

BankFinancial CORP
Form DEF 14A
May 20, 2009
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SCHEDULE 14A

(RULE 14a-101)

INFORMATION REQUIRED IN PROXY STATEMENT

Proxy Statement Pursuant to Section 14(a) of the

Securities Exchange Act of 1934

(Amendment No. __)

Filed by the Registrant Filed by a Party other than the Registrant

Check the appropriate box:

Preliminary Proxy Statement

Confidential, for Use of the Commission Only (as permitted by Rule 14a-6(e)(2))

Definitive Proxy Statement

Definitive Additional Materials

Soliciting Material Pursuant to §240.14a-12

BANKFINANCIAL CORPORATION

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Payment of Filing Fee (Check the appropriate box):

No fee required.

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(1) Amount Previously Paid:

(2) Form, Schedule or Registration Statement No.:

(3) Filing Party:

(4) Date Filed:

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May 20, 2009

Dear Fellow Stockholder:

On behalf of the Board of Directors of BankFinancial Corporation (the Company), I cordially invite you to attend our 2009 Annual Meeting of Stockholders. The meeting will be held at the Holiday Inn Chicago-Willowbrook-Hinsdale, 7800 South Kingery Highway (Route 83), Willowbrook, Illinois, on Tuesday, June 30, 2009, at 11:00 A.M., Chicago, Illinois Time.

At the Annual Meeting, our stockholders will vote on the election of three directors, and the ratification of the engagement of Crowe Horwath LLP as the independent registered public accounting firm of the Company for the year ending December 31, 2009.

The Board of Directors, acting on the recommendations of the Corporate Governance and Nominating Committee, has nominated Cassandra J. Francis, Sherwin R. Koopmans and Terry R. Wells to serve as directors of the Company for three-year terms. Each nominee is a current director of the Company and our banking subsidiary, BankFinancial, F.S.B.

The Board of Directors recommends that you vote **FOR** the election of all of the director nominees and **FOR** the ratification of the engagement of Crowe Horwath LLP.

We are enclosing a Proxy Statement and our 2008 Annual Report for your review and consideration, as well as a proxy card for your use in voting your shares of the Company's common stock.

Whether or not you plan to attend the Annual Meeting, please read the Proxy Statement, and then complete, sign and date the proxy card and return it to us in the enclosed postage-paid envelope as promptly as possible. As an alternative, you may authorize the voting of your shares by proxy by following the Internet and telephone proxy authorization instructions appearing on the proxy card.

By voting your shares promptly, you will help us reduce the time and expense of soliciting proxies, and you will also ensure that your shares are represented at the Annual Meeting.

Thank you in advance for your attention to this important matter. We are most appreciative of your continued interest and support as stockholders of the Company and as valued customers of BankFinancial, F.S.B.

Very truly yours,

F. Morgan Gasior
Chairman and Chief Executive Officer

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BANKFINANCIAL CORPORATION

15W060 North Frontage Road

Burr Ridge, Illinois 60527

(630) 242-7700

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS

To Be Held On June 30, 2009

To the Stockholders of BankFinancial Corporation:

Notice is hereby given that the Annual Meeting of Stockholders (the Annual Meeting) of BankFinancial Corporation, a Maryland corporation, will be held at the Holiday Inn Chicago-Willowbrook-Hinsdale, 7800 South Kingery Highway (Route 83), Willowbrook, Illinois, on Tuesday, June 30, 2009, at 11:00 A.M., Chicago, Illinois Time, and any adjournments or postponements thereof.

The purpose of the Annual Meeting is to consider and act upon the following, as described more fully in the accompanying Proxy Statement:

1. To elect three directors for a three-year term and until their successors are elected and qualify;
2. To ratify the engagement of Crowe Horwath LLP as the independent registered public accounting firm of BankFinancial Corporation for the year ending December 31, 2009; and
3. To transact such other business as may properly come before the Annual Meeting, or any adjournments or postponements thereof. The Board of Directors and management are not aware of any such other business.

Accompanying this Notice of Annual Meeting are a Proxy Statement, our 2008 Annual Report, and a proxy card for your use in authorizing the voting of your shares of BankFinancial Corporation common stock by proxy.

The Board of Directors has fixed the close of business on May 11, 2009 as the voting record date for the determination of stockholders entitled to receive notice of and to vote at the Annual Meeting and any adjournments or postponements thereof. Only those stockholders of record as of the close of business on that date will be entitled to vote at the Annual Meeting or any such adjournments or postponements. In the event that there are not sufficient votes to establish a quorum or to approve the foregoing proposals at the Annual Meeting, the meeting may be adjourned or postponed in order to permit the further solicitation of proxies. Any action may be taken on the foregoing proposals at the Annual Meeting on the date specified above, or on the date or dates to which the Annual Meeting may be adjourned or postponed.

By Order of the Board of Directors

James J. Brennan
Secretary

Burr Ridge, Illinois

May 20, 2009

YOUR VOTE IS IMPORTANT, REGARDLESS OF THE NUMBER OF SHARES THAT YOU OWN. PLEASE COMPLETE, SIGN, DATE AND PROMPTLY RETURN YOUR PROXY CARD IN THE ENCLOSED ENVELOPE. NO POSTAGE IS NECESSARY IF MAILED IN THE UNITED STATES. ALTERNATIVELY, YOU MAY AUTHORIZE THE VOTING OF YOUR SHARES BY

PROXY BY FOLLOWING THE INTERNET AND TELEPHONE PROXY AUTHORIZATION INSTRUCTIONS APPEARING ON THE PROXY CARD. YOUR PROXY MAY BE REVOKED AT ANY TIME BEFORE IT IS EXERCISED BY TAKING THE ACTIONS DESCRIBED IN THE ACCOMPANYING PROXY STATEMENT.

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2009 PROXY STATEMENT

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PROXY STATEMENT

BankFinancial Corporation

15W060 North Frontage Road

Burr Ridge, Illinois 60527

ANNUAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS

June 30, 2009

This Proxy Statement is furnished in connection with the solicitation by the Board of Directors of BankFinancial Corporation of proxies to be voted at the Annual Meeting of Stockholders (the Annual Meeting) that will be held at the Holiday Inn Chicago-Willowbrook-Hinsdale, 7800 South Kingery Highway (Route 83), Willowbrook, Illinois, on Tuesday, June 30, 2009, at 11:00 A.M., Chicago, Illinois Time, and any adjournments or postponements thereof.

This Proxy Statement and the accompanying Notice of Annual Meeting and proxy card are first being mailed to the stockholders of BankFinancial Corporation on or about May 20, 2009. Whether or not you plan to attend the Annual Meeting, please read this Proxy Statement, and then complete, date and sign your proxy card and return it to us in the accompanying envelope as promptly as possible. No postage is necessary if you mail it in the United States. You may also authorize the voting of your shares by proxy by following the Internet and telephone proxy authorization instructions appearing on the proxy card.

An Annual Report for the year ended December 31, 2008, which contains audited consolidated financial statements and other information pertaining to BankFinancial Corporation, accompanies this Proxy Statement.

THE COMPANY

BankFinancial Corporation, a Maryland corporation headquartered in Burr Ridge, Illinois, became the owner of all of the issued and outstanding capital stock of BankFinancial, F.S.B. (the Bank) on June 23, 2005, when it consummated a plan of conversion and reorganization that the Bank and its predecessor holding companies, BankFinancial MHC, Inc. (BankFinancial MHC) and BankFinancial Corporation, a federal corporation, adopted on August 25, 2004. BankFinancial Corporation, the Maryland corporation, was organized in 2004 to facilitate the mutual-to-stock conversion, and to become the holding company for the Bank upon the completion of the mutual-to-stock conversion.

BankFinancial Corporation, the Maryland corporation, did not engage in any business prior to, and the separate corporate existences of BankFinancial MHC and BankFinancial Corporation, the federal corporation, ceased upon the completion of the mutual-to-stock conversion on June 23, 2005. Consequently, the words Company, we and our, as used in this Proxy Statement, are intended to refer to BankFinancial MHC, BankFinancial Corporation, the federal corporation, and their subsidiaries with respect to matters and time periods occurring on or before June 23, 2005, and to BankFinancial Corporation, the Maryland corporation, and its subsidiaries with respect to matters and time periods occurring after that date.

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The following is information regarding the Annual Meeting and the voting process.

Why am I receiving this Proxy Statement and proxy card?

You are receiving this Proxy Statement and a proxy card from us because at the close of business on May 11, 2009, the record date for the Annual Meeting, you owned shares of our common stock, either directly or through a broker. This Proxy Statement describes the matters that will be presented for consideration by our stockholders at the Annual Meeting. It also gives you information concerning the matters to be considered at the Annual Meeting to assist you in making an informed decision.

When you sign the enclosed proxy card, you appoint the proxy holder as your representative at the Annual Meeting. The proxy holder will vote your shares as you have instructed in the proxy card, thereby ensuring that your shares will be voted whether or not you attend the Annual Meeting. Even if you plan to attend the Annual Meeting, you should complete, sign and return your proxy card in advance of the Annual Meeting in case your plans change.

If you have signed and returned the proxy card and an issue comes up for a vote at the Annual Meeting that is not identified on the proxy card, the proxy holder will vote your shares, pursuant to your proxy, in accordance with his or her discretion.

What matters will be voted on at the Annual Meeting?

You are being asked to vote on the election of three of our directors and the ratification of the engagement of Crowe Horwath LLP (Crowe Horwath) as our independent registered public accounting firm for the year ending December 31, 2009. These matters are more fully described in this Proxy Statement.

How do I vote?

You may use the mail, the telephone or the Internet to authorize the voting of your shares by proxy, or you may vote your shares in person at the Annual Meeting.

To use the mail to authorize the voting of your shares by proxy, please complete and sign the enclosed proxy card and mail it back to us in the enclosed pre-addressed envelope. No postage is required if the envelope is mailed in the United States.

To use the telephone or the Internet to authorize the voting of your shares by proxy, please follow the instructions appearing on your proxy card.

To vote in person, you must come to the Annual Meeting. We will distribute written ballots to any shareholder as of the record date who wants to vote at the Annual Meeting. Please note, however, that if your shares are held in the name of your broker (or in what is usually referred to as street name), you will need to arrange to obtain a proxy from your broker in order to vote in person at the Annual Meeting.

If you mark your proxy card to indicate how you want your shares voted, and you sign and return your proxy card in the manner provided in this Proxy Statement, your shares will be voted as you instruct. If you sign and return your proxy card, but do not mark the proxy card to provide voting instructions, the shares represented by your proxy card will be voted FOR all of the director nominees named in this Proxy Statement and FOR the ratification of the engagement of Crowe Horwath.

What does it mean if I receive more than one proxy card?

It means that you have multiple holdings reflected in our stock transfer records and/or in accounts with stockbrokers. Please sign and return ALL proxy cards to ensure that all your shares are voted.

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If I hold shares in the name of a broker, who votes my shares?

If you received this Proxy Statement from your broker, your broker should have given you instructions for directing how your broker should vote your shares. It will then be your broker's responsibility to vote your shares for you in the manner you direct.

Under the rules of various national and regional securities exchanges, brokers may generally vote on routine matters, such as the election of directors, but cannot vote on non-routine matters unless they have received voting instructions from the person for whom they are holding shares. If your broker does not receive instructions from you on how to vote particular shares on matters on which your broker does not have discretionary authority to vote, your broker will return the proxy card to us, indicating that he or she does not have the authority to vote on these matters. This is generally referred to as a broker non-vote. At the Annual Meeting, broker non-votes will not affect the outcome of the voting, as described below under "How many votes are needed for each proposal?" Therefore, we encourage you to provide directions to your broker as to how you want your shares voted on the matters to be brought before the Annual Meeting. You should do this by carefully following the instructions your broker gives you concerning its procedures so that your shares will be voted at the Annual Meeting.

What if I change my mind after I return my proxy card?

If you hold your shares in your own name, you may revoke your proxy and change your vote at any time before the polls close at the Annual Meeting. You may do this by:

signing another proxy card with a later date and returning the new proxy card by mail to our stock transfer agent and registrar, Computershare Trust Company, N.A., or by sending it to us to the attention of the Secretary of the Company, provided that, in each case, the new proxy card is actually received by the Secretary before the polls close;

sending notice addressed to the attention of the Secretary of the Company that you are revoking your proxy, provided that the notice is actually received by the Secretary before the polls close;

following the instructions for telephone or Internet voting appearing on your proxy card; or

voting in person at the Annual Meeting in accordance with the established voting rules and procedures.

If you hold your shares in the name of a broker and desire to revoke your proxy, you will need to contact your broker to revoke your proxy.

Please mail any new proxy cards to Proxy Services, in care of Computershare Trust Company, N.A., at P.O. Box 43101, Providence, Rhode Island 02940. You may send the notice described above or new proxy card to us as follows: BankFinancial Corporation, 15W060 North Frontage Road, Burr Ridge, Illinois 60527, Attention: James J. Brennan, Secretary.

How many votes do we need to hold the Annual Meeting?

A majority of the shares that are outstanding and entitled to vote as of the record date must be present in person or by proxy at the Annual Meeting in order for us to hold the Annual Meeting and conduct business. Abstentions and broker non-votes are considered present at the Annual Meeting and are counted in determining whether or not a quorum is present.

Shares are counted as present at the Annual Meeting if the stockholder either:

is present and votes in person at the Annual Meeting; or

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has properly submitted a signed proxy form or other proxy.

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At the close of business on May 11, 2009, the record date, there were 21,436,377 shares of our common stock, par value \$0.01, issued and outstanding. Therefore, at least 10,718,189 shares need to be present at the Annual Meeting in person or by proxy in order for us to hold the Annual Meeting and conduct business.

What happens if a nominee is unable to stand for election?

The Board of Directors may, by resolution, provide for a lesser number of directors or designate a substitute nominee. In the latter case, shares represented by proxies may be voted for the substitute nominee designated by the Board of Directors. Proxies cannot be voted for more than three nominees. We have no reason to believe that any nominee will be unable to stand for election.

What options do I have in voting on each of the proposals?

You may mark the **FOR** box on your proxy card to vote for all director nominees, mark the **FOR ALL EXCEPT** box on your proxy card to vote for all nominees other than any nominee that you specify on your proxy card, or mark the **WITHHOLD** box to withhold your vote for all director nominees. You may mark either the **FOR**, **AGAINST** or **ABSTAIN** box with respect to the ratification of the engagement of Crowe Horwath.

How many votes may I cast?

Generally, you are entitled to cast one vote for each share of stock you owned on the record date. The proxy card included with this Proxy Statement indicates the number of shares owned by an account attributable to you.

Are there any limits on the voting of shares?

As provided in Section F of Article 6 of our Charter, record holders who beneficially own in excess of 10% of the outstanding shares of our common stock are not entitled to vote any shares held in excess of this 10% limit. Subject to certain exceptions, a person is deemed to beneficially own shares owned by an affiliate of, as well as by persons acting in concert with, such person. Our Board of Directors is authorized to construe and apply the provisions of Section F of Article 6 of the Charter, and to make all determinations it deems necessary or desirable to implement them, including determining the number of shares beneficially owned by any person and whether a person is an affiliate of or has an arrangement or agreement with another person. Further, the Board of Directors is authorized to demand certain information from any person who is reasonably believed to beneficially own stock in excess of the 10% limit and reimbursement for all expenses incurred by us in connection with an investigation conducted by the Board of Directors pursuant to the provisions of Section F of Article 6 of the Charter.

How many votes are needed for each proposal?

The three individuals receiving the highest number of votes cast **FOR** their election will be elected as our directors. For the ratification of the engagement of Crowe Horwath as our independent registered public accounting firm for the year ending December 31, 2009 to be approved, the proposal must receive the affirmative vote of a majority of the votes cast at the Annual Meeting, in person or by proxy.

Each share of our common stock is entitled to one vote on all matters submitted to the stockholders. Shares represented by broker non-votes and abstentions are considered present at the Annual Meeting for the purposes of determining whether or not a quorum is present, but such shares are not considered votes cast and will have no effect on the outcome of the election of directors or the ratification of the engagement of Crowe Horwath.

Where do I find the voting results of the Annual Meeting?

We intend to announce voting results at the Annual Meeting or at any postponements or adjournments thereof. The voting results will also be disclosed in the Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q that we will file with the Securities and Exchange Commission (**SEC**) for the quarter ending June 30, 2009.

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Who bears the cost of soliciting proxies?

The Company will pay all costs of soliciting proxies. The Company has retained Laurel Hill Advisory Group to assist with the solicitation of proxies for a fee of \$7,500, plus reimbursable out-of-pocket expenses and telephone solicitation fees. In addition, we may also use our officers and employees to solicit proxies either personally, or by telephone, e-mail, the Internet, letter or facsimile. These persons will not receive any special or additional compensation for soliciting proxies. We may reimburse brokerage houses and other custodians, nominees and fiduciaries for their reasonable out-of-pocket expenses for forwarding proxy and solicitation materials to stockholders.

How does the Board recommend that I vote?

The Board of Directors recommends that you vote **FOR** all of the director nominees and **FOR** the ratification of the engagement of Crowe Horwath.

What are the directions to the Annual Meeting location?

The Annual meeting will be held at the Holiday Inn Chicago-Willowbrook-Hinsdale, 7800 South Kingery Highway (Route 83), Willowbrook, Illinois, on Tuesday, June 30, 2009, at 11:00 A.M., Chicago, Illinois Time. The directions are: From the North: (O'Hare Airport) Take I-294 south to I-55 south to Route 83 north/Kingery Highway. From the South: Take I-294 north to I-55 south, exit Route 83 north/Kingery Highway. From the East: (Midway Airport/Downtown) Take Cicero Avenue north three miles to I-55 south, exit at Route 83 north/Kingery Highway. From the West: Take I-88 east to I-355 south to I-55 north, exit Route 83 north/Kingery Highway.

Important Notice Regarding the Availability of Proxy Materials for the 2009 Annual Meeting

The SEC has adopted new e-proxy rules that require companies to post their proxy materials on the Internet and permit them to provide only a Notice of Internet Availability of Proxy Materials to shareholders. For this year's Annual Meeting Proxy Statement, we have chosen to follow the SEC's full set delivery option, and therefore, although we are posting a full set of our proxy materials on the Internet, we are also mailing a full set of our proxy materials to our shareholders.

Our Proxy Statement for the 2009 Annual Meeting and our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2008, together with the accompanying form of proxy, are available online at www.sendd.com/EZProxy/?project_id=311.

We are mailing a full set of our printed proxy materials to shareholders of record on or about May 20, 2009. On this date, all shareholders of record and beneficial owners will have the ability to access all of the proxy materials on the website referenced above. These proxy materials will be available free of charge.

If you have any questions or need assistance in submitting your proxy, voting your shares or need additional copies of this Proxy Statement or the enclosed proxy card, you should contact our transfer agent, Computershare Trust Company, N.A. at Investor Relations Department toll-free at 1-800-816-9078.

INFORMATION WITH RESPECT TO NOMINEES FOR DIRECTOR,

CONTINUING DIRECTORS AND EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

The Charter of the Company fixes the initial number of directors at seven and provides that the Board of Directors shall be divided into three classes. The Bylaws of the Company establish the initial terms of office for each class of directors and provide that directors are elected for a term of office that will expire at the third succeeding Annual Meeting of Stockholders following their election, with each director to hold office until his or her successor is duly elected and qualifies.

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At the Annual Meeting, the stockholders of the Company will be requested to elect one class of directors consisting of three directors. The Corporate Governance and Nominating Committee of the Board of Directors has recommended, and the Board of Directors has nominated, Cassandra J. Francis, Sherwin R. Koopmans and Terry R. Wells, each of whom currently serves as a director of the Company and the Bank, for election as directors in this class of directors for a term of office that will expire at the Annual Meeting of Stockholders in 2012 and until their successors are duly elected and qualify.

The proxies solicited on behalf of the Board of Directors will be voted at the Annual Meeting FOR the election of the above three nominees as directors, provided that your proxy will not be voted in favor of any nominee for which your proxy vote has been withheld. If a nominee is unable or unwilling to stand for election at the time of the Annual Meeting, the shares represented by all such proxies will be voted for the election of such replacement nominee as the Board of Directors, acting on the recommendation of the Corporate Governance and Nominating Committee, may designate. At this time, the Board of Directors knows of no reason why any of the nominees might be unable or unwilling to stand for election as a director, or to serve as a director if elected.

The table below sets forth certain information, as of April 29, 2009, regarding the members of the Board of Directors, including their years of service and terms of office. Except as indicated elsewhere in this Proxy Statement, there are no arrangements or understandings between any of the directors or nominees and any other person pursuant to which such directors or nominees were selected.

| Name | Position(s) Held in the Company | Director Since ⁽¹⁾ | Term of Class to Expire |
|-----------------------------|---|----------------------------------|----------------------------|
| NOMINEES | | | |
| Cassandra J. Francis | Director | 2006 | 2009 |
| Sherwin R. Koopmans | Director | 2003 | 2009 |
| Terry R. Wells | Director | 1994 | 2009 |
| CONTINUING DIRECTORS | | | |
| John M. Hausmann, C.P.A. | Director | 1990 | 2010 |
| Glen R. Wherfel, C.P.A. | Director | 2001 | 2010 |
| F. Morgan Gasior | Chairman of the Board, Chief Executive Officer and President | 1983 | 2011 |
| Joseph A. Schudt | Director | 1992 | 2011 |

- (1) For each director, denotes the earlier of the year the individual became a director of BankFinancial, F.S.B. or the year the individual became a director of the Company or its predecessors, BankFinancial MHC and BankFinancial Corporation, the federal corporation. Except for Glen R. Wherfel and Cassandra J. Francis, each individual has served as a director of the Company since its formation in 2004. Mr. Wherfel was appointed to the Board of Directors of the Company on May 18, 2006.

Nominees

The business experience for at least the past five years of each nominee for election to the Board of Directors is set forth below.

Cassandra J. Francis. Age 43. Ms. Francis is the Director of Olympic Village Development for the 2016 Chicago Olympic Committee. She had previously served in various management positions with U.S. Equities Development, L.L.C. since 1995 and most recently held the office of Senior Vice President. Ms. Francis is a member of the American Institute of Certified Planners and is licensed as a real estate broker in the States of Illinois and Indiana. She is also a member of the Board of Directors of the Center for Urban Real Estate at the University of Illinois at Chicago. Ms. Francis has been a director of the Company and its principal subsidiary, BankFinancial, F.S.B. (the Bank) since 2006, and is a member of the Asset Liability Management Committee of the Bank and the Human Resources Committees of the Company and the Bank.

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Sherwin R. Koopmans. Age 67. Mr. Koopmans has been actively involved in the banking industry since 1964, including service in senior management positions with the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation and the Resolution Trust Corporation. Since retiring from government service in December 1995, Mr. Koopmans has performed short-term consulting engagements on banking and deposit insurance issues for private clients, including several located in European, Asian and South American countries. Mr. Koopmans is currently retired. He was a director of Success Bancshares and its wholly-owned subsidiary, Success National Bank, from 1997 until 2001, and was the Chairman of Success Bancshares Executive Committee and Asset/Liability Management Committee and a member of its Audit Committee and Human Resources Committee. Mr. Koopmans has been a director of the Company since its formation in 2004, and of the Bank since 2004. He was a director of the Company's predecessors, BankFinancial MHC and BankFinancial Corporation, a federal corporation, from 2003 to 2005. He also served as a director of Financial Assurance Services, a subsidiary of the Bank, from 2001 to 2003. Mr. Koopmans is the Chairman of the Asset Liability Management Committee of the Bank, a member of the Human Resources Committees and Executive Committees of the Company and the Bank, and a member of the Audit Committee of the Company.

Terry R. Wells. Age 50. Mr. Wells has served as the Mayor of the Village of Phoenix, Illinois since 1993. Mr. Wells has also taught history and social studies since 1981 at the elementary and high school levels, and presently teaches U.S. History at Thornton Township High School in Harvey, Illinois. Mr. Wells serves on the Executive Committee of the South Suburban Mayors and Managers Association. He is also a member of the Board of Directors of Pace, a Division of the Regional Transportation Authority, and the Board of Trustees of South Suburban College. Mr. Wells has been a director of the Company since its formation in 2004, and of the Bank since 1994. He was a director of the Company's predecessors, BankFinancial MHC and BankFinancial Corporation, a federal corporation, from 1999 to 2005. Mr. Wells is a member of the Audit Committees and the Human Resources Committees of the Company and the Bank.

The Board of Directors recommends a vote FOR the above nominees.

Continuing Directors

The business experience for at least the past five years of each continuing member of the Board of Directors is set forth below.

F. Morgan Gasior. Age 45. Mr. Gasior has served as Chairman of the Board, Chief Executive Officer and President of the Company since its formation in 2004, and of the Bank since 1989, and as a director of the Bank since 1983. He held the same positions with the Company's predecessors, BankFinancial MHC and BankFinancial Corporation, a federal corporation, from 1999 to 2005. Mr. Gasior has been employed by the Bank in a variety of positions since 1984, and became a full-time employee in 1988 when he was appointed as Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer. Mr. Gasior serves as the Chairman of the Executive Committees of the Company and the Bank and is a member of the Asset Quality Committee of the Bank. He was also a director and officer of Financial Assurance Services from 1989 through 2003. Mr. Gasior is licensed as an attorney in the States of Illinois and Michigan, but he does not actively practice law.

John M. Hausmann, C.P.A. Age 54. Mr. Hausmann has been a self-employed certified public accountant since 1980. Prior to that time, he was an accountant with Arthur Andersen. Mr. Hausmann is a member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and the Illinois Certified Public Accountant Society. He has been a director of the Company since its formation in 2004, and of the Bank since 1990. He was a director of the Company's predecessors, BankFinancial MHC and BankFinancial Corporation, a federal corporation, from 1999 to 2005. Mr. Hausmann is the Chairman of the Audit Committees of the Company and the Bank, a member of the Executive Committees and the Human Resources Committees of the Company and the Bank, and for 2009, a member of the Corporate Governance and Nominating Committee of the Company.

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Joseph A. Schudt. Age 71. Mr. Schudt served as the Principal Partner and President of Joseph A. Schudt & Associates, a professional engineering firm based in Frankfort, Illinois, specializing in engineering design, environmental analyses and land surveying, from 1972 to 2004. Mr. Schudt currently serves as a Vice President of Joseph A. Schudt & Associates. Mr. Schudt is licensed as a professional engineer in seven states, including Illinois. He has been a director of the Company since its formation in 2004, and of the Bank since 1992. He was a director of the Company's predecessors, BankFinancial MHC and BankFinancial Corporation, a federal corporation, from 1999 to 2005. Mr. Schudt is the Chairman of the Asset Quality Committee of the Bank and of the Human Resources Committees of the Company and the Bank, a member of the Executive Committees of the Company and the Bank, and for 2009, a member of the Corporate Governance and Nominating Committee of the Company.

Glen R. Wherfel, C.P.A. Age 59. Mr. Wherfel has been a principal in the accounting firm of Wherfel & Associates since 1984. Mr. Wherfel was a director of Success National Bank from 1993 to 2001, and of Success Bancshares from 1998 to 2001. He was the Chairman of Success National Bank's Loan Committee and a member of its Asset Liability Management Committee. Mr. Wherfel has been a director of the Company since 2006, and of the Bank since 2001. Mr. Wherfel is a member of the Asset Quality Committee of the Bank and the Human Resources Committees of the Company and the Bank, and for 2009, is the Chairman and a member of the Corporate Governance and Nominating Committee of the Company.

Director Independence

The Board of Directors has determined that, except for F. Morgan Gasior, who serves as the Chairman, Chief Executive Officer and President of the Company, each of the Company's directors is independent as defined in Rule 5605(a)(2) of the listing standards of the NASDAQ Stock Market.

Executive Officers Who Are Not Directors

Set forth below is information, as of May 11, 2009, regarding the principal occupations for at least the past five years of the individuals who served as executive officers of the Company and/or the Bank during 2008 and who are not directors of the Company or the Bank. All executive officers of the Company and the Bank are elected annually by their respective Boards of Directors and serve until their successors are elected and qualify. No executive officer identified below is related to any director or other executive officer of the Company or the Bank. Except as indicated elsewhere in this Proxy Statement, there are no arrangements or understandings between any officer identified below and any other person pursuant to which any such officer was selected as an officer.

Gregg T. Adams. Age 50. Mr. Adams has served as the Executive Vice President of the Marketing and Sales Division of the Bank since 2001 and was the Senior Vice President of the Marketing and Sales Division from 2000 to 2001. Mr. Adams joined the Bank in 1986 and has served in various positions with the Bank and its former real estate subsidiary, Financial Properties, Inc., including as Vice President of Marketing Development.

James J. Brennan. Age 58. Mr. Brennan has served as the Secretary and General Counsel of the Bank since 2000 and of the Company since its formation in 2004, and held the same position with BankFinancial MHC and BankFinancial Corporation, a federal corporation, from 2000 to 2005. Mr. Brennan also serves as the Executive Vice President of the Corporate Affairs Division of the Company and the Bank. Mr. Brennan was a practicing attorney from 1975 until 2000. Prior to joining the Bank and its parent companies, he was a partner in the law firm of Barack Ferrazzano Kirschbaum & Nagelberg, Chicago, Illinois, and was the Co-Chairman of the firm's Financial Institutions Group and a member of its Management Committee. Mr. Brennan is also a director of Financial Assurance Services.

Christa N. Calabrese. Age 60. Ms. Calabrese has served as the President of the Bank's Northern Region since 2001. She served as the Chief Lending Officer of Success National Bank from 1992 until it was acquired by the Company in 2001, and during that time she held the offices of Executive Vice President and Senior Vice President. Ms. Calabrese was an Asset Specialist with the Resolution Trust Corporation from 1990 to 1992 and held commercial lending positions with several Chicago area community banks from 1969 to 1990.

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Paul A. Cloutier, C.P.A. Age 45. Mr. Cloutier has served as the Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer of the Company since its formation in 2004, of the Bank since 1991, and of BankFinancial MHC and BankFinancial Corporation, a federal corporation, from 1999 to 2005. Mr. Cloutier also serves as the Executive Vice President of the Finance Division of the Company and the Bank. He is a registered certified public accountant in the State of Michigan and is a member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants. Prior to joining the Bank and its parent companies, he was a Senior Tax Associate with Coopers & Lybrand.

Mark W. Collins. Age 58. Mr. Collins has served as the Executive Vice President of the Information Systems Division of the Bank since 2004. Mr. Collins joined the Bank on a full-time basis in 2002 and became a Vice President in the Information Systems Division in 2003. Prior to joining the Bank, Mr. Collins was employed in the Information Systems Division of Standard Federal Bank, Chicago, Illinois, and its successor, TCF Bank, from 1972 to 1998, and served as the Director of Information Systems of Standard Federal Bank from 1994 to 1997.

John G. Manos. Age 48. Mr. Manos has served as the President of the Bank's Southern Region since 2006. He has held various positions with the Bank since 1999, including Senior Vice President, Vice President and Senior Vice President of Regional Commercial Banking. Prior to joining the Bank, Mr. Manos was the Manager - Commercial Lending for Preferred Mortgage Associates.

Robert J. O' Shaughnessy. Age 70. Mr. O' Shaughnessy served as the Executive Vice President of the Operations Division and Chief Credit Officer of the Company and the Bank until his retirement on December 31, 2008. Mr. O' Shaughnessy joined the Bank as its Chief Credit Officer in 1999, and became an executive officer of the Company and its predecessors upon their formation. Mr. O' Shaughnessy began his banking career in 1964. He also held senior officer positions, including Chief Lending Officer, at several Chicago area commercial banks, and was the principal in R.J. O' Shaughnessy & Company, a consulting firm that specialized in loan review, the evaluation of credit standards and processes, and general bank consulting. Mr. O' Shaughnessy will perform consulting services for the Company through the end of 2009 pursuant to a consulting agreement, which is subject to an additional six-month extension at the option of the Company.

Patricia M. Smith Lawler. Age 46. Ms. Smith Lawler has served as the Executive Vice President of the Human Resources Division of the Company since its formation in 2004, and of the Bank since 2002, and she was the Senior Vice President of the Human Resources Division of the Bank from 2001 to 2002. Before joining the Bank, Ms. Smith Lawler held various human resources positions with Old Kent Bank, and with Heritage Bank and its successor, First Midwest Bank.

Donald F. Stelter. Age 56. Mr. Stelter has served as the Executive Vice President of the General Services Division of the Bank since 2001 and was the Senior Vice President of the General Services Division of the Bank from 2000 to 2001. Mr. Stelter held various positions with Financial Properties, Inc., a former subsidiary of the Bank, between 1987 and 2001, and served as its Senior Vice President from 1996 to 2001. Mr. Stelter is also the President of BF Asset Recovery Corporation, a special asset holding subsidiary of the Bank.

Thad F. Stewart. Age 47. Mr. Stewart has served as the Executive Vice President of the Internal Audit Division of the Company since its formation in 2004, of the Bank since 2001, and of BankFinancial MHC and BankFinancial Corporation, a federal corporation, from 2001 to 2005. He was the Senior Vice President of the Internal Audit Division of the Bank from 1997 to 2001, and of BankFinancial MHC and BankFinancial Corporation, a federal corporation, from 1999 to 2001. Prior to joining the Bank, Mr. Stewart was an internal audit officer with several Chicago area financial institutions.

Table of Contents**BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF COMMON STOCK****BY CERTAIN BENEFICIAL OWNERS AND MANAGEMENT**

The following table sets forth, as of May 11, 2009, certain information as to the beneficial ownership of shares of the Company's common stock by: (i) those persons or entities known by the Company to beneficially own more than 5% of the Company's outstanding shares of common stock; (ii) each director and nominee for election as director; (iii) each named executive officer of the Company; and (iv) all directors and executive officers of the Company and the Bank as a group. The address for each individual listed below is: care of BankFinancial Corporation, 15W060 North Frontage Road, Burr Ridge, Illinois 60527. An asterisk denotes beneficial ownership of less than one percent.

| Name and Address of Beneficial Owners | Amount of Shares Owned and Nature of Beneficial Ownership ^{(1) (2)} | Percent of Shares of Common Stock Outstanding |
|--|--|---|
| Wellington Management Company, LLP | | |
| 75 State Street | | |
| Boston, Massachusetts 02109 | 2,154,109 ₍₃₎ | 10.05% |
| BankFinancial, F.S.B. | | |
| Employee Stock Ownership Plan Trust | | |
| 2321 Kochs Lane | | |
| Quincy, Illinois 62305 | 1,949,327 ₍₃₎ | 9.09 |
| Keeley Asset Management Corp. | | |
| 401 South LaSalle Street | | |
| Chicago, Illinois 60605 | 1,956,700 ₍₃₎ | 9.13 |
| Dimensional Fund Advisors LP | | |
| 6300 Bee Cave Road | | |
| Austin, Texas 78746 | 1,657,025 ₍₃₎ | 7.73 |
| Directors and Nominees | | |
| Cassandra J. Francis | 57,764 | * |
| Sherwin R. Koopmans | 103,464 | * |
| Terry R. Wells | 104,864 | * |
| John M. Hausmann | 118,504 | * |
| F. Morgan Gasior | 511,536 | 2.39 |
| Joseph A. Schudt | 153,127 | * |
| Glen R. Wherfel | 107,564 | * |
| Named Executive Officers (other than Mr. Gasior): | | |
| James J. Brennan | 289,417 | 1.35 |
| Paul A. Cloutier | 238,448 ₍₄₎ | 1.11 |
| Robert J. O' Shaughnessy (Retired 12/31/08) | 309,647 | 1.44 |
| Christa N. Calabrese | 138,262 | * |
| All Directors and Executive Officers (including | 2,858,996 | 13.34% |

Named Executive Officers) as a Group (18 persons)

Footnotes on following page.

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- (1) The information reflected in this column is based upon information furnished to us by the persons named above and the information contained in the records of our stock transfer agent. The nature of beneficial ownership for shares shown in this column, unless otherwise noted, represents sole voting and investment power and includes shares of common stock issuable upon the exercise of options that are exercisable currently or within 60 days of May 11, 2009.
- (2) With respect to the directors and executive officers, includes shares held directly, in retirement accounts, in a fiduciary capacity or by certain affiliated entities or members of the named individuals' families, with respect to which shares the named individuals and group may be deemed to have sole or shared voting and/or dispositive powers. Also reflects the holdings of shares of certain of the executive officers through their accounts under our 401(k) and ESOP. In addition, includes shares subject to options which are currently exercisable or which will become exercisable within 60 days of May 11, 2009, as follows: Ms. Francis 45,264, Mr. Koopmans 55,464, Mr. Wells 57,864, Mr. Hausmann 62,664, Mr. Gasior 250,000, Mr. Schudt 62,664, Mr. Wherfel 53,664, Mr. Brennan 131,667, Mr. Cloutier 114,000, Mr. O Shaughnessy 173,000, Ms. Calabrese 100,001 and all directors and executive officers as a group 1,477,128 shares.
- (3) Amount of shares owned and reported on the most recent Schedule 13G filings with the SEC, reporting ownership as of December 31, 2008.
- (4) Mr. Cloutier's holdings include 110,000 shares of Common Stock subject to pledge.

Section 16(a) Beneficial Ownership Reporting Compliance

The Company's executive officers and directors, and beneficial owners of greater than 10% of the outstanding shares of the Company's common stock, are required to file reports with the Securities and Exchange Commission disclosing beneficial ownership and changes in beneficial ownership of the Company's common stock. Securities and Exchange Commission rules require disclosure if an executive officer, director or 10% beneficial owner fails to file these reports on a timely basis. Based on the Company's review of ownership reports required to be filed for the year ended December 31, 2008, no executive officer, director or 10% beneficial owner of shares of the Company's common stock failed to file any required ownership report on a timely basis, except that Mr. Donald Stelter, Executive Vice President of the General Services Division of the Bank, filed a Form 4 covering involuntary sales transactions that occurred on a single day after the two-business day filing deadline.

CODE OF ETHICS

The Company has adopted a Code of Ethics for Senior Financial Officers that applies to the Company's principal executive officer, principal financial officer, principal accounting officer, and persons performing similar functions. A copy of the Company's Code of Ethics was previously filed as Exhibit 14 to the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2005. The Company has also adopted a Code of Business Conduct, pursuant to the listing standards of the NASDAQ Stock Market, that applies generally to the Company's directors, officers, and employees. The Code of Ethics for Senior Financial Officers and the Code of Business Conduct have been reviewed annually by the Board of Directors since the time of their adoption and the reviews have not resulted in any revisions.

BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS, POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Meetings and Committees of the Board of Directors

Board of Directors and Committees. The business of the Company is conducted at regular and special meetings of the Board of Directors and its committees. In addition, the independent members of the Board of Directors, as defined in Rule 5605(a)(2) of the listing standards of the NASDAQ Stock Market, meet in executive sessions. The standing committees of the Board of Directors of the Company are the Executive, Audit, Corporate Governance and Nominating, and Human Resources Committees. During the year ended December 31, 2008, the Board of Directors of the Company held 12 regular and two special meetings. No member of the Board of Directors or any Board committee attended less than 75% of these meetings.

Executive Committee. The Executive Committee is authorized to act with the same authority as the Board of Directors between meetings of the Board of Directors, subject to certain limitations contained in the Bylaws of the Company. Messrs. Gasior (Chairman), Hausmann, Koopmans and Schudt serve as members of the Executive Committee of both the Company and the Bank. During the year ended December 31, 2008, the Executive Committee of the Company met concurrently with the Executive and Asset Quality Committees of the Bank at four meetings.

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Audit Committee. The Board of Directors has adopted a written charter for the Audit Committee, which is attached as Appendix A to this Proxy Statement. As more fully described in the Audit Committee Charter, the Audit Committee reviews the records and affairs of the Company to determine its financial condition, reviews with management and the Company's independent registered public accounting firm the systems of internal control over financial reporting, and monitors adherence in accounting and financial reporting to accounting principles generally accepted in the United States. Messrs. Hausmann (Chairman), Wells and Koopmans serve as members of the Audit Committee and each is an independent director as defined in Rule 5605(a)(2) of the listing standards of the NASDAQ Stock Market and Rule 10A-3 of the Securities and Exchange Commission. The Board of Directors has determined that Messrs. Hausmann and Koopmans both qualify as an audit committee financial expert as currently defined in the regulations of the Securities and Exchange Commission. During the year ended December 31, 2008, the Audit Committee of the Company met concurrently with the Audit Committee of the Bank at six meetings.

Corporate Governance and Nominating Committee. The Board of Directors has adopted a written charter for the Corporate Governance and Nominating Committee, which is attached as Appendix B to this Proxy Statement. The Corporate Governance and Nominating Committee consists, at any point in time, of all of the directors of the Company who qualify as independent in accordance with the listing standards of the NASDAQ Stock Market, except that no director may serve on the Corporate Governance and Nominating Committee at any meeting at which he or she has been or is seeking to be proposed as a nominee. The full Board of Directors, other than Mr. Gasior, serves as the Corporate Governance and Nominating Committee to fill vacancies on the Board. At December 31, 2008, Messrs. Wherfel (Chairman), Hausmann and Schudt qualified for membership on the Corporate Governance and Nominating Committee with respect to matters involving the 2009 Annual Meeting. During the year ended December 31, 2008, the Corporate Governance and Nominating Committee of the Company met once.

The Corporate Governance and Nominating Committee identifies nominees by first evaluating the current members of the Board of Directors who are willing to continue in service. Current members of the Board of Directors with skills and experience that are relevant to the Company's business and who are willing to continue in service are considered for re-nomination, balancing the value of continuity of service by existing members of the Board of Directors with that of obtaining a new perspective. If vacancies on the Board of Directors arise, or if a current director is not nominated for re-election, the Corporate Governance and Nominating Committee will determine the skills and experience desired of a new nominee, solicit suggestions for director candidates from all members of the Board of Directors, and may engage in other search activities. During the year ended December 31, 2008, the Company did not pay a fee to any third party to identify or evaluate, or assist in identifying or evaluating, potential nominees for director.

Candidates for a directorship should possess specific attributes, including integrity and a devotion to ethical behavior, a primary interest in the well-being of the Company, a capacity for independent judgment, good business acumen, the capacity to protect confidential information, an ability to work as a member of a team and a willingness to evaluate other opinions or points of view. In addition to examining a candidate's qualifications in light of the above attributes, the Corporate Governance and Nominating Committee would also consider the overall character of the candidate and any existing or potential conflict of interest, the candidate's willingness to serve and ability to devote the time and effort required, the candidate's record of leadership, and the ability to develop business for the Company and its subsidiaries.

The Company's Bylaws also establish specific qualifications for directors, and provide that no person who is more than 75 years of age shall be eligible for election to the Board of Directors, and that each director must be a stockholder of the Company.

The Corporate Governance and Nominating Committee may consider qualified candidates for director suggested by the stockholders of the Company. Stockholders may suggest a qualified candidate for director by writing to BankFinancial Corporation at 15W060 North Frontage Road, Burr Ridge, Illinois 60527, Attention: James J. Brennan, Secretary, and providing the information described above concerning the suggested candidate. A suggestion made to the Company's Secretary concerning a potential candidate for a directorship will not constitute a nomination of the suggested candidate for election as a director. All nominations of candidates for election as a director must strictly comply with the applicable requirements and time limits summarized below in Advance Notice of Business to be Conducted at an Annual Meeting.

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Human Resources Committee. The Board of Directors has adopted a written charter for the Human Resources Committee, which is attached as Appendix C to this Proxy Statement. The Human Resources Committee reviews and approves executive compensation, benefit plans, incentive compensation plans and employment agreements, and makes recommendations with respect to those matters to the Board of Directors. Messrs. Schudt (Chairman), Hausmann, Koopmans, Wells and Wherfel and Ms. Francis serve as members of the Human Resources Committee. Each member of the Human Resources Committee is independent as defined in Rule 5605(a)(2) of the listing standards of the NASDAQ Stock Market. The Human Resources Committee of the Company met five times during the year ended December 31, 2008. Because the Human Resources Committee consists of all Directors other than Mr. Gasior, four of these meetings consisted of executive sessions held outside the presence of management at the conclusion of regular or special Board of Director s meetings to discuss compensation, performance and employment related matters.

AUDIT COMMITTEE REPORT

In accordance with the applicable rules of the Securities and Exchange Commission, the Audit Committee has prepared the following report for inclusion in this Proxy Statement:

As part of its ongoing activities, the Audit Committee has:

Reviewed and discussed with management the Company s audited consolidated financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2008;

Discussed with the Company s independent registered public accounting firm the matters required to be discussed by Statement on Auditing Standards No. 61, Communication with Audit Committees, as amended; and

Received the written disclosures and the letter from the independent registered public accounting firm required by applicable requirements of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board regarding the firm s communications with the Audit Committee concerning independence, and has discussed with the independent registered public accounting firm their independence.

Based on the review and discussions referred to above, the Audit Committee recommended to the Board of Directors that the audited consolidated financial statements be included in the Company s Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2008 for filing with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

This report has been provided and is respectfully submitted by the Audit Committee:

John M. Hausmann, C.P.A.

Terry R. Wells

Sherwin R. Koopmans

Compensation Committee Interlocks and Insider Participation

Mr. F. Morgan Gasior is the only director of the Company and the Bank who is also an executive officer of the Company and/or the Bank. Mr. Gasior does not participate in the decisions of the Boards of Directors of the Company or the Bank or their respective Human Resources Committees concerning his compensation. No executive officer of the Company or the Bank has served on the Board of Directors or on the compensation committee of any other entity that had an executive officer serving on the Company s Board of Directors or Human Resources Committee.

COMPENSATION DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

Introduction

This Compensation Discussion and Analysis describes the Company s compensation philosophy and policies for 2008 as applicable to the executive officers named in the Summary Compensation Table. This section explains the structure and rationale associated with each material element of the named executive officers compensation, and

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it provides context for the more detailed disclosure tables and specific compensation amounts provided in the following section. It is important to note that the Company and the Bank share an executive management team, and except for awards made pursuant to the Company's 2006 Equity Incentive Plan (the 2006 EIP), the members of the executive management team are compensated by the Bank rather than the Company and the Company reimburses the Bank for their services to the Company through inter-company expense allocations. The compensation packages of the named executive officers are determined and approved by the Human Resources Committee based upon each officer's performance and roles for both the Company and the Bank.

Role of the Human Resources Committee of the Board of Directors

Pursuant to its Charter, the Human Resources Committee is directly responsible for the execution of the Board of Directors' responsibilities with respect to compensation, performance evaluation and succession planning for the Company's Chief Executive Officer and other named executive officers. The Human Resources Committee is also responsible for the submission of an annual report on executive compensation to the Board of Directors for inclusion in the Company's annual Proxy Statement. During 2008, the Human Resources Committee was comprised of Messrs. Schudt (Chairman), Hausmann, Koopmans, Wells and Wherfel and Ms. Francis, each of whom is expected to serve on the committee through June 30, 2009. Each of the members is considered independent according to the listing standards of the NASDAQ Stock Market, an outside director pursuant to Section 162(m) of the Internal Revenue Code, and a non-employee director under Section 16 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934.

Compensation Philosophy and Objectives

The overall objective of the Company's compensation program is to align executive officer compensation with the success of meeting strategic, financial and management objectives and goals. The programs are designed to create meaningful and appropriate incentives to manage the business of the Company and the Bank successfully and to align executive officers' interests with those of the stockholders of the Company. The program is structured to accomplish the following:

encourage a consistent and competitive return to stockholders over the long-term, as the Company continues to deploy the capital raised in its 2005 initial public offering;

maintain a corporate environment that encourages stability and a long-term focus for the primary constituencies of the Company, including employees, stockholders, communities, clients and government regulatory agencies;

maintain a program that:

clearly motivates personnel to perform and succeed according to the current goals of the Company;

provides management with the appropriate empowerment to make decisions that benefit the primary constituents;

attracts and retains key personnel critical to the long-term success of the Company;

provides for management succession planning and related considerations;

encourages increased productivity; and

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provides for subjective consideration in determining incentive and compensation components; and

ensure that management:

fulfills its oversight responsibility to its primary constituents;

conforms its business conduct to the Company's established ethical standards;

remains free from any influences that could impair or appear to impair the objectivity and impartiality of its judgments or treatment of the constituents of the Company; and

avoids any conflict between its responsibilities to the Company and each executive officer's personal interests.

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Compensation Principles and Factors

Business Plan Objectives. The Boards of Directors of the Company and the Bank periodically conduct a review of current and anticipated business conditions in the context of the Company's and the Bank's financial and competitive position. The review period typically includes at least the previous two fiscal years and up to five years prospectively. In connection with this review, management submits a business plan to the Boards of Directors of the Company and the Bank that proposes strategic, financial and management objectives for the period covered, using multiple scenarios in response to a variety of stated assumptions. The Boards of Directors then evaluate the proposed business plan, and modify its provisions to the extent they deem appropriate. The business plan is updated by management and the Boards of Directors periodically throughout the year to respond to changing circumstances and conditions. The business plan provides a basis for evaluating the future progress of the organization, including all appropriate strategic alternatives, and management's performance pursuant to the Human Resources Committee's Charter.

For 2008, the Human Resources Committee considered the Company's and the Bank's performance within the context of the 2008 business plan and management's overall performance, weighing numerous factors within and outside of management's control.

Corporate Performance and Peer Comparison. In establishing named executive officer compensation, the Human Resources Committee periodically evaluates the Company's and the Bank's performance compared to management's and the Board of Directors' overall goals and business plan objectives as well as to other financial institutions. The Human Resources Committee believes that using the Company's and the Bank's performance as a factor in determining named executive officer compensation levels is a useful tool for aligning the executive officers' interests with those of the stockholders of the Company. With that in mind, the Human Resources Committee focuses on the Company's and the Bank's overall performance relative to the prior calendar year and also considers the performance of local competitors. As part of the evaluation and review, the Human Resources Committee also takes into account the manner in which various subjective issues, such as competition and general economic conditions, including the financial markets and economic crises that affected the global and national economies in 2008, may have affected performance.

For purposes of comparative analysis in assessing performance, the Company generally considers commercial banks and savings institutions of similar asset size. The group of comparative institutions used in 2008 generally, but not exclusively, included local financial institutions with total assets of \$1 billion to \$10 billion. Given the ever-changing landscape within the banking industry, there is no specifically defined group of companies that is utilized for this analysis. The local financial institutions that were considered in 2008 included: Midwest Banc Holdings, Inc. (MBHI), Taylor Capital Group, Inc. (TAYC), First Midwest Bancorp, Inc. (FMBI), Amcore Financial, Inc. (AMFI), MB Financial, Inc. (MBFI), Wintrust Financial Corporation (WTFC), Privatebancorp Inc. (PVTB), CFS Bancorp, Inc. (CITZ) and Corus Bankshares, Inc. (CORS).

The Human Resources Committee believes that peer comparison is a useful tool for staying competitive in the marketplace and attracting and retaining qualified executives. While the Human Resources Committee believes that it is prudent to consider peer comparison in determining compensation practices, it does not set empirical parameters or benchmarks for using this data. Rather, the Human Resources Committee uses peer comparison data to ensure that executive compensation is reasonable relative to competing organizations.

Performance Reviews and Role of Executives in Committee Meetings. Management reports to the Board of Directors at least annually on its progress in achieving the strategic, financial and management objectives established by the business plan. The Board of Directors then considers the overall performance of the Company and its named executive officers in the context of these objectives, weighing numerous factors and conditions within and outside of management's control. Following this review, the Human Resources Committee reviews current and proposed compensation levels for the Chief Executive Officer and the other named executive officers. The Human Resources Committee relies in part upon the Chief Executive Officer's self-assessment as well as his assessment of each named executive officer's individual performance, which considers each named executive officer's achievements of his or her individual goals each year. However, the Board of Directors and Human Resources Committee exclude the Chief Executive Officer and all other named executive officers from their discussions and formal meetings concerning named executive officer compensation, except to receive the results of the decisions made by the Human Resources Committee or the Board of Directors and other relevant information.

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Information Resources and Role of Compensation Consultants. In reviewing current and proposed compensation levels for named executive officers, the Human Resources Committee considers the organizational structure and composition of the Company and the Bank, external information from public sources on peer and competitor compensation practices and levels and other information it deems relevant to its responsibilities. In 2006, the Human Resources Committee engaged Frederic W. Cook & Co. to assess the structure and reasonableness of the Company's executive compensation program, which incorporates cash incentive and equity incentive components. The Human Resources Committee continued to have access to its own outside counsel and compensation consultant during 2007 and 2008. The Human Resources Committee engaged Frederic W. Cook & Co. to assist in the preparation of the compensation aspects of reports filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission and to be available for consultations with outside counsel to the Human Resources Committee, but did not engage an independent compensation consultant for any other specific purpose in the 2007 and 2008 review process because it believed it had sufficient information from external, independent public sources to execute its responsibilities.

Components of Executive Compensation

General. All named executive officers of the Company, including the Chief Executive Officer, are currently executive officers of the Bank. On May 19, 2006, the Company adopted the 2006 EIP, and it was subsequently approved by the Company's stockholders at the 2006 annual meeting. Except for awards made pursuant to the 2006 EIP, the Company does not separately compensate its named executive officers. The compensation that the Bank pays to its named executive officers, however, is taken into account in establishing the inter-company expense allocations that the Company pays to the Bank. In connection with the mutual-to-stock conversion, the Bank also established a tax-qualified employee stock ownership plan (ESOP), and named executive officers are eligible to participate in the ESOP subject to vesting and other requirements and limitations applicable to all participants generally.

Base Salary. Generally, base salary levels are established based on job descriptions and responsibilities, either temporary or permanent in nature (including any revisions or proposed revisions thereto), competitive conditions and general economic trends in the context of the Bank's financial and franchise condition, and performance.

In 2009, the base salaries for the named executive officers, other than Robert J. O' Shaughnessy, who retired at the end of 2008, increased by an amount equal to the increase in the 12-month Consumer Price Index as reported by the U.S. Treasury Department in October 2008 (this index was generally used throughout the Company for cost-of-living adjustments to base compensation).

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| Name | Position | 2008 Base Salary ⁽¹⁾ | 2009 Base Salary ⁽¹⁾ | Percentage Change from 2008 to 2009 |
|-------------------------|---|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| F. Morgan Gasior | Chairman of the Board, Chief Executive Officer and President | \$ 395,906 | \$ 405,804 | 2.5% |
| Paul A. Cloutier | Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer | \$ 252,728 | \$ 259,046 | 2.5% |
| James J. Brennan | Executive Vice President, Corporate Secretary and General Counsel | \$ 302,409 | \$ 309,969 | 2.5% |
| Robert J. O Shaughnessy | Executive Vice President and Chief Credit Officer | \$ 258,154 | \$ 0 | N/A |
| (Retired 12/31/08) | Chief Credit Officer | \$ 258,154 | \$ 0 | N/A |
| Christa N. Calabrese | Regional President | \$ 221,275 | \$ 226,807 | 2.5% |

(1) Base salary is effective as of March 17 for 2008 and March 16 for 2009.

Annual Cash Incentive Compensation. Annual cash incentive compensation reflects the relative achievement of the strategic, financial and management objectives established by the business plan, management's responses to unforeseen circumstances or conditions that materially differ from those originally assumed, and the individual goals established for each named executive officer. Annual cash incentive compensation is generally established as a range of possible awards based on a percentage of base salary. Other factors considered in establishing annual cash incentive compensation include recent changes or proposed changes to base salary or other compensation elements, as well as competitive considerations.

In general, the Company's business plan assumptions include a total annual cash incentive compensation pool between 10% and 20% of base salary for named executive officers, including the Chief Executive Officer. Absent extraordinary circumstances, annual cash incentive compensation typically will not exceed 20% of an executive officer's base salary. Provided that, if and as applicable, the Company's overall financial performance was generally consistent with the overall projected business plan results (taking into consideration factors both within and outside of the Company's control), the annual performance review process results in an award based on whether the named executive officer met, fell below or exceeded expectations for the individual goals applicable to the named executive officer. The Company does not use an empirical mathematical formula to determine the amount of the actual annual cash incentive compensation for named executive officers. The individual goals applicable to each named executive officer are discussed in Conclusions for the Year Ended December 31, 2008.

Equity-Based Compensation. The 2006 EIP established a mechanism by which awards of restricted stock or stock options could be utilized to further align the financial interests of employees, including the named executive officers, with stockholders and, in the future, provide an additional means to attract, retain and reward individuals who contribute to the success of the Company. The Human Resources Committee established share ownership guidelines (as described below) for the named executive officers and other executive officers. The Human Resources Committee also considers the significant financial investment required of a participant who retains shares granted under the 2006 EIP because such participant must pay current income tax obligations with respect to such shares without having the benefit of selling the shares to generate cash proceeds sufficient to pay such tax liability. In addition, consistent with the purpose of aligning management financial interests with stockholder interests, the Human Resources Committee delegated to the Chief Executive Officer the authority to make grants pursuant to and established a framework for the Chief Executive Officer's implementation of the 2006 EIP for individuals other than the executive officers of the Company or the Bank. In general, the delegated authority of the Chief Executive Officer is limited to grants to an aggregate of 120,000 restricted shares and 360,000 stock options, and to a maximum per individual of 10,000 restricted shares and 25,000 stock options.

The Human Resources Committee granted long-term equity-based compensation awards (consisting of both restricted stock and stock options) to its named executive officers in 2006, and a stock option award to one named executive officer in 2008 based on work performed in 2007 in connection with the U.S. Mortgage bankruptcy

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resolution and enhancements made to the Bank's internal compliance programs. In addition, the Human Resources Committee determined that, subject to certain limits and restrictions designed to preserve the Company's future flexibility, it was appropriate to provide certain officers the ability to elect to receive stock option awards in lieu of the cash incentive compensation that was awarded in 2008 based on 2007 performance, provided that the GAAP expense to the Company was effectively constant, prior to any market risk adjustments. The incentive compensation paid to named executive officers in 2009 based on their 2008 performance did not include any equity based compensation, and because of the limited number of stock options that remain available under the 2006 EIP, the named executive officers were not offered the ability to elect to receive stock option awards in lieu of their cash incentive compensation. The Human Resources Committee believes that the establishment of equity-based compensation programs has been an important tool for the retention and attraction of qualified management talent.

Share Ownership Guidelines. In the absence of difficult personal circumstances, the Human Resources Committee encourages the Chief Executive Officer and the other named executive officers of the Company to acquire with their own funds and hold a position in Company shares equal to 100% of the executive's three-year average annual cash compensation. At December 31, 2008, all but one of the Company's named executive officers met all elements of the Human Resources Committee's share ownership guidelines.

401(k) Plan. The Company has a tax-qualified defined contribution retirement plan covering all of its eligible employees. Employees are eligible to participate in the plan after attainment of age 21 and completion of six months of service. Prior to April 1, 2007, the Company matched employee contributions up to 5% of an employee's wages. The Company could also contribute an additional amount annually at the discretion of the Board of Directors. Effective April 1, 2007, the Board of Directors amended the match component of the plan to provide a fixed match in the amount of 50% of the first 6% of compensation deferred under the plan. The Board of Directors amended the match formula after considering the significant benefit provided to all eligible employees under the Bank's ESOP. Contributions totaling \$442,000 were made to the 401(k) plan for 2008.

Employee Stock Ownership Plan and Trust. The Bank implemented the ESOP in connection with the mutual-to-stock conversion, effective as of January 1, 2004. Employees are eligible to participate in the ESOP after the attainment of age 21 and completion of at least one year of employment. As part of the mutual-to-stock conversion, the ESOP trust borrowed funds from the Company and used those funds to purchase 1,957,300 shares of common stock. The shares of common stock purchased by the ESOP are the collateral for the loan. The loan will be repaid principally from the Bank through discretionary contributions to the ESOP over a period of up to 20 years. The loan documents provide that the loan may be repaid over a shorter period, without penalty for prepayments. The interest rate for the loan equals the prime rate plus 100 basis points, adjustable every five years. Shares purchased by the ESOP are held in a suspense account for allocation among participants as the loan is repaid. The Company does not have any equity compensation program that was not approved by its stockholders, other than its ESOP.

Contributions to the ESOP, and shares released from the suspense account in an amount proportional to the repayment of the ESOP loan, are allocated among ESOP participants on the basis of compensation in the year of allocation. Benefits under the plan become fully vested upon completion of five years of credited service, with credit given to participants for years of credited service with the Bank prior to the adoption of the plan. A participant's interest in his or her account under the plan also fully vests in the event of termination of service due to a participant's early or normal retirement, death, disability, or upon a change of control (as defined in the plan). Vested benefits are payable in the form of shares of common stock and/or cash. Any unvested benefits will be forfeited upon termination of employment in accordance with the terms of the ESOP. Such forfeited amounts remain in the ESOP and are reallocated to remaining participants in accordance with the terms of the ESOP. The Bank's contributions to the ESOP are discretionary, subject to the loan terms and tax law limits. The ESOP will terminate in the event of a change of control (as defined in the plan).

All Other Compensation and Perquisites. The Human Resources Committee reviews and monitors the level of other compensation and perquisites offered to the named executive officers in the context of current business operations and general market practices.

In addition to participation in the standard life and disability insurance benefits available to all full-time employees, the Company has historically requested the insurable named executive officers to obtain additional life, accidental death and disability insurance coverage in an amount equal to the death benefit payable under their

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respective employment agreements. In the event of the death or disability of one of the participants, the obligations of the Bank or the Company, if any, under their respective employment agreements would be reduced on a dollar-for-dollar basis by the insurance proceeds received by the executive officer or the named beneficiary under the insurance policy. In exchange, the Bank reimbursed the participant for the after-tax cost of the annual insurance premium for the additional coverage. The Bank's 2007 purchase of bank-owned life insurance insuring the lives of certain officers, including the named executive officers, enabled the Bank to immediately eliminate all but one separate life insurance policy, and the remaining policy was eliminated effective January 1, 2009.

Excluding the effects of the Bank's contributions for the health, vacation, 401(k) and ESOP benefits available to all full-time employees and the Bank's reimbursement of the after-tax premium costs for additional life and disability insurance coverages, the Human Resources Committee generally believes that other compensation and perquisites should not exceed 10% of each named executive officer's total annual cash compensation. The Company's perquisite policy was amended in 2007 to reflect this limitation. As of December 31, 2008, the Company's compensation practices with respect to other compensation and perquisites met this standard.

Conclusions for Year Ended December 31, 2008

Executive Summary. The following is a brief summary of the compensation decisions the Human Resources Committee made with respect to the named executive officers for 2008 and 2009:

base salaries for the named executive officers, other than the Chief Executive Officer, increased by 2.3% for 2008, and for 2009, increased for all named executive officers other than Mr. O'Shaughnessy, who retired on December 31, 2008, by 2.5%;

aggregate annual cash incentive payments to the named executive officers for 2008 decreased modestly from the aggregate annual cash incentives paid for 2007; and

other benefits and perquisites declined modestly.

Review of Chief Executive Officer. The Human Resources Committee met outside the presence of management to review the Chief Executive Officer's performance in the context of the approved business plan and the extent to which established strategic, financial and management objectives were realized during the previous calendar year. The Human Resources Committee also evaluated the overall state of the Company's franchise and strategic position, capabilities and direction consistent with the Chief Executive Officer's execution of his leadership and planning responsibilities.

The Human Resources Committee reported that, at a meeting attended solely by committee members, it had reviewed and evaluated the self-assessment and other information provided by the Chief Executive Officer and other factors for the purpose of establishing the Chief Executive Officer's 2008 incentive compensation. The review encompassed five specific performance areas—core earnings per share, internal controls, asset quality, marketing and business development, and leadership and planning. The Chief Executive Officer's performance was rated in each category based on whether the Chief Executive Officer's performance met, fell below or exceeded the expectations of the Board of Directors. Each category was assigned a weighting that represented a percentage of the overall composite rating. The Human Resources Committee determined that, on a composite basis, the Chief Executive Officer generally performed near the mid-point of the Board of Directors' expectations in 2008. The Human Resources Committee noted specifically that management responded appropriately to interest rate, economic and competitive conditions, particularly with respect to liquidity management and U.S. Government support evaluations. The Human Resources Committee determined that the Chief Executive Officer exceeded the Board of Directors' expectations with respect to internal controls, and met the Board of Directors' expectations with respect to leadership and planning, asset quality, and marketing and business development. The Human Resources Committee further noted that the Company's earnings per share and core earnings per share had not met the Board of Directors' expectations. In evaluating the comparative data, the Human Resources Committee considered the Company's performance during the prior calendar year to be more relevant than business plan targets due to the financial markets and economic crises that affected the global and national economies in 2008.

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The table below summarizes the findings of the Human Resources Committee with respect to the Chief Executive Officer.

| COMPONENT | Weight | 2008 Performance | 2008 Percentage |
|---|-------------|---------------------|-----------------------------|
| Core Earnings Per Share ⁽¹⁾ | 25% | Below | % |
| Internal Controls | 25 | Exceeded | 20.0 |
| Asset Quality | 25 | Met | 15.0 |
| Marketing & Business Development ⁽³⁾ | 15 | Met | 15.0 |
| Leadership & Planning | 10 | Met | 15.0 |
| Composite | 100% | Satisfactory | 12.5% ⁽²⁾ |

| CATEGORY | 2007 Performance | 2008 Performance | Plan |
|---|---------------------|---------------------|---------|
| (dollars in thousands, except for per share data) | | | |
| Earnings Per Share | | | |
| Earnings (Loss) Per Share | \$ 0.35 | \$ (0.98) | \$ 0.32 |
| Core Earnings Per Share ⁽¹⁾ | \$ 0.59 | \$ 0.23 | \$ 0.50 |
| Internal Controls | | | |
| No Significant or Material Deficiencies | | | |
| Asset Quality | | | |
| Non-Performing Assets (NPA) | \$ 12,878 | \$ 14,613 | |
| NPA to Total Assets | 0.87% | 0.94% | |
| Marketing & Business Development⁽³⁾ | | | |
| Deposit Bal. > \$100,000 | \$ 417,579 | \$ 376,020 | |
| Deposit Bal. < \$100,000 | \$ 655,835 | \$ 643,343 | |

(1) Core earnings per share represents earnings per share adjusted for the after-tax effect of equity-based compensation, the amortization of intangible expenses, VISA settlement expense, gain on VISA stock and loss on impairments.

(2) Represents the percentage of base salary awarded as cash incentive compensation.

(3) Excludes wholesale and internal deposit accounts.

Based on the foregoing, the Human Resources Committee concluded that the Chief Executive Officer should receive a cash incentive compensation award for 2008 of \$49,488. This represents 12.5% of the Chief Executive Officer's 2008 base salary, compared to a 2007 incentive compensation award of \$60,000 that represented 15.2% of the Chief Executive Officer's 2007 base salary. The Human Resources Committee also noted that it would continue and/or resume, as applicable, the standard increase to base compensation based on a cost-of-living index for all named executive officers, including the Chief Executive Officer. The members of the Human Resources Committee, acting in their capacity as the Company's Board of Directors, and with Mr. Gasior not participating, then ratified the actions of the Human Resource Committee with respect to the Chief Executive Officer.

Review of Other Named Executive Officers. The Human Resources Committee met outside the presence of management to review the performance of the other named executive officers of the Company. The Human Resources Committee noted that the Chief Executive Officer had submitted assessments of the performance of the other named executive officers of the Company to the Human Resources Committee, together with current and proposed base salary and cash incentive compensation recommendations. The assessments addressed the following specific performance areas and whether each individual met, fell below or exceeded expectations in the applicable performance area:

(i) Mr. Cloutier oversight of financial reporting/budgeting functional reviews and

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improvements, liquidity and interest rate risk management and analysis of merger and acquisition activities; (ii) Mr. Brennan oversight of regulatory compliance and legal affairs, and coordination and supervision of merger and acquisition activities; (iii) Mr. O Shaughnessy oversight of residential, consumer and commercial loan origination, portfolio management and servicing (including merchant processing operations), implementation of deposit servicing technology initiatives and planning and conducting of merger and acquisition due diligence and integrations; and (iv) Ms. Calabrese development of new commercial customers, enhancement of cross-selling of existing customers, coordination and participation in loan portfolio risk management activities, and conduct of merger and acquisition due diligence and integration activities and planning. None of the assessments utilized a pre-determined empirical mathematical formula. The Human Resources Committee reviewed and evaluated the information provided by the Chief Executive Officer. Because the members of the Board of Directors have had considerable interaction with the Company's other named executive officers throughout the year, the Human Resources Committee determined that it had a strong basis to make an evaluation of the executive officers independent of the Chief Executive Officer's conclusions and recommendations. The Human Resources Committee determined that the Chief Executive Officer's conclusions and recommendations were appropriate, and approved the recommended cash incentive compensation awards to the other named executive officers. The members of the Human Resources Committee, acting in their capacity as the Company's Board of Directors, and with Mr. Gasior not participating, then ratified the actions of the Human Resources Committee with respect to the other named executive officers.

Reasonableness of Compensation

After considering all components of the compensation program for the named executive officers, the Human Resources Committee has determined that such compensation is reasonable and appropriate.

In making this determination, the Human Resources Committee considered many factors, including the following:

management has positioned the Company for future success through the planning and execution of the strategic, financial and management objectives of the Company's business plan;

the Company is increasingly well positioned in the communities it serves as a result of management's focus and execution of the Company's community bank mission;

management responded appropriately to interest rate, economic and competitive conditions in 2008, resulting in a relatively consistent performance compared to 2007; and

the Company's asset quality, liquidity and interest rate risk metrics were consistent in 2008, measured independently and on a comparative basis.

Tax and Accounting Treatment

Section 162(m) of the Internal Revenue Code. Section 162(m) of the Internal Revenue Code limits the tax deduction to \$1 million for compensation paid to certain executive officers of public companies. The limitations on the deductibility of executive compensation imposed under Section 162(m) did not affect the Company during 2008 because the compensation paid to the Company's executive officers in 2008 did not exceed these limitations. The 2006 EIP provides the Human Resources Committee with flexibility to address issues that may arise under Section 162(m), and contains provisions that could be utilized to reduce its potential adverse effects.

Code Section 409A. The Human Resources Committee has monitored regulatory developments under Section 409A of the Internal Revenue Code, which was enacted as part of the American Jobs Creation Act of 2004 and deals with specific tax rules for non-qualified deferred compensation plans. The Company revised certain provisions in its employment agreements with the Chief Executive Officer, the other named executive officers and certain other officers to address Section 409A and the final Treasury Regulations under Section 409A, which were issued on April 10, 2007. The 2006 EIP provides the Human Resources Committee with flexibility to address issues that may arise under Section 409A, and contains provisions that could be utilized to reduce its potential adverse effects.

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Other Taxation Issues. The Human Resources Committee believes that, as the Company's compensation structures become more complex, the effects of the alternative minimum tax and other taxation issues could affect the net intended effect of the Company's compensation plans. Although no specific action is warranted at this time, the Human Resources Committee intends to monitor the effects of the alternative minimum tax and other taxation issues on the Company and its directors, officers and associates when evaluating various compensation principles, practices and plans.

Accounting for Stock-Based Compensation. The Financial Accounting Standards Board has adopted Statement of Financial Accounting Standards 123(R) (FAS 123(R)), which requires companies to record the compensation cost for stock options, restricted stock and other equity-based compensation arrangements that are provided to employees in return for employment service. The cost is based on the grant date fair value, and this cost is expensed over the requisite service period, which is normally the vesting period of the award. FAS 123(R) applies to awards granted or modified in years beginning in 2006 and thus will apply to the 2006 EIP. The Human Resources Committee evaluates the potential adverse impact of FAS 123(R) on future compensation expense when determining the size and types of awards to be granted under the 2006 EIP.

HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE REPORT

We have reviewed and discussed the foregoing Compensation Discussion and Analysis with management. Based on our review and discussion with management, we have recommended to the Board of Directors that the Compensation Discussion and Analysis be included in this Proxy Statement and in BankFinancial Corporation's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2008.

Submitted by:

Joseph A. Schudt, Chairman

Cassandra J. Francis

John M. Hausmann

Sherwin R. Koopmans

Terry R. Wells

Glen R. Wherfel

Members of the Human Resources Committee

Table of Contents**EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION**

The following table sets forth information concerning the compensation of the Company's Chief Executive Officer, Chief Financial Officer and the Company's other three most highly compensated executive officers who served in such capacities during 2008:

Summary Compensation Table

| Name and Principal Position | Year | Salary | Bonus⁽¹⁾ | Stock Awards⁽²⁾ | Option Awards⁽²⁾ | All Other Compensation⁽³⁾ | Total Compensation |
|--|-------------|---------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|---|---------------------------|
| F. Morgan Gasior | 2008 | \$ 395,906 | \$ 49,488 | \$ 881,000 | \$ 73,900 | \$ 42,615 | \$ 1,442,909 |
| Chairman of the Board, Chief Executive Officer and President | 2007 | \$ 395,906 | \$ 60,000 | \$ 881,000 | \$ 73,900 | \$ 57,986 | \$ 1,468,792 |
| | 2006 | \$ 393,245 | \$ 57,656 | \$ 881,000 | \$ 73,900 | \$ 64,242 | \$ 1,470,043 |
| Paul A. Cloutier | 2008 | \$ 251,417 | \$ 36,000 | \$ 440,500 | \$ 27,046 | \$ 42,588 | \$ 797,550 |
| Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer | 2007 | \$ 247,046 | \$ 36,000 | \$ 440,500 | \$ 25,126 | \$ 51,413 | \$ 800,085 |
| | 2006 | \$ 245,385 | \$ 35,978 | \$ 440,500 | \$ 25,126 | \$ 72,083 | \$ 819,072 |
| James J. Brennan | 2008 | \$ 300,840 | \$ 60,000 | \$ 440,500 | \$ 67,315 | \$ 43,821 | \$ 912,475 |
| Executive Vice President, Corporate Secretary and General Counsel | 2007 | \$ 295,610 | \$ 56,000 | \$ 440,500 | \$ 25,126 | \$ 54,563 | \$ 871,799 |
| | 2006 | \$ 293,623 | \$ 56,000 | \$ 440,500 | \$ 25,126 | \$ 75,369 | \$ 890,618 |
| Robert J. O' Shaughnessy | 2008 | \$ 256,815 | \$ 48,000 | \$ 374,425 | \$ 33,968 | \$ 33,916 | \$ 747,123 |
| Executive Vice President and Chief Credit Officer (Retired 12/31/08) | 2007 | \$ 252,350 | \$ 48,000 | \$ 374,425 | \$ 31,408 | \$ 44,799 | \$ 750,981 |
| | 2006 | \$ 250,654 | \$ 48,000 | \$ 374,425 | \$ 31,408 | \$ 63,254 | \$ 767,740 |
| Christa N. Calabrese | 2008 | \$ 220,127 | \$ 20,000 | \$ 88,100 | \$ 26,619 | \$ 33,636 | \$ 388,482 |
| Regional President | 2007 | \$ 216,300 | \$ 28,000 | \$ 88,100 | \$ 25,126 | \$ 43,191 | \$ 400,717 |
| | 2006 | \$ 214,846 | \$ 28,500 | \$ 88,100 | \$ 25,126 | \$ 53,936 | \$ 410,508 |

- (1) Each named executive officer, except for Mr. Brennan, elected to receive stock options in lieu of cash under the 2007 management incentive plan. The number of stock options received had a grant date fair value (calculated according to the Company's FAS 123(R) GAAP expense for the stock options) equal to the amount of the cash incentive compensation foregone. In addition, stock options equal to 10% of the stock options received in lieu of the cash incentive award were granted to compensate for the additional market risk associated with the stock option awards (with the exception of the Chief Executive Officer). On February 26, 2008, stock options were granted to the named executive officers, except for Mr. Brennan, in lieu of cash. Mr. Brennan was separately awarded stock options based on other factors. See the Grants of Plan-Based Awards table on page 24 for grant details.
- (2) The amounts set forth in the Stock Awards column and the Option Awards column reflect the dollar amount recognized for financial statement reporting purposes for the years ended December 31, 2008, 2007, and 2006 in accordance with FAS 123(R). As required under SEC rules, the amounts recognized for the February 26, 2008 stock options granted at the election of the named executive officers in lieu of the 2007 cash bonus are excluded under this column and reported as Bonus. However, the additional stock options equal to 10% of the stock options in lieu of cash are reflected under these columns. The assumptions used in calculating these amounts are set forth in Note 16 to our Financial Statements for the year ended December 31, 2008, which is located on pages 89 through 91 of our Annual Report on Form

10-K.

- (3) All other compensation for the named executive officers during fiscal 2008 is summarized on the following pages.

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| Name | Perquisites ⁽ⁱ⁾ | Insurance ⁽ⁱⁱ⁾ | Tax Reimbursement ⁽ⁱⁱⁱ⁾ | 401(k) Match | ESOP Contribution ^(iv) | Total Compensation | All Other |
|-------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------------|--------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------|-----------|
| F. Morgan Gasior | \$ 18,872 | \$ 1,676 | \$ 1,889 | \$ 5,750 | \$ 14,429 | \$ 42,615 | |
| Paul A. Cloutier | \$ 18,600 | \$ 1,663 | \$ 996 | \$ 6,900 | \$ 14,429 | \$ 42,588 | |
| James J. Brennan | \$ 19,813 | \$ 1,676 | \$ 1,003 | \$ 6,900 | \$ 14,429 | \$ 43,821 | |
| Robert J. O Shaughnessy | \$ 9,908 | \$ 1,676 | \$ 1,003 | \$ 6,900 | \$ 14,429 | \$ 33,916 | |
| (Retired 12/31/08) | | | | | | | |
| Christa N. Calabrese | \$ 9,865 | \$ 1,528 | \$ 915 | \$ 6,900 | \$ 14,429 | \$ 33,636 | |

- (i) Includes use of an automobile or an automobile allowance, and in the case of Messrs. Gasior, Cloutier and Brennan, club dues.
- (ii) Consists of premiums paid by the Company during the fiscal year with respect to short- and long-term disability insurance for each named executive officer, and for a life insurance policy maintained during 2008 on Mr. Gasior. Certain amounts were paid by the named executive officer and reimbursed by the Company under employment agreement provisions that reduce, on a dollar-for-dollar basis, the Bank's obligations under such executive's employment agreement in the event of the executive's death or disability by the amount of insurance proceeds received by the executive's named beneficiary. The Bank's 2007 purchase of bank-owned life insurance enabled the Bank to immediately eliminate all but one separate life insurance policy, and the remaining policy was eliminated effective January 1, 2009.
- (iii) Reflects reimbursement for income and employment taxes incurred by the executive as a result of the insurance premiums paid by the executive and reimbursed by the Company. The amount for Mr. Gasior includes reimbursement for taxes related to imputed income for additional life insurance coverage. See note (ii) above and discussion below for additional information.
- (iv) Includes the Bank's contribution to the executive's ESOP account plus any amounts reallocated as a result of forfeitures by terminated ESOP participants.

Grants of Plan-Based Awards

In 2008, the Company granted equity awards to one of the named executive officers under the 2006 EIP. Specifically, based on work performed in 2007 in connection with the U.S. Mortgage bankruptcy resolution and enhancements to the Bank's internal compliance programs, in February 2008, the Company awarded Mr. Brennan 80,667 stock options under the 2006 EIP in addition to his cash incentive compensation for 2007. All other grants to named executive officers related to stock options received in lieu of cash incentive compensation.

| Name | Grant Date | All Other Option Awards: # of Securities Underlying Options | Exercise of Base Price of Option Awards (\$/Sh) | Grant Date Fair Value of Option Awards ⁽³⁾ |
|--|------------------------|---|---|---|
| F. Morgan Gasior | 2/26/08 ⁽¹⁾ | 100,000 | \$ 14.82 | \$ 52,300 |
| Paul A. Cloutier | 2/26/08 ⁽¹⁾ | 60,000 | \$ 14.82 | \$ 31,380 |
| | 2/26/08 ⁽²⁾ | 6,000 | \$ 14.82 | \$ 3,840 |
| James J. Brennan | 2/26/08 | 80,667 | \$ 14.82 | \$ 42,189 |
| Robert J. O Shaughnessy ⁽⁴⁾ | 2/26/08 ⁽¹⁾ | 80,000 | \$ 14.82 | \$ 41,840 |
| (Retired 12/31/08) | 2/26/08 ⁽²⁾ | 8,000 | \$ 14.82 | \$ 5,120 |
| Christa N. Calabrese | 2/26/08 ⁽¹⁾ | 46,667 | \$ 14.82 | \$ 24,407 |
| | 2/26/08 ⁽²⁾ | 4,667 | \$ 14.82 | \$ 2,987 |

- (1) Grants shown reflect the number of stock options awarded to each named executive officer, other than Mr. Brennan, in lieu of the cash incentive award pursuant to the 2007 management incentive plan.
- (2) Grants shown reflect 10% of the number of stock options received in lieu of the 2007 cash incentive award to compensate participants for the additional market risk associated with the stock option awards pursuant to the 2007 management incentive plan.
- (3) Amounts in this column represent the fair value of the full 2008 awards indicated, calculated in accordance with FAS 123(R). The assumptions used in calculating these amounts are set forth in Note 16 to our Financial Statements for the year ended December 31, 2008, which is located on pages 89 through 91 of our Annual Report on Form 10-K.

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- (4) Mr. O Shaughnessy retired from the Company on December 31, 2008. All of his unvested stock options and restricted stock awards became vested on April 13, 2009.

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The following table sets forth information concerning the exercisable and unexercisable stock options and unvested shares of restricted stock at December 31, 2008 held by the individuals named in the summary compensation table:

| Name | Option Awards | | | | Stock Awards | |
|--|--|---|----------------------------|------------------------|---|---|
| | # of Securities Underlying Unexercised Options Exercisable | # of Securities Underlying Unexercised Options Unexercisable ⁽¹⁾ | Option Exercise Price (\$) | Option Expiration Date | # of Shares or Units of Stock That Have Not Vested ⁽²⁾ | Market Value of Shares or Units of Stock That Have Not Vested (\$) ⁽³⁾ |
| F. Morgan Gasior | 75,000 | 50,000 | \$ 17.62 | 9/5/2011 | 50,000 | \$ 509,500 |
| | 75,000 | | \$ 17.62 | 9/5/2011 | | |
| | 100,000 | | \$ 14.82 | 9/5/2011 | | |
| Paul A. Cloutier | 51,000 | 34,000 | \$ 17.62 | 9/5/2011 | 10,000 | \$ 101,900 |
| | 60,000 | | \$ 14.82 | 9/5/2011 | | |
| | 3,000 | 3,000 | \$ 14.82 | 9/5/2011 | | |
| James J. Brennan | 51,000 | 34,000 | \$ 17.62 | 9/5/2011 | 10,000 | \$ 101,900 |
| | 80,667 | | \$ 14.82 | 9/5/2011 | | |
| Robert J. O Shaughnessy ⁽⁴⁾ | 63,750 | 21,250 | \$ 17.62 | 9/5/2011 | 21,250 | \$ 216,538 |
| (Retired 12/31/08) | 80,000 | | \$ 14.82 | 9/5/2011 | | |
| | 4,000 | 4,000 | \$ 14.82 | 9/5/2011 | | |
| Christa N. Calabrese | 51,000 | 34,000 | \$ 17.62 | 9/5/2011 | 10,000 | \$ 101,900 |
| | 46,667 | | \$ 14.82 | 9/5/2011 | | |
| | 2,334 | 2,333 | \$ 14.82 | 9/5/2011 | | |

(1) The table below shows the remaining service-based vesting schedule for all unexercisable options granted on September 5, 2006 with an exercise price of \$17.62.

| Name | 12/15/2009 | 12/15/2010 |
|----------------------|------------|------------|
| F. Morgan Gasior | 25,000 | 25,000 |
| Paul A. Cloutier | 17,000 | 17,000 |
| James J. Brennan | 17,000 | 17,000 |
| Christa N. Calabrese | 17,000 | 17,000 |

The table below shows the remaining service-based vesting schedule for all unexercisable options granted on February 26, 2008 with an exercise price of \$14.82.

| Name | 6/15/2009 |
|------|-----------|
|------|-----------|

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| | |
|----------------------|-------|
| Paul A. Cloutier | 3,000 |
| Christa N. Calabrese | 2,333 |

- (2) The table below shows the remaining service-based vesting schedule for all unvested restricted shares granted on September 5, 2006.

| Name | 12/15/2009 | 12/15/2010 |
|----------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| F. Morgan Gasior | 25,000 | 25,000 |
| Paul A. Cloutier | 5,000 | 5,000 |
| James J. Brennan | 5,000 | 5,000 |
| Christa N. Calabrese | 5,000 | 5,000 |

- (3) The market value of shares is based on a closing stock price of \$10.19 on December 31, 2008. Mr. O Shaughnessy's unvested stock options and restricted share awards became vested on April 13, 2009.

Table of Contents**Option Exercises and Stock Vested During 2008**

The following table reflects shares of restricted stock held by the named executive officers that vested during 2008. No options were exercised by the named executive officers during 2008. Of these awards, the vesting of 25,000 shares of Mr. Gasior's restricted stock was conditioned on the attainment of the following specific performance goals as of September 30, 2008: (i) the Bank's tangible capital and core capital ratios must equal or exceed 6%; (ii) the Bank's risk-based capital ratio must equal or exceed 10%; and (iii) the Bank's nonperforming asset ratio must be less than 2.75%. The Human Resources Committee certified on November 6, 2008 that these performance goals had been attained as of September 30, 2008. The vesting of the restricted shares held by the other named executive officers, and all remaining unvested restricted shares held by the five named executive officers, are not conditioned on the attainment of any specific performance goals.

| Name | Stock Awards | |
|--------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|
| | # of Shares Acquired on Vesting | Value Realized on Vesting (\$) ⁽¹⁾ |
| F. Morgan Gasior | 50,000 | \$ 552,000 |
| Paul A. Cloutier | 25,000 | \$ 264,250 |
| James J. Brennan | 25,000 | \$ 264,250 |
| Robert J. O' Shaughnessy | 21,250 | \$ 224,613 |
| (Retired 12/31/08) | | |
| Christa N. Calabrese | 5,000 | \$ 52,850 |

- (1) Generally reflects amounts realized on December 15, 2008 at a closing stock price of \$10.57, except for Mr. Gasior who also realized amounts on November 6, 2008 at a closing stock price of \$11.51 for achievement of capital adequacy and asset quality performance goals.

Table of Contents**Potential Payments Upon Termination or Change of Control**

The following table sets forth information concerning potential payments and benefits under the Company's compensation programs and benefit plans to which the named executive officers would be entitled upon a termination of employment as of December 31, 2008. As is more fully described below, the named executive officers entered into employment agreements with the Company and/or the Bank, as applicable (each, an Employment Agreement), which provide for payments and benefits to a terminating executive officer following a termination other than for cause or by resignation. In addition, award agreements under the 2006 EIP (the Award Agreements) provide for the accelerated vesting of unvested awards in similar circumstances, and in addition, upon the occurrence of a change of control of the Company. Except for the payments and benefits provided by the Employment Agreements and the Award Agreements, all other payments and benefits provided to any named executive officer upon termination of his or her employment are the same as the payments and benefits provided to other eligible executives of the Bank. For purposes of estimating the value of certain equity awards, the Company has assumed a price per share of the Company's common stock of \$10.19, which was the closing price of the Company's common stock on December 31, 2008, the last trading day of the year.

| Executive | Potential Payments Upon Termination or Change of Control | Termination by the Bank | | Termination by Executive | | | | |
|---|---|-------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------|----------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------------|
| | | For Cause | For Disability ⁽¹⁾ | Without Cause ⁽²⁾ | By Resignation | For Good Reason ⁽²⁾ | Upon Death ⁽³⁾ | Change of Control ⁽⁴⁾ |
| | | | | | | | | |
| F. Morgan Gasior | Cash payments | \$ 0 | \$ 988,359 | \$ 1,416,779 | \$ 0 | \$ 1,416,779 | \$ 988,359 | \$ 1,416,779 |
| | Accelerated Equity Awards | \$ 0 | \$ 509,500 | \$ 509,500 | \$ 0 | \$ 509,500 | \$ 509,500 | \$ 509,500 |
| | Continued Benefits | \$ 0 | \$ 17,108 | \$ 18,114 | \$ 0 | \$ 18,114 | \$ 17,108 | \$ 18,114 |
| Paul A. Cloutier | Cash payments | \$ 0 | \$ 629,528 | \$ 894,715 | \$ 0 | \$ 894,715 | \$ 629,528 | \$ 894,715 |
| | Accelerated Equity Awards | \$ 0 | \$ 101,900 | \$ 101,900 | \$ 0 | \$ 101,900 | \$ 101,900 | \$ 101,900 |
| | Continued Benefits | \$ 0 | \$ 25,871 | \$ 27,393 | \$ 0 | \$ 27,393 | \$ 25,871 | \$ 27,393 |
| James J. Brennan | Cash payments | \$ 0 | \$ 764,860 | \$ 1,167,162 | \$ 0 | \$ 1,167,162 | \$ 764,860 | \$ 1,167,162 |
| | Accelerated Equity Awards | \$ 0 | \$ 101,900 | \$ 101,900 | \$ 0 | \$ 101,900 | \$ 101,900 | \$ 101,900 |
| | Continued Benefits | \$ 0 | \$ 26,063 | \$ 27,597 | \$ 0 | \$ 27,597 | \$ 26,063 | \$ 27,597 |
| Robert J. O Shaughnessy (Retired 12/31/08) | Cash payments | \$ 0 | \$ 654,134 | \$ 958,719 | \$ 0 | \$ 958,719 | \$ 654,134 | \$ 958,719 |
| | Accelerated Equity Awards | \$ 0 | \$ 216,538 | \$ 216,538 | \$ 0 | \$ 216,538 | \$ 216,538 | \$ 216,538 |
| | Continued Benefits | \$ 0 | \$ 2,506 | \$ 3,222 | \$ 0 | \$ 3,222 | \$ 2,506 | \$ 3,222 |
| Christa N. Calabrese | Cash payments | \$ 0 | \$ 548,780 | \$ 762,923 | \$ 0 | \$ 762,923 | \$ 548,780 | \$ 762,923 |
| | Accelerated Equity Awards | \$ 0 | \$ 101,900 | \$ 101,900 | \$ 0 | \$ 101,900 | \$ 101,900 | \$ 101,900 |
| | Continued Benefits | \$ 0 | \$ 2,389 | \$ 3,072 | \$ 0 | \$ 3,072 | \$ 2,389 | \$ 3,072 |

- (1) Cash payments include prorated annual average cash incentive compensation for the year of termination, prorated employer matching 401(k) contribution for the year of termination, and base salary the executive would have received from the date of termination through the end of his/her employment period. Accelerated equity awards reflect the intrinsic value of unvested outstanding equity awards based on the closing stock price on December 31, 2008 of \$10.19. Continued benefits reflect incremental cost of core benefits to the Company during the continuation period based on actual cost for 2008. Excludes any reduction in benefit as a result of disability insurance or federal social security disability payments.
- (2) Cash payments include prorated annual average cash incentive compensation, prorated employer matching 401(k) contribution, and three times the executive's three-year average compensation. Accelerated equity awards reflect the intrinsic value of unvested outstanding equity awards based on the closing stock price on December 31, 2008 of \$10.19. Continued benefits reflect incremental cost of core benefits to the Company for 36 months based on actual cost for 2008.
- (3) Cash payments include prorated annual average cash incentive compensation for the year of termination, prorated employer matching 401(k) contribution for the year of termination, and base salary the executive would have received from the date of termination through the end of his/her employment period. Accelerated equity awards reflect the intrinsic value of unvested outstanding equity awards based on the closing stock price on December 31, 2008 of \$10.19. Continued benefits reflect incremental cost of core benefits to the Company during the continuation period based on actual cost for 2008. Excludes any reduction in benefit as a result of disability insurance or federal social security disability payments.

Footnotes continued on following page.

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- (4) The payments reflected in this column assume the executive was terminated for good reason in connection with a change of control. Cash payments include prorated annual average cash incentive compensation for the year of termination, prorated employer matching 401(k) contribution, and three times the executive's three-year average compensation. Accelerated equity awards reflect the intrinsic value of unvested outstanding equity awards based on the closing stock price on December 31, 2008 of \$10.19. Continued benefits reflect incremental cost of core benefits to the Company for 36 months based on actual cost for 2008. The acceleration upon a change of control will occur regardless of the named executive officers' continued employment. If applicable, executive severance benefits under the Bank level employment agreements are reduced to avoid constituting an excess parachute payment under Section 280G of the Internal Revenue Code. No reduction in benefits was required as of the assumed December 31, 2008 termination date.

Accrued Pay and Regular Retirement Benefits. The amounts shown in the table on the previous page do not include payments and benefits to the extent they are provided on a non-discriminatory basis to salaried employees generally upon termination of employment. These include:

Accrued but unpaid salary and vacation pay.

Distributions of plan balances under the Bank's 401(k) plan and its ESOP. See 401(k) Plan and Employee Stock Ownership Plan and Trust on page 18 for an overview of the 401(k) and the ESOP.

The value of option continuation upon retirement, death or disability. Except as may be provided in connection with a change of control, when an employee terminates employment other than for cause and prior to retirement, death or disability, his or her vested stock options will remain exercisable for a period of three months following termination. When an employee is terminated for cause, his or her stock options, whether vested or unvested, are terminated immediately. When a retirement-eligible employee terminates employment, or when an employee dies or becomes disabled, his or her vested stock options remain exercisable for 12 months following the date of his or her termination.

Acceleration of Vesting Upon a Change of Control. Upon the occurrence of a change of control of the Company, unless otherwise stated in an award agreement, all outstanding options and Stock Appreciation Rights (SARs) then held by a participant, including each of the named executive officers, who is employed by, or providing services to, the Company or its subsidiaries at the time of such change of control will become fully exercisable and all stock awards or cash incentive awards shall be fully earned and vested (subject to limitations on performance-based awards). Any such options or SARs, the vesting of which is accelerated upon the occurrence of a change of control, shall remain exercisable in accordance with their terms. The Company has not awarded any SARs under the 2006 EIP.

Employment Agreements. The Bank entered into employment agreements with each of Messrs. Gasior, Cloutier, Brennan and O'Shaughnessy in 2003. In August 2004, the Bank entered into an employment agreement with Ms. Calabrese that is substantially similar to the employment agreements for the other four named executive officers. The employment agreements were amended and restated in May 2008, principally to ensure compliance with Section 409A of the Internal Revenue Code. Each employment agreement and amended and restated employment agreement had an initial term of 36 months that can be extended each year for an additional year, at the discretion of the Board of Directors, so that the remaining term will be 36 months.

Mr. O'Shaughnessy's amended and restated employment agreement with the Bank was terminated effective December 31, 2008, pursuant to the terms of a Retirement Agreement that he entered into with the Bank dated October 20, 2008. The Board of Directors of the Bank most recently reviewed the Bank's amended and restated employment agreements with Messrs. Gasior, Cloutier and Brennan and Ms. Calabrese in March 2008, and approved the extension of their terms through March 31, 2012.

Under the amended and restated employment agreements, the Bank will pay the executive officers the base salary reflected in the payroll records, subject to discretionary increases by the Board of Directors. The 2008 base salaries for Messrs. Gasior, Cloutier, Brennan and O'Shaughnessy were \$395,906, \$300,840, \$251,417 and \$256,815, respectively, and the 2008 base salary for Ms. Calabrese was \$220,127. The amended and restated employment agreements provide that the base salary may be increased but not decreased. The amended and restated employment agreements also provide that the named executive officer will receive the use of an automobile or an automobile allowance and the payment of designated club dues, provided that, in a given year, these payments may not, in the aggregate, exceed ten percent of the named executive officer's cash compensation. The amended and

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restated employment agreements further provide that the named executive officer is entitled to participate with other executive officers in incentive compensation and discretionary bonuses declared by the Board. In addition to base salary and bonus, the employment agreements provide for, among other things, participation in a Section 125 cafeteria plan, group medical, dental, vision, disability and life insurance plans, referred to as the core plans, 401(k) plan, the ESOP and other employee and fringe benefits applicable to executive personnel.

During the employment period, each executive officer is provided with a supplemental disability insurance policy that pays 60% of base salary for the remaining term of the agreement in the event the executive officer is terminated due to disability. If an executive officer becomes disabled, his or her base salary will be reduced proportionately by the disability payments made under the disability policy and under the federal social security system. Each executive officer is responsible for paying the premiums but receives an annual allowance in an amount sufficient, on an after-tax basis, to equal the premium payments. In the event of termination of employment due to disability, the executive officer will be entitled to his or her earned salary, the prorated annual average of any cash incentive compensation and bonus that the executive officer received during the preceding two fiscal years, referred to as prorated incentive compensation, and the prorated employer matching 401(k) plan contribution that the executive officer would be entitled to receive for the current year, referred to as accrued plan contribution. In addition, the executive officer will be entitled to the base salary the executive officer would have been paid through the date the employment period would have expired if the executive officer's employment had not been sooner terminated due to disability, which will be reduced on a dollar-for-dollar basis by the disability insurance and federal social security disability payments referenced above, and continued coverage under the core plans through the date the employment period would have expired, subject to the executive officer's continued payment of the costs and contributions for which he or she is responsible. After their continued coverage under the core plans expires, Messrs. Gasior, Cloutier and Brennan and Ms. Calabrese may elect to continue their health care coverage at their sole expense and without any cost to the Bank until they become eligible for Medicare coverage or for coverage under another employer's group health plan.

In addition to the life insurance benefits provided to regular full-time employees, a supplemental life insurance policy was historically provided to each insurable executive officer in an amount not less than three times the executive officer's base salary. In May 2007, the Bank purchased bank-owned life insurance insuring the lives of certain officers, including the named executive officers. The purchase of bank-owned life insurance enabled the Bank to eliminate the separate life insurance policies on all named executive officers except Mr. Gasior in 2007, and on Mr. Gasior on January 1, 2009.

In the event the executive officer's employment is terminated due to death, his or her surviving spouse and minor children, if any, will be entitled to the same coverage under the core plans that the executive officer would have been provided if his or her employment had terminated due to disability. In addition, the executive officer's estate or trust, as applicable, will be entitled to the base salary the executive officer would have been paid through the date the employment period would have expired if the executive officer's employment had not been sooner terminated due to death. If a supplemental life insurance policy has been obtained on the life of the executive officer, the Bank's obligation to make such payments will be reduced on a dollar-for-dollar basis by the death benefit payments under any supplemental life insurance policy purchased for an executive officer. Also, with respect to Ms. Calabrese only (consistent with the terms of her previous employment agreement with Success National Bank, which the Company acquired in 2001), an amount equal to the prorated annual average cash incentive compensation and a prorated employer 401(k) matching contribution would be due. Except with respect to continued coverage under the core plans and the ability to elect to continue health care coverage under the core plans for an additional period at no cost to the Bank, the Bank will generally have no obligation to pay or provide an executive officer's estate, surviving spouse, or minor children with any other compensation or benefits on account of the executive officer's death.

In the event the executive officer's employment is terminated without cause by the Bank, the executive officer will receive his or her earned salary, prorated incentive compensation, accrued plan contribution, continued coverage under the core plans for 36 months, subject to the executive officer's payment of costs and contributions for which he or she is responsible, the ability to continue health care coverage thereafter at his or her sole expense, and an amount equal to three times his or her average annual compensation. Payment of benefits will be made in a single lump sum.

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Under the amended and restated employment agreements, the executive officer may terminate his or her employment for "Good Reason" by giving notice within 60 days after the event giving rise to the right to terminate employment. Good Reason generally includes (i) the Bank's decision not to re-elect or failure to re-elect the executive officer to his or her present position; (ii) the Bank's failure to extend the executive officer's employment period on the anniversary date for an additional year so that the remaining term of the employment agreement will be 36 months; (iii) the relocation of the executive officer's principal place of employment by more than a specified distance; (iv) the reduction in the executive officer's base salary or a material reduction in benefits to which the executive officer is entitled; (v) the liquidation or dissolution of the Bank or the Company; (vi) the Bank's material uncured breach of the employment agreement; and (vii) the occurrence of a "Change of Control" as such term is defined in the 2006 EIP. With respect to Mr. Gasior's employment agreement, "Good Reason" also includes the failure to elect or re-elect him as Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Bank, a change in the composition of the Board of Directors of the Bank such that the current directors no longer constitute a majority of the board other than in certain circumstances where the new board is nominated or appointed by the existing board, or a significant reduction in the scope of his duties, powers, privileges, authority or responsibilities. In the event an executive officer's employment is terminated for Good Reason, he or she will receive the same amounts, the same coverage under the core plans and the same health insurance coverage continuation rights that he or she would have received if his employment had been terminated without cause. An executive officer who terminates his or her employment by resignation other than due to Good Reason will only be entitled to his or her earned salary and vacation through the date of termination.

The executive officer is required under the amended and restated employment agreement to execute a general release in consideration for any severance amounts. The executive officer also agrees not to compete with the Bank or its affiliates for six months after termination or during the period that severance amounts are paid, if longer. In addition, the executive officer agrees not to solicit the Bank's customers, their business or the Bank's employees for eighteen months, which may be reduced in certain circumstances. Payment of amounts due the named executive officers under the amended and restated employment agreements will generally be made in a single lump sum and will be reduced as may be necessary to avoid constituting an "excess parachute payment" under Section 280G of the Internal Revenue Code.

In October 2008, the Company entered into employment agreements with Messrs. Gasior, Cloutier and Brennan. The employment agreements have three-year terms and, except as discussed below, are otherwise substantially similar to the respective amended and restated employment agreements that these individuals have with the Bank. The Board of Directors of the Company most recently reviewed the Company's employment agreements with Messrs. Gasior, Cloutier and Brennan and approved the extension of their terms through March 31, 2012.

The Company does not separately compensate Messrs. Gasior, Cloutier or Brennan for their services to the Company, except for awards made by the Company under the 2006 EIP. Instead, the Bank pays and provides their cash compensation and benefits (other than benefits under the 2006 EIP), and allocates a portion of this expense to the Company pursuant to an intercompany expense sharing arrangement in proportion to the time and services that they provide to the Company. The employment agreements between the Company and Messrs. Gasior, Cloutier and Brennan thus provide that any cash compensation and benefits that become simultaneously due under both their employment agreements with the Company and their amended and restated employment agreements with the Bank will be subtracted from those due Messrs. Gasior, Cloutier and Brennan under their respective employment agreements with the Company. The payments and benefits (other than benefits under the 2006 EIP) that each of Messrs. Gasior, Cloutier and Brennan will receive under his employment agreement with the Company if his employment is terminated without cause, for Good Reason or due to death or disability are the same as those provided for in their respective amended and restated employment agreements with the Bank.

The primary material differences between the Company's employment agreements with Messrs. Gasior, Cloutier and Brennan and their respective amended and restated employment agreements with the Bank are that their employment agreements with the Company provide for indemnification under Maryland law (the Company's state of incorporation) rather than applicable federal law, and further provide that, upon the termination of employment based on the occurrence of a Change of Control as that term is defined in the 2006 EIP, (i) all payments that would otherwise be payable in a series of installments instead will generally be paid in a single lump sum within five business days of the date of termination; (ii) the restricted periods applicable to the non-competition and non-solicitation covenants set forth in their respective employment agreements with the Company and their amended and

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restituted employment agreements with the Bank will be reduced to six months and the scope of the competitive restrictions will be limited to those that existed immediately prior to the Change of Control; and (iii) all obligations that may become due simultaneously under both the Company's employment agreements with Messrs. Gasior, Cloutier and Brennan and their respective amended and restated employment agreements with the Bank will first be provided under their employment agreements with the Company. The Company employment agreements do not impose a limit on the compensation that would be payable to Messrs. Gasior, Cloutier or Brennan upon the occurrence of a Change of Control to avoid an excess parachute payment under Section 280G of the Internal Revenue Code. However, the payments and benefits that would become due to Messrs. Gasior, Cloutier and Brennan upon the occurrence of a Change of Control currently would not result in any excess parachute payments based on their current and historic compensation levels and the relevant terms of their Company employment agreements.

The Bank entered into a Retirement Agreement with Mr. O' Shaughnessy dated October 20, 2008, which provided for the termination of his employment and his amended and restated employment agreement with the Bank, effective on December 31, 2008. In accordance with the Retirement Agreement, the Board of Directors awarded Mr. O' Shaughnessy, in addition to his cash incentive compensation for 2008, a special retirement bonus in the amount of \$120,000 in recognition of Mr. O' Shaughnessy's contributions to the Bank's asset quality performance during his tenure as Chief Credit Officer, and as separate supplemental consideration for a general release of claims and waiver of rights. Mr. O' Shaughnessy's participation in all compensation and other benefit plans ceased on December 31, 2008, except with respect to restricted shares and stock options that were previously awarded to him under the 2006 EIP. Mr. O' Shaughnessy's outstanding restricted stock and stock option awards under the Company's 2006 EIP were amended to provide that the awards will have the same vesting and expiration terms upon his attainment of age 70 that would have been applicable if Mr. O' Shaughnessy had retired from his employment with the Company and the Bank at age 70. Certain of the restrictions set forth in Mr. O' Shaughnessy's amended and restated employment agreement with the Bank remain in effect, including non-competition, non-solicitation, cooperation and confidentiality covenants. The Retirement Agreement also extended the restricted period of the non-competition covenant in Mr. O' Shaughnessy's amended and restated employment agreement with the Bank to 24 months and precludes Mr. O' Shaughnessy from performing loan review services for certain entities.

Mr. O' Shaughnessy has agreed to perform consulting services for the Company for a period of 12 months after his retirement in accordance with the terms of a Consulting Agreement between him and the Company dated October 20, 2008. The Company, in its sole discretion, may offer to extend the term of the Consulting Agreement for an additional six months. The consulting services that Mr. O' Shaughnessy is required to provide under the Consulting Agreement include assistance with loan reviews, residential and commercial lending operations, merchant processing, deposit servicing, pre-purchase due diligence and other matters assigned by the Company. The Consulting Agreement provides for a maximum of 50 hours of consulting services per month during the first 12 months. The Consulting Agreement provides that the Company will pay Mr. O' Shaughnessy a monthly consulting fee of \$9,750 during the first 12 months for these consulting services. If the Company offers to extend the term of the Consulting Agreement for an additional six months, Mr. O' Shaughnessy will be compensated for his consulting services during the six month period at the rate of \$195 per hour.

Compensation of Directors

Directors' Fees. All directors of the Company are also directors of the Bank. Except for Mr. Gasior, who receives no fees for serving as a director, committee chairperson or committee member, the directors of the Bank received an annual Board fee of \$2,000 per month for preparing for and attending meetings of the Board of Directors of the Bank during 2008. Except for the Audit Committee, the Bank did not pay its directors a separate fee during 2008 for serving on board committees. The members of the Audit Committee were paid an Audit Committee fee during 2008 due to the fact that the Audit Committee is a required entity with separate responsibilities established by applicable laws and regulations. During 2008, the Bank paid an Audit Committee fee of \$1,000 per quarter to Mr. Hausmann (the Chairman of the Audit Committee), and \$800 per quarter to Mr. Wells (a member of the Audit Committee).

The Company did not separately compensate the members of its Board of Directors during 2008 for preparing for and attending meetings of the Board of Directors of the Company. A portion of the Board fees that the Bank paid to its directors, however, were allocated to the Company in the inter-company expense allocations that were

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made between the Company and the Bank during 2008. The Company paid an Audit Committee fee of \$800 per quarter to Mr. Koopmans during 2008 for serving on the Company's Audit Committee, but did not compensate the other members of the Audit Committee due to the Audit Committee fee that they received from the Bank. The Company also partially reimbursed Mr. Koopmans for his travel expenses for attending meetings of the Company's Board of Directors.

In connection with its review of the Board of Directors compensation program, the Human Resources Committee considered the relative merits of paying fees to the directors in the form of cash versus equity. The Human Resources Committee considered the fact that the Board of Directors had already eliminated all board committee fees (except for the Audit Committee, as it is a legally-required independent entity within the Board structure), and thus the Board fees themselves were the only remaining compensation element to evaluate. The Human Resources Committee also considered the extent to which (if at all) the relative composition of Board compensation should differ from that of senior management at any given point in time. Based on these and other relevant factors, the Human Resources Committee recommended, and the Boards of Directors of the Company and the Bank approved, the following amendments to the 2008 Board of Directors compensation program on February 20, 2008: (i) the Bank discontinued the payment of Board fees for the remainder of 2008; (ii) the Board of Director fees paid by the Company for the remainder of 2008 were paid in the form of stock options, commencing with Board fees due for March of 2008; (iii) the Company awarded each member of the Company's Board stock options having a grant date fair value equal to \$22,000 in lieu of the \$20,000 in cash that otherwise would have been paid by the Bank as cash for Board of Directors' fees for the remainder of 2008, with the 10% increase in the total Board of Directors fees attributable to the market risk that each Director must accept due to this change; (iv) 25% of the stock options awarded to each Director vested on March 15, 2008, and the remaining stock options vested ratably on each of June 15, 2008, September 15, 2008 and December 15, 2008; and (v) the Chairman of the Audit Committee continued to receive a cash Audit Committee fee of \$1,000 per quarter, and the other members of the Audit Committee continued to receive a cash Audit Committee fee of \$800 per quarter, due to the fact that the Audit Committee is a required entity with separate responsibilities established by applicable laws and regulations. The number of stock options granted to named directors under this amendment to the 2008 Board compensation totaled 231,984. Due to the limited number of stock options remaining under the 2006 EIP, the Board of Directors, acting on the recommendation of the Human Resources Committee, reinstated the \$24,000 annual cash Board of Directors fee in connection with its adoption of the 2009 Board compensation program. The Audit Committee fees for 2009 are unchanged from 2008. The stock options awarded in 2008, the Board fees for 2009 and Audit Committee fees for 2008 and 2009 have been taken into account in the inter-company expense allocations between the Company and the Bank.

Equity-Based Compensation. The 2006 EIP established a mechanism by which awards of restricted stock or stock options could further align the financial interests of the directors of the Company and the Bank with stockholders and, in the future, provide an additional means to attract, retain and reward individuals who can and do contribute to the success of the Company. The Board of Directors granted long-term equity-based compensation awards (consisting of both restricted stock and stock options) to its members in 2006 as described in the table on the following page. All awards under the 2006 EIP were based in part on a member's experience and on each member's responsibilities as assigned by the Board of Directors.

The Board of Directors also established share ownership guidelines for directors applicable both to personally-acquired shares and shares acquired through the 2006 EIP. In general, absent difficult personal financial circumstances, the Board of Directors encourages each director in office at least one year to hold a position in Company shares equal to at least 50% of a director's annual director's fees. At December 31, 2008, all eligible directors and all directors as a group significantly exceeded this ownership position. In addition, the Human Resources Committee encourages directors to retain all shares granted under the 2006 EIP. At December 31, 2008, the Company's directors retained 100% of their vested 2006 EIP restricted shares.

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The table below provides information on 2008 compensation for directors who served in 2008.

| Name | Fees Earned or Paid in Cash (\$) | Stock Awards (\$) ⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾ | Option Awards (\$) ⁽¹⁾⁽³⁾ | All Other Compensation (\$) | Total (\$) |
|--------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------|------------|
| Cassandra J. Francis | \$ 4,000 | \$ 38,264 | \$ 25,080 | \$ 0 | \$ 67,344 |
| John M. Hausmann, C.P.A. | \$ 8,000 | \$ 140,960 | \$ 33,824 | \$ 0 | \$ 182,784 |
| Sherwin R. Koopmans | \$ 7,200 | \$ 98,672 | \$ 30,277 | \$ 0 | \$ 136,149 |
| Joseph A. Schudt | \$ 4,000 | \$ 234,934 | \$ 41,707 | \$ 0 | \$ 280,641 |
| Terry R. Wells | \$ 7,200 | \$ 112,768 | \$ 31,459 | \$ 0 | \$ 151,427 |
| Glen R. Wherfel, C.P.A. | \$ 4,000 | \$ 88,100 | \$ 29,390 | \$ 0 | \$ 121,490 |

- (1) The amounts set forth in the Stock Awards column and the Option Awards column reflect the dollar amount recognized for financial statement reporting purposes for the year ended December 31, 2008 in accordance with FAS 123(R).
- (2) Each current non-employee director received a restricted stock award on September 5, 2006, for the following number of shares: 10,000 to Ms. Francis, 40,000 to Mr. Hausmann, 28,000 to Mr. Koopmans, 40,000 to Mr. Schudt, 32,000 to Mr. Wells, and 25,000 to Mr. Wherfel. These awards vest ratably in five equal annual installments commencing on December 15, 2006. In addition, Ms. Francis received a restricted stock grant of 1,000 shares on December 14, 2007, of which 400 shares vested on the grant date, 200 shares vested on December 15, 2008, and 200 shares will vest on December 15, 2009 and 2010.
- (3) Each current non-employee director received a stock option award on September 5, 2006 with an exercise price of \$17.62 for the following number of shares: 10,000 to Ms. Francis, 40,000 to Mr. Hausmann, 28,000 to Mr. Koopmans, 40,000 to Mr. Schudt, 32,000 to Mr. Wells, and 25,000 to Mr. Wherfel. These awards vest ratably in five equal annual installments commencing on December 15, 2006. In addition, Ms. Francis received a grant of 1,000 stock options on December 14, 2007, of which 400 shares vested on the grant date, 200 shares vested on December 15, 2008, and 200 shares will vest on December 15, 2009 and 2010. On February 26, 2008, each director received a grant of 38,664 stock options in lieu of cash fees for service provided from March through December 2008. These awards vested in equal installments on March 15, 2008, June 15, 2008, September 15, 2008, and December 15, 2008.

The table below shows each current non-employee director's outstanding equity awards as of December 31, 2008.

| Name | Stock Awards | Option Awards | |
|--------------------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|
| | | Exercisable | Unexercisable |
| Cassandra J. Francis | 4,400 | 45,264 | 4,400 |
| John M. Hausmann, C.P.A. | 16,000 | 62,664 | 16,000 |
| Sherwin R. Koopmans | 11,200 | 55,464 | 11,200 |
| Joseph A. Schudt | 16,000 | 62,664 | 16,000 |
| Terry R. Wells | 12,800 | 57,864 | 12,800 |
| Glen R. Wherfel, C.P.A. | 10,000 | 53,664 | 10,000 |

Attendance at Annual Meetings of Stockholders

Although the Company does not have a formal written policy regarding director attendance at annual meetings of stockholders, directors are requested to attend these meetings absent unavoidable scheduling conflicts. All of the Company's current directors attended the 2008 Annual Meeting of Stockholders.

COMMUNICATIONS WITH THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Any stockholder who wishes to contact the Board of Directors or an individual director may do so by writing to the Board of Directors or the individual director care of, BankFinancial Corporation, 15W060 North Frontage Road, Burr Ridge, Illinois 60527, Attention: James J. Brennan, Secretary. Each communication received will be reviewed by the Secretary and distributed to the Board of Directors or the individual director, as appropriate, depending on the facts and circumstances outlined in the communication. The Secretary may attempt to handle an inquiry directly or forward a communication to another employee of the Company for response. The Secretary also has the authority not to forward a communication to the Board of Directors or an individual director if it is primarily commercial in nature, relates to an improper or irrelevant topic, or is unduly hostile, threatening, illegal or otherwise inappropriate.

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Transactions with Certain Related Persons

Neither the Bank nor the Company currently extends credit to its executive officers and directors or any organization considered to be a related interest or affiliate under applicable federal law, and no such loans were outstanding as of December 31, 2008. The Bank's Professional Responsibility Policy provides that no director or executive officer (as defined by the Bank's Board of Directors) may provide goods or services to the Bank or an affiliate (which includes the Company) unless approved by the disinterested majority of the Board of Directors after full disclosure and it is determined that the arrangement is fair and appropriate. In addition, all transactions between the Bank or its affiliates and a director or executive officer must be conducted on an arm's length basis, comply with all applicable laws and regulations and be on terms that are no more favorable to the director or executive officer than those afforded to similarly situated customers and vendors.

RATIFICATION OF THE APPOINTMENT OF THE INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC

ACCOUNTING FIRM

The Company's Audit Committee has engaged Crowe Horwath LLP to audit the financial statements of the Company for the year ended December 31, 2009, subject to the ratification of the engagement by the Company's stockholders. A representative of Crowe Horwath is expected to attend the Annual Meeting and will have the opportunity to make a statement, if he or she so desires, as well as to respond to appropriate questions that may be asked by a stockholder. If the appointment of the independent registered public accounting firm is not ratified, the matter of the appointment of the independent registered public accounting firm will be considered by the Company's Audit Committee.

The Board of Directors recommends a vote FOR the ratification of the engagement of Crowe Horwath LLP as the Company's independent registered public accounting firm for the year ending December 31, 2009.

Accounting Fees and Services

Set forth below is certain information concerning aggregate fees billed for professional services rendered by Crowe Horwath LLP during the years ended December 31, 2008 and 2007:

Audit Fees. The aggregate fees billed to the Company by Crowe Horwath for professional services rendered by Crowe Horwath for the audit of the Company's annual financial statements and internal controls, review of the financial statements included in the Company's Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q and services that are normally provided by Crowe Horwath in connection with statutory and regulatory filings and engagements were \$362,500 and \$360,090 during the years ended December 31, 2008 and 2007, respectively.

Audit Related Fees. The aggregate fees billed to the Company by Crowe Horwath for assurance and related services rendered by Crowe Horwath that are reasonably related to the performance of the audit of and review of the financial statements and that are not already reported in *Audit Fees* above, were \$23,907 and \$33,100 during the years ended December 31, 2008 and 2007, respectively. The 2008 and 2007 fees were billed to the Company for services related to the Company's Dividend Reinvestment Plan, 2006 Equity Incentive Plan, ESOP and the Bank's 401(k) Plan.

Tax Fees. The aggregate fees billed to the Company by Crowe Horwath for professional services rendered by Crowe Horwath for tax consultations and tax compliance were \$27,400 and \$23,700 during the years ended December 31, 2008 and 2007, respectively.

All Other Fees. There were no fees billed to the Company by Crowe Horwath during the years ended December 31, 2008 and 2007, respectively, that are not described above.

Audit Committee Pre-Approval Policy

The Audit Committee pre-approves all auditing services and permitted non-audit services (including the fees and terms thereof) to be performed for the Company by Crowe Horwath, subject to the de minimus exceptions for

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non-audit services described in Section 10A(i)(1)(B) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, which are approved by the Audit Committee prior to the completion of the audit. The Audit Committee pre-approved 100% of the audit related fees and tax fees described above during the years ended December 31, 2008 and 2007.

STOCKHOLDER PROPOSALS

In order to be eligible for inclusion in the proxy materials for next year's annual meeting of stockholders, any stockholder proposal to take action at such meeting must be received at BankFinancial Corporation's executive office, 15W060 North Frontage Road, Burr Ridge, Illinois 60527, no earlier than December 21, 2009 and no later than 5:00 P.M., Chicago, Illinois Time, on January 20, 2010. Any such proposals shall be subject to the requirements of the proxy rules adopted under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, and the Company's Bylaws.

ADVANCE NOTICE OF BUSINESS TO BE CONDUCTED AT AN ANNUAL MEETING

The Company's Bylaws provide an advance notice procedure for certain business, or nominations to the Board of Directors, to be brought before an annual meeting of stockholders. In order for a stockholder to properly bring business before an annual meeting, or to propose a nominee for election to the Board of Directors, the stockholder must give written notice to the Secretary of the Company not earlier than the 150th day nor later than 5:00 P.M., Chicago, Illinois Time, on the 120th day prior to the first anniversary of the date of mailing of the notice for the preceding year's annual meeting; provided, however, that in the event that the date of the annual meeting is advanced or delayed by more than 30 days from the first anniversary of the date of the preceding year's annual meeting, notice by the stockholder to be timely must be so delivered not earlier than the 150th day prior to the date of such annual meeting and not later than 5:00 P.M., Chicago, Illinois Time, on the later of the 120th day prior to the date of such annual meeting or the tenth day following the day on which public announcement of the date of such meeting is first made. The notice must include:

As to each individual whom the stockholder proposes to nominate for election or re-election as a director,

the name, age, business address and residence address of such individual;

the class, series and number of any shares of stock of BankFinancial Corporation that are beneficially owned by such individual;

the date such shares were acquired and the investment intent of such acquisition; and

all other information relating to such individual that is required to be disclosed in solicitations of proxies for election of directors in an election contest (even if an election contest is not involved), or is otherwise required, in each case pursuant to Regulation 14A (or any successor provision) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, and the rules thereunder (including such individual's written consent to being named in the Proxy Statement as a nominee and to serving as a director if elected);

As to any other business that the stockholder proposes to bring before the meeting, a description of such business, the reasons for proposing such business at the meeting and any material interest in such business of such stockholder and any Stockholder Associated Person (as defined in the Company's Bylaws), individually or in the aggregate, including any anticipated benefit to the stockholder and the Stockholder Associated Person therefrom;

As to the stockholder giving the notice and any Stockholder Associated Person, the class, series and number of all shares of stock of the Company which are owned by such stockholder and by such Stockholder Associated Person, if any, and the nominee holder for, and number of, shares owned beneficially but not of record by such stockholder and by any such Stockholder Associated Person;

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As to the stockholder giving the notice and any Stockholder Associated Person described above, the name and address of such stockholder, as they appear on the Company's stock ledger and current name and address, if different, and of such Stockholder Associated Person; and

To the extent known by the stockholder giving the notice, the name and address of any other stockholder supporting the nominee for election or re-election as a director or the proposal of other business on the date of such stockholder's notice.

Nothing in this Proxy Statement shall be deemed to require the Company to include in its Proxy Statement and proxy relating to an annual meeting any stockholder proposal that does not meet all of the requirements for inclusion established by the Securities and Exchange Commission in effect at the time such proposal is received.

Advance written notice for certain business, or nominations to the Board of Directors, to be brought before the next annual meeting of stockholders must be given to the Company no earlier than December 21, 2009 and no later than 5:00 P.M., Chicago, Illinois Time, on January 20, 2010. If notice is received before December 21, 2009 or after 5:00 P.M., Chicago, Illinois Time, on January 20, 2010, it will not be considered timely, and the Company will not be required to present the matter at the next annual meeting of stockholders.

OTHER MATTERS

The Board of Directors is not aware of any business to come before the Annual Meeting other than the matters described above in the Proxy Statement. However, if any other matters should properly come before the Annual Meeting, it is intended that the holders of the proxies will act as determined by a majority vote of those present and voting.

MISCELLANEOUS

The cost of solicitation of proxies will be borne by the Company. The Company will reimburse brokerage firms and other custodians, nominees and fiduciaries for reasonable expenses incurred by them in sending proxy materials to the beneficial owners of common stock. The Company has also made arrangements with Laurel Hill Advisory Group to assist it in soliciting proxies and has agreed to pay the firm a fee of \$7,500 plus reimbursable out-of-pocket expenses and telephone solicitation fees. In addition to solicitations by mail, directors, officers and regular employees of the Company and its subsidiaries may solicit proxies personally or by telephone, e-mail, the Internet, letter or facsimile without additional compensation.

A COPY OF THE COMPANY'S ANNUAL REPORT ON FORM 10-K FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2008 WILL BE FURNISHED WITHOUT CHARGE TO STOCKHOLDERS AS OF THE RECORD DATE UPON WRITTEN REQUEST TO BANKFINANCIAL CORPORATION, 15W060 NORTH FRONTAGE ROAD, BURR RIDGE, ILLINOIS 60527, ATTN: JAMES J. BRENNAN, SECRETARY.

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

James J. Brennan
Secretary

Burr Ridge, Illinois

May 20, 2009

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APPENDIX A

BANKFINANCIAL CORPORATION

AUDIT COMMITTEE OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

COMMITTEE CHARTER

(Adopted by the Board of Directors on December 22, 2004)

I. PURPOSE OF THE AUDIT COMMITTEE

The Audit Committee shall be directly responsible for the appointment and dismissal, compensation, and oversight of the Company's Internal Auditor and independent auditor, and may not delegate any of such responsibilities to others. The Committee shall assist the Board in its oversight of:

The accuracy and completeness of the Company's financial statements and other significant written financial information provided by the Company to any regulatory organization or the public in compliance with all applicable laws and regulations;

The Company's auditing, accounting and financial reporting processes;

The Company's systems of internal controls regarding asset/liability management, lending, finance, deposit services and other risk exposures;

The Company's compliance with legal and regulatory requirements;

The retention and dismissal of the independent auditor as well as the review of the independent auditor's qualifications, engagements, compensation and performance;

The performance of the Company's internal audit function;

The adequacy of this charter and recommend any changes to the Board based on the advice of outside counsel concerning the current standards applicable to publicly-held corporate Audit Committees; and,

The assessment of the Committee's operational performance on an annual basis, with the assistance of its outside counsel, the independent auditor or other consultants as it deems appropriate. The Committee will provide its self-assessment and recommendations for any changes to the Board. The Committee shall also recommend any changes to its allocation of resources resulting from its performance self-assessment.

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Provide an open avenue of communication among management, the Internal Auditor, the independent auditors, senior management and the Board of Directors.

The Committee does not prepare financial statements on behalf of the Company or perform the Company's audits, and its members are not the Company's auditors and do not certify the Company's financial statements. These functions are performed by the Company's management and independent auditor.

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II. MEMBERSHIP

All members of the Audit Committee shall be independent of the Company management and free of any relationship that would compromise their exercise of independent judgment as Committee members. Each member of the Committee must satisfy all applicable qualification and independence requirements set forth in the rules and regulations of applicable regulatory organizations. The Committee shall monitor its continuing compliance with all membership requirements.

The responsibilities of a member of the Committee are in addition to responsibilities as a member of the Board and, accordingly, members receive additional compensation for Committee service.

III. FREQUENCY OF MEETINGS

The Committee shall meet as frequently as necessary but no less than four times annually. The Committee shall also meet at the request of the Chief Executive Officer, the Chief Financial Officer, the Internal Auditor or the independent auditor. The Board of Directors shall designate a Chairperson of the Committee. The Committee Chairperson shall approve an agenda in advance of each meeting. A majority of the members of the Committee shall constitute a quorum. The Committee shall maintain minutes or other records of its meetings and activities.

The Committee shall, through its Chairperson, report regularly to the Board following the meetings of the Committee, addressing the matters designated by this Charter and such other related matters as the Committee may deem appropriate.

IV. AUTHORITY

The Audit Committee may conduct or authorize investigations into any matters within the scope of this Charter. The Committee may also take any other action permitted by applicable laws, rules and regulations necessary to accomplish any action authorized by this charter.

The Committee may conduct meetings in executive session, with or without management, the Internal Auditor or the independent auditor (in each case, either individually or jointly) to effect the appropriate environment of communication and coordination for the Committee's purposes and responsibilities pursuant to this Charter.

The Committee may request reports from the Chief Executive Officer or Chief Financial Officer. The Committee may also retain (and has the sole discretion to determine the funding for) experts to advise or assist it, including outside counsel, accountants, financial analysts or others.

V. SCOPE OF COMMITTEE RESPONSIBILITIES

The scope of Committee responsibilities is as follows:

A. Financial Reporting Processes

In consultation with the Internal Auditor and the independent auditors, review the accuracy and completeness of the Company's financial reporting processes, both internal and external, in compliance with all applicable laws and regulations. The review should include the adequacy and effectiveness of the accounting and financial controls of the Company and any recommendations by the independent or internal auditor for improvements or particular areas where new or more detailed controls or procedures are desirable;

Establish regular and separate systems of reporting to the Committee by management, the Internal Auditor and the independent auditor regarding any significant judgments or assumptions made in management's preparation of the financial statements and the appropriateness of such judgments;

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Inquire of management, Internal Auditor and the independent auditors about significant risks or exposures involving accounting policies, internal controls or compliance matters and assess the steps management has taken to minimize such risks;

Periodically consult with the Internal Auditor and the independent auditors without the presence of management about the system of internal controls and the completeness and accuracy of the Company's financial statements;

Receive written representations from management as to the integrity of the Company's internal controls and financial reporting systems and the conformity of the Company's financial statements with generally accepted accounting principles and applicable regulatory accounting principles;

Review any significant disagreement among management, the Internal Auditor and the independent auditors in connection with the preparation of the financial statements;

Consider and approve, if appropriate, material changes to the Company's accounting and auditing principles and practices as needed or as recommended by management, the Internal Auditor or the independent auditors.

B. Conduct of Internal Auditing

Review the internal audit function of the Company, including the annual audit plan as revised to incorporate adjustments due to changes in the business of the Company or arising from the cycle of internal controls review;

Review with the Internal Auditor and the independent auditors the coordination of audit efforts to assure completeness of coverage, reduction of redundant efforts and the effective use of audit resources;

Review the appointment, replacement, reassignment or dismissal of the Internal Auditor, the sufficiency of resources dedicated to the internal audit function and the independence of the Internal Auditor and internal audit function;

Review internal audit reports and management's responses thereto;

Receive written representation from the Internal Auditor that there were no significant difficulties encountered during the course of internal audits, including any restrictions on the scope of their work or access to required information;

Review the Internal Audit Division's compliance with the Institute of Internal Auditors' Standards for the Professional Practice of Internal Auditing.

C. Conduct of Independent Auditing

Subject to ratification by shareholders, the Audit Committee shall have the sole authority to appoint or replace the independent auditors. The Audit Committee shall be directly responsible for the compensation of the independent auditors

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(for both the independent audit and approved non-audit services). The independent auditors shall report directly to the Audit Committee;

Subject to the prohibitions in Exhibit A, approve all audit and non-audit services to be performed by the independent auditors prior to the performance of that work (including all fees and expenses);

Review the qualifications and experience of senior members of the independent audit team;

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Review and discuss with the independent auditors all significant relationships the independent auditors have with the Company to confirm independence. The Audit Committee shall also approve the hiring of employees or former employees of the independent auditor;

Review with the independent auditor any problems or difficulties in connection with the independent audit and management's response, review the independent auditor's attestation and report on management internal control report, and hold timely discussions with the independent auditors regarding the following: (1) all critical accounting policies and practices; (2) all alternative treatments of financial information within generally accepted accounting principles or regulatory accounting principles that have been discussed with management, ramifications of the use of such alternative disclosures and treatment, and the treatment preferred by the independent auditor; (3) other material written communications between the independent auditor and management, including, but not limited to, the management letter and schedule of unadjusted differences; and (4) an analysis of the auditor's judgment as to the quality of the Company's accounting principles, discussing significant reporting issues and judgments made in connection with the preparation of the Company's financial statements;

Obtain and review annually a report by the independent auditor describing (1) the auditing firm's internal quality control procedures and (2) any material issues raised by its most recent quality control review or investigation within the preceding five years and steps taken to resolve those issues.

D. Conduct of Legal & Regulatory Compliance Management

Review the Company's Code of Ethics & Business Conduct and recommend any changes or additions thereto;

Establish procedures whereby (1) officers and associates can confidentially and anonymously submit to the Committee concerns or issues regarding the Company's accounting or auditing principles and practices and (2) the tracking of the receipt, retention and treatment of such complaints is effected by the Internal Audit Division for direct reporting to the Committee;

Review the effectiveness of the Company's regulatory compliance program, including any changes to policies or practices recommended by management, the Internal Auditor, the independent auditors or outside counsel;

Review all regulatory examination reports, management responses and any matters concerning resolution activities that the Internal Auditor believes appropriate for the Committee's attention;

Review with the Company's outside legal counsel any legal matters that may materially affect the Company's financial statements or public filings and reports;

Review related party transactions consistent with all regulatory requirements, including the procedures with respect to expense account management and use of corporate assets by directors, officers and associates;

At least annually, assess any emerging accounting or regulatory issues that may have a material effect on the Company's financial statements or public filings and reports in the future.

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E. Public Filings & Reports

Review the Company's quarterly and annual SEC filings, including the financial statements, Management Discussion & Analysis information and management certifications with the Chief Executive Officer, Chief Financial Officer, the Internal Auditor and the independent auditors;

Review earnings press releases and information provided to analysts and rating agencies;

Review reports or other financial information, as deemed necessary and appropriate, prior to submission to the applicable regulatory organization or to the public;

Submit an annual report of the Committee to shareholders in the Company's Proxy Statement as required by the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission.

VI. CONCLUSION

The Committee is to serve as an independent and objective party to monitor the Company's financial reporting process and system of internal controls on behalf of the Board and shareholders. While maintaining its independence and integrity at all times, the Committee must also provide an open avenue of communication among management, the Internal Auditor, the independent auditors and the Board of Directors to properly fulfill its mission.

EXHIBIT A PROHIBITED NON-AUDIT SERVICES

The following services may not be provided by the independent auditor contemporaneously with the audit:

Bookkeeping or other services related to the accounting records or financial statements of the Company;

Financial information systems design and implementation;

Appraisal or valuation services, fairness opinions, or contribution-in-kind reports;

Actuarial services;

Internal audit outsourcing services;

Management functions or human resources;

Broker or dealer, investment advisor, or investment banking services;

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Legal services and expert services unrelated to the audit;

Any other service that the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board determines is impermissible.

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APPENDIX B
BANKFINANCIAL CORPORATION
CORPORATE GOVERNANCE & NOMINATING COMMITTEE
OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
COMMITTEE CHARTER

(Adopted by the Board of Directors on December 22, 2004)

I. PURPOSE OF THE COMMITTEE

The Corporate Governance & Nominating Committee shall be directly responsible for recruitment and evaluation of incumbent and new candidates for election to the Board of Directors.

II. MEMBERSHIP

The Board shall appoint the members of the Corporate Governance & Nominating Committee annually. All members of the Committee shall be independent of the Company's management and free of any relationship that would compromise their exercise of independent judgment as Committee members. Directors eligible for re-nomination during the current calendar year are not eligible for appointment as members of the Committee for the current year. Each member of the Committee must satisfy all applicable qualification and independence requirements set forth in the rules and regulations of applicable regulatory organizations.

III. FREQUENCY OF MEETINGS

The Committee shall meet as frequently as necessary but no less than annually. The Committee shall also meet at the request of the Chief Executive Officer or a majority of the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors shall designate a Chairperson of the Committee. The Committee Chairperson shall approve an agenda in advance of each meeting. A majority of the members of the Committee shall constitute a quorum. The Committee shall maintain minutes or other records of its meetings and activities.

The Committee shall, through its Chairperson, report regularly to the Board following the meetings of the Committee, addressing the matters designated by this Charter and such other related matters as the Committee may deem appropriate.

IV. AUTHORITY

The Committee may conduct or authorize investigations into any matters within its scope of this Charter. The Committee may also take any other action permitted by applicable laws, rules and regulations necessary to accomplish any action authorized by this charter.

The Committee may conduct meetings in executive session with members of the Board of Directors or new candidates (in each case, either individually or jointly) to effect the appropriate environment of communication and coordination for the Company's control environment.

The Committee may request reports from the Chief Executive Officer or General Counsel. The Committee may also retain (and determine the funding for) experts to advise or assist it, including outside counsel, search firms or other advisors, and the Company must provide sufficient funding for any such assistance.

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V. SCOPE OF COMMITTEE RESPONSIBILITIES

The scope of Corporate Governance & Nominating Committee responsibilities is as follows:

A. Board of Directors Candidate Evaluation

Determine whether candidates meet the minimum qualifications for election pursuant to the Company's Charter, Section 1.09 of the Company's Bylaws and all applicable laws and regulations to which the Company is subject, including the determination whether an existing or proposed Board member meets all standards of independence established by applicable regulatory organizations;

Determine whether the background, experience and expertise of any candidate to the Board of Directors is in the long-term interests of shareholders. In its sole discretion, the Committee may consider the current composition of the Board of Directors and its Committees, the number of directors meeting all independence standards imposed by applicable regulatory organizations, present and future business activities and plans, the representation of the diverse communities and geographies served by the Company and any other factors the Committee deems appropriate.

B. Corporate Governance Compliance

Facilitate and coordinate all meetings of independent directors required by all regulatory organizations. The Committee may appoint one or more independent directors as liaisons to non-independent directors, management or shareholders as it deems appropriate;

Coordinate and report to the Board of Directors an annual evaluation of the Board's performance;

Review director compensation and recommend any changes to the Board of Directors;

Review the suitability of this Charter and the Company's corporate governance practices and recommend any changes to the Board of Directors;

At least annually, assess any emerging legal or regulatory issues that may have a material effect on the Company's corporate governance policies, practices or reports in the future.

VI. CONCLUSION

The Committee is to serve as an independent and objective party to monitor the Company's corporate governance practices and facilitate the effective governance of the Company based on its evaluation of the composition and conduct of the Board of Directors.

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APPENDIX C

BANKFINANCIAL CORPORATION

HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

COMMITTEE CHARTER

(Adopted by the Board of Directors on January 30, 2008)

I. PURPOSE OF THE COMMITTEE

The Human Resources Committee shall be directly responsible for the execution of the Board's responsibilities with respect to compensation, performance evaluation and succession planning for the Company's Chief Executive Officer and principal executive officers. (The term "principal executive officers" are those individuals covered by Section 16 of the Securities and Exchange Act of 1934.) The Committee is also responsible for the submission of the annual report on executive compensation to the Board of Directors for inclusion into the Company's Annual Proxy Statement.

II. MEMBERSHIP

The Board shall appoint the members of the Committee annually. All members of the Committee shall be independent of the company management and free of any relationship that would compromise their exercise of independent judgment as Committee members. Each member of the Committee must satisfy all applicable qualification and independence requirements set forth in the rules and regulations of applicable regulatory organizations.

III. FREQUENCY OF MEETINGS

The Committee shall meet as frequently as necessary but no less than annually. The Committee shall also meet at the request of the Chief Executive Officer or a majority of the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors shall designate a Chairperson of the Committee. The Committee Chairperson shall approve an agenda in advance of each meeting. A majority of the members of the Committee shall constitute a quorum. The Committee shall maintain minutes or other records of its meetings and activities.

The Committee shall, through its Chairperson, report regularly to the Board following the meetings of the Committee, addressing the matters designated by this Charter and such other related matters as the Committee may deem appropriate.

IV. AUTHORITY

The Committee may conduct or authorize investigations into any matters within its scope of this Charter. The Committee may also take any other action permitted by applicable laws, rules and regulations necessary to accomplish any action authorized by this Charter.

The Committee may conduct meetings in executive session with members of the Board of Directors or the principal executive officers (in each case, either individually or jointly) to effect the appropriate environment of communication and coordination for the Company's control environment.

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The Committee may request reports from the Chief Executive Officer, Chief Financial Officer, General Counsel and Executive Vice President Human Resources. The Committee may also retain (and determine the funding for) experts to advise or assist it, including outside counsel, search firms or other advisors, and the Company must provide sufficient funding for any such assistance.

V. SCOPE OF COMMITTEE RESPONSIBILITIES

The scope of Human Resources Committee responsibilities is as follows:

A. Executive Compensation

Review and approve base compensation, cash incentive compensation, equity incentive compensation, non-standard employment benefits / perquisites, and employment or severance agreements for the Chief Executive Officer and principal executive officers.

B. Management Sufficiency

Review annually the current state of management sufficiency and succession planning within the Company for key risk areas and report any recommended changes to the Board of Directors.

C. Reporting

Submit a report to the Board on executive compensation for inclusion in the Company's Annual Proxy Statement as required by all applicable laws and regulations of regulatory organizations;

Review the suitability of this Charter and recommend any changes to the Board of Directors;

At least annually, assess any emerging accounting, legal or regulatory issues that may have a material effect on the Company's executive compensation practices or reports in the future.

VI. CONCLUSION

The Committee is to serve as an independent and objective party to monitor the Company's corporate governance practices relating to human resources matters and facilitate the effective oversight of executive compensation, management sufficiency and succession planning of the Company. The Committee will meet periodically throughout the year to execute its responsibilities and issue reports of its activities for use by the Board of Directors and Shareholders.

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ADD 2

Electronic Voting Instructions

ADD 3

**You can vote by Internet or telephone!
Available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week!**

ADD 4

ADD 5

Instead of mailing your proxy, you may choose one of the two voting methods outlined below to vote your proxy.

ADD 6

VALIDATION DETAILS ARE LOCATED BELOW IN THE TITLE BAR.

Proxies submitted by the Internet or telephone must be received by 1:00 a.m., Central Time, on June 30, 2009.

Vote by Internet

Log on to the Internet and go to www.investorvote.com

Follow the steps outlined on the secured website.

Vote by telephone

Call toll free 1-800-652-VOTE (8683) within the United States, Canada & Puerto Rico any time on a touch tone telephone. There is **NO CHARGE** to you for the call.

Follow the instructions provided by the recorded message.

Using a **black ink** pen, mark your votes with an **X** as shown in

X

this example. Please do not write outside the designated areas.

q IF YOU HAVE NOT VOTED VIA THE INTERNET OR TELEPHONE, FOLD ALONG THE PERFORATION, DETACH AND RETURN THE BOTTOM PORTION IN THE ENCLOSED ENVELOPE. q

A Proposals The Board of Directors recommends a vote FOR all the nominees listed and FOR Proposal 2.

1. To elect two directors for a three-year term and until their successors are duly elected and qualify:

.. Mark here to vote FOR all nominees 01 - Cassandra J. Francis 02 - Sherwin R. Koopmans 03 - Terry R. Wells +

01 02 03

.. For All EXCEPT - To withhold a vote for one or more nominees, mark the box to the left and the corresponding numbered box(es) to the right.

..

.. Mark here to WITHHOLD vote from all nominees

For Against Abstain

2. To ratify the engagement of Crowe Horwath LLP as the independent registered public accounting firm of the Company for the year ending December 31, 2009.

..

In their discretion, the proxies are authorized to vote on any other business that may properly come before the Annual Meeting or any adjournments or postponements thereof as permitted by law.

B Non-Voting Items

Change of Address Please print new address below.

C Authorized Signatures This section must be completed for your vote to be counted. Date and Sign Below

The undersigned acknowledge(s) receipt from the Company, prior to the execution of this proxy, of a Notice of the Annual Meeting, a Proxy Statement and the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2008.

Please sign exactly as your name(s) appear(s) on this card. When signing as attorney, executor, administrator, trustee or guardian, please give full title. If shares are held jointly, each joint holder should sign. A proxy executed by a corporation or other legal entity should be signed in its name by an authorized officer.

Date (mm/dd/yyyy) Please print date below.

Signature 1 Please keep signature within the box.

Signature 2 Please keep signature within the box.

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q IF YOU HAVE NOT VOTED VIA THE INTERNET OR TELEPHONE, FOLD ALONG THE PERFORATION, DETACH AND RETURN THE BOTTOM PORTION IN THE ENCLOSED ENVELOPE. q

Our Proxy Statement for the 2009 Annual Meeting and our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2008, together with the accompanying form of proxy, are available online at www.sendd.com/EZProxy/?project_id=311. Directions to the Annual Meeting are available in the Proxy Statement.

Proxy BANKFINANCIAL CORPORATION

Proxy for Annual Meeting of Stockholders

June 30, 2009

THIS PROXY IS SOLICITED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF BANKFINANCIAL CORPORATION.

The undersigned, whose signature(s) appear(s) on the reverse side of this proxy, hereby appoint(s) Joseph A. Schudt, John M. Hausmann and Glen R. Wherfel and each of them, with full power of substitution, acting by a majority of those present and voting, or if only one is present and voting, then that one, to act as attorneys and proxies for the undersigned to vote all shares of common stock of BankFinancial Corporation (the Company) which the undersigned is entitled to vote at the Annual Meeting of Stockholders of the Company (the Annual Meeting), to be held on Tuesday, June 30, 2009 at 11:00 a.m., Chicago, Illinois Time, at the Holiday Inn Chicago-Willowbrook-Hinsdale, 7800 Kingery Hwy (Route 83), Willowbrook, Illinois, and any adjournments or postponements thereof, with all the powers the undersigned would possess if present.

THIS PROXY WILL BE VOTED AS DIRECTED, BUT IF NO INSTRUCTIONS ARE SPECIFIED, THIS PROXY WILL BE VOTED FOR ALL DIRECTOR NOMINEES LISTED ON THE REVERSE SIDE OF THIS PROXY AND FOR THE RATIFICATION OF THE ENGAGEMENT OF CROWE HORWATH LLP AS THE INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM OF THE COMPANY. THE UNDERSIGNED HEREBY REVOKES ANY PROXY OR PROXIES HERETOFORE GIVEN TO VOTE SUCH SHARES AT SAID MEETING OR AT ANY ADJOURNMENTS OR POSTPONEMENTS THEREOF.

This proxy continues and must be signed on the reverse side.

Thank you for voting.