

QCR HOLDINGS INC  
Form 424B5  
May 23, 2016  
Table of Contents

**Filed Pursuant to Rule 424(b)(5)**  
**Registration No. 333-206622**

**PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT**

(To Prospectus dated October 5, 2015)

**1,215,000 Shares**

**Common Stock**

We are offering 1,215,000 shares of our common stock, \$1.00 par value per share. Our common stock is listed and traded on the NASDAQ Global Market under the symbol QCRH. The last reported sale price of our common stock on May 19, 2016 was \$25.24 per share.

**Investing in our common stock involves risks. See the Risk Factors section beginning on page S-4 of this prospectus supplement and the Risk Factors section in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2015 to read about risks you should carefully consider before buying our common stock.**

	Per Share	Total
Offering price	\$ 24.75	\$ 30,071,250
Proceeds to us (before expenses)	\$ 24.75	\$ 30,071,250

Shares of our common stock are not savings accounts, deposits or obligations of any bank or savings institution and are not insured or guaranteed by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation or any other governmental agency.

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

The shares of common stock will be ready for delivery on or about May 23, 2016.

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**The date of this prospectus supplement is May 20, 2016.**

**Table of Contents**

**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

**PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT**

<u>ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT</u>	S-ii
<u>PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT SUMMARY</u>	S-1
<u>RISK FACTORS</u>	S-4
<u>FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS</u>	S-8
<u>USE OF PROCEEDS</u>	S-9
<u>CAPITALIZATION</u>	S-10
<u>PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION</u>	S-11
<u>LEGAL MATTERS</u>	S-12
<u>EXPERTS</u>	S-12
<u>WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION</u>	S-13
<u>INCORPORATION OF CERTAIN INFORMATION BY REFERENCE</u>	S-14
<b>PROSPECTUS</b>	

<u>RISK FACTORS</u>	1
<u>ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS</u>	1
<u>SPECIAL NOTE REGARDING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS</u>	1
<u>QCR HOLDINGS, INC.</u>	2
<u>USE OF PROCEEDS</u>	2
<u>RATIO OF EARNINGS TO FIXED CHARGES AND PREFERRED STOCK DIVIDENDS</u>	3
<u>DESCRIPTION OF SECURITIES WE MAY OFFER</u>	4
<u>DESCRIPTION OF CAPITAL STOCK</u>	4
<u>DESCRIPTION OF DEBT SECURITIES</u>	8
<u>DESCRIPTION OF WARRANTS</u>	14
<u>DESCRIPTION OF DEPOSITARY SHARES</u>	15
<u>DESCRIPTION OF SUBSCRIPTION RIGHTS</u>	17
<u>DESCRIPTION OF STOCK PURCHASE CONTRACTS AND STOCK PURCHASE UNITS</u>	18
<u>DESCRIPTION OF UNITS</u>	18
<u>PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION</u>	19
<u>LEGAL MATTERS</u>	20
<u>EXPERTS</u>	20
<u>WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION</u>	21
<u>INCORPORATION OF CERTAIN INFORMATION BY REFERENCE</u>	21

**Table of Contents**

**ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT**

This document is in two parts. The first part is this prospectus supplement, which describes the specific terms of this offering and also adds to and updates information contained in the accompanying prospectus and the documents incorporated by reference therein. The second part, the accompanying prospectus, provides more general information. Generally, when we refer to this prospectus, we are referring to both parts of this document combined. To the extent there is a conflict between the information contained in this prospectus supplement and the information contained in the accompanying prospectus or any document incorporated by reference therein filed prior to the date of this prospectus supplement, you should rely on the information in this prospectus supplement; provided that if any statement in one of these documents is inconsistent with a statement in another document having a later date—for example, a document incorporated by reference in the accompanying prospectus—the statement in the document having the later date modifies or supersedes the earlier statement.

Unless otherwise stated or the context otherwise requires, all references in this prospectus supplement to QCR, QCR Holdings, the Company, we, our, us and similar terms refer to QCR Holdings, Inc. and its subsidiaries.

We have not authorized anyone to provide any information other than that contained or incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement, the accompanying prospectus or in any free writing prospectus prepared by or on behalf of us or to which we have referred you. We take no responsibility for, and can provide no assurance as to the reliability of, any other information that others may give you. This prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus do not constitute an offer to sell, or a solicitation of an offer to purchase, the securities offered by this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus in any jurisdiction to or from any person to whom or from whom it is unlawful to make such offer or solicitation of an offer in such jurisdiction. The information contained in this prospectus supplement or the accompanying prospectus, or incorporated by reference herein or therein is accurate only as of the respective dates thereof, regardless of the time of delivery of this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus or of any sale of our securities. It is important for you to read and consider all information contained in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus, including the documents incorporated by reference herein and therein, in making your investment decision. You should also read and consider the information in the documents to which we have referred you in the sections entitled *Where You Can Find More Information* in this prospectus supplement and in the accompanying prospectus.

**Table of Contents**

**PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT SUMMARY**

*This summary highlights selected information contained elsewhere in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus, and in the documents we incorporate by reference. This summary does not contain all of the information you should consider before investing in our common stock. You should read this entire prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus carefully, especially the risks discussed under Risk Factors beginning on page S-4 of this prospectus supplement, along with our consolidated financial statements and notes to those consolidated financial statements incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement, and the other information incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus, before making an investment decision.*

**The Company**

We are a multi-bank holding company headquartered in Moline, Illinois, formed in February 1993 under the laws of the state of Delaware. We serve the Quad Cities, Cedar Rapids, Waterloo/Cedar Falls and Rockford communities through the following three wholly-owned banking subsidiaries, which provide full-service commercial and consumer banking and trust and asset management services:

Quad City Bank & Trust Company, which is based in Bettendorf, Iowa, and commenced operations in 1994;

Cedar Rapids Bank & Trust Company, which is based in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, and commenced operations in 2001; and

Rockford Bank & Trust Company, which is based in Rockford, Illinois, and commenced operations in 2005. We engage in direct financing lease contracts through m2 Lease Funds, LLC, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Quad City Bank & Trust Company based in Brookfield, Wisconsin. We also engage in correspondent banking through more than 170 relationships with community banking institutions headquartered primarily in Illinois, Iowa, Missouri and Wisconsin. At December 31, 2015, we had consolidated assets of \$2.59 billion, deposits of \$1.88 billion and stockholders' equity of \$225.9 million.

Our principal executive office is located at 3551 Seventh Street, Moline, Illinois 61265 and our telephone number is (309) 743-7754.

Additional information about us is included in our filings with the SEC, which are incorporated by reference into this prospectus. See [Where You Can Find More Information](#) and [Incorporation of Certain Information by Reference](#) in this prospectus.

**Recent Developments**

***Possible Acquisition of Community State Bank, an Iowa-state bank headquartered in Ankeny, Iowa***

The Company has been negotiating a stock purchase agreement (the [Acquisition Agreement](#)) with Van Diest Investment Company to purchase all of the outstanding capital stock of Community State Bank, an Iowa-state bank headquartered in Ankeny, Iowa ([Community State Bank](#)). The parties expect to execute the Acquisition Agreement on

or about May 23, 2016. Subject to the terms of the Acquisition Agreement, at the closing of the acquisition, the Company will pay \$80.0 million for all of the outstanding shares of capital stock of Community State Bank. The Company anticipates using the proceeds from this offering to help fund the purchase price.

S-1

**Table of Contents**

It is anticipated that, following the acquisition, the Company will operate Community State Bank as an independent banking subsidiary headquartered in Ankeny, Iowa. As of March 31, 2016, Community State Bank had total assets of \$595.4 million, total loans of \$421.4 million and total deposits of \$482.8 million.

The Acquisition Agreement will contain customary representations and warranties of both parties and customary conditions to the parties' obligations to close the transaction, as well as agreements to cooperate in the process of consummating the transaction. The Acquisition Agreement also contains provisions limiting the activities of Community State Bank which are outside the ordinary and usual course of business, including restrictions on employee compensation, certain acquisitions and dispositions of assets and liabilities, and solicitations relating to alternative acquisition proposals, pending the completion of the Acquisition Agreement.

Subject to the closing conditions and necessary approvals, the acquisition is anticipated to be completed late in the third quarter or early in the fourth quarter of 2016.

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**Table of Contents****The Offering**

Issuer	QCR Holdings, Inc., a Delaware corporation
Shares Offered by Us	1,215,000
Shares Outstanding After this Offering	13,038,438
Use of Proceeds	We estimate that the net proceeds to us from this offering will be approximately \$30 million, based on the offering price of \$24.75 per share, after deducting estimated offering expenses payable by us. We intend to use the net proceeds from this offering for general corporate purposes and, together with approximately \$35.0 million of indebtedness that we plan to incur under our existing revolving line of credit note, to help finance the \$80.0 million purchase price for our proposed acquisition of Community State Bank from Van Diest Investment Company. See Prospectus Supplement Summary Recent Developments. Pending the completion of the acquisition, we intend to invest the net proceeds in U.S. Treasury securities. See Use of Proceeds.
Dividend Policy	Commencing with our first quarter dividend declared in February 2016, our board of directors has resolved to evaluate paying dividends on a quarterly basis, as opposed to our prior practice of paying dividends on a semi-annual basis. The payment of future cash dividends on our common stock is at the discretion of our board of directors and subject to a number of factors including our financial condition as well as certain regulatory requirements.
Risk Factors	Investing in our common stock involves a high degree of risk. See Risk Factors beginning on page S-4, including the risk factors incorporated by reference, for a discussion of factors to consider before deciding to purchase shares of our common stock.
Listing	Our common stock is listed on the NASDAQ Global Market under the symbol QCRH.

Unless otherwise indicated, all information in this prospectus supplement relating to the number of shares of common stock to be outstanding immediately after the completion of this offering is based on 11,823,438 shares outstanding as of May 20, 2016, and excludes:



648,910 shares of common stock issuable upon exercise of options outstanding as of May 20, 2016; and

an aggregate of 611,769 shares of common stock reserved for future issuance pursuant to our equity compensation plans as of May 20, 2016.

S-3

**Table of Contents**

**RISK FACTORS**

*An investment in the Company's common stock involves risks. Before making an investment decision, you should carefully consider the risks described below and under "Risk Factors" in our most recent Annual Report on Form 10-K, and in our updates to those Risk Factors in our Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q following the most recent Form 10-K, and in all other information appearing in this prospectus supplement, the accompanying prospectus, or incorporated by reference into this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus. In addition to the risks below, the material risks and uncertainties that management believes affect the Company will be described in those documents. The trading price of our common stock could decline due to any of these risks, and you may lose all or part of your investment. This prospectus supplement is qualified in its entirety by these risk factors.*

**Risks Related to Our Common Stock and this Offering**

***We will not be able to use the net proceeds from this offering immediately, which could negatively affect our results of operations.***

We intend to use a portion of the net proceeds of this offering for general corporate purposes and to help finance our proposed acquisition of Community State Bank. Pending the completion of the acquisition, we intend to invest the net proceeds of this offering in U.S. Treasury securities. Prior to the completion of the proposed acquisition, we will have more capital than we are able to deploy effectively, which could negatively affect our return on equity and earnings per share. In addition, if we are not able to complete the proposed acquisition, or are not able to complete it on the schedule we currently anticipate, this overcapitalization and resulting impact on our operating results would continue until we are able to find another effective use for the capital.

***Our stock price can be volatile, which may make it more difficult to resell our common stock at a desired time and price.***

The market price of our common stock may fluctuate significantly in response to a number of factors, some of which are beyond our control, including, among other things:

actual or anticipated quarterly fluctuations in our operating and financial results, particularly if such results vary from the expectations of management, securities analysts and investors, including with respect to further loan losses we may incur;

announcements regarding significant transactions in which we may engage, including this offering;

market assessments regarding such transactions, including the timing, terms and likelihood of success of this offering;

changes or perceived changes in our operations or business prospects;

legislative or regulatory changes affecting our industry generally or our businesses and operations;

the failure of general market and economic conditions to stabilize and recover, particularly with respect to economic conditions in Iowa and Illinois, and the pace of any such stabilization and recovery;

the operating and share price performance of companies that investors consider to be comparable to us;

future offerings by us of debt, preferred stock or trust preferred securities, each of which would be senior to our common stock upon liquidation and for purposes of dividend distributions;

actions of our current stockholders, including future sales of common stock by existing stockholders and our directors and executive officers; and

other changes in U.S. or global financial markets, economies and market conditions, such as interest or foreign exchange rates, stock, commodity, credit or asset valuations or volatility.

S-4

## **Table of Contents**

Stock price volatility may make it more difficult for a stockholder to resell our common stock when a stockholder wants to and at prices a stockholder finds attractive or at all.

### ***Our common stock trading volume may not provide adequate liquidity for investors.***

Although our common stock is listed for trading on the NASDAQ Global Market, our common stock has less liquidity than larger financial institutions. A public trading market having the desired characteristics of depth, liquidity or orderliness depends on the presence in the marketplace of willing buyers and sellers of our common stock at any given time. This marketplace depends on the individual decisions of investors and general economic and market conditions over which we have no control. Our relatively lower trading volume may affect your ability to sell your shares on short notice, and the sale of a large number of shares at one time could temporarily depress the market price of our common stock. For these reasons, our common stock should not be viewed as a short-term investment.

### ***The market price of our common stock may decline after this offering.***

We are currently offering for sale 1,215,000 shares of our common stock. The possibility that substantial amounts of shares of our common stock may be sold in the public market may cause prevailing market prices for our common stock to decrease. Additionally, because stock prices generally fluctuate over time, purchasers of common stock in the offering may not be able to sell shares after the offering at a price equal to or greater than the actual purchase price. Broad market and industry factors may materially reduce the market price of our common stock, regardless of our operating performance. In addition, price volatility may be greater if the public float and trading volume of our common stock is low. Purchasers should consider these factors in determining whether to purchase shares of common stock and the timing of any sale of shares of common stock.

### ***Securities that we issue, including our common stock, are not FDIC insured.***

Securities that we issue, including our common stock, are not savings or deposit accounts or other obligations of any bank and are not insured by the FDIC or any other governmental agency or instrumentality or any private insurer and are subject to investment risk, including the possible loss of your investment.

### ***We may issue debt and equity securities that are senior to our common stock as to distributions and in liquidation, which could negatively affect the value of our common stock.***

In the future, we may increase our capital resources by entering into debt or debt-like financing or issuing debt or equity securities, which could include issuances of senior notes, subordinated notes, preferred stock or common stock. In the event of our liquidation, any lenders and holders of such debt securities and preferred stock would receive a distribution of our available assets before distributions to the holders of our common stock. Our decision to incur debt and issue securities in future offerings may depend on market conditions and other factors beyond our control. We cannot predict or estimate the amount, timing or nature of our future offerings and debt financings. Future offerings could reduce the value of shares of our common stock and dilute a stockholder's interest in us.

### ***Anti-takeover provisions could negatively impact our stockholders.***

The laws of Delaware include provisions which are designed to provide our board of directors with time to consider whether a hostile takeover offer is in the best interests of us and our stockholders. These provisions could discourage potential acquisition proposals and could delay or prevent a change in control. The provisions also could diminish the opportunities for a holder of our common stock to participate in tender offers, including tender offers at a price above the then-current price for our common stock. These provisions could also prevent transactions in which our

stockholders might otherwise receive a premium for their shares over then-current market prices, and may limit the ability of our stockholders to approve transactions that they may deem to be in their best interests.

S-5

## **Table of Contents**

***If, as a result of this offering or otherwise, an entity holds as little as a 5% interest in our outstanding securities, that entity could, under certain circumstances, be subject to regulation as a bank holding company.***

Any entity, including a group composed of natural persons, owning or controlling with the power to vote 25% or more of our outstanding securities, or 5% or more if the holder otherwise exercises a controlling influence over us, may be subject to regulation as a bank holding company in accordance with the Bank Holding Company Act of 1956, as amended (the BHC Act). In addition, any bank holding company or foreign bank with a U.S. presence may be required to obtain the approval of the Reserve Board under the BHC Act to acquire or retain 5% or more of our outstanding securities. Regulation as a bank holding company could require the holder to divest all or a portion of the holder's investment in our securities or those nonbanking investments that may be deemed impermissible or incompatible with bank holding company status, such as a material investment in a company unrelated to banking.

***Any person not defined as a company by the BHC Act may be required to obtain the approval of the Reserve Board under the Change in Bank Control Act of 1978, as amended, to acquire or retain 10% or more of our outstanding securities.***

Any person not otherwise defined as a company by the BHC Act and its implementing regulations may be required to obtain the approval of the Reserve Board under the Change in Bank Control Act of 1978, as amended, to acquire or retain 10% or more of our outstanding securities. Applying to obtain this approval could result in a person incurring substantial costs and time delays. There can be no assurance that regulatory approval will be obtained.

### **Risks Related to the Acquisition**

***We may be unable to integrate Community State Bank successfully into our corporate structure and may not realize the anticipated benefits of the acquisition.***

The success of the proposed acquisition will depend, in part, on our ability to integrate Community State Bank into our corporate structure and to effectively manage it as an independent stand-alone banking charter. We currently intend to keep Community State Bank as a separate bank, but by doing so, we will not realize all of the synergies and cost savings that we may otherwise realize if we were combining it with one of our existing bank subsidiaries. The difficulties of acquiring Community State Bank and ensuring that it remains a profitable operating bank as a subsidiary of the Company include, among other factors:

the possibility of faulty assumptions underlying expectations regarding the acquisition and integration process;

creating generally uniform standards, controls, procedures, policies and information systems and minimizing the costs associated with such matters throughout our banking subsidiaries;

integrating information, purchasing, accounting, finance, sales, billing, payroll and regulatory compliance systems;

preserving customer, supplier, research and development, distribution, marketing, promotion and other important relationships;

commercializing products under development and increasing revenues from existing marketed products;

coordinating geographically separated organizations, systems and facilities, including complexities associated with managing the combined businesses with separate locations;

integrating certain complex technologies, solutions and products from different companies in a manner that is seamless to customers;

S-6

**Table of Contents**

unforeseen expenses or delays associated with the acquisition; and

performance shortfalls at the Company or Community State Bank, or both, as a result of the diversion of management's attention to the acquisition.

If the Company's management is unable to successfully acquire and integrate Community State Bank in a manner that permits the combined company to achieve the cost savings and operating synergies anticipated to result from the acquisition, such anticipated benefits of the acquisition may not be realized fully or at all, or may take longer to realize than expected. Any of the above difficulties could adversely affect Community State Bank's ability to maintain relationships with customers, partners, suppliers and employees, or the combined company's ability to achieve the anticipated benefits of the acquisition, and could reduce the combined company's earnings or otherwise adversely affect the business and financial results of the Company.

***The Company may discover liabilities or risks associated with acquiring Community State Bank that were not known to the Company during the negotiation of the Acquisition Agreement.***

Upon consummation of the acquisition, the Company may discover liabilities or risks associated with acquiring Community State Bank that were not previously known to the Company. These liabilities may make it more difficult for the Company to achieve the cost savings and operating synergies anticipated to result from the acquisition, such anticipated benefits of the acquisition may not be realized fully or at all or may take longer to realize than expected.

***The Company expects to incur additional indebtedness to help fund the acquisition.***

In addition to the proceeds from this offering, the Company intends to fund the acquisition in part by incurring debt by drawing from its existing credit facilities. An increase in our debt may, among other things, limit our ability to borrow additional funds, reduce the cash flow from operations available for working capital, capital expenditures and other general corporate purposes, and increase our vulnerability to general adverse economic and industry conditions.

***The acquisition is subject to regulatory approval, which may be delayed or withheld.***

The acquisition is subject to the approval of various federal and state regulatory agencies. Approval from these agencies may be delayed or withheld entirely. In the event that approval is delayed, the Company will not be able to quickly use the proceeds of this offering to earn any type of return.



**Table of Contents**

**FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS**

This prospectus supplement, the accompanying prospectus and the documents we incorporate by reference in this prospectus and the accompanying prospectus contain, and future oral and written statements of the Company and its management may contain, forward-looking statements, within the meaning of such term in the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995, Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933 (the Securities Act ) and Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (the Exchange Act ), with respect to the financial condition, results of operations, plans, objectives, future performance and business of the Company. Forward-looking statements, which may be based upon beliefs, expectations and assumptions of the Company's management and on information available to management at the time the statements are made, are generally identifiable by the use of words such as believe, expect, anticipate, bode, predict, suggest, project, appear, plan, intend, estimate, may, will, likely or other similar expressions. Additionally, all statements in this prospectus supplement, the accompanying prospectus and the documents we incorporate by reference in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus, including forward-looking statements, speak only as of the date they are made, and we undertake no obligation to update any statement in light of new information or future events.

Our ability to predict results or the actual effect of future plans or strategies is inherently uncertain. The factors that could have a material adverse effect on the operations and future prospects of the Company and its subsidiaries include:

The strength of the local and national economy.

Changes in the interest rate environment.

Our ability to timely complete the proposed acquisition of Community State Bank, and to realize the anticipated benefits of such transaction.

The economic impact of exceptional weather occurrences such as tornadoes, floods and blizzards.

The economic impact of past and any future terrorist attacks, acts of war or threats thereof and the response of the United States to any such threats and attacks.

The impact of cybersecurity risks.

The costs, effects and outcomes of existing or future litigation.

Changes in accounting policies and practices, as may be adopted by state and federal regulatory agencies, the FASB, the SEC or the PCAOB.

Our ability to manage the risks associated with the foregoing as well as anticipated.

The other factors described in the Risk Factors section of this prospectus supplement beginning on page S-4 and the Risk Factors section included under Item 1A. of Part I of our most recent Annual Report on Form 10-K. See *Where You Can Find More Information*.

These risks and uncertainties should be considered in evaluating forward-looking statements and undue reliance should not be placed on such statements.

S-8

**Table of Contents**

**USE OF PROCEEDS**

We estimate that the net proceeds to us from this offering will be approximately \$30 million, based on the offering price of \$24.75 per share, after deducting estimated offering expenses payable by us.

We intend to use the net proceeds from this offering for general corporate purposes and, together with approximately \$35.0 million of indebtedness that we plan to incur under our existing revolving line of credit note, to help finance the \$80.0 million purchase price for our proposed acquisition of Community State Bank from Van Diest Investment Company. See Prospectus Supplement Summary Recent Developments. Pending the completion of the acquisition, we intend to invest the net proceeds in U.S. Treasury securities.

S-9

**Table of Contents****CAPITALIZATION**

The table below sets forth our consolidated capitalization, including regulatory capital ratios, as of March 31, 2016 on:

an actual basis;

an as adjusted basis, to give effect to the issuance and sale of 1,215,000 shares of our common stock in this offering at the offering price of \$24.75 per share; and

a pro forma basis to give effect to the completion of our proposed acquisition of Community State Bank. The information presented below is only a summary and should be read together with the financial information included or incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus.

	<b>As of March 31, 2016</b>		
	<b>Actual</b>	<b>As Adjusted</b>	<b>Pro Forma</b>
	<b>(dollars in thousands)</b>		
<b>Short-term debt:</b>			
364-day revolving note (1)	\$	\$	\$ 35,000
<b>Long-term debt:</b>			
Junior subordinated debentures	33,378	33,378	33,378
<b>Total debt</b>	<b>33,378</b>	<b>33,378</b>	<b>68,378</b>
<b>Stockholders equity:</b>			
Common stock, \$1.00 par value per share; 20,000,000 authorized; 11,814,911 shares outstanding actual, 13,029,911 shares outstanding as adjusted and pro forma	11,815	13,030	13,030
Additional paid-in capital	124,058	152,714	152,714
Accumulated other comprehensive income	401	401	401
Retained earnings	98,868	98,868	98,868
<b>Total stockholders equity</b>	<b>235,142</b>	<b>265,013</b>	<b>265,013</b>
<b>Total capitalization</b>	<b>\$ 268,520</b>	<b>\$ 298,391</b>	<b>\$ 333,391</b>
<b>Regulatory capital ratios (consolidated):</b>			
Tangible common equity to tangible assets	8.74%	9.77%	7.63%
Common equity Tier 1	10.11%	11.42%	8.91%
Tier 1 leverage	9.85%	10.87%	8.47%
Tier 1 capital to risk-weighted assets	11.45%	12.75%	10.01%
Total capital to risk-weighted assets	12.68%	13.99%	11.03%

- (1) Pursuant to the terms of our revolving note, we will be required to prepay a portion of the note within 90 days such that the aggregate outstanding principal amount and accrued interest does not exceed \$30 million. In connection with such prepayment, we intend to refinance the balance of the revolving note with a 5-year term note.

S-10

**Table of Contents**

**PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION**

We are offering the shares of common stock directly to certain existing shareholders and other institutional investors. The offering is not being made through an underwriter or placement agent. We have entered into securities purchase agreements dated May 23, 2016 with the purchasers relating to the sale of our common stock offered under this prospectus supplement.

We are selling 1,215,000 shares of our common stock under this prospectus supplement directly to certain existing shareholders and institutional investors at a price of \$24.75 per share. On the closing date, we will issue the shares of common stock to the purchasers and we will receive funds in the amount of the aggregate purchase price.

We estimate the total expenses of this offering which will be payable by us will be approximately \$200,000.

Our obligation to issue and sell shares to the purchasers is subject to the conditions set forth in the securities purchase agreements. The purchasers' obligations to purchase shares are subject to conditions set forth in the securities purchase agreements as well. The closing of the sale of such shares under this prospectus supplement will take place as soon as practicable upon completion of the closing conditions set forth in the agreements, which we expect to be on or around May 23, 2016.

The transfer agent for our common stock is American Stock Transfer & Trust Company, LLC.

Our common stock is traded on the NASDAQ Global Market under the symbol QCRH.

**Table of Contents**

**LEGAL MATTERS**

Certain legal matters in connection with any offering of securities made by this prospectus will be passed upon for us by our counsel Barack Ferrazzano Kirschbaum & Nagelberg LLP of Chicago, Illinois. If the securities are being distributed in an underwritten offering, certain legal matters will be passed upon for the underwriters by counsel identified in the related prospectus supplement.

**EXPERTS**

The consolidated financial statements of the Company as of December 31, 2015 and 2014 and for each of the three years in the period ended December 31, 2015 and the effectiveness of the Company's internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2015 have been audited RSM US LLP, an independent registered public accounting firm, as set forth in their reports appearing in the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2015 and incorporated in this prospectus supplement by reference. Such consolidated financial statements have been so incorporated in reliance upon the report of such firm given upon their authority as experts in accounting and auditing.

S-12

**Table of Contents**

**WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION**

We are subject to the informational requirements of the Exchange Act and file with the SEC proxy statements, Annual Reports on Form 10-K, Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q and Current Reports on Form 8-K. You may read and copy any document we file at the SEC's public reference room at 100 F Street, N.E., Room 1580, Washington, D.C. 20549. Please call the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330 for further information on the public reference room. Our SEC filings are also available to the public from the SEC's web site at [www.sec.gov](http://www.sec.gov) or on our website at [www.qcrh.com](http://www.qcrh.com). However, other than our available SEC filings, the information on, or that can be accessible through, our website does not constitute a part of, and is not incorporated by reference in, this prospectus. We will provide without charge, upon written or oral request, a copy of any or all of the documents that are incorporated by reference into this prospectus and a copy of any or all other contracts or documents which are referred to in this prospectus. Requests should be directed to:

QCR Holdings, Inc.

3551 Seventh Street

Moline, Illinois 61265

Attention: Corporate Secretary

Telephone: (309) 743-7754.

The SEC allows us to incorporate by reference information we file with it, which means that we can disclose important information to you by referring you to other documents. The information incorporated by reference is considered to be a part of this prospectus supplement, and information that we file later with the SEC will automatically update and supersede this information. In all cases, you should rely on the later information incorporated by reference over different information included in this prospectus supplement.



**Table of Contents**

**INCORPORATION OF CERTAIN INFORMATION BY REFERENCE**

We incorporate by reference the documents listed below and all future filings we make with the SEC under Sections 13(a), 13(c), 14 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, or the Exchange Act, prior to the termination of the offering, except to the extent that any information contained in such filings is deemed furnished in accordance with SEC rules, including, but not limited to, information furnished under Items 2.02 and 7.01 of any Current Report on Form 8-K including related exhibits:

our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2015 (including information specifically incorporated by reference into our Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2015);

our Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended March 31, 2016;

our Current Reports on Form 8-K filed on February 18, 2016, February 23, 2016, May 10, 2016 and May 18, 2016 (except the information furnished under Item 7.01 thereof); and

the description of our common stock contained in our Registration Statement on Form 8-A filed with the SEC on August 9, 1993, including any amendments or reports filed for the purpose of updating such description.

**Table of Contents**

**PROSPECTUS**

**\$100,000,000**

**Common Stock**

**Preferred Stock**

**Debt Securities**

**Warrants**

**Depositary Shares**

**Subscription Rights**

**Stock Purchase Contracts**

**Stock Purchase Units**

**Units**

QCR Holdings, Inc. ( we, us, our or the Company ) may offer from time to time to sell, in one or more series, and in any combination, the securities described in this prospectus.

This prospectus describes the general terms of these securities and the general manner in which we will offer them. Each time that we offer and sell securities using this prospectus, we will provide a supplement to this prospectus that contains specific information about the securities and their terms and the manner in which we will offer them for sale. The prospectus supplement also may add or update information contained in this prospectus. You should carefully read this prospectus and any supplement to this prospectus, as well as any documents we have incorporated into this prospectus by reference, before you invest in any of these securities. References herein to prospectus supplement are deemed to refer to any pricing supplement or free writing prospectus describing the specific pricing or other terms of the applicable offering that we prepare and distribute.

We may offer and sell these securities through underwriters, dealers or agents, or directly to purchasers on a continuous or delayed basis. We will provide the names of any such underwriters, dealers or agents used in connection with the sale of any of these securities, as well as any fees, commissions or discounts we may pay to such underwriters, dealers or agents in connection with the sale of these securities, in the applicable prospectus supplement.

Our common stock is listed on the NASDAQ Global Market under the symbol QCRH . Our principal executive offices are located at 3551 Seventh Street, Moline, Illinois 61265 and our telephone number is (309) 743-7754.

These securities are not bank deposits and are not insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation or any other governmental agency, nor are they obligations of, or guaranteed by, a bank. This prospectus is not an offer to sell these securities, and it is not soliciting an offer to buy these securities, in any state or jurisdiction where the offer or sale is not permitted.

**Investing in our securities involves risks. See *Risk Factors* on page 1.**

**Neither the Securities and Exchange Commission nor any state securities commission has approved or disapproved of these securities or determined if this prospectus is truthful or complete. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense.**

**This prospectus is dated October 5, 2015.**

Table of Contents

**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

<u>RISK FACTORS</u>	1
<u>ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS</u>	1
<u>SPECIAL NOTE REGARDING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS</u>	1
<u>QCR HOLDINGS, INC.</u>	2
<u>USE OF PROCEEDS</u>	2
<u>RATIO OF EARNINGS TO FIXED CHARGES AND PREFERRED STOCK DIVIDENDS</u>	3
<u>DESCRIPTION OF SECURITIES WE MAY OFFER</u>	4
<u>DESCRIPTION OF CAPITAL STOCK</u>	4
<u>DESCRIPTION OF DEBT SECURITIES</u>	8
<u>DESCRIPTION OF WARRANTS</u>	14
<u>DESCRIPTION OF DEPOSITARY SHARES</u>	15
<u>DESCRIPTION OF SUBSCRIPTION RIGHTS</u>	17
<u>DESCRIPTION OF STOCK PURCHASE CONTRACTS AND STOCK PURCHASE UNITS</u>	18
<u>DESCRIPTION OF UNITS</u>	18
<u>PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION</u>	19
<u>LEGAL MATTERS</u>	20
<u>EXPERTS</u>	20
<u>WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION</u>	21
<u>INCORPORATION OF CERTAIN INFORMATION BY REFERENCE</u>	21

**Table of Contents**

**RISK FACTORS**

An investment in our securities involves certain risks. Before making an investment decision, you should carefully read and consider the risk factors incorporated by reference in this prospectus, as the same may be updated from time to time by our future filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission, which we refer to as the SEC, as well as those contained in any applicable prospectus supplement. Our business, financial condition or results of operations could be materially adversely affected by any of these risks. The trading price of our securities could decline due to any of these risks, and you may lose all or part of your investment. This prospectus and documents incorporated by reference in this prospectus also contain forward-looking statements that involve risks and uncertainties. Our actual results could differ materially from those anticipated in these forward-looking statements as a result of certain factors, including the risks faced by us.

**ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS**

This prospectus is part of a registration statement that we filed with SEC using a shelf registration process. Under this shelf registration process, we may sell from time to time, in one or more offerings, on a continuous or delayed basis, any combination of the securities described in this prospectus.

This prospectus provides you with a general description of the securities we may offer. Each time we sell securities, we will provide a prospectus supplement that will contain specific information about the terms of that offering. Such prospectus supplement may also add, update or change information contained or incorporated by reference in this prospectus. If there is any inconsistency between the information in this prospectus and the applicable prospectus supplement, you should rely on the information in the prospectus supplement. You should read this prospectus (including the documents incorporated by reference) and the applicable prospectus supplement together with the additional information referred to under the heading **Where You Can Find More Information**.

You should rely only on the information contained or incorporated by reference in this prospectus or in any supplement to this prospectus. We have not authorized anyone to provide you with different information. We are not making an offer to sell or soliciting an offer to buy these securities in any jurisdiction in which the offer or solicitation is not authorized or in which the person making the offer or solicitation is not qualified to do so or to anyone to whom it is unlawful to make the offer or solicitation. You should assume that the information contained or incorporated by reference in this prospectus or any prospectus supplement is accurate as of its date only.

Any of the securities described in this prospectus and in a prospectus supplement may be convertible or exchangeable into, or exercisable for, other securities that are described in this prospectus or will be described in a prospectus supplement, and may be issued separately, together or as part of a unit consisting of two or more securities, which may or may not be separate from one another. The securities offered hereby may include new or hybrid securities developed in the future that combine features of any of the securities described in this prospectus.

The registration statement that contains this prospectus, including the exhibits to the registration statement, also contains additional information about us and the securities offered under this prospectus. You can find the registration statement at the SEC's website or at the SEC office mentioned under the heading **Where You Can Find More Information**.

**SPECIAL NOTE REGARDING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS**

This prospectus and the documents we incorporate by reference in this prospectus contain, and future oral and written statements of the Company and its management may contain, forward-looking statements, within the meaning of such

term in the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995, Section 27A of the Securities Act

## **Table of Contents**

of 1933 (the Securities Act ) and Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (the Exchange Act ), with respect to the financial condition, results of operations, plans, objectives, future performance and business of the Company. Forward-looking statements, which may be based upon beliefs, expectations and assumptions of the Company's management and on information available to management at the time the statements are made, are generally identifiable by the use of words such as believe, expect, anticipate, bode, predict, suggest, project, appear, intend, estimate, may, will, would, could, should, likely, or other similar expressions. Additionally, all this prospectus and the documents we incorporate by reference in this prospectus, including forward-looking statements, speak only as of the date they are made, and we undertake no obligation to update any statement in light of new information or future events.

Our ability to predict results or the actual effect of future plans or strategies is inherently uncertain. The factors that could have a material adverse effect on the operations and future prospects of the Company and its subsidiaries are detailed in the Risk Factors section included under Item 1A. of Part I of our most recent Annual Report on Form 10-K and in the Risk Factors sections of this prospectus and the applicable prospectus supplement. In addition, there are other factors that may impact any public company, including ours, which could have a material adverse effect on the operations and future prospects of the Company and its subsidiaries.

These risks and uncertainties should be considered in evaluating forward-looking statements and undue reliance should not be placed on such statements.

### **QCR HOLDINGS, INC.**

We are a multi-bank holding company headquartered in Moline, Illinois, formed in February 1993 under the laws of the state of Delaware. We serve the Quad Cities, Cedar Rapids and Rockford communities through the following three wholly-owned banking subsidiaries, which provide full-service commercial and consumer banking and trust and asset management services:

Quad City Bank & Trust Company, which is based in Bettendorf, Iowa, and commenced operations in 1994;

Cedar Rapids Bank & Trust Company, which is based in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, and commenced operations in 2001; and

Rockford Bank & Trust Company, which is based in Rockford, Illinois, and commenced operations in 2005. We engage in direct financing lease contracts through m2 Lease Funds, LLC, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Quad City Bank & Trust Company based in Brookfield, Wisconsin. We also engage in correspondent banking through more than 160 relationships with community banking institutions headquartered primarily in Illinois, Iowa, Missouri and Wisconsin. At June 30, 2015, we had assets of \$2.5 billion, deposits of \$1.8 billion and stockholders' equity of \$211.7 million.

Our principal executive office is located at 3551 Seventh Street, Moline, Illinois 61265 and our telephone number is (309) 743-7754.

Additional information about us is included in our filings with the SEC, which are incorporated by reference into this prospectus. See [Where You Can Find More Information](#) and [Incorporation of Certain Information by Reference](#) in this

prospectus.

### **USE OF PROCEEDS**

Unless the applicable prospectus supplement states otherwise, we will use the net proceeds we receive from the sale of the securities offered hereby for general corporate purposes, which may include, among other things, investments in or advances to our subsidiaries, working capital, capital expenditures, stock repurchases, debt



**Table of Contents**

repayment or the financing of possible acquisitions. The prospectus supplement relating to a particular offering of securities by us will identify the particular use of proceeds for that offering. Until we use the net proceeds from an offering, we may place the net proceeds in temporary investments or hold the net proceeds in deposit accounts at a banking subsidiary of the Company.

**RATIO OF EARNINGS TO FIXED CHARGES AND PREFERRED STOCK DIVIDENDS**

The following table reflects our ratio of earnings to fixed charges and ratio of earnings to fixed charges and preferred stock dividends for each of the years in the five-year period ended December 31, 2014, as well as for the six months ended June 30, 2015.

Preferred stock dividends during the year ended December 31, 2010 consisted solely of the amounts due on our Fixed Rate Cumulative Perpetual Preferred Stock, Series D, which we refer to as Series D Preferred Stock, and Series E Non-Cumulative Convertible Perpetual Preferred Stock, which we refer to as Series E Preferred Stock. Preferred stock dividends during the year ended December 31, 2011 consisted solely of the amounts due on our Series D Preferred Stock, Series E Preferred Stock and Senior Non-Cumulative Perpetual Preferred Stock, Series F, which we refer to as Series F Preferred Stock. Preferred stock dividends during the years ended December 31, 2013 and 2012 consisted solely of the amounts due on our Series E Preferred Stock and Series F Preferred Stock. Preferred stock dividends during the year ended December 31, 2014 consisted solely of the amounts due on our Series F Preferred Stock.

We did not pay any preferred stock dividends for the six months ended June 30, 2015, because no shares of our preferred stock were outstanding during this period. Consequently, the ratios of earnings to fixed charges and preferred stock dividends for this period were the same as the ratios of earnings to fixed charges.

For purposes of computing the ratios of earnings to fixed charges and earnings to fixed charges and preferred stock dividends:

earnings represent income from continuing operations before income taxes, plus fixed charges;

fixed charges, excluding interest on deposits, include interest expense (other than on deposits), the portion of net rental expense deemed to be equivalent to interest on long-term debt, discount amortization and preferred stock dividends; and

fixed charges, including interest on deposits, include all interest expense, the portion of net rental expense deemed to be equivalent to interest on long-term debt, discount amortization and preferred stock dividends.

	<b>For the six months ended June 30, 2015</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>For the years ended December 31,</b>			
			<b>2013</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2010</b>
<b>Ratio of earnings to fixed charges:</b>						
Excluding interest on deposits	1.47x	2.32x	2.12x	1.91x	1.40x	1.17x

Including interest on deposits	1.34x	1.97x	1.83x	1.62x	1.25x	1.10x
<b>Ratio of earnings to fixed charges and preferred stock dividends:</b>						
Excluding interest on deposits(1)	1.47x	2.04x	1.55x	1.36x	0.90x	0.86x
Including interest on deposits(1)	1.34x	1.79x	1.43x	1.27x	0.93x	0.91x

(1) For the years ended December 31, 2011 and 2010, the coverage deficiency was \$2.3 million and \$3.4 million, respectively, both including and excluding interest on deposits.

**Table of Contents**

**DESCRIPTION OF SECURITIES WE MAY OFFER**

This prospectus contains summary descriptions of the common stock, preferred stock, debt securities, warrants, depositary shares, subscription rights, stock purchase contracts, stock purchase units and units that we may offer and sell from time to time. When one or more of these securities are offered in the future, a prospectus supplement will explain the particular terms of the securities and the extent to which these general provisions may apply. These summary descriptions and any summary descriptions in the applicable prospectus supplement do not purport to be complete descriptions of the terms and conditions of each security and are qualified in their entirety by reference to our Certificate of Incorporation, as amended (our Certificate of Incorporation ), our Bylaws, as amended (our Bylaws ), the Delaware General Corporation Law and any other documents referenced in such summary descriptions and from which such summary descriptions are derived. If any particular terms of a security described in the applicable prospectus supplement differ from any of the terms described in this prospectus, then the terms described in this prospectus will be deemed superseded by the terms set forth in that prospectus supplement.

We may issue securities in book-entry form through one or more depositaries, such as The Depository Trust Company, Euroclear or Clearstream, named in the applicable prospectus supplement. Each sale of a security in book-entry form will settle in immediately available funds through the applicable depository, unless otherwise stated. We will issue the securities in registered form, without coupons, although we may issue the securities in bearer form if so specified in the applicable prospectus supplement. If any securities are to be listed or quoted on a securities exchange or quotation system, the applicable prospectus supplement will say so.

**DESCRIPTION OF CAPITAL STOCK**

The following is a summary of the material terms, limitations, voting powers and relative rights of our capital stock as contained in our Certificate of Incorporation, which is incorporated by reference herein. This summary does not purport to be a complete description of the terms and conditions of our capital stock in all respects and is subject to and qualified in its entirety by reference to our Certificate of Incorporation, our Bylaws, the Delaware General Corporation Law and any other documents referenced in the summary descriptions and from which the summary descriptions are derived. Although we believe this summary covers the material terms and provisions of our capital stock set forth in our Certificate of Incorporation, it may not contain all of the information that is important to you.

**Authorized Shares of Capital Stock**

We have the authority to issue 20,000,000 shares of common stock, \$1.00 par value per share, and 250,000 shares of preferred stock, \$1.00 par value per share. As of September 22, 2015, we had 11,727,483 shares of common stock and no shares of preferred stock issued and outstanding.

**Common Stock**

**Dividend Rights.** Holders of our common stock are entitled to receive any cash dividends that may be declared by our board of directors. We are subject to various regulatory policies and requirements relating to the payment of dividends, including requirements to maintain adequate capital above regulatory minimums. Subject to these restrictions, the declaration and payment of future dividends to holders of our common stock will be at the discretion of our board of directors and will depend upon our earnings and financial condition, our capital requirements and those of our subsidiaries, regulatory conditions and considerations and other factors as our board of directors may deem relevant. No cash dividends will be paid with respect to our common stock for any period unless dividends for the same period, and any accumulated but unpaid dividends, with respect to any outstanding series of our preferred stock having preferential rights with respect to dividends have been paid.



## **Table of Contents**

***Voting Rights.*** Each share of common stock entitles the holder thereof to one vote per share on all matters on which the holders of our common stock are entitled to vote. The common stock does not have cumulative voting rights.

***Liquidation Rights.*** In the event of our liquidation, dissolution or winding up, whether voluntary or involuntary, the holders of common stock are entitled to receive, *pro rata*, our assets which are legally available for distribution, after payment of all debts and other liabilities and subject to the prior rights of any holders of preferred stock then outstanding.

***Preemptive Rights.*** The holders of our common stock have no preemptive rights.

***Miscellaneous.*** Shares of our common stock are not convertible into shares of any other class of capital stock. The issued and outstanding shares of our common stock are fully paid and nonassessable.

## **Preferred Stock**

***General.*** We may issue up to 250,000 shares of preferred stock, \$1.00 par value per share, from time to time in one or more series. Our board of directors, without further approval of our stockholders, has the authority to fix the dividend rights and terms, conversion rights, voting rights, redemption rights and terms, liquidation preferences, sinking funds and any other rights, preferences, privileges and restrictions applicable to each series of preferred stock. The issuance of preferred stock, while providing flexibility in connection with possible acquisitions and other corporate purposes, could, among other things, adversely affect the voting power of the holders of our common stock.

We will describe the particular terms of any series of preferred stock being offered in the prospectus supplement relating to that series of preferred stock. Those terms may include:

the number of shares being offered;

the title and liquidation preference per share;

the purchase price;

the dividend rate or method for determining that rate;

the dates on which dividends will be paid;

whether dividends will be cumulative or noncumulative and, if cumulative, the dates from which dividends will begin to accumulate;

any applicable redemption or sinking fund provisions;

any applicable conversion provisions;

whether we have elected to offer depositary shares with respect to that series of preferred stock; and

any additional dividend, liquidation and other rights and restrictions applicable to that series of preferred stock.

The shares of preferred stock will, when issued against full payment of their purchase price, be fully paid and nonassessable.

***Dividend Rights.*** If you purchase preferred stock being offered by use of this prospectus and an applicable prospectus supplement, you will be entitled to receive, when, as and if declared by our board of directors, dividends at the rates and on the dates set forth in the prospectus supplement. Dividend rates may be fixed, variable or both. The nature, amount, rates, timing and other details of dividend rights for a series of preferred stock will be described in the applicable prospectus supplement and will be payable in preference to, or in such relation to, the dividends payable on any other class or classes or series of our stock, as described in the applicable prospectus supplement. We are subject to various regulatory policies and requirements relating to the payment of dividends, including requirements to maintain adequate capital above regulatory minimums.

## **Table of Contents**

***Voting Rights.*** The voting rights of preferred stock of any series being offered will be described in the applicable prospectus supplement.

***Liquidation Rights.*** In the event that we liquidate, dissolve or wind-up our affairs, either voluntarily or involuntarily, holders of our preferred stock will be entitled to receive liquidating distributions in the amount set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement, plus accrued and unpaid dividends, if any, before we make any distribution of assets to the holders of our common stock or any junior preferred stock. If we fail to pay in full all amounts payable with respect to preferred stock being offered by us and any stock having the same rank as that series of preferred stock, the holders of the preferred stock and of that other stock will share in any distribution of assets in proportion to the full respective preferential amounts to which they are entitled. After the holders of each series of preferred stock and any stock having the same rank as the preferred stock are paid in full, they will have no right or claim to any of our remaining assets. For any series of preferred stock being offered by this prospectus and an applicable prospectus supplement, neither the sale of all or substantially all of our property or business nor a merger or consolidation by us with any other corporation will be considered a dissolution, liquidation or winding-up of our business or affairs.

***Redemption.*** The terms, if any, on which shares of a series of preferred stock being offered may be redeemed will be described in the applicable prospectus supplement. The preferred stock of a series may be redeemed in such amount or amounts, and at such time or times, if any, as may be provided in respect of that particular series of preferred stock. Preferred stock may be redeemed by the Company only to the extent legally permissible.

***Conversion Rights.*** The applicable prospectus supplement will state the terms, if any, on which shares of a series of preferred stock being offered are convertible into shares of our common stock or another series of our preferred stock.

## **Series B Junior Participating Preferred Stock**

We have 10,000 shares of preferred stock designated as Series B Junior Participating Preferred Stock (the Series B Preferred Stock), \$1.00 par value per share, none of which were issued and outstanding as of September 22, 2015. As discussed under the heading Antitakeover Provisions Stockholders Rights Agreement, we declared a dividend of one right for each share of our common stock in conjunction with the adoption of a stockholders rights plan, which represented the right to purchase one one-thousandth of a share of Series B Preferred Stock. Pursuant to the terms of the stockholders rights plan, one right will be issued with each share of common stock issued by the Company, which right will be governed by the stockholders rights plan.

## **Anti-Takeover Provisions**

***General.*** Certain provisions of our Certificate of Incorporation, our Bylaws and the Delaware General Corporation Law may have the effect of impeding the acquisition of control of the Company by means of a tender offer, a proxy fight, open-market purchases or otherwise in a transaction not approved by our board of directors. These provisions may have the effect of discouraging a future takeover attempt which is not approved by our board of directors but which individual stockholders may deem to be in their best interests or in which our stockholders may receive a substantial premium for their shares over then-current market prices. As a result, stockholders who might desire to participate in such a transaction may not have an opportunity to do so. Such provisions will also render the removal of our current board of directors or management more difficult.

***Certificate of Incorporation; Bylaws.*** These provisions of our Certificate of Incorporation and our Bylaws include the following:

Our board of directors may issue additional authorized shares of our capital stock to deter future attempts to gain control of the Company, and have the authority to determine the terms of any one or more series of preferred stock, such as voting rights, conversion rates and liquidation preferences. As a



**Table of Contents**

result of the ability to fix voting rights for a series of preferred stock, our board has the power, to the extent consistent with its fiduciary duties, to issue a series of preferred stock to persons friendly to management in order to attempt to block a merger or other transaction by which a third party seeks control, and thereby assist the incumbent board of directors and management to retain their respective positions;

Our Certificate of Incorporation does not provide for cumulative voting for any purpose, and our Certificate of Incorporation also provides that any action required or permitted to be taken by stockholders may be taken only at an annual or special meeting and prohibits stockholder action by written consent in lieu of a meeting unless authorized by not less than 80% of the directors;

Certain transactions (including any merger or consolidation, the sale, lease or exchange of all of substantially all assets, any issuance or transfer of any voting securities to any other entity in exchange for cash, assets or securities, and the voluntary dissolution of the Company) must be approved by at least 75% of the outstanding voting stock, unless approved by not less than 80% of the directors;

When evaluating a proposal by another person to make a tender or exchange offer for an equity security, to merge or consolidate with us or to purchase or otherwise acquire all or substantially all of our assets, our Certificate of Incorporation allows the board of directors to consider non-stockholder interests, such as the social and economic effects of the transaction on us and our subsidiaries and the other elements of the communities in which we and our subsidiaries operate or are located; and

The amendment of our Certificate of Incorporation must be approved by a majority vote of the board of directors and also by a majority vote of the outstanding shares of our common stock, provided, however, that an affirmative vote of at least 75% of the outstanding voting stock entitled to vote is required to amend or repeal certain provisions of our Certificate of Incorporation, including provisions (a) governing amendment of our Bylaws, (b) relating to the use of written ballots, (c) limiting business combinations with interested stockholders, (d) limiting the stockholders' ability to act by written consent, and (e) regarding amendment of the foregoing supermajority provisions of our Certificate of Incorporation. Our Bylaws may be amended only by vote of 80% of the board of directors or by affirmative vote of not less than 75% of the outstanding shares of stock then entitled to vote.

***Stockholders' Rights Agreement.*** On May 8, 2013, we entered into the Amended and Restated Rights Agreement, which we refer to as the Amended Rights Agreement, between the Company and Quad City Bank & Trust Company, as rights agent. The Amended Rights Agreement amended, restated and replaced the Rights Agreement, which we refer to as the Original Rights Agreement, between the same parties, dated as of September 11, 2003, which previously governed the preferred stock purchase rights, or the Rights, granted thereunder. The Amended Rights Agreement was approved by our stockholders at the 2013 annual meeting.

The Original Rights Agreement was implemented to reduce our vulnerability to takeover attempts and certain other transactions which have not been negotiated with and approved by members of our board of directors. In connection with the Original Rights Agreement, our board of directors authorized and declared a dividend of one Right for each share of our common stock outstanding as of the close of business on September 22, 2003, with each Right representing the right to purchase one one-thousandth (subject to adjustment) of a share of Series B Preferred Stock. Since that time, Rights have been automatically issued with each share of common stock we issue. The Rights have no immediate economic value to our stockholders and cannot be exercised unless and until a person, group or entity

acquires 20% or more of our common stock or announces a tender offer. The Rights Agreement also permits our board of directors to redeem each right for \$0.01 under various circumstances. In general, the Rights Agreement provides that if a person, group or entity acquires a 20% or larger stake in the Company or announces a tender offer, and our board of directors chooses not to redeem the rights, all holders of rights, other than the 20% stockholder or the tender offeror, will be able to purchase a certain amount of our common stock for half of its market price. The Rights Agreement will expire pursuant to its terms on May 1, 2016.

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**Table of Contents**

**Delaware Law.** As we have not elected to opt out of the applicability of Section 203 of the Delaware General Corporation Law in our Certificate of Incorporation, we are currently governed by this section of Delaware law. Under Section 203 of the Delaware General Corporation Law, subject to exceptions, we are prohibited from engaging in any business combination with any interested stockholder for a period of three years following the time that the stockholder became an interested stockholder. For this purpose, an interested stockholder generally includes current and certain former holders of 15% or more of our outstanding stock. The provisions of Section 203 may encourage companies interested in acquiring us to negotiate in advance with our board of directors. These provisions may make it more difficult to accomplish transactions which stockholders may otherwise deem to be in their best interests.

**Banking Laws.** The ability of a third party to acquire the Company is also subject to applicable banking laws and regulations. The Bank Holding Company Act of 1956 (the BHCA) and the regulations thereunder require any bank holding company (as defined in the BHCA) to obtain the approval of the Federal Reserve prior to acquiring more than 5% of the outstanding shares of a class of our voting stock. Any person other than a bank holding company is required to obtain prior approval of the Federal Reserve to acquire 10% or more of the outstanding shares of a class of our voting stock under the Change in Bank Control Act of 1978. Any holder of 25% or more (or between 10% and 25%, if the holder is unable to rebut the presumption that it controls the Company) of the outstanding shares of a class of our voting stock, other than an individual, is subject to supervision and regulation as a bank holding company under the BHCA. In calculating a holder's aggregate ownership of our common stock for purposes of these banking regulations, the Federal Reserve likely would include at least the minimum number of shares (and could instead include the maximum number of shares) of our common stock that a holder is entitled to receive pursuant to securities convertible into or settled in our common stock.

## DESCRIPTION OF DEBT SECURITIES

### General

The debt securities that we may offer using this prospectus consist of notes, debentures or other evidences of indebtedness. Any debt securities that we offer and sell will be our direct obligations. Debt securities may be issued in one or more series. All debt securities of any one series need not be issued at the same time, and unless otherwise provided, a series of debt securities may be reopened, with the required consent of the holders of outstanding debt securities, for issuance of additional debt securities of that series or to establish additional terms of that series of debt securities (with such additional terms applicable only to unissued or additional debt securities of that series). The form of indenture is subject to any amendments or supplements that we may enter into with the trustee(s). The material terms of the indenture are summarized below and we refer you to the indenture for a detailed description of these material terms. Additional or different provisions that are applicable to a particular series of debt securities will, if material, be described in a prospectus supplement relating to the offering of debt securities of that series. These provisions may include, among other things and to the extent applicable, the following:

the title of the debt securities, including, as applicable, whether the debt securities will be issued as senior debt securities, senior subordinated debt securities, subordinated debt securities or junior subordinated debt securities, and any subordination provisions particular to the series of debt securities;

any limit on the aggregate principal amount of the debt securities;

if other than 100% of the aggregate principal amount, the percentage of the aggregate principal amount at which we will sell the debt securities (i.e., original issuance discount);

the date or dates, whether fixed or extendable, on which the principal of the debt securities will be payable;

the rate or rates, which may be fixed or variable, at which the debt securities will bear interest, if any, the date or dates from which any such interest will accrue, the interest payment dates on which we will

**Table of Contents**

pay any such interest, the basis upon which interest will be calculated if other than that of a 360-day year consisting of twelve 30-day months, and, in the case of registered securities, the record dates for the determination of holders to whom interest is payable;

the place or places where the principal of, and any premium or interest on, the debt securities will be payable and, if applicable, where the debt securities may be surrendered for conversion or exchange;

whether we may, at our option, redeem, repurchase or repay the debt securities, and if so, the price or prices at which, the period or periods within which, and the terms and conditions upon which, we may redeem, repurchase or repay the debt securities, in whole or in part, pursuant to any sinking fund or otherwise;

if other than 100% of the aggregate principal amount thereof, the portion of the principal amount of the debt securities which will be payable upon declaration of acceleration of the maturity date thereof or provable in bankruptcy, or, if applicable, which is convertible or exchangeable;

any obligation we may have to redeem, purchase or repay the debt securities pursuant to any sinking fund or analogous provisions or at the option of a holder of debt securities, and the price or prices at which, the currency in which and the period or periods within which, and the other terms and conditions upon which, the debt securities will be redeemed, purchased or repaid, in whole or in part, pursuant to any such obligation, and any provision for the remarketing of the debt securities;

whether the debt securities will be registered securities or unregistered securities or both, and the rights of the holders of the debt securities to exchange unregistered securities for registered securities, or vice-versa, and the circumstances under which any such exchanges, if permitted, may be made;

the denominations, which may be in U.S. dollars or in any foreign currency, in which the debt securities will be issued, if other than denominations of \$1,000 and any integral multiple thereof;

whether the debt securities will be issued in the form of certificated debt securities, and if so, the form of the debt securities (or forms thereof if unregistered and registered securities are issuable in that series), including the legends required by law or as we deem necessary or appropriate, the form of any coupons or temporary global security which may be issued and the forms of any other certificates which may be required under the indenture or which we may require in connection with the offering, sale, delivery or exchange of the debt securities;

if other than U.S. dollars, the currency or currencies in which payments of principal, interest and other amounts payable with respect to the debt securities will be denominated, payable, redeemable or repurchasable, as the case may be;

whether the debt securities may be issuable in tranches;

the obligations, if any, we may have to permit the conversion or exchange of the debt securities into common stock, preferred stock or other capital stock or property, or a combination thereof, and the terms and conditions upon which such conversion or exchange will be effected (including the conversion price or exchange ratio), and any limitations on the ownership or transferability of the securities or property into which the debt securities may be converted or exchanged;

any trustees, authenticating or paying agents, transfer agents or registrars or any other agents with respect to the debt securities;

if the debt securities do not bear interest, the applicable dates required under the indenture for furnishing information to the trustee regarding the holders of the debt securities;

any deletions from, modifications of or additions to (a) the events of default with respect to the debt securities or (b) the rights of the trustee or the holders of the debt securities in connection with events of default;

any deletions from, modifications of or additions to the covenants with respect to the debt securities;

## **Table of Contents**

if the amount of payments of principal of, and make-whole amount, if any, and interest on the debt securities may be determined with reference to an index, the manner in which such amount will be determined;

whether the debt securities will be issued in whole or in part in the global form of one or more debt securities and, if so, the depository for such debt securities, the circumstances under which any such debt security may be exchanged for debt securities registered in the name of, and under which any transfer of debt securities may be registered in the name of, any person other than such depository or its nominee, and any other provisions regarding such debt securities;

whether, under what circumstances and the currency in which, we will pay additional amounts on the debt securities to any holder of the debt securities who is not a U.S. person in respect of any tax, assessment or governmental charge and, if so, whether we will have the option to redeem such debt securities rather than pay such additional amounts (and the terms of any such option);

whether the debt securities will be secured by any collateral and, if so, a general description of the collateral and the terms of any related security, pledge or other agreements;

the persons to whom any interest on the debt securities will be payable, if other than the registered holders thereof on the regular record date therefor; and

any other material terms or conditions upon which the debt securities will be issued.

Unless otherwise indicated in the applicable prospectus supplement, we will issue debt securities in fully registered form without coupons and in denominations of \$1,000 and in integral multiples of \$1,000, and interest will be computed on the basis of a 360-day year of twelve 30-day months. If any interest payment date or the maturity date falls on a day that is not a business day, then the payment will be made on the next business day without additional interest and with the same effect as if it were made on the originally scheduled date.

Unless otherwise indicated in the applicable prospectus supplement, the trustee will act as paying agent and registrar for the debt securities under the indenture. We may also act as paying agent under the indenture.

The applicable prospectus supplement will contain a description of U.S. federal income tax consequences relating to the debt securities, to the extent applicable.

## **Covenants**

The applicable prospectus supplement will describe any covenants, such as restrictive covenants restricting us or any of our subsidiaries from incurring, issuing, assuming or guarantying any indebtedness or restricting us or any of our subsidiaries from paying dividends or acquiring any of our or its capital stock.

## **Consolidation, Merger and Transfer of Assets**

Unless we indicate otherwise in the applicable prospectus supplement, the indenture will permit a consolidation or merger between us and another entity and/or the sale, conveyance or lease by us of all or substantially all of our

property and assets; provided, however, that:

the resulting or acquiring entity, if other than us, is organized and existing under the laws of a U.S. jurisdiction and assumes all of our responsibilities and liabilities under the indenture, including the payment of all amounts due on the debt securities and performance of the covenants in the indenture;

immediately after the transaction, and giving effect to the transaction, no event of default under the indenture exists; and

we have delivered to the trustee an officers certificate stating that the transaction and, if a supplemental indenture is required in connection with the transaction, the supplemental indenture, comply with the indenture and that all conditions precedent to the transaction contained in the indenture have been satisfied.



## **Table of Contents**

If we consolidate or merge with or into any other entity, or sell or lease all or substantially all of our assets in compliance with the terms and conditions of the indenture, the resulting or acquiring entity will be substituted for us in the indenture and the debt securities with the same effect as if it had been an original party to the indenture and the debt securities. As a result, such successor entity may exercise our rights and powers under the indenture and the debt securities, in our name, and, except in the case of a lease, we will be released from all our liabilities and obligations under the indenture and under the debt securities.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, we may transfer all of our property and assets to another entity if, immediately after giving effect to the transfer, such entity is our wholly owned subsidiary. The term **wholly owned subsidiary** means any subsidiary in which we and/or our other wholly owned subsidiaries own all of the outstanding capital stock.

## **Modification and Waiver**

Unless we indicate otherwise in the applicable prospectus supplement, under the indenture, some of our rights and obligations and some of the rights of the holders of the debt securities may be modified or amended with the consent of the holders of not less than a majority in aggregate principal amount of the outstanding debt securities affected by the modification or amendment. However, the following modifications and amendments will not be effective against any holder without its consent:

a change in the stated maturity date of any payment of principal or interest;

a reduction in the principal amount of, or interest on, any debt securities;

an alteration or impairment of any right to convert at the rate or upon the terms provided in the indenture;

a change in the currency in which any payment on the debt securities is payable;

an impairment of a holder's right to sue us for the enforcement of payments due on the debt securities; or

a reduction in the percentage of outstanding debt securities required to consent to a modification or amendment of the indenture or required to consent to a waiver of compliance with certain provisions of the indenture or certain defaults under the indenture.

Under the indenture, the holders of not less than a majority in aggregate principal amount of the outstanding debt securities may, on behalf of all holders of the debt securities:

waive compliance by us with certain restrictive provisions of the indenture; and

waive any past default under the indenture in accordance with the applicable provisions of the indenture, except a default in the payment of the principal of, or interest on, any series of debt securities.

**Events of Default**

Unless we indicate otherwise in the applicable prospectus supplement, event of default under the indenture will mean, with respect to any series of debt securities, any of the following:

failure to pay interest on any debt security for 30 days after the payment is due;

failure to pay the principal of any debt security when due, either at maturity, upon redemption, by declaration or otherwise;

failure on our part to observe or perform any other covenant or agreement in the indenture that applies to the debt securities for 90 days after we have received written notice of the failure to perform in the manner specified in the indenture; and

certain events of bankruptcy, insolvency or reorganization.

## **Table of Contents**

If an event of default occurs and continues, the trustee or the holders of not less than 25% in aggregate principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of such series may declare the entire principal of all the debt securities to be due and payable immediately, except that, if the event of default is caused by certain events of bankruptcy, insolvency or reorganization, the entire principal of all of the debt securities of such series will become due and payable immediately without any act on the part of the trustee or holders of the debt securities. If such a declaration occurs, the holders of a majority of the aggregate principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of such series can, subject to conditions, rescind the declaration.

The indenture requires us to furnish to the trustee, not less often than annually, a certificate from our principal executive officer, principal financial officer or principal accounting officer, as the case may be, as to such officer's knowledge of our compliance with all conditions and covenants under the indenture. The trustee may withhold notice to the holders of debt securities of any default, except defaults in the payment of principal of, or interest on, any debt securities if the trustee in good faith determines that the withholding of notice is in the best interests of the holders. For purposes of this paragraph, default means any event which is, or after notice or lapse of time or both would become, an event of default under the indenture.

The trustee is not obligated to exercise any of its rights or powers under the indenture at the request, order or direction of any holders of debt securities, unless the holders offer the trustee satisfactory security or indemnity. If satisfactory security or indemnity is provided, then, subject to other rights of the trustee, the holders of a majority in aggregate principal amount of the outstanding debt securities may direct the time, method and place of:

conducting any proceeding for any remedy available to the trustee; or

exercising any trust or power conferred upon the trustee.

The holder of a debt security will have the right to begin any proceeding with respect to the indenture or for any remedy only if:

the holder has previously given the trustee written notice of a continuing event of default;

the holders of not less than a majority in aggregate principal amount of the outstanding debt securities have made a written request of, and offered reasonable indemnity to, the trustee to begin such proceeding;

the trustee has not started such proceeding within 60 days after receiving the request; and

no direction inconsistent with such written request has been given to the trustee under the indenture.

However, the holder of any debt security will have an absolute right to receive payment of principal of, and interest on, the debt security when due and to institute suit to enforce payment.

## **Satisfaction and Discharge; Defeasance**

***Satisfaction and Discharge of Indenture.*** Unless otherwise indicated in the applicable prospectus supplement, if at any time,

we have paid the principal of and interest on all the debt securities of any series, except for debt securities which have been destroyed, lost or stolen and which have been replaced or paid in accordance with the indenture, as and when the same has become due and payable;

we have delivered to the trustee for cancellation all debt securities of any series theretofore authenticated, except for debt securities of such series which have been destroyed, lost or stolen and which have been replaced or paid as provided in the indenture; or

all the debt securities of such series not theretofore delivered to the trustee for cancellation have become due and payable, or are by their terms to become due and payable within one year or are to

**Table of Contents**

be called for redemption within one year, and we have deposited with the trustee, in trust, sufficient money or government obligations, or a combination thereof, to pay the principal, any interest and any other sums due on the debt securities, on the dates the payments are due or become due under the indenture and the terms of the debt securities;

then the indenture shall cease to be of further effect with respect to the debt securities of such series, except for (a) rights of registration of transfer and exchange, and our right of optional redemption, (b) substitution of mutilated, defaced, destroyed, lost or stolen debt securities, (c) rights of holders to receive payments of principal thereof and interest thereon upon the original stated due dates therefor (but not upon acceleration) and remaining rights of the holders to receive mandatory sinking fund payments, if any, (d) the rights, obligations and immunities of the trustee under the indenture, and (e) the rights of the holders of such series of debt securities as beneficiaries thereof with respect to the property so deposited with the trustee payable to all or any of them.

***Defeasance and Covenant Defeasance.*** Unless otherwise indicated in the applicable prospectus supplement, we may elect with respect to any debt securities of any series either:

to defease and be discharged from all of our obligations with respect to such debt securities ( defeasance ), with certain exceptions described below; or

to be released from our obligations with respect to such debt securities under such covenants as may be specified in the applicable prospectus supplement, and any omission to comply with those obligations will not constitute a default or an event of default with respect to such debt securities ( covenant defeasance ).

We must comply with the following conditions before the defeasance or covenant defeasance can be effected:

we must irrevocably deposit with the indenture trustee or other qualifying trustee, under the terms of an irrevocable trust agreement in form and substance satisfactory to the trustee, trust funds in trust solely for the benefit of the holders of such debt securities, sufficient money or government obligations, or a combination thereof, to pay the principal, any interest and any other sums on the due dates for those payments; and

we must deliver to the trustee an opinion of counsel to the effect that the holders of such debt securities will not recognize income, gain or loss for federal income tax purposes as a result of such defeasance or covenant defeasance, as the case may be, to be effected with respect to such debt securities and will be subject to federal income tax on the same amount, in the same manner and at the same times as would be the case if such defeasance or covenant defeasance, as the case may be, had not occurred.

In connection with defeasance, any irrevocable trust agreement contemplated by the indenture must include, among other things, provision for (a) payment of the principal of and interest on such debt securities, if any, appertaining thereto when due (by redemption, sinking fund payments or otherwise), (b) the payment of the expenses of the trustee incurred or to be incurred in connection with carrying out such trust provisions, (c) rights of registration, transfer, substitution and exchange of such debt securities in accordance with the terms stated in the indenture, and (d) continuation of the rights, obligations and immunities of the trustee as against the holders of such debt securities as stated in the indenture.

The accompanying prospectus supplement may further describe any provisions permitting or restricting defeasance or covenant defeasance with respect to the debt securities of a particular series.

**Global Securities**

Unless otherwise indicated in the applicable prospectus supplement, each debt security offered by this prospectus will be issued in the form of one or more global debt securities representing all or part of that series of

## **Table of Contents**

debt securities. This means that we will not issue certificates for that series of debt securities to the holders. Instead, a global debt security representing that series will be deposited with, or on behalf of, a securities depository and registered in the name of the depository or a nominee of the depository. Any such depository must be a clearing agency registered under the Exchange Act. We will describe the specific terms of the depository arrangement with respect to a series of debt securities to be represented by a global security in the applicable prospectus supplement.

## **Notices**

We will give notices to holders of the debt securities by mail at the addresses listed in the security register. In the case of notice in respect of unregistered securities or coupon securities, we may give notice by publication in a newspaper of general circulation in New York, New York.

## **Governing Law**

The indenture and the debt securities will be governed by, and construed in accordance with, the laws of the State of New York, except to the extent the Trust Indenture Act of 1939 is applicable.

## **Regarding the Trustee**

From time to time, we may maintain deposit accounts and conduct other banking transactions with the trustee to be appointed under the indenture or its affiliates in the ordinary course of business.

## **DESCRIPTION OF WARRANTS**

We may issue warrants for the purchase of debt securities, preferred stock, common stock, other securities of the Company or any combination of the foregoing. Warrants may be issued alone or together with securities offered by any prospectus supplement and may be attached to, or separate from, those securities. The particular terms of any warrants will be described more specifically in the prospectus supplement relating to such warrants.

The prospectus supplement relating to any warrants we are offering will include specific terms relating to the offering. We will file the form of any warrant agreement with the SEC, and you should read the warrant agreement for provisions that may be important to you. The prospectus supplement will include some or all of the following information:

the title and specific designation of the warrants;

the aggregate number of warrants offered;

the amount of warrants outstanding, if any;

the designation, number and terms of the securities purchasable upon exercise of the warrants, and procedures that will result in the adjustment of those numbers;

the exercise price or prices of the warrants;

the dates or periods during which the warrants are exercisable;

the designation and terms of any securities with which the warrants are issued;

if the warrants are issued as a unit with another security, the date, if any, on and after which the warrants and the other security will be separately transferable;

if the exercise price is not payable in U.S. dollars, the foreign currency, currency unit or composite currency in which the exercise price is denominated;

any minimum or maximum amount of warrants that may be exercised at any one time;



**Table of Contents**

the anti-dilution provisions of the warrants, if any;

if applicable, the identity of the warrant agent for the warrants and of any other depositaries, execution or paying agents, transfer agents, registrars or other agents;

any terms, procedures and limitations relating to the transferability, exchange or exercise of the warrants;  
and

any other material terms of the warrants.

Before exercising their warrants, holders of warrants will not have any of the rights of holders of the securities purchasable upon such exercise, including the right to receive dividends, if any, or payments upon our liquidation, dissolution or winding-up, or to exercise voting rights, if any.

**DESCRIPTION OF DEPOSITARY SHARES**

This following is a summary of the general terms of the deposit agreement to govern any depositary shares we may offer representing fractional interests in shares of our preferred stock, the depositary shares themselves and the related depositary receipts. This summary does not purport to be complete in all respects and is subject to and qualified entirely by reference to the relevant deposit agreement and depositary receipt with respect to the depositary shares relating to any particular series of preferred stock. The specific terms of any depositary shares we may offer will be described in the applicable prospectus supplement. If so described in the applicable prospectus supplement, the terms of that series of depositary shares may differ from the general description of terms presented below.

**General**

We may offer fractional interests in shares of our preferred stock, rather than full shares of preferred stock, most likely in the event that our then authorized but yet undesignated shares of preferred stock is not sufficient to offer full shares of preferred stock. If we do, we will provide for the issuance by a depositary to the public of receipts for depositary shares, each of which will represent a fractional interest in a share of a particular series of preferred stock.

The shares of any series of preferred stock underlying the depositary shares will be deposited under a separate deposit agreement between us and a bank or trust company having its principal office in the U.S. and having a combined capital and surplus of such amount as may be set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement, which we refer to in this section as the depositary. We will name the depositary in the applicable prospectus supplement. Subject to the terms of the deposit agreement, each owner of a depositary share will have a fractional interest in all the rights and preferences of the preferred stock underlying the depositary share. Those rights include any dividend, voting, redemption, conversion and liquidation rights.

The depositary shares will be evidenced by depositary receipts issued under the deposit agreement. If you purchase fractional interests in shares of the related series of preferred stock, you will receive depositary receipts as described in the applicable prospectus supplement.

Unless we specify otherwise in the applicable prospectus supplement, you will not be entitled to receive the whole shares of preferred stock underlying the depositary shares.

**Dividend Rights**

The depositary will distribute all cash dividends or other cash distributions in respect of the preferred stock underlying the depositary shares to each record holder of depositary shares based on the number of the depositary

## **Table of Contents**

shares owned by that holder on the relevant record date. The depositary will distribute only that amount which can be distributed without attributing to any holder of depositary shares a fraction of one cent, and any balance not so distributed will be added to and treated as part of the next sum received by the depositary for distribution to record holders of depositary shares.

If there is a distribution other than in cash, the depositary will distribute property to the entitled record holders of depositary shares, unless the depositary determines that it is not feasible to make that distribution. In that case the depositary may, with our approval, adopt the method it deems equitable and practicable for making that distribution, including any sale of property and distribution of the net proceeds from this sale to the applicable holders.

The deposit agreement will also contain provisions relating to how any subscription or similar rights offered by us to holders of the preferred stock will be made available to the holders of depositary shares.

## **Voting Rights**

When the depositary receives notice of any meeting at which the holders of the preferred stock may vote, the depositary will mail information about the meeting contained in the notice, and any accompanying proxy materials, to the record holders of the depositary shares relating to the preferred stock. Each record holder of such depositary shares on the record date, which will be the same date as the record date for the preferred stock, will be entitled to instruct the depositary as to how the preferred stock underlying the holder's depositary shares should be voted.

## **Conversion or Exchange Rights**

If any series of preferred stock underlying the depositary shares is subject to conversion or exchange, the applicable prospectus supplement will describe the rights or obligations of each record holder of depositary receipts to convert or exchange the depositary shares.

## **Redemption**

If the series of the preferred stock underlying the depositary shares is subject to redemption, all or a part of the depositary shares will be redeemed from the redemption proceeds of that series of the preferred stock held by the depositary. The redemption price per depositary share will bear the same relationship to the redemption price per share of preferred stock that the depositary share bears to the underlying preferred stock. Whenever we redeem preferred stock held by the depositary, the depositary will redeem, as of the same redemption date, the number of depositary shares representing the preferred stock redeemed. If less than all the depositary shares are to be redeemed, the depositary shares to be redeemed will be selected by lot or pro rata as determined by the depositary.

After the date fixed for redemption, the depositary shares called for redemption will no longer be outstanding. When the depositary shares are no longer outstanding, all rights of the holders will cease, except the right to receive money or other property that the holders of the depositary shares were entitled to receive upon the redemption. Payments will be made when holders surrender their depositary receipts to the depositary.

## **Taxation**

Owners of depositary shares will be treated for U.S. federal income tax purposes as if they were owners of the preferred stock represented by the depositary shares. If necessary, the applicable prospectus supplement will provide a description of U.S. federal income tax consequences relating to the purchase and ownership of the depositary shares and the preferred stock represented by the depositary shares.



## **Table of Contents**

### **Amendment and Termination of the Deposit Agreement**

The form of depositary receipt evidencing the depositary shares and any provision of the deposit agreement may be amended by agreement between us and the depositary at any time. However, certain amendments as specified in the applicable prospectus supplement will not be effective unless approved by the record holders of at least a majority of the depositary shares then-outstanding. A deposit agreement may be terminated by us or the depositary only if:

all outstanding depositary shares relating to the deposit agreement have been redeemed; or

there has been a final distribution on the preferred stock of the relevant series in connection with our liquidation, dissolution or winding up of our business and the distribution has been distributed to the holders of the related depositary shares.

### **Charges of Depositary**

We will pay all transfer and other taxes and governmental charges arising solely from the existence of the depositary arrangements. We will pay associated charges of the depositary for the initial deposit of the preferred stock and any redemption of the preferred stock. Holders of depositary shares will pay transfer and other taxes and governmental charges and any other charges that are stated to be their responsibility in the deposit agreement.

### **Resignation and Removal of Depositary**

The depositary may resign at any time by delivering notice to us. We may also remove the depositary at any time. Resignations or removals will take effect when a successor depositary is appointed and it accepts the appointment.

## **DESCRIPTION OF SUBSCRIPTION RIGHTS**

The following is a summary of the general terms of the subscription rights to purchase common stock or other securities that we may offer to stockholders using this prospectus. This summary does not purport to be complete in all respects and is subject to and qualified entirely by reference to the applicable forms of subscription agent agreement and subscription certificate for a full understanding of all terms of any series of subscription rights.

Subscription rights may be issued independently or together with any other security and may or may not be transferable. As part of any subscription rights offering, we may enter into a standby underwriting or other arrangement under which the underwriters or any other person would purchase any securities that are not purchased in such subscription rights offering. If we issue subscription rights, they will be governed by a separate subscription agent agreement that we will sign with a bank or trust company, as rights agent, that will be named in the applicable prospectus supplement. The rights agent will act solely as our agent and will not assume any obligation to any holders of subscription rights certificates or beneficial owners of subscription rights.

The prospectus supplement relating to any subscription rights we offer will describe the specific terms of the offering and the subscription rights, including the record date for stockholders entitled to the subscription rights distribution, the number of subscription rights issued and the number of shares of common stock or other securities that may be purchased upon exercise of the subscription rights, the exercise price of the subscription rights, the date on which the subscription rights will become effective and the date on which the subscription rights will expire, and any material U.S. federal income tax considerations.



**Table of Contents**

In general, a subscription right entitles the holder to purchase for cash a specific number of shares of common stock or other securities at a specified exercise price. The rights are normally issued to stockholders as of a specific record date, may be exercised only for a limited period of time and become void following the expiration of such period. If we determine to issue subscription rights, we will accompany this prospectus with a prospectus supplement that will describe, among other things:

the record date for stockholders entitled to receive the subscription rights;

the number of shares of common stock or other securities that may be purchased upon exercise of each subscription right;

the exercise price of the subscription rights;

whether the subscription rights are transferable;

the period during which the subscription rights may be exercised and when they will expire;

the steps required to exercise the subscription rights;

whether the subscription rights include oversubscription rights so that the holder may purchase more securities if other holders do not purchase their full allotments; and

whether we intend to sell the shares of common stock or other securities that are not purchased in the rights offering to an underwriter or other purchaser under a contractual standby commitment or other arrangement. If fewer than all of the subscription rights issued in any rights offering are exercised, we may offer any unsubscribed securities directly to persons other than stockholders, to or through agents, underwriters or dealers or through a combination of such methods, including pursuant to standby arrangements, as described in the applicable prospectus supplement. After the close of business on the expiration date of a subscription rights offering, all unexercised subscription rights will become void.

**DESCRIPTION OF STOCK PURCHASE CONTRACTS AND STOCK PURCHASE UNITS**

We may issue stock purchase contracts, including contracts obligating holders to purchase from us, and us to sell to the holders, a specified number of shares of our common stock or preferred stock at a future date or dates, which we refer to in this prospectus as Stock Purchase Contracts. The price per share, and number of shares, of our common stock or preferred stock may be fixed at the time the Stock Purchase Contracts are issued or may be determined by reference to a specific formula set forth in the Stock Purchase Contracts. The Stock Purchase Contracts may be issued separately or as a part of units consisting of a Stock Purchase Contract and our debt securities or debt obligations of third parties, including Treasury securities, securing the holders' obligations to purchase the shares of our common

stock under the Stock Purchase Contracts, which we refer to in this prospectus as Stock Purchase Units. The Stock Purchase Contracts may require holders to secure their obligations thereunder in a specified manner. The Stock Purchase Contracts also may require us to make periodic payments to the holders of the Stock Purchase Units or vice-versa and such payments may be unsecured or prefunded on some basis.

The applicable prospectus supplement will describe the terms of any Stock Purchase Contracts or Stock Purchase Units. The description in the prospectus supplement will not necessarily be complete, and reference will be made to the Stock Purchase Contracts, and, if applicable, collateral or depositary arrangements, relating to the Stock Purchase Contracts or Stock Purchase Units. Material U.S. federal income tax considerations applicable to the Stock Purchase Units and the Stock Purchase Contracts will also be discussed in the applicable prospectus supplement.

### **DESCRIPTION OF UNITS**

As specified in the applicable prospectus supplement, we may issue units consisting of one or more debt securities, shares of common stock, shares of preferred stock or warrants or any combination of such securities, including guarantees of any securities.



**Table of Contents**

A prospectus supplement and any other offering materials relating to any units issued under the registration statement containing this prospectus will specify the terms of the units, including:

the terms of the units and of any of the debt securities, common stock, preferred stock, warrants and guarantees comprising the units, including whether and under what circumstances the securities comprising the units may be traded separately;

a description of the terms of any unit agreement governing the units; and

a description of the provisions for the payment, settlement, transfer or exchange of the units.

**PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION**

We may sell the securities covered by this prospectus from time to time at market prices prevailing at the time of sale, at prices related to such prevailing market prices at the time of sale, at negotiated prices or at fixed prices, which may change from time to time. We may sell the securities directly to one or more purchasers, through agents, to dealers, through underwriters, brokers or dealers, or through a combination of any of these sales methods or through any other method permitted by law (including in at the market equity offerings as defined in Rule 415 of the Securities Act). We reserve the right to accept or reject, in whole or in part, any proposed purchase of securities, whether the purchase is to be made directly or through agents.

Each time that we use this prospectus to sell our securities, we will also provide a prospectus supplement, if required, that contains the specific terms of the offering, including:

the name or names of the underwriters, dealers or agents, if any, and the types and amounts of securities underwritten or purchased by each of them;

the public offering price of the securities and the proceeds we will receive from the sale;

any over-allotment options under which underwriters may purchase additional securities from us;

any agency fees or underwriting discounts or other items constituting agents or underwriters compensation;

any discounts, commissions or concessions allowed or reallocated or paid to dealers; and

any securities exchange or market on which the securities may be listed.

Only underwriters that we have named in a prospectus supplement will be underwriters of the securities offered by that prospectus supplement.

If underwriters are used in the sale, they will acquire the securities for their own account and may resell the securities from time to time in one or more transactions at a fixed public offering price or at varying prices determined at the time of sale. The obligations of the underwriters to purchase the securities will be subject to the conditions set forth in the applicable underwriting agreement. We may offer the securities to the public through underwriting syndicates represented by managing underwriters or by underwriters without a syndicate. Subject to certain conditions, the underwriters will be obligated to purchase all of the securities offered by the prospectus supplement, other than securities covered by any over-allotment option. Any public offering price and any discounts or concessions allowed or reallocated or paid to dealers may change from time to time. We may use underwriters with whom we have a material relationship. We will describe in the prospectus supplement, naming the underwriter, the nature of any such relationship.

We may sell securities directly or through agents we designate from time to time. We will name any agent involved in the offering and sale of securities and we will describe any commissions we will pay the agent in the prospectus supplement. Unless the prospectus supplement states otherwise, our agent will act on a best-efforts basis for the period of its appointment.

## **Table of Contents**

We may authorize agents or underwriters to solicit offers by certain types of institutional investors to purchase securities from us at the public offering price set forth in the prospectus supplement pursuant to delayed delivery contracts providing for payment and delivery on a specified date in the future. We will describe the conditions to these contracts and the commissions we must pay for solicitation of these contracts in the applicable prospectus supplement.

We may provide agents and underwriters with indemnification against civil liabilities, including liabilities under the Securities Act, or contribution with respect to payments that the agents or underwriters may make with respect to these liabilities. Agents and underwriters may engage in transactions with, or perform services for, us in the ordinary course of business.

All securities we may offer, other than common stock or other outstanding securities, will be new issues of securities with no established trading market. Any underwriters may make a market in these securities, but will not be obligated to do so and may discontinue any market making at any time without notice. We cannot guarantee the liquidity of the trading markets for any securities.

Any underwriter may engage in over-allotment, stabilizing transactions, short-covering transactions and penalty bids in accordance with Regulation M under the Exchange Act. Over-allotment involves sales in excess of the offering size, which create a short position. Stabilizing transactions permit bids to purchase the underlying security so long as the stabilizing bids do not exceed a specified maximum price. Syndicate-covering or other short-covering transactions involve purchases of the securities, either through exercise of the over-allotment option or in the open market after the distribution is completed, to cover short positions. Penalty bids permit the underwriters to reclaim a selling concession from a dealer when the securities originally sold by the dealer are purchased in a stabilizing or covering transaction to cover short positions. Those activities may cause the price of the securities to be higher than it would otherwise be. If commenced, the underwriters may discontinue any of the activities at any time.

Under the securities laws of some states, to the extent applicable, the securities may be sold in such states only through registered or licensed brokers or dealers. In addition, if our common stock is no longer listed on the NASDAQ Global Market or another national securities exchange, in some states the securities may not be sold unless such securities have been registered or qualified for sale in such state or an exemption from registration or qualification is available and is complied with.

## **LEGAL MATTERS**

Certain legal matters in connection with any offering of securities made by this prospectus will be passed upon for us by our counsel Barack Ferrazzano Kirschbaum & Nagelberg LLP of Chicago, Illinois. If the securities are being distributed in an underwritten offering, certain legal matters will be passed upon for the underwriters by counsel identified in the related prospectus supplement.

## **EXPERTS**

The consolidated financial statements of QCR Holdings, Inc. as of December 31, 2014 and 2013, and for each of the years in the three-year period ended December 31, 2014, and management's assessment of the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2014, have been incorporated by reference in this prospectus in reliance upon the reports of McGladrey LLP, independent registered public accounting firm, incorporated by reference herein, and upon the authority of said firm as experts in accounting and auditing.



**Table of Contents**

**WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION**

We are subject to the informational requirements of the Exchange Act and file with the SEC proxy statements, Annual Reports on Form 10-K, Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q and Current Reports on Form 8-K, as required of a U.S. listed company. You may read and copy any document we file at the SEC's public reference room at 100 F Street, N.E., Room 1580, Washington, D.C. 20549. Please call the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330 for further information on the public reference room. Our SEC filings are also available to the public from the SEC's web site at [www.sec.gov](http://www.sec.gov) or on our website at [www.qcrh.com](http://www.qcrh.com). However, other than our available SEC filings, the information on, or that can be accessible through, our website does not constitute a part of, and is not incorporated by reference in, this prospectus. Written requests for copies of the documents we file with the SEC should be directed to QCR Holdings, Inc., 3551 Seventh Street, Moline, Illinois 61265, Attention: Corporate Secretary, telephone: (309) 743-7754.

This prospectus is part of a registration statement on Form S-3 filed by us with the SEC under the Securities Act. As permitted by the SEC, this prospectus does not contain all the information in the registration statement filed with the SEC. For a more complete understanding of this offering, you should refer to the complete registration statement, including exhibits, on Form S-3 that may be obtained as described above. Statements contained in this prospectus about the contents of any contract or other document are not necessarily complete. If we have filed any contract or other document as an exhibit to the registration statement or any other document incorporated by reference in the registration statement, you should read the exhibit for a more complete understanding of the contract or other document or matter involved. Each statement regarding a contract or other document is qualified in its entirety by reference to the actual contract or other document.

**INCORPORATION OF CERTAIN INFORMATION BY REFERENCE**

The SEC allows us to incorporate by reference the information that we file with it into this prospectus, which means that we can disclose important information to you by referring you to other documents. The information incorporated by reference is an important part of this prospectus. We incorporate by reference the following documents and any future filings made with the SEC under Sections 13(a), 13(c), 14 or 15(d) of the Exchange Act after the date of this prospectus and prior to the termination of this offering (other than information furnished rather than filed and information that is modified or superseded by subsequently filed documents prior to the termination of this offering):

Our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2014, filed with the SEC on March 12, 2015;

Our Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended March 31, 2015, filed with the SEC on May 4, 2015;

Our Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended June, 2015, filed with the SEC on August 7, 2015;

Our Current Reports on Form 8-K filed with the SEC on February 17, 2015, May 4, 2015, May 8, 2015, May 13, 2015, May 15, 2015, May 20, 2015, July 29, 2015 and September 9, 2015; and

The description of our common stock contained in our Registration Statement on Form 8-A filed with the SEC on August 9, 1993, including any amendments or reports filed for the purpose of updating such description.

**Table of Contents**

We will provide without charge, upon written or oral request, a copy of any or all of the documents that are incorporated by reference into this prospectus and a copy of any or all other contracts or documents which are referred to in this prospectus. Requests should be directed to:

QCR Holdings, Inc.

Attention: Corporate Secretary

3551 Seventh Street

Moline, Illinois 61265

Telephone number: (309) 743-7754