

NORTHERN TRUST CORP
Form PRE 14A
March 06, 2009
Table of Contents

NOTICE & PROXY STATEMENT
SCHEDULE 14A INFORMATION

Proxy Statement Pursuant to Section 14(a)
of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934

(Amendment No.)

Filed by the Registrant

Filed by a Party other than the Registrant

Check the appropriate box:

- Preliminary Proxy Statement CONFIDENTIAL, FOR USE OF THE COMMISSION ONLY
(AS PERMITTED BY RULE 14A-6(E)(2))
- Definitive Proxy Statement
- Definitive Additional Materials
- Soliciting Material Pursuant to Section 240.14a-11(c) or Section 240.14a-12

NORTHERN TRUST CORPORATION

(Name of Registrant as Specified In Its Charter)

(Name of Person(s) Filing Proxy Statement, if other than the Registrant)

Payment of Filing Fee (Check the appropriate box):

- No fee required

Edgar Filing: NORTHERN TRUST CORP - Form PRE 14A

Fee computed on table below per Exchange Act Rules 14a-6(i)(4) and 0-11.

(1) Title of each class of securities to which transaction applies:

(2) Aggregate number of securities to which transaction applies:

(3) Per unit price or other underlying value of transaction computed pursuant to Exchange Act Rule 0-11 (Set forth the amount on which the filing fee is calculated and state how it was determined):

(4) Proposed maximum aggregate value of transaction:

(5) Total fee paid:

Fee paid previously with preliminary materials.

Check box if any part of the fee is offset as provided by Exchange Act Rule 0-11(a)(2) and identify the filing for which the offsetting fee was paid previously. Identify the previous filing by registration statement number, or the Form of Schedule and the date of its filing.

(1) Amount Previously Paid:

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

Edgar Filing: NORTHERN TRUST CORP - Form PRE 14A

(3) Filing Party:

(4) Date Filed:

Table of Contents

**NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS
OF NORTHERN TRUST CORPORATION**

Date: Tuesday, April 21, 2009

Time: 10:30 a.m., Chicago Time

Place: Northern Trust Corporation

50 South LaSalle Street

(Northwest corner of LaSalle Street and Monroe Street)

Chicago, Illinois 60603

Purposes: The purposes of the annual meeting are to:

Elect 14 directors to serve on the board of directors until the 2010 annual meeting of stockholders and until their successors shall have been elected and qualified;

Ratify the appointment of KPMG LLP as the Corporation's independent registered public accounting firm for the 2009 fiscal year;

Consider and act upon a proposal relating to an advisory (non-binding) vote on executive compensation; and

Transact any other business that may properly come before the annual meeting.

Record Date: You may vote if you are a stockholder of record on March 2, 2009.

Voting: **IMPORTANT PLEASE VOTE PROMPTLY**

It is important that your shares be represented at the annual meeting. We urge you to vote your shares by completing and returning the enclosed proxy card in the postage-paid envelope provided. You also may vote your shares by telephone or through the Internet as described on the enclosed proxy card, or by attending the annual meeting and voting in person.

March [16], 2009

ROSE A. ELLIS

Corporate Secretary

Table of Contents

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
<u>INTRODUCTION</u>	1
<u>IMPORTANT NOTICE REGARDING THE AVAILABILITY OF PROXY MATERIALS FOR THE STOCKHOLDER MEETING TO BE HELD ON APRIL 21, 2009</u>	1
<u>VOTING</u>	1
<u>Who May Vote</u>	1
<u>Voting Your Proxy</u>	2
<u>Revoking Your Proxy</u>	2
<u>Voting in Person</u>	3
<u>Householding Information</u>	3
<u>Quorum and Vote Required for Approval</u>	3
<u>Solicitation of Proxies</u>	4
<u>ADMITTANCE TO THE ANNUAL MEETING</u>	4
<u>ITEM 1 ELECTION OF DIRECTORS</u>	5
<u>INFORMATION ABOUT THE NOMINEES FOR DIRECTOR</u>	5
<u>BOARD AND BOARD COMMITTEE INFORMATION</u>	9
<u>Audit Committee</u>	9
<u>Business Risk Committee</u>	9
<u>Business Strategy Committee</u>	10
<u>Compensation and Benefits Committee</u>	10
<u>Corporate Governance Committee</u>	11
<u>Executive Committee</u>	11
<u>Meetings</u>	11
<u>CORPORATE GOVERNANCE</u>	12
<u>Director Independence</u>	12
<u>Executive Sessions</u>	13
<u>Corporate Governance Guidelines</u>	13
<u>Director Nominations and Qualifications</u>	13
<u>Communications with the Board and Independent Directors</u>	14
<u>Code of Business Conduct and Ethics</u>	14
<u>Related Person Transaction Policy</u>	15
<u>Compensation and Benefits Committee Interlocks and Insider Participation</u>	16
<u>SECURITY OWNERSHIP OF THE BOARD AND MANAGEMENT</u>	17
<u>Section 16(a) Beneficial Ownership Reporting Compliance</u>	18
<u>SECURITY OWNERSHIP OF CERTAIN BENEFICIAL OWNERS</u>	19
<u>EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION</u>	20
<u>Compensation and Benefits Committee Report</u>	20

Table of Contents

	Page
<u>COMPENSATION DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS</u>	21
<u>Impact of the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act and the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act</u>	21
<u>Executive Compensation Philosophy</u>	21
<u>Principal Elements of the Corporation's Executive Compensation Program</u>	25
<u>Additional Elements of Compensation</u>	36
<u>Other Issues Relevant to Executive Compensation</u>	38
<u>SUMMARY COMPENSATION TABLE</u>	47
<u>GRANTS OF PLAN-BASED AWARDS</u>	51
<u>OUTSTANDING EQUITY AWARDS AT FISCAL YEAR-END</u>	53
<u>OPTION EXERCISES AND STOCK VESTED</u>	56
<u>PENSION BENEFITS</u>	58
<u>Pension Plan and Supplemental Pension Plan</u>	58
<u>NON-QUALIFIED DEFERRED COMPENSATION</u>	61
<u>Deferred Compensation Plan</u>	62
<u>Supplemental TIP</u>	63
<u>Deferred Stock Units</u>	64
<u>POTENTIAL PAYMENTS UPON TERMINATION OF EMPLOYMENT OR A CHANGE IN CONTROL OF THE CORPORATION</u>	65
<u>Employment Security Agreements</u>	65
<u>Equity Compensation Plans and Agreements</u>	69
<u>DIRECTOR COMPENSATION</u>	71
<u>General</u>	72
<u>2008 Director Compensation</u>	72
<u>2009 Director Compensation</u>	72
<u>Deferral of Compensation</u>	72
<u>EQUITY COMPENSATION PLAN INFORMATION</u>	73
<u>AUDIT COMMITTEE REPORT</u>	73
<u>ITEM 2 RATIFICATION OF INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM</u>	75
<u>Appointment of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm</u>	75
<u>Fees of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm</u>	75
<u>Pre-Approval Policies and Procedures of the Audit Committee</u>	76
<u>ITEM 3 ADVISORY (NON-BINDING) VOTE ON EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION</u>	76
<u>OTHER BUSINESS</u>	77
<u>STOCKHOLDER PROPOSALS FOR 2010 ANNUAL MEETING</u>	78
<u>EXHIBIT A NORTHERN TRUST CORPORATION CATEGORICAL STANDARDS OF DIRECTOR INDEPENDENCE</u>	A-1

Table of Contents

NORTHERN TRUST CORPORATION

50 South LaSalle Street

Chicago, Illinois 60603

March [16], 2009

PROXY STATEMENT

INTRODUCTION

Our 2009 annual meeting of stockholders will be held on Tuesday, April 21, 2009 at 10:30 a.m., Chicago time, at the office of Northern Trust Corporation (the "Corporation") located on the northwest corner of LaSalle Street and Monroe Street in Chicago, Illinois. We invite you to attend the annual meeting and vote your shares directly.

You do not need to attend the annual meeting to vote your shares. Instead, you may vote your shares by telephone or through the Internet or you may complete, sign, date, and return the enclosed proxy card in the postage-paid envelope provided. Instructions for voting by telephone or through the Internet can be found on the enclosed proxy card.

The Corporation's board of directors is soliciting your proxy to encourage your participation in the voting at the annual meeting. This proxy statement provides you with information about each proposal and other matters that you may find useful in voting your shares.

On March [16], 2009, we began mailing this proxy statement and the enclosed proxy card to all stockholders entitled to vote at the annual meeting. We have enclosed with this proxy statement our 2008 annual report to stockholders, which contains detailed information about the Corporation's activities and financial performance in 2008.

**IMPORTANT NOTICE REGARDING THE AVAILABILITY OF PROXY MATERIALS FOR THE STOCKHOLDER MEETING
TO BE HELD ON APRIL 21, 2009**

This proxy statement and the 2008 annual report to stockholders are available at <http://materials.proxyvote.com/665859>.

VOTING

Who May Vote

Record holders of the Corporation's common stock at the close of business on March 2, 2009 may vote at the annual meeting. On that date, the Corporation had 223,463,470 shares of common stock outstanding. The shares of common stock held in the Corporation's treasury will not be voted.

You are entitled to one vote for each share of common stock that you owned of record at the close of business on March 2, 2009. The enclosed proxy card indicates the number of shares you are entitled to vote at the annual meeting.

Table of Contents

Voting Your Proxy

Whether or not you plan to attend the annual meeting, we urge you to vote your proxy promptly.

If you are a *stockholder of record* (that is, you hold your shares of the Corporation's common stock in your own name), you may vote your shares by proxy using any of the following methods:

Calling the toll-free telephone number listed on the proxy card;

Using the Internet site listed on the proxy card; or

Completing, signing, dating, and returning the proxy card in the postage-paid envelope provided.

The telephone and Internet voting procedures set forth on the proxy card are designed to authenticate stockholders' identities, to allow stockholders to provide their voting instructions, and to confirm that their instructions have been properly recorded. If you vote by telephone or through the Internet, you should not return your proxy card.

If you are a *beneficial owner*, also known as a *street name* holder (that is, you hold your shares of the Corporation's common stock through a broker, bank, or other nominee), you will receive from the record holder voting instructions (including instructions, if any, on how to vote by telephone or through the Internet) that you must follow in order to have your shares voted at the annual meeting.

If you own shares of common stock as a participant in The Northern Trust Company Thrift-Incentive Plan (*TIP*), or shares in any other employee benefit plan of the Corporation, you will receive a voting instruction card that covers the shares credited to each of your plan accounts.

Whether you vote by mail, telephone or Internet, your shares will be voted in accordance with your instructions. If you sign, date, and return your proxy card without indicating how you want to vote your shares, the proxy holders will vote your shares in accordance with the following recommendations of the board of directors:

Item 1 **FOR** the election of each nominee for director;

Item 2 **FOR** the ratification of the appointment of KPMG LLP as the Corporation's independent registered public accounting firm for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2009; and

Item 3 **FOR** the proposal relating to an advisory (non-binding) vote on executive compensation.

The proxy holders are authorized to vote as they shall determine in their sole discretion on any other business that may properly come before the annual meeting.

Revoking Your Proxy

You may revoke your proxy at any time *before* it is voted at the annual meeting by:

Sending a written notice of revocation to the Corporate Secretary at the address indicated on the first page of this proxy statement;

Table of Contents

Submitting another signed proxy card with a later date;

Voting by telephone or through the Internet at a later date; or

Attending the annual meeting and voting in person.

Voting in Person

You may come to the annual meeting and vote your shares in person by obtaining and submitting a ballot that will be provided at the meeting. However, if your shares are held by a broker, bank, or other nominee in street name, to be able to vote at the meeting you must obtain a proxy, executed in your favor, from the record holder of your shares, indicating that you were the beneficial owner of the shares on March 2, 2009, the record date for voting. If you need directions to the annual meeting, please call 312-444-7030.

Householding Information

We are delivering only one annual report and proxy statement to record stockholders who share the same address unless they have notified us that they wish to continue receiving multiple copies. This practice, known as householding, reduces duplicate mailings, saves printing and postage costs as well as natural resources and will not affect dividend check mailings. If you wish to receive a separate copy of the annual report or proxy statement, or if you wish to receive separate copies of future annual reports or proxy statements, please call 312-444-7030 or mail a request to the Corporation's Corporate Secretary at the address indicated on the first page of this proxy statement. We will deliver the requested documents promptly upon your request.

If you and other stockholders of record with whom you share an address currently receive multiple copies of annual reports or proxy statements, or if you hold stock in the Corporation in more than one account and, in either case, you wish to receive only a single copy of the annual report or proxy statement, please contact the Corporation's transfer agent (Wells Fargo Bank, N.A., Attn: Household, P.O. Box 64854, St. Paul, MN 55164-0854; Telephone: 877-602-7615) with the names in which all accounts are registered and the name of the account for which you wish to receive mailings.

Quorum and Vote Required for Approval

A quorum of stockholders is necessary to hold a valid meeting. A quorum will exist if a majority of the outstanding shares is present in person or by proxy at the annual meeting. Abstentions and broker non-votes, if any, will be counted as present for purposes of establishing a quorum. A broker non-vote will occur when a nominee holding shares for a beneficial owner does not vote on a particular proposal because the nominee does not have discretionary voting power with respect to that proposal and has not received instructions from the beneficial owner. Inspectors of election appointed for the annual meeting will tabulate all votes cast in person or by proxy at the annual meeting. In the event a quorum is not present at the annual meeting, we expect that the annual meeting will be adjourned or postponed to solicit additional proxies.

Table of Contents

The following table indicates the vote required for approval of each item to be presented to the stockholders at the annual meeting and the effect of withhold votes, abstentions, and broker non-votes.

Item	Required Vote	Effect of Withhold Votes, Abstentions, Broker Non-Votes
Item 1 Election of Directors	Affirmative vote of a majority of the shares of common stock present in person or by proxy and entitled to vote.	Withhold votes will have the effect of a vote AGAINST the election of directors. Broker non-votes will have no effect on the voting for the election of directors. Abstentions will have the effect of a vote AGAINST ratification.
Item 2 Ratification of the appointment of KPMG LLP as the Corporation's independent registered public accounting firm for fiscal year 2009	Affirmative vote of a majority of the shares of common stock present in person or by proxy and entitled to vote.	Broker non-votes will have no effect on the vote for ratification. Abstentions will have the effect of a vote AGAINST approval.
Item 3 Proposal Relating to an Advisory (Non-Binding) Vote on Executive Compensation	Affirmative vote of a majority of the shares of common stock present in person or by proxy and entitled to vote.	Broker non-votes will have no effect on the voting for this item.

Solicitation of Proxies

The Corporation will pay all costs of soliciting proxies. The Corporation has retained Georgeson Inc. to assist with the solicitation of proxies for a fee not to exceed \$12,500, plus reimbursement of reasonable out-of-pocket expenses. In addition, we may also use our officers and employees, at no additional compensation, to solicit proxies either personally or by telephone, Internet, letter, or facsimile.

ADMITTANCE TO THE ANNUAL MEETING

Stockholders as of the record date, or their duly appointed proxies, may attend our annual meeting on April 21, 2009, and each may be accompanied by one guest. Registration will begin at 9:30 a.m., and seating will begin at 10:00 a.m. If you attend, please note that you will need an admission ticket or proof of ownership of the Corporation's common stock to enter the meeting. If you arrive at the meeting without an admission ticket, we will admit you only if we are able to verify that you are a stockholder of the Corporation. Also, you may be asked to present valid picture identification, such as a driver's license or passport. For safety and security reasons, cameras and recording devices will not be permitted in the meeting.

For stockholders of record, an admission ticket is enclosed. Please bring the admission ticket with you to the meeting.

If your shares of common stock are held by a broker, bank or other nominee in street name, your admission ticket is the left side of your voting instruction form. If you do not bring the left side of your voting instruction card, you will need proof of ownership to be admitted to the meeting. A recent brokerage statement or letter from a bank or broker is an example of proof of ownership.

Table of Contents

ITEM 1 ELECTION OF DIRECTORS

Stockholders will be asked to elect 14 directors at this year's annual meeting. Set forth below is detailed information with respect to the 14 nominees, all of whom are currently serving as directors of the Corporation and of its principal subsidiary, The Northern Trust Company (the Bank). The board of directors approved the slate of 14 nominees based on consideration of the factors specified in the Corporate Governance Guidelines and the recommendation of the Corporate Governance Committee.

Each of the 14 director nominees has consented to serve as a director if elected at this year's annual meeting. Each nominee elected as a director will serve until the next annual meeting and until his or her successor has been elected and qualified. If any nominee is unable to serve as a director at the time of the annual meeting, your proxy may be voted for the election of another nominee proposed by the board or the board may reduce the number of directors to be elected at the annual meeting.

The enclosed proxy card provides instructions on how to vote for all nominees or to withhold authority to vote for all or one or more nominees. Under the majority voting policy as set forth in the Corporation's Restated Certificate of Incorporation, a nominee for director in an uncontested election (such as this year's election where the only nominees are those recommended by the board of directors) must receive the affirmative vote of a majority of the votes present and voting at a meeting of stockholders. In contested elections, the affirmative vote of a plurality of the votes present and voting will be required to elect a director. The Corporate Governance Guidelines require an incumbent director who fails to receive the affirmative vote of a majority of the votes present and voting in an uncontested election at a meeting of stockholders to submit his or her resignation, with such resignation to be considered by the members of the Corporate Governance Committee and the board other than such incumbent director. In such event, the board of directors will act to accept or reject the incumbent director's resignation no later than 90 days following the date of the stockholders' meeting.

The Board of Directors unanimously recommends that you vote FOR the election of each nominee.

INFORMATION ABOUT THE NOMINEES FOR DIRECTOR

The following information about the nominees for election to the board of directors of the Corporation at the 2009 annual meeting of stockholders is as of December 31, 2008, unless otherwise indicated.

LINDA WALKER BYNOE, Director since 2006, Age 56

President and Chief Executive Officer, Telemat Ltd. since January 1995 (Project management and consulting firm).

Ms. Bynoe is a director of Anixter International Inc., Prudential Retail Mutual Funds, and Simon Property Group, Inc.

Table of Contents

NICHOLAS D. CHABRAJA, Director since 2007, Age 66

Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, General Dynamics Corporation since May 1997
(Worldwide defense, aerospace, and other technology products manufacturer).

SUSAN CROWN, Director since 1997, Age 50

Vice President, Henry Crown and Company since 1984 (Worldwide company with diversified manufacturing operations, real estate, and securities).

Ms. Crown is a director of Illinois Tool Works Inc. and a trustee of Rush University Medical Center in Chicago.

DIPAK C. JAIN, Director since 2004, Age 51

Dean, Kellogg School of Management, Northwestern University since July 2001, **Sandy and Morton Goldman Professor in Entrepreneurial Studies** since September 1994, Professor of Marketing since September 1993, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs from July 1996 to June 2001, and member of the Faculty since September 1986 (Educational institution); Visiting Professor of Marketing, Sasin Graduate Institute of Business Administration, Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok, Thailand since October 1989 (Educational institution).

Mr. Jain is a director of Deere & Company and Hartmarx Corporation.

ARTHUR L. KELLY, Director since 1988, Age 71

Managing Partner, KEL Enterprises L.P. since 1982 (Holding and investment partnership).

Mr. Kelly is a director of Snap-on Incorporated. He was a director of Deere & Company until February 2009.

Table of Contents

ROBERT C. McCORMACK, Director since 2000, Age 69

Advisory Director, Trident Capital since 2004 and Managing Director from 1993 to 2004 (Venture capital firm); Co-Founder and Co-Chairman, Trident Capital, Inc. since 1993.

Mr. McCormack is a director of DeVry Inc., Illinois Tool Works Inc., and MeadWestvaco Corporation.

EDWARD J. MOONEY, Director since 1996, Age 67

Retired Délégué General-North America since March 2001, **Suez Lyonnaise des Eaux** (Worldwide provider of energy, water, waste and communications services); **Retired Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Nalco Chemical Company** since March 2000 (Manufacturer of specialized service chemicals acquired by Suez Lyonnaise des Eaux in November 1999).

Mr. Mooney is a director of Cabot Microelectronics Corporation, Commonwealth Edison Company (a wholly-owned subsidiary of Exelon Corporation), FMC Corporation, FMC Technologies, Inc., and PolyOne Corporation.

WILLIAM A. OSBORN, Director since 1994, Age 61

Chairman since October 1995, **Chief Executive Officer** from June 1995 to January 2008, and **President** from January 2003 to February 2006, of the **Corporation and the Bank**. Effective November 12, 2008, Mr. Osborn retired as an executive officer and employee of the Corporation. He continues to serve as the Chairman of the Corporation in a non-employee capacity.

Mr. Osborn is a director of Abbott Laboratories and Caterpillar Inc.

JOHN W. ROWE, Director since 2002, Age 63

Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Exelon Corporation since April 2002, and President at various times during this period (Energy company formed through the merger of Unicom Corporation and PECO Energy Company in October 2000).

Mr. Rowe is a director of Exelon Corporation and Sunoco Corporation.

Table of Contents

HAROLD B. SMITH, Director since 1974, Age 75

Chairman of the Executive Committee, Illinois Tool Works Inc. since 1982 (Worldwide manufacturer and marketer of engineered components and industrial systems and consumables).

Mr. Smith is a director of Illinois Tool Works Inc. and W. W. Grainger, Inc.

WILLIAM D. SMITHBURG, Director since 1981, Age 70

Retired Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer, The Quaker Oats Company since October 1997 (Worldwide manufacturer and marketer of beverages and grain-based products).

Mr. Smithburg is a director of Abbott Laboratories, Corning Incorporated, and Smurfit-Stone Container Corporation.

ENRIQUE J. SOSA, Director since 2007, Age 68

Retired President, BP Amoco Chemicals since April 1999 (Worldwide chemical division of BP p.l.c.).

Mr. Sosa is a director of FMC Corporation and MEDNAX, Inc. (formerly Pediatrix Medical Group, Inc.)

CHARLES A. TRIBBETT III, Director since 2005, Age 53

Managing Director, Russell Reynolds Associates since December 1989, **Co-Area Manager** of the Chicago office since December 1994, and **Co-Leader** of the firm's CEO/Board Services Practice since December 1995 (Worldwide recruiting firm).

FREDERICK H. WADDELL, Director since 2006, Age 55

Chief Executive Officer since January 2008 and **President** since February 2006 of the **Corporation and the Bank**, Chief Operating Officer of the Corporation and the Bank from February 2006 to January 2008, and Executive Vice President of the Bank from September 1997 to February 2006 and of the

Edgar Filing: NORTHERN TRUST CORP - Form PRE 14A

Corporation from March 2003 to February 2006.

Mr. Waddell is a Class A Director of the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago.

Table of Contents

BOARD AND BOARD COMMITTEE INFORMATION

Audit Committee

Current Members: Directors Mooney (Chair), Bynoe, Chabraja, Jain, and McCormack

Number of Meetings in 2008: Six

Oversight Activities:

Appoints and evaluates the performance and independence of the Corporation's independent registered public accounting firm

Meets with internal audit representatives; receives and discusses the internal audit program and the results of examinations

Meets with the Corporation's independent registered public accounting firm; reviews and discusses their reports issued with respect to the Corporation's annual consolidated financial statements and the internal financial control structure and procedures for financial reporting

The board of directors has determined that, in its opinion, all current members of the Corporation's Audit Committee are independent directors as defined by The Nasdaq Stock Market, Inc. (Nasdaq), and that Messrs. Chabraja, McCormack, and Mooney, and Ms. Bynoe, are audit committee financial experts, as defined by the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC).

The board of directors of the Corporation has adopted a formal charter, most recently revised in October 2008, that governs the duties and responsibilities of the Audit Committee. The Audit Committee charter is available on the Corporation's website at www.northerntrust.com and available in print to any stockholder who requests it in writing from the Corporation's Corporate Secretary at the address indicated on the first page of this proxy statement.

Business Risk Committee

Current Members: Directors McCormack (Chair), Bynoe, Smith, Sosa, and Tribbett

Number of Meetings in 2008: Five

Oversight Activities:

Reviews the risks inherent in the businesses of the Corporation and its subsidiaries in the following categories: credit risk, market and liquidity risk, fiduciary risk, operational risk, and the regulatory component of compliance risk

Reviews the process by which risk-based capital requirements are determined, including the internal capital adequacy assessment process for the Corporation and its subsidiaries

The board of directors has determined that, in its opinion, all current members of the Corporation's Business Risk Committee are independent directors as defined by Nasdaq.

The board of directors of the Corporation has adopted a formal charter, most recently revised in November 2008, that governs the duties and responsibilities of the Business Risk Committee. The Business Risk Committee charter is available on the Corporation's website at www.northerntrust.com and available in print to any stockholder who requests it in writing from the Corporation's Corporate Secretary at the address indicated on the first page of this proxy statement.

Table of Contents

Business Strategy Committee

Current Members: Directors Rowe (Chair), Jain, Kelly, Smith, and Sosa

Number of Meetings in 2008: Four

Oversight Activities:

- Reviews the strategic direction of the Corporation
- Reviews the strategic initiatives of the business units of the Corporation and its subsidiaries
- Reviews the management of strategic risk for the Corporation and its subsidiaries

The board of directors has determined that, in its opinion, all current members of the Corporation's Business Strategy Committee are independent directors as defined by Nasdaq.

The board of directors of the Corporation has adopted a formal charter, most recently revised in April 2005, that governs the duties and responsibilities of the Business Strategy Committee. The Business Strategy Committee charter is available on the Corporation's website at www.northerntrust.com and available in print to any stockholder who requests it in writing from the Corporation's Corporate Secretary at the address indicated on the first page of this proxy statement.

Compensation and Benefits Committee

Current Members: Directors Crown (Chair), Chabraja, Mooney, Smithburg, and Tribbett

Number of Meetings in 2008: Five

Oversight Activities:

- Meets with internal human resources representatives and outside consultants and reviews compensation policy and executive compensation levels
- Recommends stock and cash benefit and incentive plans, programs, and payments
- Administers certain stock and cash benefit and incentive plans and programs
- Oversees management development and succession planning
- Evaluates the executive incentive compensation programs of the Corporation to determine whether such programs encourage unnecessary and excessive risks that threaten the value of the Corporation

The board of directors has determined that, in its opinion, all current members of the Corporation's Compensation and Benefits Committee are independent directors as defined by Nasdaq.

The board of directors of the Corporation has adopted a formal charter, most recently revised in February 2009, that governs the duties and responsibilities of the Compensation and Benefits Committee. The Compensation and Benefits Committee charter is available on the Corporation's website at www.northerntrust.com and available in print to any stockholder who requests it in writing from the Corporation's Corporate Secretary at the address indicated on the first page of this proxy statement.

For information about the role of the Committee and management in the consideration and determination of executive and director compensation, please refer to the section entitled "Compensation Discussion and Analysis - Other Issues Relevant to Executive Compensation - Roles of the Committee, Management and Consultants" presented elsewhere in this proxy statement.

Table of Contents

The Committee retained Hewitt Associates, LLC, a nationally recognized compensation and benefits consulting firm, to provide information regarding competitive market data (including information with respect to the Corporation's peer group companies), relevant legal and regulatory requirements, and corporate best practices in the compensation and benefits area. Representatives of Hewitt attended all meetings of the Committee at which 2008 executive compensation decisions were made.

Corporate Governance Committee

Current Members: Directors Kelly (Chair), Crown, Rowe, Smith, and Smithburg

Number of Meetings in 2008: Four

Oversight Activities:

- Evaluates and recommends candidates for nomination to the board of directors
- Recommends structure and membership of board committees
- Considers candidates for the board recommended by stockholders

The board of directors has determined that, in its opinion, all current members of the Corporation's Corporate Governance Committee are independent directors as defined by Nasdaq.

The board of directors of the Corporation has adopted a formal charter, most recently revised in November 2006, that governs the duties and responsibilities of the Corporate Governance Committee. The Corporate Governance Committee charter is available on the Corporation's website at www.northerntrust.com and available in print to any stockholder who requests it in writing from the Corporation's Corporate Secretary at the address indicated on the first page of this proxy statement.

Executive Committee

Current Members: Directors Osborn (Chair), Crown, Kelly, McCormack, Mooney, Rowe, and Waddell

Number of Meetings in 2008: Two

Oversight Activities:

- Empowered to act for the board of directors, to the full extent permitted by law, between meetings of the board of directors

The board of directors has determined that, in its opinion, all current members of the Corporation's Executive Committee, other than Messrs. Osborn and Waddell, are independent directors as defined by Nasdaq.

The board of directors of the Corporation adopted a formal charter in November 2006 that governs the duties and responsibilities of the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee charter is available on the Corporation's website at www.northerntrust.com and available in print to any stockholder who requests it in writing from the Corporation's Corporate Secretary at the address indicated on the first page of this proxy statement.

Meetings

The Corporation's board of directors held nine meetings during 2008. All persons who were directors during 2008 attended at least 75% of these meetings and meetings of committees on which they served. The Corporation has a Corporate Governance Guideline that states that all directors are expected to attend the annual meeting of the Corporation's stockholders. All of the directors attended the 2008 annual meeting of stockholders.

Table of Contents

CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

Director Independence

The board of directors has determined that, in its opinion, each person who served as a director of the Corporation in 2008 and each director nominee for 2009 (other than William A. Osborn, the Chairman of the Corporation and the Bank, and Frederick H. Waddell, the Chief Executive Officer and President of the Corporation and the Bank) are independent directors as defined under applicable Nasdaq rules. In making its determinations of independence, the board considered certain categorical standards of independence as set forth in stock exchange corporate governance rules and all relevant facts and circumstances to ascertain whether there was any relationship between a director or director nominee and the Corporation that, in the opinion of the board, would interfere with the exercise of independent judgment in carrying out the responsibilities of the director, or any material relationship with the Corporation (either directly or as a partner, stockholder or officer of an organization that has a relationship with the Corporation). The board also considered any transactions, relationships, or arrangements between the Corporation and each director of the Corporation in 2008 or director nominee for 2009 either (i) directly or (ii) indirectly through an immediate family member of the director or director nominee, or an entity in which the director or director nominee is employed or is a general partner or principal or in a similar position or in which the director or director nominee and all other related persons (as defined below under Related Person Transaction Policy) has a 10% or greater beneficial ownership interest (all relationships under (i) and (ii), collectively, the Relationships). In 2008, these Relationships included:

The Corporation's payment for electric utility services provided directly or indirectly to the Corporation by Exelon Corporation, at which Director Rowe serves as Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, and Commonwealth Edison Company, a subsidiary of Exelon Corporation;

The Corporation's payment of fees related to investment banking activities under agreements with Loop Capital Markets, LLC, at which Director Bynoe's spouse is a Managing Director;

The Corporation's contribution of conference sponsorship fees to Kellogg School of Management, Northwestern University, at which Director Jain serves as Dean; and

The following types of services provided by the Corporation or its subsidiaries in the ordinary course of business in connection with the Relationships (as identified by the name of the applicable current director, or director nominee):

Trust and related services	Kelly, McCormack, Mooney, Rowe, Smith
Credit services and other banking services (e.g., deposits, checking, treasury management)	Bynoe, Chabraja, Crown, Kelly, McCormack, Mooney, Rowe, Smith, Smithburg, Sosa, Tribbett
Investment management and related services	Crown, Kelly, McCormack, Mooney, Rowe, Smith, Smithburg
Asset servicing and related services	Chabraja, Crown, McCormack, Rowe, Smith, Smithburg, Sosa
Qualified retirement plan services	Chabraja, Smith
Brokerage services	Bynoe, Chabraja, Crown, Jain, McCormack, Rowe, Smith, Smithburg
Securities lending, foreign exchange, and related services	Chabraja, Rowe, Smith

Table of Contents

In each case, the Corporation's directors and director nominees, other than Mr. Osborn and Mr. Waddell, have been determined to be independent under the categorical standards considered by the board, which are attached as *Exhibit A* to this proxy statement. A copy of the categorical standards is also available on the Corporation's website at www.northerntrust.com.

Executive Sessions

The independent directors of the Corporation meet in executive sessions separate from management at least twice a year. The independent directors met in such executive sessions six times during 2008. The chairman of the Corporate Governance Committee or, in his or her absence, the chairman of the Audit, Compensation and Benefits, Business Risk, or Business Strategy Committee, presides at the executive sessions of the independent directors.

Corporate Governance Guidelines

The Corporation has had Corporate Governance Guidelines in place since May 2000. These guidelines were most recently revised in January 2009. The Corporate Governance Committee is responsible for reviewing and reassessing, at least annually, the adequacy of the Corporate Governance Guidelines and recommending any changes to the board of directors for its approval. The Corporate Governance Guidelines embody many of the Corporation's long-standing practices and incorporate new policies and procedures that strengthen its commitment to corporate governance best practices. A copy of the Corporate Governance Guidelines is available on the Corporation's website at www.northerntrust.com and available in print to any stockholder who requests it in writing from the Corporation's Corporate Secretary at the address indicated on the first page of this proxy statement.

Director Nominations and Qualifications

The Corporate Governance Committee is responsible for considering, evaluating, and recommending candidates for director. The Committee will consider persons nominated by stockholders in accordance with the nomination procedures specified in the Corporation's by-laws or otherwise recommended by stockholders. The Corporation's by-laws provide that stockholders may propose director nominations only if they give timely written notice, directed to the attention of the Corporation's Corporate Secretary at the address indicated on the first page of this proxy statement, not less than 90 days and not more than 120 days prior to the anniversary date of the prior year's annual meeting. The notice must contain the information required by the by-laws. Stockholders may recommend candidates for director by following the procedures for communicating with directors described below under Communications with the Board and Independent Directors. The Committee uses the same process for considering, evaluating, and recommending director candidates, regardless of whether a candidate is recommended by a stockholder, director, officer, third-party search firm, or any other person or group.

In its evaluation of director candidates, including persons recommended by stockholders, the Committee considers the factors specified in the Corporation's Corporate Governance Guidelines, including the nature of the expertise and experience required for the performance of the duties of a director of a corporation engaged in the Corporation's business and such matters as: relevant business and industry experience; professional background; age; current employment; community service and other board service. The Committee also considers the racial, ethnic, and gender diversity of the board in assessing candidates. The Committee seeks to identify, as candidates for director, persons with a

Table of Contents

reputation for and record of integrity and good business judgment who (i) have experience in positions with a high degree of responsibility and are leaders in the organizations with which they are affiliated, (ii) are free from conflicts of interest that could interfere with a director's duties to the Corporation and its stockholders, and (iii) are willing and able to make the necessary commitment of time and attention required for effective board service. The Committee also takes into account a candidate's level of financial literacy, and monitors the mix of skills and experience of the directors in order to assess whether the board has the necessary tools to perform its oversight function effectively. A full listing of the characteristics and qualifications of director candidates considered by the Committee is set forth in the Corporate Governance Guidelines on the Corporation's website at www.northerntrust.com. Following its evaluation process, the Committee recommends its director nominees to the full board of directors, and the board makes the final determination of director nominees based on its consideration of the Committee's recommendation and report.

Communications with the Board and Independent Directors

Stockholders and other interested persons may communicate any concerns they may have regarding the Corporation, including recommendations of candidates for director, to the board of directors or to any member of the board of directors by writing to them at the following address:

Northern Trust Corporation

Attention: [Board of Directors]/[Board Member]

c/o Corporate Secretary

Northern Trust Corporation

50 South LaSalle Street, M-9

Chicago, Illinois 60603

Communications directed to the independent directors should be sent to the attention of the Chairman of the Corporate Governance Committee, c/o the Corporate Secretary, at the address indicated above.

Any stockholder or other interested person who has a particular concern regarding accounting, internal accounting controls, or other audit matters that he or she wishes to bring to the attention of the Audit Committee of the board of directors may communicate those concerns to the Audit Committee or its Chairman, using the address indicated above.

A majority of the independent directors of the Corporation has approved procedures with respect to the receipt, review and processing of, and any response to, written communications sent by stockholders and other interested persons to the board of directors. Any written communication regarding accounting, internal accounting controls, or other matters are processed in accordance with procedures adopted by the Audit Committee.

Code of Business Conduct and Ethics

The board of directors of the Corporation has adopted a Code of Business Conduct and Ethics, most recently revised in November 2008, to:

Promote honest and ethical conduct, including fair dealing and the ethical handling of actual or apparent conflicts of interest;

Table of Contents

Promote full, fair, accurate, timely, and understandable public disclosure about the Corporation;

Promote compliance with applicable laws and governmental rules, codes, and regulations wherever the Corporation does business;

Ensure the protection of the Corporation's legitimate business interests; and

Deter wrongdoing.

The Code satisfies applicable SEC and Nasdaq requirements and applies to all directors, officers (including the Corporation's principal executive officer, principal financial officer, principal accounting officer and controller), and employees of the Corporation and its subsidiaries. A copy of the Code is available on the Corporation's website at www.northerntrust.com. The Corporation intends to disclose any amendments to the Code, and all waivers from the Code for directors and executive officers, by posting such information on its website.

Related Person Transaction Policy

The board of directors of the Corporation, through its Audit Committee, has adopted the Northern Trust Corporation Policy and Procedures with Respect to Related Person Transactions (the RPT Policy), which was most recently revised in February 2008. The RPT Policy governs the review, approval, or ratification of transactions between the Corporation or its subsidiaries and any related persons. Related persons means the Corporation's directors, nominees for director, executive officers, greater than five percent beneficial owners, members of their immediate family, and any firm, corporation, or other entity in which any of the foregoing persons is employed or is a general partner or principal or in a similar position or in which such person and all other related persons has a 10% or greater beneficial interest.

The RPT Policy provides that the Corporation may undertake certain pre-approved related person transactions in the ordinary course of business without specific review, approval or ratification, including the following pre-approved transactions:

An extension of credit to a related person that is made in the ordinary course of business on substantially the same terms, including interest rates and collateral, as those prevailing at the time for comparable loans with persons not related to the lender and does not involve more than the normal risk of collectibility or present other unfavorable features;

Certain other ordinary course transactions in which the Corporation or its subsidiaries provide products or services to related persons on terms no less favorable to the Corporation and its subsidiaries as those prevailing at the time for comparable services to non-related persons;

A transaction involving services as a bank depository of funds, transfer agent, registrar, trustee under a trust indenture, or similar services;

A transaction where the rates or charges involved in the transaction are determined by competitive bids, or the transaction involves the rendering of services as a common or contract carrier, or public utility, at rates or charges fixed in conformity with law or governmental authority;

Table of Contents

A transaction with another company at which a related person's only relationship is as an employee, a limited partner or a beneficial owner of less than 10% of the company's outstanding common equity, provided the aggregate amount of the transaction does not exceed the greater of \$1 million or 2% of the other company's annual revenues;

Certain charitable contributions, grants or pledges of grants or contributions to organizations for which a related person serves as an executive officer where the aggregate amount of the transaction does not exceed the lesser of \$1 million or 2% of the organization's total annual receipts;

Transactions where the related person's interest arises solely from the ownership of the Corporation's common stock and all stockholders receive the same benefit on a pro rata basis; and

Compensation paid to executive officers and directors of the Corporation that is reported in the Corporation's proxy statement or otherwise approved or recommended by the Compensation and Benefits Committee.

Any other related person transaction involving amounts in excess of \$120,000 must be approved or ratified by the Audit Committee or the Audit Committee Chair. In considering related person transactions, the Audit Committee or the Audit Committee Chair shall consider all relevant facts and circumstances and shall approve only those related person transactions that are in, or otherwise not inconsistent with, the best interests of the Corporation and its subsidiaries. In addition, the RPT Policy provides that (i) no immediate family member of an executive officer (other than a child, stepchild or parent of an executive officer, none of whom may be hired under the Corporation's human resources policies) shall be hired by the Corporation and (ii) no immediate family member of a director shall be hired by the Corporation, in each case, unless the employment arrangement is reviewed and approved by the Compensation and Benefits Committee.

In 2008, directors, director nominees, and executive officers of the Corporation, as well as their immediate family members, and any firm, corporation, or other entity in which the director, director nominee, or executive officer is employed or is a general partner or principal or in a similar position or in which the director, director nominee, or executive officer and all other related persons has a 10% or greater beneficial ownership interest, were clients of, and engaged in the types of transactions identified in the bullet points above with, the Corporation and its subsidiaries. These transactions were undertaken in the ordinary course of business and on terms no less favorable to the Corporation and its subsidiaries as those prevailing at the time for comparable transactions with non-related persons. None of these transactions or any transactions in which the Corporation or its subsidiaries sold or purchased products and services were material to the Corporation or the other entity involved. Any extensions of credit to directors and executive officers of the Corporation were permitted under the provisions of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.

Compensation and Benefits Committee Interlocks and Insider Participation

The Compensation and Benefits Committee of the board of directors consists of Directors Crown (Chair), Chabraja, Mooney, Smithburg, and Tribbett. None of the members of the Compensation and Benefits Committee is or ever was an officer or employee of the Corporation or any of its subsidiaries. For information relating to any transactions between members of the Compensation and Benefits Committee and the Corporation, please refer to Related Person Transaction Policy above.

Table of Contents**SECURITY OWNERSHIP OF THE BOARD AND MANAGEMENT**

The following table shows the beneficial ownership of the Corporation's common stock for each director and director nominee, each executive officer named in the Summary Compensation Table elsewhere in this proxy statement, and all directors and executive officers of the Corporation as a group, as of January 1, 2009, unless otherwise indicated.

Name	Common Stock (1) and Stock Units (2) Owned as of January 1, 2009				No. of Performance Stock Units
	No. of Shares	Percent of Class	No. of Stock Units	No. of Performance Stock Units	
Sherry S. Barrat	325,625(3)	*	17,136	38,327	
Linda Walker Bynoe	2,000	*	4,836		
Nicholas D. Chabraja	5,000	*	2,652		
Susan Crown	12,400	*	6,423		
Steven L. Fradkin	322,823(3)	*	24,187	38,327	
Dipak C. Jain	1,000	*	12,826		
Arthur L. Kelly	88,866	*	24,699		
Robert C. McCormack	6,398,883(4)(5)	2.87	7,578		
Edward J. Mooney	7,200	*	10,502		
William L. Morrison	440,712(3)	*	39,549	38,967	
William A. Osborn	2,319,454(3)	1.04	177,360	82,257	
John W. Rowe	1,000	*	17,582		
Harold B. Smith	9,554,881(4)(5)	4.28	1,713		
William D. Smithburg	8,300	*	65,420		
Enrique J. Sosa	1,000	*	4,592		
Timothy J. Theriault	330,719(3)	*	37,514	38,967	
Charles A. Tribbett III	1,000	*	10,051		
Frederick H. Waddell	579,869(3)	*	72,381	79,586	
All directors and executive officers as a group	17,727,038(3)(4)(5)	7.94	613,577	465,488	

* Less than one percent of the outstanding common stock.

(1) The information contained in this table was furnished to the Corporation by the individuals named in the table and reflects the SEC's definition of beneficial ownership. Except as noted below, the nature of beneficial ownership for shares shown in this table is sole voting and/or investment power (including shares as to which spouses and minor children of the individuals covered by this table have such power).

(2) All stock units shown in the table are vested, except for (i) 1,176 unvested stock units held by each non-employee director, (ii) the following unvested stock units held by the named executive officers:

Table of Contents

Ms. Barrat, 14,733 unvested stock units; Mr. Fradkin, 21,899 unvested stock units; Mr. Morrison, 32,039 unvested stock units; Mr. Osborn, 78,724 unvested stock units; Mr. Theriault, 29,039 unvested stock units; Mr. Waddell, 58,532 unvested stock units; and all directors and executive officers as a group, 320,605 unvested stock units, and (iii) all performance stock units granted to the Corporation's executive officers in February 2008, as described in the Compensation Discussion and Analysis Principal Elements of the Corporation's Executive Compensation Program Equity Compensation Equity Compensation Determinations Performance Stock Units. Stock units and performance stock units held by directors and executive officers do not have voting rights. Stock units held by the non-employee directors include stock units representing deferred cash compensation which, when paid, will be paid out in cash based upon the then current value of the common stock. See Director Compensation Deferral of Compensation for additional information.

(3) The number of shares shown includes shares issuable pursuant to stock options exercisable within 60 days after January 1, 2009, as follows: Ms. Barrat, 259,065 shares; Mr. Fradkin, 266,628 shares; Mr. Morrison, 377,304 shares; Mr. Osborn, 1,609,712 shares; Mr. Theriault, 274,592 shares; Mr. Waddell, 418,220 shares; and all directors and executive officers as a group, 4,209,230 shares.

(4) Robert C. McCormack, as co-trustee with the Bank, Harold B. Smith and one other individual, share voting and investment power for 3,818,763 shares or 1.71% of the outstanding common stock. As co-trustee with the Bank, Mr. McCormack shares voting and investment power for 2,138,955 or 1.0% of the outstanding common stock. With respect to 104,796 shares or .05% of the outstanding common stock, he serves as co-trustee with the Bank and has sole voting and investment power. In addition, Mr. McCormack has sole voting and investment power as to 315,518 shares or .14% of the outstanding common stock that are held in a trust.

(5) Harold B. Smith serves as co-trustee and shares voting and investment power with various family members and the Bank with respect to 5,565,095 shares or 2.5% of the outstanding common stock. As co-trustee with the Bank, Robert C. McCormack and one other individual, he shares voting and investment power for 3,818,763 shares or 1.71% of the outstanding common stock. With respect to 47,852 shares or .02% of the outstanding common stock, he serves as co-trustee and shares voting and investment power with other family members. Mr. Smith also has sole voting and investment power over 109,571 shares or .05% of the outstanding common stock held in a trust.

Section 16(a) Beneficial Ownership Reporting Compliance

Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 requires the Corporation's directors and executive officers, and beneficial owners of more than 10% of the Corporation's stock, if any, to file with the SEC initial reports of ownership and reports of changes in ownership of any securities of the Corporation. Copies of these reports must also be provided to the Corporation.

To the Corporation's knowledge, all the Corporation's directors, executive officers, and beneficial owners of more than 10% of the Corporation's stock made on a timely basis all filings required during 2008, except (i) Mr. Timothy P. Moen, an executive officer of the Corporation, filed a late Form 4 to report a sale of shares of the Corporation's common stock in the Corporation's Common Stock Fund and the former ESOP Fund of TIP, and (ii) Mr. William A. Osborn, the Chairman of the Corporation, filed a late Form 4 to report the forfeiture of stock units, the acquisition of which had previously been reported. In making these disclosures, the Corporation relied on copies of the reports provided to the Corporation and written representations from reporting persons that no other reports were required.

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

The following table includes information concerning common stock ownership of stockholders who were the beneficial owners of more than 5% of the outstanding shares of the Corporation's common stock as of January 1, 2009, unless otherwise indicated.

Common Stock		
Owned (1) as of January 1, 2009		
Name and Address	No. of Shares	Percent of Class
Barclays Global Investors, NA 45 Fremont Street, San Francisco, California 94105	11,176,242(2)	5.01%

(1) The information contained in this table was furnished to the Corporation by the persons named in the table and reflects the SEC's definition of beneficial ownership. The nature of beneficial ownership of the holdings shown in this table is set forth in note 2 below.

(2) Barclays Global Investors, NA and certain of its affiliates beneficially own 11,176,242 shares or 5.01% of the outstanding common stock in trust accounts for the economic benefit of the beneficiaries of those accounts. They hold sole voting power over 9,623,047 shares or 4.31% of the outstanding common stock and sole investment power over 11,176,242 shares or 5.01% of the outstanding common stock. Barclays Global Investors, NA itself beneficially owns 6,813,765 shares or 3.05% of the outstanding common stock. No affiliate of Barclays Global Investors, NA individually beneficially owns more than 1.21% of the outstanding common stock.

In addition, as of January 1, 2009, the Bank and its affiliates individually acted as sole or co-fiduciary with respect to trusts and other fiduciary accounts which owned, held or controlled through intermediaries in the aggregate 22,561,563 shares or 10.1% of the outstanding common stock over which the Bank and its affiliates had, directly or indirectly, sole or shared voting power and/or sole or shared investment power. No single trust or other fiduciary account held a beneficial ownership interest in excess of 5%. Of these shares, the Bank and its affiliates had sole voting power with respect to 8,484,965 shares or 3.8% of the outstanding common stock, and they shared voting power with respect to 12,084,868 shares or 5.41% of the outstanding common stock. They had sole investment power with respect to 3,798,569 shares or 1.7% of the outstanding common stock, and they shared investment power with respect to 11,841,487 shares or 5.3% of the outstanding common stock.

Northern Trust directors and employees as a group beneficially owned over 10.5% of the Corporation's common stock as of January 1, 2009. In addition, the Corporation estimates that at least 2.2% of the Corporation's common stock was beneficially owned by Northern Trust retirees as of January 1, 2009.

Table of Contents

EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION

COMPENSATION AND BENEFITS COMMITTEE REPORT

The Compensation and Benefits Committee of the board of directors hereby furnishes the following report to the stockholders of the Corporation in accordance with rules adopted by the Securities and Exchange Commission.

The Compensation and Benefits Committee states that it has reviewed and discussed with management the Corporation's Compensation Discussion and Analysis contained in this proxy statement.

Based upon this review and discussion, the Compensation and Benefits Committee recommended to the board of directors that the Compensation Discussion and Analysis be included in this proxy statement.

Section 111(b)(2)(A) of the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act requires the Compensation and Benefits Committee to conduct, in conjunction with a senior risk officer of the Corporation, a review of the incentive compensation arrangements in place between the Corporation and its Senior Executive Officers (as defined for purposes of the Act, the "SEOs").

The Compensation and Benefits Committee certifies that it has reviewed the SEO incentive compensation arrangements with the senior risk officer of the Corporation and has made reasonable efforts to ensure that such arrangements do not encourage the SEOs to take unnecessary and excessive risks that threaten the value of the Corporation.

This report is submitted on behalf of the members of the Compensation and Benefits Committee:

Susan Crown, Chair

Nicholas D. Chabraja

Edward J. Mooney

William D. Smithburg

Charles A. Tribbett III

Table of Contents

COMPENSATION DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

IMPACT OF THE EMERGENCY ECONOMIC STABILIZATION ACT AND THE AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT

On October 3, 2008, the United States Congress enacted the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008 (EESA), under which the U.S. Treasury is granted broad authority to take a range of actions for the purpose of stabilizing and providing liquidity to the U.S. financial markets. Pursuant to this authority, the U.S. Treasury established a voluntary Capital Purchase Program (CPP) under the Troubled Asset Relief Program (TARP) to purchase up to \$250 billion of senior preferred shares and warrants of qualifying financial institutions that elect to participate. In November 2008, as part of the CPP, the Corporation sold to the U.S. Treasury preferred shares and warrants for an aggregate purchase price of \$1.576 billion in cash.

EESA and the investment agreements pursuant to which the U.S Treasury acquired the Corporation's preferred stock under the CPP contained a number of restrictions relating to the compensation of CEOs of a financial institution participating in the CPP. On February 17, 2009, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) was signed into law. ARRA includes expanded and additional restrictions and limitations on executive compensation for financial institutions receiving financial assistance under TARP, including the Corporation as a result of its participation in the CPP. The restrictions and limitations contained in EESA and ARRA have and can be expected to continue to impact the Corporation's compensation practices so long as the CPP investment is held by the U.S. Treasury. The specific impact of the restrictions and limitations is currently uncertain, as a number of the provisions remain subject to the issuance of regulations by the U.S. Treasury. The Corporation is continuing to assess the impact of the new restrictions and limitations on its compensation practices and will assess and comply with applicable regulations issued by the U.S. Treasury when available. A summary of the more significant restrictions established by EESA and ARRA is set forth under the heading Other Issues Relevant To Executive Compensation EESA and ARRA beginning on page 38 of this proxy statement.

EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION PHILOSOPHY

The Corporation's executive compensation program is designed to attract, motivate, and retain individuals who will contribute to the Corporation's success and the creation of stockholder value.

The Corporation emphasizes total compensation in establishing its executive compensation levels, with each element of total compensation serving a specific purpose. Total compensation consists principally of cash compensation (base salaries and annual cash incentives), equity compensation (stock options, restricted stock units, and performance stock units), and retirement benefits. Cash compensation rewards short-term performance, typically the annual financial and non-financial performance of the Corporation and its business units. The Corporation uses equity compensation to help ensure that a significant portion of the executive's total compensation is tied to the longer-term performance of the Corporation's common stock. In the case of cash compensation and equity compensation alike, the Corporation retains the flexibility to recognize and reward superior corporate, business unit, and individual performance by differentiating the awards made to individual executives. The retirement program provides post-employment financial security based on length of service by executives and other employees with the Corporation.

Table of Contents

The Corporation seeks to further the following core values in the design of its executive compensation program:

Executive compensation should be performance based. Significant short-term and longer-term financial rewards are linked to the Corporation's success as measured by various financial and non-financial performance criteria determined by the Compensation and Benefits Committee (as used in this section, the Committee) and evaluated in light of the prevailing economic environment generally, and the environment in the financial services industry particularly. A significant portion of the executive officers' cash and equity compensation is variable and depends on corporate, business unit, and/or individual performance.

Executive compensation should be stockholder-aligned. The Corporation's executive compensation program emphasizes equity incentive compensation in order to align more sharply the executive officers' interests with those of the Corporation's stockholders. The use of restricted stock units, performance stock units, and stock options is designed to encourage and motivate executive officers to act as owners with an equity stake in the Corporation.

Executive compensation should be competitive. The Corporation's executive compensation program is designed to compensate individuals at levels that are competitive with executives holding similar positions at financial services organizations with operations comparable to those of the Corporation, adjusted as necessary to reflect the relative financial and operating performance of the Corporation. As a point of reference for purposes of this competitive comparison, the Committee reviews information concerning a specified group of peer companies in its annual review of compensation. For 2008, the 11 companies comprising the Corporation's peer group were:

The Bank of New York Mellon Corporation, Inc.
 Fifth Third Bancorp
 The PNC Financial Services Group Inc.
 SunTrust Banks, Inc.
 Wachovia Corporation**
 U.S. Bancorp

Comerica Incorporated
 Key Corp
 National City Corporation*
 State Street Corporation
 Wells Fargo & Company

* Effective December 31, 2008, National City Corporation was merged with and into The PNC Financial Services Group, Inc.

** Effective December 31, 2008, Wachovia Corporation was merged with and into Wells Fargo & Company.

All of these companies are included in the Keefe, Bruyette & Woods Bank Index (KBW Index), a market-capitalization-weighted bank stock index used by the Corporation in the performance graph presented in the Corporation's 2008 Annual Report to Stockholders. The Corporation's profile and business model are sufficiently unique that a rigid and inflexible adherence to peer-based financial measures and compensation practices does not sufficiently capture the particularities of the Corporation's business or the unique challenges faced by its executive officers. Nevertheless, the Corporation believes that the companies listed in the above peer group fairly represent its principal competition for executive talent and are an appropriate group of companies against which to gauge the competitiveness of the Corporation's executive compensation program.

Table of Contents

The exercise of discretion by the Committee in the setting of the various elements of compensation also is an important feature of the Corporation's compensation philosophy. The Corporation believes it is important that the Committee have sufficient flexibility to respond to (i) the Corporation's unique circumstances; (ii) prevailing market trends; (iii) the rapidly evolving financial and regulatory environment in which the Corporation operates; and (iv) the Corporation's use of cross-functioning of executive assignments and cross-training as a matter of executive development and succession planning. The Corporation also believes it is in the best interest of the Corporation and its stockholders that the Committee have sufficient discretion to establish performance goals and objectives recognizing and rewarding extraordinary individual performance. These may or may not directly affect the Corporation's achievement of specific financial metrics for a particular year relative to its peer companies, but are nevertheless important to long range growth and the enhancement of stockholder value.

The Committee determines total compensation and each element of cash and equity compensation for all named executive officers of the Corporation. The named executive officers of the Corporation for 2008 are those shown on the Summary Compensation Table on page 47 of this proxy statement. William A. Osborn, the Chairman of the Corporation, retired as an executive officer of the Corporation effective November 12, 2008. He is included as a named executive officer in this proxy statement with respect to his service and compensation as an executive officer until the effective date of his retirement. Mr. Osborn's compensation for services as Chairman of the Corporation and a non-employee director following his November 12, 2008 retirement date are described under Director Compensation beginning on page 71 of this proxy statement. The CEOs referenced in the Compensation and Benefits Committee Report on page 20 of this proxy statement are the named executive officers, excluding Mr. Osborn.

In determining the compensation of each named executive officer, the Committee relies upon the following types of information:

Total Compensation Strategy Committee Guidelines The Committee has established target pay levels for each element of cash and equity compensation (the Committee Guidelines). The Committee reviews and updates the Committee Guidelines periodically, based in part on its review of comparative compensation information concerning the peer group listed above. The Committee Guidelines provide base salary ranges for the Corporation's Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Chairman (if an employee of the Corporation) and the other named executive officers, together with annual cash incentive and equity compensation ranges expressed as a percentage of base salary. The level of total compensation and of each element of compensation set forth in the Committee Guideline ranges generally reflects competitive pay levels, as compared to the comparative peer group data available to the Committee, as well as internal pay equity among comparable executive officer positions within the Management Group.

Corporate performance The Committee reviews and evaluates overall corporate performance by considering various measures, including the Corporation's operating earnings as compared to corporate and business unit objectives, and stock price performance and credit ratings as compared to the performance of the companies in the KBW Index with respect to those measures. The Committee also takes account of the Corporation's performance against the Corporation's long-term targets of earnings growth per share of 10-12%, revenue growth of 8-10%, return on common equity of 16-18%, and positive operating leverage. The Committee reviews all of these measures of performance in light of the generally prevailing economic environment.

Table of Contents

The CEO's recommendations The CEO makes recommendations with respect to base salary, annual cash incentive, equity compensation, and total compensation for each named executive officer other than the CEO and the Chairman (if an employee of the Corporation). These recommendations are based on the CEO's assessment of the named executive officer's performance as compared to business unit and individual performance goals established by the CEO for each business unit and each named executive officer, other than the Chairman (if an employee) and the CEO. The Committee generally takes greater account of these recommendations with respect to base salary and annual cash incentive determinations, than with respect to equity compensation.

Business Unit and Individual Performance In the context of the CEO's recommendations, the Committee reviews various measures of business unit performance in light of the objectives for that unit, such as revenue growth, new business generation as compared to lost business, and client retention and satisfaction. The Committee also reviews measures of individual performance for each named executive officer, such as demonstrated leadership qualities and adherence to performance management and diversity guidelines.

Recommendations of the Committee's consultant The Committee reviews information concerning the peer group companies listed above provided by Hewitt Associates, LLC (Hewitt), the Committee's executive compensation consultant, including the median range for each compensation element and total compensation for executives at all such companies. Hewitt reviews this data with the Committee and makes recommendations regarding appropriate pay levels for the CEO, Chairman (if an employee of the Corporation) and other named executives.

Current and historical compensation The Committee reviews the compensation history of each named executive officer including current and historical base salary, annual cash incentive history, historical equity compensation awards, and currently outstanding equity awards.

The Committee does not evaluate or set each element of compensation independently of the other elements. Rather, the Committee adopts a holistic approach to establishing the total compensation package of each executive. Applying the core values and drawing upon the sources of information discussed above, the Committee utilizes the various elements of compensation in conjunction with each other as building blocks to construct a complete compensation package for each executive that appropriately reflects the three core design criteria of rewarding performance, ensuring alignment with stockholders and remaining responsive to competitive factors in the marketplace for executive talent. Additionally, the Committee seeks to achieve the desired proper relative alignment of pay among its executive officers while remaining mindful of its core criteria and objectives.

In reviewing measures of corporate financial performance in 2008, the Committee adjusted for the impact of an after tax benefit totaling \$153.5 million (\$.68 per share) realized by the Corporation in connection with the March 2008 initial public offering of Visa common stock. The fourth quarter of 2007 included an after tax charge of \$94.2 million (\$.42 per common share) reflecting the previously reported initial \$150.0 million pre-tax charge for accruals related to indemnifications of Visa. The after tax benefit realized in 2008 reflects a pre-tax gain of \$167.9 million on the partial redemption of Northern Trust's Visa shares in the initial public offering and a \$76.1 million offset to previously

Table of Contents

established Visa indemnification accruals and related charges. Given the extraordinary nature of the Visa-related after tax benefit, the Committee chose to focus upon operating earnings exclusive of the Visa benefit as opposed to reported earnings in its review of the Corporation's annual financial performance. In particular, the use of operating earnings impacts the Corporation's earnings growth per share for 2008 (-23.8% excluding Visa versus 7.1% including Visa) and the Corporation's return on common equity for 2008 (12.9% excluding Visa versus 16.0% including Visa).

The following table provides the Corporation's reported earnings prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles in addition to its results reflecting operating earnings in order to provide investors and others with a clearer indication of the results and trends in the Corporation's core businesses, absent Visa adjustments:

(\$ In Millions Except Per Share Data)	Year Ended	
	December 31, 2008	
	Amount	Per Share
Reported Earnings	\$ 794.8	\$ 3.47
Visa Indemnification Accrual (net of \$28.2 tax effect)	(47.9)	(.21)
Visa Initial Public Offering (net of \$62.3 tax effect)	(105.6)	(.47)
Operating Earnings	\$ 641.3	\$ 2.79

The key design features of the Corporation's executive compensation program described above have enabled the Corporation, over time, to achieve strong performance and to maintain executive leadership through identification, development, and promotion of talent from within its officer population, as evidenced by the fact that the named executive officers in this proxy statement have been employed by the Corporation for an average of 24 years. In turn, the Corporation's historical success in retaining its executive leadership has influenced the nature and scope of the Corporation's executive compensation program with respect to its use of stock options and performance stock units.

PRINCIPAL ELEMENTS OF THE CORPORATION'S EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION PROGRAM**Cash Compensation**

The Corporation pays two types of cash compensation to its named executive officers: base salaries and annual cash incentives.

Base Salaries

The Corporation believes that base salaries should provide a fixed level of annual income consistent with an executive officer's position and responsibilities, competitive pay practices, and internal equity of pay among the executive officers. Target base salary ranges for the Corporation's executive officers included in the Committee Guidelines described above are set around the approximate median of salaries for similar positions at the peer group companies listed on page 22 of this proxy statement, adjusted in the judgment of the Committee to reflect proper positioning of the salary targets for comparable roles within the Management Group. The Committee does not take a formulaic approach to the setting of the base salaries of the Corporation's named executive officers. Instead, it exercises its discretion, taking into account the target salary level set forth in the Committee Guidelines and various objective and subjective factors that it believes are relevant to a particular

Table of Contents

position and to a particular individual. In the case of each named executive officer, the Committee utilizes its discretion in setting the actual base salary and the annual adjustment of the salary relative to the target range set forth in the Committee Guidelines by evaluating each officer with respect to factors such as the following: (i) experience and qualifications of the individual executive, (ii) the executive's tenure in the position or a position of similar level, (iii) significant changes in assignment or scope of responsibility, (iv) individual performance and contributions over the prior year relative to established goals and expectations for the position, and (v) internal pay equity.

With respect to executives new to the Management Group, the Committee seeks to increase actual base salary gradually to the appropriate target pay level as the executive officer gains experience and tenure in the new position. The Committee also monitors the Committee Guidelines to ensure that the target base pay level remains appropriate. Annual base salary adjustments are generally effective April 1. Salary adjustments, if any, for promoted executives typically take effect upon the executive's promotion date and assumption of new responsibilities.

Base Salary Determinations. In 2008, the base salary for Mr. Waddell was increased to \$900,000 and the base salary of Mr. Fradkin was increased to \$550,000. None of the other named executive officers received a salary increase in 2008. This reflects the Committee's determination that the base salary levels of the other named executives had reached the target level for their respective positions.

At its February 16, 2009 meeting, the Committee determined that there would be no increase in the base salaries of the named executive officers over their 2008 levels. Effective November 12, 2008, Mr. Osborn retired as an executive officer of the Corporation and, accordingly, will not receive a base salary in 2009.

Discussion and Analysis. The increases in base salaries of two of the named executive officers for 2008 were consistent with the Corporation's compensation philosophy and the particular objectives the base salary element is intended to recognize. They also were consistent with the Corporation's overarching criteria that each element of compensation should be both competitive and performance based. The following summarizes the key factors applied by the Committee in establishing the 2008 base salaries of the named executive officers:

Mr. Waddell's salary was increased to \$900,000 effective April 1, 2008 in recognition of his promotion from President and Chief Operating Officer (COO) to President and CEO effective January 1, 2008. Mr. Waddell's promotion to CEO was part of a planned transition whereby the former Chairman and CEO, Mr. Osborn, became Chairman effective January 1, 2008. As CEO in 2008, Mr. Waddell was ultimately responsible for the performance of the Corporation. He answered to the directors, stockholders, clients, and employees of the Corporation, and to the regulatory authorities. Mr. Waddell's responsibilities were wide-ranging and included his stewardship of the Corporation, the development of short-term and long-term strategic plans, goals and objectives, the development of an effective senior management team, the positioning of the Corporation for current and future success, and effective communications with all of the Corporation's constituencies. Accordingly, in 2008, the Committee structured a compensation package for Mr. Waddell in line with the nature and scope of his job responsibilities and his accountability to the Corporation's various constituencies. The Committee also sought to compensate Mr. Waddell at a level competitive with CEOs of the financial services

Table of Contents

companies in its peer group, based in part on competitive data received annually from Hewitt and adjusted as necessary in the Committee's view to reflect, among other things, the relative financial and operating performance of the Corporation and the Corporation's peer group companies. Mr. Waddell's new salary was set slightly below the target level set in the Committee Guidelines for the CEO position, primarily reflecting his short tenure and experience in the CEO role.

Mr. Fradkin's salary was increased to \$550,000 effective April 1, 2008. This increase reflects the Committee's assessment of his performance as Chief Financial Officer. This increase brings Mr. Fradkin's salary level to the target set in the Committee Guidelines for the Chief Financial Officer position and achieves internal equity with other comparable Management Group executives whose salaries have, over time, reached this same target level.

Annual Cash Incentives

The Committee determines and approves annual cash incentives for the Corporation's executive officers under the provisions of the stockholder-approved Management Performance Plan (the "MPP"). Awards under the MPP qualify as performance based compensation under Section 162(m) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the "Code") because they are tied to the Corporation's net income results for the prior year and may not exceed the following maximum award limitations as fixed by the MPP: (i) the award for the Chairman, the CEO, or a combined Chairman and CEO position may not exceed 0.6% of consolidated net income (or approximately \$4.8 million for 2008); (ii) the award for the President, any Vice Chairman, the COO, or a combined President and COO position may not exceed 0.4% of consolidated net income (or approximately \$3.2 million for 2008); and (iii) the award for each of the other MPP participants may not exceed 0.3% of consolidated net income (or approximately \$2.4 million for 2008). The Corporation's ability to pay cash incentives to executives may be restricted during the time the U.S. Treasury maintains its investment in the Corporation's preferred stock under the CPP, subject to the issuance of regulations by the U.S. Treasury pursuant to EESA and ARRA. See "Other Issues Relevant To Executive Compensation EESA and ARRA" beginning on page 38 of this proxy statement.

In its design of the award limitations under the MPP, the Corporation sought to reflect the core values of its compensation philosophy. By establishing the minimum and maximum award opportunity as a percentage of the Corporation's net income results for the prior year, the Corporation directly ties this element of compensation to a key measure of the Corporation's performance. It also aligns the executive's incentives with those of its stockholders. The upper limit of the executive's potential award opportunity rises in direct proportion to the extent the Corporation (and the executive) produces positive operating results for the Corporation's stockholders. In establishing these opportunities, the Committee also took into account prevailing financial industry practices, as advised by its compensation consultant, in order to ensure that the award opportunities were competitive. But to emphasize the need to avoid excessive awards, the Corporation placed an upper cap on potential MPP awards. In the same vein, the MPP requires achievement of net income results in order for any awards to be granted under the MPP. If positive net income is not achieved by the Corporation, the MPP prohibits the granting of incentive awards for that year.

Within the general construct of the MPP award limitations, the Corporation also retains its discretion to react to individual performance factors and other unique circumstances, by establishing,

Table of Contents

on an annual basis, a guideline reference range of the potential award for each executive officer. The guideline reference ranges are not performance targets. Rather, they reflect the Committee's consideration of the nature and scope of the named executive officers' job responsibilities, comparative information with respect to cash bonuses paid by the peer group companies listed on page 20, and the award limitations under the MPP set forth above.

As is the case with base salaries, annual cash incentives actually awarded to the named executive officers are not tied to any specific formula. Instead, working within the confines of the guideline reference range it establishes for the particular executive officer, the Committee exercises its discretion in setting the particular award within this range based upon such factors as the Corporation's performance for the prior year, and the particular executive's tenure, historical compensation and individual performance factors. For instance, for 2008, because net income was positive for the year, the MPP would have allowed the CEO to receive an incentive cash award of up to \$4.8 million (0.6% of 794.8 million). However, based on the considerations discussed above, for 2008 the Committee established the more limited guideline range of possible award to the CEO of zero to three times base salary (approximately \$2.7 million). The Committee then exercised its discretion to set the actual award to the CEO within this guideline reference range based upon such factors as the Corporation's performance for the prior year, and the particular executive's tenure, historical compensation and individual performance.

Named executive officers may elect to have all or any portion of an annual cash incentive award deferred under the Northern Trust Corporation Deferred Compensation Plan (DCP) for a fixed term of years or until retirement. If the executive's employment terminates before the scheduled distribution date due to death, disability, or the occurrence of some other distribution event consistent with the requirements of the Code, deferred amounts will be distributed pursuant to the terms of the DCP. Upon election, amounts deferred may be invested in various funds, generally consistent with those available to all employees who participate in TIP, which is a 401(k) plan.

Annual Cash Incentive Determinations. Based on reported earnings of \$794.8 million for fiscal 2008, the maximum funding opportunity for cash incentives was \$4,768,000 for the Chairman and for the CEO and \$2,384,000 for each of the other named executive officers. Based on its evaluation of such factors as the nature and scope of the named executive officers' job responsibilities and the comparative information with respect to cash bonuses paid by the peer group companies listed on page 22, for 2008, the Committee set the guideline reference ranges for both the CEO and the Chairman (if an employee) at zero to three times base salary and the guideline reference range for all other named executive officers at zero to two times base salary.

Notwithstanding the existence of funding opportunities and the reference ranges that would have allowed incentive awards to be made under the MPP, for 2008, upon the strong recommendation of the CEO, the Committee determined that no annual cash incentive payments would be made to the CEO or to any other named executive officer.

Discussion and Analysis. In arriving at a final cash incentive award for each executive officer in any given year, the Committee considers a variety of corporate level financial and non-financial factors. The Committee also considers individual performance goals, both financial and non-financial, for the CEO and other named executive officers. These factors may include financial and operating results for a particular business unit or non-financial goals such as leadership, diversity goals, improved internal communications, and customer satisfaction.

Table of Contents

The above factors are the types of factors generally considered by the Committee in determining annual incentive awards, but performance in different years may be assessed by different criteria as determined by the Committee. For example, for 2007, the Committee granted (i) an annual cash incentive to the Chairman equal to approximately 3.9 times his base salary, (ii) an annual cash incentive to the CEO equal to approximately 2.0 times his base salary; and annual cash incentives of approximately 1.3 times base salary for the other named executive officers, based on various corporate-level and individual performance measures. By contrast, the Committee has the discretion, which it exercised in the past and again exercised this year for 2008, not to make any annual cash incentive awards to the named executive officers if circumstances in the particular year did not merit such awards, notwithstanding the positive individual accomplishments of the named executive officers.

The CEO's recommendation to grant no incentive awards for 2008, with which the Committee concurred, was based on the corporate financial results discussed above as compared to corporate and business unit objectives and the Corporation's long-term goals. Upon the urging of the CEO, the Committee considered that, while the MPP provided adequate funding based on net income for 2008 and the Corporation reported strong net earnings, operating income for 2008 was below established goals (reflecting the difficult economic conditions faced by the Corporation in 2008 and actions taken in direct response, including those customer support actions and other charges that resulted in a net loss in the third quarter), and operating leverage was negative. More importantly, as a management decision rather than a compensation action, the CEO advocated that no payment of cash incentives should be made in the current economic environment. The Committee agreed with the CEO's position, that in spite of strong earnings, it was more important to demonstrate leadership, reduce expenses and send an appropriate message to the Corporation's stockholders, its customers and its employees during the current difficult economic cycle.

Equity Compensation

The Corporation uses equity compensation to provide long-term incentives for its named executive officers. The use of equity compensation serves to align the interests of the named executive officers with those of the Corporation's stockholders. Long-term, equity-based compensation is the most significant component of overall compensation. The Corporation believes that an emphasis on long-term, equity based pay with meaningful time periods for vesting, along with stock ownership guidelines, contributes to continuity and stability within the Corporation's executive leadership. The Corporation's ability to provide certain types of equity-based compensation to executives going forward may be restricted during the time the U.S. Treasury maintains its investment in the Corporation's preferred stock under the CPP, subject to the issuance of regulations by the U.S. Treasury pursuant to EESA and ARRA. See *Other Issues Relevant To Executive Compensation EESA and AARA* beginning on page 38 of this proxy statement.

Forms of Equity Compensation Utilized. Equity compensation typically takes the form of non-qualified stock options, restricted stock units or performance stock units with all forms of equity awards settled only in common stock of the Corporation. The Amended and Restated Northern Trust Corporation 2002 Stock Plan also provides for the issuance of other types of equity-based awards, including stock awards, stock appreciation rights, and performance shares. For a further description of significant features of stock options, restricted stock units, and performance stock units, see the footnotes to the table entitled *Outstanding Equity Awards at Fiscal Year-End* beginning on page 53 of this proxy statement.

Table of Contents

Equity Compensation Determinations. For 2008, under the Committee Guidelines referred to above, the guideline dollar value of equity compensation was approximately seven times base salary for the Chairman; approximately seven times base salary for the CEO, and approximately four times base salary for the other named executive officers. For purposes of the Committee Guidelines and for communicating compensation decisions, the dollar value of equity compensation is defined as 100% of the fair market value at grant for all restricted or performance stock units and one-third of the fair market value at grant for all stock options. Equity value using these assumptions will be somewhat different than equity compensation reported under accounting rules as required elsewhere in the proxy statement. The Committee Guidelines provide the Committee with a reference for an appropriate and competitive equity award value. In addition, the Committee considers a variety of individual factors as well as internal equity to determine the actual dollar value of equity compensation for each named executive officer.

Stock Options. Stock option grants made in 2008 to the named executive officers are shown in the Grants of Plan-Based Awards table presented elsewhere in this proxy statement. The 2008 stock options vest in equal installments over a four-year vesting period ending in 2012.

As of the date of this proxy statement, no stock option grants to the named executive officers for 2009 are outstanding. In the event the Corporation redeems the senior preferred shares sold by it to the U.S. Treasury pursuant to the CPP, the Corporation may make stock option grants in 2009.

Performance Stock Units. Performance stock unit awards made in 2008 to the named executive officers are shown in the Grants of Plan-Based Awards table presented elsewhere in this proxy statement. The 2008 performance stock units vest subject to the satisfaction of a performance goal based on the Corporation's average annual earnings per share growth over the three-year period ending December 31, 2010, as follows:

Average Three-Year Earnings Per Share Growth	Percentage of Stock Units Vested
12% and above	125%
11.5%	117.5%
11%	110%
10.5%	105%
10.0%	100%
9.5%	95%
9%	90%
8.5%	82.5%
8%	75%
Less than 8%	0%

As shown, average three-year earnings per share growth below 8% will result in no vesting of any stock units; average three-year earnings per share growth of 8% will result in the vesting of 75% of the stock units (Threshold); average three-year earnings per share growth of 10% will result in the vesting of all stock units (Target); and average three-year earnings per share growth of 12% or more will result in the vesting of 125% of the stock units awarded (Maximum).

Table of Contents

The Committee selected three-year earnings per share growth as the performance measure that determines vesting of performance stock units under the 2002 Stock Plan because it believes it is the best measure of sustained, long-term corporate performance and return to stockholders. Use of earnings per share growth furthers the Corporation's core values of tying compensation to corporate and individual performance and aligning the incentives of executives with those of the stockholders. Additionally, earnings per share growth is one of the four key financial metrics that the Corporation has stressed to the investment community as a means of gauging the Corporation's long-term performance.

The Committee further enhances the link between compensation and performance in the setting of the particular Threshold, Target and Maximum performance levels set forth in the chart above. The requirement of 10% earnings per share growth in order to achieve 100% vesting of performance stock units has a direct link to the Corporation's long-term target of earnings per share growth of 10% to 12%, which is set forth on page 23 of this proxy statement and is publicized frequently to the investment community. The Committee establishes the threshold for vesting (8% earnings per share growth) and the requirement for maximum vesting (12% earnings per share growth) in a range around the 10% earnings per share growth target, but sets the maximum vesting percentage (125%) at a lower level than many companies in its peer group.

No performance stock unit awards were made in 2009 to the named executive officers.

Restricted Stock Units. No restricted stock unit awards were made in 2008 to the named executive officers. As of the date of this proxy statement, no restricted stock unit awards to the named executive officers for 2009 are outstanding. In the event the Corporation redeems the senior preferred shares sold by it to the U.S. Treasury pursuant to the CPP, the Corporation may make restricted stock unit awards in 2009.

Discussion and Analysis. The Corporation's equity compensation component of total compensation supports all three of the key criteria established by the Committee in designing the executive compensation program. Stock options and other forms of equity compensation align the interests of executives with the Corporation's stockholders by encouraging and motivating executive officers to act as owners with an equity stake in the Corporation. Additionally, consistent with the Corporation's objective of providing total compensation that is competitive for comparable positions at the Corporation's peer group companies, the Corporation reviews and considers the size, type, and mix of equity awards granted to named executive officers at its peer-group companies.

The Corporation's equity compensation element is performance based in two important respects. First, the level of the equity compensation award takes account, as described below, of an executive's particular performance, the Corporation's performance, and the contributions made by the executive to the Corporation's performance. Second, the specific forms of equity compensation utilized by the Corporation are performance based. The Corporation views stock options as inherently performance based in that the award will not provide any financial benefit to an executive unless the stock price increases following the grant of the award. Additionally, performance stock units attain value only to the extent that the associated performance goals are satisfied.

The Committee Guidelines provide a reference point against which the Committee determines the annual equity award of each named executive officer. The Committee believes that the Committee Guidelines represent a competitive and appropriate equity award level upon which to base its equity

Table of Contents

compensation decisions, primarily because they approximate equity pay levels and practices for executives holding similar positions at the peer group companies listed on page 22, as reported to the Committee by its compensation consultant. The Committee sets the actual amount of total equity compensation for each executive as an adjustment against this peer group based reference guideline based on its discretionary assessment of specific objective and subjective factors relating to the following:

the named executive officer's experience and tenure in his or her position, prior and expected individual performance and the executive's potential long-term impact on the financial success of the Corporation;

the named executive officer's strategic leadership, teamwork and individual contributions as a member of the Corporation's Management Group;

the desire to maintain internal equity in long-term incentive opportunity when compensating the senior leadership team;

the recommendations of the CEO with respect to each named executive officer other than himself and the Chairman (if an employee of the Corporation);

the recommendations of the Committee's independent compensation consultant; and

the value of equity compensation awarded to the named executive officer in prior years.

The Committee undertakes this exercise of discretion in the context of the Committee's focus on total compensation and, accordingly, takes into consideration the base salary adjustment, the annual cash incentive, and the other equity awards granted to the named executive officer. There is no formula that assigns specific weight to these factors, and the relative importance of these factors may vary year to year. In most years, as in 2008, the CEO's recommendation is a very significant factor in the setting of equity compensation for named executive officers other than the CEO and the Chairman (if an employee of the Corporation).

The following are the specific objective and subjective factors considered by the Committee in the setting of the total equity compensation of each named executive officer for 2008 at its February 2008 meeting:

The Committee considered the transition of Mr. Osborn from Chairman and CEO to Chairman. The Committee obtained information and recommendations from Hewitt, its independent consultant, concerning competitive pay levels and practices in similar transition situations and potential compensation actions for consideration. The Committee also considered the possible retirement of Mr. Osborn, his long and successful tenure as Chairman and CEO, and the value of Mr. Osborn's continued active involvement in the affairs of the Corporation. The Committee determined to award Mr. Osborn an equity award with a dollar value, as defined in the Committee Guidelines, of \$3,000,000 to be delivered in the form of non-qualified stock options vesting ratably over the first four years of a ten-year term. This award represented a substantial reduction to his 2007 equity award as Chairman and CEO but an appropriate level to address his continuing role as Chairman.

Table of Contents

The Committee considered the recommendations of Hewitt, its independent consultant, and the Committee Guidelines and awarded Mr. Waddell an annual equity award with a dollar value, as defined in the Committee Guidelines, of \$6,000,000 to be delivered half in the form of non-qualified stock options and half in the form of performance stock units. The Committee approved this award to recognize his promotion to the role of CEO and the Committee's discretionary assessment of Mr. Waddell's ability to positively impact the long-term financial success of the Corporation and its stockholders. As discussed in detail in connection with the increase in Mr. Waddell's base salary in 2008 on page 26 of this proxy statement, in setting Mr. Waddell's equity compensation, the Committee emphasized his enhanced profile and responsibilities in his new role of CEO in 2008. Mr. Waddell's equity award was slightly below the target equity award level in the Committee Guidelines but the Committee deemed it competitive and appropriate for his first year in the role of CEO.

All other named executive officers received an equity award with a value, as defined in the Committee Guidelines, of \$2,000,000. The approved award value was within but in the upper half of the established Committee Guideline range of three to four times base salary. The award reflects the Committee's discretionary assessment of the CEO's recommendation, strong earnings performance in 2007 and confidence in the strategic direction and leadership demonstrated by each of the named executive officers. In contrast to cash incentive awards, which focus more directly on short-term performance in the prior year, the equity awards reflect the Committee's emphasis on long-term corporate performance and value creation. In granting these equity awards at the Committee's February 2008 meeting, significance was placed on the fact that equity compensation is the most long-term oriented element of the Corporation's compensation program, with the ultimate value of the awards depending upon long-term growth and strong future performance. The Committee believes that the awards strike an appropriate balance of rewarding historical long-term corporate performance, while simultaneously aligning the interests of the named executive officers with the interests of the Corporation's stockholders and incentivizing the named executive officers to create long-term value and growth.

Once the total equity compensation amount for each executive officer is established as an adjustment against the peer-based reference guideline, the Committee then allocates the total dollar value among the different possible forms of awards. For 2008, the Committee allocated equity award value one-half in the form of stock options and one-half in the form of performance stock units for all named executive officers except Mr. Osborn. The Committee believes that a mix of stock options and either restricted stock units or performance stock is not only consistent with prevailing practices among its peer group but provides the most effective incentive to encourage stock price appreciation and ownership by its named executives. Mr. Osborn's equity award was delivered 100% in the form of stock options because the Committee believed that linking his incentive fully to share price appreciation was a more appropriate link to stockholder interests in his role as Chairman. In addition, because of his long tenure with the organization and his profile as a leader in the financial industry, the Committee wished to utilize stock options with a 10-year term for Mr. Osborn's equity award so that Mr. Osborn could financially benefit and be rewarded for his assistance in promoting the financial success of the Corporation both before and after his retirement as an executive officer and employee of the Corporation.

Table of Contents

Retirement Benefits

Description of Principal Retirement Benefits. The named executive officers participate in The Northern Trust Company Pension Plan (the Pension Plan) and TIP on the same terms as all other United States-based eligible employees. The named executive officers also participate in the Northern Trust Corporation Supplemental Pension Plan (Supplemental Pension Plan) and the Northern Trust Corporation Supplemental Thrift-Incentive Plan (Supplemental TIP), which provide eligible employees, including the named executive officers, with the portion of their retirement benefits that cannot be paid under the Pension Plan and TIP due to applicable Code and Pension Plan limits.

Pension Plan and Supplemental Pension Plan. The Pension Plan and the Supplemental Pension Plan together provide named executive officers with an annual benefit paid at age 65 equal to the executive's average compensation for his or her highest 60 consecutive calendar months prior to retirement, multiplied by 1.8% and then further multiplied by years of credited service up to a maximum of 35 years. This amount is then reduced by an amount based on the executive's Social Security covered compensation and credited service. The portion of this benefit not in excess of various limits imposed by the Code and the Pension Plan is paid under the Pension Plan, and the portion of the executive's benefit in excess of these amounts, if any, is paid under the Supplemental Pension Plan. This benefit is reduced if the executive retires and begins receiving benefit payments before age 62 (or age 60 under certain circumstances). All named executive officers have completed three years of vesting service and thus are fully vested in their pension benefits.

TIP and Supplemental TIP. Under TIP, named executive officers can defer a portion of their base salary and receive employer matching contributions equal to 100% of the first 3% of deferred salary and 50% of the next 3% of deferred salary, for a maximum matching contribution of 4.5% of salary. In addition, for each year in which the Corporation attains an annual earnings goal, the executives receive a profit sharing contribution equal to 1% of base salary, up to the annual Code compensation limit.

Under Supplemental TIP, named executive officers can contribute a portion of their base salary that exceeds the annual Code compensation limit (\$230,000 in 2008). The Corporation makes a matching contribution under Supplemental TIP using the formula in TIP. The Corporation makes no profit sharing contribution to Supplemental TIP unless other applicable Code limits would prevent the full profit sharing contribution from being made to TIP. The named executive officers are fully vested in their retirement benefits under TIP and Supplemental TIP.

2008 Retirement Benefits. The aggregate change during 2008 in the actuarial present value of each named executive officer's accumulated retirement benefit under the Pension Plan and Supplemental Pension Plan appears in the column Change in Pension Value and Nonqualified Deferred Compensation Earnings in the Summary Compensation Table presented elsewhere in this proxy statement. The actuarial present value of each named executive officer's accumulated retirement benefit under the Pension Plan and Supplemental Pension Plan and the number of years of his or her credited service appear in the Pension Benefits table presented elsewhere in this proxy statement.

The employer's matching and profit sharing contributions made under TIP and Supplemental TIP on behalf of each named executive officer are included in the All Other Compensation column of the Summary Compensation Table presented elsewhere in this proxy statement.

Table of Contents

Discussion and Analysis. The purpose of the Corporation's retirement program is to provide financial security in retirement in two ways: (i) an employer-provided basic benefit under the Pension Plan and Supplemental Pension Plan and (ii) employee contributions, together with matching and profit sharing contributions from the employer, under TIP and Supplemental TIP. Retirement benefits are designed with respect to employees as a group and thus are not specifically structured for the named executive officers. The design of the Corporation's retirement program for employees, including the named executive officers, reflects the following considerations:

Income replacement: The Corporation targets aggregate retirement benefits, including employer-provided contributions, and Social Security benefits, for an employee with 25 years of service equal to approximately 80% of current pension-eligible income.

Individual savings: The retirement program encourages employees to contribute to their individual retirement savings through participation in TIP and Supplemental TIP.

Competitiveness: The Corporation targets aggregate retirement benefits at approximately the median level of the following peer group companies:

Bank of America Corporation

M&T Bank Corporation

The Bank of New York Mellon Corporation, Inc.

Marshall & Ilsley Corporation

BB&T Corporation

National City Corporation*

Capital One Financial Corporation

The PNC Financial Services Group Inc.

Citigroup Inc.

Regions Financial Corp

Comerica Incorporated

State Street Corporation

Fifth Third Bancorp

SunTrust Banks, Inc.

JPMorgan Chase & Co.

U.S. Bancorp

KeyCorp

Wachovia Corporation**

Wells Fargo & Company

* Effective December 31, 2008, National City Corporation was merged with and into The PNC Financial Services Group, Inc.

** Effective December 31, 2008, Wachovia Corporation was merged with and into Wells Fargo & Company.

The above peer group utilized in assessing the design and competitive posture of the overall employee benefit program of the Corporation, including retirement benefit practices affecting named executive officers, is a broad sample of companies in the financial industry that operate in the same geographic areas as the Corporation. This information is used to assess the Corporation's competitive position relative to other broad-based, all employee benefit plans and practices affecting all employees, including executives, such as medical insurance, life insurance, qualified pension and profit sharing plans and vacation policies and practices. The focus of this peer group is competitive labor market practices affecting the total employee population and broadly reflecting the Corporation's general labor market. In contrast, the peer group referenced on page 22 is a more narrowly focused group of financial institutions with whom we compete for executive and management talent. Comparative information from this peer group is used to assess the competitiveness of total compensation for individual executive officers including the named executive officers and to develop the Committee Guidelines.

Table of Contents

ADDITIONAL ELEMENTS OF COMPENSATION

Perquisites and Other Benefits

2008 Perquisites and Other Benefits. The Corporation provided the following perquisites to its executive officers in 2008:

Financial consulting and tax return preparation services; and

Personal use of automobiles under the Corporation's travel and entertainment policy, which requires reimbursement of personal use of automobiles, except in limited circumstances where there is a related business purpose.

The Corporation also reimburses the named executive officers for the payment of personal income taxes in connection with the use of company automobiles for business-related purposes that is considered a taxable benefit to the named executive officer. The named executive officers also participate in the employer's medical, retiree medical, dental, disability and life insurance programs on the same terms as other employees.

Disclosure of the dollar value of each perquisite provided to the named executive officers in 2006, 2007, and 2008 is set forth in the table set forth in footnote 6 to the Summary Compensation Table presented elsewhere in this proxy statement.

Discussion and Analysis. Perquisites are not a principal element of the Corporation's executive compensation, and unlike the Corporation's cash and equity compensation, perquisites are not analyzed and evaluated under the performance based, stockholder-aligned, and competitive criteria which are central to the Corporation's executive compensation philosophy. The Corporation's perquisites are limited in number and modest in dollar value in comparison to its principal elements of compensation. They are intended to assist executive officers in the performance of their duties on behalf of the Corporation, to help them manage some forms of compensation to realize their intended value, or otherwise to provide benefits that have a combined personal and business purpose. The Committee annually reviews the types and costs of perquisites provided by the Corporation to its executive officers to be sure that the perquisites are in line with this philosophy.

Change in Control Benefits

The Corporation believes it is in the interests of the Corporation and its stockholders in the event of a change in control to provide employment security arrangements for certain key executive officers of the Corporation. As a part of its executive compensation program, therefore, the Corporation has entered into employment security agreements with each of its named executive officers and certain other executives. On February 20, 2007, the Corporation and Mr. Osborn, then Chairman and CEO of the Corporation, terminated, at his request, his employment security agreement. Accordingly, the following description applies to the employment security agreements in place with each named executive officer other than Mr. Osborn. The Corporation's ability to make payments pursuant to the employment security agreements may be restricted during the time the U.S. Treasury maintains its investment in the Corporation's preferred stock under the CPP, subject to the issuance of regulations by the U.S. Treasury pursuant to EESA and ARRA. See "Other Issues Relevant To Executive Compensation" EESA and ARRA beginning on page 38 of this proxy statement.

Table of Contents

Disclosure of potential change in control benefits payable to each named executive officer, assuming a change in control of the Corporation and termination of employment on December 31, 2008, is set forth below under Potential Payments Upon Termination of Employment or a Change in Control of the Corporation.

Description of Change in Control Benefits. Payments under the employment security agreements are subject to a double-trigger: first, a change in control must occur and second, within two years following the change in control, the executive must voluntarily terminate employment for good reason (e.g., a material reduction in job duties or responsibility, materially reduced or adverse changes in employment compensation or benefit programs, requirements for travel or relocation) or the executive's employment must be terminated involuntarily without good cause (e.g., criminal conviction involving dishonesty, fraud or breach of trust, willful and substantial non-performance). The employment security agreements also protect an executive if the executive's employment terminates for good reason or without good cause, as described above, during the period pending a change in control, defined generally as the period after the acquisition of 15% or more of the Corporation's common stock or entry into an agreement with respect to, or public announcement of the intention to take, an action constituting a change in control event and prior to the effective time of the change in control event. Change in control is defined in the employment security agreements to include the acquisition of 20% or more of the Corporation's common stock, certain mergers, consolidation and asset transfers, or the election, without the consent of two-thirds of the incumbent board of directors, of the lesser of three directors or a majority of the directors then in office.

Change in control benefits under the employment security agreements generally include a lump sum cash payment equivalent to three years' base salary and bonus and a prorated bonus for the year of termination, continuation of medical, dental, life insurance, and other similar benefits for three years, and full vesting of stock options, restricted stock units, and performance stock units. Terminated executives also receive a post-termination exercise period equal to the lesser of five years or the original expiration date for all outstanding non-qualified stock options and incentive stock options granted on or after September 25, 2001, a three-year age and service credit for benefits under the Corporation's Supplemental Pension Plan, and up to an additional three years of age and/or service credit to determine eligibility and subsidy for participation in the Corporation's retiree medical program. The employment security agreements also provide that the Corporation will reimburse the executives for any excise tax imposed on payments under the agreements as well as taxes imposed on such reimbursement amounts.

Discussion and Analysis. The purpose of these agreements is to provide an executive with sufficient security so that the executive is not distracted from job duties, financially threatened by potential job loss, or motivated to act contrary to the best interests of the Corporation and its stockholders prior to, during, or after a change in control. The Corporation believes the employment security agreements are critical to its ability to attract and retain key executives for the following reasons:

The Corporation does not have employment agreements with its named executive officers;

The protection afforded by the employment security agreements provides appropriate motivation for the Corporation's executives when considering whether any change in control is in the best interests of the Corporation; and

Change in control protection for executives is prevalent in the competitive environment in which the Corporation operates.

Table of Contents

Severance Benefits

The Corporation maintains a broad-based severance plan for substantially all full-time U.S. employees. The named executive officers participate in this plan on the same terms as all other eligible employees. The Corporation's ability to make payments pursuant to the severance plan may be restricted during the time the U.S. Treasury maintains its investment in the Corporation's preferred stock under the CPP, subject to the issuance of regulations by the U.S. Treasury pursuant to EESA and ARRA. See "Other Issues Relevant To Executive Compensation EESA and ARRA" beginning on page 38 of this proxy statement.

Description of Severance Benefits. The named executive officers, like all other eligible employees participating in the severance plan, receive severance benefits that include a lump sum payment of two weeks of base salary for each year of completed service up to but less than 25 years, or 52 weeks of base salary for 25 years or more of completed service to the Corporation, provided, that benefits may not exceed two times the lesser of (i) the named executive officer's annualized base salary for the year preceding the year in which the named executive officer's termination of employment occurs or (ii) the annual Code compensation limit for retirement plans (\$230,000 in 2008). Under the plan, eligible employees (including the named executive officers) also would be entitled to a COBRA subsidy based on their length of service to help cover the costs of continuation coverage under the employer's medical and dental plans, full vesting under TIP and Supplemental TIP, one additional year of vesting service under the Pension Plan and the Supplemental Pension Plan, enhanced early retirement eligibility under the Pension Plan for employees who have reached age 54 with 14 years of credited service, and outplacement assistance. These severance benefits are contingent upon execution of a release, waiver and settlement agreement with the Corporation. Severance payments will be reduced by any severance payments made under employment security agreements or any other benefit plan, program or individual contract.

Discussion and Analysis. The purpose of the severance plan is to provide reasonable severance benefits to employees who are involuntarily terminated without cause due to a reduction in force, job elimination or similar reasons specified in the severance plan. The Corporation believes that the availability of severance benefits allows the Corporation to compete with its peer group companies in attracting and retaining key executives.

OTHER ISSUES RELEVANT TO EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION

EESA and ARRA

On November 14, 2008, as part of the CPP and pursuant to the terms of a Letter Agreement, dated November 14, 2008 and the related Securities Purchase Agreement Standard Terms (collectively, the "Securities Purchase Agreement"), the Corporation issued and sold to the U.S. Treasury (i) 1,576,000 shares of the Corporation's Fixed Rate Cumulative Perpetual Preferred Stock, Series B, without par value and having a liquidation preference of \$1,000 per share, and (ii) a ten-year warrant to purchase up to 3,824,624 shares of the Corporation's common stock, par value \$1.66 2/3 per share, at an exercise price of \$61.81 per share, for an aggregate purchase price of \$1.576 billion in cash.

Table of Contents

Executive Compensation Limitations under EESA, ARRA and the Securities Purchase Agreement. Under EESA, ARRA and the Securities Purchase Agreement, the Corporation will be subject to certain restrictions with respect to the compensation of its Senior Executive Officers and other specified employees until such time as the U.S. Treasury ceases to own any equity or debt securities acquired from the Corporation pursuant to the CPP (the Securities). The specific impact of the restrictions and limitations is currently uncertain, as a number of the provisions remain subject to the issuance of regulations by the U.S. Treasury. The Corporation is continuing to assess the impact of the new restrictions and limitations on its compensation practices and will assess and comply with applicable regulations issued by the U.S. Treasury when available.

For purposes of these restrictions, Senior Executive Officers or SEOs are defined as (1) the principal executive officer, (2) the principal financial officer and (3) the three most highly compensated executive officers other than the principal executive and financial officers as determined under applicable SEC rules. The Corporation has determined the following named executive officers of the Corporation constitute SEOs : Mr. Waddell, Mr. Fradkin, Mr. Morrison, Mr. Theriault, and Ms. Barrat.

Unnecessary and Excessive Risk. The Corporation must take the following steps to prevent incentivizing SEOs from taking unnecessary and excessive risks that threaten the value of the Corporation during the period the U.S. Treasury holds the Securities:

the Committee (i) by February 12, 2009 (90 days after the purchase under the CPP) had to review the SEOs incentive and bonus compensation arrangements with senior risk officers (or other personnel that act in a similar capacity) to ensure that the SEO incentive arrangements do not encourage SEOs to take such unnecessary and excessive risks and (ii) must make reasonable efforts to limit any features of the SEOs incentive arrangements that would lead the SEO to take such unnecessary and excessive risks;

the Committee must meet at least annually while U.S. Treasury holds the Securities with the senior risk officers to review the relationship between the institution s risk management policies and the SEO incentive arrangements; and

the Committee must certify in the Compensation and Benefits Committee Report included in the Corporation s proxy statement that it has completed the reviews discussed in the prior two bullet points.

General Prohibition. ARRA included an additional compensation standard prohibiting the use of any compensation plan that encourages manipulation of reported earnings.

Prohibition on Bonus, Retention Awards or Incentive Compensation. During the period the U.S. Treasury holds the Securities, the Corporation will be prohibited from paying or accruing any bonus, retention award or incentive compensation to any SEO or the next 20 most highly compensated employees. The methodology for determining the employees constituting the next 20 most highly compensated is currently uncertain and subject to the issuance of regulations by the U.S. Treasury. These restrictions do not apply to long term restricted stock that (1) does not fully vest while the Securities remain outstanding, (2) has a value that is one-third or less of the total amount of annual compensation of the employee receiving the restricted stock and (3) is subject to such other terms and conditions as U.S. Treasury may determine is in the public interest. The exact application of these restrictions to the Corporation is unclear.

Table of Contents

Clawbacks. Any incentive or bonus payments paid to an SEO and the next twenty most highly-compensated employees during the period that the U.S. Treasury holds the Securities must be subject to a clawback if the payments were based on materially inaccurate financial statements or any other materially inaccurate financial performance metric criteria.

Golden Parachute Payment Prohibition. The Corporation may not make any golden parachute payments to SEOs or the next five most highly compensated employees during the period the U.S. Treasury holds the Securities. For these purposes, the term golden parachute payment generally means any payment to a subject individual made on account of any termination from employment.

Deduction Limitations. EESA also applies an amended deduction limitation under Section 162(m) of the Code to the Corporation for the period that U.S. Treasury holds the Securities. Under this new deduction limitation, the deduction limit for remuneration paid to SEOs during any taxable years was reduced from \$1 million to \$500,000. The \$500,000 deduction limit is computed without regard to performance-based compensation and certain deferrals of income.

Review and Renegotiation of Previously Paid Compensation. ARRA requires the U.S. Treasury to review any bonuses, retention awards and other compensation paid to SEOs and the next 20 most highly compensated employees before the date of enactment of ARRA to determine whether any of these payments were inconsistent with the purpose of ARRA or TARP or otherwise contrary to the public interest. If so, the U.S. Treasury is directed to negotiate an appropriate reimbursement to the government, although it is not given the authority to compel the return of any payments.

As the Committee reviews the Corporation's compensation arrangements going forward, it will continue to take into account, and the Corporation will comply with, the restrictions set forth in EESA and ARRA and related regulations, as they are promulgated.

Letter Agreements of the SEOs. In connection with the issuance of the Securities, each of the named executive officers that is or may be an SEO for purposes of the CPP executed a letter agreement acknowledging and agreeing to the following:

The officer will not be entitled to receive certain golden parachute payments during the period in which the U.S. Treasury holds the Securities under the CPP (the CPP Covered Period).

The officer will be required to and shall return to the Corporation any bonus or incentive compensation paid to the officer by the Corporation during the CPP Covered Period if such bonus or incentive compensation is paid to the officer based on materially inaccurate financial statements or any other materially inaccurate performance metric criteria.

Each of the Corporation's compensation, bonus, incentive and other benefit plans, arrangements and agreements (the Benefit Plans) applicable to the officer is amended to the extent necessary to give effect to the immediately preceding bullet points.

To the extent that the Corporation determines that the Benefit Plans must be revised to ensure that the Benefit Plans do not encourage SEOs to take unnecessary and excessive risks that threaten the value of the Corporation, the officer and the Corporation will agree to negotiate and effect such changes promptly and in good faith.

Table of Contents

Additionally, each of the named executive officers who is an SEO for purposes of the CPP executed a letter agreement setting forth the order in which payments and benefits will be reduced in the event required in connection with golden parachute limitations required in connection with the Corporation's participation in the CPP.

Timing of Equity Compensation Awards

The Committee generally meets in February of each year to consider and act with respect to stock option and stock unit awards (including performance stock units) for the Corporation's executive officers for the then current fiscal year. This is the same meeting at which annual salary adjustment decisions are made, and cash incentive awards under the MPP are determined based on performance during the recently completed year. The Committee's February meeting follows the Corporation's public release of its earnings results for the recently completed fiscal year.

The Committee, on occasion, may grant additional equity awards at other times during the year to newly hired or newly promoted executive officers or, in isolated cases, for special retention purposes. For each grant approved by the Committee, the date of grant is the date on which the Committee acts to approve the award. The Committee acts in strict compliance with the requirements of the Amended and Restated Northern Trust Corporation 2002 Stock Plan, including the requirement that stock options may not be granted at less than 100% of the fair market value of the Corporation's common stock on the date of grant. The Corporation does not time the grants of its equity compensation awards for the purpose of affecting the value of such executive compensation, nor does it time grants to precede or follow disclosures of material nonpublic information.

The Committee has authorized the CEO and the Executive Vice President, Human Resources and Administration to grant non-qualified stock options and restricted stock units to certain employees (but not including any named executive officer or other executive officers subject to Section 16 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934), subject to certain conditions and limitations. These grants are effective as of the date of the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Committee following such grant, with the exercise price of the stock options equal to 100% of the fair market value on the effective date. This delegated authority is designed for limited use in connection with new hires or newly promoted executive officers, or for special retention purposes. The delegated authority was not exercised in 2008.

Under EESA, ARRA and the Securities Purchase Agreement, the Corporation will be subject to certain restrictions with respect to the compensation of SEOs and other specified employees until such time as the U.S. Treasury ceases to own any equity or debt securities acquired from the Corporation pursuant to the CPP. The specific impact of the restrictions and limitations is currently uncertain, as a number of the provisions remain subject to the issuance of regulations by the U.S. Treasury. The Corporation is continuing to assess the impact of the new restrictions and limitations on its compensation practices, including its equity award practices, and will assess and comply with applicable regulations issued by the U.S. Treasury when available. After completion of that assessment or in the event that the Corporation redeems the senior preferred shares sold to it by the U.S. Treasury pursuant to the CPP, the Committee may grant equity awards later in 2009.

Stock Ownership Target Guidelines

Stock ownership and stock retention levels are among the factors in the setting of executive compensation for the named executive officers and other executives. Effective January 1, 2009, the

Table of Contents

Corporation revised the stock ownership target guidelines for its executive officers and directors that were originally implemented effective January 1, 2006. The guidelines identify a target number of shares of common stock that the executive officers and directors are expected to accumulate within five years. The specific stock ownership target guidelines are based on the lesser of (i) a multiple of base salary ranging from two-to-ten times and (ii) a fixed number of shares, depending upon the executive officer's position and responsibilities.

The revised target guideline applicable to the CEO and the Chairman (if an employee of the Corporation) is the lesser of the number of shares having a value equal to ten times base salary or 150,000 shares. For the other named executive officers, the revised target guideline ranges from the lesser of the number of shares having a value equal to five times base salary or 45,000 shares. For directors, the revised target guideline is the lesser of the number of shares having a value equal to five times the annual cash retainer or 10,000 shares, of which 1,000 shares are expected to be owned within the first year of joining the board and the remainder are expected to be owned within five years of joining the board. The calculation of shares of common stock includes shares purchased on the open market, shares owned jointly with or separately by spouses and children, shares held through TIP, shares obtained through stock option exercises (but not including unexercised stock options) and stock award distributions, and 50% of unvested restricted stock units, stock awards and deferred stock units (100% of deferred stock units in the case of directors).

Each named executive officer and director currently meets or exceeds the stock ownership target guidelines.

Roles of the Committee, Management and Consultants

Role of the Committee. At its February meeting each year, the Committee reviews the total compensation of each named executive officer of the Corporation. The Committee has adopted the Committee Guidelines referenced above, which are used to set base salaries, determine annual cash incentives for the year just concluded, and approve equity incentive awards for the current year. The Committee and the CEO use the guidelines to align the components of individual compensation with respect to the named executive officer's individual responsibilities, contributions, and the overall success of the Corporation's business. Total compensation is determined within the context of providing an appropriate mix of base salary, cash and equity incentives, and retirement benefits. During the course of the year, the Committee also reviews the Corporation's retirement benefit program and other forms of benefits and compensation, including perquisites, that may be paid to the named executive officers.

The Committee makes executive compensation decisions after careful review and analysis of information deemed relevant. In doing so, it considers all components of the Corporation's executive compensation program in total rather than looking at any one component in isolation. In its review, the Committee recognizes and considers the impact that certain compensation actions may have on the potential values of other pay and benefit programs. In making compensation decisions, the Committee reviews summary sheets showing the dollar value of the following components of compensation and benefits for each named executive officer during their recent history with the Corporation, including:

Base salaries;

Annual cash incentives;

Table of Contents

Deferred annual cash incentives, together with the interest paid thereon;

Equity awards, including awards of stock options, restricted stock units, restricted stock and performance shares;

Retirement benefits;

Employment security benefits under certain situations associated with a change in control of the Corporation;

Health and welfare benefits (medical, dental, disability, and life insurance programs); and

Perquisites and other benefits.

As provided in the Committee charter, the Committee has sole authority to select, retain and terminate the engagement of any consultant in connection with any compensation and benefits matter, and has authority to obtain advice and assistance from internal or external legal, accounting, or other advisors. As discussed in more detail below under the caption *Role of Hewitt*, the Committee has retained Hewitt as its human resources consulting firm to advise the Committee on matters pertaining to executive compensation.

Role of the Human Resources Department. The Corporation's Human Resources Department assists the Committee in its compensation and benefits related determinations by collecting and providing to the Committee relevant historical and current market data, including data received from Hewitt, the human resources consulting firm retained by the Committee in connection with matters pertaining to executive compensation, regarding peer group compensation practices and industry trends. Such information is compiled and presented to the Committee in advance of the February meeting. The Head of Human Resources and Administration attends and participates in all Committee meetings, including in particular the meeting of the Committee at which the information collected by the Human Resources Department and the Hewitt information are presented.

With respect to the compensation of the Chairman (if the Chairman is an employee of the Corporation), the Human Resources Department provides historical and current data concerning the compensation of the Chairman. Such information is presented to the Committee in the context of historical and current market data provided by Hewitt concerning the compensation of chairmen of the peer group companies listed on page 22 of this proxy statement. The Committee utilizes this data in undertaking its responsibility, consistent with its charter, to determine and approve the compensation (including each specific component comprising the total compensation package) to be paid or provided to the Chairman based on its evaluation of their respective performance against the Corporation's goals and objectives. The Head of Human Resources and Administration participates in the discussions of the Committee concerning the setting of the compensation of the Chairman and provides such guidance in those discussions as requested by the Committee.

With respect to the compensation of the CEO, the Human Resources Department provides historical and current data concerning the compensation of the CEO. Such information is presented to the Committee in the context of historical and current market data provided by Hewitt concerning the compensation of CEOs of the peer group companies listed on page 22 of this proxy statement. The Committee utilizes this data in undertaking its responsibility, consistent with its charter, to determine

Table of Contents

and approve the compensation (including each specific component comprising the total compensation package) to be paid or provided to the CEO based on its evaluation of their respective performance against the Corporation's goals and objectives. In determining any long-term incentive component of such compensation, the Committee's evaluation takes into specific account the Corporation's performance and relative stockholder return, the value of similar incentive awards given to the CEOs of peer group and other comparable companies, including companies in the financial services industry, the value of long-term incentive awards granted in recent years, and the retention of those awards. The Head of Human Resources and Administration participates in the discussions of the Committee concerning the setting of the compensation of the CEO and provides such guidance in those discussions as requested by the Committee.

With respect to the compensation of all other executive officers other than the CEO, the Human Resources Department assists the CEO in his formulation of compensation recommendations by providing historical and current market data and specific information concerning the historical and current compensation of executive officers for which the CEO is establishing recommendations. This includes information comparing such executive officers' stock ownership measured against stock ownership guidelines approved by the Committee. Once the CEO has established compensation recommendations for executive officers, those recommendations are presented by the Human Resources Department in a report to the Committee delivered in advance of the February meeting. This report includes the summary sheets referenced on page 42 of this proxy statement and provides the Committee with guidance comparing the recommendations against historical and current data and market trends, on a comprehensive basis, by individual position and by the specific compensation components listed on pages 42 and 43 of this proxy statement.

Role of the CEO. The Committee, consistent with its charter, retains ultimate oversight and responsibility for review and approval of the compensation of executive officers. In fulfilling these obligations, the Committee benefits from the review and evaluation of executive officer compensation undertaken by the CEO with assistance from the Corporation's Human Resources Department.

The CEO provides to the Committee his recommendations for total compensation (including the specific elements and mix of such compensation) to be paid to each of the Corporation's executive officers other than the CEO and the Chairman (if an employee of the Corporation). In establishing such recommendations, the CEO evaluates the performance of executive officers during the prior year against performance expectations established by the CEO. These performance expectations are not weighted or scored and are comprised of a mix of objective and subjective factors. As noted previously, some performance expectations may relate to quantitative aspects of the Corporation's financial results, while others may be more qualitative aspects, such as the achievement of acquisition integration, client development or diversity goals. In formulating his recommendations, the CEO is assisted by the Human Resources Department which supplies data regarding historical and current compensation, as well as comparative data supplied by Hewitt, for each executive officer.

The recommendations of the CEO are reviewed by the Committee in advance of its meeting. The recommendations are presented to the Committee by the Corporation's Human Resources Department in a summary report that provides direct comparison of the recommendations against the historical and current comparative data supplied by the Human Resources Department and Hewitt. The recommendations and this comparative data are reviewed and evaluated by the Committee in the context of additional information on broader industry compensation trends and market practices as reported by Hewitt. The Committee gives substantial weight to the recommendations of the CEO, but retains the ultimate oversight and responsibility to make modifications to the total compensation or the levels of particular compensation elements recommended by the CEO.

Table of Contents

Role of Hewitt. The Committee has retained Hewitt as its human resources consulting firm to advise the Committee on matters pertaining to executive compensation. Hewitt's engagement encompasses the following consulting services:

Assist the Committee's decision-making with respect to executive compensation, ensuring that the Committee's actions are consistent with the Corporation's business needs, pay philosophy, prevailing market practices, and relevant legal and regulatory mandates.

Provide market data as background against which the Committee can consider CEO and senior management base salary, bonus, and long-term incentive awards each year.

Consult with the Committee on how best to make compensation decisions with respect to the Corporation's management while continuing to represent stockholders' long-term interests.

Apprise the Committee of best practices in association with director compensation.

In connection with the Committee's review and approval of the compensation of the Corporation's CEO and other executive officers, Hewitt was asked to provide comparative data and other information on current compensation practices and trends for chief executive officers and other executive officers in the financial services industry. At the request of the Committee, Hewitt provided information to the Committee on compensation paid by the peer group companies identified on page 22 of this proxy statement to chief executive officers and other executive officer positions comparable to the Corporation's executive officer positions. The purpose of this information was to provide the Committee with comparative information against which to evaluate the competitiveness of the proposed CEO compensation being reviewed and evaluated by the Committee as well as the competitiveness of executive officer compensation recommended to the Committee by the CEO. The report reviewed the total compensation paid to executives at companies in the peer group during the previous year and how the compensation of similar positions at the Corporation compared to the median of those comparative compensation figures. This comparative data was also utilized by the Human Resources Department in the production of materials distributed to the Committee in advance of its meeting (including the summary sheets referenced on page 42 of this proxy statement).

Hewitt's representative generally attends all meetings of the Committee throughout the year and undertakes such specific projects as assigned by the Committee from time to time. In 2008, Hewitt's representative attended all meetings of the Committee at which compensation was reviewed and approved, presented Hewitt's comparative compensation data (as well as Hewitt's general insights into compensation trends and prevailing market practices), presented its views on the compensation proposed for approval by the Committee (taking into account its market research and insights into prevailing trends), and responded to specific questions of Committee members.

Deductibility of Executive Compensation

The Corporation views the tax deductibility of executive compensation under Section 162(m) of the Code as an important factor to be considered in determining the forms and amounts of executive compensation. The Corporation, through the Committee, reviews each material element of compensation on a continuing basis and takes steps to assure deductibility if that can be accomplished without sacrificing flexibility and other important elements of the overall executive compensation program.

Table of Contents

Base salary and the amounts set forth in the All Other Compensation column of the Summary Compensation Table do not, by their nature, qualify as performance based compensation under Section 162(m). The Corporation has taken appropriate steps, including obtaining stockholder approval, to qualify the MPP and the Amended and Restated 2002 Stock Plan as performance based compensation so that cash awards under the MPP and awards of stock options and performance stock units under the Amended and Restated 2002 Stock Plan are or will be fully tax deductible. The Corporation also provides in its restricted stock unit agreements under the Amended and Restated 2002 Stock Plan that the payment of the stock units is mandatorily deferred until the earlier of (a) the year in which the Committee reasonably anticipates that, if the payment is made during that year, the deduction of the payment will not be barred by Code Section 162(m), or (b) the period beginning with the date of the participant's separation from service (as defined in the Amended and Restated 2002 Stock Plan) and ending on the later of the last day of the Corporation's taxable year in which the participant incurs a separation from service or the 15th day of the third month following such separation from service.

During the period that the U.S. Treasury holds equity or debt securities of the Corporation under the CPP, authorized by EESA, the Corporation's deductions under Section 162(m) of the Code will be further restricted. See Other Issues Relevant to Executive Compensation EESA and ARRA beginning on page 38 of this proxy statement. The amended deduction limitations under EESA eliminate deductibility of any cash incentive awards under the MPP and any distribution of performance stock units or taxable gains from the exercise of stock options under the Amended and Restated 2002 Stock Plan. These amended deduction limitations are applicable to the Corporation beginning on November 14, 2008, the date the Corporation became a participant in the CPP. Because no incentive cash awards were paid under the MPP for 2008, the impact of the limitations on deductibility of 2008 compensation was minimal. However, for 2008, the Corporation was required to reverse a portion of the previously accrued income tax benefits for equity awards granted in 2008 and prior to 2008 that had been assumed to be deductible but that may no longer be tax deductible under the new limitations.

Table of Contents**SUMMARY COMPENSATION TABLE**

The following table sets forth compensation information for the Corporation's CEO, chief financial officer, and the three other most highly compensated executive officers for the year ended December 31, 2008. The table also sets forth information concerning the compensation of William A. Osborn, the Chairman of the Corporation. Mr. Osborn retired as an executive officer of the Corporation effective November 12, 2008. He is included as a named executive officer in this proxy statement with respect to his service and compensation as an executive officer until the effective date of his retirement. Mr. Osborn's compensation for services as Chairman of the Corporation and a non-employee director following his November 12, 2008 retirement date are described under "Director Compensation" beginning on page 71 of this proxy statement.

Name and Principal Position	Year	Salary (\$) ⁽¹⁾	Bonus (\$) ⁽¹⁾	Stock Awards (\$) ⁽²⁾	Option Awards (\$) ⁽³⁾	Change in Pension Value and Nonqualified Non-Equity Incentive Plan Compen- sation (\$) ⁽⁴⁾	Deferred Compen- sation Earnings (\$) ⁽⁵⁾	All Other Compen- sation (\$) ⁽⁶⁾	Total (\$)
William A. Osborn <i>Chairman</i>	2008	\$ 948,750		\$ 2,113,063	\$ 2,200,310		\$ 3,553,025	\$ 71,550	\$ 8,886,698
	2007	\$ 1,087,500		\$ 4,047,402	\$ 3,392,057	\$ 4,300,000	\$ 1,523,056	\$ 85,072	\$ 14,435,087
Frederick H. Waddell <i>President and Chief Executive Officer</i>	2006	\$ 1,037,500		\$ 2,028,844	\$ 4,266,274	\$ 2,500,000	\$ 912,263	\$ 90,899	\$ 10,835,780
	2008	\$ 856,250		\$ 1,976,734	\$ 2,803,792		\$ 2,263,989	\$ 87,066	\$ 7,987,831
Steven L. Fradkin <i>Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer</i>	2007	\$ 706,250		\$ 1,629,807	\$ 1,339,038	\$ 1,500,000	\$ 801,412	\$ 52,530	\$ 6,029,037
	2006	\$ 612,500		\$ 790,161	\$ 643,444	\$ 700,000	\$ 615,874	\$ 46,320	\$ 3,408,299
Sherry S. Barrat <i>President Personal Financial Services</i>	2008	\$ 537,500		\$ 751,929	\$ 547,494		\$ 503,087	\$ 35,099	\$ 2,375,109
	2007	\$ 493,750		\$ 865,425	\$ 421,112	\$ 725,000	\$ 161,556	\$ 29,025	\$ 2,695,868
	2006	\$ 468,750		\$ 470,202	\$ 309,062	\$ 550,000	\$ 209,519	\$ 33,279	\$ 2,040,812
William L. Morrison <i>President Personal Financial Services</i>	2008	\$ 550,000		\$ 666,659	\$ 728,028		\$ 807,130	\$ 35,601	\$ 2,787,418
	2007	\$ 537,500		\$ 778,729	\$ 698,981	\$ 700,000	\$ 391,755	\$ 130,164	\$ 3,237,129
	2006	\$ 500,000		\$ 383,391	\$ 882,683	\$ 525,000	\$ 192,630	\$ 464,347	\$ 2,948,051
Timothy J. Theriault <i>President Corporate and Institutional Services</i>	2008	\$ 550,000		\$ 834,699	\$ 734,196		\$ 553,812	\$ 31,575	\$ 2,704,282
	2007	\$ 543,750		\$ 1,004,856	\$ 698,981	\$ 700,000	\$ 237,751	\$ 35,269	\$ 3,220,607
	2006	\$ 518,750		\$ 615,556	\$ 1,188,365	\$ 525,000	\$ 211,126	\$ 32,394	\$ 3,091,191
Timothy J. Theriault <i>President Corporate and Institutional Services</i>	2008	\$ 550,000		\$ 805,760	\$ 572,520		\$ 548,280	\$ 26,116	\$ 2,502,676
	2007	\$ 543,750		\$ 979,440	\$ 473,225	\$ 725,000	\$ 158,072	\$ 36,635	\$ 2,916,122
2006	\$ 518,750		\$ 596,544	\$ 401,024	\$ 550,000	\$ 210,903	\$ 34,544	\$ 2,311,765	

(1) *Salary.* Salary adjustments for each named executive officer during 2006 were effective April 1, 2006, except that Ms. Barrat's salary adjustment became effective on January 1, 2006. Salary adjustments for each named executive officer during 2007 were effective April 1, 2007. Salary adjustments for each named executive officer during 2008 were effective April 1, 2008.

(2) *Stock Awards.* This column shows the dollar amount recognized by the Corporation for financial statement reporting purposes in 2006, 2007, and 2008 in accordance with SFAS No. 123(R) for all outstanding restricted stock units and performance stock units granted to each named

Edgar Filing: NORTHERN TRUST CORP - Form PRE 14A

executive officer. See footnote 23 to the Consolidated Financial Statements contained in the Corporation's 2008 Annual Report to Stockholders for a discussion of the assumptions made by the Corporation in the valuation of these stock unit awards, including that dividend equivalents will be paid on these stock unit awards.

Table of Contents

The total value of the restricted stock units and performance stock units reported in the **Stock Awards** column is different from the total grant date fair value of the restricted stock unit and performance stock unit awards granted in the applicable year because the **Stock Awards** column includes, as required by SFAS No. 123 (R), the expense of awards granted in prior years where the vesting period for those awards extends into the year presented. The grant date fair value for restricted stock units and performance stock units granted in 2006, 2007 and 2008 to the named executive officers was as follows:

Grant Date Fair Value

Name	2006 Restricted	2006 Performance	2006 Total	2007 Performance	2008 Performance
	Stock Units	Stock Units	Stock Units	Stock Units	Stock Units
William A. Osborn	\$ 1,611,142	\$ 1,611,142	\$ 3,222,284	\$ 5,500,028	
Frederick H. Waddell	\$ 1,802,225	\$ 444,475	\$ 2,246,700	\$ 1,833,385	\$ 3,000,065
Steven L. Fradkin	\$ 333,356	\$ 333,356	\$ 666,712	\$ 1,133,384	\$ 1,000,069
Sherry S. Barrat	\$ 333,356	\$ 333,356	\$ 666,712	\$ 1,133,384	\$ 1,000,069
William L. Morrison	\$ 366,697	\$ 366,697	\$ 733,394	\$ 1,133,384	\$ 1,000,069
Timothy J. Theriault	\$ 366,697	\$ 366,697	\$ 733,394	\$ 1,133,384	\$ 1,000,069

No shares of common stock were issued to executives in connection with performance stock units granted in 2006 because the pre-determined performance goals applicable to those awards were not satisfied. The footnotes to the **Outstanding Equity Awards at Fiscal Year-End** table set forth on page 53 of this proxy statement contain vesting and other additional information about the restricted stock unit awards made in 2006 and the performance stock unit awards made in 2006, 2007 and 2008.

Dividend equivalents on restricted stock units and performance stock units held or deferred by a named executive officer are paid on a current basis. Dividend equivalents paid on restricted stock units and performance stock units of each named executive officer in 2006 were: Mr. Osborn: \$364,598; Mr. Waddell: \$60,764; Mr. Fradkin: \$42,411; Mr. Morrison: \$56,634; Mr. Theriault: \$54,794; and Ms. Barrat: \$33,671. Dividend equivalents paid on restricted stock units and performance stock units of each named executive officer in 2007 were: Mr. Osborn: \$476,209; Mr. Waddell: \$105,520; Mr. Fradkin: \$56,714; Mr. Morrison: \$71,500; Mr. Theriault: \$69,500; and Ms. Barrat: \$47,968. Dividend equivalents paid on restricted stock units and performance stock units of each named executive officer in 2008 were: Mr. Osborn: \$557,161; Mr. Waddell: \$158,672; Mr. Fradkin: \$73,602; Mr. Morrison: \$91,036; Mr. Theriault: \$88,763; and Ms. Barrat: \$65,644.

(3) *Option Awards*. This column shows the dollar amount recognized by the Corporation for financial reporting purposes in 2006, 2007 and 2008 in accordance with SFAS No. 123(R) for all outstanding stock options granted to each named executive officer. See footnote 23 to the Consolidated Financial Statements contained in the Corporation's 2008 Annual Report to Stockholders for a discussion of the assumptions made by the Corporation in the valuation of these option awards, including that dividend equivalent payments are factored into the option valuation.

Under SFAS No. 123(R), the fair value of option awards is recognized as expense over the vesting period of the award except where it is accelerated for employees who, under the award agreements, are retirement-eligible or will become retirement-eligible during the vesting period. The value of the stock options reported in the **Option Awards** column is different from the grant date fair value of the stock options granted in the applicable year for the following reasons: (i) the **Option Awards** column

Table of Contents

includes, as required by SFAS No. 123(R), the expense of awards granted in prior years where the vesting period for those awards extends into the year presented to the extent the expense was not previously accelerated due to retirement-eligibility of the employees and (ii) the Option Awards column for 2006, 2007 and 2008 option awards includes the full or accelerated expense for those employees that were retirement-eligible prior to the year presented (Mr. Osborn and Ms. Barrat), were deemed retirement-eligible as of the applicable year (Mr. Morrison), or will become retirement-eligible during the vesting period of the applicable option awards (Mr. Waddell). In contrast, the expense of the option awards for non-retirement-eligible employees (Mr. Fradkin and Mr. Theriault) is spread equally over the full vesting period. The grant date fair value for stock options granted in 2006, 2007 and 2008 to the named executive officers was as follows:

Name	Grant Date Fair Value of Stock Options		
	2006	2007	2008
William A. Osborn	\$ 4,266,274	\$ 3,392,057	\$ 2,172,281
Frederick H. Waddell	\$ 1,176,906	\$ 1,130,697	\$ 2,172,281
Steven L. Fradkin	\$ 882,683	\$ 698,981	\$ 724,105
Sherry S. Barrat	\$ 882,683	\$ 698,981	\$ 724,105
William L. Morrison	\$ 970,950	\$ 698,981	\$ 724,105
Timothy J. Theriault	\$ 970,950	\$ 698,981	\$ 724,105

The footnotes to the Outstanding Equity Awards at Fiscal Year-End table set forth on page 53 of this proxy statement contain vesting and other additional information about the stock option awards made in 2006, 2007 and 2008.

(4) *Non-Equity Incentive Plan Compensation.* This column shows the annual cash incentives earned by the named executive officers in 2006, 2007 and 2008 under the MPP. As described in the Compensation Discussion and Analysis Principal Elements of the Corporation's Executive Compensation Program Cash Compensation Annual Cash Incentives section of this proxy statement, these annual cash incentives are fully deductible as performance based compensation under Section 162(m) of the Code.

(5) *Change in Pension Value and Nonqualified Deferred Compensation Earnings.* This column shows the increase from September 30, 2005 to September 30, 2006 (the measurement date used for reporting purposes in the Corporation's 2006 Financial Annual Report to Stockholders), the increase from September 30, 2006 to September 30, 2007 (the measurement date used for reporting purposes in the Corporation's 2007 Financial Annual Report to Stockholders) and the increase from September 30, 2007 to December 31, 2008 (the measurement date used for reporting purposes in the Corporation's 2008 Annual Report to Stockholders) in the actuarial present value of accumulated benefits for each named executive officer under the Pension Plan and the Supplemental Pension Plan. It does not include any above-market or preferential earnings on deferred compensation as the Corporation does not pay above-market or preferential interest on the deferred compensation of its named executive officers. Amounts shown for the period September 30, 2005 to September 30, 2006 have been restated to reflect a correction in the applicable early retirement ages used in these calculations.

Table of Contents

(6) *All Other Compensation.* The table below provides a breakdown of the amounts shown in the All Other Compensation column for each named executive officer in 2006, 2007 and 2008.

Name	Year	Perquisites (a)		Relocation (b)	Other Compensation		Total
		Financial	Personal		Tax Re-	TIP/	
		Consulting/ Tax Return Preparation	Use of Corporation's		imburse- ments	Supplemental TIP Contributions	
		Services	Automobiles		(c)	(d)	
William A. Osborn	2008	\$13,500	\$ 9,226		\$ 5,511	\$ 43,313	\$ 71,550
	2007	\$ 9,500	\$15,111		\$ 9,273	\$ 51,188	\$ 85,072(e)
	2006	\$ 9,500	\$19,923		\$12,588	\$ 48,888	\$ 90,899
Frederick H. Waddell	2008	\$13,500	\$21,613		\$13,421	\$ 38,531	\$ 87,065
	2007	\$ 9,500	\$ 5,678		\$ 3,321	\$ 34,031	\$ 52,530
	2006	\$ 9,500	\$ 4,477		\$ 2,581	\$ 29,763	\$ 46,320
Steven L. Fradkin	2008	\$ 9,880	\$ 624		\$ 407	\$ 24,188	\$ 35,099
	2007	\$ 4,000	\$ 337		\$ 219	\$ 24,469	\$ 29,025
	2006	\$ 9,000	\$ 609		\$ 376	\$ 23,294	\$ 33,279
Sherry S. Barrat	2008	\$10,580	\$ 164		\$ 107	\$ 24,750	\$ 35,601
	2007	\$ 7,500	\$ 69	\$ 58,202	\$37,955	\$ 26,438	\$130,164
	2006	\$ 7,930	\$ 138	\$ 380,661	\$50,918	\$ 24,700	\$464,347
William L. Morrison	2008	\$ 6,825				\$ 24,750	\$ 31,575
	2007	\$ 8,550				\$ 26,719	\$ 35,269
	2006	\$ 6,850				\$ 25,544	\$ 32,394
Timothy J. Theriault	2008	\$ 1,150	\$ 131		\$ 85	\$ 24,750	\$ 26,116
	2007	\$ 9,500	\$ 252		\$ 164	\$ 26,719	\$ 36,635
	2006	\$ 9,000				\$ 25,544	\$ 34,544

(a) *Perquisites.* All perquisites are valued based on the aggregate incremental cost to the Corporation, as required by the SEC's rules. The Compensation Discussion and Analysis Additional Elements of Compensation Perquisites and Other Benefits section of this proxy statement contains additional information about the perquisites provided by the Corporation to its named executive officers.

(b) *Relocation.* The amounts in this column represent the payment of property management expenses and closing costs for Ms. Barrat under the Corporation's relocation program in connection with the sale of her home in California and her relocation to Illinois.

(c) *Tax Reimbursements.* This column shows the amount of tax reimbursement associated with the use of the Corporation's automobiles for business-related purposes and, in Ms. Barrat's case, her relocation expenses.

(d) *TIP/Supplemental TIP Contributions.* This column reflects matching and profit sharing contributions made on behalf of the named executive officers to TIP and Supplemental TIP, both of which are defined contribution plans, as described above under Compensation Discussion and Analysis Principal Elements of the Corporation's Executive Compensation Program Retirement Benefits Description of Principal Retirement Benefits TIP and Supplemental TIP.

(e) From time to time since 1998, the Corporation has made charitable contributions in support of the Noble Network of Charter Schools. In furtherance of this long-standing history of charitable support for the Noble Network and in recognition of Mr. Osborn's years of service as CEO of the Corporation, on December 28, 2007, the Corporation made a charitable contribution to the Noble Network in the amount of \$1 million in honor of Mr. Osborn. This amount is not included in the table above. The Noble Network has informed the Corporation that it intends to name one of its new schools to be opened in 2009 or 2010 in honor of Mr. Osborn.

Table of Contents**GRANTS OF PLAN-BASED AWARDS**

The following table sets forth information for each named executive officer with respect to:

Estimated possible payouts under non-equity incentive plan awards for 2008;

Estimated future payouts under equity incentive plan awards for 2008;

Other stock awards made in 2008; and

Stock options granted in 2008.

Name	Date(1)	Estimated Possible Payouts Under Non-Equity Incentive Plan Awards(2)			Estimated Future Payouts Under Equity Incentive Plan Awards(3)			All Other Awards:		Exercise Price of Option Awards(6)	Grant Date Fair Value of Stock and Option Awards(7)
		Thresh- old (\$)	Target (\$)	Maxi- mum (\$)	Thresh- old (#)	Target (#)	Maxi- mum (#)	of Stock or Units (#)(4)	Underlying Options (#)(5)		
William A. Osborn	2/19/2008		\$ 4,300,000	\$ 4,768,800							
	2/19/2008							126,352	\$ 71.230		\$ 2,172,281
Frederick H. Waddell	2/19/2008		\$ 1,500,000	\$ 4,768,800							
	2/19/2008				31,589	42,118	52,648	126,352	\$ 71.230		\$ 2,172,281
Steven L. Fradkin	2/19/2008		\$ 725,000	\$ 2,384,400							\$ 3,000,065
	2/19/2008							42,118	\$ 71.230		\$ 724,105
Sherry S. Barrat	2/19/2008		\$ 700,000	\$ 2,384,400							\$ 1,000,069
	2/19/2008				10,530	14,040	17,550	42,118	\$ 71.230		\$ 724,105
William L. Morrison	2/19/2008		\$ 700,000	\$ 2,384,400							\$ 1,000,069
	2/19/2008				10,530	14,040	17,550	42,118	\$ 71.230		\$ 724,105
Timothy J. Theriault	2/19/2008		\$ 725,000	\$ 2,384,400							\$ 1,000,069
	2/19/2008							42,118	\$ 71.230		\$ 724,105

Edgar Filing: NORTHERN TRUST CORP - Form PRE 14A

2/19/2008

10,530 14,040 17,550

\$ 1,000,069

(1) *Grant Date.* In each case, the Grant Date reflects the date on which the Compensation and Benefits Committee acted to approve the grant of the award.

(2) *Estimated Possible Payouts Under Non-Equity Incentive Plan Awards.* These columns show the range of potential payouts under the MPP based on the Corporation's performance in 2008. Threshold and Target awards under the MPP were not determinable as the MPP authorizes the Committee to award annual cash incentives ranging from \$0 to the following maximum award limitations (Maximum awards): Chairman, the CEO or a combined Chairman and CEO position 0.6% of consolidated net income; President, any Vice Chairman, COO, or a combined President and COO 0.4% of consolidated net income; and the other named executive officers 0.3% of consolidated net income. Where Target awards are not determinable, the SEC rules require the disclosure of representative amounts based on the previous fiscal year's performance. Accordingly, the Corporation has disclosed in the Target column the MPP awards paid to the named executive officers for 2007. The amounts paid under the MPP for 2008 appear in the Non-Equity Incentive Plan Compensation column of the Summary Compensation Table.

Table of Contents

(3) *Estimated Future Payouts Under Equity Incentive Awards.* These columns show the range of potential performance stock units that could be earned by the named executive officers based on grants made under the 2002 Stock Plan in 2008. For a further discussion of these performance goals, please see the discussion under *Principal Elements of the Corporation's Executive Compensation Program* *Equity Compensation* *Equity Compensation Determinations* *Performance Stock Units* beginning on page 30 of this proxy statement.

(4) *All Other Stock Awards: Number of Shares of Stock or Units.* This column reflects that no restricted stock units were granted to the named executive officers in 2008.

(5) *All Other Option Awards: Number of Securities Underlying Options.* This column shows the number of shares that may be issued to the named executive officers upon exercise of stock options granted in 2008.

(6) *Exercise Price.* In 2008, the exercise price for all stock options was the closing sale price of the Corporation's common stock on the date of grant. In each case, the exercise price was equal to or greater than the closing market price of the Corporation's common stock on the date of grant.

(7) *Grant Date Fair Value.* The grant date fair value of the stock and option awards was computed in accordance with SFAS No. 123(R).

Table of Contents

OUTSTANDING EQUITY AWARDS AT FISCAL YEAR-END

The following table sets forth information for each named executive officer with respect to:

Each stock option to purchase common stock that had not been exercised and remained outstanding at December 31, 2008; and

Each award of restricted stock units and performance stock units that had not vested and remained outstanding at December 31, 2008.

Name	Option Awards ⁽¹⁾					Stock Awards			
	Number of Securities Underlying Unexercised Options (#)	Number of Securities Underlying Unexercised Options (#)	Equity Incentive Plan Awards: Number of Securities Underlying Unexercised Options (#)	Exercise Price (\$)	Option Expiration Date	Market Value of Unearned Shares, Units or Other Rights That Have Not Vested (\$) ⁽³⁾	Equity Incentive Plan Awards: Number of Unearned Shares, Units or Other Rights That Have Not Vested (#) ⁽⁴⁾	Market Payout Value of Unearned Shares, Units or Other Rights That Have Not Vested (\$) ⁽⁵⁾	
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)	(g)	(h)	(i)	(j)
William A. Osborn		126,352		\$71.230	11/12/2013	77,951	\$4,064,365	82,257	\$4,288,880

Edgar Filing: NORTHERN TRUST CORP - Form PRE 14A

	48,829	146,484	\$63.360	11/12/2013				
	139,129	139,129	\$52.095	11/12/2013				
	300,000		\$44.465	11/12/2013				
	250,000		\$49.120	11/12/2013				
	150,000		\$32.615	2/18/2013				
	135,000		\$52.300	5/20/2012				
	16,774		\$53.655	2/19/2012				
	150,000		\$68.105	5/21/2011				
	170,000		\$70.281	5/15/2010				
	100,000		\$45.156	5/13/2009				
Frederick H. Waddell		126,352	\$71.230	2/19/2018	58,532	\$3,051,858	79,586	\$4,149,614
	16,277	48,828	\$63.360	2/20/2017				
	38,380	38,381	\$52.095	2/21/2016				
	75,000		\$44.465	2/15/2015				
	90,000		\$49.120	2/17/2014				
	44,048		\$32.615	2/18/2013				
	25,000		\$52.300	5/20/2012				
	2,461		\$53.655	2/19/2012				
	25,000		\$68.105	5/21/2011				
	35,000		\$70.281	5/15/2010				
Steven L. Fradkin		42,118	\$71.230	2/19/2018	21,899	\$1,141,814	38,327	\$1,998,370
	10,062	30,185	\$63.360	2/20/2017				
	28,785	28,786	\$52.095	2/21/2016				
	55,000		\$44.465	2/15/2015				
	50,000		\$49.120	2/17/2014				
	30,000		\$52.300	5/20/2012				
	2,796		\$53.655	2/19/2012				
	30,000		\$68.105	5/21/2011				
	25,000		\$70.281	5/15/2010				

Table of Contents

Name	Option Awards ⁽¹⁾					Stock Awards			
	Number of Securities Underlying Unexercised Options (#)	Number of Securities Underlying Unexercised Options (#)	Equity Incentive Plan Awards: Number of Securities Underlying Unexercised Options (#)	Exercise Price (\$)	Expiration Date	Number of Units or Shares of Stock That Have Not Vested (#) ⁽²⁾	Value of Units or Shares of Stock That Have Not Vested (\$) ⁽³⁾	Number of Unearned Shares, Units or Rights of Other Awards: (#) ⁽⁴⁾	Equity Incentive Plan Awards: Market Payout Value of Unearned Shares, Units or Rights of Other Awards: (\$) ⁽⁵⁾
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)	(g)	(h)	(i)	(j)
Sherry S. Barrat	10,062	42,118		\$71.230	2/19/2018	14,733	\$768,179	38,327	\$1,998,370
	28,785	30,185		\$63.360	2/20/2017				
	30,000	28,786		\$52.095	2/21/2016				
	35,000			\$44.465	2/15/2015				
	38,680			\$49.120	2/17/2014				
	25,000			\$32.615	2/18/2013				
	2,125			\$52.300	5/20/2012				
	25,000			\$53.655	2/19/2012				
	25,000			\$68.105	5/21/2011				
	25,000			\$70.281	5/15/2010				
	4,428			\$45.156	5/13/2009				
William L. Morrison		42,118		\$71.230	2/19/2018	32,039	\$1,670,513	38,967	\$2,031,739
	10,062	30,185		\$63.360	2/20/2017				
	31,664	31,664		\$52.095	2/21/2016				
	75,000			\$44.465	2/15/2015				
	90,000			\$49.120	2/17/2014				
	15,519			\$32.615	2/18/2013				
	40,000			\$52.300	5/20/2012				

Edgar Filing: NORTHERN TRUST CORP - Form PRE 14A

	3,635		\$53.655	2/19/2012				
	35,000		\$68.105	5/21/2011				
	40,000		\$70.281	5/15/2010				
Timothy J. Theriault		42,118	\$71.230	2/19/2018	29,039	\$1,514,093	38,967	\$2,031,739
	10,062	30,185	\$63.360	2/20/2017				
	31,664	31,664	\$52.095	2/21/2016				
	80,000		\$49.120	2/17/2014				
	38,087		\$52.300	5/20/2012				
	3,355		\$53.655	2/19/2012				
	35,000		\$68.105	5/21/2011				
	40,000		\$70.281	5/15/2010				

(1) *Stock Options.* Stock options are granted with an exercise price equal to the closing sale price of the common stock on the date of grant and expire 10 years after the date of the grant. This approach is designed to motivate the executive to contribute to the creation of stockholder value over the long term. The Corporation currently grants only non-qualified stock options because it believes that the tax benefits to the Corporation of non-qualified stock options outweigh the potential tax benefits to the executives of incentive stock options.

Table of Contents

All stock options held by the named executive officers that were granted prior to 2005 vested on or before February 2008. All stock options granted in 2005 vested 100% on March 31, 2005. All stock options granted in 2006 and thereafter will vest in equal annual installments over a four-year vesting period determined by the Committee. If the executive dies or becomes disabled, the stock options (whether vested or unvested) become vested and may be exercised until the earlier of five years following death or disability or the expiration date of the option. If the executive retires, the stock options continue to vest in accordance with their terms and, once vested, may be exercised until the earlier of five years following retirement or the expiration date of the option. If the executive's employment is terminated under certain circumstances entitling the executive to severance benefits, the executive's stock options (whether vested or unvested) may be exercised until the earlier of 180 days following termination of employment or the expiration date of the option. If the executive is a member of the Management Group on the date of grant, is age 55 or older with a minimum of 10 years of employment on the date of termination of employment, and is not otherwise retirement-eligible pursuant to the Corporation's retirement policy, the stock options continue to vest and, once vested, may be exercised until the earlier of five years following termination of employment or the expiration date of the option. In other instances, vested stock options expire on the earlier of three months following termination of employment or the expiration date of the option, and unvested stock options expire on termination of employment. Upon a change in control of the Corporation, all stock options become vested and exercisable.

(2) *Number of Restricted Stock Units.* This column shows the number of unvested restricted stock units held by the named executive officers as of December 31, 2008. Restricted stock units granted prior to 2006 vest over a five-year period, and restricted stock units granted in 2006 vest 50% on the third anniversary of the date of grant and 50% on the fourth anniversary of the date of grant. Restricted stock unit awards entitle an executive to receive one share of common stock in the year in which the award vests. Restricted stock units vest over a specified vesting period determined by the Committee. Terms and conditions associated with restricted stock units otherwise mirror the performance stock units in terms of the payment of dividend equivalents and pro-rata vesting upon death, disability, retirement or termination of employment as described in the preceding paragraph, except that the pro-rata vested restricted stock units will be distributed to the executive or the executive's beneficiaries immediately upon the occurrence of the triggering event. In the event of a change in control, all restricted stock units become fully vested, but are not distributable until the occurrence of a regular distribution event, including expiration of the original specified vesting period or termination of employment.

(3) *Market Value of Restricted Stock Units.* This column shows the market value of the unvested restricted stock units held by the named executive officers, based on a price of \$52.14 per share (the closing market price of the Corporation's common stock on December 31, 2008, as reported by Nasdaq).

(4) *Number of Performance Stock Units.* This column shows the number of unvested performance stock units held by the named executive officers as of December 31, 2008. Performance stock units entitle an executive to receive shares of common stock, on a one-for-one basis, in the year in which the award vests, subject to satisfaction of pre-determined performance goals. Dividend equivalents on the performance stock units are paid on a current basis prior to vesting and distribution. If the executive dies, becomes disabled, or retires during the performance period, or the executive's employment is terminated during the performance period under certain circumstances entitling the executive to severance benefits, the executive or the executive's beneficiaries will be entitled to receive a distribution of a prorated number of performance stock units at the completion of the performance

Table of Contents

period upon certification that the applicable performance goals have been met. If the executive is a Management Group member on the date of grant, is age 55 or older on the date of termination of employment, and does not violate certain restrictive covenants concerning confidentiality and non-solicitation during the performance period, a prorated number of performance stock units is eligible for distribution at the completion of the performance period upon certification that the applicable performance goals have been met. In other instances where the executive leaves the Corporation during the performance period, the performance stock units are forfeited. Upon a change in control of the Corporation, all performance stock units become fully vested and are immediately distributable.

(5) *Market Value of Performance Stock Units.* This column shows the market value of the unvested performance stock units held by the named executive officers, based on a price of \$52.14 per share (the closing market price of the Corporation's common stock on December 31, 2008, as reported by Nasdaq).

OPTION EXERCISES AND STOCK VESTED

The following table sets forth information for each named executive officer with respect to: