

SUNTRUST BANKS INC
Form S-3ASR
September 15, 2015
Table of Contents

As filed with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission on September 15, 2015

Registration No. 333-

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

FORM S-3
REGISTRATION STATEMENT
UNDER
THE SECURITIES ACT OF 1933

SunTrust Banks, Inc.

(Exact name of Registrant as specified in its charter)

Georgia
(State or other jurisdiction of
incorporation or organization)

58-1575035
(I.R.S. Employer
Identification Number)

Edgar Filing: SUNTRUST BANKS INC - Form S-3ASR

303 Peachtree Street, NE

Atlanta, Georgia 30308

(404) 588-7711

(Address, including zip code, and telephone number, including area code, of Registrant's principal executive offices)

Raymond D. Fortin

Corporate Executive Vice President and General Counsel

303 Peachtree Street, NE

Atlanta, Georgia 30308

(404) 588-7711

(Name, address, including zip code, and telephone number, including area code, of agent for service)

with copies to:

Keith M. Townsend

King & Spalding LLP

1180 Peachtree Street, NE

Atlanta, Georgia 30309

(404) 572-4600

Approximate date of commencement of proposed sale to the public: From time to time after the effective date of this Registration Statement.

If the only securities being registered on this Form are being offered pursuant to dividend or reinvestment plans, please check the following box: "

Edgar Filing: SUNTRUST BANKS INC - Form S-3ASR

If any of the securities being registered on this Form are to be offered on a delayed or continuous basis pursuant to Rule 415 under the Securities Act of 1933, other than securities offered only in connection with dividend or interest reinvestment plans, check the following box: x

If this Form is filed to register additional securities for an offering pursuant to Rule 462(b) under the Securities Act, please check the following box and list the Securities Act registration statement number of the earlier effective registration statement for the same offering: "

If this Form is a post-effective amendment filed pursuant to Rule 462(c) under the Securities Act, check the following box and list the Securities Act registration statement number of the earlier effective registration statement for the same offering: "

If this Form is a registration statement pursuant to General Instruction I.D. or a post-effective amendment thereto that shall become effective upon filing with the Commission pursuant to Rule 462(e) under the Securities Act, check the following box: x

If this Form is a post-effective amendment to a registration statement filed pursuant to General Instruction I.D. filed to register additional securities or additional classes of securities pursuant to Rule 413(b) under the Securities Act, check the following box: "

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a large accelerated filer, an accelerated filer, a non-accelerated filer, or a smaller reporting company. See the definitions of large accelerated filer, accelerated filer and smaller reporting company in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act.

Large accelerated filer x
 Non-accelerated filer " (Do not check if a smaller reporting company) Accelerated filer "
 Smaller reporting company "

CALCULATION OF REGISTRATION FEE

| Title of Each Class of Securities to be Registered(1) | Amount to be Registered | Proposed Maximum Offering Price Per Unit | Proposed Maximum Aggregate Offering Price | Amount of Registration Fee |
|--|--------------------------------|---|--|-----------------------------------|
| Senior debt securities | | | | |
| Subordinated debt securities | | | | |
| Preferred stock | | | | |
| Depository shares(3) | (2) | (2) | (2) | (2) |
| Common stock | | | | |
| Warrants | | | | |
| Purchase contracts | | | | |
| Units(4) | | | | |

(1)

The securities of each class may be offered and sold by the Registrant or may be offered and sold, from time to time, by one or more selling securityholders to be identified in the future. The selling securityholders may purchase the securities directly from the Registrants, or from one or more underwriters, dealers or agents.

- (2) An indeterminate aggregate initial offering price or number of the securities of each identified class is being registered as may from time to time be offered at indeterminate prices. Separate consideration may or may not be received for securities that are issuable on exercise, conversion or exchange of other securities or that are issued in units or represented by depositary shares. In accordance with Rules 456(b) and 457(r), the registrants are deferring payment of all of the registration fee and will pay the registration fee subsequently in advance or on a pay-as-you-go basis.
- (3) Each depositary share will be issued under a deposit agreement, will represent an interest in a fractional share or multiple shares of preferred stock and will be evidenced by a depositary receipt.
- (4) Any securities registered hereunder may be sold as units with other securities registered hereunder. Each unit will be issued under a unit agreement or indenture and will represent an interest in two or more securities, which may or may not be separable from one another. Because units will consist of a combination of other securities registered hereunder, no additional registration fee is required for the units.

Table of Contents

PROSPECTUS

SunTrust Banks, Inc.

Senior Debt Securities

Subordinated Debt Securities

Preferred Stock

Depositary Shares

Common Stock

Warrants

Purchase Contracts

Units

The securities listed above may be offered and sold by us or may be offered and sold, from time to time, by one or more selling securityholders to be identified in the future. We will provide the specific terms of these securities in supplements to this prospectus. We may offer and sell these securities to or through one or more underwriters, dealers and agents, directly to purchasers or through a combination of these methods, on a continuous or delayed basis from time to time. You should read this prospectus and the applicable prospectus supplement carefully before you invest in the securities described in the applicable prospectus supplement.

This prospectus may not be used to sell securities unless accompanied by the applicable prospectus supplement.

These securities will be our equity securities or unsecured obligations, will not be savings accounts, deposits or other obligations of any bank or savings association, and will not be insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, the bank insurance fund or any other governmental agency or instrumentality.

Neither the Securities and Exchange Commission nor any state securities commission has approved or disapproved of these securities or passed upon the accuracy or adequacy of this prospectus. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense.

Edgar Filing: SUNTRUST BANKS INC - Form S-3ASR

The date of this prospectus is September 15, 2015

Table of Contents

TABLE OF CONTENTS

| | Page |
|--|-------------|
| <u>About this Prospectus</u> | 1 |
| <u>Where You Can Find More Information</u> | 1 |
| <u>Use of Proceeds</u> | 2 |
| <u>Validity of the Securities</u> | 2 |
| <u>Experts</u> | 3 |

Unless the context requires otherwise, references to we, us, our and similar terms are to SunTrust Banks, Inc. and its subsidiaries.

ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS

This prospectus is a part of a registration statement that we filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) using a shelf registration process. Under this shelf registration statement, we may sell, either separately or together, senior debt securities, subordinated debt securities, preferred stock, depositary shares representing interests in preferred stock, common stock, warrants, purchase contracts and units in one or more offerings.

Each time we sell securities, we will provide a prospectus supplement, pricing supplement, index supplement, product supplement or other type of offering document or supplement (together referred to herein as a prospectus supplement) that will contain specific information about the terms of that offering. The prospectus supplement may also add, update or change information contained in this prospectus. You should read this prospectus and the applicable prospectus supplement together with the additional information described under the heading Where You Can Find More Information.

The registration statement that contains this prospectus, including the exhibits to the registration statement, contains additional information about us and the securities offered under this prospectus. That registration statement can be read at the SEC web site or at the SEC offices mentioned under the heading Where You Can Find More Information.

WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION

We file annual, quarterly and current reports, proxy statements and other information with the SEC. Our SEC filings are available to the public over the Internet at the SEC web site at <http://www.sec.gov>. To receive copies of public records not posted to the SEC's web site at prescribed rates, you may complete an online form at <http://www.sec.gov>, send a fax to (202) 772-9337 or submit a written request to the SEC, Office of FOIA/PA Operations, 100 F Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20549. Please call the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330 for further information. Our SEC filings are also available at the offices of the New York Stock Exchange. For further information on obtaining copies of our public filings at the New York Stock Exchange, you should call 212-656-3000.

Edgar Filing: SUNTRUST BANKS INC - Form S-3ASR

The SEC allows us to incorporate by reference the information we file with them, which means that we can disclose important information to you by referring you to those documents. The information incorporated by reference is considered to be a part of this prospectus, and later information that we file with the SEC will automatically update and supersede this information. We incorporate by reference the following documents listed

Table of Contents

below and any future filings made with the SEC under Section 13(a), 13(c), 14 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the Exchange Act) (other than, in each case, information that is deemed not to have been filed in accordance with SEC rules), until we sell all the securities offered by this prospectus:

Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2014;

Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q for the quarters ended March 31, 2015 and June 30, 2015;

Current Reports on Form 8-K filed March 11, 2015, April 29, 2015 and August 13, 2015;

the description of SunTrust's Perpetual Preferred Stock, Series A, no par value and \$100,000 liquidation preference per share, contained in our Registration Statement on Form 8-A, under Section 12(b) of the Exchange Act, filed September 12, 2006, including any amendment or report filed for the purpose of updating such description; and

the description of SunTrust's Perpetual Preferred Stock, Series E, no par value and \$100,000 liquidation preference per share, contained in our Registration Statement on Form 8-A, under Section 12(b) of the Exchange Act, filed December 20, 2012, including any amendment or report filed for the purpose of updating such description; and

the description of SunTrust's common stock, \$1.00 par value per share, contained in our Registration Statement on Form 8-A, under Section 12(b) of the Exchange Act, filed March 5, 2003, including any amendment or report filed for the purpose of updating such description.

You may request a copy of these filings (other than an exhibit to a filing unless that exhibit is specifically incorporated by reference into that filing), at no cost, by writing or calling us at the following address:

SunTrust Banks, Inc.

303 Peachtree Street, NE

Atlanta, Georgia 30308

Telephone: 404-658-4879

Attn: Corporate Secretary

You should rely only on the information contained or incorporated by reference in this prospectus and the applicable prospectus supplement. We have not authorized anyone else to provide you with additional or different information. We may only use this prospectus to sell securities if it is accompanied by a prospectus supplement. We are only offering these securities in jurisdictions where the offer is permitted. You should not assume that the information in this prospectus or the applicable prospectus supplement or any document

incorporated by reference is accurate as of any date other than the dates of the applicable documents.

USE OF PROCEEDS

We intend to use the net proceeds from the sales of securities as set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement.

VALIDITY OF THE SECURITIES

Unless otherwise indicated in the applicable prospectus supplement, the validity of the securities may be passed upon for us by our counsel, King & Spalding LLP, Atlanta, Georgia. Any underwriters will be represented by their own legal counsel.

Table of Contents

EXPERTS

Ernst & Young LLP, an independent registered public accounting firm, has audited our consolidated financial statements included in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2014, and the effectiveness of our internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2014, as set forth in their reports, which are incorporated by reference in this prospectus and elsewhere in this registration statement. Our consolidated financial statements as of December 31, 2014 are incorporated by reference in reliance on Ernst & Young LLP's reports, given on the authority of such firm as experts in accounting and auditing.

Table of Contents**PART II****INFORMATION NOT REQUIRED IN PROSPECTUS****Item 14. Other Expenses of Issuance and Distribution.**

The following table sets forth the various expenses, other than the underwriting discounts and commissions, expected to be incurred by the Registrant in connection with the sale and distribution of the securities being registered hereby, all of which will be borne by the Registrant.

| | |
|---|------------|
| Filing Fee Securities and Exchange Commission | \$ (1) |
| Accounting fees and expenses | (2) |
| Legal fees and expenses | (2) |
| Trustee and depositary fees and expenses | (2) |
| Printing and engraving expenses | (2) |
| Blue sky fees and expenses | (2) |
| Ratings agency fees | (2) |
| Listing fees and expenses | (2) |
| Miscellaneous fees and expenses | (2) |
| Total | \$ (2) |

- (1) The Registrant is registering an indeterminate amount of securities under this Registration Statement and in accordance with Rules 456(b) and 457(r), the Registrant is deferring payment of any additional registration fee until the time the securities are sold under this Registration Statement pursuant to a prospectus supplement.
- (2) These fees are calculated based on the number of issuances and amount of securities offered and, accordingly, cannot be estimated at this time.

Item 15. Indemnification of Directors and Officers.

The following summary is qualified in its entirety by reference to the Georgia Business Corporation Code (the GBCC) and the Registrant's Amended and Restated Bylaws.

Statutory Authority

The GBCC allows a corporation, pursuant to the corporation's articles of incorporation, bylaws, contract or resolution approved or ratified by the corporation's shareholders, to indemnify or obligate itself to indemnify a director or officer made party to a proceeding, including a proceeding brought by or in the right of the corporation. In addition, the GBCC permits a corporation to eliminate or limit the personal liability of a director to the corporation or its shareholders for monetary damages for breach of duty of care or other duty as a director, provided that no provisions shall eliminate or limit the liability of a director: (A) for any appropriation, in violation of his duties, of any business opportunity of the corporation; (B) for acts or omissions which involve intentional misconduct or a knowing violation of law; (C) for unlawful corporate distributions; or (D) for any transaction from which the director received an improper personal benefit. This provision, which has been adopted by the Company, pertains only to breaches of duty by directors in their capacity as directors (and not in any other corporate capacity, such as officers) and limits liability

only for breaches of fiduciary duties under Georgia corporate law (and not for violation of other laws, such as the federal securities laws).

II-1

Table of Contents

Bylaw Authority

Article VII of the Registrant's Amended and Restated Bylaws provides as follows:

SECTION 1. *Definitions.*

As used in this Article, the term:

(A) *Corporation* includes any domestic or foreign predecessor entity of this Corporation in a merger or other transaction in which the predecessor's existence ceased upon consummation of the transaction.

(B) *Director* means an individual who is or was a director of the Corporation or an individual who, while a director of the Corporation, is or was serving at the Corporation's request as a director, officer, partner, trustee, employee, or agent of another foreign or domestic corporation, partnership, joint venture, trust, employee benefit plan, or other entity. A director is considered to be serving an employee benefit plan at the Corporation's request if his duties to the Corporation also impose duties on, or otherwise involve services by, him to the plan or to participants in or beneficiaries of the plan. Director includes, unless the context requires otherwise, the estate or personal representative of a director.

(C) *Disinterested director* means a director who at the time of a vote referred to in Section 3(C) or a vote or selection referred to in Section 4(B), 4(C) or 7(A) is not: (i) a party to the proceeding; or (ii) an individual who is a party to a proceeding having a familial, financial, professional, or employment relationship with the director whose indemnification or advance for expenses is the subject of the decision being made with respect to the proceeding, which relationship would, in the circumstances, reasonably be expected to exert an influence on the director's judgment when voting on the decision being made.

(D) *Employee* means an individual who is or was an employee of the Corporation or an individual who, while an employee of the Corporation, is or was serving at the Corporation's request as a director, officer, partner, trustee, employee, or agent of another foreign or domestic corporation, partnership, joint venture, trust, employee benefit plan, or other enterprise. An Employee is considered to be serving an employee benefit plan at the Corporation's request if his duties to the Corporation also impose duties on, or otherwise involve services by, him to the plan or to participants in or beneficiaries of the plan. Employee includes, unless the context requires otherwise, the estate or personal representative of an employee.

(E) *Expenses* includes counsel fees.

(F) *Liability* means the obligation to pay a judgment, settlement, penalty, fine (including an excise tax assessed with respect to an employee benefit plan), or reasonable expenses incurred with respect to a proceeding.

(G) *Officer* means an individual who is or was an officer of the Corporation which for purposes of this Article VII shall include an assistant officer, or an individual who, while an Officer of the Corporation, is or was serving at the Corporation's request as a director, officer, partner, trustee, employee, or agent of another foreign or domestic corporation, partnership, joint venture, trust, employee benefit plan, or other entity. An Officer is considered to be serving an employee benefit plan at the Corporation's request if his duties to the Corporation also impose duties on, or otherwise involve services by, him to the plan or to participants in or beneficiaries of the plan. Officer includes, unless the context requires otherwise, the estate or personal representative of an Officer.

(H) *Official capacity* means: (i) when used with respect to a director, the office of a director in a corporation; and (ii) when used with respect to an Officer, the office in a corporation held by the Officer. Official capacity does not include service for any other domestic or foreign corporation or any partnership, joint venture, trust, employee benefit plan, or other entity.

II-2

Table of Contents

(I) *Party* means an individual who was, is, or is threatened to be made a named defendant or respondent in a proceeding.

(J) *Proceeding* means any threatened, pending or completed action, suit, or proceeding, whether civil, criminal, administrative, arbitrative or investigative and whether formal or informal.

SECTION 2. *Basic Indemnification Arrangement.*

(A) Except as provided in subsection (D) below and, if required by Section 4 below, upon a determination pursuant to Section 4 in the specific case that such indemnification is permissible in the circumstances under this subsection because the individual has met the standard of conduct set forth in this subsection (A), the Corporation shall indemnify an individual who is made a party to a proceeding because he is or was a director or Officer against liability incurred by him in the proceeding if he conducted himself in good faith and, in the case of conduct in his official capacity, he reasonably believed such conduct was in the best interest of the Corporation, or in all other cases, he reasonably believed such conduct was at least not opposed to the best interests of the Corporation and, in the case of any criminal proceeding, he had no reasonable cause to believe his conduct was unlawful.

(B) A person's conduct with respect to an employee benefit plan for a purpose he believes in good faith to be in the interests of the participants in and beneficiaries of the plan is conduct that satisfies the requirement of subsection 2(A) above.

(C) The termination of a proceeding by judgment, order, settlement, or conviction, or upon a plea of nolo contendere or its equivalent is not, of itself, determinative that the proposed indemnitee did not meet the standard of conduct set forth in subsection 2(A) above.

(D) The Corporation shall not indemnify a person under this Article in connection with: (i) a proceeding by or in the right of the Corporation, except for reasonable expenses incurred in connection with the proceeding if it is determined that such person has met the relevant standard of conduct under this section; or (ii) with respect to conduct for which such person was adjudged liable on the basis that personal benefit was improperly received by him, whether or not involving action in his official capacity.

SECTION 3. *Advances for Expenses.*

(A) The Corporation may advance funds to pay for or reimburse the reasonable expenses incurred by a director or Officer who is a party to a proceeding because he is a director or Officer in advance of final disposition of the proceeding if: (i) such person furnishes the Corporation a written affirmation of his good faith belief that he has met the relevant standard of conduct set forth in subsection 2(A) above or that the proceeding involves conduct for which liability has been eliminated under the Corporation's Articles of Incorporation; and (ii) such person furnishes the Corporation a written undertaking meeting the qualifications set forth below in subsection 3(B), executed personally or on his behalf, to repay any funds advanced if it is ultimately determined that he is not entitled to any indemnification under this Article or otherwise.

(B) The undertaking required by subsection 3(A)(ii) above must be an unlimited general obligation of the director or Officer but need not be secured and shall be accepted without reference to financial ability to make repayment.

(C) Authorizations under this Section shall be made: (i) by the Board of Directors: (a) when there are two or more disinterested directors, by a majority vote of all disinterested directors (a majority of whom shall for such purpose constitute a quorum) or by a majority of the members of a committee of two or more disinterested directors appointed

by such a vote; or (b) when there are fewer than two disinterested directors, by a majority of the directors present, in which authorization directors who do not qualify as disinterested directors may participate; or (ii) by the shareholders, but shares owned or voted under the control of a director who at the time does not qualify as a disinterested director with respect to the proceeding may not be voted on the authorization.

II-3

Table of Contents

SECTION 4. *Authorization of and Determination of Entitlement to Indemnification.*

(A) The Corporation shall not indemnify a director or Officer under Section 2 above unless authorized thereunder and a determination has been made for a specific proceeding that indemnification of such person is permissible in the circumstances because he has met the relevant standard of conduct set forth in subsection 2(A) above; provided, however, that regardless of the result or absence of any such determination, to the extent that a director or Officer has been wholly successful, on the merits or otherwise, in the defense of any proceeding to which he was a party because he is or was a director or Officer, the Corporation shall indemnify such person against reasonable expenses incurred by him in connection therewith.

(B) The determination referred to in subsection 4(A) above shall be made:

(i) If there are two or more disinterested directors, by the board of directors by a majority vote of all the disinterested directors (a majority of whom shall for such purpose constitute a quorum) or by a majority of the members of a committee of two or more disinterested directors appointed by such a vote;

(ii) by special legal counsel:

(1) selected by the Board of Directors or its committee in the manner prescribed in subdivision (i); or

(2) If there are fewer than two disinterested directors, selected by the Board of Directors (in which selection directors who do not qualify as disinterested directors may participate); or

(iii) by the shareholders; but shares owned by or voted under the control of a director who at the time does not qualify as a disinterested director may not be voted on the determination.

(C) Authorization of indemnification or an obligation to indemnify and evaluation as to reasonableness of expenses of a director or Officer in the specific case shall be made in the same manner as the determination that indemnification is permissible, as described in subsection 4(B) above, except that if there are fewer than two disinterested directors or if the determination is made by special legal counsel, authorization of indemnification and evaluation as to reasonableness of expenses shall be made by those entitled under subsection 4(B)(ii)(2) above to select counsel.

(D) The Board of Directors, a committee thereof, or special legal counsel acting pursuant to subsection (B) above or Section 5 below, shall act expeditiously upon an application for indemnification or advances, and cooperate in the procedural steps required to obtain a judicial determination under Section 5 below.

(E) The Corporation may, by a provision in its Articles of Incorporation or Bylaws or in a resolution adopted or a contract approved by its Board of Directors or shareholders, obligate itself in advance of the act or omission giving rise to a proceeding to provide indemnification or advance funds to pay for or reimburse expenses consistent with this part. Any such obligatory provision shall be deemed to satisfy the requirements for authorization referred to in Section 3(C) or Section 4(C).

SECTION 5. *Court-Ordered Indemnification and Advances for Expenses.*

A director or Officer who is a party to a proceeding because he is a director or Officer may apply for indemnification or advances for expenses to the court conducting the proceeding or to another court of competent jurisdiction. After receipt of an application and after giving any notice it considers necessary, the court shall order indemnification or advances for expenses if it determines that:

- (i) The director is entitled to indemnification or advances of expenses under this part; or
- (ii) In view of all the relevant circumstances, it is fair and reasonable to indemnify the director or Officer or to advance expenses to the director or Officer, even if the director or Officer has not met the relevant standard of conduct set forth in subsection 2(A) above, failed to comply with Section 3, or was

II-4

Table of Contents

adjudged liable in a proceeding referred to in subsections (i) or (ii) of Section 2(D), but if the director or Officer was adjudged so liable, the indemnification shall be limited to reasonable expenses incurred in connection with the proceeding, unless the Articles of Incorporation of the Corporation or a Bylaw, contract or resolution approved or ratified by shareholders pursuant to Section 7 below provides otherwise.

If the court determines that the director or Officer is entitled to indemnification or advance for expenses, it may also order the Corporation to pay the director's or Officer's reasonable expenses to obtain court-ordered indemnification or advance for expenses. The court may summarily determine, without a jury, the Corporation's obligation to advance expense.

SECTION 6. Indemnification of Officers and Employees.

(A) Unless the Corporation's Articles of Incorporation provide otherwise, the Corporation shall indemnify and advance expenses under this Article to an employee of the Corporation who is not a director or Officer to the same extent, consistent with public policy, as to a director or Officer.

(B) The Corporation may indemnify and advance expenses under this Article to an Officer of the Corporation who is a party to a proceeding because he is an Officer of the Corporation: (i) to the same extent as a director; and (ii) if he is not a director, to such further extent as may be provided by the Articles of Incorporation, the Bylaws, a resolution of the Board of Directors, or contract except for liability arising out of conduct that is enumerated in subsections (A)(i) through (A)(iv) of Section 7.

The provisions of this Section shall also apply to an Officer who is also a director if the sole basis on which he is made a party to the proceeding is an act or omission solely as an Officer.

SECTION 7. Shareholder Approved Indemnification.

(A) If authorized by the Articles of Incorporation or a Bylaw, contract or resolution approved or ratified by shareholders of the Corporation by a majority of the votes entitled to be cast, the Corporation may indemnify or obligate itself to indemnify a person made a party to a proceeding, including a proceeding brought by or in the right of the Corporation, without regard to the limitations in other sections of this Article, but shares owned or voted under the control of a director who at the time does not qualify as a disinterested director with respect to any existing or threatened proceeding that would be covered by the authorization may not be voted on the authorization. The Corporation shall not indemnify a person under this Section 7 for any liability incurred in a proceeding in which the person is adjudged liable to the Corporation or is subjected to injunctive relief in favor of the Corporation:

- (i) for any appropriation, in violation of his duties, of any business opportunity of the Corporation;
- (ii) for acts or omissions which involve intentional misconduct or a knowing violation of law;
- (iii) for the types of liability set forth in Section 14-2-832 of the Georgia Business Corporation Code; or
- (iv) for any transaction from which he received an improper personal benefit.

(B) Where approved or authorized in the manner described in subsection 7(A) above, the Corporation may advance or reimburse expenses incurred in advance of final disposition of the proceeding only if:

(i) the proposed indemnitee furnishes the Corporation a written affirmation of his good faith belief that his conduct does not constitute behavior of the kind described in subsection 7(A)(i) (iv) above; and

(ii) the proposed indemnitee furnishes the Corporation a written undertaking, executed personally, or on his behalf, to repay any advances if it is ultimately determined that he is not entitled to indemnification.

II-5

Table of Contents

SECTION 8. *Liability Insurance.*

The Corporation may purchase and maintain insurance on behalf of an individual who is a director, officer, employee, or agent of the Corporation or who, while a director, officer, employee, or agent of the Corporation, is or was serving at the request of the Corporation as a director, officer, partner, trustee, employee, or agent of another foreign or domestic corporation, partnership, joint venture, trust, employee benefit plan, or other entity against liability asserted against or incurred by him in that capacity or arising from his status as a director, officer, employee, or agent, whether or not the Corporation would have power to indemnify him against the same liability under Section 2 or Section 3 above.

SECTION 9. *Witness Fees.*

Nothing in this Article shall limit the Corporation's power to pay or reimburse expenses incurred by a person in connection with his appearance as a witness in a proceeding at a time when he is not a party.

SECTION 10. *Report to Shareholders.*

If the Corporation indemnifies or advances expenses to a director in connection with a proceeding by or in the right of the Corporation, the Corporation shall report the indemnification or advance, in writing, to shareholders with or before the notice of the next shareholders' meeting.

SECTION 11. *Severability.*

In the event that any of the provisions of this Article (including any provision within a single section, subsection, division or sentence) is held by a court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid, void or otherwise unenforceable, the remaining provisions of this Article shall remain enforceable to the fullest extent permitted by law.

SECTION 12. *Indemnification Not Exclusive.*

The rights of indemnification provided in this Article VII shall be in addition to any rights which any such director, Officer, employee or other person may otherwise be entitled by contract or as a matter of law.

SECTION 13. *Amendments to Georgia Business Corporation Code.*

In the event that, following the date of these Bylaws, the Georgia Business Corporation Code is amended to expand the indemnification protections that a Georgia corporation is permitted to provide to its directors, Officers and/or Employees, as applicable, the indemnification protections set forth in this Article VII shall be automatically amended, without any further action by the Board of Directors, the shareholders of the Corporation or the Corporation, to provide the same indemnification protections to the fullest extent provided by such amendments to the Georgia Business Corporation Code.

Item 16. Exhibits.

See the Exhibit Index attached to this Registration Statement, which is incorporated by reference herein.

Item 17. Undertakings.

The undersigned Registrant hereby undertakes:

- (1) To file, during any period in which offers or sales are being made, a post-effective amendment to this Registration Statement:
 - (i) To include any prospectus required by section 10(a)(3) of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the Securities Act);

II-6

Table of Contents

(ii) To reflect in the prospectus any facts or events arising after the effective date of the registration statement (or the most recent post-effective amendment thereof) which, individually or in the aggregate, represent a fundamental change in the information set forth in the registration statement. Notwithstanding the foregoing, any increase or decrease in volume of securities offered (if the total dollar value of securities offered would not exceed that which was registered) and any deviation from the low or high end of the estimated maximum offering range may be reflected in the form of prospectus filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the "SEC") pursuant to Rule 424(b) if, in the aggregate, the changes in volume and price represent no more than 20% change in the maximum aggregate offering price set forth in the Calculation of Registration Fee table in the effective registration statement;

(iii) To include any material information with respect to the plan of distribution not previously disclosed in the registration statement or any material change to such information in the registration statement;

provided, however, that paragraphs (i), (ii) and (iii) do not apply if the information required to be included in a post-effective amendment by those paragraphs is contained in reports filed with or furnished to the SEC by the Registrant pursuant to section 13 or section 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the "Exchange Act"), that are incorporated by reference in the registration statement, or is contained in a form of prospectus filed pursuant to Rule 424(b) that is part of the registration statement.

(2) That, for the purpose of determining any liability under the Securities Act, each such post-effective amendment shall be deemed to be a new registration statement relating to the securities offered therein, and the offering of such securities at that time shall be deemed to be the initial bona fide offering thereof.

(3) To remove from registration by means of a post-effective amendment any of the securities being registered which remain unsold at the termination of the offering.

(4) That, for the purpose of determining liability under the Securities Act to any purchaser:

(i) Each prospectus filed by the registrant pursuant to Rule 424(b)(3) shall be deemed to be part of the registration statement as of the date the filed prospectus was deemed part of and included in the registration statement; and

(ii) Each prospectus required to be filed pursuant to Rule 424(b)(2), (b)(5), or (b)(7) as part of a registration statement in reliance on Rule 430B relating to an offering made pursuant to Rule 415(a)(1)(i), (vii), or (x) for the purpose of providing the information required by section 10(a) of the Securities Act shall be deemed to be part of and included in the registration statement as of the earlier of the date such form of prospectus is first used after effectiveness or the date of the first contract of sale of securities in the offering described in the prospectus. As provided in Rule 430B, for liability purposes of the issuer and any person that is at that date an underwriter, such

date shall be deemed to be a new effective date of the registration statement relating to the securities in the registration statement to which that prospectus relates, and the offering of such securities at that time shall be deemed to be the initial bona fide offering thereof. Provided, however, that no statement made in a registration statement or prospectus that is part of the registration statement or made in a document incorporated or deemed incorporated by reference into the registration statement or prospectus that is part of the registration statement will, as to a purchaser with a time of contract of sale prior to such effective date, supersede or modify any statement that was made in the registration statement or prospectus that was part of the registration statement or made in any such document immediately prior to such effective date.

- (5) That, for the purpose of determining liability of the Registrant under the Securities Act to any purchaser in the initial distribution of the securities in a primary offering of securities of the Registrant pursuant to this registration statement, regardless of the underwriting method used to

Table of Contents

sell the securities to the purchaser, if the securities are offered or sold to such purchaser by means of any of the following communications, the Registrant will be a seller to the purchaser and will be considered to offer or sell such securities to such purchaser:

- (i) Any preliminary prospectus or prospectus of the Registrant relating to the offering required to be filed pursuant to Rule 424;
 - (ii) Any free writing prospectus relating to the offering prepared by or on behalf of the Registrant or used or referred to by the Registrant;
 - (iii) The portion of any other free writing prospectus relating to the offering containing material information about the Registrant or its securities provided by or on behalf of the Registrant; and
 - (iv) Any other communication that is an offer in the offering made by the Registrant to the purchaser.
- (6) For purposes of determining any liability under the Securities Act, each filing of the Registrant's annual report pursuant to section 13(a) or section 15(d) of the Exchange Act (and, where applicable, each filing of an employee benefit plan's annual report pursuant to section 15(d) of the Exchange Act) that is incorporated by reference in the registration statement shall be deemed to be a new registration statement relating to the securities offered therein, and the offering of such securities at that time shall be deemed to be the initial bona fide offering thereof.

Insofar as indemnification for liabilities arising under the Securities Act may be permitted to directors, officers and controlling persons of the Registrant pursuant to the foregoing provisions, or otherwise, the Registrant has been advised that in the opinion of the SEC such indemnification is against public policy as expressed in the Securities Act and is, therefore, unenforceable. In the event that a claim for indemnification against such liabilities (other than the payment by the Registrant of expenses incurred or paid by a director, officer or controlling person of the Registrant in the successful defense of any action, suit or proceeding) is asserted by such director, officer or controlling person in connection with the securities being registered, the Registrant will, unless in the opinion of its counsel the matter has been settled by controlling precedent, submit to a court of appropriate jurisdiction the question whether such indemnification by it is against public policy as expressed in the Securities Act and will be governed by the final adjudication of such issue.

Table of Contents**SIGNATURES**

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, the Registrant certifies that it has reasonable grounds to believe that it meets all of the requirements for filing on Form S-3 and has duly caused this Registration Statement to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized, in the City of Atlanta, State of Georgia, on September 15, 2015.

SunTrust Banks, Inc.

By: /s/ William H. Rogers, Jr.

Name: William H. Rogers, Jr.

Title: Chairman of the Board and

Chief Executive Officer

We, the undersigned directors and officers of SunTrust Banks, Inc. whose signatures appear below, do hereby constitute and appoint Raymond D. Fortin and Aleem Gillani, and each or either of them, our true and lawful attorneys-in-fact and agents with full and several power of substitution, to do any and all acts and things in our names and on our behalf in our capacities as directors and officers and to execute any and all instruments necessary or advisable to enable said corporation to comply with the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, and any rules, regulations and requirements of the Securities and Exchange Commission, in connection with this registration statement, including specifically, but without limitation, power and authority to sign for us or any of us in our names in the capacities indicated below, any and all amendments (including post-effective amendments) hereto, and to file the same, with all exhibits thereto, and all documents in connection therewith, with the Securities and Exchange Commission; and we do hereby ratify and confirm all that said attorneys and agents, or any of them, shall do or cause to be done by virtue thereof.

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, this Registration Statement has been signed below by the following persons in the capacities on September 15, 2015.

| Signature | Title |
|--|--|
| /s/ William H. Rogers, Jr. William H. Rogers, Jr. | Chairman of the Board (Director) and Chief Executive Officer (Principal Executive Officer) |
| /s/ Aleem Gillani Aleem Gillani | Corporate Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer (Principal Financial Officer) |
| /s/ Thomas E. Panther Thomas E. Panther | Senior Vice President and Director of Corporate Finance & Controller (Principal Accounting Officer) |
| /s/ Robert M. Beall, II Robert M. Beall, II | Director |
| /s/ Paul R. Garcia Paul R. Garcia | Director |

/s/ David H. Hughes
David H. Hughes

Director

/s/ M. Douglas Ivester
M. Douglas Ivester

Director

II-9

Table of Contents

| Signature | Title |
|--|--------------|
| /s/ Kyle Prechtl Legg Kyle Prechtl Legg | Director |
| /s/ William A. Linnenbringer William A. Linnenbringer | Director |
| /s/ Donna S. Morea Donna S. Morea | Director |
| /s/ David M. Ratcliffe David M. Ratcliffe | Director |
| /s/ Frank P. Scruggs, Jr. Frank P. Scruggs, Jr. | Director |
| /s/ Thomas R. Watjen Thomas R. Watjen | Director |
| /s/ Dr. Phail Wynn, Jr. Dr. Phail Wynn, Jr. | Director |

Table of Contents**EXHIBIT INDEX**

| Exhibit No. | Description |
|--------------------|---|
| 1.1* | Form of Underwriting Agreement for Debt Securities |
| 1.2* | Form of Underwriting Agreement for Preferred Stock or Depositary Shares |
| 1.3* | Form of Underwriting Agreement for Common Stock |
| 1.4* | Form of Underwriting Agreement for Warrants |
| 1.5* | Form of Underwriting Agreement for Purchase Contracts |
| 1.6* | Form of Underwriting Agreement for Units |
| 1.7 | Master Agency Agreement, dated as of September 13, 2010 among SunTrust and SunTrust Robinson Humphrey, Inc. (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 1.1 to the Registrant's Form 8-K filed on September 14, 2010), as amended by Amendment No. 1 to Master Agency Agreement, dated October 3, 2012, incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to the Registrant's Current Report on Form 8-K filed October 3, 2012 |
| 4.1 | Amended and Restated Articles of Incorporation of the Registrant, restated effective January 20, 2009, incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3.1 to the Registrant's Current Report on Form 8-K filed January 22, 2009, as further amended by Articles of Amendment dated December 13, 2012, incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3.1 to the Registrant's Current Report on Form 8-K filed December 20, 2012, and as further amended by Articles of Amendment dated November 6, 2014, incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3.1 to Registrant's Current Report on Form 8-K filed November 7, 2014 |
| 4.2 | Bylaws of the Registrant, as amended and restated on August 11, 2015, incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3.2 to the Registrant's Current Report on Form 8-K filed August 13, 2015 |
| 4.3.1 | Indenture dated as of September 10, 2007 between SunTrust and U.S. Bank National Association, as Trustee, to be used in connection with the issuance of Senior Debt Securities (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.1 to the Registrant's Form 8-K filed on September 10, 2007) |
| 4.3.2 | Form of Indenture between SunTrust and U.S. Bank National Association, as Trustee, to be used in connection with the issuance of Subordinated Debt Securities (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.4.2 to the Registrant's Form S-3 filed on September 5, 2006) |
| 4.4.1 | Form of Senior Debt Security (included in Exhibit 4.3.1) |
| 4.4.2* | Form of Subordinated Debt Security |
| 4.5* | Form of Preferred Stock Certificate |
| 4.6* | Form of Deposit Agreement, including form of Depositary Receipt |
| 4.7* | Form of Warrant Agreement, including form of Warrant Certificate |
| 4.8* | Form of Purchase Contract |
| 4.9* | Form of Unit Certificate |
| 5.1 | Opinion of King & Spalding LLP |

| | |
|------|--|
| 8.1* | Tax Opinion of King & Spalding LLP |
| 12.1 | Ratio of Earnings to Fixed Charges and Preferred Stock Dividends |
| 23.1 | Consent of King & Spalding LLP (including in Exhibit 5.1) |
| 23.2 | Consent of Ernst & Young LLP |
| 24.1 | Power of Attorney (included on signature page of this Registration Statement) |
| 25.1 | Statement of Eligibility of U.S. Bank National Association, as Trustee under the Indenture for Senior Debt |
| 25.2 | Statement of Eligibility of U.S. Bank National Association, as Trustee under the Indenture for Subordinated Debt |

* To be filed under a Current Report on Form 8-K and incorporated by reference herein.