

Allegiance Bancshares, Inc.
Form DEF 14A
April 11, 2016
Table of Contents

UNITED STATES

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

SCHEDULE 14A

Proxy Statement Pursuant to Section 14(a) of
the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (Amendment No.)

Filed by the Registrant x
Filed by a Party other than the Registrant o
Check the appropriate box:
 o Preliminary Proxy Statement
 o **Confidential, for Use of the Commission Only (as permitted by Rule 14a-6(e)(2))**
 x Definitive Proxy Statement
 o Definitive Additional Materials
 o Soliciting Material under §240.14a-12

Allegiance Bancshares, Inc.
(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):

x No fee required.
 o Fee computed on table below per Exchange Act Rules 14a-6(i)(1) 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:

o 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 or Schedule and the date of its filing.

(1) Amount Previously Paid:

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

(3) Filing Party:

(4) Date Filed:

Table of Contents

April 11, 2016

Dear Fellow Shareholder:

On behalf of our Board of Directors, I invite you to attend the 2016 Annual Meeting of Shareholders to be held at The Houstonian Hotel at 111 North Post Oak Lane, Houston, Texas 77024 in the Juniper Room on Thursday, May 12, 2016, at 2:30 p.m., Central Time.

The purposes of the meeting are set forth in the accompanying Notice of Annual Meeting of Shareholders and Proxy Statement. Additionally, we will review our operating results for 2015 and plans for the year ahead.

Whether or not you plan to attend the meeting, it is important that your shares be represented. Please take a moment to complete, date, sign and return the enclosed proxy card as soon as possible, or use Internet or telephone voting according to the instructions on the proxy card. You may also attend and vote in person at the meeting.

We appreciate your continued support of our company and look forward to seeing you at the 2016 Annual Meeting.

Sincerely,

George Martinez
Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer

Table of Contents

8847 West Sam Houston Parkway, N., Suite 200

Houston, Texas 77040

(281) 894-3200

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS

To the shareholders of Allegiance Bancshares, Inc.:

The 2016 Annual Meeting of Shareholders (the “annual meeting”) of Allegiance Bancshares, Inc. (the “Company”) will be held on Thursday, May 12, 2016, at 2:30 p.m., Central Time, in the Juniper room of The Houstonian Hotel, 111 North Post Oak Lane, Houston, Texas 77024 for the following purposes:

1. To elect five (5) Class I directors to serve on the board of directors of the Company until the Company’s 2019 annual meeting of shareholders, and each until their respective successor or successors are duly elected and qualified or until their earlier resignation or removal;
2. To ratify the appointment of Crowe Horwath LLP as the independent registered public accounting firm of the Company for the year ending December 31, 2016; and
3. To transact such other business as may properly come before the annual meeting or any adjournment or postponement thereof.

Only shareholders of record at the close of business on April 1, 2016, will be entitled to receive notice of and to vote at the annual meeting. For instructions on voting, please refer to the enclosed proxy card or voting information form. A list of shareholders entitled to vote at the annual meeting will be available for inspection by any shareholder at the principal office of the Company during ordinary business hours for a period of ten days prior to the annual meeting.

This list also will be available to shareholders at the annual meeting.

By Order of the Board of Directors,

George Martinez
Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer
Houston, Texas

April 11, 2016

Your Vote is Important

A proxy card is enclosed. Whether or not you plan to attend the annual meeting, please vote by completing, signing and dating the proxy card and promptly mailing it in the enclosed envelope or via the Internet or by telephone pursuant to the instructions provided on the enclosed proxy card. You may revoke your proxy card in the manner described in the proxy statement at any time before it is exercised. See “About the Annual Meeting” in the accompanying proxy statement for more information on how to vote your shares or revoke your proxy.

Table of Contents

Table of Contents

<u>PROPOSAL 1. ELECTION OF DIRECTORS</u>	<u>7</u>
<u>Classification of the Company’s Directors</u>	<u>7</u>
<u>Election Procedures; Term of Office</u>	<u>7</u>
<u>Nominees for Election</u>	<u>7</u>
<u>CONTINUING DIRECTORS AND EXECUTIVE OFFICERS</u>	<u>10</u>
<u>BOARD AND COMMITTEE MATTERS</u>	<u>13</u>
<u>Board Meetings</u>	<u>13</u>
<u>Director Attendance at Annual Meeting</u>	<u>13</u>
<u>Meetings of Non-Management Directors</u>	<u>13</u>
<u>Board Composition</u>	<u>13</u>
<u>Director Independence</u>	<u>13</u>
<u>Board Leadership Structure</u>	<u>14</u>
<u>Risk Management and Oversight</u>	<u>14</u>
<u>Director Nominations</u>	<u>14</u>
<u>Procedures to be Followed by Shareholders For Director Nominations</u>	<u>15</u>
<u>Committees of the Board</u>	<u>16</u>
<u>Director Compensation</u>	<u>18</u>
<u>CERTAIN CORPORATE GOVERNANCE MATTERS</u>	<u>20</u>
<u>Code of Business Conduct and Ethics</u>	<u>20</u>
<u>Corporate Governance Guidelines</u>	<u>20</u>
<u>Independent Auditors</u>	<u>20</u>
<u>Fees Paid to Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm</u>	<u>20</u>
<u>Audit Committee Pre-Approval</u>	<u>21</u>
<u>EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION AND OTHER MATTERS</u>	<u>22</u>
<u>Summary Compensation Table</u>	<u>22</u>
<u>Narrative Discussion of Summary Compensation Table</u>	<u>23</u>
<u>Employment Agreements with Named Executive Officers</u>	<u>24</u>
<u>Outstanding Equity Awards at Fiscal Year End</u>	<u>25</u>
<u>2008 Stock Awards and Incentive Plan</u>	<u>25</u>
<u>Awards to Named Executive Officers</u>	<u>25</u>
<u>Potential Payments upon Termination or Change of Control</u>	<u>25</u>
<u>Compensation Policies and Practices and Risk Management</u>	<u>25</u>
<u>Compensation Committee Interlocks and Insider Participation</u>	<u>26</u>
<u>CERTAIN RELATIONSHIPS AND RELATED PERSON TRANSACTIONS</u>	<u>27</u>

<u>BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF THE COMPANY'S COMMON STOCK BY MANAGEMENT AND PRINCIPAL SHAREHOLDERS OF THE COMPANY</u>	<u>28</u>
<u>Section 16(a) Beneficial Ownership Reporting Compliance</u>	<u>30</u>
<u>AUDIT COMMITTEE REPORT</u>	<u>31</u>

Table of Contents

<u>PROPOSAL 2. RATIFICATION OF THE APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM</u>	<u>32</u>
<u>DATE FOR SUBMISSION OF SHAREHOLDER PROPOSALS FOR 2017 ANNUAL MEETING</u>	<u>33</u>
<u>ANNUAL REPORT ON FORM 10-K</u>	<u>33</u>
<u>OTHER MATTERS</u>	<u>33</u>

Table of Contents

ALLEGIANCE BANCSHARES, INC.

8847 West Sam Houston Parkway, N., Suite 200

Houston, Texas 77040

PROXY STATEMENT FOR

2016 ANNUAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS

TO BE HELD ON MAY 12, 2016

Unless the context otherwise requires, references in this proxy statement to “we,” “us,” “our,” “our company,” the “Company” “Allegiance” refer to Allegiance Bancshares, Inc., a Texas corporation, and its consolidated subsidiaries as a whole; references to the “Bank” refer to Allegiance Bank, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Allegiance Bancshares, Inc. In addition, unless the context otherwise requires, references to “shareholders” are to the holders of outstanding shares of our common stock, par value \$1.00 per share (the “common stock”).

This proxy statement is being furnished in connection with the solicitation of proxies by the board of directors of the Company (the “board”) for use at the 2016 annual meeting of shareholders of the Company to be held on Thursday, May 12, 2016 at 2:30 p.m., Central Time, in the Juniper room of The Houstonian Hotel, 111 North Post Oak Lane, Houston, Texas, 77024 and any adjournments or postponements thereof (the “annual meeting”) for the purposes set forth in this proxy statement and the accompanying Notice of Annual Meeting of Shareholders (the “notice”). This proxy statement, the notice and the enclosed proxy card (collectively the “proxy materials”) are first being sent to shareholders on or about April 11, 2016. You should read the entire proxy materials carefully before voting.

IMPORTANT NOTICE REGARDING THE AVAILABILITY OF PROXY MATERIALS FOR THE 2016 ANNUAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS TO BE HELD ON THURSDAY, MAY 12, 2016

Pursuant to the rules promulgated by the Securities and Exchange Commission (the “SEC”), the Company is providing access to its proxy materials both by sending you a full set of proxy materials and making copies of these materials available on the Internet. You may access the following information at www.allegiancebank.com:

Edgar Filing: Allegiance Bancshares, Inc. - Form DEF 14A

· Notice of Annual Meeting of Shareholders to be held on Thursday, May 12, 2016;

· Proxy Statement for 2016 Annual Meeting of Shareholders to be held on Thursday, May 12, 2016;

· Form of Proxy; and

· Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2015.

Table of Contents

ABOUT THE ANNUAL MEETING

What is a proxy?

A proxy is another person that you legally designate to vote your shares of common stock. If you designate someone as your proxy in a written document, that document is also called a “proxy” or a “proxy card.”

What is a proxy statement?

A proxy statement is a document that describes the matters to be voted upon at the annual meeting and provides additional information about the Company. Pursuant to regulations of the SEC, we are required to provide you with a proxy statement containing certain information when we ask you to sign a proxy card to vote your shares of common stock at a meeting of the Company’s shareholders.

When and where will the annual meeting be held?

The annual meeting is scheduled to take place at 2:30 p.m., Central Time, on Thursday, May 12, 2016, in the Juniper room of The Houstonian Hotel, 111 North Post Oak Lane, Houston, Texas 77024.

What is the purpose of the annual meeting?

This is the 2016 annual meeting of shareholders. At the annual meeting, shareholders will act upon the matters outlined in the notice, including the following:

To elect five (5) Class I directors to serve on the board until the Company’s 2019 annual meeting of shareholders, and each until their respective successor or successors are duly elected and qualified or until their earlier resignation or removal;

2. To ratify the appointment of Crowe Horwath LLP as the independent registered public accounting firm of the Company for the year ending December 31, 2016; and
3. To transact such other business as may properly come before the annual meeting or any adjournment or postponement thereof.

Who are the nominees for directors?

The following five persons have been nominated for reelection as directors of the Company:

Daryl D. Bohls

Matthew H. Hartzell

Umesh (Mike) Jain

James J. Kearney

P. Michael Mann, M.D.

Who is entitled to vote at the annual meeting?

The holders of record of the outstanding shares of common stock on April 1, 2016, which is the date that the board has fixed as the record date for the annual meeting (the “record date”), are entitled to vote at the annual meeting. The record date is established by the board as required by the Company’s bylaws and Texas law. On the record date, 12,844,752 shares of common stock were outstanding.

How do I vote?

You may vote your shares of common stock either in person at the annual meeting or by proxy. The process for voting your shares depends on how your shares are held as described below.

Table of Contents

If you are a record holder on the record date for the annual meeting, you may vote by proxy or you may attend the annual meeting and vote in person. If you are a record holder and want to vote your shares by proxy, you have three ways to vote:

indicate on the proxy card(s) applicable to your common stock how you want to vote and then sign, date and mail your proxy card(s) in the enclosed pre-addressed postage-paid envelope as soon as possible to ensure that it will be received in advance of the annual meeting;

- call 1-800-690-6903 using a touch-tone telephone and follow the instructions provided on the call; or
- go to the website *www.proxyvote.com* and follow the instructions for Internet voting on that website.

The Company must receive your proxy card by no later than the time the polls close for voting at the annual meeting for your vote to be counted at the annual meeting. Please note that Internet voting will close at 11:59 p.m., Eastern Time, on May 11, 2016.

Voting your shares by proxy will enable your shares of common stock to be represented and voted at the annual meeting if you do not attend the annual meeting and vote your shares in person. By completing and submitting the proxy card, you will direct the designated persons (known as “proxies”) to vote your common stock at the annual meeting in accordance with your instructions. The board has appointed George Martinez and Steve Retzloff to serve as the proxies for the annual meeting.

If your shares of common stock are held in “street name,” your ability to vote over the Internet depends on your broker’s voting process. You should follow the instructions on your proxy card or voting instruction card.

To vote the shares that you hold in “street name” in person at the annual meeting, you must bring a legal proxy from your broker, bank or other nominee, (1) confirming that you were the beneficial owner of those shares as of the close of the record date, (2) stating the number of shares of which you were the beneficial owner that were held for your benefit at that time by that broker, bank or other nominee and (3) appointing you as the record holder’s proxy to vote the shares covered by that proxy at the annual meeting.

What is the difference between a shareholder of record and a “street name” holder?

If your shares are registered directly in your name with Computershare, the Company's stock transfer agent, you are considered the shareholder of record with respect to those shares. This proxy statement and the proxy card have been sent directly to you by Broadridge Financial Solutions, Inc. at the Company's request.

If your shares are held in a brokerage account or by a bank or other nominee, the nominee is considered the record holder of those shares. You are considered the beneficial owner of these shares, and your shares are held in "street name." This proxy statement and the proxy card or voting instruction card have been forwarded to you by your nominee. As the beneficial owner, you have the right to direct your nominee concerning how to vote your shares by using the voting instructions your nominee included in the mailing or by following its instructions for voting.

What are the voting rights of the shareholders?

The holders of at least a majority of the outstanding shares of common stock on the record date must be represented at the annual meeting, in person or by proxy, in order to constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. Each record holder of shares of common stock is entitled to one vote for each share of common stock registered, on the record date, in such holder's name on the books of the Company on all matters to be acted upon at the annual meeting. The Company's certificate of formation prohibits cumulative voting.

What is a broker non-vote?

A broker non-vote occurs when a broker holding shares for a beneficial owner does not vote on a particular proposal because the broker does not have discretionary voting power with respect to that item and has not received voting instructions from the beneficial owner. Your broker has discretionary authority to vote your shares with respect to the ratification of the appointment of Crowe Horwath LLP as our independent registered public accounting firm (Proposal 2). In the absence of specific instructions from you, your broker does not have discretionary authority to vote your shares with respect to the election of directors to the board (Proposal 1).

Table of Contents

What is “householding” and how does it affect me?

With respect to eligible shareholders who share a single address, we are sending only one copy of the notice and proxy statement to that address unless we have received instructions to the contrary from any eligible shareholder at that address. Eligible shareholders will continue to have access and receive separate proxy cards. This practice, known as “householding,” is designed to reduce printing and postage costs. However, a shareholder of record residing at such address who wishes to receive a separate copy of the notice and proxy statement in the future may contact Allegiance Bancshares, Inc., 8847 West Sam Houston Parkway, N., Suite 200, Houston, Texas 77040, Attn: Courtney Theriot. Eligible shareholders of record receiving multiple copies of the notice and proxy statement can request householding by contacting us in the same manner. Shareholders who own shares through a bank, broker or other nominee can request householding by contacting such nominee.

Who counts the votes?

All votes will be tabulated by the inspector of election appointed for the annual meeting. Votes for each proposal will be tabulated separately.

What should I do if I receive more than one set of voting materials?

You may receive more than one set of voting materials, including multiple copies of this proxy statement and multiple proxy cards or voting instruction cards. For example, if you hold your shares in more than one brokerage account, you will receive a separate voting instruction card for each brokerage account in which you hold shares. Similarly, if you are a shareholder of record and hold shares in a brokerage account, you will receive a proxy card for shares held in your name and a voting instruction card for shares held in “street name.” Please complete, sign, date and return each proxy card and voting instruction card that you receive to ensure that all your shares are voted.

What are the board’s recommendations on how I should vote my shares?

The board recommends that you vote your shares as follows:

Proposal 1—**FOR** the election of each nominee for director; and

Proposal 2—**FOR** the ratification of the appointment of Crowe Horwath LLP.

How will my shares be voted if I return a signed and dated proxy card, but don't specify how my shares will be voted?

If you are a record holder who returns a completed proxy card that does not specify how you want to vote your shares on one or more proposals, the proxies will vote your shares for each proposal as to which you provide no voting instructions, and such shares will be voted in the following manner:

Proposal 1—**FOR** the election of each nominee for director; and

Proposal 2—**FOR** the ratification of the appointment of Crowe Horwath LLP.

If you are a "street name" holder and do not provide voting instructions on one or more proposals, your bank, broker or other nominee will be unable to vote those shares, except that such nominee will have discretion to vote on the ratification of the appointment of Crowe Horwath LLP (Proposal 2).

What are my choices when voting?

In the election of directors, you may vote for all director nominees or you may withhold your vote as to one or more director nominees. With respect to the proposal to ratify the appointment of Crowe Horwath LLP, you may vote for the proposal, against the proposal or abstain from voting on the proposal.

Table of Contents

May I change my vote after I have submitted my proxy card?

Yes. Regardless of the method used to cast a vote, if you are a record holder, you may change your vote by:

delivering to the Company prior to the annual meeting a written notice of revocation addressed to: Allegiance Bancshares, Inc., 8847 West Sam Houston Parkway, N., Suite 200, Houston, Texas 77040, Attn: Courtney Theriot;

completing, signing and returning a new proxy card with a later date than your original proxy card prior to such time that the proxy card for any such holder of common stock must be received, and any earlier proxy will be revoked automatically;

logging onto the Internet website specified on your proxy card in the same manner you would to submit your proxy electronically or by calling the telephone number specified on your proxy card, in each case if you are eligible to do so and following the instructions indicated on the proxy card; or

attending the annual meeting and voting in person, and any earlier proxy will be revoked. However, simply attending the annual meeting without voting will not revoke your proxy.

If your shares are held in “street name” and you desire to change any voting instructions you have previously given to the record holder of the shares of which you are the beneficial owner, you should contact the broker, bank or other nominee holding your shares in “street name” in order to direct a change in the manner your shares will be voted.

What percentage of the vote is required to approve each proposal?

Assuming the presence of a quorum, the five director nominees who receive the most votes from the holders of the outstanding shares of common stock for their election will be elected—i.e., the affirmative vote of the holders of a plurality of the votes cast at the annual meeting is required for the election of the director nominees (Proposal 1).

Assuming the presence of a quorum, the ratification of Crowe Horwath LLP’s appointment as the Company’s independent registered public accounting firm (Proposal 2) will require the affirmative vote of the holders of a majority of the votes cast at the annual meeting.

How are broker non-votes and abstentions treated?

Broker non-votes and abstentions are counted for purposes of determining the presence or absence of a quorum. A broker non-vote or a withholding of authority to vote with respect to one or more nominees for director will not have the effect of a vote against such nominee or nominees. Because the ratification of the appointment of the independent registered public accounting firm is considered a routine matter and a broker or other nominee may generally vote on routine matters, no broker non-votes are expected to occur in connection with this proposal. Any abstentions will not have the effect of a vote against the proposals to ratify the appointment of Crowe Horwath LLP as the Company's independent registered public accounting firm (Proposal 2).

What are the solicitation expenses and who pays the cost of this proxy solicitation?

The board is asking for your proxy, and we will pay all of the costs of soliciting shareholder proxies. In addition to the solicitation of proxies via mail, our officers, directors and employees may solicit proxies personally or by other means of communication, without being paid additional compensation for such services. The Company will reimburse banks, brokerage houses and other custodians, nominees and fiduciaries for their reasonable expenses in forwarding the proxy materials to beneficial owners of common stock.

Table of Contents

Are there any other matters to be acted upon at the annual meeting?

Management does not intend to present any business at the annual meeting for a vote other than the matters set forth in the notice, and management has no information that others will do so. The proxy also confers on the proxies the discretionary authority to vote with respect to any matter properly presented at the annual meeting. If other matters requiring a vote of the shareholders properly come before the annual meeting, it is the intention of the persons named in the accompanying form of proxy to vote the shares represented by the proxies held by them in accordance with applicable law and their judgment on such matters.

Where can I find voting results?

The Company will publish the voting results in a current report on Form 8-K, which will be filed with the SEC within four business days following the annual meeting.

How can I communicate with the board?

To communicate with the board, shareholders should submit their comments by sending written correspondence via mail or courier to Allegiance Bancshares, Inc., 8847 West Sam Houston Parkway, N., Suite 200, Houston, Texas 77040, Attn: Daryl Bohls; or via email at ir@allegiancebank.com. Shareholder communications will be sent directly to the specific director or directors of the Company indicated in the communication or to all members of the board if not specified.

Table of Contents

PROPOSAL 1. ELECTION OF DIRECTORS

Classification of the Company's Directors

In accordance with the terms of the Company's certificate of formation, the Company's board is divided into three classes, Class I, Class II and Class III, with each class serving staggered three-year terms as follows:

The Class I directors are Daryl D. Bohls, Lawrence G. Fraser, Matthew H. Hartzell, Umesh (Mike) Jain, James J. Kearney and P. Michael Mann, M.D., and their terms will expire at the annual meeting of shareholders to be held in 2016;

The Class II directors are John Beckworth, Frances H. Jeter, George Martinez, David B. Moulton and Thomas A. Reiser, and their terms will expire at the annual meeting of shareholders to be held in 2017; and

The Class III directors are William S. Nichols III, Steven F. Retzloff, Raimundo Riojas E., Fred S. Robertson and Ramon A. Vitulli III, and their terms will expire at the annual meeting of shareholders to be held in 2018.

Election Procedures; Term of Office

The Corporate Governance and Nominating Committee has recommended to the board, and the board has approved, the nomination of Daryl D. Bohls, Matthew H. Hartzell, Umesh (Mike) Jain, James J. Kearney and P. Michael Mann, M.D. to fill five of the six expiring Class I director positions. At Mr. Fraser's request, he was not nominated by the board for reelection as a Class I director at the annual meeting. Each nominee is currently serving as a Class I director. The five Class I nominees, if elected at the annual meeting, will serve until the annual meeting of shareholders in 2019.

The affirmative vote of a plurality of the votes cast at an annual meeting at which a quorum is present is required for the election of each of the nominees for director. This means that the five director nominees who receive the most votes from the holders of the outstanding shares of common stock for their election at this year's annual meeting will be elected.

Unless the authority to vote for the election of directors is withheld as to one or more of the nominees, all shares of common stock represented by proxy will be voted FOR the election of the nominees. If the authority to vote for the election of directors is withheld as to one or more but not all of the nominees, all shares of common stock represented by any such proxy will be voted FOR the election of the nominee or nominees, as the case may be, as to whom such authority is not withheld.

If a nominee becomes unavailable to serve as a director for any reason before the election, the shares represented by proxy will be voted for such other person, if any, as may be designated by the board. The board has no reason to believe that any nominee will be unavailable to serve as a director. All of the nominees have consented to being named herein and to serve if elected.

Nominees for Election

The following table sets forth certain information with respect to the Company's Class I directors whose terms of office expire at the annual meeting and have been nominated for reelection. The business address for all of these individuals is 8847 West Sam Houston Parkway N., Suite 200, Houston, Texas 77040:

Name	Age	Position with the Company and the Bank	Director Since
Daryl D. Bohls	64	Director and Executive Vice President and Chief Credit Officer of the Bank	2007
Matthew H. Hartzell	57	Director	2013
Umesh (Mike) Jain ⁽¹⁾	59	Director	2016
James J. Kearney	72	Director	2013
P. Michael Mann, M.D. ⁽¹⁾	74	Director	2008

(1) Member, Audit Committee of the Company

Table of Contents

The following is a brief discussion of the business and banking background and experience of our director nominees.

Daryl D. Bohls. Daryl D. Bohls is one of the organizers of the Bank, and served as President and Chief Credit Officer of Allegiance Bank from 2007 to 2013 before dedicating himself full-time to the position of Executive Vice President and Chief Credit Officer in 2014. Mr. Bohls has served on our board since 2008. Mr. Bohls has 35 years of banking experience in the Houston market, including 20 years with Sterling Bank, and he has been the president of four Houston banks. During his tenure with Sterling Bank, Mr. Bohls held the positions of President, Executive Vice President, Director, Chief Credit Officer, Senior Loan Officer, Regional CEO and Chairman of Senior Loan Committee, the latter a position he held for 17 years. Mr. Bohls is a past board member of the Independent Bankers Association of Texas. Mr. Bohls has been an appointed Civil Service Commissioner with the Harris County Sheriff's Department since 1999. Mr. Bohls served as an adjunct Finance Professor for the banking school at Sam Houston State University for seven semesters. He is a member of the Houston C-Club. Mr. Bohls received a Bachelor of Business Administration degree in accounting from the University of Texas, and a Master of Business Administration in banking from Sam Houston State University. Mr. Bohls' diverse business experience and advanced banking education qualify him to serve on our board.

Matthew H. Hartzell. Matthew H. Hartzell has served on our board since our acquisition of Independence Bank in 2013. Prior to the acquisition, Mr. Hartzell served Independence Bank as the Vice Chairman of the Board, as the Chair of both the IT Committee and the Compensation Committee for over five years each, and as a member of the Executive Committee. Mr. Hartzell is presently Chief Administrative Officer of N.F. Smith & Associates, L.P., an independent distributor of computer hardware components, and served as their Chief Operating Officer for the six years prior. For the past 17 years, he has also served as General Counsel of Valid Management, LLC, one of the holdings in N.F. Smith's diversified portfolio of technology businesses. Prior to joining Valid Management, Mr. Hartzell was a shareholder and associate with Hirsch & Westheimer, P.C., for more than a decade. Since 2010 he has served as a member of the SAE G-19 Committee, a committee dedicated to promulgating standards for the mitigation of counterfeit parts in electronic part purchasing. Mr. Hartzell served many years on the board of the Woodlands Heights Civic Association. He received a Bachelor of Arts degree from St. John's College, Annapolis, Maryland and a Juris Doctor degree from the University of Houston. Mr. Hartzell's extensive legal experience and business skills qualify him to serve on our board. Mr. Hartzell understands computer technology and applications, which enables him to provide valuable insight and guidance as the Chairman of the Information Technology Committee. Given the existence of cyber-security risks in the industry, his IT and general business skillsets also make him a valued member of the Enterprise Risk Management Committee.

Umesh (Mike) Jain. Umesh 'Mike' Jain was recently elected to serve on our board in February 2016. Mr. Jain has been a Certified Public Accountant in Houston since 1982. Mr. Jain founded Jain and Jain, P.C., Accountants and Tax Consultants in 1986, which provides assurance and tax services primarily for privately held businesses with revenues up to \$100 million. Mr. Jain also founded Pi Capital Partners, LLC, a private equity firm. Mr. Jain served as a Director of Horizon Capital Bank from 2002 to 2005, which was acquired by Frost Bank in 2005. In addition, Mr. Jain served as a Director of Bank of Houston from March 2006 to April 2014 until it was acquired by Independent Bank in April

2014. While with Bank of Houston, Mr. Jain served as Chairman of the Audit Committee and as a member of its Loan, Merger and Acquisition, Governance and Compensation Committees. Mr. Jain is a member of the Lieutenant Governor's Advisory Board which consists of 55 Texas Business and Industry leaders. Mr. Jain was a Board member of the University of St. Thomas and served as the Chairman of the Audit Committee. Upon his addition to the board, Mr. Jain became an active and valuable member of the Audit Committee through his extensive experience as a Certified Public Accountant and previous audit committee experience.

James J. Kearney. James J. Kearney has served on our board since 2013. Mr. Kearney is presently Senior Vice President of Investments for Raymond James & Associates, Inc., Member New York Stock Exchange/SIPC, which provides brokerage, investment banking, trust, and other financial services. From 2001 through 2003, Mr. Kearney was Senior Vice President of the Houston office of Robert W. Baird & Co, an investment banking and securities brokerage firm. From 1974 until December 2000, Mr. Kearney was Senior Vice President and Director of the Private Client Group for the Houston office of SG Cowen & Co. From 2006 to 2012 he was a director of First Community Bank of Fort Bend. He served as a Director on the board of Sterling Bank from 1985 to 1992 and on the board of Sterling Bancshares, Inc. from 1992 to 2006. Mr. Kearney is a member of the Dominican Sisters Board and has served on the Investment Advisory Committee for the Sacred Heart Convent Retirement Trust since 1988. Mr. Kearney received his Master of Arts in economics from the University of Missouri, a Master of Arts from the University of London and a Doctor of Philosophy from the University of Missouri. Mr. Kearney was a Captain in the United States Army from 1968-1970. Mr. Kearney is able to call on his background in investment management and economics as a valued member of the Asset/Liability Committee as well as his experience with community banks as a director of Allegiance Bank.

Table of Contents

P. Michael Mann, M.D. P. Michael Mann, M.D. is one of the organizers of the Bank and has served on our board since 2008. Dr. Mann is the Chairman and co-owner of Mann Eye Center, P.A. From 1979 to present, Mr. Mann served as a director of Sterling Bank from 1997 to 2004. He has served on the board of trustees of the Houston Symphony and Centenary College of Louisiana. He is a Rotarian and past president of the Humble Rotary Club. He is a member of numerous medical professional organizations, including the American College of Surgeons, the American Academy of Ophthalmology, Windsor National Associates, and the Houston Ophthalmological Society. Dr. Mann received a Bachelor of Science degree from Centenary College of Louisiana and a Medical Degree from Louisiana State University in New Orleans, and he completed residency in Ophthalmology at Tulane University School of Medicine. Dr. Mann's leadership skills and business experience qualify him to serve on our board. The Audit Committee benefits from Dr. Mann's prior experience as a public company bank director and from his proven ability to run a very successful, multi-location eye surgery business. His familiarity with decision makers in the local medical services industry and other local business owners helps to advance the Bank's goal of pursuing existing and new organic growth avenues.

At Mr. Fraser's request, he was not nominated by the board for reelection as a Class I director at the annual meeting.

THE BOARD RECOMMENDS A VOTE "FOR" THE ELECTION OF EACH OF THE NOMINEES LISTED ABOVE FOR ELECTION TO THE BOARD.

Table of Contents**CONTINUING DIRECTORS AND EXECUTIVE OFFICERS**

The following table sets forth certain information with respect to the Company's Class II and Class III directors whose terms of office do not expire at the annual meeting, and the executive officer of the Company who is not also a director. The business address for all of these individuals is 8847 West Sam Houston Parkway N., Suite 200, Houston, Texas 77040.

Name	Age	Position with the Company and the Bank
Directors:		
George Martinez	74	Class II Director; Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer of the Company; Chief Executive Officer of the Bank Class
John B. Beckworth	58	II Director Class
Frances H. Jeter	59	II Director Class
David B. Moulton	76	II Director Class
Thomas A. Reiser	64	Class II

Edgar Filing: Allegiance Bancshares, Inc. - Form DEF 14A

William S. Nichols III	64	Director Class III
Steven F. Retzloff	60	Director; President of the Company; Chairman of the Board of the Bank Class III
Raimundo Riojas E.	75	Director Class III
Fred S. Robertson	66	Director Class III Director; Executive Vice President and President of Allegiance Bank
Ramon A. Vitulli III	47	President and President of Allegiance Bank

Executive officer who is not also
a director:

Laurence L. Lehman III	55	Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer of the Company; Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer of the Bank
------------------------	----	--

The following is a brief discussion of the business and banking background and experience of our continuing directors and executive officers. All officers of the Company are elected by the board and serve at the discretion of the board.

Class II Directors

George Martinez. Mr. Martinez is one of the organizers of the Bank and has been the Chairman of our board and our Chief Executive Officer since 2008 and Chief Executive Officer of the Bank since 2007. Mr. Martinez began his banking career in 1974 as the co-founder of Sterling Bank, where he served as an Executive Vice President from 1974 to 1980, and then as Chief Executive Officer of Sterling Bancshares, Inc. a publicly traded multi-billion dollar financial institution, from 1980-2001 and as Chairman from 1992-2004. From 1998 to 2008, Mr. Martinez served as President of Chrysalis Partners, LLC, an executive leadership consulting firm. He currently serves on the board of directors of NCI Building Systems, Inc. (NCS:NYSE), Landmark Worldwide Enterprises, Inc., the University of St. Thomas and the Collaborative for Children. Mr. Martinez received a Bachelor of Business Administration and Economics degree from Rice University. With over 50 years of business experience, Mr. Martinez's significant leadership skills and extensive experience in community banking qualify him to serve on our board and as our Chairman.

John Beckworth. Mr. Beckworth has served on our board since 2009. Mr. Beckworth practiced law in Houston for thirty years from 1983 until 2013. He was an associate and partner at Fulbright & Jaworski LLP, before leaving to start his own firm. Mr. Beckworth co-founded WattBeckworth in Houston where he remained a partner until March of 2013. He was board certified by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization for over 25 years; he has been recognized as a member of the American Board of Trial Advocates; and he is a member of the State Bar of Texas and The American Bar Association. In 2013, Mr. Beckworth left active law practice to become Associate Dean at The University of Texas School of Law. He has served as Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Kinkaid School in Houston and he is a Life Trustee of the school. He is a former Trustee of The University of Texas Law School Foundation, and he has served as President and Chairman of the Board of The University of Texas Ex Students' Association. He is a director of the Kinkaid Investments Foundation and the Texas Exes Scholarship Foundation. Mr. Beckworth also operates family ranching, oil and gas, and investments interests. Mr. Beckworth received Bachelor of Arts and Juris Doctor degrees from The University of Texas at Austin and The University of Texas School of Law. With his extensive career as both a practicing attorney and administrator, Mr. Beckworth provides informed attention to detail, experienced judgment and assists both the board and management with the effective execution of his duties as Chairman of the Corporate Governance and Nominating Committee. His business acumen and familiarity with compensation best practices benefits the Compensation Committee.

Table of Contents

Frances H. Jeter. Ms. Jeter has served on our board since 2014. She has more than 25 years of experience in marketing, public affairs and business and nonprofit management. Ms. Jeter is presently group Vice President of internal and external affairs for Spectra Energy. Before joining Spectra Energy, Ms. Jeter served as Chief Marketing Officer for Bracewell & Giuliani LLP. She previously served as Vice President of public affairs for Duke Energy Gas Transmission, a predecessor company of Spectra. Ms. Jeter served as Director of Marketing and Customer Service for the Metropolitan Transit Authority of Harris County and served in marketing roles for Exxon Mobil and Westinghouse Defense International. She also served as Associate Director of External Relations for the James A. Baker III Institute of Public Policy at Rice University. She is a life trustee and a past chair of The Kinkaid School Board of Trustees in Houston and a former Trustee of The Hockaday School in Dallas. She is the founding Chair of Houston's The Fay School and is also a former member of the Board of Directors of the Greater Houston Community Foundation and St. Luke's Episcopal Health Charities, among several other non-profit organizations. Ms. Jeter received a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Her extensive experience in the public company arena is evident as Ms. Jeter assists the Branding Committee in all areas of marketing and public relations. Her attention to detail and working knowledge of governance matters are well suited to her participation on the Corporate Governance and Nominating Committee.

David B. Moulton. Mr. Moulton has served on our board since 2008 and the board of the Bank since 2007. Mr. Moulton is a retired banker. He began his career in banking in 1969 with Texas Commerce Bank. He was the Chairman and CEO of National Commerce Bank from 1986 to 1995, when it was acquired by Frost Bank. He was the Chairman and CEO of Alameda Bancshares, Inc. from 1996 to 1999, when it was acquired by Sterling Bancshares, Inc., and he served as a director of Sterling Bancshares until 2004. Mr. Moulton attended the University of Georgia and the Southwestern Graduate School of Banking at Southern Methodist University. Mr. Moulton's extensive business experience, particularly in the community banking industry, qualifies him to serve on our board. He understands community banking, and particularly the Houston market, which serves the Bank well through his status as the Chairman of the Asset Quality Committee, as a regular voting member of the Loan Committee, and as a director of Allegiance Bank. His skills and experience are also valuable to his other director roles: ALCO Committee member, Corporate Governance and Nominating Committee member and Chairman of the Compensation Committee.

Thomas A. Reiser. Mr. Reiser is one of the organizers of the Bank and has served on our board since 2007 and the board of the Bank since 2007. Mr. Reiser has over 30 years of business experience. He is presently the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Upstream Insurance Brokers. He has over 20 years of board membership experience, including from 1994 to 2006 when he served as a Director of Sterling Bancshares, Inc. Mr. Reiser has served on numerous board committees, including audit, enterprise risk management and IT committees. Mr. Reiser received a Bachelor of Arts degree from the College of William and Mary. Mr. Reiser's extensive business experience in the community banking industry qualifies him to serve on our board. Mr. Reiser is able to directly contribute through his role as Chairman of the Enterprise Risk Management Committee given his long exposure to banking and as an insurance executive. He also provides sound reasoning as a member of the Audit Committee.

Class III Directors

William S. Nichols III. Mr. Nichols is one of the organizers of the Bank and has served on our board since 2008 and the board of the Bank since 2007. Mr. Nichols is presently the President of Suncor Companies, LLC, a real estate development company that primarily focuses on the development of freestanding retail facilities throughout the United States. He is also general partner of numerous real estate development partnerships. From 1974 to 1984 he worked as an audit principal at Ernst & Young. He has held numerous board appointments, including advisory director at Community Bank, Katy, Texas. Additionally, he is the founder and director of the Nichols Foundation, a foundation to provide college scholarships to students on a need basis. He also serves on the development council of the Mays Business School at Texas A&M University. Mr. Nichols is a Certified Public Accountant and is a member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and the Texas Society of Certified Public Accountants. He received a Bachelor of Business Administration degree from Texas A&M University. Mr. Nichols' understanding of the Houston business market and leadership experience qualify him to serve on our board. Mr. Nichols makes good use of both his experience in the real estate industry and as a CPA as he contributes by serving as a director of Allegiance Bank. He also provides informed guidance as a member of the Compensation Committee and as the Chairman of the Audit Committee.

Steven F. Retzloff. Steven F. Retzloff is one of the organizers of the Bank and has been our President since 2008 and Chairman of the Bank since 2007. Mr. Retzloff has over 35 years of business experience and 29 years of Houston Banking experience. Mr. Retzloff served as a director of Sterling Bancshares, Inc., a publicly traded multi-billion dollar financial institution, and Sterling Bank from 1987 to 2006, including terms as Chairman of the board of Sterling Bancshares from 1990 to 1992 and from 2004 to 2005. He is currently Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Retzloff Industries, Inc. and is an advisory director to Pharos Capital Partners III. Prior to co-founding Allegiance Bank, Mr. Retzloff owned and managed Travis Body & Trailer, Inc., a nationwide manufacturer of specialized truck trailers. His past work experience also includes General Motors, Bristol Myers and Retzloff Capital Corporation. Mr. Retzloff received an Industrial Engineering degree from The Georgia Institute of Technology and a Master of Business Administration degree (with distinction) from the Babcock Graduate School of Management at Wake Forest University. Mr. Retzloff currently serves as a Director of The Texas Theological Foundation and The Open Door Mission, and is a member of the advisory board for Fuller Texas School of Theology. He is also a Vice President of the Kinkaid School Investments Foundation and serves on the advisory board for the Mays School Banking Program at Texas A&M University. Mr. Retzloff's significant experience as a director and officer of community banks and his extensive leadership skills qualify him to serve on our board.

Table of Contents

Raimundo Riojas E. Mr. Riojas has served on our board since 2012. Mr. Riojas is the President of Duwest, Inc., a joint venture of Westrade, Inc. and E.I. DuPont de Nemours, engaged in the distribution of crop protection products and the manufacture of industrial and automotive coatings. Mr. Riojas presently manages a group of companies in Central America, Colombia and the Caribbean. From 1994 to 2011, he served as a director of Sterling Bancshares, Inc. He has also served as a director of The American Brahman Breeders Association from 1996 through February 2015. Mr. Riojas received a Chemical Engineering degree from Texas A&M University. Mr. Riojas' international business experience and relationships in the banking industry qualifies him to serve on our board. The Compensation Committee benefits from Mr. Riojas' experience in manufacturing, distribution, service and chemicals.

Fred S. Robertson. Mr. Robertson has served on our board since 2011. Mr. Robertson has over 30 years of experience overseeing institutional and retail investments. He has managed fixed income investments and designed extensive quantitative models for bond management. For the past five years, Mr. Robertson has been managing his personal investments. Mr. Robertson holds a number of non-profit board appointments and volunteers with many organizations in Houston. Mr. Robertson received a Bachelor of Science from Cornell University and a Masters of Business Administration in finance from the College of William and Mary. Mr. Robertson's significant experience in the banking industry and leadership skills qualify him to serve on our board. Mr. Robertson utilizes his knowledge of investment and fund management as Chair of the ALCO Committee. His financial expertise provides additional benefit to the Company as he serves as a director of Allegiance Bank, as a member of the Compensation Committee and as Chairman of the 401K Committee.

Ramon A. Vitulli III. Ramon A. Vitulli, III served as Bank Office President from 2007 to 2013 and has been President of the Bank since 2013. He has served on our board since 2014 and has been a director of the Bank since 2008. Mr. Vitulli has over 25 years of banking experience. He started his career as a loan review examiner at Charter National Bank in Houston and worked as a senior credit analyst and later as bank manager for Charter until his move to Sterling Bank in 1996. Mr. Vitulli previously was the Market Chief Executive Officer at Sterling Bank, where he managed various bank offices in northwest Houston. He presently serves on the St. Pius X High School Foundation and School Board and is a current member of the Dominican Sisters of Houston, Texas Finance Committee. Mr. Vitulli received a Bachelor of Business Administration degree in finance from The University of Texas at Austin. Mr. Vitulli's considerable business experience, and in particular his considerable experience in community banking, qualifies him to serve on our board.

Executive Officer Who Is Not Also A Director

Laurence L. Lehman III. Laurence L. Lehman III has served as our Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer since 2013. Mr. Lehman has 31 years of banking experience in Houston. Previously, he served as Corporate Controller at Cadence Bancorp from January 2011 to May 2013 and worked at Amegy Bank for 17 years serving as the Controller for 7 of those years. He is a Certified Public Accountant and a Chartered Global Management

Accountant. He is also a member of both the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and the Texas Society of Certified Public Accountants. Mr. Lehman serves on the Senior Council of St. Martin's Episcopal Church. He is on the Board of Directors of the Open Door Mission Houston where he has served as a mentor for over 5 years. Mr. Lehman is also an advisor to the Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity. Mr. Lehman received his Bachelor of Business Administration in Accounting from Texas A&M University.

Table of Contents

BOARD AND COMMITTEE MATTERS

Board Meetings

Our board met four times during 2015 (including regularly scheduled and special meetings). During 2015, each director participated in at least 75% or more of the aggregate of (i) the total number of meetings of the board (held during the period for which he or she was a director) and (ii) the total number of meetings of all committees of the board on which he or she served (during the period that he or she served).

Director Attendance at Annual Meeting

The board encourages all directors to attend the annual meeting of shareholders. The annual meeting will be the Company's first annual meeting of shareholders since its initial public offering. All but two of our directors attended the 2015 annual meeting of shareholders.

Meetings of Non-Management Directors

The independent directors of the Company hold executive sessions from time to time without the Chief Executive Officer, any other member of management or any non-independent director present. The Company's Corporate Governance Guidelines, which the Company adopted in connection with its initial public offering in 2015, provide that the Company's independent directors will meet at least twice a year.

Board Composition

Our board currently comprises 16 directors, including Mr. Fraser. However, Mr. Fraser, at his request, was not nominated by the board for reelection as a Class I director at the annual meeting.

In accordance with the Company's bylaws, members of the board are divided into three classes, Class I, Class II and Class III. The members of each class are elected for a term of office to expire at the third succeeding annual meeting of shareholders following their election. The term of office of the current Class I directors expires at the annual meeting. The terms of the Class II and Class III directors expire at the annual meeting of shareholders in 2017 and 2018, respectively. If the five nominees for Class I director are elected at the annual meeting, the composition of the board will be five Class I directors, five Class II directors, five Class III directors and one vacancy in Class I.

Any director vacancy existing on or occurring after the election may be filled by a majority vote of the remaining directors, even if the remaining directors constitute less than a quorum of the full board. In accordance with the Company's bylaws, a director appointed to fill a vacancy will be appointed to serve until the next annual meeting of shareholders held for the election of directors, regardless of whether the class of director in which he serves is to be elected at such annual meeting. The number of directors may be changed only by resolution of the board.

As discussed in greater detail below, the board has affirmatively determined that 11 of our 16 current directors qualify as independent directors under the applicable rules of the NASDAQ Global Market and the SEC.

Director Independence

Under the rules of the NASDAQ Global Market, a majority of the members of our board are required to be independent. The rules of the NASDAQ Global Market, as well as those of the SEC, also impose several other requirements with respect to the independence of our directors.

Our board has evaluated the independence of each director based upon these rules. Applying these rules, our board has affirmatively determined that, with the exception of Messrs. Bohls, Fraser, Martinez, Retzloff and Vitulli, each of our current directors qualifies as an independent director under applicable rules. In making these determinations, our board considered the current and prior relationships that each director has and has had with the Company and all other facts and circumstances our board deemed relevant in determining their independence, including the beneficial ownership of common stock by each director, and the transactions described under the section titled "Certain Relationships and Related Person Transactions". The board also considered whether there were any transactions or relationships between directors or any member of their immediate family (or any entity of which a director or an immediate family member is an executive officer, general partner or significant equity holder) and members of the Company's senior management or their affiliates. The purpose of this review was to determine whether any such relationships or transactions existed that were inconsistent with a determination that the director is independent.

Table of Contents

Board Leadership Structure

George Martinez currently serves as our Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer. Mr. Martinez has served in both of these positions since the inception of the Company. Mr. Martinez's primary duties are to lead our board in establishing the Company's overall vision and strategic plan and to lead the Company's management in carrying out that plan.

Our board does not have a policy regarding the separation of the roles of Chief Executive Officer and Chairman of the Board, as the board believes that it is in the best interests of the Company to make that determination from time to time based on the position and direction of the Company and the membership of the board. The board has determined that having our Chief Executive Officer serve as Chairman of the Board is in the best interests of our shareholders at this time. This structure makes best use of the Chief Executive Officer's extensive knowledge of the Company and the banking industry. The board views this arrangement as also providing an efficient nexus between the Company and the board, enabling the board to obtain information pertaining to operational matters expeditiously and enabling our Chairman to bring areas of concern before the board in a timely manner. The board does not have a lead or presiding independent director.

Risk Management and Oversight

Our board is responsible for oversight of management and the business and affairs of the Company, including those relating to management of risk. Our full board determines the appropriate risk for us generally, assesses the specific risks faced by us, and reviews the steps taken by management to manage those risks. While our full board maintains the ultimate oversight responsibility for the risk management process, its committees oversee risk in certain specified areas as described in the section entitled "– Committees of the Board."

Director Nominations

The Corporate Governance and Nominating Committee considers nominees to serve as directors of the Company and recommends such persons to the board. The Corporate Governance and Nominating Committee also considers director candidates recommended by shareholders who appear to be qualified to serve on the board and meet the criteria for nominees considered by such committee. The Corporate Governance and Nominating Committee may choose not to consider an unsolicited recommendation if no vacancy exists on the board and the Corporate Governance and Nominating Committee does not perceive a need to increase the size of the board. In order to avoid

the unnecessary use of the Corporate Governance and Nominating Committee's resources, it will consider only those director candidates recommended in accordance with the procedures set forth in the section titled " – Procedures to be Followed by Shareholders For Director Nominations."

Criteria for Director Nominees

The Corporate Governance and Nominating Committee has adopted a set of criteria that it considers when it selects individuals to be nominated for election to the board. In addition to reviewing the background and qualifications of the individuals considered in the selection of candidates, the Corporate Governance and Nominating Committee looks at a number of attributes and criteria, including: experience, skills, expertise, diversity, personal and professional integrity, character, business judgment, time availability in light of other commitments, dedication, conflicts of interest and such other relevant factors that the Corporate Governance and Nominating Committee considers appropriate in the context of the needs of the board. The Corporate Governance and Nominating Committee does not have a formal policy with respect to diversity; however, the board and Corporate Governance and Nominating Committee believe that it is essential that the board members represent diverse viewpoints.

The Corporate Governance and Nominating Committee may weigh the foregoing criteria differently in different situations, depending on the composition of the board at the time. The Corporate Governance and Nominating Committee will strive to maintain at least one director who meets the definition of "audit committee financial expert" under the regulations of the SEC.

In addition, prior to nominating an existing director for re-election to the board, the Corporate Governance and Nominating Committee considers and reviews an existing director's board and committee attendance and performance; length of board service; experience, skills and contributions that the existing director brings to the board; and independence.

Table of Contents

Process for Identifying and Evaluating Director Nominees

Pursuant to the Corporate Governance and Nominating Committee Charter as approved by the board, the Corporate Governance and Nominating Committee is responsible for the process relating to director nominations, including identifying, recruiting, interviewing and selecting individuals who may be nominated for election to the board.

The process that the Corporate Governance and Nominating Committee follows when it identifies and evaluates individuals to be nominated for election to the board is set forth below.

Identification. For purposes of identifying nominees for the board, the Corporate Governance and Nominating Committee will rely on personal contacts of the members of the board as well as their knowledge of members of the communities served by the Company. The Corporate Governance and Nominating Committee will also consider director candidates recommended by shareholders in accordance with the policy and procedures set forth below in the section titled “– Procedures to be Followed by Shareholders For Director Nominations.” The Corporate Governance and Nominating Committee has not previously used an independent search firm in identifying nominees.

Evaluation. In evaluating potential nominees, the Corporate Governance and Nominating Committee determines whether the candidate is eligible and qualified for service on the board by evaluating the candidate under the selection criteria set forth above. In addition, for any new director nominee, the Corporate Governance and Nominating Committee will conduct a check of the individual’s background and interview the candidate.

Procedures to be Followed by Shareholders For Director Nominations

Any shareholder of the Company entitled to vote in the election of directors may recommend to the Corporate Governance and Nominating Committee one or more persons as a nominee for election as director at a meeting only if such shareholder has given timely notice in proper written form of such shareholder’s intent to make such nomination or nominations. To be timely, a shareholder’s notice given in the context of an annual meeting of shareholders must be delivered to or mailed and received at the principal executive office of the Company not less than one hundred twenty (120) days in advance of the first anniversary of the date of the Company’s notice to shareholders in connection with the previous year’s annual meeting of shareholders. If no annual meeting was held in the previous year or the date of the annual meeting of shareholders has been changed by more than thirty (30) days from the date contemplated at the time of the previous year’s notice, the notice must be received by the Company at least eighty (80) days prior to the date the Company intends to distribute its notice with respect to the annual meeting. To be timely, a shareholder’s

notice given in the context of a special meeting of shareholders must be delivered to or mailed and received by the Secretary of the Company at the principal executive office of the Company not later than the later of the ninetieth (90th) day prior to such special meeting or the tenth (10th) day following the day on which notice of the date of the special meeting and of the nominees proposed by the board to be elected at such special meeting was given. Any meeting of shareholders which is adjourned and will reconvene within thirty (30) days after the meeting date as originally noticed will, for purposes of any notice contemplated by the foregoing, be deemed to be a continuation of the original meeting and no nominations by a shareholder of persons to be elected directors of the Company may be made at any such reconvened meeting other than pursuant to a notice that was timely for the meeting on the date originally noticed.

To be in proper written form, a shareholder's notice to the Secretary of the Company must set forth:

the name and address of the shareholder who intends to make the nominations and of the person or persons to be nominated;

a representation that the shareholder is a holder of record of shares of common stock entitled to vote at such meeting and, if applicable, intends to appear in person or by proxy at the meeting to nominate the person or persons specified in the notice; and

if applicable, a description of all arrangements or understandings between the shareholder and each nominee and any other person or persons (naming such person or persons) pursuant to which the nomination or nominations are to be made by the shareholder.

Shareholder nominations should be addressed to the Chairman of the Corporate Governance and Nominating Committee or the Secretary, as applicable, of Allegiance Bancshares, Inc., 8847 West Sam Houston Parkway, N., Suite 200, Houston, Texas 77040.

Table of Contents

A nomination not made in compliance with the foregoing procedures will not be eligible to be voted upon by the shareholders at the meeting. The Corporate Governance and Nominating Committee has the power and duty to determine whether a nomination was made in accordance with procedures set forth above and, if any nomination is not in compliance with the procedures set forth above, to declare that such defective nomination will be disregarded.

Committees of the Board

Our board has established an Audit Committee, a Compensation Committee and a Corporate Governance and Nominating Committee.

Our board may establish additional committees as it deems appropriate, in accordance with applicable law and regulations and our certificate of formation and bylaws.

Audit Committee

The members of the Audit Committee are Umesh (Mike) Jain, P. Michael Mann, M.D., William S. Nichols III and Thomas A. Reiser, with William S. Nichols III serving as chairperson. Our board has evaluated the independence of each of the members of the Audit Committee and has affirmatively determined that (i) each of the members meets the definition of an “independent director” under applicable NASDAQ Global Market rules, (ii) each of the members satisfies the additional independence standards under applicable SEC rules for audit committee service and (iii) each of the members has the ability to read and understand fundamental financial statements. In addition, the board has affirmatively determined that Mr. Nichols has the requisite financial sophistication due to his experience and background to qualify as an “audit committee financial expert” as defined by the SEC and as required by NASDAQ Global Market rules. The Audit Committee met eight times in 2015.

The purpose of the Audit Committee is to assist the board in fulfilling its oversight responsibilities with respect to the following, among other things:

overseeing the accounting and financial reporting processes of the Company and audit of the financial statements of the Company;

- discussing the financial statements of the Company with management and the Company's independent auditor;

- monitoring actions taken by the Company to comply with its internal policies as well as external accounting, legal and regulatory requirements;

- reviewing with the independent auditor, the internal auditor and financial and accounting personnel, the accounting and financial controls of the Company;

- reviewing disclosures regarding independence of the Company's independent auditor; and

- evaluating the performance of the Company's independent auditor.

The Audit Committee is responsible for oversight of Company risks relating to accounting matters, financial reporting and legal and regulatory compliance. To satisfy these oversight responsibilities, the Audit Committee separately meets with the Company's executive officers, internal and external counsel, independent registered public accounting firm and management. The Audit Committee also receives reports regarding issues such as the status and findings of audits being conducted by the internal auditors and the independent registered public accounting firm, the status of material litigation, and accounting changes that could affect the Company's financial statements and proposed audit adjustments, if any.

The Audit Committee has adopted a written charter, which sets forth the Audit Committee's duties and responsibilities. The Audit Committee charter is available on our website at www.allegiancebank.com under Investor Relations/Corporate Governance.

Table of Contents

Compensation Committee

The members of the Compensation Committee are John Beckworth, David B. Moulton, William S. Nichols III, Raimundo Riojas E. and Fred Robertson, with David B. Moulton serving as chairperson. Our board has evaluated the independence of each of the members of the Compensation Committee and has affirmatively determined that each meets the definition of an “independent director” under the applicable NASDAQ Global Market and SEC rules. The members of the Compensation Committee also satisfy the independence requirements and additional independence criteria under Rule 10C-1 under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the “Exchange Act”), qualify as “non-employee directors” within the meaning of Rule 16b-3 under the Exchange Act and “outside directors” within the meaning of Section 162(m) of the Internal Revenue Code. The Compensation Committee met once in 2015, the year of our initial public offering. In connection with our initial public offering, the Compensation Committee adopted a charter that requires the Compensation Committee to meet at least two times each year.

The purpose of the Compensation Committee is to assist the board in fulfilling its oversight responsibilities with respect to the following, among other things:

- reviewing and approving compensation of our executive officers including annual base salary, annual incentive bonuses, specific goals, equity compensation, employment agreements, severance and change of control arrangements, and any other benefits, compensation or arrangements;
- reviewing and recommending compensation goals, bonus and stock compensation criteria for our employees;
- evaluating the compensation of our directors;
- reviewing and discussing annually with management our executive compensation disclosure required by SEC rules; to the extent required, preparing the Compensation Committee report required by the SEC to be included in our annual proxy statement; and
- administrating, reviewing and making recommendations with respect to our equity compensation plans.

The Compensation Committee has overall responsibility for approving and evaluating the Company’s compensation plans, policies and programs related to compensation of the Company’s directors, officers, senior managers and

employees. After due consideration of factors set forth in the Compensation Committee's charter, the Compensation Committee may select and appoint a compensation consultant, legal counsel or other adviser to the Compensation Committee.

The Compensation Committee has adopted a written charter, which sets forth the Compensation Committee's duties and responsibilities. The Compensation Committee charter is available on our website at www.allegiancebank.com under Investor Relations/Corporate Governance.

Corporate Governance and Nominating Committee

The members of our Corporate Governance and Nominating Committee are John Beckworth, David B. Moulton and Frances Jeter, with John Beckworth serving as chairperson. Our board has evaluated the independence of each of the members of the Corporate Governance and Nominating Committee and has affirmatively determined that each of the members meets the definition of an "independent director" under the applicable NASDAQ Global Market and SEC rules. The Corporate Governance and Nominating Committee met once in 2015. The Corporate Governance and Nominating Committee did not retain the services of any independent search firm during 2015.

The Corporate Governance and Nominating Committee has responsibility for, among other things:

· making recommendations to the board from time to time as to changes that the Corporate Governance and Nominating Committee believes to be desirable to the size of the board or any board committee;

· identifying individuals believed to be qualified to become members of the board and any of its committees;

Table of Contents

developing and recommending to the board standards to be applied in making determinations as to the absence of material relationships between the Company and a director;

evaluating the independence of directors and nominees;

establishing procedures for the Corporate Governance and Nominating Committee to exercise oversight of the evaluation of the board and management;

developing and recommending to the board a set of Corporate Governance Guidelines applicable to the Company; and

assisting management in the preparation of the disclosure in the Company's annual proxy statement.

Our Corporate Governance and Nominating Committee has adopted a written charter, which sets forth the Corporate Governance and Nominating Committee's duties and responsibilities. The Corporate Governance and Nominating Committee charter is available on our website at www.allegiancebank.com under Investor Relations/Corporate Governance.

Our Corporate Governance and Nominating Committee will consider shareholder recommendations for nominees, provided that such shareholder complies with the procedures described in the section titled " – Procedures to be Followed by Shareholder For Director Nominations."

Director Compensation

We and the Bank pay our respective directors, other than those directors who are employed by us or the Bank, a stipend based on the directors' participation in board and committee meetings. In general, each director who is not employed by us or the Bank receives \$1,000 for each board meeting, and \$500 for each committee or special board meeting, except for the Audit Committee, whose stipend is \$1,000 per meeting, he or she attends. The \$1,000 stipend paid for each Bank board meeting and the \$1,000 stipend paid for each Audit Committee meeting, each of which came into effect on January 29, 2016, represents, in each case, an increase of \$500 over the stipend paid in 2015. Additionally, as of January 1, 2016 we pay each non-employee Company director an annual retainer of \$20,000 paid \$5,000 quarterly and we grant to each non-employee Company director \$20,000 in restricted stock awards annually that vest 25% each year over four years. We have implemented these new director compensation measures to assist us as a public company in attracting and retaining qualified directors. In addition, the Bank is party to a consulting agreement with Mr. Fraser pursuant to which the Bank paid Mr. Fraser an annual fee of \$181,000 monthly in 2015.

The initial term of the consulting agreement expired on November 15, 2015 and was renewed on November 16, 2015 at an annual fee of \$92,500, to expire on December 31, 2016. Directors who are employed by us or the Bank or both do not receive remuneration for serving as a director of the Bank or us, but are compensated in their capacity as employees.

Table of Contents

The following table sets forth the compensation paid to each director who served on our board during 2015. The table also includes compensation earned by each director that is attributable to his service as a director of the Bank.

Name	Fees Earned or Paid in Cash ⁽¹⁾ (\$)	Option Awards ⁽²⁾ (\$)	All Other Compensation (\$)	Total
John Beckworth	8,000	-	-	8,000
Lawrence G. Fraser	194,350 ⁽³⁾	-	-	194,350
Matthew H. Hartzell	7,500	-	-	7,500
Frances H. Jeter	5,300	-	-	5,300
James J. Kearney	15,300	-	-	15,300
P. Michael Mann, M.D.	7,500	-	-	7,500
David B. Moulton	25,250	-	28,500 ⁽⁴⁾	53,750
William S. Nichols, III	12,500	-	-	12,500
Thomas A. Reiser	8,000	-	-	8,000
Raimundo Riojas E.	4,500	-	-	4,500
Fred S. Robertson	16,750	-	-	16,750

(1) The amounts shown in this column include fees for serving on the board of directors and any of its committees.

(2) No options were granted to directors during the year ended December 31, 2015.

(3) Includes \$181,000 paid pursuant to our consulting agreement with Mr. Fraser as described above.

(4) Reflects fees received for service on the Allegiance Bank Loan Committee.

All non-employee directors have been and will continue to be reimbursed for their reasonable out-of-pocket travel expenses incurred in attending meetings of our board or any committees thereof. Directors are also entitled to the protection provided by the indemnification provisions in our certificate of formation and bylaws, as well as the articles of association and bylaws of the Bank and separate indemnification agreements between each director and the Company. Additionally, the Company maintains a directors and officers insurance policy.

Table of Contents

CERTAIN CORPORATE GOVERNANCE MATTERS

Code of Business Conduct and Ethics

We have a Code of Business Conduct and Ethics in place that applies to all of our directors, officers and employees. The Code of Business Conduct and Ethics sets forth specific standards of conduct and ethics that we expect all of our directors, officers and employees to follow, including the Company's Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer and senior financial officers. The Code of Business Conduct and Ethics is available on our website at www.allegiancebank.com under Investor Relations/Corporate Governance. Any amendments to the Code of Business Conduct and Ethics, or any waivers of requirements thereof, will be disclosed on our website within four days of such amendment or waiver.

Corporate Governance Guidelines

We have adopted Corporate Governance Guidelines to assist the board of directors in the exercise of its fiduciary duties and responsibilities and to serve the best interests of the Company and our stockholders. The Corporate Governance Guidelines are available on our website at www.allegiancebank.com under Investor Relations/Corporate Governance.

Independent Auditors

The Audit Committee has recommended, and the board appointed, Crowe Horwath LLP as our independent auditors to audit the consolidated financial statements of the Company for the 2016 fiscal year. Crowe Horwath LLP served as our independent auditors for the 2014 and 2015 fiscal years and reported on the Company's consolidated financial statements for those years.

Fees Paid to Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm

Edgar Filing: Allegiance Bancshares, Inc. - Form DEF 14A

The Audit Committee has reviewed the following audit and non-audit fees billed to the Company by Crowe Horwath LLP for 2015 and 2014 for purposes of considering whether such fees are compatible with maintaining the auditor's independence, and concluded that such fees did not impair Crowe Horwath LLP's independence. The policy of the Audit Committee is to pre-approve all audit and non-audit services performed by Crowe Horwath LLP before the services are performed, including all of the services described under "—Audit Fees" and "—Audit Related Fees" below. The Audit Committee has pre-approved all of the services provided by Crowe Horwath LLP in accordance with the policies and procedures described in the section titled " – Audit Committee Pre-Approval."

	2015	2014
Audit Fees ⁽¹⁾	\$449,112	\$187,000
Audit-Related Fees ⁽²⁾	298,045	-
Tax Fees	-	-
All Other Fees	-	-
Total Fees	\$747,157	\$187,000

Audit fees reflect the aggregate fees billed for services related to the reviews of our quarterly reports filed on (1)Form 10-Q (for such periods for which we filed such quarterly reports), the audit of the consolidated financial statements of the Company and other SEC filings.

(2)Audit-related fees primarily represent fees in connection with our initial public offering in 2015.

Table of Contents

Audit Committee Pre-Approval

The Audit Committee's charter establishes a policy and related procedures regarding the Audit Committee's authority to approve, in advance, all auditing services (which, if applicable, may include providing comfort letters in connection with securities underwritings), and non-audit services that are otherwise permitted by law (including tax services, if any) that are provided to the Company by its independent auditors (which approval is made after receiving input from the Company's management, if desired). The Audit Committee may also delegate to one or more of its members the authority to pre-approve auditing services and non-audit services that are otherwise permitted by law, provided that each such preapproval decision is presented to the full Audit Committee at a scheduled meeting. In addition, the Audit Committee has the authority to review and, in its sole discretion, approve in advance the Company's independent auditors' annual engagement letter, including the proposed fees contained therein.

Table of Contents

EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION AND OTHER MATTERS

We are an “emerging growth company,” as defined in the Jumpstart Our Business Startups Act of 2012, or the JOBS Act. As such, we are eligible to take advantage of certain exemptions from various reporting requirements that are applicable to other public companies that are not emerging growth companies. These include, but are not limited to, reduced disclosure obligations regarding executive compensation in our proxy statements, including the requirement to include a specific form of Compensation Discussion and Analysis, as well as exemptions from the requirement to hold a non-binding advisory vote on executive compensation and the requirement to obtain shareholder approval of any golden parachute payments not previously approved. We have elected to comply with the scaled disclosure requirements applicable to emerging growth companies.

Our “named executive officers” for 2015, which consist of our principal executive officer and the three other most highly compensated executive officers, are:

- George Martinez, our Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer;
- Steven F. Retzloff, our President and Chief Operating Officer;
- William C. Woodby, Vice Chairman of Allegiance Bank; and
- James F. Eubank II, Executive Vice President of Allegiance Bank.

Summary Compensation Table

The following table sets forth information regarding the compensation paid to each of our named executive officers for the fiscal years ended December 31, 2015 and 2014. Except as set forth in the notes to the table, all cash compensation for each of our named executive officers was paid by the Bank, where each of the following serves in the same capacity.

	Nonqualified
	Non-equityDeferred
StockOption	Compensation

Edgar Filing: Allegiance Bancshares, Inc. - Form DEF 14A

Name and Position	Year	Salary ⁽¹⁾ (\$)	Bonuses ⁽²⁾ (\$)	Awards ⁽³⁾ (\$)	Awards ⁽³⁾ (\$)	Incentive Plan Compensation ⁽⁴⁾ (\$)	Equity Compensation ⁽⁴⁾ (\$)	All Other Compensation ⁽⁴⁾ (\$)	Total ⁽⁵⁾ (\$)
George Martinez, Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer	2015	385,000	-	-	-	21,625	-	1,200	407,825
	2014	350,008	-	-	-	25,514	-	1,200	376,722
Steven F. Retzliff, President and Chief Operating Officer	2015	385,000	-	-	-	16,807	-	-	401,807
	2014	350,007	-	-	-	15,818	-	-	365,825
William C. Woodby, Vice Chairman of Allegiance Bank	2015	369,940 ⁽²⁾	-	-	102,619	14,149	-	-	486,708
	2014	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
James F. Eubank II, Executive Vice President of Allegiance Bank	2015	312,900 ⁽²⁾	-	-	102,619	17,426	-	-	432,945
	2014	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

(1) The amounts shown in this column represent salaries earned during the fiscal year shown.

Mr. Woodby and Mr. Eubank joined the Company on January 1, 2015 as part of the Farmers & Merchants Bancshares, Inc. (“F&M Bancshares”) acquisition. In connection with the acquisition, F&M Bancshares amended (2)Mr. Woodby’s and Mr. Eubank’s respective existing employment and non-competition agreements, which were subsequently assumed by the Company when the acquisition was consummated. See the section titled “ – Employment Agreements with Named Executive Officers.”

Table of Contents

(3) Amounts shown represent the FASB ASC Topic 718 grant date fair value of stock options granted during 2015 upon employment. See Note 13 to the consolidated financial statements in the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2015 for a discussion of the associated assumptions used in the valuation of stock-based compensation awards.

(4) The amounts in this column reflect matching contributions to the employee's 401(k) and profit sharing plan.

(5) The amounts shown in this column include benefits received for not enrolling in company-provided medical insurance.

Narrative Discussion of Summary Compensation Table

General. We compensate our named executive officers through a mix of base salary, cash incentive bonuses, long-term incentive compensation and other benefits, which include, to a limited extent, certain perquisites. We established our existing executive compensation philosophy and practices to fit our historical status as a privately held corporation. We believe the current mix and value of these compensation elements provide our named executive officers with total annual compensation that is both reasonable and competitive within our markets, appropriately reflects our performance and the executive's particular contributions to that performance, and takes into account applicable regulatory guidelines and requirements. Each of our named executive officers is also an officer of Allegiance Bank and has substantial responsibilities in connection with the day-to-day operations of Allegiance Bank. As a result, each named executive officer devotes a substantial majority of his business time to the operations of Allegiance Bank, and the compensation he receives is paid largely to compensate that named executive officer for his services to Allegiance Bank. The board did not retain the services of a compensation consultant in 2015.

Base Salary. The base salaries of our named executive officers have been historically reviewed and set annually by the board or compensation committee as part of the Company's performance review process as well as upon the promotion of an executive officer to a new position or other change in job responsibility. In establishing base salaries for our named executive officers, the Compensation Committee has relied on external market data obtained from outside sources, including the Independent Bankers Association of Texas and other banking industry trade groups. In addition to considering the information obtained from such sources, the Compensation Committee has considered:

· each named executive officer's scope of responsibility;

· each named executive officer's years of experience;

· the types and amount of the elements of compensation to be paid to each named executive officer;

our overall financial performance and performance with respect to other aspects of our operations, such as our growth, asset quality, profitability and other matters, including the status of our relationship with the banking regulatory agencies; and

each named executive officer's individual performance and contributions to our company-wide performance, including leadership, team work and community service.

Cash Bonuses. We typically pay an annual cash incentive award to our named executive officers. Annual incentive awards are intended to recognize and reward those named executive officers who contribute meaningfully to our performance for the year. The Compensation Committee, within its sole discretion, determines whether such bonuses will be paid for any year and the amount of any bonus paid. Although, historically the Compensation Committee has not relied on any pre-established formula or specific performance measures to determine the amount of the bonuses paid, it does review external market data from outside sources in setting the amount of such bonuses. Additionally, in determining whether to pay cash bonuses to a named executive officer for a given year and the amount of any cash bonus to be paid, the Compensation Committee considers factors which include:

the personal performance of the executive officer and contributions to the Company's performance for the year, including leadership, team work and community service; and

our financial performance, including our growth, asset quality and profitability.

Table of Contents

Benefits and Perquisites. Our named executive officers are eligible to participate in the same benefit plans designed for all of our full-time employees, including health, dental, vision, disability and basic group life insurance coverage. We also provide our employees, including our named executive officers, with a 401(k) plan to assist participants in planning for retirement and securing appropriate levels of income during retirement. The purpose of our employee benefit plans is to help attract and retain quality employees, including executives, by offering benefit plans similar to those typically offered by our competitors. None of the perquisites or benefits paid or provided to any of our named executive officers exceeded \$30,000 in amount for 2015 or 2014.

401(k) Plan. Our 401(k) Plan is designed to provide retirement benefits to all eligible full-time and part-time employees. The 401(k) Plan provides employees the opportunity to save for retirement on a tax-favored basis. Our named executive officers, all of whom were eligible to participate in the 401(k) Plan during 2015, may elect to participate in the 401(k) Plan on the same basis as all other employees. Employees may defer from 1% to 100% of their compensation to the 401(k) Plan up to the applicable IRS limit. We match 50% of an employee's annual contribution to the 401(k) Plan up to a total of 3% per annum of the employee's eligible salary. We make our matching contributions in cash and that contribution is invested according to the employee's current investment allocation. In 2015, we made contributions to our named executive officers' accounts in varying amounts, depending on the contributions made by the named executive officers.

Insurance Premiums. We invest in bank owned life insurance due to its attractive nontaxable return and protection against the loss of its key employees. Amounts included in the Summary Compensation Table represent premiums paid by us on behalf of the named executive officer.

The Company does not maintain any defined benefit plan, actuarial benefit plan or a supplemental executive retirement plan for the Company's named executive officers or any other employees. Moreover, the Company has no plan, agreement or other arrangement with any of the Company's named executive officers relating to the payments of any amounts upon the retirement of such named executive officer from employment with the Company or any other separation from service with the Company.

Employment Agreements with Named Executive Officers

The Company currently does not have employment agreements with any of the Company's named executive officers, who are employees "at will," other than Mr. Woodby and Mr. Eubank, whose respective arrangements are described below. As a result, the salaries and bonuses that the Company pays to its named executive officers (other than Mr. Woodby and Mr. Eubank) are determined at the discretion of the board after consultation with management. In addition, the Company has not previously maintained any "change of control," severance or noncompetition agreements

with any of its named executive officers and has not had obligations to make any payment under any such agreement to any of its named executive officers in the event the Company experiences any change in the control of the Company or upon their severance from, or other termination of, their employment with the Company.

In connection with the F&M Bancshares acquisition, F&M Bancshares amended Mr. Woodby's and Mr. Eubank's respective existing employment and non-competition agreements, which were subsequently assumed by the Company when the acquisition was consummated. The employment agreement with Mr. Woodby was for an initial term of two years that expires on December 31, 2016. The agreement provides that, during its term, Mr. Woodby will receive a base salary of \$220,000 and a minimum annual cash bonus of \$149,940 payable quarterly in arrears. The employment agreement with Mr. Eubank was for an initial term of two years that expires on December 31, 2016. The agreement provides that, during its term, Mr. Eubank will receive a base salary of \$220,000 and a minimum annual cash bonus of \$92,900 payable quarterly in arrears.

Table of Contents**Outstanding Equity Awards at Fiscal Year End**

The following table provides information regarding outstanding unvested stock awards held by the named executive officers as of December 31, 2015.

Name and Position	Option Awards Number of Securities Underlying Unexercised Options			Equity Incentive Plan Awards: Number of Securities Underlying		Option Exercise Price	Option Expiration Date
	Exercisable	Unexercisable	Unexercised	Unearned	Options		
George Martinez, Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Steven F. Retzloff, President and Chief Operating Officer	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
William C. Woodby, Vice Chairman of Allegiance Bank	-	15,000 ⁽¹⁾	-	-	-	\$ 22.00	1/1/2025
James F. Eubank II, Executive Vice President of Allegiance Bank	-	15,000 ⁽¹⁾	-	-	-	\$ 22.00	1/1/2025

Time-based options granted on January 1, 2015. Options to purchase 7,500 shares at an exercise price of \$22.00 (1) per share vested and became exercisable on January 1, 2016. As to the remaining 7,500 shares, options to purchase 7,500 will vest and become exercisable on January 1, 2017.

2008 Stock Awards and Incentive Plan

In 2008, we adopted the 2008 Stock Awards and Incentive Plan (the "Plan") to provide incentive compensation opportunities that are competitive with those of similar companies in order to attract, retain and motivate eligible participants by providing for both the direct award or sale of shares and for the grant of options to purchase shares of

common stock. The Plan was amended in 2015. The maximum number of shares of common stock that may be issued pursuant to grants or options under the Plan is 1,460,000.

Awards to Named Executive Officers

In connection with the F&M Bancshares acquisition, we have granted time-based options to Mr. Woodby and Mr. Eubank. The time-based options held by Mr. Woodby and Mr. Eubank vest annually in 50.0% increments on each of the two anniversaries of the grant date. Fifty percent of the time-based options held by Mr. Woodby and Mr. Eubank vested on the one year anniversary from the grant date and the remaining time-based options vest on January 1, 2017.

Potential Payments upon Termination or Change of Control

Other than a Company severance plan under which all of our employees are eligible to receive benefits and certain grants under our equity incentive plans which provide for accelerated vesting upon a change of control or the death, disability or termination of the grantee, we do not have any agreement with, or obligations to, any of our named executive officers or other executive officers to make any payments, accelerate any equity awards or provide any other consideration to any such officer in connection with any change of control of the Company or the Bank or such an officer's severance from employment with the Company or the Bank.

Compensation Policies and Practices and Risk Management

We do not believe any risks arise from our compensation policies and practices for our executive officers and other employees that are reasonably likely to have a material adverse effect on our operations, results of operations or financial condition.

Table of Contents

Compensation Committee Interlocks and Insider Participation

None of our executive officers served as (1) a member of a compensation committee (or other board committee performing equivalent functions or, in the absence of any such committee, the entire board) of another entity, one of whose executive officers served on the Company's Compensation Committee, (2) a director of another entity, one of whose executive officers served on the Company's Compensation Committee or (3) a member of the compensation committee (or other board committee performing equivalent functions or, in the absence of any such committee, the entire board) of another entity, one of whose executive officers served as a director of the Company. In addition, none of the members of the Compensation Committee (a) was an officer or employee of the Company or any of its subsidiaries in 2015, (b) was formerly an officer or employee of the Company or any of its subsidiaries or (c) had any relationship that required disclosure under the section titled "Certain Relationships and Related Person Transactions." During the year ended December 31, 2015, the members of our Compensation Committee were Messrs. John Beckworth, David B. Moulton, William S. Nichols III, Raimundo Riojas E. and Fred Robertson.

Table of Contents

CERTAIN RELATIONSHIPS AND RELATED PERSON TRANSACTIONS

Some of our officers, directors and principal shareholders and their affiliates are customers of the Bank. Such officers, directors and principal shareholders and their affiliates have had transactions in the ordinary course of business with the Bank, including borrowings, all of which were effected on substantially the same terms and conditions, including interest rate and collateral, as those prevailing from time to time for comparable transactions with unaffiliated persons and did not involve more than the normal risk of collectability or other unfavorable features. We expect to continue to have such transactions on similar terms and conditions with such officers, directors and shareholders and their affiliates in the future.

Additionally, the Bank is party to a consulting agreement with Mr. Fraser pursuant to which the Bank paid Mr. Fraser an annual fee of \$181,000 monthly in 2015. The initial term of the consulting agreement expired on November 15, 2015 and was renewed on November 16, 2015 at an annual fee of \$92,500, to expire on December 31, 2016.

Transactions by us with related persons are subject to regulatory requirements and restrictions. These requirements and restrictions include Sections 23A and 23B of the Federal Reserve Act (which govern certain transactions by the Bank with its affiliates) and the Federal Reserve's Regulation O (which governs certain loans by the Bank to its executive officers, directors, and principal shareholders). See our Annual Report in Form 10-K Item 1. Business—Regulation and Supervision—Limits on Transactions with Affiliates and Insiders. We have adopted policies to comply with these regulatory requirements and restrictions. Additionally, our Corporate Governance Guidelines provide that the board or its independent directors in an executive session must review and approve all related-party transactions.

Table of Contents**BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF THE COMPANY'S COMMON STOCK BY MANAGEMENT AND PRINCIPAL SHAREHOLDERS OF THE COMPANY**

The following table sets forth certain information regarding the beneficial ownership of the Company's common stock as of April 1, 2016, by (1) directors and named executive officers of the Company, (2) each person who is known by the Company to own beneficially 5% or more of the Company's common stock and (3) all directors and executive officers as a group. Unless otherwise indicated, based on information furnished by such shareholders, management of the Company believes that each person has sole voting and dispositive power over the shares indicated as owned by such person.

Beneficial ownership is determined in accordance with rules of the SEC and generally includes any shares over which a person exercises sole or shared voting and/or investment power. Shares of common stock subject to options currently exercisable or exercisable within 60 days are deemed outstanding for computing the percentage ownership of the person holding the options but are not deemed outstanding for computing the percentage ownership of any other person. Except as otherwise indicated, we believe the beneficial owners of common stock listed below, based on information furnished by them, have sole voting and investment power with respect to the number of shares listed opposite their names.

Name of Beneficial Owner ⁽¹⁾	Number of Shares Beneficially Owned	Percentage Beneficially Owned ⁽²⁾
Directors and Named Executive Officers:		
John B. Beckworth	130,477 ⁽³⁾	1.01%
Daryl D. Bohls	36,597 ⁽⁴⁾	*
James F. Eubank II	107,079 ⁽⁵⁾	*
Lawrence G. Fraser	34,830 ⁽⁶⁾	*
Matthew H. Hartzell	9,927 ⁽⁷⁾	*
Umesh (Mike) Jain	210,500 ⁽⁸⁾	1.63%
Frances H. Jeter	2,000 ⁽⁹⁾	*
James J. Kearney	20,166 ⁽¹⁰⁾	*
Laurence L. Lehman III	12,000 ⁽¹¹⁾	*
P. Michael Mann, M.D.	237,592 ⁽¹²⁾	1.84%
George Martinez	292,567 ⁽¹³⁾	2.26%
David B. Moulton	25,833 ⁽¹⁴⁾	*
William S. Nichols III	79,300 ⁽¹⁵⁾	*
Thomas A. Reiser	141,316 ⁽¹⁶⁾	1.09%
Steven F. Retzloff	300,049 ⁽¹⁷⁾	2.32%
Raimundo Riojas E.	203,074 ⁽¹⁸⁾	1.57%

Edgar Filing: Allegiance Bancshares, Inc. - Form DEF 14A

Fred S. Robertson	62,000 ⁽¹⁹⁾	*
Ramon A. Vitulli III	31,452 ⁽²⁰⁾	*
William C. Woodby	135,200 ⁽²¹⁾	1.05%
Directors and Executive Officers as a group (19 persons)	2,071,959 ⁽²²⁾	16.04%
Principal Shareholders		
5% Security Holders		
FMR LLC	1,148,100 ⁽²³⁾	8.89%

* Indicates ownership which does not exceed 1.00%.

(1) The address of each of the Company's directors and officers is c/o Allegiance Bancshares, Inc., 8847 West Sam Houston Parkway, N., Suite 200, Houston, Texas 77040.

Table of Contents

(2) Percentage is based on 12,918,597 shares of the Company's common stock issued and outstanding and assumes the exercise by the shareholder or group named in each row of all vested options for the purchase of the Company's common stock held by such shareholder that are exercisable within 60 days and all shares of restricted stock to date.

(3) Consists of 6,667 shares held of record by Mr. Beckworth, 57,143 shares held of record by John Beckworth & Laura H. Beckworth Ten Com, and 66,667 shares held of record by the Laura Hobby Beckworth 1999 WPH Trust, of which his spouse is trustee.

(4) Consists of 5,000 shares held of record by an IRA rollover account for the benefit of Mr. Bohls, 1,214 shares held of record by Mr. Bohls, 213 shares that can be acquired pursuant to the vesting of Restricted Stock Awards and 30,170 shares that can be acquired pursuant to the exercise of outstanding stock options.

(5) Consists of 62,246 shares held of record by Mr. Eubank, 6,709 shares held of record by James F. Eubank Family Trust, of which Mr. Eubank is the trustee and 38,124 shares in three trusts for his children (12,708 for each trust) of which Mr. Eubank is the trustee.

(6) Consists of 8,918 shares held of record by Mr. Fraser, 22,096 shares held of record by Fraser Family Partnership Ltd., of which Mr. Fraser is a limited partner and 3,816 shares in three trusts for his grandchildren (1,272 for each trust).

(7) Consists of 4,674 shares held of record by Mr. Hartzell and 5,253 shares held by an IRA account for the benefit of Mr. Hartzell.

(8) Consists of 143,900 shares held of record by Mr. Jain, 10,100 shares held of record by Pi Capital Allegiance, LLC of which Mr. Jain is a managing member, 34,000 shares held of record by Pi Capital Partners LLC of which Mr. Jain is a managing partner and 22,500 shares held of record by Patrick & Jain Investments of which Mr. Jain is a managing partner. Mr. Jain has pledged 143,900 shares as security for indebtedness.

(9) Consists of 2,000 shares held of record by Ms. Jeter.

(10) Consists of 20,166 shares held of record by Mr. Kearney and his wife, Kina. Mr. Kearney has pledged all 20,166 shares as security for indebtedness.

(11) Consists of 6,000 shares held of record by Mr. Lehman and 6,000 shares that can be acquired pursuant to the exercise of outstanding stock options.

Edgar Filing: Allegiance Bancshares, Inc. - Form DEF 14A

(12) Consists of 37,691 shares of record by Paul Michael Mann, 9,400 shares held of record by an IRA for the benefit of Dr. Mann, 37,500 shares held of record by White House Realty, LLC, of which Dr. Mann is President and 153,001 shares held of record by MCRP Interests Ltd., of which Dr. Mann is President. Dr. Mann has pledged 159,976 shares as security for indebtedness.

(13) Consists of 291,567 shares held of record by Martinez 2007 Family Partnership Ltd., of which Mr. Martinez is a limited partner and 1,000 shares held of record by Mr. Martinez. Mr. Martinez has pledged 120,167 shares as security for indebtedness.

(14) Consists of 12,500 shares held of record by Mr. Moulton and 13,333 shares held of record by an IRA account for the benefit of Mr. Moulton. Mr. Moulton has pledged 12,500 shares as security for indebtedness.

(15) Consists of 63,300 shares held of record by Nichols Realty Investments I, LTD., of which Mr. Nichols is the President of the managing partner, Nichols GP Investment, Inc. and 16,000 shares held of record by Nichols Rising Star Partners II, LTD., of which Mr. Nichols is the President of the managing partner, Nichols GP Investment, Inc.

(16) Consists of 141,316 shares held of record by Mr. Reiser.

(17) Consists of 21,500 shares held of record by Mr. Retzloff and his wife, Barbara, 266,667 shares held of record by Retzloff Holdings, LTD., of which Mr. Retzloff is a limited partner, 8,882 shares held of record by SF Retzloff Family Limited Partnership, LTD of which Mr. Retzloff is a limited partner and 3,000 shares of record by Retzloff Industries, Inc. of which Mr. Retzloff is the President.

(18) Consists of 203,074 shares held of record by Glencox Investments, Inc., of which Mr. Riojas is President.

(19) Consists of 62,000 shares held of record by The Robertson Family Trust, of which Mr. Robertson is the trustee.

(20) Consists of 6,667 shares held of record by an IRA account for the benefit of Mr. Vitulli, 1,934 shares held individually, 176 shares that can be acquired pursuant to vesting of Restricted Stock Awards and 22,675 shares that can be acquired pursuant to the exercise of outstanding stock options.

(21) Consists of 122,191 shares held of record by Woodby Family Partnership Ltd., of which Mr. Woodby is the managing partner and 5,509 shares held of record by BWI Enterprise Inc., of which Mr. Woodby is the President.

Table of Contents

(22) Includes 73,845 shares that can be acquired pursuant to outstanding stock options that are exercisable within 60 days.

(23) The information concerning FMR LLC is based solely on information contained in its Schedule 13G filed with the SEC. FMR LLC's principal business is 245 Summer Street, Boston, Massachusetts 02210.

Section 16(a) Beneficial Ownership Reporting Compliance

Section 16(a) of the Exchange Act, requires our directors and executive officers and persons who own more than 10% of our outstanding shares of common stock to file reports of ownership and changes in ownership of our equity securities, including shares of the Company's common stock with the SEC. Such persons are required by the SEC's regulations to furnish us with copies of all reports they file pursuant to Section 16.

Based solely on our review of the copies of such reports we received with respect to fiscal year 2015, we believe that all filing requirements applicable to our directors, executive officers and persons who own more than 10% of a registered class of our equity securities have been timely complied with in accordance with Section 16(a) of the Exchange Act, except for: P. Michael Mann, M.D. twice failed to timely file a Form 4 in respect of transactions occurring on January 29, 2016 and February 12, 2016; and the Form 3 for Umesh Jain to report his holdings as a newly appointed director of the Company on February 12, 2016. In each case the late filing was inadvertent and was promptly corrected.

Table of Contents

AUDIT COMMITTEE REPORT

Notwithstanding anything to the contrary set forth in any of the Company's previous or future filings under the Securities Act or the Exchange Act that might incorporate this proxy statement or future filings with the SEC, in whole or in part, the following report of the Audit Committee shall not be deemed to be incorporated by reference into any such filing.

In accordance with its written charter adopted by the Company's Board, the Company's Audit Committee assists the Board in fulfilling its responsibility for oversight of the quality and integrity of the accounting, auditing and financial reporting practices of the Company. The Board has determined that each Audit Committee member is independent in accordance with the listing standards of the NASDAQ Global Market and in Section 10A of the Exchange Act and that William S. Nichols III has the requisite attributes of an "audit committee financial expert" as defined by the rules and regulations of the SEC.

The Audit Committee reviewed and discussed the Company's audited consolidated financial statements with management, which has primary responsibility for the financial statements, and with the Company's independent registered public accounting firm, (i) Crowe Horwath LLP, which is responsible for expressing an opinion on whether such consolidated financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Company as of December 31, 2015 and 2014 and the results of the Company's operations and the Company's cash flows for each of the two years in the period ended December 31, 2015, in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, and (ii) Seidel, Schroeder & Company, which is responsible for expressing an opinion on whether such consolidated financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the results of the Company's operations and the Company's cash flows for the year ended December 31, 2013, in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

The Audit Committee met regularly with Crowe Horwath LLP, Seidel, Schroeder & Company and the Company's internal audit staff, with and without management present, to discuss the results of their audits, management's assessment of the Company's internal control over financial reporting, and the overall quality of the Company's financial reporting. The Audit Committee also reviewed Crowe Horwath LLP's Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm and Seidel, Schroeder & Company's Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm included in the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K related to their respective audits of the Company's consolidated financial statements.

The Audit Committee discussed with Crowe Horwath LLP and Seidel, Schroeder & Company the matters that are required to be discussed by PCAOB Auditing Standard No. 16 (Communications with Audit Committees), as adopted by the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board. The Audit Committee also discussed with internal audit and

management any significant matters as a result of the internal audit work.

The Audit Committee has received the written disclosures and the letter from each of Crowe Horwath LLP and Seidel, Schroeder & Company required by applicable requirements of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board regarding Crowe Horwath LLP's and Seidel, Schroeder & Company's respective communications with the Audit Committee concerning independence, and has discussed with each of Crowe Horwath LLP and Seidel, Schroeder & Company its independence. The Audit Committee has concluded that Crowe Horwath LLP has not provided any prohibited non-audit services to the Company and its affiliates, which is compatible with maintaining Crowe Horwath LLP's independence.

Based on the above-mentioned review and discussions with management, Crowe Horwath LLP and Seidel, Schroeder & Company, the Audit Committee recommended to the Board that the Company's audited financial statements be included in its Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2015, for filing with the SEC. The Audit Committee also recommended the reappointment, subject to shareholder ratification, of Crowe Horwath LLP and the Board concurred in such recommendation.

The Audit Committee of the Board of Directors

William S. Nichols III (Chairman)

Umesh (Mike) Jain

P. Michael Mann, M.D.

Thomas A. Reiser

Table of Contents

PROPOSAL 2. RATIFICATION OF THE APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM

Pursuant to the recommendation of the Audit Committee, the board has appointed Crowe Horwath LLP as the independent registered public accounting firm of the Company for the year ending December 31, 2016. The board is seeking ratification of the appointment of Crowe Horwath LLP for the 2016 fiscal year. Shareholder ratification of the selection of Crowe Horwath LLP as our independent registered public accounting firm for the 2016 fiscal year is not required by our bylaws, state law or otherwise. However, the board is submitting the selection of Crowe Horwath LLP to our shareholders for ratification as a matter of good corporate governance. If the shareholders fail to ratify the selection, the Audit Committee will consider this information when determining whether to retain Crowe Horwath LLP for future services.

At the annual meeting, shareholders will be asked to consider and act upon a proposal to ratify the appointment of Crowe Horwath LLP. Assuming a quorum is present, the ratification of such appointment will require the affirmative vote of the holders of a majority of the outstanding shares of common stock entitled to vote and present in person or represented by proxy at the annual meeting. Representatives of Crowe Horwath LLP are expected to be in attendance at the annual meeting and will be afforded the opportunity to make a statement. The representatives will also be available to respond to questions.

THE BOARD RECOMMENDS A VOTE “FOR” THE PROPOSAL TO

RATIFY THE APPOINTMENT OF CROWE HORWATH LLP

AS THE COMPANY’S INDEPENDENT PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM FOR FISCAL YEAR 2016

Table of Contents

DATE FOR SUBMISSION OF SHAREHOLDER PROPOSALS FOR 2017 ANNUAL MEETING

If a shareholder desires to submit a shareholder proposal pursuant to Rule 14a-8 under the Exchange Act for inclusion in the proxy statement for the 2017 annual meeting of shareholders, such proposal and supporting statements, if any, must be received by us at the Company's principal executive office no later than December 12, 2016. Any such proposal must comply with the requirements of Rule 14a-8.

In addition, our bylaws provide that only such business which is properly brought before a shareholder meeting will be conducted. For business to be properly brought before a meeting or nominations of persons for election to the board to be properly made at a meeting by a shareholder, notice must be received by the Secretary of the Company at the address below not less than 120 days in advance of the anniversary date of the immediately preceding annual meeting of shareholders; provided, however, that if no annual meeting was held in the previous year or the date of the annual meeting of shareholders has been changed by more than 30 days from the date contemplated at the time of the previous year's proxy statement, the notice must be received by the Company at least 80 days prior to the date the Company intends to distribute its notice with respect to such meeting. All notices to us must also provide certain information set forth in the Company's bylaws. A copy of the Company's bylaws may be obtained upon written request to the Secretary of the Company.

Shareholder proposals and nominations should be submitted to the Secretary of the Company and the Corporate Governance and Nominating Committee, respectively, at Allegiance Bancshares, Inc., 8847 West Sam Houston Parkway, N., Houston, Texas 77040.

ANNUAL REPORT ON FORM 10-K

We will furnish, without charge, a copy of the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2015, as filed with the SEC, to any shareholder upon written request to Allegiance Bancshares, Inc., 8847 West Sam Houston Parkway, N., Suite 200, Houston, Texas 77040 Attn: Courtney Theriot.

Our Annual Report on Form 10-K, including consolidated financial statements and related notes, for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2015, as filed with the SEC, accompanies but does not constitute part of this proxy statement.

OTHER MATTERS

The board does not intend to bring any other matter before the annual meeting and does not know of any other matters that are to be presented for action at the annual meeting. However, if any other matter does properly come before the annual meeting or any adjournment or postponement thereof, the proxies will be voted in accordance with the discretion of the person or persons voting the proxies.

You are cordially invited to attend the annual meeting. Regardless of whether you plan to attend the annual meeting, you are urged to complete, date, sign and return the enclosed proxy in the accompanying envelope at your earliest convenience.

By Order of the Board of Directors,

George Martinez
Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer

Houston, Texas

April 11, 2016

33

Table of Contents

Table of Contents