

BANKRATE INC
Form SC 14D9
July 28, 2009

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SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
Washington, DC 20549

SCHEDULE 14D-9
(RULE 14d-101)
Solicitation/Recommendation Statement Under
Section 14(d)(4) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934

Bankrate, Inc.
(Name of Subject Company)

Bankrate, Inc.
(Name of Person(s) Filing Statement)

Common Stock, Par Value \$0.01 Per Share
(Title of Class of Securities)

06646V108
(CUSIP Number of Class of Securities)

Edward J. DiMaria
11760 U.S. Highway One, Suite 200
North Palm Beach, Florida 33408
(561) 630-2400
(Name, Address and Telephone Number of Person Authorized to Receive Notice and Communications on Behalf of the Person(s) Filing Statement)

With copies to:

Lawrence S. Makow, Esq.
David E. Shapiro, Esq.
Wachtell, Lipton, Rosen & Katz

**51 West 52nd Street
New York, New York 10019
(212) 403-1000**

- Check the box if the filing relates solely to preliminary communications made before the commencement of a tender offer.
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ITEM 1. SUBJECT COMPANY INFORMATION.

(a) Name and Address.

The name of the subject company to which this Solicitation/Recommendation Statement on Schedule 14D-9 (this Schedule 14D-9) relates is Bankrate, Inc., a Florida corporation (the Company or Bankrate). The address of the principal executive offices of the Company is 11760 U.S. Highway One, Suite 200, North Palm Beach, Florida 33408, and its telephone number is (561) 630-2400.

(b) Class of Securities.

The title of the class of equity securities to which this Schedule 14D-9 relates is the common stock, par value \$0.01 per share, of the Company (the Shares, each a Share, and the holders of such Shares Shareholders). As of the close of business on July 27, 2009, there were 100,000,000 Shares authorized, of which 19,148,003 were outstanding (including restricted shares).

ITEM 2. IDENTITY AND BACKGROUND OF FILING PERSON.

(a) Name and Address of Person Filing this Statement.

The name, address and telephone number of the Company, which is the person filing this Schedule 14D-9, are set forth in Item 1(a) above.

(b) Tender Offer of BEN Merger Sub, Inc.

This Schedule 14D-9 relates to the tender offer (the Tender Offer or Offer) by BEN Merger Sub, Inc., a Florida corporation (Merger Sub) and a wholly owned subsidiary of BEN Holdings, Inc., a Delaware corporation (Parent), an indirect wholly owned subsidiary of Ben Holding S.à.r.l., which is beneficially owned by Apax US VII, L.P. (Apax US VII Fund), Apax Europe VII-A, L.P., Apax Europe VII-B, L.P. and Apax Europe VII-1, L.P. (Apax Europe VII Funds, and together with Apax US VII Fund, the Sponsor Funds) to purchase all of Bankrate's outstanding Shares for \$28.50 per Share, payable net to the seller in cash without interest thereon, less any applicable withholding taxes (the Offer Price), upon the terms and subject to the conditions set forth in Merger Sub's Offer to Purchase dated July 28, 2009 (as amended or supplemented from time to time, the Offer to Purchase) and in the related Letter of Transmittal (as amended or supplemented from time to time, the Letter of Transmittal), copies of which are filed as Exhibits (a)(1) and (a)(2) hereto, respectively, and are incorporated herein by reference. The Tender Offer is described in a Tender Offer Statement on Schedule TO (as amended or supplemented from time to time, the Schedule TO), which was filed by Merger Sub with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (the SEC) on July 28, 2009. Apax Partners, L.P. is (i) an advisor to Apax US VII Fund under an investment advisory agreement with Apax US VII Fund, and (ii) an advisor to Apax Partners LLP, which is an advisor to Apax Partners Europe Managers Limited, the discretionary investment manager to the Apax Europe VII Funds, under separate investment advisory contracts (Apax Partners, L.P., in such capacities described in the foregoing clauses (i) and (ii), is referred to as Apax).

The Tender Offer is being made pursuant to an Agreement and Plan of Merger dated as of July 22, 2009, among the Company, Parent and Merger Sub (the Merger Agreement). The Merger Agreement provides, among other things, that after consummation of the Tender Offer, Merger Sub will merge with and into the Company (the Merger), with the Company continuing as the surviving corporation and a wholly owned subsidiary of Parent (Surviving Corporation). At the effective time of the Merger, each outstanding Share (other than Shares owned by Parent, Merger Sub,

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Bankrate and its subsidiaries, and certain shares owned by certain of Bankrate's officers and directors (as further described herein) and Shares with respect to which dissenters rights are properly demanded and perfected) will be converted into the right to receive the Offer Price. A copy of the Merger Agreement is filed as Exhibit (e)(1) to this Schedule 14D-9 and is incorporated herein by reference.

The Schedule TO states that the address of Merger Sub is 601 Lexington Avenue, 53rd Floor, New York, New York 10022, and Merger Sub's telephone number thereat is (212) 753-6300.

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ITEM 3. PAST CONTACTS, TRANSACTIONS, NEGOTIATIONS AND AGREEMENTS.

(a) Arrangements with Directors and Executive Officers of the Company.

In considering the recommendation of Bankrate's board of directors (the Board) to tender Bankrate shares in the Offer, shareholders should be aware that Bankrate's executive officers and certain directors have agreements or arrangements that may provide them with interests that may differ from, or be in addition to, those of shareholders generally. The Board was aware of these agreements and arrangements during its deliberations of the merits of the Merger Agreement and in determining to make the recommendation set forth in the Schedule 14D-9.

Director and Officer Indemnification and Insurance

All present rights of directors and officers of Bankrate to exculpation, indemnification and advancement of expenses for acts or omissions occurring at or prior to the effective time of the Merger in connection with such person serving as a director or officer, whether asserted or claimed at or after the effective time of the Merger will continue after the Merger. Parent and the Surviving Corporation will maintain all exculpation, indemnification and advancement of expenses provisions of Bankrate that exist immediately prior to the effective time of the Merger, and will not for a period of six years after the Merger amend, repeal, or modify these provisions in any manner that would adversely affect the rights of any individuals who were current or former directors, officers or employees of Bankrate at the effective time of the Merger.

From and after the Board Appointment Date (as defined below), Parent and the Surviving Corporation will, to the fullest extent permitted under law, indemnify and advance funds to each current and former director or officer of Bankrate for any action arising out of, relating to or in connection with any act or omission occurring or alleged to have occurred before or after the Board Appointment Date in connection with such person serving as a director or officer.

For six years following the Board Appointment Date, Parent will maintain or substitute directors' and officers' liability insurance on terms no less favorable than those under Bankrate's current policy, subject to a maximum limit on annual premiums equal to 250% of the last annual premium paid by Bankrate prior to the date of the Merger Agreement with respect to matters arising on or before the Board Appointment Date. In lieu of the foregoing, Bankrate may purchase a six-year prepaid tail policy prior to the Board Appointment Date providing benefits substantially equivalent to those provided under Bankrate's current policy with respect to matters arising on or before the Board Appointment Date.

Effect of the Offer and the Merger Agreement on Stock Options and Restricted Shares Granted under Bankrate's Stock Incentive Plans and Stock held by Directors and Executive Officers

As set forth below, executive officers and non-employee directors who are party to a Support Agreement have committed to invest certain amounts into Parent. It is expected that these investments will be satisfied either (1) with amounts that would otherwise be payable with respect to their Bankrate equity holdings described below or (2) by the surrender of certain of their Bankrate equity holdings for Parent securities before the effective time of the Merger.

Options

The Merger Agreement provides that, except as may otherwise be agreed between Parent and an individual option holder who is party to a Support Agreement, each outstanding option to acquire Bankrate's shares granted under Bankrate's equity compensation plans, including those held by Bankrate's executive officers and non-employee

directors, that is outstanding immediately prior to the Acceptance Time will automatically fully vest (if not already vested) and will, with respect to the Support Executives, each of whom has entered into a Support Agreement, upon the completion of the Merger, and with respect to Bankrate's other executive officers and directors, upon the Acceptance Time, convert into the right to receive an amount in cash, without interest, equal to (i) \$28.50 less the exercise price of the applicable option, multiplied by (ii) the aggregate number of Bankrate shares into which the applicable option was exercisable immediately prior to the completion of the Merger or the Acceptance Time, as applicable. Bankrate or the surviving corporation will pay the holders of Bankrate options the

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cash payments (less required withholding taxes) in respect of their options within ten business days following the Acceptance Time. If the exercise price of any option is equal to or greater than \$28.50, it will be cancelled without any cash payment being made to the holder of such option. As of the date hereof, Messrs. Evans, DiMaria, Hoogterp, Horowitz, Ross, Ricciardelli, Zanca and DeFranco and the five Bankrate non-employee directors (as a group, which includes Messrs. Morse and O Block) hold 880,000, 130,000, 25,000, 45,000, 150,000, 40,000, 107,500, 24,250 and 347,500 options to purchase Bankrate shares, respectively. Based on their Bankrate options held as of the date hereof, and assuming the Offer was completed on August 26, 2009, upon completion of the Offer the number of unvested options to purchase Bankrate shares held by each of Messrs. Evans, DiMaria, Hoogterp, Horowitz, Ross, Ricciardelli, Zanca and DeFranco and the five Bankrate non-employee directors (as a group, which includes Messrs. Morse and O Block) that would vest upon completion of the Offer are 0, 25,000, 0, 1,563, 48,751, 13,542, 1,563, 1,563, and 50,000, respectively. These unvested options each have an exercise price greater than \$28.50 and would be cancelled without any cash payment upon completion of the Offer. Based on their Bankrate options held as of the date hereof, upon completion of the Offer and completion of the Merger, Messrs. Evans, DiMaria, Hoogterp, Horowitz, Ross, Ricciardelli, Zanca and DeFranco and the five Bankrate non-employee directors (as a group, which includes Messrs. Morse and O Block), would receive a cash payment in an amount equal to \$17,201,200, \$0, \$256,000, \$591,500, \$0, \$0, \$1,937,050, \$324,888 and \$3,444,125 with respect to all of their Bankrate options, less any applicable withholding taxes.

Restricted Shares

The Merger Agreement also provides that, except as may otherwise be agreed between Parent and an individual holder of restricted shares that is party to a Support Agreement, all Bankrate restricted shares outstanding immediately prior to the Acceptance Time will vest in full and, subject to the ultimate vesting of the restricted shares, the holder of the Bankrate shares (other than holders subject to the Support Agreements) will have the right to tender (or direct Bankrate to tender) his or her restricted shares into the Offer (net of any Bankrate shares withheld to satisfy employment and income tax obligations). To the extent that any restricted shares that vest upon completion of the Offer are not tendered, they will be converted into the right to receive an amount in cash, without interest, equal to \$28.50 per share upon the effective time of the Merger, except as otherwise agreed between Parent and an individual holder of restricted shares that is a party to a Support Agreement. Each of the Support Executives have agreed not to tender any of their Bankrate shares into the Offer, which with respect to the executive officers includes any Bankrate restricted shares. Based on their Bankrate restricted shares held as of the date hereof and assuming the Offer was completed on August 26, 2009, upon completion of the Offer, the number of Bankrate restricted shares held by each of Messrs. Evans, DiMaria, Hoogterp, Horowitz, Ross, Ricciardelli, Zanca and DeFranco that would vest immediately prior to completion of the Offer are 34,166, 82,500, 17,000, 47,500, 47,500, 16,833, 17,000 and 0, respectively, and Messrs. Evans, DiMaria, Hoogterp, Horowitz, Ross, Ricciardelli, Zanca and DeFranco would receive a cash payment, as of completion of the Offer or the Merger, as applicable, in an amount equal to \$973,731, \$2,351,250, \$484,500, \$1,353,750, \$1,353,750, \$479,740.50, \$484,500 and \$0, respectively, with respect to their restricted shares, less any applicable withholding taxes. Bankrate's non-employee directors do not hold any Bankrate restricted shares.

Shares

Bankrate's directors and executive officers also beneficially own Bankrate shares. With the exception of the Support Executives (who have separately agreed not to tender their Bankrate shares), these individuals may tender their Bankrate shares for acceptance in the Offer. Any Bankrate shares not tendered in the Offer would be exchanged for cash upon the closing of the Merger. Based on their Bankrate shares held as of the date hereof and assuming the Offer was completed on August 26, 2009, and assuming that, solely for purposes of this calculation, the executive officers and directors who are not Support Executives do not tender any of their Bankrate shares into the Offer, upon completion of the Offer, the number of Bankrate shares beneficially owned by each of Messrs. Evans, DiMaria, Hoogterp, Horowitz, Ross, Ricciardelli, Zanca and DeFranco and the five Bankrate non-employee directors (as a

group, which includes Messrs. Morse and O Block) (which, in all cases, does not include any restricted shares that will vest immediately prior to completion of the Offer) are 0, 11,210, 7,332, 6,258, 8,857, 7,135, 8,226, 0, and 4,575,255, respectively and the cash payment each such officer or group would receive

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upon the Merger in exchange for such Bankrate shares is \$0, \$319,485, \$208,962, \$178,353, \$252,425, \$203,348, \$234,441, \$0 and \$130,394,768, respectively.

Support Executives Investment in Parent

Each of Messrs. Morse, O Block, Evans, DiMaria, Hoogterp, Horowitz, Ricciardelli, Ross and Zanca has entered into a Support Agreement with Parent and Purchaser pursuant to which they have each agreed (i) not to tender any of their Bankrate shares into the Offer, (ii) to support the Merger and the other transactions contemplated by the Merger Agreement and (iii) to make certain investments in Parent (or an affiliate of Parent) prior to the effective time of the Merger. The investment of each of those individuals will be invested in the same Parent securities, and in the same relative proportions between such securities, as will be held by the Sponsor Funds and their affiliates. To the extent that the Sponsor Funds and their affiliates determine that it is reasonably feasible, and after taking into account the previous sentence, the Sponsor Funds and Parent will cooperate with these shareholders to achieve a tax-free rollover of their committed equity investment. Mr. Evans has committed to invest \$4,500,000, the other executive officers who have entered into a Support Agreement have committed to invest an aggregate of \$635,000 and each of Messrs. Morse and O Block has committed to invest between 30% and 50% of the after-tax value of his equity holdings in Bankrate.

Management Arrangements with Parent

Parent has agreed on certain elements of the compensation arrangements that will be provided by Parent and the Surviving Corporation following the completion of the Merger to certain executive officers.

Standard Terms of Employment

Parent has agreed that the existing employment agreements of Messrs. Evans, DiMaria, Hoogterp, Horowitz, Ross and Zanca, including their severance rights, commitments and restrictive covenants thereunder, which are described in Existing Employment Agreements with Bankrate below, will remain in place following completion of the Offer, provided that, to the extent applicable, each executive will execute an amendment to their employment agreement providing that the Merger will not give them good reason to terminate (if applicable), nor itself constitute a breach of their employment agreement. Parent has also committed to increase effective October 1, 2009 (i) the annual base salaries for Messrs. DiMaria, Hoogterp, Horowitz, Ricciardelli, Ross and Zanca collectively by \$210,000 in the aggregate (with individual increases ranging from \$10,000 to \$50,000) and (ii) the target bonuses for these same executives collectively by \$185,000 in the aggregate (with individual increases ranging from \$0 to \$50,000).

Parent Equity Plan

Parent has committed to adopt an equity compensation plan (the Parent Equity Plan) that will provide an incentive pool to management (the Management Pool), the amount of which is set forth below:

| Return on Total Investment | Amount of Management Pool |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1.0X | \$0 |
| 1.5X | \$20 million |
| 2.0X | \$40 million |
| 2.5X | \$60 million |
| 3.0X | \$80 million |
| 3.5X | \$100 million |
| 4.0X | \$120 million |

In the event the return on total investment is between two of the figures above or is in excess of 4.0X, the amount of the Management Pool will be proportionately adjusted. It is anticipated that the awards made to eligible participants under the Parent Equity Plan will be in the form of options to acquire Parent common stock, but Parent will consider the feasibility of creating an incentive plan structure that will provide the same economic rights to management and is eligible for capital gains tax treatment.

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Parent has committed to grant awards representing approximately 80% of the Management Pool at or about completion of the Merger, and will grant awards representing approximately 20% of the Management Pool thereafter. The number of options to be granted to the executives and other employees will be determined by Mr. Evans and Parent's board of directors. Under the Parent Equity Plan, prior to an exit event, Parent will allocate incentive awards having a value equal to the remaining unallocated value of the Management Pool, if any. The chief executive officer of the Surviving Corporation will recommend the allocation of awards for approval by Parent's board of directors.

Awards granted pursuant to the Parent Equity Plan will generally vest to the extent that agreed upon investors in Parent achieve an 8% internal rate of return on their investment as of an exit event. If this return threshold is not satisfied on the exit event, the awards will be forfeited upon the exit event. Upon a grantee's termination of employment before an exit event, outstanding awards that are not contingently vested will be forfeited. Up to 75% of a grantee's awards will contingently vest if certain agreed upon annual EBITDA targets are achieved while the grantee is employed. These contingently vested awards will be forfeited if the grantee's employment is terminated for cause, if the grantee terminates his or her employment without good reason or if the agreed upon investors in Parent do not achieve the 8% internal rate of return on their investment described above. Contingently vested awards that are not forfeited upon a termination of employment may be repurchased with an interest bearing note that will be payable only if the return threshold is satisfied.

Each current executive officer who is granted awards under the new Parent Equity Plan will be subject to certain restrictive covenants, including non-competition, non-solicitation and non-interference covenants that will apply during employment and for the twelve months thereafter (and for a period to be determined in the case of Mr. Ricciardelli.)

Shareholders Agreement

Each of the Support Executives has agreed to enter into a shareholders agreement with Parent which will govern the parties' rights and obligations with respect to capital stock of Parent following completion of the Merger. Among other rights and obligations, the shareholders agreement will provide the executives with rights, under certain circumstances, to participate in sales, purchases and registrations of Parent shares and will provide Parent with the right to require the executive to participate in certain sales and to repurchase the executive's options (or Parent shares acquired upon exercise of a previously vested option) upon termination of the executive's employment.

Positions with the Surviving Corporation

It is anticipated that the current management of Bankrate will hold substantially similar positions with the Surviving Corporation and its subsidiaries after completion of the Merger.

Existing Employment Agreements with Bankrate

Each of Bankrate's executive officers, other than Mr. Ricciardelli, is party to an employment agreement with Bankrate. Under the terms of the employment agreements, the executive officers are entitled to certain severance payments in the event they incur a termination of employment by Bankrate without cause or, in the case of Mr. Evans if he resigns for good reason and, in the case of Mr. Ross if he resigns as a result of Bankrate's breach of certain provisions of his employment agreement (each, a Qualifying Termination). Severance payments are subject to the executive officer's execution and non-revocation of a release of claims against Bankrate. In the event of a Qualifying Termination, each executive officer is entitled to receive (1) within fifteen days of his date of termination, a lump sum cash amount equal to the sum of his unpaid base salary through the date of termination and any accrued bonus through the date of termination and (2) a separation payment equal to one year's base salary at the then-current rate, payable in three equal installments as follows: (x) one-third is payable on the later of (i) fifteen days following the date of termination and

(ii) the date after the executive officer's right to revoke his release expires, (y) one-third is payable on the six-month anniversary of the date of termination and (z) one-third is payable on the one-year anniversary of the date of termination. Assuming that the Offer is completed on August 26, 2009 and the executive officer experiences a Qualifying Termination immediately thereafter, the amount of cash

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severance that will be payable to each of Messrs. Evans, DiMaria, Hoogterp, Horowitz, Ross, Zanca and DeFranco, respectively, is approximately \$450,000, \$350,000, \$250,000, \$300,000, \$300,000, \$240,000 and \$210,000.

Each executive is subject to an ongoing confidentiality obligation, and non-competition and non-recruit covenants, while employed by Bankrate and for one year thereafter (six months for Mr. Hoogterp).

Bankrate's Unwritten Severance Policy

Mr. Ricciardelli is eligible for severance under Bankrate's standard, unwritten severance policy. Pursuant to this severance policy, employees whose employment is terminated as a result of a position elimination or a termination of employment by Bankrate without cause are, subject to their entry into a severance agreement and general release, eligible for severance in an amount of two weeks of pay, plus one week of pay (rounded up for partial years) for each year of service with Bankrate. Assuming that the Offer is completed on August 26, 2009 and Mr. Ricciardelli's employment is terminated in a manner entitling him to severance under Bankrate's severance policy, based on his years of service with Bankrate as of the date of termination, Mr. Ricciardelli would be eligible for cash severance payments of approximately \$24,038.

(b) Arrangements with Parent.

The Merger Agreement.

The Merger Agreement, a copy of which is filed as Exhibit (e)(1) hereto and is incorporated herein by reference, governs the contractual rights among Parent, Merger Sub and the Company in relation to the Tender Offer and the Merger. The Merger Agreement has been filed as an exhibit to this Schedule 14D-9 to provide Shareholders with information regarding the terms of the Merger Agreement and is not intended to modify or supplement any factual disclosures about Parent, Merger Sub or the Company in the Company's public reports filed with the SEC. In particular, the Merger Agreement and the summary of terms set forth in the Tender Offer to Purchase and incorporated by reference herein are not intended to be, and should not be relied upon as, disclosure regarding any facts and circumstances relating to Parent, Merger Sub or the Company. The representations and warranties contained in the Merger Agreement have been negotiated among the parties thereto with the principal purpose of establishing the circumstances in which Parent may have the right not to consummate the Tender Offer, or a party may have the right to terminate the Merger Agreement if the representations and warranties of the other party prove to be untrue due to a change in circumstance or otherwise, and to allocate risk between the parties, rather than establishing matters as facts. The representations and warranties may also be subject to a contractual standard of materiality different from those generally applicable to Shareholders and are qualified by information set forth on confidential schedules. Accordingly, Shareholders should not rely on the representations and warranties contained in the Merger Agreement as matters of fact.

Equity Commitment Letters.

As an inducement to the Company to enter into the Merger Agreement and undertake the transactions contemplated thereby, including the Tender Offer and the Merger, the Sponsor Funds have provided an equity commitment letter to Parent (but not the Company) (the First Equity Commitment Letter) and an equity commitment letter to both Parent and the Company (the Second Equity Commitment Letter and together with the First Equity Commitment Letter, the Equity Commitment Letters). The First Equity Commitment Letter obligates the Sponsor Funds to provide Parent with up to \$570,800,000 solely to permit Parent and Merger Sub to pay all of the consideration in the Tender Offer and the Merger. The Second Equity Commitment Letter obligates the Sponsor Funds to provide Parent with up to \$570,800,000 to permit Parent to (i) pay any termination fee owed by Parent pursuant to the Merger Agreement, (ii) pay any liabilities owed by Parent pursuant to the Merger Agreement, and (iii) comply with any specific

performance remedy obtained by the Company against Parent and Merger Sub. The foregoing summary of the Equity Commitment Letters does not purport to be complete and is qualified in its entirety by reference to the First Equity Commitment Letter and the Second Equity Commitment Letter, which include certain conditions and limitations including termination provisions. The Equity Commitment Letters are filed as Exhibits (e)(2) and (e)(3) hereto and are incorporated herein by reference.

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Limited Guarantee.

Also as an inducement to the Company to enter into the Merger Agreement and undertake the transactions contemplated thereby, including the Tender Offer and the Merger, Parent has provided the Company with a limited guarantee (the Limited Guarantee) in favor of the Company guaranteeing the payment of up to \$570,800,000 to (i) pay any termination fee owed by Parent pursuant to the Merger Agreement, (ii) pay any liabilities owed by Parent pursuant to the Merger Agreement, and (iii) to permit Parent and Merger Sub to comply with any specific performance remedy obtained by the Company against Parent and Merger Sub. The foregoing summary of the Limited Guarantee does not purport to be complete and is qualified in its entirety by reference to that document, which includes certain conditions and limitations including termination provisions. The Limited Guarantee is filed as Exhibit (e)(4) hereto and is incorporated herein by reference.

Exclusivity Agreement

The Company and Apax entered into an exclusivity agreement dated June 30, 2009 (the Exclusivity Agreement) in connection with a possible negotiated transaction between the parties. The Company agreed, among other things, not to (i) solicit, negotiate, encourage, initiate or otherwise discuss with any other person or entity the sale, merger, consolidation or recapitalization of the Company and (ii) furnish non-public information for the purpose of facilitating a proposal for a third party transaction to any other entity until July 20, 2009. The foregoing summary of the Exclusivity Agreement does not purport to be complete and is qualified in its entirety by reference to the Exclusivity Agreement. The Exclusivity Agreement is filed as Exhibit (e)(5) hereto and is incorporated herein by reference.

ITEM 4. THE SOLICITATION OR RECOMMENDATION.

(a) Solicitation/Recommendation

During a meeting held on July 22, 2009, the Board, by unanimous vote and with the separate and unanimous assent of the directors of the Company not subject to Support Agreements (the Disinterested Directors), (i) determined that the terms of the Offer, the Merger and the other transactions contemplated by the Merger Agreement are fair and advisable to and in the best interests of the Company and its shareholders; (ii) approved and declared advisable the Merger Agreement and the transactions contemplated thereby, including the Offer and the Merger, in all respects; (iii) subject to the terms and conditions of the Merger Agreement, resolved to recommend that the shareholders of the Company accept the Offer, tender their Shares in the Offer and, if required by applicable law, adopt and approve the Merger Agreement and the transactions contemplated thereby, including the Merger; and (iv) approved the execution, delivery and performance of the Merger Agreement by and on behalf of the Company and the consummation of the transactions contemplated thereby, including the Offer and the Merger.

Accordingly, the Board recommends that you ACCEPT the Tender Offer and tender your Shares into the Tender Offer.

(b) Background of the Transaction

The Board has periodically met with senior management of the Company to discuss and review potential strategic directions for the Company in light of the Company's financial performance, developments in the industry and the competitive landscape and markets in which it operates. These meetings have also addressed, from time to time, hypothetical acquisitions or business combinations involving various other parties.

Beginning in June 2007, in response to inbound inquiries, the Company, with the help of financial and legal advisors, conducted a thorough review of strategic alternatives for the Company. Over the next several months, the Company

and its advisors attempted to gauge whether there was any third party interest in a possible strategic transaction involving the Company from either strategic parties or financial sponsors. Although several confidentiality agreements were entered into and various meetings took place, no transaction resulted from this process and eventually the Company suspended the process to focus on executing on its strategic plan. No strategic party expressed an interest in pursuing a transaction.

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In mid-2008, again in response to inbound inquiries, the Board re-initiated its review of strategic alternatives, reengaging in discussions with potential acquirers. The Board also re-engaged with Allen & Company LLC (Allen) which had assisted the Company in 2007. Several private equity firms, including Apax, expressed interest in working with the Company, and engaged in meetings and discussions with the Company's management and advisors. The Company's focus was on those parties with serious interest and the ability to deliver the greatest value to Company shareholders. During this time, management began a dialogue with Apax, discussing potential partnerships between the Sponsor Funds and the Company regarding potential acquisitions, as well as the possibility of Apax purchasing the Company. Management also engaged in similar discussions with another financial sponsor, but the other party did not ultimately present a proposal to the Company. In late September 2008, representatives of Apax met with management at Bankrate's headquarters and members of Bankrate's management also visited Apax's offices in London to provide an overview of the business. Discussions ceased after these meetings, largely due to the instability and volatility in the financial markets at that time.

The Board continued to discuss over the ensuing months issues related to the strategic position of the Company and the current market environment, developments among financial institutions and how they impacted the Company, as well as the ability of Bankrate to continually grow and compete effectively in a challenging business environment, including discussions regarding Bankrate's access to capital and ability to acquire desirable assets to enhance shareholder value. During this period, the Company's management met informally with various potential acquirors from time to time, including Apax, to discuss the strategic outlook of the Company.

At an April 29, 2009 meeting of the Board, senior management and the Board again reviewed the strategic position of the Company. Management informed the Board that in its judgment, the Company was at a critical juncture and that in order to compete effectively in the marketplace and maintain its market position, the Company needed to acquire strategic assets over the coming months and years and, given the Company's size, its access to capital was limited. Further, given the general scale and expected valuations of likely available acquisition candidates, undertaking an acquisition using the Company's stock as consideration would likely result in significant dilution to the Company's shareholders. Management and the Board concluded that in light of such constraints, it was advisable to again consider the level of interest in the Company among possible strategic partners. Following this meeting and after considering the history of engagement and interest levels of the various parties with whom the Company discussed a potential transaction dating back to the 2007 process, the Company renewed discussions with Apax and another financial sponsor that had contacted the Company (Party A) as the parties most likely to be seriously interested in and prepared to complete a transaction expeditiously.

In early June 2009, management held sessions with both Apax and Party A that included detailed discussions regarding the Company, including operational and financial information and projections, operating environment and industry conditions. On June 5, 2009, the Company and Apax entered into a confidentiality agreement. The Company's management and advisors began collecting documents for the creation of a data room for due diligence purposes, and Apax began engaging in due diligence activities. On June 16, 2009, the Board received a non-binding proposal from Apax to acquire all of the Company's outstanding Shares for \$30.00 per Share in cash, all of which would be funded with cash available to the Sponsor Funds without need for third party debt financing. Apax indicated that it would be prepared to proceed on the basis of an approximately four-week due diligence period and that it would require that the Company agree to deal with Apax exclusively as a condition to commencing due diligence and the negotiation of definitive documents.

The Board met telephonically on June 17, 2009, and received an update from Allen regarding the negotiations with Apax, as well as Party A. During this time, management and the Board discussed the Company's financial performance for its second quarter and the outlook for the remainder of 2009, including the likelihood that its results for the second quarter of 2009 would be substantially below analyst consensus estimates and the possible reaction of the Company's stock price to the announcement of those results.

Over the next few days, representatives of the Company discussed with Allen whether it might be possible to obtain a higher offer than \$30.00 per Share from Apax. Based on those discussions, Allen engaged in several discussions with Apax about the possibility of a higher price, discussing an indicative price of \$33.00 per Share. After several discussions, Apax informed Allen that in order for Apax to even consider such a significant increase in price, Apax would need to change the proposed transaction structure to a more traditional leveraged buyout

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transaction using significant debt financing. Based on discussions among representatives of the Company and Allen regarding Apax's reaction, the status of the leveraged loan markets and market experience with leveraged buyout transactions involving third party debt financing, it was determined that introducing leverage into the potential transaction would create a high and undesirable level of uncertainty as the cost of possibly obtaining a higher price. Company representatives and Allen continued to engage with Apax regarding price, due diligence and other aspects of the potential transaction. Allen also engaged in several discussions with Party A, which did not make an offer and indicated that it would not be able to make an offer to acquire the Company at a price level that would be competitive with that of Apax's proposal.

After continued discussions, on June 23, 2009, Apax verbally increased its offer to acquire all of the Company's outstanding Shares for \$30.50 per Share which would be fully funded with cash available to the Sponsor Funds with no requirement for third party debt financing. At this time, the Board contacted representatives from the law firm of Wachtell, Lipton, Rosen & Katz, (Wachtell Lipton) to advise Wachtell Lipton of the potential transaction with Apax. As noted, it had become clear to the Company during the time period negotiations with Apax and Party A had taken place that the Company's results for the second quarter would be substantially below Wall Street research analyst expectations. It had also become clear that the Company's outlook for the remainder of 2009 was highly uncertain. The Board and its advisors thus believed that it was very important to be able to enter into a definitive agreement promptly. Based on Apax's willingness to offer a price of \$30.50 per Share and its commitment to work towards finishing its diligence and entering into definitive agreements by July 20th, prior to the time the Company expected to release its financial results for the second quarter of 2009, and further considering the fact that the Board and its advisors believed that it was unlikely any other party, either financial or strategic, could reasonably be expected to complete due diligence and enter into definitive agreements within a similar timeframe, the Company agreed, subject to Board approval, to allow Apax to proceed with due diligence and to have a period of exclusive negotiations until July 20, 2009. Arrangements were discussed to facilitate continuing due diligence and access to management for such diligence discussions between the parties.

At a special meeting of the Board held on June 30, 2009, the Board reviewed Apax's proposal to acquire the Company for \$30.50 per Share in cash. Allen discussed its analysis of the potential transaction, and the Board reviewed with management and the Company's financial and legal advisors various aspects of the potential transaction. Wachtell Lipton discussed with the Board the directors' legal duties and responsibilities, and other related matters. Apax had communicated to the Company that it would likely request that certain significant officer and director shareholders in the Company retain an equity stake in the post-acquisition company. In view of the possibility that this could be considered a possible interest in a potential transaction that would differ from the interests of shareholders generally, the Board determined that, if the Company were to proceed with the transaction, it, and any treatment of director-shareholders that was different than the treatment of shareholders generally in a transaction, should be separately approved by the disinterested members of the Board (the Disinterested Directors) which directors should have access to separate financial advice in order to support their separate consideration of the transaction. The Board determined that continuing discussions with Apax would be in the best interests of the Company and its shareholders, and authorized Allen and Wachtell Lipton to continue discussions and negotiations with Apax concerning the transaction. The Board also authorized the Company to enter into the exclusivity agreement with Apax with regard to exclusive negotiations until July 20, 2009, and such agreement was executed the same day.

During the end of June and the first two weeks of July, Apax, with the assistance of its counsel Kirkland & Ellis LLP (Kirkland & Ellis), continued with its diligence efforts, and began discussions with management regarding the terms on which the substantial shareholders on the Board would purchase an equity interest in the post-acquisition company as well as incentive compensation and employment arrangements with respect to members of management.

During the second week of July, Wachtell Lipton and Kirkland & Ellis commenced discussion of a draft merger agreement. During that time and over the following week, the parties negotiated the terms of the merger agreement

and related documentation and Apax and certain members of the Company's management and the Board further discussed with Apax the terms of the shareholder investments and management employment arrangements. In the course of negotiating the merger agreement, the Company and its advisors identified several concerns with the terms of the merger agreement proposed by Apax. These issues included the fact that Apax desired the right of

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Parent to terminate the transaction for any reason in return for paying a fee that was well below the aggregate merger consideration, the fact that the newly formed entities party to the merger agreement did not have any significant assets with which they could satisfy a judgment if there were a breach of the agreement and that Apax proposed to cap the buyer's damages for breach of the contract to a level well below the aggregate merger consideration, and the fact that Apax proposed that the Company would not have the right to ask a court to require the buyer to specifically perform Parent's and Merger Sub's obligations under the agreement, among other issues. During this time, the parties continued to engage actively in due diligence and to discuss various business operation issues. On July 17, 2009, the Disinterested Directors retained Needham & Company, LLC (Needham & Company) to advise them in connection with their separate consideration, and possible approval, of the merger and related matters.

By July 20, 2009, the drafts of the definitive transaction documents reflected a proposal from Apax along the following lines: an offer price of \$30.50 per Share in cash; the ability for Merger Sub to acquire enough Shares directly from the Company to complete a short-form merger to acquire all remaining outstanding Shares in accordance with Florida law in the event that the minimum condition in the tender offer were met, and the requirement that Merger Sub do so in the event the number of Shares validly tendered and not withdrawn plus the number of Shares subject to the Support Agreements represented at least 70% of outstanding Shares; an obligation on the part of Parent and Merger Sub to commence the tender offer within 10 business days of the Merger Agreement; an equity commitment letter from the Sponsor Funds to Parent and a limited guarantee from Parent, but not the Sponsor Funds, to provide sufficient funds to pay for all obligations of Parent and Merger Sub under the Merger Agreement which would be subject to maximum aggregate liability for the Sponsor Funds of \$150,000,000; and the ability for Parent to terminate the Agreement at any time on payment of a termination fee of \$100,000,000.

Late in the afternoon of July 20, 2009, representatives of Apax contacted Mr. Evans to inform him that Apax's investment committee was unprepared to proceed at the previously agreed \$30.50 per Share price and that Apax was revising its proposal to \$28.50 per Share. Apax stated that the reduction was due to, among other things, the declining outlook for Bankrate's business and financial results through the end of 2009 and the expectation that Bankrate's cash balances at the closing of a transaction would be less than Apax had originally estimated. That evening, the Bankrate Board convened its previously scheduled special meeting to discuss the revised proposal. In consultation with Allen and Wachtell Lipton, the Board considered the course of dealings with Apax and various options available to the Company, including, among other things, terminating discussions with Apax, approaching other prospective buyers, both strategic and financial, or re-engaging with parties with whom the Company had discussions in the past, and responding to Apax with an improved price or other terms, and discussed the best course for maximizing shareholder value under the circumstances. The Board also discussed the market and competitive environment, including among other things recent and projected future financial results, the timing of the Company's upcoming announcement of second quarter results, the likely market reaction to that announcement, the likely impact on the Company's stock price and the likely duration of that effect given market conditions, and the Company's ability to pursue its plan and make strategic acquisitions as an independent company, especially if the Company's stock price were to decline following the announcement of weak second quarter results. Management expressed concern about the ability to forecast the timing of an economic recovery and the return of a more normal credit environment, and that a lengthy recovery period would substantially impair the Company's ability to pursue strategic options in the near- to mid-term, with a possible long-term impact on the Company's competitive standing.

Following extensive discussion, the Board determined that given that the likelihood of Apax raising its offer price was low, the Company would be willing to proceed with a transaction at Apax's offer of \$28.50 per Share, but only on the condition that Apax amend various aspects of the draft definitive documentation that the Company believed created undesirable uncertainty that the transaction, once announced, would actually be completed and that the Company would have satisfactory recourse against Parent in the event of a dispute regarding completion of the transaction.

Late that evening, Apax substantively accepted the Company's proposal to significantly adjust the terms of the definitive documents, and Wachtell Lipton and Kirkland & Ellis prepared definitive documents reflecting the agreement. The final terms included, among other things: an offer price of \$28.50 per Share in cash; an obligation of Parent or Merger Sub to exercise the top-up option upon completion of the offer and elimination of the 70 percent tender requirement; an obligation of Merger Sub to commence the tender offer on an accelerated timeframe, and no

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later than July 28, 2009; the explicit right of the Company to seek specific performance of Parent and Merger Subsidiaries' obligations under the Merger Agreement, including the obligation to complete the tender offer and the merger; recourse to Parent, in the event of a breach, equal to the full acquisition price of \$570,800,000, with the loss to Company shareholders expressly included in measuring the damages in the event of breach; the ability to cause the Sponsor Funds to provide to Parent up to the full acquisition price of \$570,800,000; and increasing the fee required for Parent to terminate the Merger Agreement to the full acquisition price of \$570,800,000. The following day, Mr. Morse requested that, in addition to these terms, Apax increase its offer to \$29.50 per Share. A representative of Apax responded that Apax could not offer more than \$28.50 per Share. During the period that Wachtell Lipton and Kirkland & Ellis were revising the transaction documents, Apax and management, with their respective counsel, had several additional discussions regarding certain details of the terms of the purchase of an equity interest in the post-acquisition company (such as the amount each executive was committing to invest, as reflected in the Support Agreements), as well as certain terms of the incentive compensation and employment arrangements (such as certain base pay increases to become effective in October 1, 2009).

On the morning of July 22, 2009, the Board met to consider the proposed Apax transaction. Also in attendance were representatives of Wachtell Lipton, Allen, Needham & Company and Mr. Edward DiMaria, the Company's Chief Financial Officer. Messrs. Morse and Evans reviewed with the Board recent events related to Apax and the proposed transaction. They reported that Apax, pointing to various trends in the Company's business and the operating environment, had not been willing to increase its offer beyond the \$28.50 per Share. Messrs. Morse and Evans also discussed with the Board their views on the status and competitive position of the Company, and each advised the Board that he supported the proposed transaction. A detailed discussion of the proposed transaction ensued. The discussion included background on the Company, its operating environment and its financial performance; trends in the use of the Company's website and the products and services being offered by the Company's banking, insurance and other financial partners; the recent disruption in financial markets and the economic recession and the impact this was having on the Company; the need to imminently announce second quarter results and those results relative to market expectations, the likely impact on the Company's stock price trading range upon announcement of such a significant miss and the prospects of that range recovering over time; the Company's prospects for the remainder of the fiscal year and beyond; and the issues with pursuing strategic acquisitions necessary to grow the Company's business given the amount of cash available to the Company, the likelihood of being able to raise significantly more capital and the likely terms of such capital and the ability to use the Company's stock as acquisition currency, particularly at the trading levels that could be obtained after announcement of second quarter results.

Allen reviewed its financial analysis regarding the proposed transaction and rendered to the Board its oral opinion (subsequently confirmed in writing and attached hereto as Annex B) to the effect that, as of such date and based upon and subject to the qualifications, limitations and assumptions set forth therein, the price of \$28.50 per Share in cash to be received by the Company's shareholders, other than shareholders subject to Support Agreements, is fair, from a financial point of view, to the Company's shareholders. Representatives of Wachtell Lipton reviewed in detail the terms of the proposed transaction with the Board, including the terms on which certain members of the Board would invest in the equity of the post-acquisition company as required by Apax and the incentive compensation and employment terms envisioned by Apax for key members of management, and discussed the legal duties and standards applicable to the decisions and actions being considered by the Board.

The Board meeting then adjourned to permit a separate meeting of only the three members of the Board not entering into Support Agreements (the Disinterested Directors). Needham & Company reviewed with the Disinterested Directors its financial analysis regarding the proposed transactions and rendered its oral opinion (subsequently confirmed in writing and attached hereto as Annex C) to the effect that, as of such date and based upon and subject to the factors, procedures, assumptions, qualifications and limitations set forth in the opinion, the \$28.50 per Share in cash to be received by the holders of Shares (other than shareholders subject to Support Agreements) is fair, from a financial point of view, to such holders. After discussion regarding the terms of the transaction and the proposed

arrangements between Parent, on the one hand, and certain members of the Company's management and Messrs. Morse and O Block, on the other hand, the Disinterested Directors unanimously assented to and voted in favor of the approval of the Merger Agreement and the transactions contemplated by the Merger Agreement, including the Tender Offer and the Merger, and approve the arrangements whereby these individuals

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would invest in the equity of the post-acquisition Company and the proposed employment arrangements with senior management.

The full Board then reconvened and the Disinterested Directors reported on their separate meeting and their conclusions. After additional discussion, the members of the Board unanimously resolved to approve the Merger Agreement and the transactions contemplated by the Merger Agreement, including the Tender Offer and the Merger.

Following the Board meeting, the parties and their respective counsel finalized and the parties executed the definitive transaction documents. Bankrate and Apax then issued a joint press release announcing the transaction.

(c) Reasons for the Recommendation

In reaching its determination of the fairness of the terms of the Offer and Merger and its decision to approve the Merger Agreement and recommend that the holders of Shares accept the Tender Offer and tender their Shares pursuant to the Tender Offer and, if required by law, adopt and approve the Merger Agreement and the transactions contemplated thereby, the Board considered the following material factors:

The Board's belief that the Tender Offer and the Merger represented the surest and best prospect for maximizing shareholder value, based on the Board's assessment, after consultation with its legal and financial advisors, of the alternatives reasonably available to the Company. The Board reviewed the possible alternatives to the Tender Offer and the Merger (including the possibility of continuing with the Company's current business plan), the perceived risks and benefits of any such alternatives, including the timing and likelihood of consummating any such alternative, and it is the Board's view that the Tender Offer and Merger present a superior opportunity to any such alternatives.

The price to be paid pursuant to the Tender Offer and the Merger, which represents a 18.2% premium to the average 10 day trading price and a 15.8% premium to the closing trading price on July 21, 2009.

The Board's understanding and analysis of the historical and prospective operating environment and financial performance of the Company.

The stock trading history and outlook for the Shares, including the likelihood of negative stock market reaction to the announcement of the Company's second quarter 2009 earnings, the Company's financial outlook and the likelihood that it would take a significant period of time for the Company's stock price to recover to a trading range similar to the Offer Price, and the resulting impact on the Company's ability to raise equity capital or exploit opportunities for strategic initiatives, such as acquisitions, for the foreseeable future.

The current market pressure on the Company's client base in the financial institutions industry and the inability of such customers to reliably gauge their future operating environments due to the instability of the mortgage and credit card industries and the reduced demand for consumer credit products.

The limitations on the Company's ability to predict its future operating environment due to the instability of the mortgage and credit card industries.

The difficulty in predicting the amount of time needed for sufficient deleveraging to occur in consumer credit to permit a recovery of demand for consumer credit products and regulatory pressures on issuers with respect to interest rates paid on certificates of deposit, all of which may lead to reduced demand for the Company's services.

The significance of consolidation and acquisition activity to the Company's future growth plans and the Board's assessment of the prospects of the Company being able to execute on opportunities to participate in such activity, given the range and availability of likely opportunities, the Company's financial resources on a standalone basis relative to potential competitors and the opportunities for acceptably accretive acquisitions given the current and likely trading range for the Company's common shares.

The Board's record of reviewing, testing and analyzing, with its advisors, the landscape of possible strategic opportunities; its familiarity, based on its strategic reviews, with the range of possible partners for the

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Company and how they would likely approach valuing the Company based on its financial performance; the value, actionability and certainty represented by Apax's proposal; the Board's judgment as to the likelihood of ultimately achieving a better outcome by pursuing an alternative path and its understanding of the terms of the proposed transaction.

The Board's belief that the transaction mitigates risk in view of the demonstrated volatility of the Company's equity price in the public markets.

The financial strength of the Sponsor Funds, which total over \$35 billion globally, which contributes to the certainty of closing.

The fact that Party A did not submit a proposal to acquire the Company at any time during the period it was in discussions with the Company about a possible transaction.

The Board's belief that it was adequately informed about the extent to which the interests of certain directors and members of management in the transactions differed from those of the Company's other shareholders, and the fact that the transaction and such interests were approved by a unanimous vote of the Disinterested Directors who were advised by a separate financial advisor selected by such disinterested directors.

The opinion of Allen delivered to the Board on July 22, 2009, to the effect that, as of such date and based upon and subject to the qualifications, limitations and assumptions set forth therein, the \$28.50 per Share in cash to be received by the Company's Shareholders, other than holders subject to Support Agreements, in the Tender Offer and the Merger is fair, from a financial point of view, to the Company's shareholders.

The opinion of Needham & Company delivered to the Disinterested Directors on July 22, 2009, to the effect that, as of such date and based upon and subject to the factors, procedures, assumptions, qualifications and limitations set forth therein, the \$28.50 per Share in cash to be received by the Shareholders (other than holders subject to Support Agreements) pursuant to the Merger Agreement is fair, from a financial point of view, to such holders.

The fact that the Tender Offer and the Merger, because they are for cash consideration, provide certainty as to the value of the consideration to be received in the proposed transactions, that Parent agreed to proceed quickly towards the closing of the Merger and that Parent's and Merger Sub's obligations to purchase Shares in the Tender Offer and to close the Merger are subject only to limited conditions.

The fact that the transactions are not subject to Parent's ability to obtain third-party financing.

The strong commitment of the Sponsor Funds and Parent to complete the Tender Offer and Merger, as reflected in the absence of conditions other than a minimum number of Shares being tendered in the Tender Offer and other customary conditions, the ability of the Company to obtain specific performance of Parent's obligations and the Sponsor Funds' commitments under the Second Equity Commitment Letter and Parent's obligations under the Limited Guarantee, and the Board's understanding that such provisions were, based on precedent transactions, very favorable for a transaction involving a private equity sponsor.

The fact that the transaction is structured as a tender offer which can generally be completed more promptly than would have been the case with a one-step merger.

The risk that Parent may terminate the Merger Agreement and not complete the Tender Offer in certain limited circumstances, including, subject to certain conditions, if there is a Company Material Adverse Effect (as

defined in the Merger Agreement), or if the Company does not perform its obligations under the Merger Agreement in all material respects.

The risks and costs to the Company if the Tender Offer does not close, including the potential diversion of management and employee attention, potential employee attrition and the potential effect on business and customer relationships.

The fact that the Company's shareholders who tender their Shares (or whose Shares are converted to cash in the Merger, if it occurs) will not participate in any future earnings or growth of the Company and will not benefit from any future appreciation in the value of the Company.

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The fact that the all-cash consideration in the transaction will be taxable for U.S. federal income tax purposes.

The matters described above in Item 3(a), Arrangements with Directors and Executive Officers of the Company.

In addition to the above, the Board considered the following material factors in concluding that the transaction is procedurally fair to the Bankrate shareholders:

The fact that the Board retained independent financial advisors and legal counsel to render advice with respect to the proposed transaction.

The fact that the Disinterested Directors selected separate, independent financial advisors without any limitation imposed by the Board, and that the Disinterested Directors, after separate discussion, unanimously assented to and voted in favor of approving the Merger Agreement, the Offer and the Merger.

The Board's experience over the preceding two years and familiarity with potential transaction partners and transaction considerations.

The Board's ability, prior to the consummation of the Tender Offer, to change its recommendation regarding the advisability of the Tender Offer and the Merger in the event of a superior proposal, subject to the payment of a \$30 million termination fee.

The fact that Bankrate's shareholders will not be obligated to tender their Shares in the Tender Offer, and if they so desire, will be able to exercise dissenter's rights with respect to the Merger.

The Board based its ultimate decision on its business judgment that the benefits of the Tender Offer and the Merger to the Company's shareholders outweigh the negative considerations. The Board determined that the Tender Offer and the Merger represent the best reasonably available alternative to maximize shareholder value with minimal risk of non-completion. In the course of reaching its decision, the Board did not consider the liquidation value of the Company because it considered the Company to be a viable, going concern and therefore did not consider liquidation value to be a relevant methodology. Further, the Board did not consider net book value, which is an accounting concept, as a factor because it believed that net book value is not a material indicator of the value of the Company as a going concern but rather is indicative of historical costs, and because the Board believes that the Company would not be able to readily liquidate or monetize its assets in a manner that would be certain to yield value to the Company and its shareholders in excess of the Offer consideration. Other than as described under Background of the Transaction, the Board did not consider any other firm offers made for the Company during the last two years as there were no such offers of which the Board was aware. The Board considered the analyses and the opinion of each of Allen and Needham & Company, among other factors considered, in the course of reaching its decision.

This discussion of the information and factors considered by the Board includes the material positive and negative factors considered by the Board, but is not intended to be exhaustive and may not include all of the factors considered by the Board. The Board did not undertake to make any specific determination as to whether any particular factor, or any aspect of any particular factor, was favorable or unfavorable to its ultimate determination, and did not quantify or assign any relative or specific weights to the various factors that it considered in reaching its determination that the Tender Offer, the Merger, the Merger Agreement and the other transactions contemplated by the Merger Agreement are fair and advisable to and in the best interests of Bankrate and its shareholders. Rather, the Board conducted an overall analysis of the factors described above, including thorough discussion with, and questioning of, Bankrate management and Bankrate's outside advisors, and considered the factors overall to be favorable to, and to support, its

determination. In addition, individual members of the Board may have given different weight to different factors. It should be noted that this explanation of the reasoning of the Board and certain information presented in this section, is forward-looking in nature and, therefore, that information should be read in light of the factors discussed in the section entitled "Forward-Looking Statements" in this Schedule 14D-9.

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(d) Intent to Tender

As discussed in Item 3(a), certain of the Directors and Executive Officers of the Company have entered into Support Agreements with Parent and Merger Sub providing that such individuals and optionholders will, among other things (i) agree not to tender into the Tender Offer, (ii) support the Merger and the other transactions contemplated hereby and (iii) invest specified amounts into Parent, for the same securities of Parent, and in the same proportions of such securities, as will be held by the Sponsor Funds, which may be accomplished by the transfer of specified Shares to Parent or an affiliate of Parent prior to the effective time of the Merger. Messrs. Morse, O Block, Evans, DiMaria, Hoogterp, Horowitz, Ricciardelli, Ross and Zanca have each entered into Support Agreements. As a portion of Mr. Morse's shares are held in trust or by family members, such persons are also parties to Mr. Morse's Support Agreement with respect to their respective Shares. The foregoing summary of the Support Agreements does not purport to be complete and is qualified in its entirety by reference to the Support Agreements. The Support Agreements are filed as Exhibits (e)(6) through (e)(9) hereto and are incorporated herein by reference. Other than the individuals entering into Support Agreements, the Company has been advised that all other of its directors and executive officers intend to tender all of their Shares pursuant to the Tender Offer.

ITEM 5. PERSONS/ASSETS RETAINED, EMPLOYED, COMPENSATED OR USED.

(a) Opinion of Allen & Company, LLC

Pursuant to an engagement letter dated June 26, 2009, (the Allen Engagement Letter), the Company engaged Allen as financial advisor and to render an opinion as to the fairness, from a financial point of view, of the Offer Price to be received by the Shareholders, other than holders subject to Support Agreements, in the Tender Offer and Merger (collectively, the Transaction). On July 22, 2009, Allen delivered its oral opinion to the Board, which subsequently was confirmed in writing, to the effect that, as of July 22, 2009, and based upon and subject to the qualifications, limitations and assumptions set forth therein, the Offer Price to be received by the Shareholders, other than holders subject to Support Agreements, in the Transaction is fair, from a financial point of view, to the Shareholders.

This summary of Allen's written opinion is qualified in its entirety by reference to the full text of Allen's written opinion, dated July 22, 2009, and attached hereto as Annex B. You are urged to, and should, read Allen's written opinion carefully and in its entirety. Allen's written opinion addresses only the fairness, from a financial point of view, of the Offer Price to be received by the Shareholders, other than holders subject to the Support Agreements, in the Transaction, as of the date of Allen's written opinion. The opinion of Allen was provided for the information and assistance of the Board in connection with its consideration of the Transaction. The form and amount of consideration payable in the Transaction was determined through negotiations between the Company and Apax and were approved by the Board. Allen's opinion and presentation to the Board were among many factors that the Board took into consideration in making its determination to approve the Transaction.

In arriving at its opinion, Allen, among other things:

- (i) reviewed the terms and conditions of the Merger Agreement and related documents;
- (ii) reviewed trends in the equity markets and online advertising, content and lead generation sectors;
- (iii) reviewed business prospects and financial condition of the Company based on information provided by senior management of the Company;
- (iv) reviewed historical business information and financial results of the Company;

(v) reviewed public financial information regarding the Company, including the Company's filings with the United States Securities and Exchange Commission;

(vi) reviewed financial projections of the Company provided by senior management of the Company, which are discussed in Item 8(f) Projected Financial Information ;

(vii) reviewed information obtained from meetings and calls with the Company management;

(viii) reviewed historical trading performance of the common stock of the Company;

(ix) analyzed the trading history of the common stock of the Company as compared to that of related market indices and comparable public companies;

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(x) analyzed public financial information regarding certain public companies, including market multiples, comparable to the Company;

(xi) analyzed public financial and transaction information regarding certain merger and acquisition transactions, including multiples and premiums paid, comparable to the proposed Transaction;

(xii) analyzed internal management projections for the Company and publicly available information in order to develop a discounted cash flow valuation analysis; and

(xiii) analyzed such other information and analyses as it deemed appropriate in arriving at its opinion.

The opinion also reflects Allen's familiarity, developed in the course of serving as financial advisor to the Company since June 2007 with the Company's business and prospects, as well as prevailing trends in the markets in which the Company participates.

In connection with its review, Allen did not assume any responsibility for independent verification of any of the information utilized in its analyses and relied upon and assumed the accuracy and completeness of all of the financial, accounting, tax and other information that was available to Allen from public sources, that was provided to it by the Company, or that was otherwise reviewed by Allen. With respect to financial projections provided to Allen by the Company, Allen assumed that such financial projections were reasonably prepared in good faith, reflecting the best currently available estimates and judgments of the management of the Company, as to the future operating and financial performance of the Company. Allen assumed no responsibility for and expressed no view or opinion as to such forecasts or the assumptions on which they are based.

Allen also assumed, with the Company's consent, that the Transaction would be consummated in accordance with the terms and conditions set forth in the Merger Agreement and certain related documents that it reviewed. Allen neither conducted a physical inspection of the properties and facilities of the Company nor made or obtained any evaluations or appraisals of the assets or liabilities of the Company. In addition, Allen did not conduct any analysis concerning the solvency of the Company. Allen's opinion addressed only the fairness, from a financial point of view, of the Offer Price to be received by the Shareholders, other than holders subject to the Support Agreements, in the Transaction, and did not address any other aspect or implication of the Transaction or any other agreement, arrangement or understanding entered into in connection with the Transaction or otherwise.

Allen's opinion is necessarily based upon information made available to it as of the date of its opinion, and upon financial, economic, market and other conditions as they existed and could be evaluated on the date of Allen's opinion. Allen's opinion did not address the relative merits of the Transaction as compared to other business strategies that might be available to the Company, nor did it address the Company's underlying business decision to proceed with the Transaction. Allen did not express an opinion about the fairness of any compensation payable to any of the Company's officers, directors or employees in connection with the Transaction, relative to the compensation payable to the Shareholders, nor in any way did Allen address the shares subject to the Support Agreements. In addition, Allen's opinion did not express any opinion as to any tax or other consequences that might result from the Transaction, nor did its opinion address any legal, tax, regulatory or accounting matters.

In preparing its opinion, Allen performed a number of financial and comparative analyses, including those further described below. The preparation of a fairness opinion is a complex process and is not necessarily susceptible to partial analysis or summary description. Allen believes that its analyses must be considered as a whole and that selecting portions of its analyses and of the factors considered by it, without considering all analyses and factors, could create a misleading view of the processes underlying its opinion.

No company or transaction used in the analyses performed by Allen as a comparison is identical to the Company or the contemplated Transaction. In addition, Allen may have given some analyses more or less weight than other analyses, and may have deemed various assumptions more or less probable than other assumptions, so that the range of valuation resulting from any particular analysis described below should not be taken to be Allen's view of the actual value of the Company. The analyses performed by Allen are not necessarily indicative of actual values or actual future results, which may be significantly more or less favorable than suggested by such analyses. In addition, analyses relating to the value of businesses or assets do not purport to be appraisals or to necessarily reflect the prices at which businesses or assets may actually be sold. The analyses performed were prepared solely as part of Allen's analysis of the fairness, from a financial point of view, of the Offer Price to be received by the

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Shareholders, other than holders subject to the Support Agreements, in the Transaction, and were provided to the Board in connection with the delivery of Allen's opinion.

Valuation Methods and Analyses

The following is a summary of material financial analyses performed by Allen in connection with its oral opinion presented to the Board at its meeting held on July 22, 2009 and the preparation of its written opinion letter dated July 22, 2009. Certain of the following summaries of financial analyses that were performed by Allen include information presented in tabular format. In order to understand fully the material financial analyses that were performed by Allen, the tables should be read together with the text of each summary. The tables alone do not constitute a complete description of the material financial analyses.

(1) *Comparable Public Company Analysis.* Allen performed a comparable public company analysis, which is intended to provide an implied value of a company by comparing certain financial information of the Company with corresponding financial information of similar public companies. Allen selected companies whose stock was publicly traded, that shared similar business characteristics with the Company's business, and for which relevant financial information was available publicly. Specifically, Allen selected publicly traded companies that operated primarily in the online content publishing, advertising and lead generation sectors. Allen excluded companies that may have offered services similar to Bankrate, but that also derived a large part of their revenues from businesses dissimilar to Bankrate. No company utilized in the comparable company analysis is identical to Bankrate.

For purposes of this analysis, Allen utilized financial information obtained from publicly available information and Wall Street research consensus estimates as of July 21, 2009 for each company listed below. In this analysis, Allen considered various financial data including enterprise values (calculated as fully diluted market capitalization, plus book value of total debt, preferred stock and minority interest, and less cash and cash equivalents) as a multiple of estimated revenue, but focused on enterprise values as a multiple of estimated Adjusted EBITDA (calculated as earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation, amortization and stock-based compensation) for calendar years 2009 and 2010.

Allen noted that the analysis indicated the implied mean, median, high, and low multiples for the sector of companies as a group as presented in the table below. Based on the analysis, Allen selected representative ranges of multiples of the comparable companies based primarily on the mean and median multiples for each relevant metric.

| | Enterprise Value/ Adjusted EBITDA | |
|---------------------|--|-----------------|
| | CY 2009E | CY 2010E |
| IAC/InterActiveCorp | 3.3x | 2.6x |
| WebMD | 14.0x | 12.1x |
| Monster Worldwide | 13.1x | 11.4x |
| ValueClick | 5.7x | 5.4x |
| Move | 11.1x | 8.9x |
| Internet Brands | 6.0x | 4.8x |
| Dice Holdings | 6.3x | 6.7x |
| The Knot | 14.7x | 10.7x |
| LoopNet | 7.1x | 7.0x |
| TheStreet.com | nm | nm |
| Mean | 9.0x | 7.7x |

| | | |
|---|---------------------|--------------------|
| Median | 7.1x | 7.0x |
| High | 14.7x | 12.1x |
| Low | 3.3x | 2.6x |
| Comparable Company Representative Multiple Range | 8.0x - 10.0x | 6.5x - 8.5x |

Allen then applied this representative range of multiples to the Company's Adjusted EBITDA for the comparable calendar years based on management's estimates, added Bankrate's net cash balance of \$55 million,

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and divided by Bankrate's fully diluted shares outstanding to derive an implied value per share for the Company as follows:

| | Financial Statistic Management Projections | Comparable Company Multiple Range (\$ in millions) | Implied Value per Share |
|----------------------|---|---|------------------------------------|
| 2009 Adjusted EBITDA | \$ 48.0 | 8.0x - 10.0x | \$22 - \$27 |
| 2010 Adjusted EBITDA | \$ 64.4 | 6.5x - 8.5x | \$24 - \$30 |

Allen noted that the Offer Price of \$28.50 was within or above the range of implied values per share derived by the comparable public company analysis.

(2) *Comparable Precedent Transactions Analysis.* Allen also performed a comparable precedent transaction analysis, which is intended to provide an implied value of a company based on publicly available financial terms of selected transactions that share certain characteristics with the Transaction. In connection with its analysis, Allen compared publicly available statistics for transactions that were announced between January 1, 2008 and July 21, 2009 in which the target company operated in the online content publishing, advertising and lead generation sectors and whose transaction values were between \$90 million and \$2 billion. Allen selected these precedent transactions because the target companies were in the same sector as Bankrate and because the precedent transaction values were comparable in size to the Transaction. Allen excluded transactions whose targets may have offered services similar to Bankrate, but who also derived a large part of their revenues from businesses dissimilar to Bankrate. No company or transaction utilized in the precedent transaction analysis is identical to Bankrate or the Transaction.

For each transaction, Allen considered various financial data including (i) the ratio of the transaction value to the trailing year's revenue, where available, of the acquired company and (ii) the ratio of the transaction value to the forward year's revenue, where available, of the acquired company, but focused on (i) the ratio of the transaction value to the trailing year's Adjusted EBITDA, where available, of the acquired company and (ii) the ratio of the transaction value to the forward year's Adjusted EBITDA, where available, of the acquired company.

Allen noted that the analysis indicated the implied mean and median multiples for the precedent transactions announced since January 1, 2008 as a group as presented in the table below. The precedent transactions announced over the last twelve months implied mean and median multiples distinct from those for the precedent transactions announced since January 1, 2008. Based on the analysis, Allen selected representative ranges of multiples of the comparable precedent transactions based on the mean and median multiples for each relevant metric.

| Acquiror/Target (Date Announced) | Transaction Value/ Adjusted EBITDA | |
|--|---|----------------|
| | LTM | Forward |
| Disney & Barclays Private Equity/Kaboose assets (4/1/09) | 9.8x | 8.2x |
| Ameritrade/thinkorswim Group Inc. (1/8/09) | 7.7x | 5.2x |
| eBay/Bill Me Later (10/6/08) | na | na |
| Microsoft/Greenfield Online (8/29/08) | 13.3x | 8.6x |
| Comcast/Daily Candy (8/5/08) | na | 12.5x |

| | | |
|---|---------------------|---------------------|
| CBS/CNET (5/15/08) | 19.0x | 14.3x |
| Comcast/Plaxo (5/14/08) | na | na |
| Cox/Adify (4/29/08) | na | na |
| AOL/Bebo (3/13/08) | nm | nm |
| Precedent Transactions Since January 1, 2008 | | |
| Mean | 12.5x | 9.8x |
| Median | 11.6x | 8.6x |
| Precedent Transactions Over Last Twelve Months | | |
| Mean | 10.3x | 8.6x |
| Median | 9.8x | 8.4x |
| Comparable Precedent Transaction Representative Multiple Range | 9.0x - 11.0x | 8.0x - 10.0x |

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Allen then applied this representative range of multiples to the Company's Adjusted EBITDA for the comparable calendar years based on management's estimates, added Bankrate's net cash balance of \$55 million, and divided by Bankrate's fully diluted shares outstanding to derive an implied value per share for the Company as follows:

| | Financial Statistic Management Projections (\$ in millions) | Comparable Precedent Transaction Multiple Range | Implied Value per Share |
|-------------------------|--|--|------------------------------------|
| LTM Adjusted EBITDA | \$ 51.9 | 9.0x - 11.0x | \$ 26 - \$31 |
| Forward Adjusted EBITDA | \$ 48.0 | 8.0x - 10.0x | \$ 22 - \$27 |

Allen noted that the Offer Price of \$28.50 was within or above the range of implied values per share based on the comparable precedent transaction analysis.

(3) *Discounted Cash Flow Analysis.* Allen performed a discounted cash flow analysis to calculate the estimated present value of the unlevered, after-tax free cash flows that Bankrate could generate over the period from the second half of 2009 through 2013. In connection with this analysis, Allen calculated a range of present equity values per share for Bankrate's common stock. Allen used certain projected financial performance estimates for the fiscal years ending 2009 through 2013 based on (i) internal estimates Bankrate's management provided to Allen on July 15, 2009 (for purposes of this section, Management Projections), which are discussed in Item 8(f) Projected Financial Information and (ii) the average of publicly available equity research estimates as of July 21, 2009 (for purposes of this section, Research Projections).

For each of the Management Projections and the Research Projections, Allen calculated a range of terminal values for the Company by applying an LTM Adjusted EBITDA multiple of 6.0 - 8.0 times the Company's estimated 2013 Adjusted EBITDA. For each of the Management Projections and the Research Projections, the cash flows and terminal values were then discounted to present value using discount rates ranging from 12% to 14% based on the weighted average cost of capital of Bankrate.

The discounted cash flow analysis indicated the following implied per share value for Bankrate:

| Projections Based on | Implied Equity Value per Share |
|-----------------------------|---|
| Management Projections | \$ 29 - \$38 |
| Research Projections | \$ 24 - \$31 |

Allen noted that the Offer Price of \$28.50 was just below the range of implied values per share based on Management Projections and was within the range of implied values per share based on Research Projections.

(4) *Premiums Paid Analysis.* Allen performed a premiums paid analysis based upon the premiums paid in 227 precedent merger and acquisition transactions. The transactions utilized in this analysis were all those that were completed since January 1, 2006 and that involved domestic targets that were acquired for between \$300 million to

\$2 billion, regardless of the form of consideration, and in which the acquiror acquired more than 50% of outstanding shares. The analysis excluded transactions involving financial institutions and those with premiums below negative 15% and those with premiums above 100%.

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In the premiums analysis, Allen analyzed the premiums paid based on (i) the closing stock price of the target one day prior to announcement of the transaction and (ii) the average of the closing stock prices of the target for the 20 trading days prior to announcement of the transaction. Allen calculated the cumulative percentage of the examined transactions completed where the premium paid was less than 10%, 20%, 30%, 40%, 50%, 60%, 70%, 80%, 90%, and 100%, respectively. The results of this analysis are set forth below:

| Final Premium to Stock Price | Percentage of Transactions | |
|-------------------------------------|--|---|
| | One Day Prior to Announcement | Avg. Closing Price for 20 Trading Days Prior to Announcement |
| Less than 10% | 20% | 15% |
| Less than 20% | 44% | 36% |
| Less than 30% | 66% | 59% |
| Less than 40% | 80% | 78% |
| Less than 50% | 89% | 89% |
| Less than 60% | 95% | 97% |
| Less than 70% | 99% | 99% |
| Less than 80% | 100% | 100% |
| Less than 90% | 100% | 100% |
| Less than 100% | 100% | 100% |

Allen noted that the Offer Price represented a premium of 15.8% over the closing stock price of the Company on July 21, 2009, one day prior to announcement, and a premium of 17.8% over the average of the closing stock prices of the 20 trading days prior to announcement.

(5) *Illustrative Present Value of Future Stock Price Analysis.* Allen performed an illustrative analysis of the present value of the implied future stock price of Bankrate, assuming Bankrate maintains its current market trading multiple and performs as projected by either the Research Projections or the Management Projections. In this analysis, Allen first determined Bankrate's enterprise value as a multiple of estimated Adjusted EBITDA for 2009. The enterprise value was based on the closing price as of July 21, 2009 and the Adjusted EBITDA estimate for 2009 was based on Research Projections. Applying the resulting Adjusted EBITDA multiple of 7.8 times to projected Adjusted EBITDA for the calendar year 2010 based on each of (i) the Research Projections and (ii) the Management Projections, Allen derived implied enterprise values of \$506.7 million and \$500.5 million, respectively. Allen added the estimated cash balance in one year of \$75 million to each of the implied enterprise values then divided each of the sums by the number of fully diluted outstanding shares to derive implied share prices in one year.

The analysis implied a price in one year of \$29.03 and \$28.72, based on the Research Projections and the Management Projections, respectively. Allen then applied a 13% discount rate, based on Bankrate's cost of equity, to each of the implied share prices in one year to derive implied values per share today of \$25.69 based on the Research Projections and \$25.42 based on the Management Projections. Allen noted that the Offer Price represented a premium over each of the implied prices.

(6) *Implied Value Per Share Analysis Based on Latest Results.* Allen performed an illustrative analysis of the implied current stock price of Bankrate based upon the Company's most recent results and the Management Projections,

neither of which were publicly disclosed at the time of the analysis. In this analysis, Allen first determined Bankrate's enterprise value as a multiple of estimated Adjusted EBITDA for 2009 based on information that was publicly available as of July 21, 2009. Applying the resulting Adjusted EBITDA multiple of 7.8 times to projected Adjusted EBITDA for the calendar year 2009 based on each of (i) the Management Projections and (ii) the result of annualizing the latest quarterly results for the Company, Allen derived implied enterprise values of \$373.4.7 million and \$293.0 million, respectively. Allen added net cash of \$55 million to each of the implied enterprise values then divided each of the sums by the number of fully diluted outstanding shares to derive implied current share prices.

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The analysis implied a price of \$21.54 and \$17.61, based on the Management Projections and the annualized second quarter results, respectively. Allen noted that the Offer Price represented a 32.3% and 61.8% premium over each implied price, respectively.

(7) *Other Factors.* In rendering its opinion, Allen also reviewed and considered other factors, including:

Wall Street analysts' price targets for Bankrate's common stock as of July 21, 2009, which ranged from \$19 to \$39 per share. Allen noted that the Offer Price of \$28.50 per share was within this range.

The closing price over the last 20 trading days as of July 21, 2009 of Bankrate's common stock, which ranged from \$23 to \$26 dollars per share. Allen noted that the Offer Price of \$28.50 per share was above this range.

The trading range, based on closing prices, of Bankrate's common stock over the last three months as of July 21, 2009, which ranged from \$23 to \$32 dollars per share. Allen noted that the Offer Price of \$28.50 per share was within this range.

General

Pursuant to the Engagement Letter, the Board engaged Allen as financial advisor and to deliver its opinion as to the fairness, from a financial point of view, of the Offer Price to be received by the Shareholders, other than holders subject to the Support Agreements, in the Transaction. Allen was selected by the Board based on Allen's qualifications and reputation. Allen, as part of its investment banking business, is regularly engaged in the valuation of businesses and their securities in connection with mergers and acquisitions, private placements and related financings, bankruptcy reorganizations and similar recapitalizations, negotiated underwritings, secondary distributions of listed and unlisted securities, and valuations for corporate and other purposes. Allen does not have and has not had any material relationships involving the payment or receipt of compensation between Allen and the Company and, to its knowledge, any of its affiliates during the last two years. Allen has had no investment banking relationship with Apax or the Sponsor Funds during the past two years. Allen has previously served as financial advisor to the Company, pursuant to a previous engagement letter dated June 1, 2007, which terminated on October 1, 2008, and received no fees therefor. In the ordinary course of its business as a broker-dealer and market maker, Allen may have long or short positions, either on a discretionary or nondiscretionary basis, for its own account or for those of its clients, in the securities of the Company. The opinion was approved by Allen's fairness opinion committee.

Pursuant to the terms of the Engagement Letter, Allen is due a cash fee of \$500,000 upon delivery of its opinion to the Board. No portion of the opinion fee is contingent upon either the conclusion expressed in the opinion or whether the Transaction is successfully consummated. In addition, Allen is due a cash fee equal to 1.0% of the Offer Price multiplied by the fully diluted shares outstanding less \$500,000, conditioned upon the consummation of the Transaction. The Company has also agreed to reimburse Allen's reasonable out-of-pocket expenses and to indemnify Allen against certain liabilities arising out of such engagement.

With Allen's consent, a copy of Allen's presentation to the Board on July 22, 2009 has been attached as an exhibit to the Schedule 13E-3 and the Schedule 14D-9 filed with the SEC in connection with the Transaction.

(b) Opinion of Needham & Company, LLC

The Disinterested Directors selected and the Board retained Needham & Company to act as financial advisor to the Disinterested Directors in connection with a possible transaction involving the Company and the Sponsor Funds and, in connection therewith, to render an opinion as to the fairness, from a financial point of view, to the Shareholders (other than holders subject to the Support Agreements) of the consideration to be received by those holders pursuant

to the Merger Agreement. Needham & Company was not requested to, and did not, provide independent financial advice to the Disinterested Directors or our Board during the course of negotiations between the Company and Apax, or participate in negotiating or structuring the transaction, nor did Needham & Company make any recommendation concerning the consideration to be paid pursuant to the Merger Agreement.

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On July 22, 2009, Needham & Company delivered to the Disinterested Directors its written opinion, dated July 22, 2009, that, as of that date and based upon and subject to the assumptions and other matters described in the opinion, the consideration of \$28.50 in cash per Share to be received by the Shareholders (other than holders subject to the Support Agreements) pursuant to the Merger Agreement was fair to those holders from a financial point of view. **The Needham & Company opinion is addressed to our Disinterested Directors, relates only to the fairness, from a financial point of view, of the consideration to be received by the Shareholders (other than holders subject to the Support Agreements) as of the date of the opinion, and does not constitute a recommendation to any Shareholder as to whether such Shareholder should tender such Shareholder's Shares in connection with the Tender Offer or how such Shareholder should vote or act on any matter relating to the transactions contemplated in the Merger Agreement.**

The complete text of the Needham & Company opinion, which sets forth the assumptions made, matters considered, and limitations on and scope of the review undertaken by Needham & Company, is attached to this Schedule 14D-9 as Annex C. This summary of the Needham & Company opinion set forth in this Schedule 14D-9 is qualified by reference to the Needham & Company opinion. **You should read the Needham & Company opinion carefully and in its entirety for a description of the procedures followed, the factors considered, and the assumptions made by Needham & Company.**

In arriving at its opinion, Needham & Company, among other things:

reviewed a draft of the Merger Agreement dated July 21, 2009;

reviewed certain publicly available information concerning us and certain other relevant financial and operating data which we furnished to Needham & Company;

reviewed the historical stock prices and trading volumes of the Company's Shares;

held discussions with members of the Company's management concerning current Company operations and future business prospects;

reviewed certain financial forecasts with respect to the Company prepared by Company management, dated as of July 15, 2009, which are discussed in Item 8(f) Projected Financial Information (the Forecasts), and held discussions with members of Company management concerning those forecasts;

reviewed certain research analyst projections with respect to the Company and held discussions with members of Company management concerning those projections;

compared certain publicly available financial data of companies whose securities are traded in the public markets and that Needham & Company deemed relevant to similar data for the Company;

reviewed the financial terms of certain other business combinations that Needham & Company deemed generally relevant; and

performed and considered such other financial studies and analyses, and considered such other matters as Needham & Company deemed appropriate.

In connection with its review and in arriving at its opinion, Needham & Company assumed and relied on the accuracy and completeness in all material respects of all of the financial, accounting, legal, tax and other information discussed with or reviewed by it for purposes of its opinion and Needham & Company did not independently verify, nor did

Needham & Company assume responsibility for independent verification of, any of such information. Needham & Company assumed that the Transaction will be consummated in all respects material to its opinion upon the terms and subject to the conditions set forth in the draft of the Merger Agreement dated July 21, 2009, without waiver, modification or amendment of any material term, condition or agreement of such draft Merger Agreement. Needham & Company assumed where applicable that the Forecasts, were reasonably prepared on bases reflecting the best currently available estimates and judgments of Company management, at the time of preparation, of our future operating and financial performance. Needham & Company assumed that the research analyst projections for the Company represent reasonable estimates as to our future financial performance. Needham & Company expressed no opinion with respect to any of such forecasts, projections or estimates or the assumptions on which they were based. Needham & Company did not assume any responsibility for or make or

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obtain any independent evaluation, appraisal or physical inspection of the Company's assets or liabilities or the assets or liabilities of Parent, nor did Needham & Company evaluate the Company's solvency or fair value or the solvency or fair value of Parent under any state or federal laws relating to bankruptcy, insolvency or similar matters. Needham & Company's opinion states that it was based on economic, monetary, and market conditions as they existed and could be evaluated as of the date of its opinion and Needham & Company assumed no responsibility to update or revise its opinion based upon circumstances and events occurring after the date of its opinion. Needham & Company's opinion was limited to the fairness, from a financial point of view, to the Shareholders (other than the holders subject to the Support Agreements) of the consideration to be received by such holders pursuant to the Merger Agreement and Needham & Company expressed no opinion as to the fairness of the transaction to, or any consideration received in connection with the transaction by, holders of any other class of the Company's securities, the Company's creditors or any other of the Company's constituencies, or as to the Company's underlying decision to engage in the Transaction or the relative merits of the Transaction as compared to other business strategies that might be available to us. Needham & Company was not requested to, and did not, solicit third party indications of interest in acquiring all or any part of the Company, nor was Needham & Company requested to, and it did not, provide independent financial advice to the Company or the Disinterested Directors during the course of negotiations between the Company and Apax and the Sponsor Funds or participate in the negotiation or structuring of the Transaction. Needham & Company expressed no opinion with respect to the amount or nature of any other aspect of any compensation payable to or to be received by any officers, directors or employees of any party to the transaction, or any class of such persons relative to the consideration to be received by Shareholders pursuant to the Merger Agreement or with respect to the fairness of any such compensation. Needham & Company's opinion does not constitute a recommendation to any Shareholder as to whether any such Shareholder should tender such Shareholder's Shares in connection with the Tender Offer or how such Shareholder should vote or act in any matter relating to the Transaction.

The Company provided no instructions to, nor imposed any limitations on, Needham & Company with respect to the investigations made or procedures followed by Needham & Company in rendering its opinion.

In preparing its opinion, Needham & Company performed a variety of financial and comparative analyses. The following paragraphs summarize the material financial analyses performed by Needham & Company in arriving at its opinion. The order of analyses described does not represent relative importance or weight given to those analyses by Needham & Company. Some of the summaries of the financial analyses include information presented in tabular format. The tables are not intended to stand alone, and in order to more fully understand the financial analyses used by Needham & Company, the tables must be read together with the full text of each summary. The following quantitative information, to the extent it is based on market data, is, except as otherwise indicated, based on market data as it existed on or prior to July 21, 2009, and is not necessarily indicative of current or future market conditions.

Selected Companies Analysis. Using publicly available information, Needham & Company compared selected historical and projected financial and market data ratios for us to the corresponding data and ratios of publicly traded companies that Needham & Company deemed relevant because their businesses may be considered similar to the Company's business. These companies, referred to as the selected companies, consisted of the following:

Google Inc.
Thomson Reuters Corporation
Yahoo! Inc.
Dun & Bradstreet Corp.
FactSet Research Systems Inc.
Morningstar Inc.
Move Inc.
Value Line Inc.
Knot Inc.

The Street.com
Market Leader Inc.
Autobytel Inc.
Track Data Corp.

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The following table sets forth information concerning the following multiples for the selected companies and for us:

enterprise value as a multiple of last 12 months, or LTM, revenues;

enterprise value as a multiple of projected calendar year 2009 revenues;

enterprise value as a multiple of projected calendar year 2010 revenues;

enterprise value as a multiple of projected calendar year 2011 revenues;

enterprise value as a multiple of LTM earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization and stock compensation expense, or EBITDA;

enterprise value as a multiple of projected calendar year 2009 EBITDA;

enterprise value as a multiple of projected calendar year 2010 EBITDA;

enterprise value as a multiple of projected calendar year 2011 EBITDA;

price as a multiple of LTM earnings per share, or EPS;

price as a multiple of projected calendar year 2009 EPS;

price as a multiple of projected calendar year 2010 EPS; and

price as a multiple of projected calendar year 2011 EPS.

Needham & Company calculated multiples for the selected companies based on the closing stock prices of those companies on July 21, 2009 and calculated multiples for the Company based on the Offer Price. The columns in the table below under the heading Bankrate Transaction Consideration Using Management Estimates represent multiples calculated based on the Offer Price and the Forecasts. LTM multiples were based on the Company's preliminary actual results for the 12 months ending June 30, 2009.

| | Selected Companies | | | | Bankrate Transaction Consideration Using Management Estimates |
|---|--------------------|------|------|--------|--|
| | High | Low | Mean | Median | |
| Enterprise value to LTM revenues | 5.2x | 1.3x | 3.1x | 3.0x | 3.4x |
| Enterprise value to projected calendar year 2009 revenues | 5.1x | 1.4x | 3.3x | 3.5x | 3.6x |
| Enterprise value to projected calendar year 2010 revenues | 4.4x | 1.3x | 3.1x | 3.3x | 3.0x |
| Enterprise value to projected calendar year 2011 revenues | 3.8x | 1.2x | 2.7x | 2.8x | 2.6x |

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|---|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Enterprise value to LTM EBITDA | 12.9x | 8.6x | 10.7x | 10.6x | 10.0x |
| Enterprise value to projected calendar year 2009 EBITDA | 18.0x | 8.6x | 11.3x | 11.0x | 10.7x |
| Enterprise value to projected calendar year 2010 EBITDA | 13.2x | 8.0x | 10.1x | 9.7x | 8.0x |
| Enterprise value to projected calendar year 2011 EBITDA | 9.4x | 6.4x | 8.3x | 8.6x | 6.3x |
| Price to LTM EPS | 61.2x | 12.0x | 28.3x | 22.7x | 32.7x |
| Price to projected calendar year 2009 EPS | 29.4x | 14.0x | 21.6x | 20.6x | 39.5x |
| Price to projected calendar year 2010 EPS | 52.4x | 12.7x | 23.0x | 18.2x | 24.3x |
| Price to projected calendar year 2011 EPS | 24.7x | 10.7x | 16.2x | 15.5x | 17.4x |

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Selected Transaction Analysis. Needham & Company analyzed publicly available financial information for the following selected merger and acquisition transactions, which represent transactions completed since January 1, 2008 that involved target companies that were involved in the internet marketing services, lead generation and media businesses and with transaction values greater than \$50 million:

| Acquirer | Target |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| ICF International Inc. | Macro International, Inc. |
| eBay, Inc. | Bill Me Later, Inc. |
| WPP Group PLC | Taylor Nelson Sofres PLC |
| Best Buy Co., Inc. | Napster, Inc. |
| Microsoft Corp. | Greenfield Online, Inc. |
| CBS Corp. | CNET Networks, Inc. |
| Greenfield Partners LLC | Clayton Holdings, Inc. |
| Taylor Nelson Sofres PLC | Idealab/Compete, Inc. |
| Reed Elsevier PLC | ChoicePoint, Inc. |
| Bankrate, Inc. | InsureMe, Inc. |
| Amazon.com, Inc. | Audible, Inc. |
| GSI Commerce, Inc. | e-Dialog, Inc. |
| Pearson PLC | Money-Media, Inc. |
| Macrovision Corp. | Gemstar-TV Guide, Inc. |
| Omniture, Inc. | Visual Sciences, Inc. |
| Thomson Corp. | Reuters Group PLC |
| Google, Inc. | DoubleClick, Inc. |

In examining the selected transactions, Needham & Company analyzed, for the selected transactions and for the merger,

enterprise value as a multiple of LTM revenues; and

enterprise value as a multiple of LTM EBITDA.

Needham & Company calculated multiples for the Company based on the Offer Price for each Share. LTM multiples were based on the Company's preliminary actual results for the 12 months ending June 30, 2009.

The following table sets forth information concerning the multiples described above for the selected transactions and the same multiples implied by the merger.

| | Selected Transactions | | | | Bankrate Transaction Consideration Using Management Estimates |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------|------------|-------------|---------------|--|
| | High | Low | Mean | Median | |
| Enterprise value to LTM revenues | 10.3x | 0.5x | 3.8x | 3.6x | 3.4x |
| Enterprise value to LTM EBITDA | 27.1x | 7.0x | 18.3x | 17.9x | 10.0x |

Premiums Paid Analysis. Needham & Company analyzed publicly available financial information for 20 all cash merger and acquisition transactions that represent transactions involving publicly-traded technology and technology-enabled services companies completed since January 1, 2007 with transaction values of between \$500 million and \$1 billion. In examining these transactions, Needham & Company analyzed the premium of consideration offered to the acquired company's stock price one trading day, five trading days and 30 trading days prior to the announcement of the transaction.

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Needham & Company calculated premiums for the Company as of July 21, 2009 based on the Offer Price for each Share. The following table sets forth information concerning the stock price premiums in the selected transactions and the stock price premium implied by the transaction.

| | Selected Transactions | | | | Bankrate Transaction at \$28.50 |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------|-------|--------|-------|---------------------------------|
| | Low | Mean | Median | High | |
| One trading day stock price premium | 1.0% | 21.8% | 20.9% | 57.0% | 15.8% |
| Five trading day stock price premium | 1.0% | 21.8% | 23.1% | 46.3% | 14.2% |
| 30 trading day stock price premium | 6.5% | 27.9% | 24.0% | 62.2% | (2.4)% |

Discounted Cash Flow Analysis. Needham & Company performed an illustrative discounted cash flow analysis to determine indicators of illustrative implied equity values for the Company and illustrative implied equity values per Share based on the Forecasts, excluding the impact of non-recurring items. Needham & Company calculated the projected unlevered free cash flows for the Company for 2009 through 2013. Needham & Company then calculated ranges of estimated terminal values based on the perpetual growth of calendar year 2013 estimated free cash flow of \$60.7 million using selected unlevered free cash flow growth rate percentages ranging from 1.0% to 5.0%. The amounts were discounted to present value using discount rates of 12% to 16%. Needham & Company then added the estimated ranges of present values of unlevered free cash flows to the ranges of estimated terminal values and to the Company's cash balance as of June 30, 2009 to derive illustrative ranges of implied present equity values and implied present equity values per share for the Company. This analysis indicated the following implied per share equity reference range for the Company, as compared to the per share transaction consideration:

**Illustrative Implied per Share
Equity Reference Range for Bankrate**

\$ 19.38 - \$36.96

**Per Share
Transaction Consideration**

\$ 28.50

No company, transaction or business used in the Selected Companies Analysis, Selected Transaction Analysis, Premiums Paid Analysis, or Discounted Cash Flow Analysis, as a comparison is identical to the Company or the Transaction. Accordingly, an evaluation of the results of these analyses is not entirely mathematical; rather, it involves complex considerations and judgments concerning differences in the financial and operating characteristics and other factors that could affect the acquisition, public trading or other values of the selected companies or selected transactions or the business segment, company or transaction to which they are being compared.

The preparation of a fairness opinion is a complex analytical process involving various determinations as to the most appropriate and relevant quantitative and qualitative methods of financial analyses and the application of those methods to the particular circumstances and, therefore, such an opinion is not readily susceptible to summary description. Accordingly, Needham & Company believes that its analyses must be considered as a whole and that selecting portions of its analyses or the factors it considered, without considering all analyses and factors, could create a misleading or incomplete view of the process underlying its analyses and opinion. Needham & Company did not attribute any specific weight to any factor or analysis considered by it. The fact that any specific analysis has been referred to in the summary above is not meant to indicate that such analysis was given greater weight than any other analysis.

In performing its analyses, Needham & Company made numerous assumptions with respect to industry performance, general business and economic and other matters, many of which are beyond the control of the Company. Any estimates contained in these analyses are not necessarily indicative of actual values or predictive of future results or values, which may be significantly more or less favorable. Additionally, analyses relating to the values of businesses or assets do not purport to be appraisals or necessarily reflect the prices at which businesses or assets may actually be sold or the prices at which any securities have traded or may trade at any time in the future. Accordingly, these analyses and estimates are inherently subject to substantial uncertainty. Needham & Company's opinion and its related analyses were only one of many factors considered by the Disinterested Directors in their evaluation of the proposed transaction and should not be viewed as determinative of the views of the Disinterested Directors, the Board or Company management with respect to the Offer Price or the Transaction.

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Under the terms of the Disinterested Directors' engagement letter with Needham & Company dated July 17, 2009 (the Needham & Company Engagement Letter), the Company paid Needham & Company a fee of \$50,000 upon execution of the Needham & Company Engagement Letter and an additional fee of \$450,000 upon Needham & Company's delivery of its fairness opinion. The Company has agreed to reimburse Needham & Company for its out-of-pocket expenses and to indemnify Needham & Company against certain liabilities relating to or arising out of services performed by Needham & Company as financial advisor to the Disinterested Directors.

Needham & Company is a nationally recognized investment banking firm. As part of its investment banking services, Needham & Company is regularly engaged in the evaluation of businesses and their securities in connection with mergers and acquisitions, negotiated underwritings, secondary distributions of securities, private placements and other purposes. Needham & Company was retained by the Board to act as financial advisor to our Disinterested Directors in connection with the Transaction based on Needham & Company's experience as a financial advisor in mergers and acquisitions as well as Needham & Company's familiarity with the Company and the technology industry generally. Needham & Company has had no investment banking relationship with the Company during the past two years and no investment banking relationship between Needham & Company and the Company is currently contemplated. A company affiliated with Needham & Company is a limited partner in a fund affiliated with Antares Capital Corporation. One of the Company's Disinterested Directors, Randall E. Poliner, is the President of Antares Capital Corporation. Needham & Company has had no investment banking relationship with Apax or the Sponsor Funds during the past two years. In the normal course of its business, Needham & Company may actively trade the Company's equity securities for its own account or for the account of its customers and, therefore, may at any time hold a long or short position in the Company's securities. Needham & Company has consented to the inclusion of and references to its opinion in this Schedule 14D-9.

With Needham & Company's consent, a copy of the slide presentation that accompanied Needham & Company's presentation to the Disinterested Directors on July 22, 2009 has been attached as an exhibit to the Schedule 13E-3 and the Schedule 14D-9 filed with the SEC in connection with the Transaction.

ITEM 6. INTEREST IN SECURITIES OF THE SUBJECT COMPANY.

No transactions in Shares have been effected during the past 60 days by the Company or, to the knowledge of the Company, any current executive officer, director, affiliate or subsidiary of the Company, other than Shares received as compensation in the ordinary course of business in connection with the Company's employee benefit plans and payroll contributions to the Company's 401(k) plan, except as follows:

On July 15, 2009, the Company awarded 30,000 restricted Shares to Mr. Ross.

On June 1, 2009, Mr. Robert J. DeFranco, Senior Vice President-Finance of Bankrate, exercised previously granted options to acquire 48,251 Shares and disposed of such Shares.

ITEM 7. PURPOSES OF THE TRANSACTION AND PLANS OR PROPOSALS.

Except as set forth in this Schedule 14D-9, the Company is not engaged in any negotiations in response to the Tender Offer that relate to (a) a tender offer or other acquisition of the Company's securities by the Company, any subsidiary of the Company or any other person, (b) an extraordinary transaction, such as a merger, reorganization or liquidation, involving the Company or any subsidiary of the Company, (c) any purchase, sale or transfer of a material amount of assets by the Company or any subsidiary of the Company or (d) any material change in the present dividend rate or policy, or indebtedness or capitalization of the Company. Except as set forth above, there are no transactions, resolutions of the Board, agreements in principle or signed contracts entered into in response to the Tender Offer that relate to one or more of the matters referred to in this paragraph.

ITEM 8. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION TO BE FURNISHED.

(a) Provisions of the Florida Business Corporation Act (FBCA).

Affiliated Transactions Statute. Because Bankrate is incorporated under the laws of the State of Florida, Bankrate is subject to Section 607.0901 (the Affiliated Transactions Statute), of the Florida Business Corporation Act (the FBCA). The Affiliated Transactions Statute generally prohibits a Florida corporation from engaging in

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an affiliated transaction with an interested shareholder, unless (i) the affiliated transaction is approved by a majority of the disinterested directors or by the affirmative vote of the holders of two-thirds of the voting shares other than the shares beneficially owned by the interested shareholder; or (ii) the corporation has not had more than 300 shareholders of record at any time for three years prior to the public announcement relating to the affiliated transaction or the corporation complies with certain statutory fair price provisions.

Subject to certain exceptions, under the FBCA an interested shareholder is a person who beneficially owns more than 10% of the corporation's outstanding voting shares, exclusive of the corporation or its subsidiaries. In general terms, an affiliated transaction includes: (i) any merger or consolidation with an interested shareholder; (ii) the transfer to any interested shareholder of corporate assets with a fair market value equal to 5% or more of the corporation's consolidated assets or outstanding shares or representing 5% or more of the corporation's earning power on net income; (iii) the issuance or transfer to any interested shareholder of shares with a fair market value equal to 5% or more of the aggregate fair market value of all outstanding shares of the corporation; (iv) the liquidation or dissolution of the corporation if proposed by any interested shareholder; (v) any reclassification of securities or corporate reorganization that will have the effect of increasing by more than 5% the percentage of the corporation's outstanding voting shares beneficially owned by any interested shareholder; and (vi) any receipt by the interested shareholder of the benefit of any loans, advances, guaranties, pledges or other financial assistance or any tax credits or other tax advantages provided by or through the corporation.

On July 22, 2009, Bankrate's disinterested directors unanimously approved the Merger Agreement and each of the transactions contemplated thereby, including the Tender Offer and the Merger.

Control Share Acquisition Statute. Bankrate is also subject to Section 607.0902 (the Control Share Acquisition Statute), of the FBCA. The Control Share Acquisition Statute provides that shares of publicly-held Florida corporations that are acquired in a control share acquisition generally will have no voting rights unless such rights are conferred on those shares by the vote of the holders of a majority of all the outstanding shares other than interested shares. A control share acquisition is defined, with certain exceptions, as the acquisition of the ownership of voting shares which would cause the acquiror to have voting power within the following ranges or to move upward from one range into another: (i) one-fifth, but less than one-third; (ii) one-third, but less than a majority; or (iii) a majority or more of such votes.

The Control Share Acquisition Statute does not apply to an acquisition of shares of a publicly-held Florida corporation (i) pursuant to a merger or share exchange effected in compliance with the FBCA if the publicly-held Florida corporation is a party to the merger or share exchange agreement, or (ii) if such acquisition has been approved by the corporation's board of directors before the acquisition.

Because the Control Share Acquisition Statute specifically exempts: (i) an acquisition of shares of a publicly-held Florida corporation which has been approved by the board of directors of the such corporation before the acquisition; and (ii) a merger effected in compliance with the FBCA if the publicly-held Florida corporation is a party to the merger agreement, the provisions of the Control Share Acquisition Statute are not applicable to the Tender Offer or to the Merger. At the July 22, 2009 meeting of the Board, by unanimous vote of all directors, the Board approved the acquisition of the Shares pursuant to the Merger Agreement and the transactions contemplated thereby, including the Tender Offer and the Merger.

On July 22, 2009, the Board, including a majority of the disinterested directors as such term is defined in Section 607.0901 of the FBCA, approved resolutions rendering inapplicable to the Merger Agreement, the execution thereof and the transactions contemplated thereby, including the Tender Offer and the Merger, all limitations on business combinations contained in the FBCA, including, without limitation, the Affiliated Transactions Statute and the Control Share Acquisition Statute, and (ii) elects that the Agreement, the execution thereof and the transactions

contemplated thereby, including the Tender Offer and the Merger, to the fullest extent of the Board's power and authority and to the extent permitted by law, not be subject to any fair price, moratorium, control share acquisition, interested shareholder, affiliate, business combination or other similar statute or regulation promulgated under applicable law of any jurisdiction that may apply or purport to apply to such agreements or transactions, and approves and takes all action necessary to exempt such agreements and transactions therefrom. As set forth in the Merger Agreement, if any fair price, moratorium, business combination, control share acquisition or other form of anti-takeover statute or regulation becomes applicable to the Tender

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Offer, the Merger, the Top-Up Option or other transactions contemplated by the Merger Agreement, both the Company and Parent, and the members of their respective Boards of Directors, will grant such approvals and take such actions as are reasonably necessary so that the Tender Offer, the Merger and the other transactions contemplated by the Merger Agreement may be consummated as promptly as practicable.

(b) Appraisal Rights.

Shareholders that were issued and outstanding immediately prior to the effective time of the Merger will have the right to dissent from the Merger, and to receive the fair value of their Shares, to the extent such rights are provided under Sections 607.1301-607.1333 of the FBCA. No such right of appraisal is applicable to any Shares tendered in the Tender Offer.

Shareholders who do not vote in favor of the Merger (or consent thereto in writing), who are entitled to demand, and who properly demand, appraisal of their Shares pursuant to and in compliance with the applicable provisions of the FBCA (the Dissenting Shareholders), will not receive the right to exchange their Shares for the Offer Price; instead, such holders will be entitled to payment of the appraised value of such Shares in accordance with the applicable provisions of the FBCA. Unless and until a Dissenting Shareholder fails to perfect or has effectively withdrawn or lost rights to appraisal under the FBCA, Dissenting Shareholders will cease to have all rights associated with the Shares, except the right to receive appraised value.

If any Dissenting Shareholder fails to perfect, or effectively withdraws or loses such right to appraisal, as provided in the FBCA, such holder's Shares will thereafter be converted, into the right to receive the Offer Price, without interest, in accordance with the Merger Agreement.

The foregoing discussion is not a complete statement of law pertaining to appraisal rights under the FBCA and is qualified in its entirety by the full text of Sections 607.1301 through 607.1333 of the FBCA.

FAILURE TO FOLLOW THE STEPS REQUIRED BY SECTIONS 607.1301 THROUGH 607.1333 OF THE FBCA FOR PERFECTING APPRAISAL RIGHTS MAY RESULT IN THE LOSS OF ANY SUCH RIGHTS.

(c) Regulatory Matters.

Antitrust Matters. Under the Hart-Scott-Rodino Antitrust Improvements Act of 1976, as amended (the HSR Act), and the rules that have been promulgated thereunder by the Federal Trade Commission (the FTC), certain transactions may not be completed unless certain information has been furnished to the Antitrust Division of the U.S. Department of Justice (the Division) and the FTC and certain waiting period or approval requirements have been satisfied. The purchase of Shares pursuant to the Tender Offer is subject to such requirements.

Parent and the Company filed a Premerger Notification and Report Form under the HSR Act with respect to the Tender Offer with the Division and the FTC on July 28, 2009. The waiting period applicable to the purchase of Shares pursuant to the Tender Offer will expire at 11:59 p.m., New York City time, August 27, 2009 (being the 30th calendar day from the time of filing), unless earlier terminated by the FTC or the Division. However, before such time, the Division or the FTC may extend the waiting period by requesting additional information or documentary material relevant to the Tender Offer from Parent. If such a request is made, the waiting period will be extended until 11:59 p.m., New York City time, ten calendar days after Parent's substantial compliance with such request. Thereafter, such waiting period can be extended only by court order or agreement of the Company, Parent, Merger Sub and the Division or the FTC, as applicable. Parent and Merger Sub intend to make a request pursuant to the HSR Act for early termination of the waiting period applicable to the Tender Offer. There can be no assurance, however, that the 30-day HSR Act waiting period will be terminated early.

(d) Top-Up Option.

The summary of the Top-Up Option in Section 12 of the Offer to Purchase is incorporated herein by reference.

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(e) Short-Form Merger.

The FBCA provides generally that, if a parent corporation owns at least 80% of the outstanding shares of each class of a subsidiary corporation, the parent corporation may merge into the subsidiary corporation by a plan of merger adopted by the board of directors of the parent corporation and the appropriate filings with the Florida Department of State, without the approval of the shareholders of the subsidiary corporation. In accordance with the FBCA, if Merger Sub acquires at least 80% of Bankrate's outstanding Shares, Merger Sub will be able to effect the Merger without a vote of the Board or other shareholders of Bankrate common stock. Following the acceptance of Shares in the Tender Offer, Parent and Merger Sub are obligated to exercise the Top-Up Option if Merger Sub does not yet own at least 80% of the Shares, and upon the consummation of the Top-Up Option will as a result own at least 80% of the Shares on a fully diluted basis, and should thus be able to effect the Merger without such further votes.

(f) Projected Financial Information.

The Company's senior management does not as a matter of course make public projections as to future performance or earnings beyond the current fiscal year and is especially wary of making projections for extended periods due to the significant unpredictability of the underlying assumptions and estimates. However, the Company provided certain financial forecasts prepared by senior management to Apax, Parent, Merger Sub, the Board, Allen and Needham & Company in connection with their consideration of the Tender Offer and the Merger. We have included the material projections, which were dated as of July 15 and utilized by Apax, Parent, Merger Sub, the Board, Allen and Needham & Company in this statement to provide our shareholders access to this information. The inclusion of this information should not be regarded as an indication that Apax, Parent, Merger Sub, the Board, Allen, Needham & Company, or any other recipient of this information considered, or now considers, it to be a reliable prediction of future results.

The projections reflect numerous estimates and assumptions with respect to industry performance, general business, economic, regulatory, market and financial conditions, as well as matters specific to the Company's business, including the beginnings of a general economic recovery in the United States in the latter half of 2009. Many of these matters are beyond the Company's control and the continuing turmoil in general economic conditions and particularly in the residential, mortgage, debt, and financial services industries create significant uncertainty around the projections. As a result, there can be no assurance that the projected results will be realized or that actual results will not be significantly higher or lower than projected. Since the projections cover multiple years, such information by its nature becomes less reliable with each successive year. The financial projections were prepared solely for internal use and for the use of Apax, Parent, the Board and their respective advisors in connection with the potential transaction and not with a view toward public disclosure or toward complying with generally accepted accounting principles, the published guidelines of the SEC regarding projections or the guidelines established by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants for preparation and presentation of prospective financial information. The projections included herein were prepared by the Company's management. Neither the Company's independent registered public accounting firm, nor any other independent accountants, have compiled, examined, or performed any procedures with respect to the prospective financial information contained herein, nor have they expressed any opinion or any other form of assurance on such information or its achievability, and assume no responsibility for, and disclaim any association with, the prospective financial information. Furthermore, the financial projections do not take into account any circumstances or events occurring after July 15, 2009, the date they were prepared.

The Company has made publicly available its actual results of operations for the quarter ended March 31, 2009 and its estimated results of operations for the quarter and six months ended June 30, 2009. You should review the Company's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended March 31, 2009 and Current Report on Form 8-K/A filed on July 23, 2009 to obtain this information. See [Where You Can Find More Information](#). Readers of this solicitation/recommendation statement are strongly cautioned not to place undue reliance on the projections set forth

below. No one has made or makes any representation to any shareholder regarding the information included in these projections.

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The inclusion of projections herein should not be regarded as an indication that such projections will be an accurate prediction of future events, and they should not be relied on as such. Except as required by applicable securities laws, the Company undertakes no obligation to update, or otherwise revise the material projections to reflect circumstances existing after the date when made or to reflect the occurrence of future events, even in the event that any or all of the assumptions are shown to be in error.

| (Estimated) | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 |
|--------------------|-------------|-------------|----------------------|-------------|-------------|
| | | | (in millions) | | |
| Revenue | \$ 143.2 | \$ 170.2 | \$ 199.7 | \$ 228.1 | \$ 256.3 |
| EBITDA* | 48.0 | 64.4 | 81.6 | 99.6 | 116.8 |
| Net Income | 14.4 | 23.4 | 32.8 | 42.6 | 51.8 |

* Excludes stock compensation expense

(g) Section 14(f) Information Statement.

The Information Statement attached as Annex A hereto is being furnished in connection with the possible designation by Parent after the acceptance of Shares in the Tender Offer, pursuant to the Merger Agreement, of certain persons to be appointed to the Board, other than at a meeting of the Shareholders as described in the Information Statement, and is incorporated herein by reference.

(h) Annual Report on Form 10-K, Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q and Current Reports on Form 8-K.

For additional information regarding the business and financial results of the Company, please see the following documents that have been filed by the Company with the SEC, each of which is incorporated herein by reference:

the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2008;

the Company's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the fiscal quarter ended March 31, 2009; and

the Company's Current Reports on Form 8-K filed with the SEC on May 7, 2009 and July 22, 2009, and on Form 8-K/A filed on July 23, 2009 (other than with respect to information furnished under Items 2.02 and 7.01 of any Current Report on Form 8-K or 8-K/A, including the related exhibits under Item 9.01).

(i) Forward-Looking Statements.

Information both included and incorporated by reference in this Schedule 14D-9 may contain forward-looking statements within the meaning of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. These forward-looking statements include, among others, statements about Bankrate's beliefs, plans, objectives, goals, expectations, estimates and intentions that are subject to significant risks and uncertainties and are subject to change based on various factors, many of which are beyond our control. The words may, could, should, would, believe, anticipate, estimate, intend, plan, target, goal, and similar expressions are intended to identify forward-looking statements. All forward-looking statements, by their nature, are subject to risks and uncertainties. Bankrate's actual future results may differ materially from those set forth in our forward-looking statements. Bankrate's ability to achieve our objectives could be adversely affected by the factors discussed in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2008 filed with the SEC, as well as, among others: (1) macroeconomic condition and general industry

conditions such as the competitive environment; (2) regulatory and litigation matters and risks; (3) legislative developments; (4) changes in tax and other laws and the effect of changes in general economic conditions; (5) the risk that a condition to closing of the transaction may not be satisfied; and (6) other risks to consummation of the transaction, including the risk that the transaction will not be consummated within the expected time period.

(j) Certain Litigation

At least one lawsuit has been filed on behalf of a putative class of public shareholders of Bankrate against Bankrate, its directors, Purchaser and Parent. The action is pending in the Florida Circuit Court, Fifteenth Judicial

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Circuit, Palm Beach County, styled *Pfeiffer v. Evans, et al.* (2009-CA-025137-XXXX-MB). The complaint variously alleges, among other things, that Bankrate's directors breached their fiduciary duties in connection with the Offer, the Merger and the other transactions contemplated by the Merger Agreement by failing to ensure that shareholders would obtain fair and maximum consideration under the circumstances, and that Purchaser, Parent and Bankrate aided and abetted the directors' breaches of duty. The complaint seeks, among other things, certification of a class consisting of owners of Bankrate common stock excluding Defendants and their affiliates, an order preliminarily and permanently enjoining the proposed transaction, accounting by the Defendants to Plaintiff for all damages allegedly caused by them and for all profits and any special benefits obtained as a result of their purported breaches of fiduciary duties, rescission of the transaction if it is consummated, and attorneys' fees and expenses. The foregoing description does not purport to be complete and is qualified in its entirety by reference to Exhibit (a)(4), which is incorporated herein by reference. Additionally, Bankrate has been notified of two additional lawsuits, styled *Bloch v. Bankrate, Inc., et al.*, (2009-CA-24312) and *KBC Asset v. Bankrate, Inc., et al.*, (2009-CA-025313-XXXX-MB), but has not received an as-filed copy of either complaint as of the filing of this Schedule 14D-9.

ITEM 9. EXHIBITS.

| Exhibit No. | Description |
|--------------------|--|
| (a)(1) | Offer to Purchase dated July 28, 2009 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit(a)(1) of the Schedule TO filed by Merger Sub on July 28, 2009). |
| (a)(2) | Letter of Transmittal (incorporated by reference to Exhibit(a)(2) of the Schedule TO filed by Purchaser on July 28, 2009). |
| (a)(3) | Press Release Announcing the Offer and the Merger, dated July 22, 2009 (incorporated by reference to the press release under cover of Schedule 14D-9 filed by the Company on July 22, 2009). |
| (a)(4) | Complaint filed in the Circuit Court of the Fifteenth Judicial Circuit in and for Palm Beach County, Florida, captioned <i>Milton Pfeiffer v. Evans, et al.</i> , case No. 2009-CA-025137-xxxx-MB |
| (c)(1) | Opinion of Allen & Company LLC, dated July 22, 2009 (incorporated by reference to Annex B attached to this Schedule 14D-9). |
| (c)(2) | Presentation of Allen & Company LLC, dated July 22, 2009. |
| (c)(3) | Opinion of Needham & Company LLC, dated July 22, 2009 (incorporated by reference to Annex C to this Schedule 14D-9). |
| (c)(4) | Presentation of Needham & Company LLC, dated July 22, 2009. |
| (e)(1) | Agreement and Plan of Merger, dated as of July 22, 2009, among the Company, Parent and Merger Sub (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 2.1 of the Form 8-K/A filed by the Company on July 23, 2009). |
| (e)(2) | Equity Commitment Letter of Apax US VII, L.P., Apax Europe VII-A, L.P., Apax Europe VII-B, L.P., and Apax Europe VII-1, L.P. to BEN Holdings, Inc., dated as of July 22, 2009 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 2.2 of the Form 8-K/A filed by the Company on July 23, 2009) |
| (e)(3) | Equity Commitment Letter, of Apax US VII, L.P., Apax Europe VII-A, L.P., Apax Europe VII-B, L.P., and Apax Europe VII-1, L.P. to BEN Holdings, Inc. and Bankrate, Inc., dated as of July 22, 2009 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 2.3 of the Form 8-K/A filed by the Company on July 23, 2009) |
| (e)(4) | Limited Guarantee by BEN Holdings, Inc. in favor of Bankrate, dated as of July 22, 2009 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 2.4 of the Form 8-K/A filed by the Company on July 23, 2009). |
| (e)(5) | Exclusivity Agreement, dated as of June 30, 2009, by and between Bankrate, Inc. and Apax Partners, L.P. |
| (e)(6) | |

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Form of Non-Tender and Support Agreement, dated as of July 22, 2009, by and among BEN Holdings, Inc., BEN Merger Sub, Inc., and each of Edward J. DiMaria, Daniel P. Hoogterp, Steven L. Horowitz, Michael Ricciardelli, Donaldson M. Ross and Bruce J. Zanca

(e)(7) Non-Tender and Support Agreement, dated as of July 22, 2009, by and among BEN Holdings, Inc., BEN Merger Sub, Inc., and Thomas R. Evans

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| Exhibit No. | Description |
|--------------------|---|
| (e)(8) | Non-Tender and Support Agreement, dated as of July 22, 2009, by and among BEN Holdings, Inc., BEN Merger Sub, Inc., Peter Christopher Morse and the other parties named therein |
| (e)(9) | Non-Tender and Support Agreement, dated as of July 22, 2009, by and among BEN Holdings, Inc., BEN Merger Sub, Inc., and Robert P. O Block |
| (g) | Not applicable. |
| Annex A | Information Statement.* |
| Annex B | Opinion of Allen & Company LLC, dated July 22, 2009* |
| Annex C | Opinion of Needham & Company, LLC, dated July 22, 2009* |

* Included with the statement mailed to the Shareholders.

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SIGNATURE

After due inquiry and to the best of my knowledge and belief, I certify that the information set forth in this statement is true, complete and correct.

Bankrate, Inc.

By: /s/ Edward J. DiMaria

Edward J. DiMaria
Senior Vice President
Chief Financial Officer

Dated: July 28, 2009

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**Annex A
Information Statement**

**BANKRATE, INC.
11760 U.S. Highway One, Suite 200
North Palm Beach, Florida 33408**

**INFORMATION STATEMENT PURSUANT
TO SECTION 14(f) OF
THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934
AND RULE 14f-1 THEREUNDER**

**NO VOTE OR OTHER ACTION OF SECURITY HOLDERS IS REQUIRED IN
CONNECTION WITH THIS INFORMATION STATEMENT**

This Information Statement is being mailed on or about July 28, 2009, as part of the Solicitation/Recommendation Statement on Schedule 14D-9 (the "Schedule 14D-9") to holders of common stock, par value \$0.01 per share (the "Shares"), of Bankrate, Inc., a Florida corporation (the "Company" or "we" or "us" or "our"). You are receiving this Information Statement in connection with the possible election of persons designated by BEN Holdings, Inc., a Delaware corporation ("Parent"), and BEN Merger Sub Inc., a Florida corporation ("Merger Sub") and a wholly owned subsidiary of Parent, to at least a majority of the seats on the Board of Directors of the Company (the "Board").

On July 22, 2009, the Company, Parent and Merger Sub entered into an Agreement and Plan of Merger (the "Merger Agreement"), pursuant to which Merger Sub is required to commence a tender offer (the "Tender Offer") to purchase all outstanding Shares for \$28.50 per Share, net to the seller in cash without interest thereon, less any applicable withholding taxes (the "Offer Price"), upon the terms and subject to the conditions set forth in the Merger Sub's Offer to Purchase dated July 28, 2009 (as amended or supplemented from time to time, the "Offer to Purchase") and in the related letter of transmittal (as amended or supplemented from time to time, the "Letter of Transmittal"), copies of which have been mailed to the shareholders of the Company and are filed as Exhibit (a)(1) and (a)(2), respectively, to the Tender Offer Statement on Schedule TO (as amended or supplemented from time to time, the "Schedule TO") which was filed with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (the "SEC") on July 28, 2009.

The Merger Agreement provides, among other things, that as soon as possible after consummation of the Tender Offer, Merger Sub will merge with and into the Company (the "Merger"), with the Company continuing as the surviving corporation and an indirect wholly owned subsidiary of Parent. At the effective time of the Merger, each outstanding Share (other than Shares owned by Parent, Merger Sub, the Company and its subsidiaries, and certain shares owned by certain of the Company's officers and directors who have entered into Non-Tender and Support Agreements ("Support Agreements") (as further described in the Offer to Purchase and the Schedule 14D-9) and Shares with respect to which dissenters rights are properly demanded and perfected) will be converted into the Offer Price. A copy of the Merger Agreement is filed as Exhibit 2.1 of the Form 8-K filed by the Company on July 22, 2009, and is incorporated herein by reference.

The Tender Offer, the Merger and the Merger Agreement are more fully described in the Offer to Purchase and the Schedule 14D-9, to which this Information Statement forms Annex A, which was filed by the Company with the SEC on July 28, 2009, and which is being mailed to shareholders of the Company along with this Information Statement.

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This Information Statement is being mailed to you in accordance with Section 14(f) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the Exchange Act), and Rule 14f-1 promulgated thereunder. The information set forth herein supplements certain information set forth in the Schedule 14D-9. Please read this Information Statement carefully. You are not, however, required to take any action in connection with the matters set forth in this Information Statement.

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Pursuant to the Merger Agreement, the Merger Sub commenced the Tender Offer on July 28, 2009. The Tender Offer is currently scheduled to expire at 12:00 midnight, New York City time, on August 24, 2009, unless extended.

The information contained in this Information Statement concerning Parent, Merger Sub and their director designees has been furnished to the Company by Parent and Merger Sub and the Company assumes no responsibility for the accuracy of any such information.

GENERAL INFORMATION

The Shares are the only type of security entitled to vote at a meeting of the shareholders of the Company. Each Share has one vote. As of the close of business on July 27, 2009, there were 100,000,000 Shares authorized, of which 19,148,003 were outstanding (including restricted shares).

DIRECTORS DESIGNATED BY PARENT OR MERGER SUB

Right to Designate Directors

The Merger Agreement provides that promptly upon the acceptance for payment of, and payment by Parent or Merger Sub for, any Shares pursuant to the Tender Offer, and subject to applicable law, Parent or Merger Sub shall be entitled to designate such number of members of the Board, as rounded up to the next whole number, that constitutes at least a majority of the directors to the Board that equals the product of (i) the total number of directors on the Board (giving effect to the election of any additional directors pursuant to this Section) and (ii) the percentage that the number of Shares purchased in the Tender Offer plus the number of Shares subject to Support Agreement bears to the total number of Shares outstanding. The Company will also, subject to applicable law, cause individuals designated by Merger Sub to constitute a majority of each committee of the Board.

Notwithstanding these board designation rights, the Company will use all reasonable efforts to ensure that at least three of the current independent members of the Board will remain on the Board until the completion of the Merger. The Merger Agreement also sets forth procedures for appointing replacements to fill vacancies among these independent directors. Following the election or appointment of Parent's designees and until the Merger is consummated, the approval of a majority of these independent directors shall be required to authorize (and such authorization shall constitute the authorization of the Board and no other action on the part of the Company, including any action by any other director of the Company, shall be required to authorize) any termination of the Merger Agreement by the Company, any amendment of the Merger Agreement requiring action by the Board, any extension of time for performance of any obligation or action hereunder by Parent or Merger Sub and any waiver of compliance with any of the agreements or conditions contained herein for the benefit of the Company or other action adversely affecting the rights of Shareholders to receive the Offer Price.

Parent and Merger Sub's Designees

Parent has informed the Company that promptly following its payment for Shares pursuant to the Tender Offer, Merger Sub will exercise its rights under the Merger Agreement to obtain representation on, and control of, the Board by requesting that the Company provide it with the maximum representation on the Board to which it is entitled under the Merger Agreement. Merger Sub has informed the Company that it will choose its designees to the Board from among the persons identified below. The following table sets forth, with respect to each individual who may be designated by Merger Sub, the name, age of the individual as of the date hereof, and such individual's present principal occupation and employment history during the past five years.

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Unless otherwise indicated, all designees of the Merger Sub to the Board have held the office and principal occupation identified below for not less than five years.

| Name and Address | Age | Current Principal Occupation or Employment: Material Positions held During the Past Five Years |
|-------------------------|------------|---|
| Harpreet Anand | 36 | Tax Manager of Apax Partners Harpreet Anand joined Apax Partners in November 2001 and transferred to New York in 2006, where he currently is the tax manager. Prior to joining Apax Partners in 2001, he spent several years at Ernst & Young in their International Tax Group. |
| Seth Brody | 33 | Operating Executive of Apax Partners Seth Brody joined Apax Partners in 2008 as an Operating Executive in the New York office. Prior to joining Apax Partners in 2008, Seth Brody was Executive Vice President and General Manager at RazorGator, Inc. in Los Angeles, and Group Vice President and General Manager for Business Operations at Orbitz Worldwide in Chicago. Prior to Orbitz Worldwide, he was Director of Marketing at Priceline.com, Inc. |
| Philipp Gusinde | 38 | Principal of Apax Partners Philipp Gusinde joined Apax Partners in July 2000 and transferred to New York in 2008, where he is currently working as a Principal. Prior to joining Apax Partners in 2000, he worked at Deutsche Bank in their German office. |
| Sean Fernandes | 35 | Principal of Apax Partners Sean Fernandes joined Apax Partners in 2008 as a Principal in the Financial & Business Services group in the New York office. From 2000 to 2008, Sean Fernandes was at Goldman, Sachs & Co. in their Financial Institutions Group and Principal Investment Area. |
| Christian Stahl | 38 | Partner of Apax Partners Christian Stahl joined Apax Partners in 1999 and transferred to New York in 2007, where he is currently working. Prior to joining Apax Partners in 1999, Christian Stahl worked at Bain & Company in their German and Boston offices. In addition, Director of Cengage Learning (previously Thomson Learning) since July 2007, Director of Tommy Hilfiger since May 2006, Director of Central European Media Enterprises (CME) since September 2006 and Director of Telcast Media Group. |
| Mitch Truwit | 40 | Partner of Apax Partners Mitch Truwit joined Apax Partners in 2006 as a partner in the New York office. Prior to joining Apax Partners in 2006, Mitch Truwit was President and Chief Executive Officer at Orbitz Worldwide in Chicago. Prior to joining Orbitz Worldwide, Mitch Truwit was the Chief Operating Officer at Priceline.com, Inc. In addition, Chairman of Maple Tree Holdings, Director of Hub International I N.S. Co., Director of Hub International II N.S. Co., Director of Hub International Parent Holdings, Inc., Director of Maple Tree Acquisition Corporation, Director of Maple Tree Holdings GP, LLC, Director of Hub International Limited, and Chair of the Audit Committee and Compensation Committee of Hub International Limited, in each case, since 2007. |

Merger Sub has advised the Company that, to the best of its knowledge, none of Merger Sub's designees to the Board has, during the past five years, (i) been convicted in a criminal proceeding (excluding traffic violations or misdemeanors), (ii) been a party to any judicial or administrative proceeding that resulted in a judgment, decree or final order enjoining the person from future violations of, or prohibiting activities subject to, U.S. federal or state securities laws, or a finding of any violation of U.S. federal or state securities laws, (iii) filed a petition under federal

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bankruptcy laws or any state insolvency laws or has had a receiver appointed for the person's property, or (iv) been subject to any judgment, decree or final order enjoining the person from engaging in any type of business practice.

Merger Sub has advised the Company that, to the best of its knowledge, none of its designees is currently a director of, or holds any position with, the Company or any of its subsidiaries. Merger Sub has advised the Company that, to the best of its knowledge, none of its designees or any of his or her immediate family members (i) has a familial relationship with any directors, other nominees or executive officers of the Company or any of its subsidiaries, or (ii) has been involved in any transactions with the Company or any of its subsidiaries, in each case, that are required to be disclosed pursuant to the rules and regulations of the SEC, except as may be disclosed herein.

It is expected that Merger Sub's designees will assume office as promptly as practicable following the purchase by Merger Sub of Shares pursuant to the Offer, which cannot be earlier than 12:00 midnight, New York City time on August 24, 2009, and that, upon assuming office, Merger Sub's designees will constitute at least a majority of the Board. It is not currently known which of the current directors of the Company will resign although the Company has agreed to use its reasonable best efforts to ensure that all nonemployee members of the Board remain as directors. To the extent the Board will consist of persons who are not nominees of Merger Sub, the Board is expected to continue to consist of those persons who are currently directors of the Company who do not resign.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Board currently consists of six directors and is divided into three classes. One such class is elected every year for a term of three years or until the director's prior death, disability, resignation or removal.

Information concerning current directors is set forth below.

| Name | Position with the Company |
|--------------------|----------------------------------|
| Thomas R. Evans | Chairman, President and CEO |
| William C. Martin | Director(1) |
| Peter C. Morse | Director |
| Robert P. O Block | Director(1) |
| Richard J. Pinola | Director(1) |
| Randall E. Poliner | Director(1) |

(1) These directors are independent directors under the requirements set forth in the NASDAQ Market Place Rules.

Directors serving until Annual Meeting in 2010

Thomas R. Evans

Director, President and Chief Executive Officer

Mr. Evans, age 54, has served as a director since 2004, and was appointed President and Chief Executive Officer in June 2004. From August 1999 to August 2003, Mr. Evans served as Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Official Payments Corp., specializing in processing consumer credit card payments for government taxes, fees and fines. From 1998 to 1999, Mr. Evans was President and Chief Executive Officer of GeoCities Inc., a community of personal Web sites on the Internet. From 1991 to 1998, Mr. Evans was President and Publisher of U.S. News & World Report. In addition to his duties at U.S. News & World Report, Mr. Evans served as President of The Atlantic Monthly

(1996-1998) and as President and Publisher of Fast Company (1995-1998), a magazine launched in 1995. Mr. Evans received a Bachelor of Science degree in business administration from Arizona State University. Mr. Evans is also a director of Navisite, Inc. and Future Fuel Corp.

Richard J. Pinola

Director

Mr. Pinola, age 63, has served as a director since 2004. Mr. Pinola has served as a principal of GPS Investment Group since July 2008. Mr. Pinola served as principal of Eric M. Golshalk & Co. from February 2005 through June 2008. From July 1992 until his retirement in February 2005, Mr. Pinola was President and Chief Executive Officer

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of Right Management Consultants, a career transition and organizational consulting firm and a wholly-owned subsidiary of Manpower Inc. Mr. Pinola also serves as a director of K-Tron International, Nobel Learning Communities, Inc., Kenexa, Inc., and three real estate investment trusts—Corporate Property Associates 15 Inc., Corporate Property Associates 16 Inc., and Corporate Property Associates 17-Global Inc. In addition, he serves on the Board of Trustees of King's College in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania. Mr. Pinola received a Bachelor of Science degree in accounting from King's College.

Directors serving until Annual Meeting in 2011

Peter C. Morse

Chairman, Director

Mr. Morse, age 62, has been a director since 1993, and served as our Chief Executive Officer from 1993 until 1997. Mr. Morse served as our Chairman from 1997 until 1999, and since 2002. Since 1982, Mr. Morse has also served as president of Morse Partners, Ltd., a private equity firm that acquires operating companies and provides expansion capital, and is also a general partner of Permit Capital. From 1986 to 1990, Mr. Morse was chairman of FAO Schwarz, the national chain of children's gift stores. Mr. Morse currently serves on the Board of Trustees of Children's Hospital of Philadelphia and is Chairman of the Investment Committee. Mr. Morse is also a member of the Board of Governors of Boys and Girls Clubs of America, the Board of Directors of Georgetown University, the Board of Trustees of the J.M. Foundation, and the Board of Trustees of Gesu School. Mr. Morse holds a B.S.B.A. from Georgetown University and an M.B.A. from Columbia University Graduate School of Business.

William C. Martin

Director

Mr. Martin, age 31, has served as a director since 2000. He is the Chairman and Chief Investment Officer of Raging Capital Management, LLC, a private investment partnership. He is also the co-founder and principal of Indie Research LLC and InsiderScore LLC, providers of proprietary investment and research tools for individual and institutional investors. In 1998, Mr. Martin co-founded Raging Bull, an online financial media company.

Directors serving until Annual Meeting in 2012

Robert P. O Block

Director

Mr. O Block, age 66, has served as a director since 1999. Mr. O Block held senior positions with McKinsey & Company, Inc. for 30 years until his retirement in 1998, serving as a consultant to a wide variety of business, nonprofit and public sector organizations in the United States, Europe and the Far East. As a Director of McKinsey & Company, Mr. O Block led studies in financial restructuring; corporate, business unit and product strategy; manufacturing operations; and organization. He started his career as a member of the faculty of Harvard University, where he performed research and taught courses in the areas of production and operations management, business economics and real estate. Mr. O Block is currently a general partner of Freeport Center, a real estate and distribution complex in Utah. He is the current Vice Chairman of the Boston Symphony Orchestra Board of Trustees and is also a Trustee Emeritus of the U.S. Ski and Snowboard Team Foundation. Mr. O Block received a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering from Purdue University and an M.B.A. from Harvard Business School.

Randall E. Poliner

Director

Mr. Poliner, age 53, has served as a director since 1998. Since 1993, Mr. Poliner has served as President of Antares Capital Corporation, a private venture capital firm investing equity capital in expansion stage companies and management led buy-out opportunities. Mr. Poliner holds a Bachelor of Electrical Engineering from the Georgia Institute of Technology, an M.S. from Carnegie-Mellon University and an M.B.A. from Harvard Business School.

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Table of Contents**EXECUTIVE OFFICERS**

The names, ages, and current positions of our executive officers as of the record date are listed in the table below. Executive officers are elected annually by the Board at its meeting following the Annual Meeting of Shareholders to serve for a one-year term and until their successors are elected and qualified. There are no family relationships among the executive officers nor is there any agreement or understanding between any officer and any other person pursuant to which the officer was elected. Mr. Evans serves as a director and an executive officer. For information pertaining to Mr. Evans's business experience, see Election of Directors.

| Name | Age | Position |
|----------------------|------------|---|
| Thomas R. Evans | 54 | President, Chief Executive Officer and Director |
| Robert J. DeFranco | 52 | Senior Vice President-Finance |
| Edward J. DiMaria | 43 | Senior Vice President-Chief Financial Officer |
| Daniel P. Hoogterp | 49 | Senior Vice President-Chief Technology Officer |
| Steven L. Horowitz | 37 | Senior Vice President-General Manager of Online Properties |
| Michael Ricciardelli | 37 | Senior Vice President-Business Development & Consumer Marketing |
| Donaldson M. Ross | 45 | Senior Vice President-Chief Revenue Officer |
| Bruce J. Zanca | 48 | Senior Vice President-Chief Communications/Marketing Office |

Robert J. DeFranco

Senior Vice President Finance

Mr. DeFranco has served as our Senior Vice President Finance since April 2006. Prior to that, he served as our Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer since September 2000, and as Vice President-Finance and Chief Accounting Officer from March 1999. From 1986 to 1999, he held various positions in corporate accounting and finance for companies including Ocwen Financial Corporation (as Director of Finance from January 1998 through March 1999), SunTrust Banks, Inc. (as Vice President-Financial Reporting from February 1995 through December 1997), Ryder System, Inc. and Southeast Banking Corporation. From 1978 to 1986, he was a member of the commercial audit division of Arthur Andersen & Co., Miami, Florida. Mr. DeFranco is a Certified Public Accountant and a member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants. Mr. DeFranco received a Bachelor of Science degree with a major in Accounting from Florida State University in 1978.

Edward J. DiMaria

Senior Vice President Chief Financial Officer

Mr. DiMaria has served as our Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer since April 2006. From February 2006 until April 2006, he served as our consultant, assisting us with our finance and accounting functions. Prior to that, Mr. DiMaria was an independent consultant for various clients on numerous matters, including private equity transactions, mergers and acquisitions, and other corporate finance projects. From August 2000 to August 2002, Mr. DiMaria was the Chief Financial Officer of Official Payments Corporation. From August 1994 to August 2000, Mr. DiMaria was employed by Best Friends Pet Care, Inc., where his final position was Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer. Mr. DiMaria has also held finance and accounting positions with Business Express, Inc., Advanced Network & Services, Inc., and was a member of the commercial audit division of KPMG LLP. Mr. DiMaria is a Certified Public Accountant in the State of New York and received his Bachelor of Business

Administration degree with a major in Public Accounting from Pace University in New York.

Daniel P. Hoogterp

Senior Vice President Chief Technology Officer

Mr. Hoogterp has served as our Senior Vice President and Chief Technology Officer since May 2005. From November 2002 until May 2005, he served as Chief Executive Officer of TQuist, LLC, a technology consulting

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company. From February 2001 to September 2002, Mr. Hoogterp served as Executive Vice President and Chief Technology Officer of Enamics, Inc., a company specializing in business technology management. From July 1999 to February 2001, he served as Senior Vice President and Chief Technology Officer of Sagemaker, Inc., a provider of enterprise information portals. From March 1991 to July 1999, he served as Chief Executive Officer of Retrieval Technologies, Inc. Mr. Hoogterp received a Post-Graduate Certificate in Business from Heriott-Watt University's Edinburgh Business School in Scotland in 2004.

Steven L. Horowitz

Senior Vice President General Manager

Mr. Horowitz has served as Senior Vice President General Manager of Online Properties since May 2007. Mr. Horowitz joined us as our Vice President and Publisher in October 2004. From 2002 to 2004, Mr. Horowitz served in various positions at America Online (Time Warner), most recently as Vice President eCommerce Classifieds. From 1998 to 2002, he held Director and Senior Manager positions with Yahoo! and GeoCities, Inc. specializing in business and sales strategy for classifieds and local properties. Additionally, Mr. Horowitz served as Associate Director of Internet Marketing for BMG Music Club at BMG Direct, Bertelsmann (1998), Director of Internet Venues at a start-up entertainment Web site (1996 to 1997) and Online Publicist for Turner Entertainment Group at Turner Broadcasting Systems, Inc. (1995 to 1996). Mr. Horowitz received a Bachelor of Arts degree with a major in English from the State University of New York at Oswego in 1993.

Michael Ricciardelli

Senior Vice President Business Development & Consumer Marketing

Mr. Ricciardelli has served as Senior Vice President Business Development & Consumer Marketing since May 2007 having joined Bankrate in September 2006. Prior to joining Bankrate, he was Vice President Marketing & Media Sales at Apartments.com/Classified Ventures where he managed all marketing functions and online advertising sales efforts. From 1999 to 2003, he was Co-Founder & Vice President of Strategic Development for Insurance.com venture funded by Fidelity Capital and sold in 2003 to Comparison Market. Earlier in his career, Mr. Ricciardelli also held positions in strategy consulting and business development at Fidelity Investments, and financial analysis at Salomon Brothers.

Donaldson M. Ross

Senior Vice President Chief Revenue Officer

Mr. Ross has served as our Senior Vice President Chief Revenue Officer since September 2006. From June 2001 until September 2006, Mr. Ross was Senior Vice President-Sales & Marketing for Harris Connect, a leader in affinity marketing for the directory, Internet and data services business in the education and association market place. From 2000 to 2001, he held an executive management position at zUniversity.com. From 1989 to 1998, Mr. Ross held various positions in media sales and sales management at U.S. News & World Report, where he rose to the position of Vice President of Advertising Sales. Mr. Ross received his Bachelor of Arts degree from Denison University and his Masters in Advertising and Marketing from Michigan State University.

Bruce J. Zanca

Senior Vice President Chief Communications/Marketing Officer

Mr. Zanca has served as our Senior Vice President Chief Communications/Marketing Officer since July 2004. From January 2002 to June 2004, Mr. Zanca owned and operated a communications and marketing consulting practice. From September 1999 to December 2001, Mr. Zanca was Senior Vice President of Communications and Administration at Official Payments Corp., specializing in processing consumer credit card payments for government

taxes, fees and fines. From August 1998 to June 1999 he served as Vice President Corporate Communications at GeoCities, Inc., a community of personal Web sites on the Internet. From 1995 to 1998, Mr. Zanca was Vice President of Corporate Communications at U.S. News & World Report Magazine Group. From 1981 to 1992, Mr. Zanca was a press aide in the Reagan and Bush administrations. During the first Bush administration he was a White House Spokesman and deputy to Marlin Fitzwater.

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Table of Contents**SECURITY OWNERSHIP OF CERTAIN BENEFICIAL OWNERS AND MANAGEMENT**

The following table sets forth the amount and percent of shares of Common Stock that as of July 23, 2009, are deemed under the rules of the Securities and Exchange Commission to be beneficially owned by each member of the Board, by each nominee for election to the Board, by each of our executive officers named in the Summary Compensation Table below, by all of our directors and executive officers as a group, and by any person or group (as that term is used in the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (Exchange Act)) known to us to be a beneficial owner of more than 5% of the outstanding shares of Common Stock as of that date. The information concerning the beneficial ownership of our directors and officers is based solely on information provided by those individuals. Unless otherwise stated, the beneficial owner has sole voting and investment power over the listed Common Stock or shares such power with his or her spouse.

| Name of Beneficial Owner | Common Stock Beneficially Owned(1) | |
|--|---------------------------------------|------------------------|
| | Number of Shares of Common Stock | Percentage of Class |
| Peter C. Morse(2) | 4,029,375 | 21.3% |
| Wells Fargo & Company(3) | 2,192,687 | 11.6% |
| Waddell & Reed Financial, Inc.(4) | 1,905,567 | 10.1% |
| Baron Capital Group, Inc.(5) | 1,551,217 | 8.2% |
| Philippe Laffont(6) | 1,067,642 | 5.7% |
| Warburg Pincus & Co.(7) | 1,026,300 | 5.4% |
| T. Rowe Price Associates, Inc.(8) | 1,006,700 | 5.3% |
| Thomas R. Evans | 880,000 | 4.5% |
| Robert P. O Block | 382,074 | 2.0% |
| Randall E. Poliner | 375,456 | 2.0% |
| Edward J. DiMaria | 119,335 | * |
| Bruce J. Zanca | 114,423 | * |
| Donaldson M. Ross | 113,544 | * |
| William C. Martin | 60,850 | * |
| Steven L. Horowitz | 49,955 | * |
| Michael Ricciardell | 34,635 | * |
| Daniel P. Hoogterp | 32,332 | * |
| Richard J. Pinola | 25,000 | * |
| All current executive officers and directors as a group (14 persons) | 6,216,979 | 30.4% |

* Less than 1% of the outstanding Common Stock

- (1) For purposes of calculating the percentage beneficially owned, the number of shares of Common Stock deemed outstanding includes (i) 19,148,003 shares outstanding (including restricted shares) as of July 23, 2009; and (ii) shares issuable by us pursuant to options held by the respective persons which may be exercised within 60 days following July 23, 2009. The shares issuable pursuant to options are considered to be outstanding and beneficially owned by the person holding such options for the purpose of computing the percentage ownership of such person but are not treated as outstanding for the purpose of computing the percentage ownership of any other person. The shares issuable by us pursuant to options exercisable within 60 days include: Mr. Morse, 75,000 shares; Mr. Evans, 880,000 shares; Mr. O Block 75,000 shares; Mr. Poliner, 75,000 shares; Mr. DiMaria,

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108,125 shares; Mr. Ross, 104,687 shares; Mr. Martin, 52,500 shares; Mr. Horowitz, 43,697 shares; Mr. Hoogterp, 25,000 shares; Mr. Ricciardelli, 27,500 and Mr. Pinola, 20,000 shares.

- (2) The address of Mr. Morse is 11760 US Highway One Suite 200, North Palm Beach, FL 33408. Certain of these shares are held by annuity and retained trusts.
- (3) Based solely on Schedule 13G filed with the SEC on January 10, 2009, Wells Fargo & Company (Wells Fargo) reported that it is the beneficial owner of 2,192,687 shares, including sole voting power of

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2,079,897 shares, sole dispositive power of 2,184,931 shares, and shared dispositive power of 256 shares, as a result of being the parent holding company of subsidiaries acting as investment advisers to various investment companies classified as a registered investment advisor in accordance with Regulation 13d-1(b)(1)(ii)(E) and banking subsidiaries. Evergreen Investment Management Co., a wholly owned subsidiary of Wells Fargo and a company classified as a registered investment advisor in accordance with Regulation 13d-1(b)(1)(ii)(E), is the beneficial owner of 1,610,690 shares, including sole voting power of 1,605,680 shares and sole dispositive power of 1,610,690 shares. The address of Wells Fargo is 420 Montgomery Street, San Francisco, CA 94163.

- (4) Based solely on a Schedule 13G/A filed with the SEC on April 7, 2009, Waddell & Reed Financial, Inc. (WDR), Waddell & Reed Financial Services, Inc., a parent holding company (WRFSI), Ivy Investment Management Company, an investment advisor (IICO), Waddell & Reed, Inc., a broker-dealer and underwriter (WRI), and Waddell & Reed Investment Management Company, an investment advisor (WRIMCO), (i) WDR reported that it had sole voting and dispositive power of 1,905,567 shares; (ii) WRFSI reported that it had sole voting and dispositive power of 1,601,588 shares; (iii) IICO reported that it had sole voting and dispositive power of 303,979 shares; (iv) WRI reported that it had sole voting and dispositive power of 1,601,588 shares; and WRIMCO reported that it had sole voting and dispositive power of 1,601,588 shares. The address for WDR is 6300 Lamar Avenue, Overland Park, KS 66202.
- (5) Based solely on a Schedule 13G filed with the SEC on February 13, 2009, Baron Capital Group, Inc. (BCG), BAMCO, Inc. (Bamco), an investment advisor, Bamco Capital Management, Inc. (BCM), an investment advisor, and Ronald Baron, Chairman and CEO of BCG, Bamco, and BCM, (i) BCG reported that it had shared voting power of 1,282,367 shares and shared dispositive power of 1,551,217 shares; Bamco reported that it had shared voting power of 1,254,500 shares and shared dispositive power of 1,521,350 shares; (iii) BCM reported that it had shared voting power of 27,867 shares and shared dispositive power of 29,867 shares; and (iv) Mr. Baron reported that he had shared voting power of 1,282,367 shares and shared dispositive power of 1,551,217 shares. BCG and Mr. Baron disclaimed beneficial ownership of shares held by their controlled entities (or the investment advisory clients thereof) to the extent such shares are held by persons other than BCG and Mr. Baron. Bamco and BCM disclaim beneficial ownership of shares held by their investment advisory clients to the extent such shares are held by persons other than Bamco, BCM, and their affiliates. The address of BCG is 767 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10153.
- (6) Based solely on a Schedule 13G/A filed with the SEC on February 13, 2009, Philippe Laffont reported that he, as the investment manager and general partner of two private investment funds, was the beneficial owner of 1,067,642 shares, as a result of acting as an investment adviser. Mr. Laffont reported that he had sole voting power of 1,067,642 shares and sole dispositive power of 1,067,642 shares. Mr. Laffont disclaimed beneficial ownership in the shares reported except to the extent of his pecuniary interest. The address for Mr. Laffont is c/o Coatue Management, LLC, 126 East 56th Street, New York, NY 10022.
- (7) Based solely on a Schedule 13D filed with the SEC on March 26, 2009, Warburg Pincus Private Equity, L.P. (WP X), Warburg Pincus X Partners, L.P. (WPP X and together with WPX, the Funds), Warburg Pincus X, L.P., the sole general partner of the Funds (WP X LP), Warburg Pincus X LLC, the sole general partner of WP X LP (WP X LLC), Warburg Pincus Partners, LLC, the sole member of WP X LLC (WPP LLC), Warburg Pincus LLC, a company that manages each of the Funds (WP LLC), and Warburg Pincus & Co, managing member of WPP LLC (WP), and Messrs. Charles R. Kaye and Joseph P. Landy, each a general partner of WP and co-president and managing member of WP LLC, collectively the Reporting Persons report that they had shared voting and dispositive power of 1,026,300 shares. Messrs. Kaye and Landy disclaim beneficial ownership of the shares held by the Funds. The address of the Reporting Persons is c/o Warburg Pincus, 466 Lexington Avenue, New York, New York, 10017.

- (8) Based solely on a Schedule 13G/A filed with the SEC on February 13, 2009, T. Rowe Price Associates, Inc. (T. Rowe) reported that it was the beneficial owner of 1,006,700 shares, as a result of acting as an investment adviser. T. Rowe, a registered investment adviser, reported that it had sole voting power over 88,500 shares and sole dispositive power over 1,006,700 shares. These securities are owned by various individual and institutional investors to which T. Rowe serves as investment advisor with power to direct investment and/or sole power to vote securities. The address for T. Rowe is 100 E. Pratt Street, Baltimore, MD 21202.

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CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

Board of Directors Meetings and Committees

During 2008, the Board held seven meetings. Each incumbent director attended at least 75% of the aggregate number of meetings of the Board and committees of the Board on which he served.

The Board affirmatively determined that a majority of our directors are independent directors under the NASDAQ Global Select Market listing requirements. There were no transactions, relationships, or arrangements not otherwise disclosed in this Proxy Statement that were considered by the Board in determining the independence of any of the directors deemed to be independent under the NASDAQ Global Select Market listing requirements. Our independent directors include Messrs. Martin, Pinola, O Block and Mr. Poliner.

Our independent directors have established a policy to meet separately from the other directors in regularly scheduled executive sessions at least twice annually, and at such other times as may be deemed appropriate by our independent directors. Any independent director may call an executive session of independent directors at any time. In 2008, the independent directors met in an executive session four times.

The Board has three standing committees: the Audit Committee, the Compensation Committee, and the Nominating Committee. The Audit Committee and the Nominating Committee have written charters, which are published on the Investor Relations section of our web site at *www.bankrate.com*. The Compensation Committee does not have a written charter. The Board has determined that all members of the Audit, Compensation, and Nominating Committees are independent as that term is defined in Rule 4200(a)(15) of the NASDAQ Marketplace Rules.

The Audit Committee are Messrs. Pinola (Chairman), O Block, and Poliner. The Board has determined that each Audit Committee member meets the NASDAQ Global Select Market listing standards financial knowledge requirements. In addition, the Board determined that Messrs. Pinola and Poliner each qualifies as an audit committee financial expert as defined by the Securities and Exchange Commission. The Audit Committee's primary function is to assist the Board in fulfilling its oversight responsibilities by reviewing the financial reports and other financial information provided by us to governmental bodies or the public; our systems of internal controls regarding finance, accounting, legal compliance and ethics established by management and the Board; and our accounting and financial reporting process. The Audit Committee encourages continuous improvement of, and fosters adherence to, our policies, procedures and practices at all levels. In 2008, the Audit Committee met eight times.

The members of the Compensation Committee are Messrs. O Block (Chairman) and Poliner, both of whom are independent directors within the meaning of applicable NASDAQ Global Select Market listing standards. Mr. O Block replaced Mr. Poliner as Chairman in 2008. Our Board has vested authority in our Compensation Committee to review, evaluate and approve the compensation and benefits of all of our officers at the Senior Vice-President level and above, and to review and recommend to our Board general policy matters relating to compensation and benefits of our employees. Our Board has also delegated the authority to administer our stock option plans to the Compensation Committee, which may further delegate such responsibility to the extent permitted by law. In 2008, the Compensation Committee met 14 times.

The members of the Nominating Committee are Messrs. O Block (Chairman) and Poliner, both of whom are independent directors within the meaning of applicable NASDAQ Global Select Market listing standards. Our Board has vested authority in our Nominating Committee to develop and review background information for candidates for the Board, including candidates recommended by shareholders, and make recommendations to the Board about these candidates; evaluate the performance of current Board members proposed for reelection; recommend to the Board for

approval a slate of nominees for election to the Board; and develop plans for our managerial succession. Although the Nominating Committee charter requires a minimum of two meetings each year, because the Nominating Committee was established in mid-2008, the Nominating Committee met only one time during the year.

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Nomination of Directors

The Nominating Committee annually reviews and makes recommendations to the full Board regarding the composition and size of the Board so that the Board consists of members with the proper expertise, skills, attributes, and personal and professional backgrounds needed by the Board, consistent with applicable NASDAQ and regulatory requirements.

Our Nominating Committee will identify nominees by first evaluating the current members of the Board willing to continue in service. Current members of the Board with skills and experience that are relevant to our business and who are willing to continue in service are considered for re-nomination. If any member of the Board does not wish to continue in service or if the Nominating Committee decides not to re-nominate a member for re-election, the Nominating Committee then identifies the desired skills and experience of a new nominee in light of the criteria above. Current members of the Board are polled for suggestions as to individuals meeting the criteria described above. The Nominating Committee may also engage in research to identify qualified individuals. In 2009, the Nominating Committee engaged a third party expert to assist in identifying and evaluating potential nominees. In evaluating a director nominee, the Nominating Committee considers the following factors:

the appropriate size of our Board;

our needs with respect to the particular talents and experience of our directors;

the nominee's knowledge, skills and experience, including experience in finance, administration or public service, in light of prevailing business conditions and the knowledge, skills and experience already possessed by other members of the Board;

whether the nominee is independent, as that term is defined under NASDAQ Global Select Market listing standards;

the familiarity of the nominee with our industry;

the nominee's experience in political affairs;

the nominee's experience with accounting rules and practices; and

the desire to balance the benefit of continuity with the periodic injection of the fresh perspective provided by new Board members.

Our goal is to assemble a Board that brings together a variety of perspectives and skills derived from high quality business and professional experience. In doing so, the Nominating Committee will also consider candidates with appropriate non-business backgrounds.

Other than the foregoing, there are no stated minimum criteria for director nominees, although the Nominating Committee may also consider such other factors as it may deem in our best interests and the best interest of our shareholders. We also believe it is appropriate for certain key members of our management to participate as members of the Board.

To propose a nominee, a shareholder should send the candidate's name, credentials, contact information, and his or her consent to be considered as a candidate to Edward J. DiMaria, our Senior Vice President-Chief Financial Officer. The proposing shareholder should also include his or her contact information and a statement of his or her share ownership

(how many shares owned and for how long).

Shareholder Communications with the Board of Directors

Every effort is made to ensure that the Board or individual directors, as applicable, hear the views of shareholders and that appropriate responses are provided to shareholders in a timely manner. Any matter intended for the Board, or for any individual member or members of the Board, should be directed to Edward J. DiMaria, our Senior Vice President-Chief Financial Officer, with a request to forward the matter to the intended recipient. All such communications will be forwarded unopened.

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Director Attendance at Annual Meeting of Shareholders

We encourage all incumbent directors, as well as all nominees for election as director, to attend the Annual Meeting of Shareholders. All of our incumbent directors attended our Annual Meeting in June 2008.

Codes of Conduct and Ethics

We have adopted the Bankrate, Inc. Code of Business Conduct applicable to all officers, directors and employees, and the Bankrate, Inc. Finance Code of Professional Conduct, applicable to our Chief Executive Officer, Chief Financial Officer, Controller and other finance organization employees. Both the Code of Conduct and the Finance Code of Ethics are publicly available on our web site at <http://www.bankrate.com>.

Review and Approval of Transactions with Related Persons

The Audit Committee of the Board, pursuant to its written charter, is charged with the responsibility of reviewing and approving any related person transactions, including those required to be disclosed as a related person transaction under applicable federal securities laws. On an annual basis, each director and executive officer is required to complete a questionnaire that requires disclosure of any transactions the director or executive officer, or their immediate family members or associates, may have with us in which the director or executive officer, or their immediate family members or associates, has a direct or indirect material interest. The Audit Committee considers the responses in the questionnaires and other information regarding potential relationships between us and the directors and executive officers. No transaction requiring disclosure under applicable federal securities laws occurred during fiscal year 2008 that was submitted to the Audit Committee for approval as a related person transaction.

Compensation Committee Interlocks and Insider Participation

The following non-employee directors were the members of the Compensation Committee of the Board during 2008: Robert O Block (Chairman) and Randall E. Poliner. None of the members of the Compensation Committee is an executive officer of a public company of which a Bankrate executive officer is a director.

Retention Policy

We have established a policy for our executive officers regarding the retention of shares purchased upon exercise of any new stock option grants or received upon the vesting of any new restricted stock or earn-out performance shares. Each executive officer is required to retain at least 25% of any shares remaining after payment of the option exercise price and taxes owed at the exercise of options, vesting of restricted stock, or earn-out performance shares, up to the maximum value of 100% of the executive officer's base salary described above.

EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION

Compensation Committee Process and Procedures

Scope of Authority

The Compensation Committee, which is currently comprised of Messrs. O Block (Chairman) and Poliner, has strategic and administrative responsibility for a broad range of issues, including reviewing, authorizing, and approving compensation to be paid to our executive officers and directors. During 2008, Mr. O Block replaced Mr. Poliner as Chairman of the Compensation Committee. Since 2008, the Nominating Committee recommends to the Board those persons who should serve on the Compensation Committee. The Board makes the ultimate appointments. The Board

has determined that each member of the Compensation Committee is an independent director.

The Compensation Committee's policy is to review executive compensation, including incentive goals, at least annually. The Compensation Committee also periodically reviews benefits and perquisites, reviews and provides oversight of our compensation philosophy, and serves as the administrative committee for our equity-based plans.

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Delegation of Authority

Generally, the Compensation Committee does not delegate its responsibilities to members of our management.

None of the members of the Compensation Committee is an executive officer of a public company of which one of our executive officers is a director.

Independent Consultants

To assist the Compensation Committee in the design of effective compensation programs, policies and practices, including developing a mix of cash and equity compensation and annual and long-term compensation that promotes our compensation objectives and that is competitive in the marketplace, the Compensation Committee retains a compensation consultant from time to time. In 2008, the Compensation Committee did not engage any independent consultants.

Management's Role

The Compensation Committee meets regularly, at least five times throughout the year, and agendas for the meetings are typically established with input from the Committee's Chairman, our Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and our Chief Financial Officer (CFO). The Compensation Committee may invite members of our management to attend its meetings, and at times, our CEO, CFO, or both, attended portions of the meetings of the Compensation Committee during 2008. The Compensation Committee on occasion meets with the management to obtain recommendations with respect to compensation programs for our executives and other employees. In addition, Mr. Evans is closely involved in assessing the performance of our executive officers (other than himself) and making recommendations to the Compensation Committee regarding base salary, bonus targets, performance measures, and equity compensation for these executive officers. Mr. Evans, however, is not present during voting or deliberations with respect to his own compensation.

The Compensation Committee conducts meetings regularly to consider, discuss and evaluate issues without the presence of any of our executive officers. Recommendations from management are considered by the Compensation Committee in setting compensation; however, the Compensation Committee independently develops and sets each of our executive officer's compensation package and our overall compensation philosophy.

Compensation Discussion and Analysis

Overview and Objectives

Our Board has delegated to its Compensation Committee overall responsibility for establishing the compensation programs for all executive officers, including our named executive officers. In this capacity, the Compensation Committee establishes, reviews and recommends to the Board compensation policy, approves compensation levels and performance goals, and evaluates executive officer performance against those objectives. Although this discussion and analysis refers principally to compensation for our named executive officers, the same compensation principles and practices generally apply to all of our executive officers.

The primary objective of our compensation program is the same objective that we have for our overall operations: to create long-term value for our shareholders. The Compensation Committee is responsible for establishing, reviewing and evaluating our compensation plans, policies and programs and for approving the total compensation package awarded to each of our executive officers, including the CEO. The Compensation Committee works directly with the CEO to ensure the compensation objectives are aligned with our mission and overall objectives and to provide a

decision-making framework for use in formulating recommendations for each executive officer's compensation.

The Compensation Committee's overall objective is to establish a compensation policy that will (1) align the interests of executive officers with those of our long-term shareholders; (2) attract, retain and provide incentives to highly-qualified executive officers who drive our performance and help us achieve our business objectives; and (3) motivate executive officers to consistently deliver outstanding performance. In addition, our compensation program is intended to reward individual performance in a way that emphasizes strategic thinking necessary to

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create long-term value while balancing rewards for short-term increases in operating results. We compensate executive officers with a combination of salary and incentives designed to focus their efforts on maximizing both our near-term and long-term financial performance.

The Compensation Committee takes measure of the competitive market for senior executive officers by reviewing market compensation levels provided by comparable companies, although it does not benchmark compensation paid to our executive officers to specified levels of compensation paid to executive officers at the comparable companies. In 2007, a group of companies with a similar growth rate, performance, industry, competitive employment markets, track record, market positions and other factors was identified by the Compensation Committee. This and other market data are useful informational tools, which provides the Compensation Committee with a range of compensation paid in the market and various compensation package design alternatives in the market. Compensation levels are determined from an assortment of factors with competitive information being one of the factors considered. However, typically the most heavily weighted factor centers on our performance, which the Compensation Committee believes most closely aligns the interests of management and shareholders.

Our executive compensation packages are comprised primarily of base salary, incentive cash bonus program, and long-term equity incentive awards. The Compensation Committee believes that each element of the total compensation program serves an important function in achieving the overall objectives of our compensation program. The Compensation Committee strives to pay a base salary that is competitive within our industry to attract and retain top-level talent in a highly competitive market. The year-end cash bonuses that are paid under our incentive cash bonus program are designed to provide executive officers with strong incentive to achieve individual and Company financial and operational goals, all of which are intended to drive year over year growth in key performance metrics. Finally, the long-term equity awards granted to executive officers are designed to closely align the executive officers interests with those of our shareholders. In general, the Compensation Committee has emphasized long-term equity awards to align key executive officers interests with shareholder interests in the creation of wealth and incentive cash bonuses to drive near term and annual performance. On average, it is intended that our senior executive officers earn a significant portion of their annual cash and equity compensation from sources that are at risk year to year based on the results of operations. Each executive officer s compensation package is designed to provide an appropriately weighted mix of these elements, which cumulatively provide a competitive level of compensation that motivates and provides incentives to executive officers to achieve objectives that are beneficial to our shareholders, to us, and to our management.

When setting compensation, the Compensation Committee sets an overall compensation target for each named executive officer. Each specific element of compensation is then set such that the overall compensation target is met while also maintaining our compensation philosophy that a significant portion of compensation is at risk.

Compensation Elements

Base Salary. Base salary levels for each of our executive officers, including the CEO, are generally set within a range of base salaries that the Compensation Committee believes are competitive and appropriate given our overall financial, operational, and strategic objectives and the qualifications and experience of the individual required for the job. In addition, the Compensation Committee will generally review our past financial performance and future expectations, as well as the performance of the executive officers and changes in the executive officers responsibilities. The annual base salary we have agreed to pay each executive is specified in his or her employment agreement with us, subject to adjustment by the Committee. Base salary is reviewed on an annual basis and decisions regarding base salary increases take into account the executive officer s current base salary, the competitive marketplace, retention and other factors as described above. Our CEO is responsible for assessing the contributions and performance of each executive officer and reviewing his assessment with the Compensation Committee. The Compensation Committee reviews and assesses the performance of our CEO and also considers the recommendations

the CEO provides regarding other executive officers. The Compensation Committee makes the final decision on all executive pay.

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Incentive Cash Bonus. Our executive officers are hired to lead and grow our organization and as such we believe that a significant portion of our executive officer's compensation should be tied to our overall performance. We maintain an incentive cash bonus program, which emphasizes pay-for-performance by providing our executive officers with the opportunity to receive bonuses only if we achieve or exceed certain corporate performance objectives.

Objective annual performance metrics and goals are established at the beginning of each fiscal year by the CEO in consultation with each executive officer and approved by the Board. Based on these performance objectives and the business plan and budget approved by the Board, the Compensation Committee establishes threshold minimum, target, and maximum financial performance goals, generally based on a factor of sustained growth in earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation, amortization and stock compensation expense, balanced for risk, for the purposes of paying incentive bonuses. For awards to be payable under the program, a minimum financial performance threshold must be achieved and higher amounts are payable if we meet or exceed the established target. The Compensation Committee determines incentive bonus financial performance goals taking into account various factors, including management's assessment of the probability of achieving higher levels of financial performance within the fiscal year. We believe that disclosing these financial performance targets would cause us substantial competitive harm. Thus, we have elected, in accordance with SEC guidance, not to disclose the specific financial performance targets or 2009 results as this financial data is not publicly disclosed and might provide competitive insights that could harm our business. Management and the Compensation Committee, however, did deem these financial performance targets as relatively difficult to achieve and our financial performance as very strong. Once these targets are set by the Compensation Committee, the Compensation Committee retains the discretion to adjust the targets to adjust for extraordinary corporate events such as an acquisition. In 2008, we adjusted the targets upwards as a result of the InsureMe acquisition in February 2008.

Amounts payable to each individual executive officer upon achievement of the incentive bonus financial performance goals are established based on the scope of the executive officer's responsibilities, the executive officer's continued dedication and service to us, and other competitive data compiled and reviewed by the Compensation Committee. Target bonus opportunities are established for our named executive officers in their employment agreements and by the Compensation Committee. The target bonus opportunities established in the employment agreements range from \$110,000 to \$250,000. In certain limited circumstances, the Compensation Committee may also pay a discretionary bonus to an executive officer for extraordinary individual achievement, service or dedication to us. Discretionary bonuses are evaluated and awarded by the Compensation Committee on a case by case basis and are heavily influenced by the circumstances giving rise to the award. Certain discretionary bonuses were paid in 2008; however, none of the executive officers were paid amounts in excess of their target bonus amounts.

Equity Incentive Awards. We use equity incentive awards to provide a stock-based incentive to improve our financial performance and to assist in the recruitment, retention and motivation of professional, managerial and other personnel. Equity incentive awards are also designed to align the interests of our executive officers with those of our shareholders by encouraging executive officers to enhance our value, the price of the Common Stock, and hence, the shareholders' return over the long term. Historically, the Compensation Committee has used stock options to recognize these goals, but in 2007 the Compensation Committee also granted restricted stock awards.

The Compensation Committee has elected to grant a mix of options and restricted stock because each type of award serves a somewhat different purpose. With stock options, executives can realize value from increases in our stock price, thus aligning their interests with shareholder interests. Furthermore, if the stock price does increase, vesting over a three-year period helps to retain executives. On the other hand, if our stock price does not rise, then the options provide no value to executives. By contrast, while restricted stock's value does depend on our stock price, time-vested restricted stock has some value regardless of whether our stock price increases or decreases. As a result, restricted stock helps retain executives during the three-year vesting schedule, regardless of whether our stock price increases or decreases. Restricted stock also has the benefit of causing less shareholder dilution than stock options and the

compensation expense for both are roughly equivalent. Thus, while both types of awards link our executives' pay to shareholder value, options are a particularly effective way to put significant value at risk in relation to increases in shareholder value, while restricted stock is particularly effective as a retention and ownership tool.

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Stock Options

Generally, stock options are granted to executive officers from time to time based primarily upon the individual's actual and potential contributions to us and our financial performance over the long term. The Compensation Committee approves stock option grants. Generally, options are awarded on the date of hire, however, the Compensation Committee retains discretion to award additional stock options to executive officers and other key employees at other times, including to reward exceptional performance, for retention purposes, upon accepting an expanded role and increased responsibility with us, or for other circumstances as recommended by the CEO or Compensation Committee. The performance of our executive officers is reviewed annually and, based on those reviews and our performance during the year, employees may be awarded additional stock options. The number of stock options awarded to an executive is determined by the Compensation Committee based on a number of factors, including the executive officer's prior experience, their role and responsibilities with us, competitive retention and market data compiled and reviewed by the Compensation Committee, and performance and demonstrated leadership with us.

The exercise price of options grants is set at the closing price of our Common Stock on the date of grant. To date, with the exception of our CEO, stock option grants to executive officers generally vest ratably over four years following the date of grant, 1/4 on the first anniversary date, and the remaining 3/4 in monthly installments over three years beginning one year from the date of grant, and have a seven-year term. Our CEO, Thomas R. Evans, was granted 600,000 stock options on June 25, 2004, upon joining us. The options have a seven-year term, 200,000 options vested on July 1, 2005 and the remaining 400,000 vested on a monthly schedule pursuant to which Mr. Evans was fully vested on July 1, 2007. Mr. Evans was also granted 500,000 stock options on October 26, 2004. These options also have a seven-year term and all 500,000 shares vest five years from the grant date. Vesting accelerates if at any point during the term of the option, the fair market value of our Common Stock is at or above the following incremental thresholds for ninety consecutive trading days: \$20.00 100,000 shares; \$22.50 50,000 shares; \$25.00 75,000 shares; \$27.50 50,000 shares; \$30.00 75,000 shares; \$32.50 75,000 shares; \$35.00 75,000 shares. Currently, all of the 500,000 stock options granted to Mr. Evans on October 26, 2004 have vested pursuant to these incremental thresholds.

Restricted Stock

Generally, restricted stock is granted to executive officers from time to time based primarily upon the individual's actual and potential contributions to us and our financial performance over the long term. The Compensation Committee approves restricted stock grants. The number of shares of restricted stock awarded to an executive is determined by the Compensation Committee based on a number of factors, including the executive officer's prior experience, their role and responsibilities with us, competitive retention and market data compiled and reviewed by the Compensation Committee, and performance and demonstrated leadership with us.

In April 2007, we awarded 200,000 shares of restricted common stock to certain executive officers under the Second Amended and Restated 1999 Equity Compensation Plan. The awards have an eight-year term and only vest if, at any point during the term of the award, the closing price of our Common Stock is at or above the following specific thresholds for ninety consecutive days; \$44.00 25% of award shares vest; \$50.00 an additional 33% of award shares vest; \$56.00 the remaining 42% of award shares vest. Once the specific threshold has been satisfied, the applicable percentage of award shares vest as follows; one-third upon satisfying the incremental threshold; one-third on the first anniversary of satisfying the incremental threshold; and the remaining one-third on the second anniversary of satisfying the incremental threshold. The awards also vest on a change in control provided certain conditions are met.

In April 2008, the restricted stock award agreements were amended to provide for accelerated vesting for a portion of the shares. The Compensation Committee amended the vesting schedules due to the volatility of our stock price, and its effect on the ability for the restricted stock to vest. For Messrs. Horowitz, Ross and Hoogterp, 5,000 of their

25,000 share awards will vest as follows: 1,250 shares upon the earlier of (i) the date on which the \$44 threshold is satisfied; or (ii) April 30, 2009; 1,650 shares upon the earlier of (i) the date on which the \$50 threshold is satisfied; or (ii) April 30, 2009; and 2,100 shares upon the earlier of (i) the date on which the \$56 threshold is satisfied; or (ii) April 30, 2009. For Mr. DiMaria, 10,000 of his 50,000 share award will vest as follows: 2,500 shares

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upon the earlier of (i) the date on which the \$44 threshold is satisfied; or (ii) April 30, 2009; 3,300 shares upon the earlier of (i) the date on which the \$50 threshold is satisfied; or (ii) April 30, 2009; and 4,200 shares upon the earlier of (i) the date on which the \$56 threshold is satisfied; or (ii) April 30, 2009.

In February 2009, the restricted stock award agreements were again amended to provide for accelerated vesting for the remaining shares. The Compensation Committee amended the vesting schedules based on the increased impact on the volatility of our stock resulting from the market turmoil in the global and U.S. economies and the effects on the financial services industries and the ability for the restricted stock to vest. For Messrs. Horowitz, Ross and Hoogterp, the remaining 20,000 share awards will vest as follows: 5,000 shares upon the earlier of (i) the date on which the \$44 threshold is satisfied; or (ii) April 30, 2009; 5,000 shares upon the earlier of (i) the date on which the \$50 threshold is satisfied; or (ii) April 30, 2010; 5,000 shares upon the earlier of (i) the date on which the \$56 threshold is satisfied; or (ii) April 30, 2011; and 5,000 shares upon the earlier of (i) the date on which the \$56 threshold is satisfied; or (ii) April 30, 2012. For Mr. DiMaria, the remaining 40,000 share awards will vest as follows: 10,000 shares upon the earlier of (i) the date on which the \$44 threshold is satisfied; or (ii) April 30, 2009; 10,000 shares upon the earlier of (i) the date on which the \$50 threshold is satisfied; or (ii) April 30, 2010; 10,000 shares upon the earlier of (i) the date on which the \$56 threshold is satisfied; or (ii) April 30, 2011; and 10,000 shares upon the earlier of (i) the date on which the \$56 threshold is satisfied; or (ii) April 30, 2012.

In February 2009, we awarded 110,000 shares of restricted stock to certain executives, including our CEO, Thomas R. Evans, under the 2008 Equity Compensation Plan. The awards have a seven-year term and vest as follows: 29,792 on February 11, 2010; 27,500 shares on February 11, 2011 and 2012; and 25,208 shares on February 11, 2013. The awards also vest on a change in control provided certain conditions are met. Additionally, in February 2009, we awarded 17,503 shares of restricted stock to certain executive officers under the 2008 Equity Compensation Plan. The awards have a seven-year term and vest as follows: 6,321 shares on February 11, 2010; 5,834 shares on February 11, 2011; and 5,348 shares on February 11, 2012. These awards also vest on a change in control provided certain conditions are met. In July 2009, we awarded 30,000 shares of restricted stock to Donaldson M. Ross. Mr. Ross's award has a seven-year term and vests as follows: 7,500 shares on each of July 15, 2010, 2011, 2012 and 2013. Mr. Ross's award also vests on a change in control provided certain conditions are met.

Other Benefits. We maintain certain broad-based benefit plans in which our employees, including our executive officers, are entitled to participate. These plans include health and life insurance and a qualified 401(k) savings plan. We make a matching contribution equal to 3% for the qualified 401(k) savings plan, subject to Internal Revenue Code limitations.

Perquisites. We provide a limited number of perquisites consistent with comparable companies the aggregate of which did not exceed \$10,000 for each named executive officer. The level of perquisites does not factor into decisions on total compensation.

2008 Executive Compensation

The specific compensation decisions made for each of our executive officers in 2008 reflect our overall compensation objectives described above, as well as our 2008 performance.

Base Salary. The Compensation Committee conducted its annual review and evaluation of the compensation levels of the executive team. Our CEO, Mr. Evans, received an increase in his base salary of \$25,000, from \$425,000 to \$450,000, as a result of the Compensation Committee's review of our performance as well as external market factors. Mr. Evans is considered a highly qualified CEO with a proven track record of delivering solid performance. Mr. Evans continued retention with us is considered to be a critical component to our future success. Based on performance, external market, retention and other factors, Messrs. DiMaria, Horowitz, Ross and Hoogterp received

raises of \$100,000, \$50,000, \$50,000 and \$15,000 in 2008, such that their base salaries in 2008 were increased to \$350,000, \$300,000, \$300,000 and \$230,000, respectively.

Incentive Cash Bonus. As described above, employment agreements with our executive officers establish their applicable target bonus opportunity. Under these agreements, the target bonus opportunities for each of

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Messrs. DiMaria, Horowitz, Ross and Hoogterp are \$150,000, \$150,000, \$150,000 and \$120,000, respectively. In addition, the Compensation Committee has established a target bonus of \$250,000 for Mr. Evans. For new executive officers, we typically follow a policy of pro rating the earned bonus during the initial year of employment based on the time worked during that fiscal year. The target bonus for our chief executive officer, Mr. Evans, must be maintained at or above \$100,000. During 2008, we achieved a level of performance below the threshold financial performance objective as reviewed and approved by the Compensation Committee, and bonuses were awarded on a discretionary basis. Accordingly, in 2008, Messrs. Evans, DiMaria, Horowitz, Ross and Hoogterp received the following discretionary bonus payments: Mr. Evans received \$218,000 which represents 48.44% of his 2008 salary; Messrs. DiMaria received \$125,000 which represents 35.71% of his 2008 salary; Messrs. Horowitz and Ross each received \$137,000, which represents 45.67% of their 2008 salaries; and Mr. Hoogterp received \$110,000, which represents 47.83% of his 2008 salary.

Restricted Stock. See *Restricted Stock* above for a discussion of the modification of the restricted common stock awards granted in April 2007 and a discussion of restricted common stock awards granted in February and July 2009. No restricted stock awards were granted in 2008.

Employment Agreements

We have entered into employment agreements with each of our named executive officers in order to secure their continued service and dedication. These agreements generally establish minimum salary commitments and target bonus opportunities. The agreements also restrict the executive officer's ability to engage in or perform any activities that are competitive to our business or to solicit our employees away from our service while we employ the executive and for a period of one year thereafter. Our termination payments are generally structured such that the executive is entitled to one year's base salary at the time of termination if the executive is terminated by us without cause or if the executive terminates the agreement with cause. The termination benefits that each executive officer is entitled to receive are more fully described in *Potential Payments upon Termination or Change of Control* below.

Tax Deductibility of Compensation

Limitations on the deductibility of compensation may occur under Section 162(m) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, which generally limits a publicly held corporation's tax deduction for compensation paid to each of its chief executive officer and next four most highly compensated executive officers to \$1 million in any year. In addition, Section 162(m) specifically exempts certain performance-based compensation from the deduction limit. The annual salary, cash incentive bonus and equity compensation we generally pay to our executive officers do not exceed this limit. The Compensation Committee's intent is to design compensation packages that are deductible without limitation, where doing so will further the purposes of our executive compensation program. However, the Compensation Committee will take into consideration various other factors, together with Section 162(m) consideration, in making executive compensation decisions and could, in certain circumstances, approve and authorize compensation that is not fully tax deductible.

Equity Grant Practices

Annual equity awards, as described above, are generally made at the January meeting of the Compensation Committee. The date of this meeting is typically chosen three months in advance, and therefore awards are not coordinated with the release of material non-public information.

Compensation Committee Report on Executive Compensation

We, as a Compensation Committee, have reviewed and discussed with management the Compensation Discussion and Analysis required by Item 402(b) of Regulation S-K included in this Proxy Statement. Based on that review and discussion, we have recommended to the Board that the Compensation Discussion and Analysis be included in this Proxy Statement.

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The following table shows the compensation of each individual who served at anytime during 2008 as our principal executive officer and our principal financial officer. We have also included our three other most highly compensated officers who were serving as executive officers as of December 31, 2008 (other than the principal executive and principal financial officers). We refer to the individuals named in the table below as named executive officers.

| Name and Principal Position | (b) Year | (c) Salary | (d) Bonus(1) | (e) Stock Awards(2) | (f) Option Awards(2)(5) | (g) | (i) | (j) Total |
|---|-------------|---------------|-----------------|---------------------------|-------------------------------|--|---------------------------------|--------------|
| | | | | | | Non-Equity Incentive Plan Compensation (3)\$ | All Other Compensation(4) | |
| Thomas R. Evans President, Chief Executive Officer and Director | 2008 | \$ 450,000 | \$ 218,000 | \$ | \$ | \$ | \$ 16,587 | \$ 684,5 |
| | 2007 | 425,000 | | | 801,176 | 243,041 | 14,152 | 1,483,3 |
| | 2006 | 365,385 | | | 2,591,180 | 169,000 | 16,977 | 3,142,5 |
| Edward J. DiMaria Senior Vice President-Chief Financial Officer | 2008 | 350,000 | 125,000 | 789,432 | 1,005,951 | | 23,952 | 2,294,3 |
| | 2007 | 251,000 | | 589,835 | 1,003,203 | 202,534 | 18,799 | 2,115,3 |
| | 2006 | 165,000 | 50,000 | | 740,981 | 121,875 | 37,890 | 1,115,7 |
| Steven L. Horowitz Senior Vice President-General Manager of Online Properties | 2008 | 300,000 | 137,000 | 395,979 | 300,828 | | 16,137 | 1,100,2 |
| | 2007 | 251,000 | | 294,917 | 286,324 | 202,534 | 11,535 | 1,046,3 |
| | 2006 | 210,000 | | | 252,098 | 156,000 | 15,505 | 633,6 |
| Waldson M. Ross. Senior Vice President-Chief Revenue Officer | 2008 | 300,000 | 137,000 | 395,979 | 962,339 | | 0,354 | 1,815,6 |
| | 2007 | 251,000 | | 294,917 | 707,781 | 202,534 | 16,320 | 1,472,5 |
| | 2006 | 210,000 | | | 211,622 | 143,000 | 17,365 | 581,9 |
| Michael P. Hoogterp Senior Vice President-Chief Technology Officer | 2008 | 230,000 | 110,000 | 395,979 | 300,828 | | 22,726 | 1,059,5 |

- (1) The amounts in column (d) for 2008 represent the dollar amounts of discretionary bonuses approved by the Compensation Committee in lieu of payments under the Incentive Cash Bonus program, or "ICB", the detail of which are further explained on page 21. The amount in column (d) in 2006 for Mr. DiMaria represents the dollar value of a discretionary bonus of \$50,000, which was approved by the Compensation Committee and awarded to Mr. DiMaria in 2007 for the leadership, performance and dedication he displayed after joining us in 2006.
- (2) The amounts in columns (e) and (f) reflect the dollar amounts recognized for financial statement reporting purposes for the respective fiscal year, in accordance with SFAS 123R, and, thus, may include amounts related to awards granted prior to the year that such awards are reported in the table. Awards are discussed in further detail on page 15 under the heading *Equity Incentive Awards*. Assumptions used in the calculation of these amounts are included in footnote 3 to our audited consolidated financial statements for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2008, which is included in our Annual Report on Form 10-K filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on March 13, 2008.

- (3) The amounts in column (g) reflect the cash awards to the named individuals under the ICB.
- (4) The amount shown in column (i) includes for each named executive officer: amounts paid for Exec-U-Care supplemental healthcare benefit program, 401(k) company matches, and certain company-paid commuting expenses. In addition, for Mr. DiMaria, the amount in column (i) in 2006 includes consulting fees of \$35,900, which we paid to Mr. DiMaria before he joined us as Senior Vice President-Chief Financial Officer.
- (5) As discussed in note (2) above, these amounts reflect amounts recognized for financial reporting purposes in accordance with SFAS 123R. They are not necessarily indicative of the current benefits the executive would receive, if any, upon exercise.

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Table of Contents***Employment Agreements***

On June 21, 2004, we entered into an employment agreement with Thomas R. Evans, our President and Chief Executive Officer. Under the terms of the employment agreement, Mr. Evans is entitled to receive an annual base salary as stipulated in the employment agreement and an annual bonus contingent on achieving certain performance criteria. Under the terms of the employment agreement, Mr. Evans agrees to assign to us all of his copyrights, trade secrets and patent rights that relate to our business. Additionally, during the term of his employment and for a period of one year thereafter, Mr. Evans agrees not to compete with us and not to recruit any of our employees. Upon Mr. Evans' termination of employment for certain reasons (i.e., without cause or resignation for good reason), we have agreed to pay a separation payment equal to one year's base salary at the then-current rate payable in three equal installments; one-third payable 15 days after the termination date; one-third payable six months after the termination date; and one-third payable 12 months from the termination date. Mr. Evans was also granted options to purchase 600,000 shares of our common stock at \$8.46, the fair market value on the date of grant. The options have a seven year term and vest as follows: 200,000 shares on July 1, 2005; and 16,666.667 shares on the first day of each month beginning August 1, 2005 and ending July 1, 2007. On October 26, 2004, Mr. Evans was granted options to purchase 500,000 shares of our common stock at \$10.01, the fair market value on the date of grant. The options have a seven year term and vest as to all 500,000 shares five years from the date of grant. Vesting accelerates if, at any point during the term of the option, the fair market value of the our common stock is at or above the following incremental thresholds for ninety consecutive trading days; \$20.00 100,000 shares; \$22.50 50,000 shares; \$25.00 75,000 shares; \$27.50 50,000 shares; \$30.00 75,000 shares; \$32.50 75,000 shares; \$35.00 75,000 shares.

On October 4, 2004, we entered into an employment agreement with Steven L. Horowitz, our Senior Vice President-General Manager of Online Properties. Under the terms of the employment agreement, Mr. Horowitz is entitled to receive an annual base salary as stipulated in the employment agreement and an annual bonus contingent on achieving certain performance criteria. Under the terms of the employment agreement, Mr. Horowitz agrees to assign to us all of his copyrights, trade secrets and patent rights that relate to the our business. Additionally, during the term of his employment and for a period of one year thereafter, Mr. Horowitz agrees not to compete with us and not to recruit any of our employees. Upon Mr. Horowitz' termination of employment without cause, we have agreed to pay a separation payment equal to twelve months' base salary at the then-current rate payable in three equal installments; one-third payable 15 days after the termination date; one-third payable three months after the termination date; and one-third payable six months from the termination date. Mr. Horowitz was also granted options to purchase 100,000 shares of our common stock at \$10.30, the fair market value on the date of grant. The options have a seven year term and are fully vested.

On May 31, 2005, we entered into an employment agreement with Daniel P. Hoogterp, our Senior Vice President-Chief Technology Officer. Under the terms of the employment agreement, Mr. Hoogterp is entitled to receive an annual base salary as stipulated in the employment agreement, an annual bonus contingent on achieving certain performance criteria. Under the terms of the employment agreement, Mr. Hoogterp agrees to assign to us all of his copyrights, trade secrets and patent rights that relate to our business. Additionally, during the term of his employment and for a period of six months thereafter, Mr. Hoogterp agrees not to compete with us and not to recruit any of our employees. Upon Mr. Hoogterp' termination of employment without cause, we have agreed to pay a separation payment equal to one year's base salary at the then-current rate payable in three equal installments; one-third payable 15 days after the termination date; one-third payable six months after the termination date; and one-third payable 12 months from the termination date. Mr. Hoogterp was also granted options to purchase 80,000 shares of our common stock at \$18.26, the fair market value on the date of grant. The options have a seven-year term and vest as follows: 20,000 shares on May 31, 2006; and 1,667 shares on the first day of each month beginning June 1, 2006 and ending May 31, 2009.

On April 3, 2006, we entered into an employment agreement with Edward J. DiMaria, our Senior Vice President-Chief Financial Officer. Under the terms of the employment agreement, Mr. DiMaria is entitled to receive an annual base salary as stipulated in the employment agreement, an annual bonus contingent on achieving certain performance criteria. Under the terms of the employment agreement, Mr. DiMaria agrees to assign to us all of his copyrights, trade secrets and patent rights that relate to our business. Additionally, during the term of his employment and for a period of six months thereafter, Mr. DiMaria agrees not to compete with us and not to

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recruit any of our employees. Upon Mr. DiMaria's termination of employment without cause, we have agreed to pay a separation payment equal to one year's base salary at the then-current rate payable in three equal installments; one-third payable 15 days after the termination date; one-third payable six months after the termination date; and one-third payable 12 months from the termination date. Mr. DiMaria was also granted options to purchase 150,000 shares of our common stock at \$42.33, the fair market value on the date of grant. The options have a seven-year term and vest as follows: 37,500 shares on April 3, 2007; and 3,125 shares on the first day of each month beginning May 1, 2007 and ending April 3, 2010.

On September 11, 2006, we entered into an employment agreement with Donaldson M. Ross, our Senior Vice President-Chief Revenue Officer. Under the terms of the employment agreement, Mr. Ross is entitled to receive an annual base salary as stipulated in the employment agreement and an annual bonus contingent on achieving certain performance criteria. Under the terms of the employment agreement, Mr. Ross agrees to assign to us all of his copyrights, trade secrets and patent rights that relate to our business. Additionally, during the term of his employment and for a period of twelve months thereafter, Mr. Ross agrees not to compete with us and not to recruit any of our employees. Upon Mr. Ross's termination of employment without cause, we agree to pay a separation payment equal to one year's base salary at the then-current rate payable in three equal installments; one-third payable 15 days after the termination date; one-third payable six months after the termination date; and one-third payable twelve months from the termination date. Mr. Ross was also granted options to purchase 100,000 shares of our common stock at \$29.31, the fair market value on the date of grant. The options have a seven-year term and vest as follows: 25,000 shares on September 11, 2007; and 2,083.33 shares on the first day of each month beginning October 1, 2007 and ending September 11, 2010.

Grants of Plan-Based Awards in 2008

The following table provides information concerning plan-based compensation granted to the named executive officers under any plan.

| Name | Award Type | Estimated Possible Payouts Under Non-Equity Incentive Plan Awards(1) | | |
|--------------------|------------|--|------------|------------|
| | | (c) | (d) | (e) |
| | | Threshold | Target | Maximum |
| | | \$ | \$ | \$ |
| Thomas R. Evans | ICB | \$ 125,000 | \$ 250,000 | \$ 500,000 |
| Edward J. DiMaria | ICB | 75,000 | 150,000 | 300,000 |
| Steven L. Horowitz | ICB | 75,000 | 150,000 | 300,000 |
| Donaldson M. Ross | ICB | 75,000 | 150,000 | 300,000 |
| Daniel P. Hoogterp | ICB | 60,000 | 120,000 | 240,000 |

- (1) The amounts shown in column (c) reflect the minimum payment level under our incentive cash bonus program. The amount shown in column (e) is 200% of the target amount. The Compensation Committee determines these amounts annually. The business measurements, performance goals, and criteria for determining payout are discussed in the Compensation Discussion & Analysis beginning on page 15.

Table of Contents**Outstanding Equity Awards at December 31, 2008**

The following table provides information concerning unexercised options and vested shares of restricted stock as of December 31, 2008 for each named executive officer.

| Name | Option Awards | | | | Stock Awards | |
|--------------------|--|-----------------|--------------|------------------------|--|---|
| | Number of Securities Underlying Unexercised Options(1) | | Option Price | Option Expiration Date | Number of Shares or Units that Have Not Vested (2) | Market Value of Shares or Units of Stock that Have Not Vested |
| | Exercisable # | Unexercisable # | | | | |
| Thomas R. Evans | 600,000 | | \$ 8.46 | 6/25/2011 | | |
| | 280,000 | | 10.01 | 10/26/2011 | | |
| Edward J. DiMaria | 80,000 | 50,000 | 42.33 | 4/3/2013 | 50,000 | 1,900,000 |
| Steven L. Horowitz | 32,500 | | 10.30 | 10/25/2011 | | |
| | 8,854 | 3,646 | 35.75 | 2/7/2013 | | |
| | | | | | 25,000 | 950,000 |
| Donaldson M. Ross | 41,250 | 43,750 | 29.31 | 9/11/2013 | | |
| | 32,500 | 32,500 | 37.63 | 12/21/2013 | | |
| | | | | | 25,000 | 950,000 |
| Daniel P. Hoogterp | 16,666 | 8,334 | 18.26 | 5/31/2012 | | |
| | | | | | 25,000 | 950,000 |

- (1) All stock options other than those issued to Mr. Evans have a seven year term and vest ratably over four years following the date of grant, 1/4 on the first anniversary date, and the remaining 3/4 in monthly installments over three years beginning one year from the date of grant. Mr. Evans was granted 600,000 stock options with a seven year term on June 25, 2004, of which 200,000 options vested on July 1, 2005 and the remaining 400,000 vested on a monthly schedule pursuant to which Mr. Evans was fully vested on July 1, 2007. Mr. Evans was also granted 500,000 stock options with a seven year term on October 26, 2004, all of which vest five years from the grant date. Vesting accelerated if at any point during the term of the option, the fair market value of our Common Stock met certain thresholds for ninety consecutive trading days. All of the 500,000 stock options granted to Mr. Evans on October 26, 2004 have vested pursuant to these incremental thresholds.
- (2) The restricted stock awards have an eight-year term. At December 31, 2008, prior to the amendment to the terms of the restricted stock awards discussed under Restricted Stock on page 17, the shares of restricted stock would only vest if, at any point during the term of the award, the closing price of our Common Stock is at or above the following specific thresholds for ninety consecutive days; \$44.00 25% of award shares vest; \$50.00 an additional 33% of award shares vest; \$56.00 the remaining 42% of award shares vest. Once the specific threshold was satisfied, the applicable percentage of award shares would vest as follows; one-third upon satisfying the incremental threshold; one-third on the first anniversary of satisfying the incremental threshold; and the remaining one-third on the second anniversary of satisfying the incremental threshold. The awards also

vest on a change in control provided certain conditions are met. In February 2009, the restricted stock award agreements were again amended to provide for accelerated vesting for remaining shares. The Compensation Committee amended the vesting schedules based on the increased impact on the volatility of our stock resulting from the market turmoil in the global and U.S. economies and the effects on the financial services industries and the ability for the restricted stock to vest. For Messrs. Horowitz, Ross and Hoogterp, the remaining 20,000 share awards will vest as follows: 5,000 shares upon the earlier of (i) the date on which the \$44 threshold is satisfied; or (ii) April 30, 2009; 5,000 shares upon the earlier of (i) the date on which the \$50 threshold is satisfied; or (ii) April 30, 2010; 5,000 shares upon the earlier of (i) the date on which the \$56 threshold is satisfied; or (ii) April 30, 2011; and 5,000 shares upon the earlier of (i) the date on which the \$56 threshold is satisfied; or (ii) April 30, 2012. For Mr. DiMaria, the remaining 40,000 share awards will vest as follows: 10,000 shares upon the earlier of (i) the date on which the \$44 threshold is satisfied; or (ii) April 30, 2009; 10,000 shares upon the earlier of (i) the date on which the \$50 threshold is satisfied; or (ii) April 30, 2010; 10,000 shares upon the earlier of (i) the date on which the \$56 threshold is satisfied; or (ii) April 30, 2011; and 10,000 shares upon the earlier of (i) the date on which the \$56 threshold is satisfied; or (ii) April 30, 2012.

Table of Contents**Option Exercises for 2008**

The following table provides information concerning each exercise of stock options during the year ended December 31, 2008 for each named executive officer.

| Name | Number of Shares Acquired on Exercise (#) | Value Realized on Exercise (\$) |
|--------------------|--|--|
| Thomas R. Evans | | \$ |
| Edward J. DiMaria | | |
| Steven L. Horowitz | | |
| Donaldson M. Ross | | |
| Daniel P. Hoogterp | 10,000 | 162,900 |

Potential Payments upon Termination or Change of Control***Payments upon Termination without Cause or Resignation for Good Reason***

Pursuant to the employment agreements with Messrs. Evans, DiMaria, Horowitz, Ross and Hoogterp, in the event that we terminate the employment of any of these executive officers without cause, or, in the case of Mr. Evans, if he resigns for good reason, the executive officer would be entitled to an accrued bonus through the effective date of the termination, payable within fifteen (15) days of the effective termination date, and we must pay a separation payment equal to one year's base salary, at the then-current rate payable in three equal installments; one-third payable 15 days after the termination date; one-third payable six months after the termination date; and one-third payable 12 months from the termination date. For these purposes, the term cause generally means, the executive officers (i) material breach of his or her employment agreement; (ii) dishonesty or fraud; (iii) willful or negligent insubordination; (iv) conviction of, or guilty plea to, a felony or crime involving moral turpitude; or (v) resignation. Termination without cause generally means any termination other than for cause and other than in the event of death or a mental or physical disability, which prevents the executive from performing his or her duties for an extended period of time. For the purposes of Mr. Evans's employment agreement, the term good reason generally means a reduction in his title, duties or responsibilities; his relocation; the failure of any successor to assume his employment agreement; our breach of the agreement; and our failure to allow him to participate in employee benefit plans generally available to executive officers.

Assuming the employment of Messrs. Evans, DiMaria, Horowitz, Ross, and Hoogterp had been terminated without cause by us effective December 31, 2008, they would have been entitled to the following payments in addition to accrued amounts owed to them for prior service:

| Name | Cash(1) |
|--------------------|----------------|
| Thomas R. Evans | \$ 668,000 |
| Edward J. DiMaria | 475,000 |
| Steven L. Horowitz | 437,000 |
| Donaldson M. Ross | 437,000 |

Daniel P. Hoogterp

340,000

(1) Cash payment amounts are based on the following components:

base pay using current salary; and

an accrued annual cash bonus, calculated based on the targets established by the Compensation Committee at the beginning of each fiscal year, as discussed in the Compensation Discussion and Analysis.

Payments Upon Termination for Cause, Resignation, Death or Disability

Pursuant to employment agreements entered into with Messrs. Evans, DiMaria, Horowitz, Ross and Hoogterp, in the event of a termination with cause or resignation, death or disability, each executive officer would be entitled

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to any accrued bonus through the effective date of the termination, payable within fifteen (15) days of the effective termination date.

Payments Upon a Change of Control

Under the terms of our 2008 Stock Option Plan, 1997 Equity Compensation Plan, and our Second Amended and Restated 1999 Equity Compensation Plan, unless the Board determines otherwise, all outstanding stock options and restricted stock awards automatically accelerate and become immediately exercisable and vested upon a change of control. Upon a change of control in which we are not the surviving corporation, any stock options and restricted stock awards not exercised or vested must be assumed by, or replaced with comparable equity securities by, the surviving corporation. Assuming a change of control had occurred on December 31, 2008 and the executive officers exercised the full amount of their awards, the cash value of the accelerated awards for each of the executive officers would have been as follows:

| Name | Value of Accelerated Equity Awards(1)(2) |
|--------------------|---|
| Thomas R. Evans | \$ |
| Edward J. DiMaria | 1,900,000 |
| Steven L. Horowitz | 958,204 |
| Donaldson M. Ross | 1,342,213 |
| Daniel P. Hoogterp | 1,114,513 |

- (1) Assumes a stock price of \$38.00, which was the closing price of our common stock on December 31, 2008, the last trading day of the year.
- (2) For options, the value of accelerated equity awards is calculated by multiplying the difference between the closing price of our common stock on December 31, 2008 and the exercise price of the option by the number of options accelerated. For restricted stock awards, the value of the accelerated equity awards is the fair market value of the stock as of December 31, 2008.

Under the terms of the equity incentive plans, a change of control shall be deemed to have occurred if: (a) any person (as such term is used in Sections 13(d) and 14(d) of the Exchange Act) (other than a person who is our shareholder as of the effective date of the Plan) becomes a beneficial owner (as defined in Rule 13d-3 under the Exchange Act), directly or indirectly, of our securities representing more than 50% of the voting power of our then outstanding securities; or (b) our shareholders approve (or, if shareholder approval is not required, the Board approves) an agreement providing for (i) our merger or consolidation with another entity, which results in our shareholders immediately prior to the merger or consolidation, not beneficially owning, immediately after the merger or consolidation, shares entitling them to cast more than 50% of all of the votes that the shareholders of the surviving entity would be entitled in the election of directors, (ii) the sale or other disposition of all or substantially all of our assets, or (iii) our liquidation or dissolution.

Termination Following a Change of Control

None of our executive officers has a change of control agreement with us. However, pursuant to Mr. Evans's employment agreement, any successor to all or substantially all of our business and/or assets that fails to assume his employment agreement, Mr. Evans would be permitted to resign for good reason (see *Payments upon Termination without Cause or Resignation for Good Reason*).

Restrictive Covenants

Pursuant to the employment agreements with Messrs. Evans, DiMaria, Horowitz, Ross and Hoogterp, each executive officer has agreed not to compete with us and not to recruit any of our employees during the term of his employment and for a period of one year thereafter (or in the case of Hoogterp, for a period of 6 months thereafter). In addition, each executive officer has also agreed not to disclose any of our confidential information during the term of his employment and for a period of three years thereafter and not to disclose any of our trade secrets for so

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long as they remain trade secrets. In order to receive the benefits described above in *Payments upon Termination without Cause or Resignation for Good Reason*, the executive officers must comply with each of these restrictive covenants and must enter into a separation and release agreement with us releasing us from any and all liability and settling all claims of any kind. The waiver by either party of a breach of any provision of the relevant employment agreement by the other party, including the restrictive covenant provisions, does not operate and is not construed as a waiver of any subsequent breach.

COMPENSATION OF DIRECTORS

Annually, on the first business day of the year, each non-employee director receives an option to purchase 10,000 shares of our Common Stock at the fair market value on the date of grant. The stock options have a seven year term, and fully vest on the last business day of the year in which the option is granted. In addition, we pay the Audit Committee Chairman \$25,000 in cash compensation. No other directors receive any cash compensation. We reimburse each director for reasonable out-of-pocket expenses incurred in attending meetings of the Board and any of its committees.

2008 Director Compensation Table

| Name | Fees Earned or Paid in Cash \$ | Option Awards \$(1) | Total \$ |
|--------------------|--|---------------------------|-------------|
| Peter C. Morse | \$ | \$ 198,392 | \$ 198,392 |
| William C. Martin | | 198,392 | 198,392 |
| Robert P. O Block | | 198,392 | 198,392 |
| Richard J. Pinola | 25,000 | 198,392 | 198,392 |
| Randall E. Poliner | | 198,392 | 198,392 |

- (1) The amounts in this column reflect the dollar amount recognized for financial statement reporting purposes for the respective fiscal year, in accordance with SFAS 123R. Assumptions used in the calculation of these amounts are included in Note 3 to our audited consolidated financial statements for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2008, included in our Annual Report on Form 10-K filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on March 13, 2009. As all options vest in the year of grant, the amount reflected in this column reflects the full grant date fair value of the award. As of December 31, 2008, the stock options outstanding for each director (all of which are vested) are as follows: Mr. Morse 75,000; Mr. Martin 52,500; Mr. O Block 75,000; Mr. Pinola 20,000; and Mr. Poliner 75,000.

SECTION 16(A) BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP REPORTING COMPLIANCE

Section 16(a) of the Exchange Act requires our directors and executive officers and any persons who own more than 10% of our common stock to file reports with the SEC with respect to their ownership of common stock. Directors, executive officers and persons owning more than 10% of our common stock are required to furnish us with copies of all Section 16(a) reports they file.

Based solely on our review of the copies of such reports received by us and any written representations from reporting persons that no other reports were required of those persons, we believe that during 2008, all filing requirements applicable to our directors and executive officers were complied with in a timely manner.

REPORT OF THE AUDIT COMMITTEE

The Audit Committee operates under a written charter adopted by the Board and is published on the investor relations section of the Company's Web site at www.bankrate.com. This report reviews the actions taken by the Audit Committee with regard to the Company's financial reporting process during 2008 and particularly with regard

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to the Company's audited consolidated financial statements as of December 31, 2008 and 2007 and for the three years ended December 31, 2008.

The Audit Committee selects the Company's independent registered public accounting firm and meets with the Company's independent registered public accounting firm to discuss the scope and review the results of the annual audit. The Audit Committee has implemented procedures to ensure that during the course of each fiscal year it devotes the attention that it deems necessary or appropriate to each of the matters assigned to it under the Committee's Charter. The Audit Committee met eight times during 2008.

All of the directors who serve on the Audit Committee are independent for purposes of the NASDAQ Global Select Market listing standards. That is, the Board has determined that none of the members of the Committee has any relationship to the Company that may interfere with his independence from the Company and its management.

The Audit Committee reviewed the Company's 2008 financial statements and met with both management and Grant Thornton LLP, the Company's independent registered public accounting firm for 2008, to discuss those financial statements. Management represented to us that the financial statements were prepared in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. The Committee also received from and discussed the written disclosures and the letter from Grant Thornton LLP required by the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board, and has discussed with Grant Thornton LLP their independence. The Audit Committee also discussed with Grant Thornton LLP any matters required to be discussed by Statement on Auditing Standards No. 61, as amended (AICPA, Professional Standards, Vol. 1, AU section 380), as adopted by the Public Company Oversight Board in Rule 3200 T.

On the basis of these reviews and discussions, the Audit Committee recommended to the Board that the Board approve the inclusion of the Company's audited financial statements in the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2008, for filing with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

THE AUDIT COMMITTEE

Richard J. Pinola, Chairman
Robert P. O Block
Randall E. Poliner

This report shall not be deemed to be incorporated by reference by any general statement incorporating by reference this Information Statement into any filing under The Securities Act of 1933 or Exchange Act, and shall not otherwise be deemed filed under these Acts.

Change in Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm

On January 30, 2007, the Audit Committee of our Board determined to consider a change of our independent accountants and directed management to undertake a request for proposal from independent registered public accounting firms to serve as our auditor for fiscal 2007. We initiated this process on March 5, 2007. Seven large public accounting firms, including KPMG LLP, were asked to submit proposals.

On March 27, 2007, KPMG LLP notified the Audit Committee of our Board that KPMG LLP would not submit a proposal and declined to stand for re-election as principal accountants. KPMG LLP indicated it would complete its procedures regarding our unaudited condensed financial statements for the quarter ended March 31, 2007 and the Form 10-Q in which such financial statements would be included.

On April 12, 2007, the Audit Committee of our Board engaged Grant Thornton LLP to act as our principal accountant for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2007. Also on April 12, 2007, the Audit Committee of our Board notified KPMG LLP of its decision to have Grant Thornton complete the review of our interim financial statements as of March 31, 2007 and for the three-month period then ended. As such, the auditor-client relationship with KPMG LLP ceased on that date.

KPMG LLP's audit report on our consolidated financial statements as of and for the year ended December 31, 2006 did not contain an adverse opinion or disclaimer of opinion, nor were they qualified or modified as to uncertainty, audit scope or accounting principles, except as follows: KPMG LLP's report on our consolidated

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financial statements as of and of and for the year ended December 31, 2006, contained a separate paragraph stating that As discussed in Note 2 to the consolidated financial statements, effective January 1, 2006, the Company changed its method of accounting for share-based compensation by adopting Statement of Financial Accounting Standards No. 123(R), *Share-Based Payment*.

The audit report of KPMG LLP on management's assessment of the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting and the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2006 did not contain any adverse opinion or disclaimer of opinion, nor was it qualified or modified as to uncertainty, audit scope, or accounting principles.

During the fiscal year ended December 31, 2006 and the subsequent interim period through April 12, 2007, (i) there were no disagreements between us and KPMG LLP on any matters of accounting principles or practices, financial statement disclosure, or auditing scope or procedure, which disagreements, if not resolved to the satisfaction of KPMG LLP, would have caused KPMG LLP to make reference to the subject matter of the disagreement in its report on our consolidated financial statements, and (ii) there were no reportable events as that term is defined in Item 304(a)(1)(v) of Regulation S-K.

During the fiscal year ended December 31, 2006 and the subsequent interim period through April 12, 2007, neither we nor anyone acting on our behalf consulted Grant Thornton regarding (1) the application of accounting principles to a specified transaction, either completed or proposed, or the type of audit opinion that might be rendered on our consolidated financial statements; or (2) any matter that was either the subject of a disagreement as defined in Item 304(a)(1)(iv) of Regulation S-K or a reportable event described in Item 304(a)(1)(v) of Regulation S-K.

AUDIT FEES AND RELATED MATTERS**Audit and Non-Audit Fees**

The following table presents fees for professional audit services rendered and expenses of Grant Thornton LLP for the audits of our annual financial statements and the effectiveness of internal controls for the years ended December 31, 2008 and 2007, and fees billed for other services rendered and expenses of Grant Thornton LLP during 2008 and 2007.

| Type of Fees | 2008 | 2007 |
|-----------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Audit Fees(1) | \$ 773,089 | \$ 541,704 |
| Audit-Related Fees(2) | 55,568 | 35,438 |
| Tax Fees(3) | 52,924 | 48,147 |
| All Other Fees | | |
| Total | \$ 881,581 | \$ 625,289 |

- (1) Audit fees for 2008 and 2007 consist of professional services rendered for the annual audit of our financial statements and our internal controls over financial reporting in accordance with Section 404 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 and reviews of interim financial statements included in our quarterly reports. The 2008 fees included additional work associated with our acquisitions.

- (2) Audit-related fees for 2008 and 2007 consist of fees paid to Grant Thornton LLP related to accounting consultations in connection with proposed or consummated acquisitions and consultation concerning financial accounting and reporting standards.
- (3) Tax fees for 2008 and 2007 consist of fees related to preparing the 2007 and 2006 U.S. corporate income and state income and franchise tax returns. There were no tax planning fees in 2008 or 2007.

Policy on Audit Committee Pre-Approval of Audit and Non-Audit Services of Independent Auditor

The Audit Committee of the Board has implemented procedures under our Audit Committee Pre-Approval Policy for Audit and Non-Audit Services to ensure that all audit and permitted non-audit services provided to us are

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pre-approved by the Audit Committee. Specifically, the Audit Committee pre-approves the use of an independent accountant for specific audit and non-audit services, within approved monetary limits. If a proposed service has not been pre-approved pursuant to the Pre-Approval Policy, then it must be specifically pre-approved by the Audit Committee before it may be provided by our independent accountant. Any pre-approved services exceeding the pre-approved monetary limits require specific approval by the Audit Committee. The Audit Committee may delegate pre-approval authority to one or more of its members when expedition of services is necessary.

All of the audit-related, tax and all other services provided by Grant Thornton LLP to us in 2008 were approved by the Audit Committee by means of specific pre-approvals or pursuant to the procedures contained in the Pre-Approval Policy. The Audit Committee has determined that all non-audit services provided by Grant Thornton LLP in 2008 were compatible with maintaining its independence in the conduct of its auditing functions.

EQUITY COMPENSATION PLAN INFORMATION

The following table sets forth certain information relating to the shares of common stock that may be issued under our stock-based incentive plans at December 31, 2008.

| Plan Category | Number of Securities to be Issued Upon Exercise of Outstanding Options, Warrants and Rights (a) | Weighted-Average Exercise Price of Outstanding Options, Warrants and Rights (b) | Number of Securities Remaining Available for Future Issuance Under Equity Compensation Plans (Excluding Securities Reflected in Column (a)) (c) |
|--|--|--|--|
| Equity Compensation Plans Approved by Securities Holders | 3,023,610 | \$ 25.52 | 1,543,865 |
| Equity Compensation Plans Not Approved by Securities Holders | | | |
| Total | 3,023,610 | \$ 25.52 | 1,543,865 |

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Annex B

July 22, 2009

The Board of Directors
Bankrate, Inc.
11760 U.S. Highway One
Suite 200
North Palm Beach, Florida 33408

Members of the Board of Directors:

We are pleased to confirm in writing the opinion provided orally to the Board of Directors of Bankrate, Inc., a corporation organized under the laws of Florida (the Company), at its meeting held July 22, 2009. We understand that the Company, certain funds affiliated with Apax Partners, L.P., a Delaware limited partnership (Parent), and Ben Merger Sub, Inc., a Florida corporation and wholly owned subsidiary of Parent (Merger Sub), are entering into an Agreement and Plan of Merger (the Agreement) whereby Merger Sub will commence a tender offer to purchase all of the outstanding shares of common stock of the Company (the Offer), following which, Merger Sub will be merged with and into the Company, with the Company surviving the merger as a wholly owned subsidiary of Parent (the Merger and together with the Offer, the Transaction). Capitalized terms used herein but not defined have the same meanings as set forth in the Agreement.

As further described in the Agreement and subject to the conditions set forth in Annex A thereof, the following shall occur in the Transaction:

The Offer

Merger Sub will commence the Offer to purchase all of the outstanding shares of common stock, par value \$0.01 per share, of the Company (each a Share and, collectively, Shares) at a price of \$28.50 per Share, payable net to the seller in cash without interest (such price, or any higher price as may be paid in the Offer in accordance with the Agreement, the Offer Price).

The Merger

(a) After the completion of the Offer and at the Effective Time, Merger Sub will merge with and into the Company, the separate corporate existence of Merger Sub will cease and the Company will continue its corporate existence as a wholly owned subsidiary of Parent (the Surviving Corporation); and

(b) at the Effective Time, each issued and outstanding Share outstanding immediately prior to the Effective Time other than (i) any shares to be cancelled pursuant to the Agreement, (ii) any dissenting Shares, and (iii) any Shares identified as Rollover Shares pursuant to Support Agreements to be entered into by certain shareholders of the Company (the Rollover

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Shares), will be converted automatically into, and will thereafter represent the right to receive, the Offer Price.

As you know, Allen & Company LLC (Allen) was engaged by the Company to act as a financial advisor to the Company. Pursuant to our June 26, 2009 engagement letter (the Engagement Letter), you have asked us to render our opinion as to the fairness, from a financial point of view, of the consideration to be received by the Company's shareholders in the Transaction. Pursuant to the Engagement Letter, the Company shall owe Allen a cash fee of \$500,000, payable upon delivery of this opinion. In addition, the Company shall pay to Allen, upon the consummation of the Transaction, a cash fee equal to 1.0% of the price per share received by holders of the Company's Common Stock pursuant to the Transaction multiplied by the Fully Diluted shares outstanding less \$500,000, payable to Allen upon the closing of the Transaction. The Company has also agreed to reimburse Allen's reasonable expenses up to \$75,000 for Allen's legal expenses and up to \$25,000 for reimbursable expenses other than legal expenses, and indemnify Allen against certain liabilities arising out of such engagement.

Allen, as part of its investment banking business, is regularly engaged in the valuation of businesses and their securities in connection with mergers and acquisitions, private placements and related financings, bankruptcy reorganizations and similar recapitalizations, negotiated underwritings, secondary distributions of listed and unlisted securities, and valuations for corporate and other purposes. Allen does not have and has not had any material relationships involving the payment or receipt of compensation between Allen and the Company and, to our knowledge, any of its affiliates during the last two years. Allen has previously served as financial advisor to the Company, pursuant to a previous engagement letter dated June 1, 2007. In the ordinary course of its business as a broker-dealer and market maker, Allen may have long or short positions, either on a discretionary or nondiscretionary basis, for its own account or for those of its clients, in the securities of the Company. This opinion has been approved by Allen's fairness opinion committee.

Our opinion as expressed herein reflects and gives effect to our general familiarity with the Company as well as information which we received during the course of this assignment, including information provided by the management of the Company in the course of discussions relating to this engagement. In arriving at our opinion, we neither conducted a physical inspection of the properties and facilities of the Company nor made or obtained any evaluations or appraisals of the assets or liabilities of the Company, or conducted any analysis concerning the solvency of the Company.

In rendering our opinion, we have relied upon and assumed, with your consent and without independent verification, the accuracy and completeness in all material respects of all of the financial, accounting, tax and other information that were available to us from public sources, that was provided to us by the Company or its representatives, or that was otherwise reviewed by us. With respect to financial projections provided to us by the Company, we have assumed with your consent that, where applicable, they have been reasonably prepared in good faith reflecting

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the best currently available estimates and judgments of the management of the Company, as to the future operating and financial performance of the Company. We assume no responsibility for and express no view or opinion as to such forecasts or the assumptions on which they are based.

We have assumed that the Transaction will be consummated in all respects material to our opinion in accordance with the terms and conditions set forth in the Agreement dated as of the date hereof and the agreements ancillary thereto that we have reviewed.

Further, our opinion is necessarily based on economic, monetary, market and other conditions as in effect on, and the information made available to us as of, the date hereof. It should be understood that subsequent developments may affect the conclusions expressed in this opinion and that we assume no responsibility for advising any person of any change in any matter affecting this opinion or for updating or revising our opinion based on circumstances or events occurring after the date hereof.

In arriving at our opinion, we have among other things:

- (i) reviewed the terms and conditions of the Agreement and related documents;
- (ii) reviewed trends in the equity markets and online advertising, content and lead generation sectors;
- (iii) reviewed business prospects and financial condition of the Company based on information provided by senior management of the Company;
- (iv) reviewed historical business information and financial results of the Company;
- (v) reviewed public financial information regarding the Company, including the Company's filings with the United States Securities and Exchange Commission;
- (vi) reviewed financial projections of the Company provided by senior management of the Company;
- (vii) reviewed information obtained from meetings and calls with the Company management;
- (viii) reviewed historical trading performance of the Company common stock;

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(ix) analyzed the trading history of the common stock of the Company as compared to that of related market indices and comparable public companies;

(x) analyzed public financial information regarding certain public companies, including market multiples, comparable to the Company;

(xi) analyzed public financial and transaction information regarding certain merger and acquisition transactions, including multiples and premiums paid, comparable to the proposed Transaction;

(xii) analyzed internal management projections for the Company and publicly available information in order to develop a discounted cash flow valuation analysis (DCF); and

(xiii) analyzed such other information and analyses as we deemed appropriate in arriving at our opinion.

The opinion also reflects our familiarity, developed in the course of serving as financial advisor to the Company since June 2007, with the Company's business and prospects, as well as prevailing trends in the markets in which the Company participates.

It is understood that this opinion is intended for the benefit and use of the Board in connection with its consideration of the Transaction. This letter is not to be used for any other purpose, or be reproduced, disseminated, quoted from or referred to at any time, in whole or in part, without our prior written consent, which will not be unreasonably withheld, conditioned or delayed; provided, however, that this letter may be used by the Company in conjunction with any Schedule 14D-9, tender offer statement or proxy mailing to the Company's shareholders and any filing with the Securities and Exchange Commission related to the Transaction, provided that Allen has a reasonable opportunity to review and approve any disclosure with respect to this opinion, such approval not to be unreasonably withheld, conditioned or delayed.

This opinion does not constitute a recommendation as to what course of action the Board should pursue in connection with the Transaction, or otherwise address the merits of the underlying decision by the Company to engage in the Transaction. We do not express an opinion about the fairness of any compensation payable to any of the Company's officers, directors or employees in connection with the Transaction relative to the consideration payable to the Company's shareholders or in any way address the Rollover Shares. Our opinion also does not consider the treatment of any stock options or restricted stock plans.

We do not express any opinion as to any tax or other consequences that might result from the Transaction, nor does our opinion address any legal, tax, regulatory or accounting matters, as to which we understand that the Company obtained such advice as it deemed necessary from qualified professionals. For the purposes of our opinion, we have assumed with your consent

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that all governmental, regulatory or other consents necessary for the consummation of the Transaction as contemplated by the Agreement will be obtained without any material adverse effect on the Company.

Our opinion is limited to the fairness, from a financial point of view, of the consideration to be received by the Company's shareholders, other than holders of Rollover Shares, in the Transaction as of the date hereof.

Based upon and subject to the foregoing, it is our opinion that, as of the date hereof, the Offer Price to be received by the Company's shareholders, other than holders of Rollover Shares, in the Transaction is fair, from a financial point of view, to the Company's shareholders.

Very truly yours,

ALLEN & COMPANY LLC

By: /s/ Ian G. Smith

Ian G. Smith
Managing Director

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Annex C

Needham & Company, LLC 445 Park Avenue, New York, NY 10022 (212) 371-8300

July 22, 2009

Disinterested Members of the Board of Directors (the Disinterested Directors)
Bankrate, Inc.
11760 U.S. Highway One, Suite 200
North Palm Beach, FL 33408

Gentlemen:

We understand that Bankrate, Inc. (the Company), Ben Holdings, Inc. (Parent), and Ben Merger Sub, Inc., a wholly-owned subsidiary of Parent (Merger Sub) propose to enter into an Agreement and Plan of Merger (the Merger Agreement) that provides for Merger Sub to commence a tender offer (the Offer) to purchase all of the outstanding shares of common stock, par value \$0.01 per share, of the Company (Company Common Stock) at a price of \$28.50 per share, net to the seller in cash (the Offer Price). We also understand that, pursuant to the Merger Agreement, following completion of the Offer, Merger Sub will merge with and into the Company (the Merger), as a result of which the Company will become a wholly-owned subsidiary of Parent and each issued and outstanding share of Company Common Stock (other than shares to be cancelled in accordance with the Merger Agreement, shares as to which dissenter s rights have been perfected and Rollover Shares (as defined in the Merger Agreement)) will be converted into the right to receive \$28.50 per share in cash (the per share consideration to be received in the Offer and the Merger, the Consideration). The terms and conditions of the Offer and the Merger (collectively, the Transaction) will be set forth more fully in the Merger Agreement.

You have asked us to advise you as to the fairness, from a financial point of view, to the holders of Company Common Stock (other than holders of the Rollover Shares) of the Consideration to be received by such holders pursuant to the Merger Agreement.

For purposes of this opinion we have, among other things: (i) reviewed a draft of the Merger Agreement dated July 21, 2009; (ii) reviewed certain publicly available information concerning the Company and certain other relevant financial and operating data of the Company furnished to us by the Company; (iii) reviewed the historical stock prices and trading volumes of the Company Common Stock; (iv) held discussions with members of management of the Company concerning the current operations of and future business prospects for the Company; (v) reviewed certain financial forecasts with respect to the Company prepared by the management of the Company and held discussions with members of such management concerning

Boston: One Post Office Square, Suite 1900, Boston, MA 02109 (617) 457-0900
Menlo Park, CA: 3000 Sand Hill Road, Building 2, Suite 190, Menlo Park, CA 94025 (650) 854-9111
San Francisco, CA One Ferry Building, Suite 240, San Francisco, CA 94111 (415) 262-4860

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those forecasts; (vi) reviewed certain research analyst projections with respect to the Company and held discussions with members of the management of the Company concerning those projections; (vii) compared certain publicly available financial data of companies whose securities are traded in the public markets and that we deemed relevant to similar data for the Company; (viii) reviewed the financial terms of certain other business combinations that we deemed generally relevant; and (ix) reviewed such other financial studies and analyses and considered such other matters as we have deemed appropriate.

In connection with our review and in arriving at our opinion, we have assumed and relied on the accuracy and completeness in all material respects of all of the financial, accounting, legal, tax and other information discussed with or reviewed by us for purposes of this opinion and have neither attempted to verify independently nor assumed responsibility for verifying any of such information. In addition, we have assumed, with your consent, that the Transaction will be consummated in all respects material to our opinion upon the terms and subject to the conditions set forth in the draft Merger Agreement dated July 21, 2009, without waiver, modification or amendment of any material term, condition or agreement thereof. With respect to the financial forecasts for the Company provided to us by the management of the Company, we have assumed where applicable, that such forecasts have been reasonably prepared on bases reflecting the best currently available estimates and judgments of such management, at the time of preparation, of the future operating and financial performance of the Company. With respect to the research analyst projections for the Company, we have assumed that such projections represent reasonable estimates as to the future financial performance of the Company. We express no opinion with respect to any of such forecasts, projections or estimates or the assumptions on which they were based.

We have not assumed any responsibility for or made or obtained any independent evaluation, appraisal or physical inspection of the assets or liabilities of the Company or Parent nor have we evaluated the solvency or fair value of the Company or Parent under any state or federal laws relating to bankruptcy, insolvency or similar matters. Further, our opinion is based on economic, monetary and market conditions as they exist and can be evaluated as of the date hereof and we assume no responsibility to update or revise our opinion based upon circumstances and events occurring after the date hereof. Our opinion as expressed herein is limited to the fairness, from a financial point of view, to the holders of Company Common Stock (other than holders of the Rollover Shares) of the Consideration to be received by such holders pursuant to the Merger Agreement and we express no opinion as to the fairness of the Transaction to, or any consideration received in connection therewith by, the holders of any other class of securities, creditors or other constituencies of the Company, or as to the Company's underlying business decision to engage in the Transaction or the relative merits of the Transaction as compared to other business strategies that might be available to the Company. We were not requested to, and did not, solicit third party indications of interest in acquiring all or any part of the Company, nor were we requested to, and we did not, provide independent financial advice to you during the course of negotiations between the Company and Parent or participate in the negotiation or structuring of the Transaction. In addition, we express no opinion with respect to the amount or nature or any other aspect of any compensation payable to or to be

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Needham & Company, LLC

received by any officers, directors or employees of any party to the Transaction, or any class of such persons, relative to the Consideration to be received by the holders of Company Common Stock pursuant to the Merger Agreement or with respect to the fairness of any such compensation. Our opinion does not constitute a recommendation to any shareholder of the Company as to whether such shareholder should tender shares of Company Common Stock in connection with the Offer or how such shareholder should vote or act on any matter relating to the Transaction.

We have been engaged by the Board of Directors of the Company as financial advisor to the Disinterested Directors (consisting of William C Martin, Richard Pinola and Randall E. Poliner) in connection with the Transaction to render this opinion and will receive a fee for our services, none of which is contingent on the consummation of the Transaction. In addition, the Company has agreed to indemnify us for certain liabilities arising out of our role as financial advisor and our rendering of this opinion and to reimburse us for our out-of-pocket expenses. We may in the future provide investment banking and financial advisory services to the Company, Parent and their respective affiliates unrelated to the proposed Transaction, for which services we would expect to receive compensation. In the ordinary course of our business, we may actively trade the equity securities of the Company for our own account or for the accounts of customers or affiliates and, accordingly, may at any time hold a long or short position in such securities. A company affiliated with Needham & Company is a limited partner in a fund affiliated with Antares Capital Corporation. According to the Company's SEC filings, Randall E. Poliner, one of the Disinterested Directors, is the President of Antares Capital Corporation.

This letter and the opinion expressed herein are provided at the request and for the information of the Disinterested Directors and may not be quoted or referred to or used for any purpose without our prior written consent, except that this letter may be quoted in full in connection with any proxy, tender offer, transaction, information or solicitation/recommendation statement used in connection with the Transaction and may be otherwise referred to or disclosed in any such document, provided that we have had a reasonable opportunity to review and approve any disclosure, such approval not to be unreasonably withheld, conditioned or delayed. This opinion has been approved by a fairness committee of Needham & Company, LLC.

Based upon and subject to the foregoing, it is our opinion that, as of the date hereof, the Consideration to be received by the holders of Company Common Stock (other than holders of the Rollover Shares) pursuant to the Merger Agreement is fair, from a financial point of view, to such holders.

Very truly yours,

/s/ Needham & Company, LLC

NEEDHAM & COMPANY, LLC