidated nature of the industry, the Company derives a significant percentage of its revenues from a relatively small base of lenders, and their borrowers, which enhances the negotiating power of these lenders with respect to the pricing and the terms on which they purchase the Company's products and other matters. Similarly, government-sponsored enterprises, because of their significant role in the mortgage process, have significant influence over the Company and other service providers. These circumstances could adversely affect the Company's revenues and profitability. Changes in the Company's relationship with any of these lenders or government-sponsored enterprises, the loss of all or a portion of the business the Company derives from these parties or any refusal of these parties to accept the Company's products and services could have a material adverse effect on the Company.

12. A downgrade by ratings agencies, reductions in statutory capital and surplus maintained by the Company's title insurance underwriters or a deterioration in other measures of financial strength may negatively affect the Company's results of operations and competitive position

Certain of the Company's customers use measurements of the financial strength of the Company's title insurance underwriters, including, among others, ratings provided by ratings agencies and levels of statutory capital and surplus maintained by those underwriters, in determining the amount of a policy they will accept and the amount of reinsurance required. Each of the major ratings agencies currently rates the Company's title insurance operations. The Company's principal title insurance underwriter's financial strength ratings are "A3" by Moody's Investor Services, Inc., "A" by Fitch Ratings, Inc., "A-" by Standard & Poor's Ratings Services and "A" by A.M. Best Company, Inc. These ratings provide the agencies' perspectives on the financial strength, operating performance and cash generating ability of those operations. These agencies continually review these ratings and the ratings are subject to change. Statutory capital and surplus, or the amount by which statutory assets exceed statutory liabilities, is also a measure of financial strength. The Company's principal title insurance underwriter maintained \$1.2 billion of total statutory capital and surplus as of December 31, 2016. Accordingly, if the ratings or statutory capital and surplus of these title insurance underwriters are reduced from their current levels, or if there is a deterioration in other measures of financial strength, the Company's results of operations, competitive position and liquidity could be adversely affected.

13. The Company's investment portfolio is subject to certain risks and could experience losses

The Company maintains a substantial investment portfolio, primarily consisting of fixed income securities (including mortgage-backed securities). The investment portfolio also includes money-market and other short-term investments, as well as preferred and common stock. Securities in the Company's investment portfolio are subject to certain economic and financial market risks, such as credit risk, interest rate (including call, prepayment and extension) risk and/or liquidity risk. The risk of loss associated with the portfolio is increased during periods of instability in credit markets and economic conditions. If the carrying value of the investments exceeds the fair value, and the decline in



fair value is deemed to be other-than-temporary, the Company will be required to write down the value of the investments, which could have a material adverse effect on the Company's results of operations, statutory surplus and financial condition.

14. Actual claims experience could materially vary from the expected claims experience reflected in the Company's reserve for incurred but not reported claims

The Company maintains a reserve for incurred but not reported ("IBNR") claims pertaining to its title, escrow and other insurance and guarantee products. The majority of this reserve pertains to title insurance policies, which are long-duration contracts with the majority of the claims reported within the first few years following the issuance of the policy. Generally, 70% to 80% of claim amounts become known in the first six years of the policy life, and the majority of IBNR reserves relate to the six most recent policy years. Changes in expected ultimate losses and corresponding loss rates for recent policy years are considered likely and could result in a material adjustment to the IBNR reserves. Based on historical experience, management believes a 50 basis point change to the loss rates for recent policy years, positive or negative, is reasonably likely given the long duration nature of a title insurance policy. For example, if the expected ultimate losses for each of the last six policy years increased or decreased by 50 basis points, the resulting impact on the Company's IBNR reserve would be an increase or decrease, as the case may be, of \$110.1 million. A material change in expected ultimate losses and corresponding loss rates for older policy years is also possible, particularly for policy years with loss ratios exceeding historical norms. The estimates made by management in determining the appropriate level of IBNR reserves could ultimately prove to be materially different from actual claims experience.

15. The issuance of the Company's title insurance policies and related activities by title agents, which operate with substantial independence from the Company, could adversely affect the Company

The Company's title insurance subsidiaries issue a significant portion of their policies through title agents that operate with a substantial degree of independence from the Company. While these title agents are subject to certain contractual limitations that are designed to limit the Company's risk with respect to their activities, there is no guarantee that the agents will fulfill their contractual obligations to the Company. In addition, regulators are increasingly seeking to hold the Company responsible for the actions of these title agents and, under certain circumstances, the Company may be held liable directly to third parties for actions (including defalcations) or omissions of these agents. Recent case law in certain states also suggests that the Company is liable for the actions or omissions of its agents in those states, regardless of contractual limitations. As a result, the Company's use of title agents could result in increased claims on the Company's policies issued through agents and an increase in other costs and expenses.

16. The Company's risk mitigation efforts may prove inadequate

The Company assumes risks in the ordinary course of its business, including through the issuance of title insurance policies and the provision of other products and services. The Company mitigates these risks through a number of different means, including the implementation of underwriting policies and procedures and other mechanisms for assessing risk. However, underwriting of title insurance policies and other risk-assumption decisions frequently involve a substantial degree of individual judgment. The Company's risk mitigation efforts or the reliability of any necessary judgment may prove inadequate, especially in situations where the Company or individuals involved in risk taking decisions are encouraged by customers or others, or because of competitive pressures, to assume risks or to expeditiously make risk determinations. This circumstance could have an adverse effect on the Company's results of operations, financial condition and liquidity.

17. Systems damage, failures, interruptions and intrusions, and unauthorized data disclosures may disrupt the Company's business, harm the Company's reputation, result in material claims for damages or otherwise adversely affect the Company

The Company uses computer systems to receive, process, store and transmit business information, including highly sensitive non-public personal information as well as data from suppliers and other information upon which its business relies. It also uses these systems to manage substantial cash, investment assets, bank deposits, trust assets and

escrow account balances on behalf of the Company and its customers, among other activities. Many of the Company's products, services and solutions involving the use of real property related data are fully reliant on its systems and are only available electronically. Accordingly, for a variety of reasons, the integrity of the Company's computer systems and the protection of the information that resides on those systems are critically important to its successful operation. The Company's core computer systems are primarily located in two data centers. The Company manages its primary data center and the secondary data center is maintained and managed by a third party.

The Company's computer systems and systems used by its agents, suppliers and customers have been subject to, and are likely to continue to be the target of, computer viruses, cyber attacks, phishing attacks and other malicious activity. These attacks have increased in frequency and sophistication in recent years, and could expose the Company to system-related damage, failures, interruptions, and other negative events. Further, certain other potential causes of system damage or other negative system-related events are wholly or partially beyond the Company's control, such as natural disasters, vendor failures to satisfy service level requirements and power or telecommunications failures. These incidents, regardless of their underlying causes, could disrupt the Company's business and could also result in the loss or unauthorized release, gathering, monitoring or destruction of confidential, proprietary and other information pertaining to the Company, its customers, employees, agents or suppliers.

Certain laws and contracts the Company has entered into require it to notify various parties, including consumers or customers, in the event of certain actual or potential data breaches or systems failures. These notifications can result, among other things, in the loss of customers, lawsuits, adverse publicity, diversion of management's time and energy, the attention of regulatory authorities, fines and disruptions in sales. Further, the Company's financial institution customers have obligations to safeguard their computer systems and sensitive information and it may be bound contractually and/or by regulation to comply with the same requirements. If the Company fails to comply with applicable regulations and contractual requirements, it could be exposed to lawsuits, governmental proceedings or the imposition of fines, among other consequences.

Accordingly, any inability to prevent or adequately respond to the issues described above could disrupt the Company's business, inhibit its ability to retain existing customers or attract new customers and/or result in financial losses, litigation, increased costs or other adverse consequences which could be material to the Company.

18. Errors and fraud involving the transfer of funds may result in material financial losses or harm the Company's reputation

The Company relies on its systems, employees and domestic and international banks to transfer funds. These transfers are susceptible to user input error, fraud, system interruptions, incorrect processing and similar errors that could result in lost funds or delayed transactions. The Company's email and computer systems and systems used by its agents, customers and other parties involved in a transaction have been subject to, and are likely to continue to be the target of, fraudulent attacks, including attempts to cause the Company or its agents to improperly transfer funds. These attacks have increased in frequency and sophistication in recent years. Funds transferred to a fraudulent recipient are often not recoverable. In certain instances the Company may be liable for those unrecovered funds. The controls and procedures used by the Company to prevent transfer errors and fraud may prove inadequate, resulting in financial losses, reputational harm, loss of customers or other adverse consequences which could be material to the Company.

19. The Company's use of a global workforce involves risks that could negatively impact the Company

The Company utilizes lower cost labor in countries such as India and the Philippines, among others. These countries are subject to relatively high degrees of political and social instability and may lack the infrastructure to withstand natural disasters. Such disruptions could decrease efficiency and increase the Company's costs. Weakness of the United States dollar in relation to the currencies used in these countries may also reduce the savings achievable through this strategy. Furthermore, the practice of utilizing labor based in other countries is subject to heightened scrutiny in the United States and, as a result, the Company could face pressure to decrease its use of labor based outside the United States. Laws or regulations that require the Company to use labor based in the United States or effectively increase the cost of the Company's labor costs abroad also could be enacted. The Company may not be able to pass on these increased costs to its customers.

20. Acquisitions may have an adverse effect on our business

The Company has in the past acquired, and is expected to acquire in the future, other businesses. When businesses are acquired, the Company may not be able to integrate or manage these businesses in such a manner as to realize the anticipated synergies or otherwise produce returns that justify the investment. Acquired businesses may subject the Company to increased regulatory or compliance requirements. The Company may not be able to successfully retain employees of acquired businesses or integrate them, and could lose customers, suppliers or other partners as a result of the acquisitions. For these and other reasons, including changes in market conditions, the projections used to value the acquired businesses may prove inaccurate. In addition, the Company might incur unanticipated liabilities from acquisitions. These and other factors related to acquisitions could have a material adverse effect on the Company's results of operations, financial condition and liquidity. The Company's management also will continue to be required to dedicate substantial time and effort to the integration of its acquisitions. These efforts could divert management's focus and resources from other strategic opportunities and operational matters.

21. As a holding company, the Company depends on distributions from its subsidiaries, and if distributions from its subsidiaries are materially impaired, the Company's ability to declare and pay dividends may be adversely affected; in addition, insurance and other regulations limit the amount of dividends, loans and advances available from the Company's insurance subsidiaries

The Company is a holding company whose primary assets are investments in its operating subsidiaries. The Company's ability to pay dividends is dependent on the ability of its subsidiaries to pay dividends or repay funds. If the Company's operating subsidiaries are not able to pay dividends or repay funds, the Company may not be able to fulfill parent company obligations and/or declare and pay dividends to its stockholders. Moreover, pursuant to insurance and other regulations under which the Company's insurance subsidiaries operate, the amount of dividends, loans and advances available is limited. As of December 31, 2016, under such regulations, the maximum amount of dividends, loans and advances available in 2017 from these insurance subsidiaries, without prior approval from applicable regulators, was \$761.8 million.

22. Certain provisions of the Company's bylaws and certificate of incorporation may reduce the likelihood of any unsolicited acquisition proposal or potential change of control that the Company's stockholders might consider favorable

The Company's bylaws and certificate of incorporation contain provisions that could be considered "anti-takeover" provisions because they make it harder for a third-party to acquire the Company without the consent of the Company's incumbent board of directors. Under these provisions:

- election of the Company's board of directors is staggered such that only one-third of the directors are elected by the stockholders each year and the directors serve three year terms prior to reelection;
- stockholders may not remove directors without cause, change the size of the board of directors or, except as may be provided for in the terms of preferred stock the Company issues in the future, fill vacancies on the board of directors;
- stockholders may act only at stockholder meetings and not by written consent;
- stockholders must comply with advance notice provisions for nominating directors or presenting other proposals at stockholder meetings; and
- the Company's board of directors may without stockholder approval issue preferred shares and determine their rights and terms, including voting rights, or adopt a stockholder rights plan.

While the Company believes that they are appropriate, these provisions, which may only be amended by the affirmative vote of the holders of approximately 67% of the Company's issued voting shares, could have the effect of discouraging an unsolicited acquisition proposal or delaying, deferring or preventing a change of control transaction that might involve a premium price or otherwise be considered favorably by the Company's stockholders.

#### Item 1B. Unresolved Staff Comments

Not applicable.

#### Item 2. Properties

We maintain our executive offices at MacArthur Place in Santa Ana, California. This office campus consists of five office buildings, a technology center and a two-story parking structure, totaling approximately 490,000 square feet. Three office buildings, totaling approximately 210,000 square feet, and the fixtures thereto and underlying land, are subject to a deed of trust and security agreement securing payment of a promissory note evidencing a loan made in October 2003, to our principal title insurance subsidiary in the original sum of \$55.0 million. This loan is payable in monthly installments of principal and interest, is fully amortizing and matures November 1, 2023. The outstanding

principal balance of this loan was \$25.8 million as of December 31, 2016.

The office facilities we occupy are, in all material respects, in good condition and adequate for their intended use.

### Item 3. Legal Proceedings

The Company and its subsidiaries are parties to a number of non-ordinary course lawsuits. These lawsuits frequently are similar in nature to other lawsuits pending against the Company's competitors.

For those non-ordinary course lawsuits where the Company has determined that a loss is both probable and reasonably estimable, a liability representing the best estimate of the Company's financial exposure based on known facts has been recorded. Actual losses may materially differ from the amounts recorded.

For a substantial majority of these lawsuits, however, it is not possible to assess the probability of loss. Most of these lawsuits are putative class actions which require a plaintiff to satisfy a number of procedural requirements before proceeding to trial. These requirements include, among others, demonstration to a court that the law proscribes in some manner the Company's activities, the making of factual allegations sufficient to suggest that the Company's activities exceeded the limits of the law and a determination by the court—known as class certification—that the law permits a group of individuals to pursue the case together as a class. In certain instances the Company may also be able to compel the plaintiff to arbitrate its claim on an individual basis. If these procedural requirements are not met, either the lawsuit cannot proceed or, as is the case with class certification or compelled arbitration, the plaintiffs lose the financial incentive to proceed with the case (or the amount at issue effectively becomes *de minimis*). Frequently, a court's determination as to these procedural requirements is subject to appeal to a higher court. As a result of, among other factors, ambiguities and inconsistencies in the myriad laws applicable to the Company's business and the uniqueness of the factual issues presented in any given lawsuit, the Company often cannot determine the probability of loss until a court has finally determined that a plaintiff has satisfied applicable procedural requirements.

Furthermore, because most of these lawsuits are putative class actions, it is often impossible to estimate the possible loss or a range of loss amounts, even where the Company has determined that a loss is reasonably possible. Generally class actions involve a large number of people and the effort to determine which people satisfy the requirements to become plaintiffs—or class members—is often time consuming and burdensome. Moreover, these lawsuits raise complex factual issues which result in uncertainty as to their outcome and, ultimately, make it difficult for the Company to estimate the amount of damages which a plaintiff might successfully prove. In addition, many of the Company's businesses are regulated by various federal, state, local and foreign governmental agencies and are subject to numerous statutory guidelines. These regulations and statutory guidelines often are complex, inconsistent or ambiguous, which results in additional uncertainty as to the outcome of a given lawsuit—including the amount of damages a plaintiff might be afforded—or makes it difficult to analogize experience in one case or jurisdiction to another case or jurisdiction.

Most of the non-ordinary course lawsuits to which the Company and its subsidiaries are parties challenge practices in the Company's title insurance business, though a limited number of cases also pertain to the Company's other businesses. These lawsuits include, among others, cases alleging, among other assertions, that the Company, one of its subsidiaries and/or one of its agents:

- charged an improper rate for title insurance in a refinance transaction, including

- *Lewis v. First American Title Insurance Company*, filed on November 28, 2006 and pending in the United States District Court for the District of Idaho.

A court has granted class certification in *Lewis*. For the reasons stated above, the Company has been unable to assess the probability of loss or estimate the possible loss or the range of loss.

- misclassified certain employees, including

- *Cruz v. First American Financial Corporation, et al.*, filed on November 25, 2015 and pending in the Superior Court of the State of California, County of Orange,

- *Sager v. Interthinx, Inc.*, filed on January 23, 2015 and pending in the Superior Court of the State of California, County of Los Angeles, and

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Weber v. Interthinx, Inc., et al., filed on April 17, 2015 and pending in the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Missouri.

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These lawsuits are putative class actions for which a class has not been certified. For the reasons described above, as well as the applicability of certain indemnification rights the Company may have, the Company has not yet been able to assess the probability of loss or estimate the possible loss or the range of loss or, where the Company has been able to make an estimate, the Company believes the amount is not material to the consolidated financial statements as a whole.

overcharged or improperly charged fees for products and services, conspired to fix prices, participated in the conveyance of illusory property interests, denied home warranty claims, and gave items of value to builders, brokers and others as inducements to refer business in violation of certain laws, such as consumer protection laws and laws generally prohibiting unfair business practices, and certain obligations, including

- Downing v. First American Title Insurance Company, et al., filed on July 26, 2016 and pending in the United States District Court for the Northern District of Georgia,
- Kaufman v. First American Financial Corporation, et al., filed on December 21, 2007 and pending in the Superior Court of the State of California, County of Los Angeles,
- Kirk v. First American Financial Corporation, et al., filed on June 15, 2006 and pending in the Superior Court of the State of California, County of Los Angeles,
- Lennen v. First American Financial Corporation, et al., filed on May 19, 2016 and pending in the United States District court for the Middle District of Florida,
- McCormick v. First American Real Estate Services, Inc., et al., filed on December 31, 2015 and pending in the Superior Court of the State of California, County of Orange,
- Sjobring v. First American Financial Corporation, et al., filed on February 25, 2005 and pending in the Superior Court of the State of California, County of Los Angeles,
- Wilmot v. First American Financial Corporation, et al., filed on April 20, 2007 and pending in the Superior Court of the State of California, County of Los Angeles, and
- In re First American Home Buyers Protection Corporation, consolidated on October 9, 2014 and pending in the United States District Court for the Southern District of California.

All of these lawsuits, except Kaufman and Kirk, are putative class actions for which a class has not been certified. In Kaufman a class was certified but that certification was subsequently vacated. A trial of the Kirk matter has concluded and the judgment has been affirmed on appeal. For the reasons described above, the Company has not yet been able to assess the probability of loss or estimate the possible loss or the range of loss or, where the Company has been able to make an estimate, the Company believes the amount is not material to the consolidated financial statements as a whole.

While some of the lawsuits described above may be material to the Company's operating results in any particular period if an unfavorable outcome results, the Company does not believe that any of these lawsuits will have a material adverse effect on the Company's overall financial condition or liquidity.

The Company also is a party to non-ordinary course lawsuits other than those described above. With respect to these lawsuits, the Company has determined either that a loss is not reasonably possible or that the estimated loss or range of loss, if any, is not material to the consolidated financial statements as a whole.

The Company's title insurance, property and casualty insurance, home warranty, banking, thrift, trust and investment advisory businesses are regulated by various federal, state and local governmental agencies. Many of the Company's other businesses operate within statutory guidelines. Consequently, the Company may from time to time be subject to examination or investigation by such governmental agencies. Currently, governmental agencies are examining or investigating certain of the Company's operations. These exams or investigations include inquiries into, among other matters, pricing and rate setting practices in the title insurance industry, competition in the title insurance industry, real estate settlement service customer acquisition and retention practices and agency relationships. With respect to matters where the Company has determined that a loss is both probable and reasonably estimable, the Company has recorded a liability representing its best estimate of the financial exposure based on known facts. While the ultimate disposition of each such exam or investigation is not yet determinable, the Company does not believe that individually

or in the aggregate they will have a material adverse effect on the Company's financial condition, results of operations or cash flows. These exams or investigations could, however, result in changes to the Company's business practices which could ultimately have a material adverse impact on the Company's financial condition, results of operations or cash flows.

The Company and its subsidiaries also are involved in numerous ongoing routine legal and regulatory proceedings related to their operations. With respect to each of these proceedings, the Company has determined either that a loss is not reasonably possible or that the estimated loss or range of loss, if any, is not material to the consolidated financial statements as a whole.

Item 4. Mine Safety Disclosures

Not applicable.

## PART II

## Item 5. Market for Registrant's Common Equity, Related Stockholder Matters and Issuer Purchases of Equity Securities

## Common Stock Market Prices and Dividends

The Company's common stock trades on the New York Stock Exchange (ticker symbol FAF). The approximate number of record holders of common stock on February 10, 2017, was 2,487.

High and low stock prices and dividends declared for 2016 and 2015 are set forth in the table below.

Period	2016		2015	
	High-low range	Cash dividends	High-low range	Cash dividends
Quarter Ended				
March 31	\$31.74-38.35	\$ 0.26	\$32.59-37.75	\$ 0.25
Quarter Ended				
June 30	\$34.63-40.23	\$ 0.26	\$34.50-38.19	\$ 0.25
Quarter Ended				
September 30	\$39.25-43.55	\$ 0.34	\$36.88-43.16	\$ 0.25
Quarter Ended				
December 31	\$35.30-41.66	\$ 0.34	\$34.39-40.72	\$ 0.25

In January 2017, the Company's board of directors declared a cash dividend of \$0.34 per share. We expect that the Company will continue to pay quarterly cash dividends at or above the current level. The timing, declaration and payment of future dividends, however, falls within the discretion of the Company's board of directors and will depend upon many factors, including the Company's financial condition and earnings, the capital requirements of our businesses, restrictions imposed by applicable law and any other factors the board of directors deems relevant from time to time. In addition, the ability to pay dividends also is potentially affected by the restrictions described in Note 2 Statutory Restrictions on Investments and Stockholders' Equity to the consolidated financial statements included in "Item 8. Financial Statements and Supplementary Data" of Part II of this report.

## Unregistered Sales of Equity Securities

During the year ended December 31, 2016, the Company did not issue any unregistered common stock.

## Purchases of Equity Securities by the Issuer and Affiliated Purchasers

Pursuant to the share repurchase program initially announced by the Company on March 16, 2011 and expanded on March 11, 2014, which program has no expiration date, the Company may repurchase up to \$250.0 million of the Company's issued and outstanding common stock. The Company did not repurchase any shares under this plan during the quarter ended December 31, 2016. Cumulatively the Company has repurchased \$67.6 million (including commissions) of its shares and has the authority to repurchase an additional \$182.4 million (including commissions) under the plan.

## Stock Performance Graph

The following performance graph and related information shall not be deemed "soliciting material" or "filed" with the SEC, nor shall such information be incorporated by reference into any future filing under the Securities Act of 1933 or

the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, each as amended, except to the extent that it is specifically incorporated by reference into such filing.

The following graph compares the cumulative total stockholder return on the Company's common stock with the corresponding cumulative total returns of the Russell 2000 Financial Services Index, the Russell 1000 Index and a peer group index for the period from December 31, 2011 through December 31, 2016. In past years, the Company used the Russell 2000 Financial Services Index for purposes of the stock performance graph below. However, during 2016, the Russell indices were reconstituted such that the Company was moved from the Russell 2000 Index to the Russell 1000 Index. In connection with the reconstitution, the Company determined that the Russell 1000 Index would be a more appropriate broad equity market index to include in the stock performance graph. Accordingly, while both the Russell 1000 Index and the Russell 2000 Financial Services Index have been included for this transitional year, the Company does not expect to include the Russell 2000 Financial Services Index in future years.

The comparison assumes an investment of \$100 on December 31, 2011 and reinvestment of dividends. This historical performance is not indicative of future performance.

Comparison of Cumulative Total Return

	First American Financial Corporation (FAF) (1)	Custom Peer Group (1)(2)	Russell 2000 Financial Services Index (1)	Russell 1000 Index (1)
December 31, 2011	\$ 100	\$ 100	\$ 100	\$100
December 31, 2012	\$ 194	\$ 116	\$ 121	\$116
December 31, 2013	\$ 231	\$ 166	\$ 171	\$155
December 31, 2014	\$ 286	\$ 183	\$ 197	\$176
December 31, 2015	\$ 312	\$ 207	\$ 198	\$177
December 31, 2016	\$ 328	\$ 246	\$ 231	\$198

(1) As calculated by Bloomberg Financial Services, to include reinvestment of dividends.

(2) The peer group consists of the following companies: American Financial Group, Inc.; Assurant, Inc.; Cincinnati Financial Corporation; Fidelity National Financial, Inc. (not including its FNFV tracking stock); The Hanover Insurance Group, Inc.; Kemper Corporation; Mercury General Corporation; Old Republic International Corp.; White Mountains Insurance Group Ltd.; and W.R. Berkley Corporation each of which operates in a business similar to a business operated by the Company. The compensation committee of the Company utilizes the compensation practices of these companies as benchmarks in setting the compensation of its executive officers.

## Item 6. Selected Financial Data

The selected historical consolidated financial data for First American Financial Corporation (the “Company”) as of and for each of the five years in the period ended December 31, 2016, have been derived from the Company’s consolidated financial statements. The selected historical consolidated financial data should be read in conjunction with “Item 8. Financial Statements and Supplementary Data,” “Item 1—Business,” and “Item 7—Management’s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations.”

## First American Financial Corporation and Subsidiary Companies

	Year Ended December 31,				
	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012
	(in thousands, except percentages, per share amounts and employee data)				
Revenues	\$5,575,846	\$5,175,456	\$4,677,949	\$4,956,077	\$4,541,821
Net income	\$343,476	\$288,870	\$234,215	\$187,064	\$301,728
Net income attributable to noncontrolling interests	\$483	\$784	\$681	\$697	\$687
Net income attributable to the Company	\$342,993	\$288,086	\$233,534	\$186,367	\$301,041
Total assets (Note A)	\$8,831,777	\$8,236,715	\$7,647,889	\$6,543,575	\$6,064,040
Notes and contracts payable	\$736,693	\$581,052	\$582,712	\$308,263	\$229,760
Stockholders’ equity (Note A)	\$3,008,179	\$2,749,960	\$2,564,375	\$2,444,507	\$2,339,523
Return on average stockholders’ equity	11.9	% 10.8	% 9.3	% 7.8	% 13.8
Dividends on common shares	\$131,541	\$108,524	\$89,939	\$51,324	\$37,612
Per share of common stock (Note B)—					
Net income attributable to the Company:					
Basic	\$3.10	\$2.65	\$2.18	\$1.74	\$2.83
Diluted	\$3.09	\$2.62	\$2.15	\$1.71	\$2.77
Stockholders’ equity (Note A)	\$27.36	\$25.21	\$23.85	\$23.08	\$21.82
Cash dividends declared	\$1.20	\$1.00	\$0.84	\$0.48	\$0.36
Number of common shares outstanding					
Weighted average during the year:					
Basic	110,548	108,427	106,884	106,991	106,307
Diluted	111,156	109,826	108,688	109,102	108,542
End of year	109,944	109,098	107,541	105,900	107,239
Other Operating Data (unaudited):					
Title orders opened (Note C)	1,281	1,262	1,156	1,385	1,635
Title orders closed (Note C)	958	882	816	1,103	1,192
Number of employees (Note D)	19,531	17,955	17,103	17,292	17,312

Note A—Amounts related to years 2015 – 2012 have been revised to reflect the derecognition of certain title plant assets that should have been written off in prior periods, and the misclassification of certain capitalized software, title plant imaging, real estate data and investments related to title plant assets as title plant assets. See Note 1 Basis of Presentation and Significant Accounting Policies to the consolidated financial statements for further information about the financial statement revisions.

Note B—Per share information relating to net income is based on weighted-average number of shares outstanding for the years presented. Per share information relating to stockholders’ equity is based on shares outstanding at the end of each year.

Note C—Title order volumes are those processed by the direct domestic title operations of the Company and do not include orders processed by agents.



Note D—Number of employees is based on actual employee headcount.

Item 7. Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations

CERTAIN STATEMENTS IN THIS ANNUAL REPORT ON FORM 10-K ARE FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS WITHIN THE MEANING OF SECTION 27A OF THE SECURITIES ACT OF 1933, AS AMENDED, AND SECTION 21E OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934, AS AMENDED. THESE FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS MAY CONTAIN THE WORDS "BELIEVE," "ANTICIPATE," "EXPECT," "PLAN," "PREDICT," "ESTIMATE," "PROJECT," "WILL BE," "WILL CONTINUE," "WILL LIKELY RESULT," OR OTHER SIMILAR WORDS AND PHRASES.

RISKS AND UNCERTAINTIES EXIST THAT MAY CAUSE RESULTS TO DIFFER MATERIALLY FROM THOSE SET FORTH IN THESE FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS. FACTORS THAT COULD CAUSE THE ANTICIPATED RESULTS TO DIFFER FROM THOSE DESCRIBED IN THE FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS INCLUDE THE FACTORS SET FORTH ON PAGES 3-4 OF THIS ANNUAL REPORT. THE FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS SPEAK ONLY AS OF THE DATE THEY ARE MADE. THE COMPANY DOES NOT UNDERTAKE TO UPDATE FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS TO REFLECT CIRCUMSTANCES OR EVENTS THAT OCCUR AFTER THE DATE THE FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS ARE MADE.

This Management's Discussion and Analysis contains certain financial measures that are not presented in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles ("GAAP"), including adjusted information and other revenues, adjusted personnel costs, adjusted other operating expenses and adjusted depreciation and amortization expense, in each case excluding the effects of recent acquisitions. The Company is presenting these non-GAAP financial measures because they provide the Company's management and readers of this Annual Report on Form 10-K with additional insight into the operational performance of the Company relative to earlier periods. The Company does not intend for these non-GAAP financial measures to be a substitute for any GAAP financial information. In this Annual Report on Form 10-K, these non-GAAP financial measures have been presented with, and reconciled to, the most directly comparable GAAP financial measures. Readers of this Annual Report on Form 10-K should use these non-GAAP financial measures only in conjunction with the comparable GAAP financial measures.

#### Principles of Consolidation

The consolidated financial statements have been prepared in accordance with GAAP and reflect the consolidated operations of the Company. The consolidated financial statements include the accounts of First American Financial Corporation and all controlled subsidiaries. All significant intercompany transactions and balances have been eliminated. Investments in affiliates in which the Company exercises significant influence, but does not control and is not the primary beneficiary, are accounted for using the equity method. Investments in affiliates in which the Company does not exercise significant influence over the investee are accounted for under the cost method.

#### Reportable Segments

The Company consists of the following reportable segments and a corporate function:

•The Company's title insurance and services segment issues title insurance policies on residential and commercial property in the United States and offers similar or related products and services internationally. This segment also provides closing and/or escrow services; accommodates tax-deferred exchanges of real estate; provides products, services and solutions involving the use of real property related data designed to mitigate risk or otherwise facilitate real estate transactions; maintains, manages and provides access to title plant records and images; provides evidence of title; and provides banking, trust, document custodial and investment advisory services. The Company, through its principal title insurance subsidiary and such subsidiary's affiliates, transacts its title insurance business through a network of direct operations and agents. Through this network, the Company issues policies in the 49 states that permit the issuance of title insurance policies and the District of Columbia. The Company also offers title insurance and other insurance and guarantee products, as well as related settlement services in foreign countries, including

Canada, the United Kingdom, Australia, South Korea and various other established and emerging markets.

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The Company's specialty insurance segment issues property and casualty insurance policies and sells home warranty products. The property and casualty insurance business provides insurance coverage to residential homeowners and renters for liability losses and typical hazards such as fire, theft, vandalism and other types of property damage. This business is licensed to issue policies in all 50 states and the District of Columbia and actively issues policies in 47 states. The majority of policy liability is in the western United States, including approximately 63% in California. In certain markets it also offers preferred risk auto insurance to better compete with other carriers offering bundled home and auto insurance. The home warranty business provides residential service contracts that cover residential systems, such as heating and air conditioning systems, and certain appliances against failures that occur as the result of normal usage during the coverage period. This business currently operates in 39 states and the District of Columbia.

The corporate function consists primarily of certain financing facilities as well as the corporate services that support the Company's business operations.

### Critical Accounting Estimates

The preparation of financial statements in accordance with GAAP requires the application of accounting policies that often involve a significant degree of judgment. The Company's management considers the accounting policies described below to be the most dependent on the application of estimates and assumptions in preparing the Company's consolidated financial statements. See Note 1 Description of the Company to the consolidated financial statements for a more detailed description of the Company's significant accounting policies.

**Provision for policy losses.** The Company provides for title insurance losses by a charge to expense when the related premium revenue is recognized. The amount charged to expense is generally determined by applying a rate (the loss provision rate) to total title insurance premiums and escrow fees. The Company's management estimates the loss provision rate at the beginning of each year and reassesses the rate quarterly to ensure that the resulting incurred but not reported ("IBNR") loss reserve and known claims reserve included in the Company's consolidated balance sheets together reflect management's best estimate of the total costs required to settle all IBNR and known claims. If the ending IBNR reserve is not considered adequate, an adjustment is recorded.

The process of assessing the loss provision rate and the resulting IBNR reserve involves evaluation of the results of an in-house actuarial review. The Company's in-house actuary performs a reserve analysis utilizing generally accepted actuarial methods that incorporate cumulative historical claims experience and information provided by in-house claims and operations personnel. Current economic and business trends are also reviewed and used in the reserve analysis. These include conditions in the real estate and mortgage markets, changes in residential and commercial real estate values, and changes in the levels of defaults and foreclosures that may affect claims levels and patterns of emergence, as well as any company-specific factors that may be relevant to past and future claims experience. Results from the analysis include, but are not limited to, a range of IBNR reserve estimates and a single point estimate for IBNR as of the balance sheet date.

For recent policy years at early stages of development (generally the last three years), IBNR is generally estimated using a combination of expected loss rate and multiplicative loss development factor calculations. For more mature policy years, IBNR generally is estimated using multiplicative loss development factor calculations. The expected loss rate method estimates IBNR by applying an expected loss rate to total title insurance premiums and escrow fees, and adjusting for policy year maturity using estimated loss development patterns. Multiplicative loss development factor calculations estimate IBNR by applying factors derived from loss development patterns to losses realized to date. The expected loss rate and loss development patterns are based on historical experience and the relationship of the history to the applicable policy years.

The Company's management uses the IBNR point estimate from the in-house actuary's analysis and other relevant information concerning claims to determine what it considers to be the best estimate of the total amount required for the IBNR reserve.

The volume and timing of title insurance claims are subject to cyclical influences from real estate and mortgage markets. Title policies issued to lenders constitute a large portion of the Company's title insurance volume. These policies insure lenders against losses on mortgage loans due to title defects in the collateral property. Even if an underlying title defect exists that could result in a claim, often, the lender must realize an actual loss, or at least be likely to realize an actual loss, for title insurance liability to exist. As a result, title insurance claims exposure is sensitive to lenders' losses on mortgage loans, and is affected in turn by external factors that affect mortgage loan losses, particularly macroeconomic factors.

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A general decline in real estate prices can expose lenders to greater risk of losses on mortgage loans, as loan-to-value ratios increase and defaults and foreclosures increase. Title insurance claims exposure for a given policy year is also affected by the quality of mortgage loan underwriting during the corresponding origination year. The Company believes that the sensitivity of claims to external conditions in the real estate and mortgage markets is an inherent feature of title insurance's business economics that applies broadly to the title insurance industry.

Title insurance policies are long-duration contracts with the majority of the claims reported to the Company within the first few years following the issuance of the policy. Generally, 70% to 80% of claim amounts become known in the first six years of the policy life, and the majority of IBNR reserves relate to the six most recent policy years. Changes in expected ultimate losses and corresponding loss rates for recent policy years are considered likely and could result in a material adjustment to the IBNR reserves. Based on historical experience, management believes a 50 basis point change to the loss rates for recent policy years, positive or negative, is reasonably likely given the long duration nature of a title insurance policy. For example, if the expected ultimate losses for each of the last six policy years increased or decreased by 50 basis points, the resulting impact on the Company's IBNR reserve would be an increase or decrease, as the case may be, of \$110.1 million. A material change in expected ultimate losses and corresponding loss rates for older policy years is also possible, particularly for policy years with loss ratios exceeding historical norms. The estimates made by management in determining the appropriate level of IBNR reserves could ultimately prove to be materially different from actual claims experience.

The Company provides for property and casualty insurance losses when the insured event occurs. The Company provides for claims losses relating to its home warranty business based on the average cost per claim as applied to the total of new claims incurred. The average cost per home warranty claim is calculated using the average of the most recent 12 months of claims experience adjusted for estimated future increases in costs.

A summary of the Company's loss reserves is as follows:

(in thousands, except percentages)	December 31, 2016		December 31, 2015	
Known title claims	\$83,805	8.1 %	\$87,543	8.9 %
Incurred but not reported claims	888,126	86.6 %	844,364	85.8 %
Total title claims	971,931	94.7 %	931,907	94.7 %
Non-title claims	53,932	5.3 %	51,973	5.3 %
Total loss reserves	\$1,025,863	100.0%	\$983,880	100.0 %

Activity in the reserve for known title claims is summarized as follows:

	December 31,		
	2016	2015	2014
	(in thousands)		
Balance at beginning of year	\$87,543	\$165,330	\$135,478
Provision transferred from IBNR title claims related to:			
Current year	15,098	13,569	29,939
Prior years	188,066	184,473	274,481
	203,164	198,042	304,420
Payments, net of recoveries, related to:			
Current year	12,420	11,258	22,272
Prior years	197,821	243,519	249,851

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	210,241	254,777	272,123
Other	3,339	(21,052 )	(2,445 )
Balance at end of year	\$83,805	\$87,543	\$165,330

“Other” for 2015 included recoveries of \$23.8 million on reinsured losses related to a large commercial title claim.

The provision transferred from IBNR title claims related to current year increased by \$1.5 million in 2016 from 2015 and decreased by \$16.4 million in 2015 from 2014 and payments, net of recoveries, related to current year increased by \$1.2 million in 2016 from 2015 and decreased by \$11.0 million in 2015 from 2014, reflecting variability in claims volumes characteristic of a policy year during its first year of development. In addition, 2014 experienced a higher level of fraud losses when compared to 2016 and 2015.

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The provision transferred from IBNR title claims related to prior years increased by \$3.6 million, or 1.9%, in 2016 from 2015 and decreased by \$90.0 million, or 32.8%, in 2015 from 2014. Payments, net of recoveries, related to prior years decreased by \$45.7 million, or 18.8%, in 2016 from 2015 and decreased by \$6.3 million, or 2.5%, in 2015 from 2014. Generally, the provision transferred from IBNR title claims and payments are expected to decline with the runoff of older policy years that have higher expected ultimate losses, particularly policy years 2005 through 2008. 2015 and 2014 were impacted by the timing of the provision transferred from IBNR title claims and payments associated with certain large claims. During 2014, the Company transferred provision of \$56.0 million from IBNR title claims related to these large claims, and the Company paid \$35.0 million, net of \$21.0 million recovered through reinsurance, during the first quarter of 2015 to settle these claims.

Activity in the reserve for IBNR title claims is summarized as follows:

	December 31,		
	2016	2015	2014
	(in thousands)		
Balance at beginning of year	\$844,364	\$802,069	\$840,104
Provision related to:			
Current year	193,109	170,789	188,997
Prior years	42,552	93,092	64,133
	235,661	263,881	253,130
Provision transferred to known title claims related to:			
Current year	15,098	13,569	29,939
Prior years	188,066	184,473	274,481
	203,164	198,042	304,420
Other	11,265	(23,544)	13,255
Balance at end of year	\$888,126	\$844,364	\$802,069

“Other” primarily includes foreign currency translation gains and losses, assets acquired in connection with claim settlements, and recoveries. “Other” for 2014 included a reinsurance receivable of \$25.0 million that related to a large commercial title claim.

The provision related to current year increased by \$22.3 million, or 13.1%, in 2016 from 2015. This increase was attributable to a 6.5% increase in title premiums and escrow fees in 2016 from 2015 and a higher current year loss rate in 2016 when compared to 2015. The current year loss rate in 2016 was 4.5% compared to 4.2% in 2015.

The provision related to current year decreased by \$18.2 million, or 9.6%, in 2015 from 2014. This decrease was attributable to a lower current year loss rate in 2015 when compared to 2014, partly offset by a 13.0% increase in title premiums and escrow fees in 2015 from 2014. The current year loss rate in 2015 was 4.2% compared to 5.3% in 2014.

For further discussion of title provision recorded in 2016, 2015 and 2014, see Results of Operations, pages 38 and 39.

Fair value of investment portfolio. The Company categorizes the fair value of its debt and equity securities using a three-level hierarchy for fair value measurements that distinguishes between market participant assumptions developed based on market data obtained from sources independent of the Company (observable inputs) and the Company’s own assumptions about market participant assumptions developed based on the best information available in the circumstances (unobservable inputs). The hierarchy for inputs used in determining fair value maximizes the use of observable inputs and minimizes the use of unobservable inputs by requiring that observable inputs be used when



available. The hierarchy level assigned to each security in the Company's available-for-sale portfolio was based on management's assessment of the transparency and reliability of the inputs used to estimate the fair values at the measurement date. See Note 14 Fair Value Measurements to the consolidated financial statements for a more detailed description of the three-level hierarchy and a description for each level.

The valuation techniques and inputs used to estimate the fair value of the Company's debt and equity securities are summarized as follows:

#### Fair value of debt securities

The fair values of debt securities were based on the market values obtained from independent pricing services that were evaluated using pricing models that vary by asset class and incorporate available trade, bid and other market information and price quotes from well-established independent broker-dealers. The independent pricing services monitor market indicators, industry and economic events, and for broker-quoted only securities, obtain quotes from market makers or broker-dealers that they recognize to be market participants. The pricing services utilize the market approach in determining the fair value of the debt securities held by the Company. The Company obtains an understanding of the valuation models and assumptions utilized by the services and has controls in place to determine that the values provided represent fair value. The Company's validation procedures include comparing prices received from the pricing services to quotes received from other third party sources for certain securities with market prices that are readily verifiable. If the price comparison results in differences over a predefined threshold, the Company will assess the reasonableness of the changes relative to prior periods given the prevailing market conditions and assess changes in the issuers' credit worthiness, performance of any underlying collateral and prices of the instrument relative to similar issuances. To date, the Company has not made any material adjustments to the fair value measurements provided by the pricing services.

Typical inputs and assumptions to pricing models used to value the Company's U.S. Treasury bonds, municipal bonds, foreign government bonds, governmental agency bonds, governmental agency mortgage-backed securities and U.S. and foreign corporate debt securities include, but are not limited to, benchmark yields, reported trades, broker-dealer quotes, credit spreads, credit ratings, bond insurance (if applicable), benchmark securities, bids, offers, reference data and industry and economic events. For mortgage-backed securities, inputs and assumptions may also include the structure of issuance, characteristics of the issuer, collateral attributes and prepayment speeds. Non-agency mortgage-backed securities and certain U.S. and foreign corporate debt securities were not actively traded and there were fewer observable inputs available requiring the use of more judgment in determining their fair values, which resulted in their classification as Level 3.

#### Other-than-temporary impairment—debt securities

If the Company intends to sell a debt security in an unrealized loss position or determines that it is more likely than not that the Company will be required to sell a debt security before it recovers its amortized cost basis, the debt security is other-than-temporarily impaired and it is written down to fair value with all losses recognized in earnings. As of December 31, 2016, the Company did not intend to sell any debt securities in an unrealized loss position and it is not more likely than not that the Company will be required to sell debt securities before recovery of their amortized cost basis.

If the Company does not expect to recover the amortized cost basis of a debt security with declines in fair value (even if the Company does not intend to sell the debt security and it is not more likely than not that the Company will be required to sell the debt security), the losses the Company considers to be the credit portion of the other-than-temporary impairment loss ("credit loss") is recognized in earnings and the non-credit portion is recognized in other comprehensive income. The credit loss is the difference between the present value of the cash flows expected to be collected and the amortized cost basis of the debt security. The cash flows expected to be collected are discounted at the rate implicit in the security immediately prior to the recognition of the other-than-temporary impairment.

Expected future cash flows for debt securities are based on qualitative and quantitative factors specific to each security, including the probability of default and the estimated timing and amount of recovery. The detailed inputs used to project expected future cash flows may be different depending on the nature of the individual debt security.

The Company recorded other-than-temporary impairment losses considered to be credit related on its debt securities of \$0.5 million, \$2.2 million and \$1.7 million for 2016, 2015, and 2014, respectively.

Fair value of equity securities

The fair values of equity securities, including preferred and common stocks, were based on quoted market prices for identical assets that are readily and regularly available in an active market.

#### Other-than-temporary impairment—equity securities

When a decline in the fair value of an equity security, including common and preferred stock, is considered to be other-than-temporary, such equity security is written down to its fair value. When assessing if a decline in fair value is other-than-temporary, the factors considered include the length of time and extent to which fair value has been below cost, the probability that the Company will be unable to collect all amounts due under the contractual terms of the security, the seniority of the securities, issuer-specific news and other developments, the financial condition and prospects of the issuer (including credit ratings), macro-economic changes (including the outlook for industry sectors, which includes government policy initiatives) and the Company's ability and intent to hold the security for a period of time sufficient to allow for any anticipated recovery.

When an equity security has been in an unrealized loss position and its fair value is less than 80% of cost for twelve consecutive months, the Company's review of the security includes the above noted factors as well as other evidence that might exist supporting the view that the security will recover its value in the foreseeable future. If objective, substantial evidence does not indicate a likely recovery during that timeframe, the Company's policy is that such losses are considered other-than-temporary and therefore an impairment loss is recorded. The Company did not record any other-than-temporary impairment losses related to its equity securities for 2016, 2015 and 2014.

**Litigation and regulatory contingencies.** The Company and its subsidiaries are parties to a number of ongoing routine and non-ordinary course legal proceedings. For those lawsuits where the Company has determined that a loss is both probable and reasonably estimable, a liability representing the best estimate of the Company's financial exposure based on known facts has been recorded. Actual losses may materially differ from the amounts recorded. For a substantial majority of these lawsuits it is not possible to assess the probability of loss. Most of these lawsuits are putative class actions which require a plaintiff to satisfy a number of procedural requirements before proceeding to trial. As a result of, among other factors, ambiguities and inconsistencies in the myriad laws applicable to the Company's business and the uniqueness of the factual issues presented in any given lawsuit, the Company often cannot determine the probability of loss until a court has finally determined that a plaintiff has satisfied applicable procedural requirements. Furthermore, because most of these lawsuits are putative class actions, it is often impossible to estimate the possible loss or a range of loss, even where the Company has determined that a loss is reasonably possible. In addition, many of the Company's businesses are regulated by various federal, state, local and foreign governmental agencies and are subject to numerous statutory guidelines. These regulations and statutory guidelines often are complex, inconsistent or ambiguous, which results in additional uncertainty as to the outcome of a given lawsuit—including the amount of damages a plaintiff might be afforded—or makes it difficult to analogize experience in one case or jurisdiction to another case or jurisdiction.

**Business Combinations.** The Company allocates the fair value of purchase consideration to the tangible assets acquired, liabilities assumed and intangible assets acquired based on their estimated fair values. The excess of the fair value of purchase consideration over the fair values of these identifiable assets and liabilities is recorded as goodwill. When determining the fair values of assets acquired and liabilities assumed, management makes significant estimates and assumptions, especially with respect to intangible assets.

Critical estimates in valuing certain intangible assets include, but are not limited to, future expected cash flows, useful lives and discount rates. Management's estimates of fair value are based upon assumptions believed to be reasonable, but which are inherently uncertain and unpredictable and, as a result, may differ from actual results. Other estimates associated with the accounting for acquisitions may change as additional information becomes available regarding the assets acquired and liabilities assumed.

Impairment assessment for goodwill. The Company is required to perform an annual goodwill impairment assessment for each reporting unit. The Company's four reporting units are title insurance, home warranty, property and casualty insurance and trust and other services. The Company has elected to perform this annual assessment in the fourth quarter of each fiscal year or sooner if circumstances indicate possible impairment. Based on current guidance, the Company has the option to perform a qualitative assessment to determine if the fair value is more likely than not (i.e., a likelihood of greater than 50%) less than the carrying amount as a basis for determining whether it is necessary to perform a quantitative impairment test, or may choose to forego the qualitative assessment and perform the quantitative impairment test. The qualitative factors considered in this assessment may include macroeconomic conditions, industry and market considerations, overall financial performance as well as other relevant events and circumstances as determined by the Company. The Company evaluates the weight of each factor to determine whether it is more likely than not that impairment may exist. If the results of the qualitative assessment indicate the more likely than not threshold was not met, the Company may choose not to perform the quantitative impairment test. If, however, the more likely than not threshold is met, the Company performs the quantitative test as required and discussed below.

Management's quantitative impairment testing process includes two steps. The first step ("Step 1") compares the fair value of each reporting unit to its carrying amount. The fair value of each reporting unit is determined by using discounted cash flow analysis and market approach valuations. If the fair value of the reporting unit exceeds its carrying amount, the goodwill is not considered impaired and no additional analysis is required. However, if the carrying amount is greater than the fair value, a second step ("Step 2") must be completed to determine if the fair value of the goodwill exceeds the carrying amount of goodwill.

Step 2 involves calculating an implied fair value of goodwill for each reporting unit for which Step 1 indicated impairment. The implied fair value of goodwill is determined in a manner similar to the amount of goodwill calculated in a business combination, by measuring the excess of the estimated fair value of the reporting unit, as determined in Step 1, over the aggregate estimated fair values of the individual assets, liabilities and identifiable intangibles as if the reporting unit was being acquired in a business combination. If the implied fair value of goodwill exceeds the carrying value of goodwill assigned to the reporting unit, there is no impairment. If the carrying value of goodwill assigned to a reporting unit exceeds the implied fair value of the goodwill, an impairment loss is recorded for the excess. An impairment loss cannot exceed the carrying value of goodwill assigned to a reporting unit, and the loss establishes a new basis in the goodwill. Subsequent reversal of goodwill impairment losses is not permitted.

The quantitative impairment test for goodwill utilizes a variety of valuation techniques, all of which require the Company to make estimates and judgments. Fair value is determined by employing an expected present value technique, which utilizes multiple cash flow scenarios that reflect a range of possible outcomes and an appropriate discount rate. The use of comparative market multiples (the "market approach") compares the reporting unit to other comparable companies (if such comparables are present in the marketplace) based on valuation multiples to arrive at a fair value. In assessing the fair value, the Company utilizes the results of the valuations (including the market approach to the extent comparables are available) and considers the range of fair values determined under all methods and the extent to which the fair value exceeds the carrying amount of the reporting unit.

The valuation of each reporting unit includes the use of assumptions and estimates of many critical factors, including revenue growth rates and operating margins, discount rates and future market conditions, determination of market multiples and the establishment of a control premium, among others. Forecasts of future operations are based, in part, on operating results and the Company's expectations as to future market conditions. These types of analyses contain uncertainties because they require the Company to make assumptions and to apply judgments to estimate industry economic factors and the profitability of future business strategies. However, if actual results are not consistent with the Company's estimates and assumptions, the Company may be exposed to future impairment losses that could be material.

For 2016, the Company chose to forego the qualitative assessment and performed a quantitative impairment test and, based on the results, determined that the fair values of its reporting units exceeded their carrying amounts and,

therefore, no additional analysis was required. The Company chose to perform qualitative assessments for 2015 and 2014, the results of which supported the conclusion that the fair values of the Company's reporting units were not more likely than not less than their carrying amounts and, therefore, a quantitative impairment test was not considered necessary. As a result, the Company did not record any goodwill impairment losses for 2016, 2015 or 2014.

Impairment assessment for other intangible assets. Management uses estimated future cash flows (undiscounted and excluding interest) to measure the recoverability of intangible assets with finite lives, whenever events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying value may not be fully recoverable. If the undiscounted cash flow analysis indicates that the carrying amount is not recoverable, an impairment loss is recorded for the excess of the carrying amount over its fair value.

Management's impairment assessment for indefinite-lived other intangible assets may involve calculating the fair value by using a discounted cash flow analysis or through a market approach valuation. If the fair value exceeds its carrying amount, the asset is not considered impaired and no additional analysis is required. However, if the carrying amount is greater than the fair value, an impairment loss is recorded equal to the excess.

Impairment of equity method investments in affiliates. The carrying value of equity method investments in affiliates is written down, or impaired, to fair value when a decline in value is considered to be other-than-temporary. In making the determination as to whether an individual investment in an affiliate is impaired, the Company assesses the current and expected financial condition of each relevant entity, including, but not limited to, the anticipated ability of the entity to make its contractually required payments to the Company (with respect to debt obligations to the Company), the results of valuation work performed with respect to the entity, the entity's anticipated ability to generate sufficient cash flows and the market conditions in the industry in which the entity is operating. The Company did not record any impairment losses related to its equity method investments for 2016 and recognized impairment losses of \$2.0 million and \$22.5 million for 2015 and 2014, respectively.

Impairment of property and equipment. Management uses estimated future cash flows (undiscounted and excluding interest) to measure the recoverability of property and equipment whenever events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying value may not be fully recoverable. If the undiscounted cash flow analysis indicates that the carrying amount is not recoverable, an impairment loss is recorded for the excess of the carrying amount over its fair value. Impairment losses on property and equipment, which primarily related to impairments of internally developed software, were \$5.2 million, \$10.9 million and \$1.2 million for 2016, 2015 and 2014, respectively.

Income taxes. The Company accounts for income taxes under the asset and liability method, whereby deferred tax assets and liabilities are recognized for the future tax consequences attributable to differences between the financial statement carrying amounts of existing assets and liabilities and their respective tax bases. Deferred tax assets and liabilities are measured using enacted tax rates expected to apply in the years in which those temporary differences are expected to be recovered or settled. The effect on deferred tax assets and liabilities of a change in tax rates is recognized in income in the period that includes the enactment date. The Company evaluates the need to establish a valuation allowance for deferred tax assets based upon the amount of existing temporary differences, the period in which they are expected to be recovered and expected levels of taxable income. A valuation allowance to reduce deferred tax assets is established when it is considered more likely than not that some or all of the deferred tax assets will not be realized.

The Company recognizes the effect of income tax positions only if sustaining those positions is considered more likely than not. Changes in recognition or measurement of uncertain tax positions are reflected in the period in which a change in judgment occurs. The Company recognizes interest and penalties, if any, related to uncertain tax positions in income tax expense.

Employee benefit plans. The Company recognizes the overfunded or underfunded status of its funded defined benefit pension and unfunded supplemental benefit plans as an asset or liability on its consolidated balance sheets and recognizes changes in the funded status in the year in which changes occur, through accumulated other comprehensive loss. The funded status is measured as the difference between the fair value of plan assets and benefit obligation (the projected benefit obligation for pension plans and the accumulated postretirement benefit obligation for the other postretirement plans). Actuarial gains and losses and prior service costs and credits that have not been recognized as a component of net periodic benefit cost previously are recorded as a component of accumulated other comprehensive

loss. Plan assets and obligations are measured annually as of December 31.

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The assumptions that have had the most significant impact to net periodic costs are the discount rate and expected long-term rate of return on plan assets. The discount rate assumption reflects the yield available on high-quality, fixed-income debt securities that match the expected timing of the benefit obligation payments. Assumptions for the expected long-term rate of return on assets of the funded defined benefit pension plans are based on future expectations for returns for each asset class based on the calculated market-related value of plan assets and the effect of periodic target asset allocation rebalancing, adjusted for the payment of reasonable expenses of the plans from plan assets. See Note 13 Employee Benefit Plans to the consolidated financial statements for discussion of the termination of the Company's funded defined benefit pension plans.

Weighted-average actuarial assumptions used to determine costs for the plans for the years ended December 31, 2016 and 2015, were as follows:

	December 31,	
	2016	2015
Funded defined benefit pension plans		
Discount rate	4.31 %	4.07 %
Rate of return on plan assets	3.50 %	6.50 %
Unfunded supplemental benefit plans		
Discount rate	4.33 %	4.00 %

Weighted-average actuarial assumptions used to determine benefit obligations for the plans at December 31, 2016 and 2015, were as follows:

	December 31,	
	2016	2015
Funded defined benefit pension plans		
Discount rate	3.85 %	4.31 %
Unfunded supplemental benefit plans		
Discount rate	4.03 %	4.33 %

#### Recently Adopted Accounting Pronouncements

In September 2015, the Financial Accounting Standards Board ("FASB") issued updated guidance intended to simplify the accounting for adjustments made to provisional amounts recognized in a business combination and eliminates the requirement to retrospectively account for those adjustments. The updated guidance is effective for interim and annual reporting periods beginning after December 15, 2015 and applies prospectively to adjustments made to provisional amounts that occur after the effective date of this guidance with early adoption permitted for financial statements that have not been issued. The adoption of this guidance had no impact on the Company's consolidated financial statements.

In August 2015, the FASB issued updated guidance relating to the Securities and Exchange Commission Staff Announcement at the June 18, 2015 Emerging Issues Task Force meeting on the presentation and subsequent measurement of debt issuance costs associated with line-of-credit arrangements. The updated guidance allows for the deferral and presentation of debt issuance costs as an asset which may be amortized ratably over the term of the line-of-credit arrangement, regardless of whether there are any related outstanding borrowings. The updated guidance is effective for interim and annual reporting periods beginning after December 15, 2015, with early adoption permitted. The adoption of this guidance had no impact on the Company's consolidated financial statements.

In May 2015, the FASB issued updated disclosure guidance related to short-duration contracts issued by insurance entities. The updated guidance is intended to increase the transparency of significant estimates made in measuring liabilities for unpaid claims and claim adjustment expenses and to provide additional insight into an insurance entity's ability to underwrite and anticipate costs associated with claims. The updated guidance is effective for annual reporting periods beginning after December 15, 2015 and for interim periods within annual periods beginning after December 15, 2016, with early adoption permitted. Except for the disclosure requirements, the adoption of this guidance had no impact on the Company's consolidated financial statements.

In May 2015, the FASB issued updated guidance intended to eliminate the diversity in practice surrounding how investments measured at net asset value under the practical expedient with future redemption dates have been categorized in the fair value hierarchy. Under the updated guidance, investments for which fair value is measured at net asset value per share using the practical expedient should no longer be categorized in the fair value hierarchy. The updated guidance requires retrospective adoption for all periods presented and is effective for interim and annual reporting periods beginning after December 15, 2015, with early adoption permitted. The adoption of this guidance had no impact on the Company's consolidated financial statements.

In April 2015, the FASB issued updated guidance intended to clarify the accounting treatment for cloud computing arrangements that include software licenses. Under the updated guidance, if a cloud computing arrangement includes a software license, the customer should account for the software license element of the arrangement consistent with the acquisition of other software licenses. If a cloud computing arrangement does not include a software license, the customer should account for the arrangement as a service contract. The updated guidance is effective for interim and annual reporting periods beginning after December 15, 2015, with early adoption permitted. The Company elected to adopt the updated guidance prospectively for all arrangements entered into or materially modified after the effective date. The adoption of this guidance did not have a material impact on the Company's consolidated financial statements. The financial statement line items impacted by the adoption of the updated guidance include other intangible assets, net and depreciation and amortization. See Note 6 Other Intangible Assets to the consolidated financial statements for further information on the Company's internal-use software licenses.

In April 2015, the FASB issued updated guidance intended to simplify, and provide consistency to, the presentation of debt issuance costs. The new standard requires that debt issuance costs be presented in the balance sheet as a direct deduction from the carrying amount of the debt liability, consistent with debt discounts. The updated guidance is effective for interim and annual reporting periods beginning after December 15, 2015, with early adoption permitted. The adoption of this guidance did not have a material impact on the Company's consolidated financial statements.

In February 2015, the FASB issued updated guidance which changes the analysis that a reporting entity must perform to determine whether it should consolidate certain types of legal entities. The updated guidance is effective for interim and annual reporting periods beginning after December 15, 2015, with early adoption permitted. The adoption of this guidance had no impact on the Company's consolidated financial statements.

In June 2014, the FASB issued updated guidance intended to eliminate the diversity in practice regarding share-based payment awards that include terms which provide for a performance target that affects vesting being achieved after the requisite service period. The new standard requires that a performance target which affects vesting and could be achieved after the requisite service period be treated as a performance condition that affects vesting and should not be reflected in estimating the grant-date fair value. The updated guidance is effective for interim and annual reporting periods beginning after December 15, 2015, with early adoption permitted. The adoption of this guidance had no impact on the Company's consolidated financial statements.

#### Pending Accounting Pronouncements

In November 2016, the FASB issued updated guidance intended to reduce the diversity in practice on presenting restricted cash or restricted cash equivalents in the statement of cash flows. The updated guidance is effective for interim and annual reporting periods beginning after December 15, 2017, with early adoption permitted. The Company does not expect the adoption of this guidance to have a material impact on its consolidated financial statements.

In October 2016, the FASB issued updated guidance to amend the consolidation guidance on how a reporting entity that is the single decision maker of a variable interest entity should treat indirect interests in the entity held through related parties that are under common control with the reporting entity when determining whether it is the primary

beneficiary of that variable interest entity. The updated guidance is effective for interim and annual reporting periods beginning after December 15, 2016, with early adoption permitted. The Company does not expect the adoption of this guidance to have a material impact on its consolidated financial statements.

In October 2016, the FASB issued updated guidance intended to simplify and improve the accounting for the income tax consequences of intra-entity transfers of assets other than inventory. The updated guidance, which eliminates the intra-entity transfers exception, requires entities to recognize the income tax consequences of intra-entity transfers of assets, other than inventory, when the transfers occur. The updated guidance is effective for interim and annual reporting periods beginning after December 15, 2017, with early adoption permitted. The Company does not expect the adoption of this guidance to have a material impact on its consolidated financial statements.

In August 2016, the FASB issued updated guidance intended to eliminate the diversity in practice regarding the presentation and classification of certain cash receipts and cash payments in the statement of cash flows. The updated guidance is effective for interim and annual reporting periods beginning after December 15, 2017, with early adoption permitted. The Company does not expect the adoption of this guidance to have a material impact on its consolidated statements of cash flows.

In June 2016, the FASB issued updated guidance intended to provide financial statement users with more decision-useful information about the expected credit losses on financial instruments and other commitments to extend credit held by a reporting entity at each reporting date. The updated guidance replaces the current incurred loss impairment methodology with a methodology that reflects expected credit losses and requires the consideration of a broader range of reasonable and supportable information to inform credit loss estimates. The updated guidance is effective for interim and annual reporting periods beginning after December 15, 2019, with early adoption permitted. The Company is currently assessing the impact of the new guidance on its consolidated financial statements.

In March 2016, the FASB issued updated guidance intended to simplify and improve several aspects of the accounting for share-based payment transactions, including the income tax consequences, classification of such awards as either equity or liabilities and classification on the statement of cash flows. The updated guidance is effective for interim and annual reporting periods beginning after December 15, 2016, with early adoption permitted. The Company does not expect the adoption of this guidance to have a material impact on its consolidated financial statements.

In March 2016, the FASB issued updated guidance intended to simplify the accounting treatment for investments that become qualified for the equity method of accounting as a result of an increase in the level of ownership interest or degree of influence. The updated guidance is effective for interim and annual reporting periods beginning after December 15, 2016, with early adoption permitted. The Company expects the adoption of this guidance to have no impact on its consolidated financial statements.

In February 2016, the FASB issued updated guidance that requires the rights and obligations associated with leasing arrangements be reflected on the balance sheet in order to increase transparency and comparability among organizations. Under the updated guidance, lessees will be required to recognize a right-of-use asset and a liability to make lease payments and disclose key information about leasing arrangements. The updated guidance is effective for interim and annual reporting periods beginning after December 15, 2018, with early adoption permitted. While the Company is currently evaluating the impact the new guidance will have on its consolidated financial statements, the Company expects the adoption of the new guidance will result in a material increase in the assets and liabilities on its consolidated balance sheets and will likely have an insignificant impact on its consolidated statements of income and statements of cash flows.

In January 2016, the FASB issued updated guidance intended to enhance the reporting model for financial instruments to provide users of financial statements with more decision-useful information. In addition to making other targeted improvements to current guidance, the updated guidance also requires all equity investments, except those accounted for under the equity method of accounting or those that result in consolidation of the investee, to be measured at fair value with changes in the fair value recognized through net income. The updated guidance is effective for interim and annual reporting periods beginning after December 15, 2017, with early adoption permitted in certain circumstances. While the Company expects the adoption of this guidance to impact its consolidated statements of income, the materiality of the impact will depend upon the size of, and level of volatility experienced within, the Company's equity portfolio.

In May 2014, the FASB issued updated guidance for recognizing revenue from contracts with customers to provide a single, comprehensive revenue recognition model for all contracts with customers to improve comparability within and across industries, and across capital markets. The new revenue standard contains principles that an entity will apply to determine the measurement of revenue and the timing of recognition. The underlying principle is that an

entity will recognize revenue to depict the transfer of goods or services to customers at an amount that the entity expects to be entitled to in exchange for those goods or services. Revenue from insurance contracts is not within the scope of this guidance. In August 2015, the FASB issued updated guidance which defers the effective date of this guidance by one year. In 2016, the FASB issued additional updates to the new guidance primarily to clarify, among other things, the implementation guidance related to principal versus agent considerations, identifying performance obligations, accounting for licenses of intellectual property, and to provide narrow-scope improvements and additional practical expedients. The updated guidance is effective for interim and annual reporting periods beginning after December 15, 2017, with early adoption prohibited. The Company expects to adopt the new guidance under the modified retrospective approach and, based on a preliminary assessment, does not expect the new guidance to have a material impact on its consolidated financial statements.

## Results of Operations

### Overview

A substantial portion of the revenues for the Company's title insurance and services segment results from the sale and refinancing of residential and commercial real estate. In the Company's specialty insurance segment, revenues associated with the initial year of coverage in both the home warranty and property and casualty operations are impacted by volatility in residential purchase transactions. Traditionally, the greatest volume of real estate activity, particularly residential purchase activity, has occurred in the spring and summer months. However, changes in interest rates, as well as other changes in general economic conditions in the United States and abroad, can cause fluctuations in the traditional pattern of real estate activity.

The Company's total revenues for the year ended December 31, 2016 were \$5.6 billion, which reflected an increase of \$0.4 billion, or 7.7%, when compared with \$5.2 billion for the year ended December 31, 2015. This increase was primarily attributable to an increase in agent premiums of \$188.4 million, or 9.0%, and, to a lesser extent, an increase in direct premiums and escrow fees in the title insurance and services segment of \$74.9 million, or 3.9%, in 2016 when compared to 2015. Direct premiums and escrow fees from residential refinance and purchase transactions increased \$59.5 million and \$48.8 million, or 21.2% and 6.3%, respectively, while direct premiums and escrow fees from commercial transactions decreased \$35.7 million, or 5.1%, in 2016 when compared to 2015.

According to the Mortgage Bankers Association's February 15, 2017 Mortgage Finance Forecast (the "MBA Forecast"), residential mortgage originations in the United States (based on the total dollar value of the transactions) increased 12.6% in 2016 when compared with 2015. According to the MBA Forecast, the dollar amount of purchase originations increased 9.6% and refinance originations increased 16.1%. This higher volume of domestic residential mortgage origination activity contributed to an increase in direct premiums and escrow fees for the Company's direct title operations of 6.3% from domestic residential purchase transactions and 21.2% from domestic refinance transactions in 2016 when compared to 2015.

During 2016, the Company completed acquisitions for an aggregate purchase price of \$115.3 million and these acquisitions have been included in the Company's title insurance and services segment. These acquisitions strengthen the Company's core title and settlement business, and enhance the solutions the Company offers to its customers. In addition, the acquisitions leverage the Company's industry-leading property data to drive operational efficiencies and improve quality.

In May 2016, the Company's board of directors terminated the Company's funded defined benefit pension plans effective as of July 31, 2016. In connection with the termination, the pension plans offered an alternative lump sum distribution to certain participants. The Company recognized \$66.3 million in settlement costs within the corporate segment during the fourth quarter of 2016 related to distributions of pension plan assets totaling \$127.2 million to participants electing lump sum payments. The Company expects to complete the transfer of all remaining liabilities and administrative responsibilities related to the pension plans to one or more highly rated insurance companies by the end of the second quarter of 2017 and to recognize approximately \$154 million in net unrealized losses within the corporate segment in the first half of 2017. Once the termination process is complete, the Company estimates an annual reduction of approximately \$22 million in personnel costs related to the pension plans within the corporate segment, based on the level of these expenses for the year ended December 31, 2016. For further discussion of the pension termination including the recent and expected contribution amounts and the timing of pension termination expense to be recognized, see Note 13 Employee Benefit Plans to the consolidated financial statements.

The Company believes the purchase market will continue to strengthen in 2017 as a result of the ongoing improvement in housing and the general economy. The Company also expects the commercial market will experience a modest decline in 2017 when compared to 2016. Additionally, the recent increase in interest rates has significantly reduced the Company's refinance volumes. After peaking in July 2016 at 2,700 open orders per day, the Company's

refinance volumes have declined to approximately 1,200 open orders per day in January 2017. The Company has made and will continue to make adjustments to its cost structure in response to the lower refinance order volumes.

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In addition, the Company continues to monitor developments in its regulatory environment. Currently, federal officials are discussing various potential changes to laws and regulations that could impact the Company's businesses, including changes to the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act, the reform or privatization of government-sponsored enterprises such as the Federal National Mortgage Association (Fannie Mae) and the Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation (Freddie Mac), and tax reform, including changes that could affect the mortgage interest deduction, among others. Changes in these areas, and more generally in the regulatory environment in which the Company and its customers operate, could impact the volume of mortgage originations in the United States and the Company's competitive position and results of operations. At this time, the nature and impact of any future changes is unknown.

Title Insurance and Services

	2016	2015	2014	2016 vs. 2015		2015 vs. 2014	
				\$ Change	% Change	\$ Change	% Change
	(in thousands, except percentages)						
Revenues							
Direct premiums and escrow fees	\$2,004,686	\$1,929,783	\$1,698,430	\$74,903	3.9	\$231,353	13.6
Agent premiums	2,286,630	2,098,265	1,867,402	188,365	9.0	230,863	12.4
Information and other	713,137	669,984	654,961	43,153	6.4	15,023	2.3
Net investment income	110,757	97,520	59,785	13,237	13.6	37,735	63.1
Net realized investment gains (losses)	18,915	(7,442 )	23,850	26,357	354.2	(31,292 )	(131.2 )
	5,134,125	4,788,110	4,304,428	346,015	7.2		