

WONG IRWIN  
Form 5  
February 13, 2009

**FORM 5**

**UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
Washington, D.C. 20549**

OMB APPROVAL

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Check this box if no longer subject to Section 16. Form 4 or Form 5 obligations may continue. See Instruction 1(b).  
Form 3 Holdings Reported Form 4 Transactions Reported

**ANNUAL STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF SECURITIES**

Filed pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, Section 17(a) of the Public Utility Holding Company Act of 1935 or Section 30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person \*  
WONG IRWIN

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol  
CATHAY GENERAL BANCORP [CATY]

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer

(Check all applicable)

(Last) (First) (Middle)

3. Statement for Issuer's Fiscal Year Ended (Month/Day/Year)  
12/31/2008

Director  10% Owner  
 Officer (give title below)  Other (specify below)  
EVP - Branch Administration

777 NORTH BROADWAY

(Street)

4. If Amendment, Date Original Filed(Month/Day/Year)

6. Individual or Joint/Group Reporting

(check applicable line)

LOS ANGELES, CA 90012

Form Filed by One Reporting Person  
 Form Filed by More than One Reporting Person

(City) (State) (Zip)

**Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned**

| 1. Title of Security (Instr. 3) | 2. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year) | 2A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year) | 3. Transaction Code (Instr. 8) | 4. Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5) | 5. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned at end of Issuer's Fiscal Year (Instr. 3 and 4) | 6. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4) | 7. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4) |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|--|--|---|
|                                 |                                      |  |                                | (A) or (D)  | Amount or Price  |  |   |
| Common Stock                    | 01/23/2008                           | Â  | J <sup>(1)</sup>               | 21.637 A  | \$ 22.5979   | 10,384.02 D  | Â   |
| Common Stock                    | 04/22/2008                           | Â  | J <sup>(1)</sup>               | 28.216 A  | \$ 17.409  | 10,384.02 D  | Â   |
| Common Stock                    | 07/22/2008                           | Â  | J <sup>(1)</sup>               | 42.973 A  | \$ 11.5  | 10,384.02 D  | Â   |
| Common Stock                    | 10/21/2008                           | Â  | J <sup>(1)</sup>               | 24.497 A  | \$ 20.3578   | 10,384.02 D  | Â   |

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Common Stock    12/31/2008    Â    J<sup>(2)</sup>    409    A    \$ 17.9242    16,350    I    By ESOP

Reminder: Report on a separate line for each class of securities beneficially owned directly or indirectly.

**Persons who respond to the collection of information contained in this form are not required to respond unless the form displays a currently valid OMB control number.**

SEC 2270  
(9-02)

**Table II - Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned**  
(e.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities)

| 1. Title of Derivative Security (Instr. 3) | 2. Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative Security | 3. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year) | 3A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year) | 4. Transaction Code (Instr. 8) | 5. Number of Derivative Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4, and 5) | 6. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year) | 7. Title and Amount of Underlying Securities (Instr. 3 and 4) |
|--|--|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|--|---|
|  |  |                                      |  |                                | (A) (D)   | Date Exercisable    Expiration Date                      | Title    Amount of Number of Shares                           |
| Stock Option                               | \$ 10.625  | Â                                    | Â  | Â                              | Â Â   | 01/20/2005 <sup>(3)</sup> 01/20/2010                     | Common Stock    3,576   |
| Stock Option                               | \$ 15.0475   | Â                                    | Â  | Â                              | Â Â   | 01/18/2005 <sup>(3)</sup> 01/18/2011                     | Common Stock    6,448   |
| Stock Option                               | \$ 16.275  | Â                                    | Â  | Â                              | Â Â   | 02/21/2005 <sup>(3)</sup> 02/21/2012                     | Common Stock    11,088  |
| Stock Option                               | \$ 19.925  | Â                                    | Â  | Â                              | Â Â   | 01/16/2005 <sup>(3)</sup> 01/16/2013                     | Common Stock    30,064  |
| Stock Option                               | \$ 24.8  | Â                                    | Â  | Â                              | Â Â   | 11/20/2004 <sup>(3)</sup> 11/20/2013                     | Common Stock    143,040                                       |
| Stock Option                               | \$ 37  | Â                                    | Â  | Â                              | Â Â   | 02/17/2006 <sup>(4)</sup> 02/17/2015                     | Common Stock    32,580  |
| Stock Option                               | \$ 36.24   | Â                                    | Â  | Â                              | Â Â   | 01/25/2007 <sup>(5)</sup> 01/25/2016                     | Common Stock    31,000  |
| Stock Option                               | \$ 23.37   | Â                                    | Â  | Â                              | Â Â   | 02/21/2009 <sup>(6)</sup> 02/21/2018                     | Common Stock    20,000  |

## Reporting Owners

| Reporting Owner Name / Address   | Relationships |           |                               |       |
|----------------------------------|---------------|-----------|-------------------------------|-------|
|                                  | Director      | 10% Owner | Officer                       | Other |
| WONG IRWIN<br>777 NORTH BROADWAY | Â             | Â         | Â EVP - Branch Administration | Â     |

LOS ANGELES, CA 90012

## Signatures

Irwin Wong

02/13/2009

Signature of  
Reporting Person

Date

## Explanation of Responses:

- \* If the form is filed by more than one reporting person, see Instruction 4(b)(v).
- \*\* Intentional misstatements or omissions of facts constitute Federal Criminal Violations. *See* 18 U.S.C. 1001 and 15 U.S.C. 78ff(a).
- (1) Dividend Reinvestment.
- (2) ESOP Earning Allocation.
- (3) The option is fully exercisable.
- (4) The option vests in 5 equal annual installments beginning 2/17/06.
- (5) The option vests in 5 equal annual installments beginning 1/25/07.
- (6) The option vests in 5 equal annual installments beginning 2/21/09.

Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed. If space provided is insufficient, *see* Instruction 6 for procedure. Potential persons who are to respond to the collection of information contained in this form are not required to respond unless the form displays a currently valid OMB number.