

VALLEY NATIONAL BANCORP
Form 424B5
May 19, 2010
Table of Contents

Filed Pursuant to Rule 424(b)(5)
Registration Statement No. 333-156370

PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT

(to Prospectus Dated December 19, 2008)

Valley National Bancorp
2,532,542 Warrants
to Purchase Common Stock

The United States Department of the Treasury (referred to in this prospectus supplement as the "selling security holder" or "Treasury") is offering to sell 2,532,542 warrants, each of which represents the right to purchase one share of our common stock at an exercise price of \$17.77 per share. Both the exercise price and the number of shares that will be acquired upon the exercise of a warrant are subject to adjustment from time to time in the manner described in this prospectus supplement. We will not receive any of the proceeds from the sale of the warrants being sold by the selling security holder. The warrants expire on November 14, 2018.

We originally issued the warrants to Treasury in a private placement. Prior to this offering, there has been no public market for the warrants. We have applied to list the warrants on the New York Stock Exchange (the "Exchange") under the symbol "VLY WS". Our common stock is listed on the Exchange under the symbol "VLY". On May 14, 2010, the last reported sale price of our common stock on the Exchange was \$15.32 per share.

The public offering price and the allocation of the warrants in this offering will be determined by an auction process. During the period the auction is open, potential bidders will be able to place bids at any price (in increments of \$0.10) at or above the minimum bid price of \$1.70 per warrant. The minimum size for any bid is 100 warrants. If the selling security holder decides to sell the warrants being offered, the public offering price of the warrants will equal the auction clearing price. If bids are received for 100% or more of the offered warrants, the clearing price will be equal to the highest price at which 100% of the offered warrants can be sold in the auction, and the selling security holder may (but is not required to) sell all of the warrants offered during the auction at the clearing price. If bids are received for half or more, but less than all, of the offered warrants, then the clearing price will be equal to the minimum bid price of \$1.70 per warrant, and the selling security holder may (but is not required to) sell, at the clearing price, as many warrants as it chooses to sell up to the number of bids received in the auction, so long as at least half of the offered warrants are sold and the warrants remain eligible for listing. In certain cases described in this prospectus supplement, bidders may experience pro-rata of their bids. If bids are received for less than half of the offered warrants, the selling security holder will not sell any warrants in this offering. **Even if bids are received for all of the warrants, the selling security holder may decide not to sell any warrants, regardless of the clearing price set in the auction process.** In addition, we may bid in the auction for some or all of the warrants. The method for submitting bids and a more detailed description of this auction process are described in "Auction Process" beginning on page S-18 of this prospectus supplement.

Investing in our warrants and our common stock involves risks. See Risk Factors on page S-8 of this prospectus supplement and the sections entitled Risk Factors in our most recently filed Annual Report on Form 10-K and any subsequently filed Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q for factors you should consider before investing in our securities.

Edgar Filing: VALLEY NATIONAL BANCORP - Form 424B5

The warrants and the underlying common stock are neither deposits nor savings accounts, and are not guaranteed by the United States Department of the Treasury or insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation or any other governmental agency or instrumentality.

You must meet minimum suitability standards in order to purchase the warrants. You must be able to understand and bear the risk of an investment in the warrants and should be experienced with respect to options and option transactions. You should reach an investment decision only after careful consideration, with your advisers, of the suitability of the warrants in light of your particular financial circumstances and the information in this prospectus supplement. **The warrants involve a high degree of risk, are not appropriate for every investor and may expire worthless.**

None of the Securities and Exchange Commission, any state securities commission nor any other regulatory body 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.

	Per Warrant	Total
Public offering price	\$ 2.20	\$ 5,571,592.40
Underwriting discounts and commissions	\$ 0.05922	\$ 149,977.13
Proceeds, before expenses, to the selling security holder	\$ 2.14078	\$ 5,421,615.27

The underwriter expects to deliver the warrants in book-entry form only, through the facilities of The Depository Trust Company, against payment on or about May 24, 2010.

Deutsche Bank Securities

The date of this prospectus supplement is May 18, 2010.

Table of Contents

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Prospectus Supplement

<u>About This Prospectus Supplement</u>	S-1
<u>Cautionary Statements Concerning Forward-Looking Statements</u>	S-2
<u>Summary</u>	S-3
<u>Risk Factors</u>	S-8
<u>Auction Process</u>	S-18
<u>Use of Proceeds</u>	S-25
<u>Description of Warrants</u>	S-26
<u>Description of Common Stock</u>	S-34
<u>Selling Security Holder</u>	S-35
<u>Certain United States Federal Income Tax Considerations</u>	S-37
<u>Certain ERISA Considerations</u>	S-44
<u>Underwriting</u>	S-46
<u>Legal Matters</u>	S-51
<u>Experts</u>	S-51
<u>Incorporation of Information Filed With the SEC</u>	S-52

Prospectus

<u>About this Prospectus</u>	1
<u>Prospectus Summary</u>	2
<u>Risk Factors</u>	3
<u>Forward-Looking Statements</u>	9
<u>Information About Valley</u>	11
<u>Description of Valley Capital Stock</u>	12
<u>Description of Warrant</u>	16
<u>Use of Proceeds</u>	17
<u>Ratios of Earnings to Fixed Charges and Preferred Dividends</u>	17
<u>Plan of Distribution</u>	17
<u>Selling Securityholders</u>	19
<u>Legal Matters</u>	20
<u>Experts</u>	20
<u>Where You Can Find More Information</u>	20

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 certain other matters and also adds to and updates information contained in the accompanying prospectus and the documents incorporated by reference into this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus. The second part, the accompanying prospectus, gives more general information about us and the common stock offered hereby. Generally, when we refer to the prospectus, we are referring to both parts of this document combined. To the extent the description of this offering in the prospectus supplement differs from the description of our common stock in the accompanying prospectus or any document incorporated by reference filed prior to the date of this prospectus supplement, you should rely on the information in this prospectus supplement.

We are offering to sell, and seeking offers to buy, shares of our common stock only in jurisdictions where offers and sales are permitted. The distribution of this prospectus and the offering of the common stock in certain jurisdictions may be restricted by law. This prospectus does not constitute, and may not be used in connection with, an offer to sell, or a solicitation of an offer to buy, any common stock offered by this prospectus by any person in any jurisdiction in which it is unlawful for such person to make such an offer or solicitation.

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 therein, in making your investment decision. You should rely only on the information contained in, or incorporated by reference in, this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus. Neither we nor the placement agents have authorized anyone to provide you with information different from that contained in this prospectus. This prospectus may only be used where it is legal to sell our common stock. You should not assume that the information that appears in this prospectus supplement, the accompanying prospectus and any document incorporated by reference is accurate as of any date other than their respective dates. Our business, financial condition, results of operations and prospects may have changed since the date of such information.

In this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus, the terms Valley, we, us and our refer to Valley National Bancorp and its consolidated subsidiaries, except where it is made clear that such term means only Valley National Bancorp.

Table of Contents

CAUTIONARY STATEMENTS CONCERNING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

This document, including the documents incorporated herein by reference, contains forward-looking information about Valley that is intended to be covered by the safe harbor for forward-looking statements provided by the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. Forward-looking statements are statements that are not historical facts. These statements can be identified by the use of forward-looking terminology such as believe, expect, may, will, should, project, plan, seek, intend, or anticipate or the negative thereof or comparable terminology discussions of strategy, financial projections and estimates and their underlying assumptions, statements regarding plans, objectives, expectations or consequences of announced transactions, and statements about the future performance, operations, products and services of Valley and its subsidiaries.

Discussions containing forward-looking statements may be found, among other places, in this prospectus supplement and our most recent Annual Report on Form 10-K, Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q and Current Reports on Form 8-K filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the SEC), as well as any similar statements contained in future filings with the SEC that are hereby incorporated by reference. These forward-looking statements are or will be, as applicable, based largely on our expectations and projections about future events and future trends affecting our business. You should not rely on our forward-looking statements because the matters they describe are subject to known and unknown risks, uncertainties and other unpredictable factors, many of which are beyond our control that could cause actual results to differ materially from those anticipated in the forward-looking statements.

We qualify all our forward-looking statements by these cautionary statements. These forward-looking statements speak only as of the date of this document or the date of the documents incorporated by reference herein. Except as required by applicable laws or regulations, we do not undertake any obligation to update or revise any forward-looking statement, whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise. When considering our forward-looking statements, you should keep in mind the risks, uncertainties and other cautionary statements made in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus. You should not place undue reliance on any forward-looking statement. You should refer to our periodic and current reports filed with the SEC for specific risks that could cause actual results to be significantly different from those expressed or implied by these forward-looking statements. See Incorporation of Information Filed with the SEC below.

Table of Contents

SUMMARY

This summary highlights selected information contained elsewhere or incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement and may not contain all the information that you need to consider in making your investment decision. You should carefully read this entire prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus, as well as the information to which we refer you and the information incorporated by reference herein, before deciding whether to invest in the warrants or the common stock. You should carefully consider the sections entitled "Risk Factors" in this prospectus supplement and the documents incorporated by reference herein to determine whether an investment in the warrants or the common stock is appropriate for you.

The Issuer

Valley National Bancorp, headquartered in Wayne, New Jersey, is a New Jersey corporation organized in 1983 and is registered as a bank holding company with the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System under the Bank Holding Company Act of 1956, as amended (" Holding Company Act "). At March 31, 2010, Valley had consolidated total assets of \$14.5 billion, total loans of \$9.5 billion, total deposits of \$9.8 billion and total shareholders' equity of \$1.3 billion. In addition to its principal subsidiary, Valley National Bank (commonly referred to as the " Bank " in this report), Valley owns all of the voting and common shares of VNB Capital Trust I and GCB Capital Trust III, through which trust preferred securities were issued.

Valley National Bank is a national banking association chartered in 1927 under the laws of the United States. Currently, the Bank has 201 banking offices located throughout northern and central New Jersey and the New York City boroughs of Manhattan, Brooklyn and Queens. The Bank provides a full range of commercial and retail banking services. These services include the following: the acceptance of demand, savings and time deposits; extension of commercial, real estate and consumer loans; equipment leasing; personal and corporate trust, and pension and fiduciary services.

Valley National Bank's wholly-owned subsidiaries include:

a mortgage servicing company;

a title insurance agency;

asset management advisers which are SEC registered investment advisers;

an all-line insurance agency offering property and casualty, life and health insurance;

subsidiaries which hold, maintain and manage investment assets for the Bank;

a subsidiary which owns and services auto loans;

a subsidiary which specializes in asset-based lending;

a subsidiary which offers financing for general aviation aircraft and servicing for existing commercial equipment leases; and

a subsidiary which specializes in health care equipment and other commercial equipment leases.

Edgar Filing: VALLEY NATIONAL BANCORP - Form 424B5

The Bank's subsidiaries also include real estate investment trust subsidiaries (the REIT subsidiaries) which own real estate related investments and a REIT subsidiary which owns some of the real estate utilized by the Bank and related real estate investments.

S-3

Table of Contents

The Offering

*The following summary contains basic information about the warrants, our common stock and the auction process and is not intended to be complete. It does not contain all the information that is important to you. For a more complete understanding of the warrants and the common stock, you should read the sections of this prospectus supplement entitled *Description of Warrants* and *Description of Common Stock* and any similar sections of the accompanying prospectus.*

Issuer	Valley National Bancorp
Warrants offered by the selling security holder	2,532,542 warrants, each of which represents the right to purchase one share of our common stock at an exercise price of \$17.77 per share (subject to adjustment). This exercise price and the number of warrant shares already reflect the adjustment in connection with the 5% common stock dividend declared on April 14, 2010 and payable on May 21, 2010 as well as previous stock dividends issued by the Company. The number of warrants to be sold depends on the number of bids received and whether the selling security holder decides to sell any warrants in the auction. The exercise price of the warrants cannot be paid in cash and is payable only by netting out a number of shares of our common stock issuable upon exercise of the warrants equal to the value of the aggregate exercise price of the warrants. The warrants are currently exercisable and expire on November 14, 2018. See Auction Process.
Common stock outstanding after this offering	160,963,911 shares(1)(2).
Auction process	The selling security holder and the underwriter will determine the public offering price and the allocation of the warrants in this offering through an auction process conducted by Deutsche Bank Securities Inc., the sole book-running manager, in its capacity as the auction agent. The auction process entails a modified Dutch auction mechanic in which bids may be submitted through the auction agent or one of the other brokers that is a member of the broker network (collectively, the network brokers) established in connection with the auction process. Each broker will make suitability determinations with respect to its own customers wishing to participate in the auction process. The auction agent will not provide bidders (including us) with any information about the bids of other bidders or auction trends, or with advice regarding bidding strategies, in connection with the auction process. We may bid (but we are not required to bid) in the auction for some or all of the warrants. We encourage you to discuss any

Table of Contents

questions regarding the bidding process and suitability determinations applicable to your bids with your broker. For more information about the auction process, see Auction Process.

Minimum bid price and price increments

The offering is being made using an auction process in which prospective purchasers are required to bid for the warrants. During the auction period, bids may be placed by qualifying bidders at any price (in increments of \$0.10 at or above the minimum bid price of \$1.70 per warrant. See Auction Process.

Minimum bid size

100 warrants.

Submission deadline

The auction will commence at 8:00 a.m., New York City time, on the date specified by the auction agent via press release prior to the opening of the equity markets on such day, and will close at 6:30 p.m., New York City time, on that same day (the submission deadline).

Irrevocability of bids

Bids that have not been modified or withdrawn by the time of the submission deadline are final and irrevocable, and bidders who submit successful bids will be obligated to purchase the warrants allocated to them. The auction agent is under no obligation to reconfirm bids for any reason; however, the auction agent may require that bidders confirm their bids at its discretion before the auction process closes. See Auction Process.

Clearing price

The price at which the warrants will be sold to the public will be the clearing price set by the auction process. The clearing price will be determined based on the valid, irrevocable bids at the time of the final submission deadline as follows:

If valid irrevocable bids are received for all or more of the number of warrants being offered, the clearing price will be equal to the highest price in the auction process at which the quantity of all bids at or above such price equals 100% or more of the number of warrants being offered in the auction.

If bids are received for half or more, but less than all, of the offered warrants, the clearing price will be equal to the minimum bid price of \$1.70 per warrant.

Unless the selling security holder decides not to sell any warrants or as otherwise described below, the warrants will be sold to bidders at the clearing price. Even if bids are received for 100% or more of the warrants being offered,

Table of Contents

the selling security holder may decide not to sell any warrants in the auction process, regardless of the clearing price. If the selling security holder decides to sell warrants in the auction process, after the selling security holder confirms its acceptance of the clearing price (and, in the case where bids are received for fewer than 100% of the warrants being offered, the number of warrants to be sold), the auction agent and each network broker that has submitted bids will notify successful bidders that the auction process has closed and that their bids have been accepted. The clearing price and number of warrants being sold are also expected to be announced via press release prior to the opening of the equity markets on the business day following the end of the auction. See Auction Process.

Number of warrants to be sold

If bids are received for half or more, but less than all, of the offered warrants, then the selling security holder may (but is not required to) sell, at the minimum bid price in the auction process (which will be deemed the clearing price) as many warrants as it chooses to sell up to the number of bids received in the auction, so long as at least half of the offered warrants are sold and the warrants remain eligible for listing. If bids are received for less than half of the offered warrants, the selling security holder will not sell any warrants in this offering. Even if bids are received for all of the warrants, the selling security holder may decide not to sell any warrants in the auction process, regardless of the clearing price. If bids are received for all of the offered warrants and the selling security holder elects to sell warrants in the auction process, the selling security holder must sell all of the offered warrants. See Auction Process.

Allocation; pro-ration

If bids for all the warrants offered in this offering are received, and the selling security holder elects to sell warrants in the offering, then any bids submitted in the auction above the clearing price will receive allocations in full, while any bids submitted at the clearing price may experience pro-rata allocation. If bids for half or more, but fewer than all, of the warrants offered in this offering are received, and the selling security holder chooses to sell fewer warrants than the number of warrants for which bids were received, then all bids will experience equal pro-rata allocation. See Auction Process.

Our participation in the auction process

We are permitted to participate in the auction by submitting bids for the warrants. Although we are under no obligation to participate in the auction, if we elect to

Table of Contents

participate, we will participate on the same basis as all other bidders and will not receive preferential treatment of any kind. You will not be notified by either the auction agent, the network brokers or the selling security holder whether we have bid in the auction or, should we elect to participate in the auction, the terms of any bid or bids we may place.

Use of proceeds

We will not receive any proceeds from the sale of any of the securities offered by the selling security holder. See Use of Proceeds.

Risk factors

See Risk Factors and other information included or incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus for a discussion of factors you should consider carefully before deciding to invest in the warrants.

Listing

We have applied to list the warrants on the Exchange under the symbol VLY WS . Our common stock is listed on the Exchange under the symbol VLY .

Warrant agent

American Stock Transfer & Trust Company, LLC

Auction agent

Deutsche Bank Securities Inc.

Network brokers

See page S-20 for a list of brokers participating as network brokers in the auction process.

- (1) The number of shares of common stock outstanding immediately after the closing of this offering is based on shares of common stock outstanding as of May 13, 2010.
- (2) Unless otherwise indicated, the number of shares of common stock outstanding after the offering presented in this prospectus supplement excludes the shares issuable upon exercise of the warrants, 6,822,038 shares available for future grant under our equity compensation plans, 3,300,371 shares issuable upon the exercise of outstanding stock options at a weighted average exercise price of \$18.63 per share and 1,011,562 shares issuable upon the exercise of outstanding warrants at an exercise price of \$17.24 per share.

Table of Contents

RISK FACTORS

Investing in our common stock involves a high degree of risk. Before you decide to invest in our common stock, you should consider the risk factors described in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2009 and in our updates to those risk factors in our subsequent Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q, and in all other information appearing in the prospectus or incorporated by reference into the prospectus. Please refer to "Incorporation of Information Filed with the SEC" in this prospectus supplement and "Where You Can Find More Information" in the accompanying prospectus for discussions of these other filings. The risk factors included in this prospectus supplement are intended to supplement and update the risk factors identified in those incorporated documents. If any of the risks and uncertainties actually occurs, our business, financial condition, and results of operations could be materially adversely affected. This could cause the trading price of our common stock to decline, and you could lose all or part of your investment. The prospectus is qualified in its entirety by those risk factors.

Risks Related to the Auction Process

The price of the warrants could decline rapidly and significantly following this offering.

The public offering price of the warrants, which will be the clearing price, will be determined through an auction process conducted by the selling security holder and the underwriter. Although we have applied to list the warrants on the Exchange, prior to this offering there has been no public market for the warrants, and the public offering price may bear no relation to market demand for the warrants once trading begins. We have been informed by both Treasury and Deutsche Bank Securities Inc. as the auction agent that they believe that the bidding process will set a clearing price for the warrants offered in the auction process. If there is little or no demand for the warrants at or above the public offering price once trading begins, the price of the warrants would likely decline following the offering. Limited or less-than-expected liquidity in the warrants, including decreased liquidity due to a sale of less than all of the warrants being offered or a purchase of warrants by us in the auction process, could also cause the trading price of the warrants to decline. In addition, the auction process may lead to more volatility in, or a decline in, the trading price of the warrants after the initial sales of the warrants in the offering. If your objective is to make short-term profit by selling the warrants you purchase in the offering shortly after trading begins, you should not submit a bid in the auction.

The minimum bid price that the auction agent has set for the warrants in this offering may bear no relation to the price of the warrants after the offering.

Prior to this offering, there has been no public market for the warrants. The minimum bid price set forth in this prospectus supplement was agreed to by Deutsche Bank Securities Inc., the sole book running manager of this offering, and Treasury. We did not participate in the determination of the minimum bid price and therefore cannot provide any information regarding the factors that Treasury and Deutsche Bank Securities Inc. considered in such determination. An analysis of the value of complex securities such as the warrants is necessarily uncertain as it may depend on several key variables, including for example the volatility of the trading prices of the underlying security. The difficulty associated with determining the value of the warrants is further increased by the substantial time period during which the warrants can be exercised. We cannot assure you that the price at which the warrants will trade after completion of the offering will exceed this minimum bid price, or that Treasury will choose to or will succeed in selling, any or all of the warrants at a price equal to or in excess of the minimum bid price.

Table of Contents

The auction process for this offering may result in a phenomenon known as the winner's curse, and, as a result, investors may experience significant losses.

The auction process for this offering may result in a phenomenon known as the winner's curse. At the conclusion of the auction process, successful bidders that receive allocations of warrants in this offering may infer that there is little incremental demand for the warrants above or equal to the public offering price. As a result, successful bidders may conclude that they paid too much for the warrants and could seek to immediately sell their warrants to limit their losses should the price of the warrants decline in trading after the auction process is completed. In this situation, other investors that did not submit successful bids may wait for this selling to be completed, resulting in reduced demand for the warrants in the public market and a significant decline in the price of the warrants. Therefore, we caution investors that submitting successful bids and receiving allocations may be followed by a significant decline in the value of their investment in the warrants shortly after this offering.

The auction process for this offering may result in a situation in which less price sensitive investors play a larger role in the determination of the public offering price and constitute a larger portion of the investors in this offering, and, therefore, the public offering price may not be sustainable once trading of the warrants begins.

In a typical public offering of securities, a majority of the securities sold to the public are purchased by professional investors that have significant experience in determining valuations for companies in connection with such offerings. These professional investors typically have access to, or conduct their own, independent research and analysis regarding investments in such offerings. Other investors typically have less access to this level of research and analysis, and as a result, may be less sensitive to price when participating in the auction process. Because of the auction process, these less price sensitive investors may have a greater influence in setting the public offering price (because a larger number of higher bids may cause the clearing price in the auction process to be higher than it would otherwise have been absent such bids) and may have a higher level of participation in this offering than is normal for other such offerings. This, in turn, could cause the auction process to result in a public offering price that is higher than the price professional investors are willing to pay for the warrants. As a result, the price of the warrants may decrease once trading of the warrants begins. Also, because professional investors may have a substantial degree of influence on the trading price of the warrants over time, the price of the warrants may decline and not recover after this offering. Furthermore, if the public offering price of the warrants is above the level that investors determine is reasonable for the warrants, some investors may attempt to short sell the warrants after trading begins, which would create additional downward pressure on the trading price of the warrants.

We are permitted to participate in the auction for the warrants and, if we do so, that could have the effect of raising the clearing price and decreasing liquidity in the market for the warrants.

We are permitted (but are not required) to submit bids in the auction. You will not be notified by either the auction agent, the network brokers, or the selling security holder whether we have bid in the auction or, should we elect to participate in the auction, the terms of any bid or bids we may place. Although we will not receive preferential treatment of any kind and would participate on the same basis as all other bidders, except that we are required to submit any final bid we may enter by 6:00 p.m., New York City time, on the day on which the auction is conducted and will not receive preferential treatment of any kind, in some cases the submission of bids by us could cause the clearing price in the auction process to be higher than it would

Table of Contents

otherwise have been (although in such a case we would still be required to purchase any warrants for which we had submitted bids at the clearing price). In addition, to the extent we purchase any warrants, the liquidity of any market for the warrants may decrease, particularly if any such purchases represent a significant percentage of the outstanding warrants.

Furthermore, if the offering proceeds and is consummated, we may from time to time engage in repurchase transactions of and retire the warrants in the market or on a privately negotiated basis. Since we would not repurchase warrants with a view toward resale, such repurchases after the consummation of this offering may also decrease liquidity in any market for the warrants.

The clearing price for the warrants may bear little or no relationship to the price that would be established using traditional valuation methods or the market price of our common stock, and, therefore, the trading price of the warrants may decline significantly following the issuance of the warrants.

The public offering price of the warrants will be equal to the clearing price. The clearing price of the warrants may have little or no relationship to, and may be significantly higher than, the price that otherwise would be established using traditional indicators of value, such as our future prospects and those of our industry in general; our revenues, earnings, and other financial and operating information; multiples of revenue, earnings, cash flows, and other operating metrics; market prices of securities and other financial and operating information of companies engaged in activities similar to ours; and the views of research analysts. The trading price of the warrants may vary significantly from the public offering price. Potential investors should not submit a bid in the auction for this offering unless they are willing to take the risk that the price of the warrants could decline significantly.

No maximum price or set auction price range has been established in connection with the auction process, and any bids submitted as market bids will be included at the highest bid received from any bidder.

Although the auction agent has established a minimum bid in connection with the auction process, no maximum price or set price range has been implemented, meaning that there is no ceiling on the per-warrant amount that an investor can bid in the auction. If a bidder submits a market bid (i.e., a bid that specifies the number of warrants the bidder is willing to purchase without specifying the price it is willing to pay), that bid will be treated as a bid at the highest price received from any other bidder in the auction. Because market bids will increase the number of warrants that are covered by bids at the highest price received, the submission of market bids could cause the clearing price in the auction process to be higher than it would otherwise have been absent such market bids. Since the only information being provided in connection with the auction process is the minimum bid price and the auction agent is under no obligation to reconfirm bids for any reason, potential investors should carefully evaluate all factors that may be relevant about us, our operations, the warrants and the auction process in determining the appropriateness of any bids they may submit.

Successful bidders may receive the full number of warrants subject to their bids, so potential investors should not make bids for more warrants than they are prepared to purchase.

Each bidder may submit multiple bids. However, as bids are independent, each bid may result in an allocation of warrants. Allocation of the warrants will be determined by, first, allocating warrants to any bids made above the clearing price, and second, allocating warrants on a pro-rata basis among bids made at the clearing price. If bids for all the warrants offered in

Table of Contents

this offering are received, and the selling security holder elects to sell warrants in the offering, the bids of successful bidders that are above the clearing price will be allocated all of the warrants represented by such bids, and only bids submitted at the clearing price will experience any pro-rata allocation. Bids that have not been modified or withdrawn by the time of the submission deadline are final and irrevocable, and bidders who submit successful bids will be obligated to purchase the warrants allocated to them. Accordingly, the sum of a bidder's bid sizes as of the submission deadline should be no more than the total number of warrants the bidder is willing to purchase, and we caution investors against submitting a bid that does not accurately represent the number of warrants that they are willing and prepared to purchase.

Submitting a bid does not guarantee an allocation of warrants, even if a bidder submits a bid at or above the public offering price of the warrants.

The auction agent may require, at its discretion, that bidders confirm their bids before the auction process closes (although the auction agent is under no obligation to reconfirm bids for any reason). If a bidder is requested to confirm a bid and fails to do so within the permitted time period, that bid may be deemed to have been withdrawn and, accordingly, that bidder may not receive an allocation of warrants even if the bid is at or above the public offering price. The auction agent may, however, choose to accept any such bid even if it has not been reconfirmed. In addition, the auction agent may determine in some cases to impose size limits on the aggregate size of bids that it chooses to accept from any bidder (including any network broker), and may reject any bid that it determines, in its discretion, has a potentially manipulative, disruptive or other adverse effect on the auction process or the offering. Furthermore, if bids for all the warrants offered in this offering are received, and the selling security holder elects to sell warrants in the offering, each bid submitted at the clearing price will be allocated a number of warrants approximately equal to the pro-rata allocation percentage multiplied by the number of warrants represented by such bid, rounded to the nearest whole number of warrants (subject to rounding in certain cases). Similarly, if bids for half or more, but fewer than all, of the warrants offered in this offering are received, and the selling security holder chooses to sell fewer warrants than the number of warrants for which bids were received, then all bids will experience equal pro-rata allocation. The selling security holder could also decide, in its sole discretion, not to sell any warrants in the offering after the clearing price has been determined. As a result of these factors, you may not receive an allocation for all the warrants for which you submit a bid.

We cannot assure you that the auction process will be successful or that the full number of offered warrants will be sold.

If sufficient bids are received and accepted by the auction agent to enable the selling security holder to sell all of the warrants in the offering, the public offering price will be set at the clearing price (unless the selling security holder decides, in its sole discretion, not to sell any warrants in the offering after the clearing price is determined). If, however, bids are received for half or more, but less than all, of the offered warrants, then the selling security holder may (but is not required to) sell, at the minimum bid price in the auction process (which will be deemed the clearing price) as many warrants as it chooses to sell up to the number of bids received in the auction, so long as at least half of the offered warrants are sold and the warrants remain eligible for listing. If bids are received for less than half of the offered warrants, the selling security holder will not sell any warrants in this offering. Even if bids are received for all of the offered warrants, the selling security holder is not obligated to sell any warrants regardless of the clearing price set through the auction process. The liquidity of the warrants may be limited if less than all of the offered warrants are sold by the selling security holder, or if we are a winning bidder in the auction process and become a significant holder of the warrants following

Table of Contents

allocation. Possible future sales of the selling security holder's remaining warrants, if any are held following this offering, could affect the trading price of the warrants sold in this offering.

Submitting bids through a network broker or any other broker that is not the auction agent may in some circumstances shorten deadlines for potential investors to submit, modify or withdraw their bids.

In order to participate in the auction process, bidders must have an account with, and submit bids to purchase warrants through, either the auction agent or a network broker. Brokers that are not network brokers will need to submit their bids, either for their own account or on behalf of their customers, through the auction agent or a network broker. Potential investors and brokers that wish to submit bids in the auction and do not have an account with the auction agent or a network broker must either establish such an account prior to bidding in the auction or cause a broker that has such an account to submit a bid through that account. Network brokers and other brokers will impose earlier submission deadlines than those imposed by the auction agent in order to have sufficient time to aggregate bids received from their respective customers and to transmit the aggregate bid to the auction agent (or, in the case of non-network brokers submitting bids through a network broker, to such network broker to transmit to the auction agent) before the auction closes. As a result of such earlier submission deadlines, potential investors who submit bids through a network broker, or brokers that submit bids through the auction agent or a network broker, will need to submit or withdraw their bids earlier than other bidders, and it may in some circumstances be more difficult for such bids to be submitted, modified or withdrawn.

Risks Related to the Warrants

The warrants are a risky investment. You may not be able to recover the value of your investment in the warrants, and the warrants may expire worthless.

As of May 14, 2010, the last reported price of our common stock on the Exchange was \$15.32 per share. In order for you to recover the value of your investment in the warrants, either a trading market must develop for the warrants and the trading price of the warrants must exceed the public offering price, or our stock price must increase to more than the sum of the exercise price of the warrants (\$17.77) and the clearing price of the warrants. If, for example, the clearing price of the warrants were the minimum bid price set by the auction agent, our stock price would have to be more than \$19.47 for you to have an opportunity to exercise the warrants and achieve a positive return on your investment.

The warrants are only exercisable until November 14, 2018. In the event our common stock price does not increase to the level discussed above during the period when the warrants are exercisable, you will likely not be able to recover the value of your investment in the warrants. In addition, if our common stock price remains below the exercise price of the warrants, the warrants may not have any value and may expire without being exercised, in which case you will lose your entire investment. There can be no assurance that the trading price of our common stock will exceed the exercise price or the price required for you to achieve a positive return on your investment. Furthermore, upon exercise of the warrants, you will receive a number of shares of stock calculated based on the closing price of our common stock on that day. Accordingly, the number of shares and the value of our common stock you receive upon exercise of the warrants will depend on the market price of our common stock on the day on which you choose to exercise those warrants.

Table of Contents

There is no existing market for the warrants, and you cannot be certain that an active market will be established.

Prior to this offering, there has been no existing trading market for the warrants. The public offering price for the warrants is being determined by an auction process, and may not be indicative of the price that will prevail in the trading market following this offering. The market price for the warrants may decline below the public offering price, and may be volatile. The liquidity of any market for the warrants will depend on a number of factors, including but not limited to:

the number of warrants, if any, that we and/or investors purchase in the auction process;

the number of warrants that the selling security holder elects to sell in this offering;

our performance;

the market for similar securities;

the interest of securities dealers in making a market in the warrants; and

the market price of our common stock.

In addition, many of the risks that are described elsewhere in this **Risk Factors** section and under the heading **Risk Factors** in our most recently filed Annual Report on Form 10-K and Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q could materially and adversely affect the price of the warrants.

The warrants are not suitable for all investors.

The warrants are complex financial instruments for which there is no established trading market. Accordingly, the auction agent, each network broker and any other broker that submits bids through the auction agent or any network broker will be required to establish and enforce client suitability standards, including eligibility, account status and size, to evaluate whether an investment in the warrants is appropriate for any particular investor. Each of them will individually apply its own standards in making that determination, but in each case those standards will be implemented in accordance with the applicable requirements and guidelines of the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority, Inc. (**FINRA**). If you do not meet the relevant suitability requirements of the auction agent or another broker, you will not be able to bid in the auction. **You should be prepared to sustain a total loss of the purchase price of your warrants.**

Purchasers of warrants who exercise their warrants for shares of common stock will incur immediate and future dilution.

Upon exercise of your warrants for shares of common stock, you could experience immediate and substantial dilution if the exercise price of your warrants at the time were higher than the net tangible book value per share of the outstanding common stock. In addition, you will experience dilution (subject to the anti-dilution protections contained in the warrants and described herein) when we issue additional shares of common stock that we are permitted or required to issue in any future offerings or under outstanding options and warrants and under our stock option plan or other employee or director compensation plans.

The trading value of the warrants will be significantly affected by the price of our common stock, which has been volatile.

The market price of our common stock will significantly affect the market price of the warrants, and the resulting percentage change in the market price of our warrants is likely to be

Table of Contents

much higher than the percentage change in the market price of our common stock. We cannot predict whether the price of our common stock will rise or fall, and the market price of our common stock has been volatile. Negative announcements about our results or business could trigger significant declines in our stock price. In addition, external events, such as news concerning economic conditions, our competitors, our customers or changes in government regulations affecting the financial services industry also are likely to affect our stock price, regardless of our operating performance. Furthermore, general market conditions, including the level of, and fluctuations in, the trading prices of stocks generally, could affect our stock price. Recently, stock markets have experienced price and volume volatility that has affected many companies stock prices, and stock prices for many companies have experienced wide fluctuations sometimes unrelated to their operating performance. Fluctuations such as these may affect the market price of our common stock. The price of our common stock also could be affected by possible sales of common stock by investors who view the warrants as a more attractive means of equity participation in us and by hedging or arbitrage activity involving our common stock. The hedging or arbitrage of our common stock could, in turn, affect the trading prices of the warrants.

Holders of the warrants will have no rights as common shareholders until they acquire our common stock.

Until you acquire shares of our common stock upon exercise of the warrants, you will have no rights with respect to our common stock, including rights to dividend payments, vote or respond to tender offers. Upon exercise of your warrants, you will be entitled to exercise the rights of a common shareholder only as to matters for which the record date occurs after the exercise date.

The exercise price of and the number of shares underlying the warrants may not be adjusted for all dilutive events.

The exercise price of and the number of shares underlying the warrants are subject to adjustment for certain events, including, but not limited to, the issuance of stock dividends on our common stock, the issuance of certain rights or warrants, subdivisions, combinations, distributions of capital stock, indebtedness or assets, certain cash dividends and certain issuer tender or exchange offers as described under Description of Warrants Adjustments to the Warrants. The exercise price will not be adjusted, however, for other events, such as a third-party tender or exchange offer, a merger or reorganization in which our common stock is acquired for cash or an issuance of common stock for cash, that may adversely affect the trading price of the warrants or our common stock. Other events that adversely affect the value of the warrants may occur that do not result in an adjustment to such exercise price.

Additionally, the exercise price of, and the number of shares underlying, the warrants will not be adjusted for any regular quarterly cash dividends that are in the aggregate less than or equal to \$0.1814 per share of common stock, which is the amount of the last dividend per share declared prior to the date on which the warrants were originally issued to Treasury on November 14, 2008 (as adjusted for stock dividends issued subsequent to November 14, 2008, including the 5% common stock dividend declared on April 14, 2010 and payable on May 21, 2010 by the Company). The most recent cash dividend paid on our common stock was \$0.19 per share. Holders of our common stock are only entitled to receive such dividends as our board of directors may declare, and our board of directors, in its sole discretion, may decide to increase the quarterly cash dividend on our common stock at any time.

Table of Contents

Your return on the warrants will not reflect dividends on our common stock.

Your return on the warrants will not reflect the return you would realize if you actually owned shares of our common stock and received any dividends paid on our common stock other than to the extent described below under **Description of Warrants** **Adjustments to the Warrants**. If we increase our regular quarterly cash dividends in the future, your warrants will not be adjusted for, and you will not receive any benefit of, any aggregate regular quarterly cash dividend less than or equal to \$0.1814 per share per quarter.

The warrant agreement is not an indenture qualified under the Trust Indenture Act, and the obligations of the warrant agent are limited.

The warrant agreement is not an indenture qualified under the Trust Indenture Act of 1939, as amended (the **TIA**), and the warrant agent is not a trustee qualified under the TIA. Accordingly, warrant holders will not have the benefits of the protections of the TIA. Under the terms of the warrant agreement, the warrant agent will have only limited obligations to the warrant holders. Accordingly, it may in some circumstances be difficult for warrant holders, acting individually or collectively, to take actions to enforce their rights under the warrants or the warrant agreement.

The selling security holder is a federal agency and your ability to bring a claim against the selling security holder under the federal securities laws may be limited.

The doctrine of sovereign immunity, as limited by the Federal Tort Claims Act (the **FTCA**), provides that claims may not be brought against the United States of America or any agency or instrumentality thereof unless specifically permitted by act of Congress. The FTCA bars claims for fraud or misrepresentation. At least one federal court, in a case involving a federal agency, has held that the United States may assert its sovereign immunity to claims brought under the federal securities laws. In addition, the selling security holder and its officers, agents, and employees are exempt from liability for any violation or alleged violation of the anti-fraud provisions of Section 10(b) of the Exchange Act by virtue of Section 3(c) thereof. Accordingly, any attempt to assert such a claim against the officers, agents or employees of the selling security holder for a violation of the Securities Act or the Exchange Act resulting from an alleged material misstatement in or material omission from this prospectus or the registration statement of which this prospectus supplement is a part or resulting from any other act or omission in connection with the offering of the warrants by the selling security holder or the shares of common stock issuable upon the exercise thereof would likely be barred.

Hedging arrangements relating to the warrants may affect the value of our common stock.

In order to hedge their positions, holders of our warrants may enter into derivative transactions with respect to our common stock, may unwind or adjust derivative transactions and may purchase or sell our common stock in secondary market transactions. The effect, if any, of any of these activities on the trading price of our common stock will depend in part on market conditions and cannot be ascertained in advance, but any of these activities could adversely affect the value of our common stock.

Holders of the warrants will not receive any additional shares of common stock or other compensation representing any lost value resulting from a decrease in the option life of the warrants in the event we undergo a business combination.

In the event we undergo a merger, consolidation, statutory share exchange or similar transaction requiring the approval of our shareholders (a **Business Combination**), each

Table of Contents

warrantholder's right to receive common stock pursuant to the warrants will be converted into the right to receive a number of shares of stock or other securities or property (including cash) which would have been received if such holder had exercised the warrants immediately prior to such Business Combination. Any such Business Combination could, therefore, substantially affect the value of the warrants by changing the securities received upon exercise or fixing the market value of the property to be received upon exercise. Warrantholders will not receive any additional shares of common stock or other compensation representing any lost value resulting from any decrease in the option life of, or change in the securities or property (including cash) underlying, the warrants resulting from any such Business Combination.

Risks Related to Our Common Stock

The market price for our common stock may be volatile.

The market price of our common stock could fluctuate substantially in the future in response to a number of factors, including those discussed below. The market price of our common stock has in the past fluctuated significantly and is likely to continue to fluctuate significantly. Some of the factors that may cause the price of our common stock to fluctuate include:

variations in our and our competitors' operating results;

changes in securities analysts' estimates of our future performance and the future performance of our competitors;

announcements by us or our competitors of mergers, acquisitions and strategic partnerships;

additions or departure of key personnel;

events affecting other companies that the market deems comparable to us;

general conditions in the United States;

the presence or absence of short selling of our common stock; and

future sales of our common stock or debt securities.

The stock markets in general have experienced substantial price and trading fluctuations. These fluctuations have resulted in volatility in the market prices of securities that often has been unrelated or disproportionate to changes in operating performance. These broad market fluctuations may adversely affect the trading price of our common stock.

There may be future sales or other dilution of our equity that may adversely affect the market price of our common stock.

Except as required by the underwriter in connection with this offering, we are not restricted from issuing additional common stock, preferred stock and any securities that are convertible into or exchangeable for, or that represent the right to receive, common stock. Any issuance of additional common stock will dilute the ownership interest of existing common shareholders. Further, the market price of our common stock could decline after this offering as a result of future offerings by us of our common stock, preferred stock or securities convertible into or exchangeable for, or that represent the right to receive, common stock, or the perception that such offers or sales could occur.

Table of Contents

We may not pay dividends on our common stock.

Holders of our common stock are only entitled to receive such dividends as our board of directors may declare out of funds legally available for such payments. Although we have historically declared cash dividends on our common stock, we are not required to do so. Any reduction of, or the elimination of, our common stock dividend in the future could adversely affect the market price of our common stock.

We are a holding company and depend on our subsidiaries for dividends, distributions and other payments.

We are a holding company, and, accordingly, substantially all of our operations are conducted through our bank subsidiaries and other subsidiaries. As a result, our cash flow and our ability to make dividend payments to our common shareholders depend on the earnings of our subsidiaries. In addition, we depend on the distribution of earnings, loans or other payments by our subsidiaries to us. Our subsidiaries are separate and distinct legal entities, and regulations relating to capital requirements affect their ability to pay dividends and other distributions to us and to make loans to us. Payments to us by our subsidiaries also will be contingent upon those subsidiaries' earnings and business considerations. Furthermore, our right to receive any assets of any of our subsidiaries upon their liquidation, reorganization or otherwise, and thus your ability as a common shareholder to benefit indirectly from such distribution, will be subject to the prior claims of the subsidiary's creditors. In addition, even if we were a creditor of any of our subsidiaries, our rights as a creditor would be subordinate to any security interest in the assets of those subsidiaries and any indebtedness of those subsidiaries senior to that held by us.

We are subject to New Jersey's anti-takeover statute, which could have the effect of prohibiting certain business transactions with certain of our shareholders.

Subsection 10A of the New Jersey Business Corporation Act, known as the Shareholder Protection Act, applies to us. The Shareholder Protection Act prohibits us from engaging in certain business combinations, including mergers, consolidations, stock sales and assets sales, with an interested shareholder (generally, a shareholder who owns 10% or more of our outstanding common stock) for a period of five years after the date of the transaction in which the person became an interested shareholder (the "Stock Acquisition Date"), unless the business combination is approved by the Company's Board of Directors prior to the Stock Acquisition Date. After the expiration of the five year period, the entry into a business combination with an interested shareholder is also limited. The application of such Act also could have the effect of delaying or preventing a change in control of the Company.

The soundness of other financial institutions could adversely affect us.

Financial services institutions are interrelated as a result of trading, clearing, counterparty, or other relationships. We have exposure to many different industries and counterparties, and we routinely execute transactions with counterparties in the financial services industry, including brokers and dealers, commercial banks, investment banks, mutual and hedge funds, and other institutional clients. Many of these transactions expose us to credit risk in the event of default of our counterparty or client. In addition, our credit risk may be exacerbated when the collateral held by us cannot be realized upon or is liquidated at prices not sufficient to recover the full amount of the loan or derivative exposure due us. There can be no assurance that any such losses would not materially and adversely affect our results of operations.

Table of Contents

AUCTION PROCESS

The following describes the auction process used to determine the public offering price of the warrants. That process differs from methods traditionally used in other underwritten public offerings. The selling security holder and the underwriter will determine the public offering price and the allocation of the warrants in this offering by an auction process conducted by the sole book-running manager, Deutsche Bank Securities Inc., in its capacity as the auction agent. This auction process will involve a modified Dutch auction mechanic in which the auction agent (working with a number of other brokers) will receive and accept bids from bidders at either the minimum bid price of \$1.70 or at price increments of \$0.10 in excess of the minimum bid price. We may (but are not required to) bid in the auction for some or all of the warrants. After the auction process closes and those bids become irrevocable (which will occur automatically at the submission deadline to the extent such bids have not been modified or withdrawn at that time), the auction agent will determine the clearing price for the sale of the warrants offered hereby and, if the selling security holder chooses to proceed with the offering, the underwriter will allocate warrants to the winning bidders. The auction agent has reserved the right to round allocations to eliminate odd-lots. The clearing price for the warrants may bear little or no relationship to the price that would be established using traditional valuation methods. You should carefully consider the risks described under Risk Factors Risks Related to the Auction Process beginning on page S-8.

Eligibility and Account Status

In order to participate in the auction process, bidders must have an account with, and submit bids to purchase warrants through, either the auction agent or one of the other brokers that is a member of the broker network (collectively, the network brokers) established in connection with the auction. Brokers that are not network brokers will need to submit their bids, either for their own account or on behalf of their customers, through the auction agent or a network broker. If you wish to bid in the auction and do not have an account with the auction agent or a network broker, you will either need to establish such an account prior to bidding in the auction (which may be difficult to do before the submission deadline) or contact your existing broker and request that it submit a bid through the auction agent or a network broker. Network brokers and other brokers will have deadlines relating to the auction that are earlier than those imposed by the auction agent, as described below under The Auction Process The Bidding Process.

Because the warrants are complex financial instruments for which there is no established trading market, the auction agent, each network broker and any other broker that submits bids through the auction agent or any network broker will be required to establish and enforce client suitability standards, including eligibility, account status and size, to evaluate whether an investment in the warrants is appropriate for any particular investor. Each of them will individually apply its own standards in making that determination, but in each case those standards will be implemented in accordance with the applicable requirements and guidelines of FINRA. If you do not meet the relevant suitability requirements of the auction agent or another broker, you will not be able to bid in the auction. Accounts at the auction agent or any other broker, including broker accounts, are also subject to the customary rules of those institutions. You should contact your brokerage firm to better understand how you may submit bids in the auction process.

The auction agent or network brokers may require bidders (including any brokers that may be bidding on behalf of their customers) to submit additional information, such as tax identification numbers, a valid e-mail address and other contact information, and other information that may be required to establish or maintain an account.

Table of Contents

The auction agent and the network brokers, upon request, will provide certain information to you in connection with the offering, including this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus and forms used by such brokers, if any, to submit bids. Additionally, you should understand that:

before submitting a bid in the auction, you should read this prospectus supplement, including all the risk factors;

the minimum bid price was agreed by the auction agent and Treasury, and we did not participate in that determination and therefore cannot provide any information regarding the factors that Treasury and Deutsche Bank Securities Inc. considered in determining the minimum bid price;

if bids are received for 100% or more of the offered warrants, the public offering price will be set at the auction clearing price (unless the selling security holder decides, in its sole discretion, not to sell any warrants in the offering after the clearing price is determined);

if bids are received for half or more, but less than all, of the offered warrants, then the selling security holder may (but is not required to) sell, at the minimum bid price in the auction (which will be deemed the clearing price) as many warrants as it chooses to sell up to the number of bids received in the auction, so long as at least half of the offered warrants are sold and the warrants remain eligible for listing, and that in such a case if the selling security holder chooses to sell fewer warrants than the number of warrants for which bids were received, then all bids will experience equal pro-rata allocation;

if bids are received for less than half of the offered warrants, the selling security holder will not sell any warrants in this offering;

if there is little or no demand for the warrants at or above the clearing price once trading begins, the price of the warrants will decline;

we will be allowed (but are not required) to bid in the auction and, if we do participate, we will not receive preferential treatment of any kind and would participate on the same basis as all other bidders, except that we are required to submit any final bid we may enter by 6:00 p.m., New York City time, on the date on which the auction is conducted;

the liquidity of any market for the warrants may be affected by the number of warrants that the selling security holder elects to sell in this offering and the number of warrants, if any, that we purchase in the auction process, and the price of the warrants may decline if the warrants are illiquid;

the auction agent has the right to reconfirm any bid at its discretion by contacting the purported bidder directly and to impose size limits on the aggregate size of bids that it chooses to accept from any bidder, including network brokers (although the auction agent is under no obligation to reconfirm bids for any reason). If you are requested to reconfirm a bid and fail to do so in a timely manner, the auction agent may deem your bid to have been withdrawn, but alternatively may in its discretion choose to accept any such bid even if it has not been reconfirmed;

the auction agent may reject any bid that it determines, in its discretion, has a potentially manipulative, disruptive or other adverse effect on the auction process or the offering; and

Edgar Filing: VALLEY NATIONAL BANCORP - Form 424B5

the auction agent will not provide bidders (including us) with any information about the bids of other bidders or auction trends, or with advice regarding bidding strategies, in connection with the auction process.

S-19

Table of Contents

None of the underwriter, the selling security holder or we have undertaken any efforts to qualify the warrants for sale in any jurisdiction outside the United States. Except to the limited extent that this offering will be open to certain non-U.S. investors under private placement exemptions in certain countries other than the United States, investors located outside the United States should not expect to be eligible to participate in this offering.

Even if a bidder places a bid in the auction, it may not receive an allocation of the warrants in the offering for a number of reasons described below. You should consider all the information in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus in determining whether to submit a bid, the number of warrants you seek to purchase and the price per warrant you are willing to pay.

The following brokers have agreed to be network brokers for purposes of the auction process: BB&T Capital Markets, a Division of Scott & Stringfellow, LLC; Blaylock Robert Van, LLC; BMO Capital Markets Corp.; Cabrera Capital Markets, LLC; Cantor Fitzgerald & Co.; CastleOak Securities, L.P.; CL King & Associates; D.A. Davidson & Co.; Dahlman Rose & Company, LLC; Finacorp Securities; Girard Securities, Inc.; Guzman & Company; Jefferies & Company, Inc.; Joseph Gunnar & Co. LLC; Keefe, Bruyette & Woods, Inc.; Lebenthal & Co., LLC; Lighthouse Financial; Loop Capital Markets LLC; M.R. Beal & Company; MFR Securities, Inc.; Maxim Group, LLC; Samuel A. Ramirez & Company, Inc.; Sandler O'Neill & Partners, L.P.; Sanford C. Bernstein & Co., LLC; SecondMarket, Inc.; Muriel Siebert & Co., Inc.; SL Hare Capital, Inc.; Stifel, Nicolaus & Company, Incorporated; Toussaint Capital Partners, LLC; UBS Securities LLC; Wedbush Morgan Securities Inc; The Williams Capital Group, L.P; WR Hambrecht + Co., LLC; and Zions Direct, Inc. The network brokers will not share in any underwriting discounts or fees paid by the selling security holder in connection with the offering of the warrants but may, subject to applicable FINRA and SEC rules and regulations, charge a separate commission to their own customers.

The Auction Process

The following describes how the auction agent will conduct the auction process:

General

The auction will commence at 8:00 a.m., New York City time, on the date specified by the auction agent via press release prior to the opening of the equity markets on such day, and will end at 6:30 p.m., New York City time, on that same day (the submission deadline). Unless you submit your bids through the auction agent, your broker will have an earlier deadline for accepting bids. If a malfunction, technical or mechanical problem, calamity, crisis or other similar event occurs that the auction agent believes may interfere with the auction process, the auction agent may (in consultation with the selling security holder) decide to extend the auction or cancel and reschedule the auction. The auction agent and the network brokers will advise bidders of any such decision to extend or cancel and reschedule the auction using e-mail, telephone or facsimile, and will attempt to make such notification prior to the time the auction is scheduled to close. If the auction process is extended such that it closes at a later time on the same business day, any bids previously submitted will continue to be valid unless amended or cancelled by the bidder, but if the auction is extended such that it closes on the following business day or later, or is cancelled, all bids will be cancelled at the time of such extension or cancellation. We are permitted (but are not required) to bid in the auction in the manner described in the last bullet point under **The Bidding Process** below.

Table of Contents

During the auction period, bids may be placed at any price (in increments of \$0.10) at or above the minimum bid price of \$1.70 per warrant.

The auction agent and the network brokers will contact potential investors with information about the auction process and how to participate and will solicit bids from prospective investors via electronic message, telephone and facsimile. The minimum size of any bid is 100 warrants.

The Bidding Process

The auction agent and the network brokers will only accept bids in the auction process at the minimum bid price and above the minimum bid price in increments of \$0.10.

No maximum price or auction price range has been established in connection with the auction process, which means that there is no ceiling on the price per warrant that you or any other bidder can bid in the auction. If you submit a market bid (*i.e.*, a bid that specifies the number of warrants you are willing to purchase without specifying the price you are willing to pay), that bid will be treated as a bid at the highest price received from any bidder in the auction.

Once the auction begins, you may submit your bids either directly through the auction agent or through any network broker. Bids through the network brokers will be aggregated and submitted to the auction agent as single bids at each price increment by those brokers. Bids will only be accepted if they are made on an unconditional basis (*i.e.*, no all-or-none bids will be accepted).

In connection with submitting a bid, you will be required to provide the following information:

the number of warrants that you are interested in purchasing;

the price per warrant you are willing to pay; and

any additional information that may be required to enable the auction agent and/or network broker to identify you, confirm your eligibility and suitability for participating in this offering, and, if you submit a successful bid, consummate a sale of warrants to you.

You may submit multiple bids. Canceling one bid does not cancel any other bid. However, as bids are independent, each bid may result in an allocation of warrants. Consequently, the sum of your bid sizes should be no more than the total number of warrants you are willing to purchase. In addition, the auction agent may impose size limits on the aggregate size of bids that it chooses to accept from any bidder (including any network broker), although the auction agent is under no obligation to do so or to reconfirm bids for any reason.

At any time prior to the submission deadline, you may modify your bids to increase or decrease the number of warrants bid for or the price bid per warrant and may withdraw your bid and reenter the auction. Network brokers, however, will impose earlier submission deadlines than that imposed by the auction agent in order to have sufficient time to aggregate bids received from their respective customers and to transmit the aggregate bid to the auction agent before the auction closes. If you are bidding through a network broker, or another broker that is submitting bids through the auction agent or a network broker, you should be aware of any earlier submission deadlines that may be imposed by your broker.

Edgar Filing: VALLEY NATIONAL BANCORP - Form 424B5

Conditions for valid bids, including eligibility standards and account funding requirements, may vary from broker to broker. Some brokers, for example, may require

S-21

Table of Contents

a prospective investor to maintain a minimum account balance or to ensure that its account balance is equal to or in excess of the amount of its bid. No funds will be transferred to the underwriter until the acceptance of the bid and the allocation of warrants.

A bid received by the auction agent or any network broker involves no obligation or commitment of any kind prior to the submission deadline. Therefore, you will be able to withdraw a bid at any time prior to the submission deadline (or any deadline imposed by a network broker, if you are bidding through a network broker). Following the submission deadline, however, all bids that have not been modified or withdrawn by you prior to the submission deadline will be considered final and irrevocable and may be accepted. The auction agent and the selling security holder will rely on your bid in setting the public offering price and in sending notices of acceptance to successful bidders.

If you are requested to reconfirm a bid and fail to do so in a timely manner, the auction agent may deem your bid to have been withdrawn. The auction agent may, however, choose to accept your bid even if it has not been reconfirmed.

The auction agent may reject any bid that it determines, in its discretion, has a potentially manipulative, disruptive or other adverse effect on the auction process or the offering.

The auction agent will not provide bidders (including us) with any information about the bids of other bidders or auction trends, or with advice regarding bidding strategies, in connection with the auction process.

The auction agent or any network broker may require you to deposit funds or securities in your brokerage accounts with value sufficient to cover the aggregate dollar amount of your bids. Bids may be rejected if you do not provide the required funds or securities within the required time. The auction agent or any network broker may, however, decide to accept successful bids regardless of whether you have deposited funds or securities in your brokerage accounts. In any case, if you are a successful bidder, you will be obligated to purchase the warrants allocated to you in the allocation process and will be required to deposit funds in your brokerage accounts prior to settlement, which is expected to occur three or four business days after the notices of acceptance are sent to you.

We will be allowed (but we are not required) to bid in the auction. If we decide to bid, we will not receive preferential treatment of any kind and would participate on the same basis as all other bidders, except that we are required to submit any final bid we may enter by 6:00 p.m., New York City time, on the date on which the auction is conducted. You will not be notified by either the auction agent, the network brokers or the selling security holder whether we have bid in the auction or, should we elect to participate in the auction, the terms of any bid or bids we may place. We will be required to submit any bids we make through the auction agent. The submission of issuer bids may cause the clearing price in the auction process to be higher than it would otherwise have been absent such bids.

Pricing and Allocation

Deutsche Bank Securities Inc. will manage the master order book that will aggregate all bids and will include the identity of the bidders (or their brokers, in the case of bids submitted through a network broker). The master order book will not be available for viewing by bidders (including us, if we choose to bid). Bidders whose bids are accepted will be informed about the result of their bids.

Table of Contents

If valid, irrevocable bids are received for all or more of the warrants being offered, the clearing price will equal the highest price in the auction process at which the quantity of all aggregated bids at or above such price equals 100% or more of the number of warrants being offered.

If valid irrevocable bids are received for at least 50% but less than 100% of the warrants being offered, the clearing price will equal the minimum bid price.

Unless the selling security holder decides not to sell any warrants or as otherwise described below, all warrants will be sold to bidders at the clearing price.

If the number of warrants for which bids are received in the auction is:

100% or more of the number of warrants offered in this offering as disclosed on the cover of this prospectus supplement (the Number of Offered Warrants), then all warrants sold in the offering will be sold at the clearing price (although the selling security holder could, in its discretion, decide to refrain from selling any warrants in the offering after the clearing price has been determined);

50% or more but less than 100% of the Number of Offered Warrants, then the selling security holder may, but will not be required to, sell, at the clearing price (equal to the minimum bid price) as many warrants as it chooses to sell up to the number of bids received in the auction; provided that if it chooses to sell any warrants in such a case it will sell a number of warrants equal to at least 50% of the Number of Offered Warrants; or

less than 50% of the Number of Offered Warrants, then the selling security holder will not sell any warrants in this offering.

Promptly after the auction agent determines the clearing price, it will communicate that clearing price to the selling security holder. The selling security holder may decide not to sell any warrants after the clearing price is determined. Once the selling security holder confirms its acceptance of the clearing price (and, in the case where bids are received for fewer than 100% of the warrants being offered, the number of warrants to be sold), the auction agent will confirm allocations of warrants to its clients and the network brokers. The underwriter will sell all warrants at the same price per warrant.

If bids for all the warrants offered in this offering are received, and the selling security holder elects to sell warrants in the offering, allocation of the warrants will be determined by, first, allocating warrants to any bids made above the clearing price, and second, allocating warrants on a pro-rata basis among bids made at the clearing price. The pro-rata allocation percentage for bids made at the clearing price will be determined by dividing the number of warrants to be allocated at the bidding increment equal to the clearing price by the number of warrants represented by bids at that bidding increment. Each bid submitted at the clearing price will be allocated a number of warrants approximately equal to the pro-rata allocation percentage multiplied by the number of warrants represented by its bid, rounded to the nearest whole number of warrants; *provided* that bids at the clearing price that are pro-rated may be rounded to the nearest 100 warrants. In no case, however, will any rounded amount exceed the original bid size.

If bids for half or more, but fewer than all, of the warrants offered in this offering are received, and the selling security holder chooses to sell fewer warrants than the number of warrants for which bids were received, then all bids will experience equal pro-rata allocation. In other words, each bid, not just those at the lowest price increment, will be allocated a number of warrants approximately equal to the pro-rata allocation percentage multiplied by the number of warrants represented by its bid, rounded to the

Table of Contents

nearest whole number of warrants; provided that bids at the clearing price that are pro-rated may be rounded to the nearest 100 warrants. In no case, however, will any rounded amount exceed the original bid size.

After the selling security holder confirms its acceptance of the clearing price (and, in the case where bids are received for fewer than 100% of the warrants being offered, the number of warrants to be sold), the auction agent and each network broker that has submitted bids will notify you, in the event your bids have been accepted, by electronic message, telephone, facsimile or otherwise that the auction has closed and that your bids have been accepted. They may also provide you with a preliminary allocation estimate, which will be subsequently followed by a final allocation and confirmation of sale. In the event your bids are not accepted, you may be notified that your bids have not been accepted. As a result of the varying delivery times involved in sending e-mails over the Internet and other methods of delivery, you may receive notices of acceptance before or after other bidders.

The clearing price and number of warrants being sold are expected to be announced via press release prior to the opening of the equity markets on the business day following the end of the auction. The price will also be included in the notice of acceptance and the confirmation of sale that will be sent to successful bidders, and will also be included in the final prospectus supplement for the offering.

Sales to investors bidding directly through the auction agent will be settled via their accounts with Deutsche Bank Securities Inc., while sales through network brokers will be settled through your account with the broker through which your bid was submitted.

If you submit successful bids, you will be obligated to purchase the warrants allocated to you regardless of whether you are aware that the notice of acceptance of your bid has been sent. Once the underwriter has sent out a notice of acceptance and confirmation of sale, it will not cancel or reject your bid. The auction agent and the selling security holder will rely on your bid in setting the public offering price and in sending notices of acceptance to successful bidders. As a result, you will be responsible for paying for all of the warrants that are finally allocated to you, at the public offering price.

You should carefully review the procedures of, and communications from, the institution through which you bid to purchase warrants.

Auction Process Developments

You should keep in contact with the institution through which your bid has been submitted and monitor your relevant e-mail accounts, telephone and facsimile for notifications related to this offering, which may include:

Potential Request for Reconfirmation. The auction agent may ask you to reconfirm your bid at its discretion by directly contacting you (or your broker, if you submitted your bid through a broker other than the auction agent), although the auction agent is under no obligation to reconfirm bids for any reason. If you are requested to reconfirm a bid and fail to do so in a timely manner, the auction agent may deem your bid to have been withdrawn. The auction agent may, however, choose to accept your bid even if it has not been reconfirmed.

Notice of Additional Information Conveyed by Free Writing Prospectus. Notification that additional information relating to this offering is available in a free writing prospectus.

Notice of Acceptance. Notification as to whether any of your bids are successful and have been accepted. This notification will include the final clearing price. If your bids have been accepted, you will be informed about the results of the auction process.

Table of Contents

USE OF PROCEEDS

The warrants offered by this prospectus supplement are being sold for the account of the selling security holder named in this prospectus supplement. Any proceeds from the sale of these warrants will be received by the selling security holder for its own account, and we will not receive any proceeds from the sale of any of the warrants offered by this prospectus supplement.

S-25

Table of Contents

DESCRIPTION OF WARRANTS

The following is a brief description of the terms of the warrants being sold by the selling security holder. This summary does not purport to be complete in all respects. This description is subject to, and qualified in its entirety by reference to, the warrant and warrant agreement, copies of which we have filed with the SEC.

Common Stock Subject to the Warrants

Each warrant initially represents the right to purchase one share of our common stock. The number of shares deliverable upon the exercise of each warrant is subject to the adjustments described below under the heading **Adjustments to the Warrants**.

Exercise of the Warrants

The initial exercise price applicable to each warrant is \$17.77 per share of common stock for which the warrant may be exercised. All or any portion of the warrants may be exercised in whole or in part at any time or from time to time on or before 5:00 p.m., New York City time, on November 14, 2018 by surrender to the warrant agent of the warrant and a completed notice of exercise attached as an annex to the warrant and the payment of the exercise price per share for the shares of common stock for which the warrants are being exercised. The exercise price will be paid by the withholding by us of a number of shares of common stock issuable upon exercise of the warrants equal to the value of the aggregate exercise price of the warrants so exercised, determined by reference to the market price of our common stock on the trading day on which the warrants are exercised and notice is delivered to the warrant agent. The exercise price cannot be paid in cash. The exercise price applicable to the warrants is subject to adjustment described below under the heading **Adjustments to the Warrants**. So long as the warrants are in global form, any exercise notice will be delivered to the warrant agent through and in accordance with the procedures of the depository for the warrants.

Upon exercise of warrants, the remaining shares of common stock issuable upon exercise will be issued by our transfer agent for the account of the exercising warrant holder. Shares issued upon exercise of warrants will be issued in the name or names designated by the exercising warrant holder and will be delivered by the transfer agent to the exercising warrant holder (or its nominee or nominees) either via book-entry transfer crediting the account of such warrant holder (or the relevant participant of The Depository Trust Company (DTC) for the benefit of such warrant holder) through DTC's DWAC system, or otherwise in certificated form by physical delivery to the address specified by such warrant holder in the exercise notice. We will not issue fractional shares upon any exercise of the warrants. Instead, the exercising warrant holder will be entitled to a cash payment equal to the pro-rated per share market price of our common stock on the date of exercise of the warrants for any fractional share that would have otherwise been issuable upon exercise of the warrants. We will at all times reserve the aggregate number of shares of our common stock for which the warrants may be exercised.

Issuance of any warrant shares deliverable upon the exercise of warrants will be made without charge to the warrant holder for any issue or transfer tax or other incidental expense in respect of the issuance of those shares (other than liens or charges created by a warrant holder, income and franchise taxes incurred in connection with the exercise of the warrant or taxes in respect of any transfer occurring contemporaneously therewith).

We have applied to list the shares of common stock issuable upon the exercise of the warrants on the Exchange.

Table of Contents

Rights as a Shareholder

The warrant holders will have no rights or privileges of holders of our common stock, including any voting rights and rights to dividend payments, until (and then only to the extent) the warrants have been exercised.

Adjustments to the Warrants

Pursuant to the terms of the warrants, the number of shares of our common stock issuable upon exercise of each warrant (the "warrant shares") and the warrant exercise price will be adjusted upon occurrence of certain events as follows.

In the case of stock splits, subdivisions, reclassifications or combinations of common stock. If we declare and pay a dividend or make a distribution on our common stock in shares of common stock, subdivide or reclassify the outstanding shares of our common stock into a greater number of shares, or combine or reclassify the outstanding shares of our common stock into a smaller number of shares, the number of warrant shares at the time of the record date for such dividend or distribution or the effective date of such subdivision, combination or reclassification will be proportionately adjusted so that the holder of a warrant after such date will be entitled to purchase the number of shares of our common stock that it would have owned or been entitled to receive in respect of the number of warrant shares had such warrant been exercised immediately prior to such date. The exercise price in effect immediately prior to the record date for such dividend or distribution or the effective date of such subdivision, combination or reclassification will be adjusted by multiplying such exercise price by the quotient of (x) the number of warrant shares immediately prior to such adjustment divided by (y) the new number of warrant shares as determined in accordance with the immediately preceding sentence.

In the case of cash dividends or other distributions. If we fix a record date for making a distribution to all holders of our common stock of securities, evidences of indebtedness, assets, cash, rights or warrants (excluding ordinary cash dividends (as defined below), dividends of our common stock and other dividends or distributions referred to in the preceding bullet point), the exercise price in effect prior to such record date will be reduced immediately thereafter to the price determined by multiplying the exercise price in effect immediately prior to the reduction by the quotient of (x) the market price (as defined below) of our common stock on the last trading day preceding the first date on which our common stock trades regular way on the principal national securities exchange on which our common stock is listed or admitted to trading without the right to receive such distribution, minus the amount of cash and/or the fair market value of the securities, evidences of indebtedness, assets, rights or warrants to be so distributed in respect of one share of our common stock (such amount and/or fair market value, the "per share fair market value") divided by (y) such market price on the date specified in clause (x). Any such adjustment will be made successively whenever such a record date is fixed. The number of warrant shares will be increased to the number obtained by multiplying the number of warrant shares deliverable upon exercise of a warrant immediately prior to such adjustment by the quotient of (a) the exercise price in effect immediately prior to the distribution giving rise to this adjustment divided by (b) the new exercise price as determined in accordance with the immediately preceding sentence. In the case of adjustment for a cash dividend that is, or is coincident with, a regular quarterly cash dividend, the per share fair market value would be reduced only by the per share amount of the portion of the cash dividend that would constitute an ordinary cash dividend. If, after the declaration of any such record date, the related distribution is not made, the exercise price and the number of warrant shares then in

Table of Contents

effect will be readjusted, effective as of the date when our board of directors determines not to make such distribution, to the exercise price and the number of warrant shares that would then be in effect if such record date had not been fixed.

In the case of a pro rata repurchase of common stock. A pro rata repurchase is defined as any purchase of shares of our common stock by us or an affiliate of ours pursuant to any tender offer or exchange offer subject to Section 13(e) or 14(e) of the Exchange Act, or Regulation 14E thereunder, or any other offer available to substantially all holders of our common stock. If we effect a pro rata repurchase of our common stock, then the exercise price will be reduced to the price determined by multiplying the exercise price in effect immediately prior to the effective date (as defined below) of such pro rata repurchase by a fraction of which (A) the numerator will be (i) the product of (x) the number of shares of our common stock outstanding immediately before such pro rata repurchase and (y) the market price of a share of our common stock on the trading day immediately preceding the first public announcement by us or any of our affiliates of the intent to effect such pro rata repurchase, minus (ii) the aggregate purchase price of the pro rata repurchase, and (B) the denominator will be the product of (i) the number of shares of our common stock outstanding immediately prior to such pro rata repurchase minus the number of shares of our common stock so repurchased and (ii) the market price per share of our common stock on the trading day immediately preceding the first public announcement by us or any of our affiliates of the intent to effect such pro rata repurchase. The number of warrant shares will be increased to the number obtained by multiplying the number of warrant shares immediately prior to such adjustment by the quotient of (x) the exercise price in effect immediately prior to the pro rata repurchase giving rise to this adjustment divided by (y) the new exercise price as determined in accordance with the immediately preceding sentence. For the avoidance of doubt, no increase to the exercise price or decrease in the number of warrant shares deliverable upon exercise of a warrant will be made pursuant to this adjustment provision. The effective date of a pro rata repurchase means (a) the date of acceptance of shares for purchase or exchange by us under any tender offer or exchange offer which is a pro rata repurchase or (b) the date of purchase of any pro rata repurchase that is not a tender offer or exchange offer.

In the case of a merger, consolidation, statutory share exchange or similar transaction that requires the approval of our shareholders (any such transaction, a business combination). In the event of any business combination or reclassification of our common stock (other than a reclassification referenced in the first bullet point above), a warrant holder's right to receive shares of our common stock upon exercise of a warrant will be converted into the right to exercise that warrant to acquire the number of shares of stock or other securities or property (including cash) which our common stock issuable (at the time of such business combination or reclassification) upon exercise of such warrant immediately prior to such business combination or reclassification would have been entitled to receive upon consummation of such business combination or reclassification. In determining the kind and amount of stock, securities or the property receivable upon exercise of a warrant following the consummation of such business combination, if the holders of our common stock have the right to elect the kind or amount of consideration receivable upon consummation of such business combination, then the consideration that a warrant holder will be entitled to receive upon exercise will be deemed to be the types and amounts of consideration received by the majority of all holders of the shares of our common stock that affirmatively make an election (or of all such holders if none make an election). For purposes of determining any amount of warrant shares to be withheld by us as payment of the exercise price from stock, securities or the property that would otherwise be delivered to a warrant holder upon

Table of Contents

exercise of warrants following any business combination, the amount of such stock, securities or property to be withheld will have a market price equal to the aggregate exercise price as to which such warrants are so exercised, based on the fair market value of such stock, securities or property on the trading day on which such warrants are exercised and notice is delivered to the warrant agent. If any such property is not a security, the market price of such property will be deemed to be its fair market value as determined in good faith by our board of directors in reliance on an opinion of a nationally recognized independent investment banking corporation retained by us for this purpose. If making such determination requires the conversion of any currency other than U.S. dollars into U.S. dollars, such conversion will be done in accordance with customary procedures based on the relevant noon buying rate published by the Federal Reserve Bank of New York on such exercise date.

Neither the exercise price nor the number of shares issuable upon exercise of a warrant will be adjusted in the event of a change in the par value of our common stock or a change in our jurisdiction of incorporation. If an adjustment in the exercise price made in accordance with the adjustment provisions above would reduce the exercise price to an amount below the par value of our common stock, then that adjustment will reduce the exercise price to that par value.

The warrant agent will notify the warrant holders of any adjustments. If the warrant agent fails to give such notice, the exercise price and the number of shares issuable upon exercise of the warrants will nevertheless be adjusted.

If more than one adjustment provision applies to a single event, the adjustment provision that produces the largest adjustment with respect to such event will be applied, and no single event will cause an adjustment under more than one adjustment provision so as to result in duplication. All such adjustments will be made to the nearest one-tenth (1/10th) of a cent or to the nearest one-hundredth (1/100th) of a share, as the case may be. No adjustment in the exercise price or the number of shares issuable upon exercise of a warrant will be made if the amount of such adjustment would be less than \$0.01 or one-tenth (1/10th) of a share of our common stock, but any such amount will be carried forward and an adjustment with respect thereto will be made at the time of and together with any subsequent adjustment which, together with such amount and any other amount or amounts so carried forward, will aggregate \$0.01 or 1/10th of a share of our common stock, or more, or on exercise of a warrant if that occurs earlier.

We declared a 5% common stock dividend on April 14, 2010 and will pay such dividend on May 21, 2010. The exercise price and the number of warrant shares offered by this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus have been adjusted to reflect this dividend and no further adjustment will be made on the dividend payment date.

For purposes of these adjustment provisions:

ordinary cash dividends means a regular quarterly cash dividend on shares of our common stock out of surplus or net profits legally available therefor (determined in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles in effect from time to time). Ordinary cash dividends will not include any cash dividends paid subsequent to November 14, 2008 to the extent the aggregate per share dividends paid on our outstanding common stock in any quarter exceed \$0.1814 (such amount was adjusted for stock dividends issued subsequent to November 14, 2008, including the 5% common stock dividend declared on April 14, 2010 and payable on May 21, 2010). This amount may be adjusted for any stock split, stock dividend, reverse stock split, reclassification or similar transaction occurring following the offering of the warrants.

Table of Contents

market price means, with respect to a particular security, on any given day, the last reported sale price regular way or, in case no such reported sale takes place on such day, the average of the last closing bid and ask prices regular way, in either case on the principal national securities exchange on which the applicable securities are listed or admitted to trading, or if not listed or admitted to trading on any national securities exchange, the average of the closing bid and ask prices as furnished by two FINRA members selected from time to time by us for that purpose, and will be determined without reference to after hours or extended hours trading. If such security is not listed and traded in a manner that the quotations referred to above are available for the period required under the warrants, the market price will be deemed to be the fair market value per share of such security as determined in good faith by our board of directors in reliance on an opinion of a nationally recognized independent investment banking corporation retained by us for this purpose. If any such security is listed or traded on a non-U.S. market, such fair market value will be determined by reference to the closing price of such security as of the end of the most recently ended business day in such market prior to the date of determination. If making any such determination requires the conversion of any currency other than U.S. dollars into U.S. dollars, such conversion will be done in accordance with customary procedures based on the relevant noon buying rate published by the Federal Reserve Bank of New York on such exercise date. For the purposes of determining the market price of our common stock on the trading day preceding, on or following the occurrence of an event, (i) that trading day will be deemed to commence immediately after the regular scheduled closing time of trading on the Exchange or, if trading is closed at an earlier time, such earlier time and (ii) that trading day will end at the next regular scheduled closing time, or if trading is closed at an earlier time, such earlier time (for the avoidance of doubt, and as an example, if the market price is to be determined as of the last trading day preceding a specified event and the closing time of trading on a particular day is 4:00 p.m. and the specified event occurs at 5:00 p.m. on that day, the market price would be determined by reference to such 4:00 p.m. closing price).

Amendment

Any warrants may be amended and the observance of any material term of such warrants may be waived with the consent of a majority of the holders of such warrants; provided that the consent of each affected warrant holder is necessary for any amendment (i) to increase the exercise price or to decrease the number of shares issuable upon exercise of the warrants (other than pursuant to the terms of the adjustment provisions in the warrant certificate described above), (ii) that would shorten the time period during which the warrants are exercisable or (iii) that would change in a manner adverse to such warrant holder the terms of the adjustment provisions in the warrant certificate described above.

Description of the Warrant Agreement

Under the warrant agreement, American Stock Transfer & Trust Company, LLC is appointed as the warrant agent to act on our behalf in connection with the transfer, exchange, redemption, exercise and cancellation of the warrants and required to maintain a registry recording the names and addresses of all registered holders of warrants. The warrant agent will receive a fee in exchange for performing these duties under the warrant agreement and will be indemnified by us for liabilities not involving gross negligence, willful misconduct or bad faith and arising out of its service as warrant agent.

The warrants will initially be issued in the form of one or more global warrants as specified in the warrant agreement. Each global warrant will be deposited upon issuance with, or on behalf of, DTC, and will be registered in the name of DTC or a nominee of DTC, in each case for credit to

Table of Contents

the account of a direct or indirect participant in DTC. For a description of book-entry procedures and settlement mechanics generally applicable to securities held through DTC participants, see the section entitled "Book-Entry Issuance" below. Owners of a beneficial interest in any global warrant are entitled to receive a warrant in definitive form not held by a depository or the warrant agent only if (i) DTC is unwilling or unable to continue as depository for the global warrant or ceases to be a clearing agency under the Exchange Act (and, in each case, no successor depository is appointed within 90 days), (ii) we, in our sole discretion, notify the warrant agent of our election to issue warrants in definitive form under the warrant agreement or (iii) we have been adjudged bankrupt, consented to the filing of bankruptcy proceedings, or filed a petition, answer or consent seeking to reorganize under federal or state law.

Governing Law

The warrants and the warrant agreement will be governed by New York law.

Book-Entry Issuance

The warrants may be issued as global warrants and deposited with a depository. The following is a summary of the depository arrangements applicable to warrants issued in permanent global form and for which DTC will act as depository (the "global warrants"). The information in this section concerning DTC and DTC's book-entry system has been obtained from sources that we believe to be reliable, but we take no responsibility for the accuracy thereof.

Each global warrant will be deposited with, or on behalf of, DTC, as depository, or its nominee and registered in the name of a nominee of DTC. Except under the limited circumstances described below, global warrants will not be exchangeable for certificated warrants.

Only institutions that have accounts with DTC or its nominee ("DTC participants") or persons that may hold interests through DTC participants may own beneficial interests in a global warrant. DTC will maintain records evidencing ownership of beneficial interests by DTC participants in the global warrants and transfers of those ownership interests. DTC participants will maintain records evidencing ownership of beneficial interests in the global warrants by persons that hold through those DTC participants and transfers of those ownership interests within those DTC participants. DTC has no knowledge of the actual beneficial owners of the warrants. You will not receive written confirmation from DTC of your purchase, but we do expect that you will receive written confirmations providing details of the transaction, as well as periodic statements of your holdings from the DTC participant through which you entered the transaction. The laws of some jurisdictions require that certain purchasers of securities take physical delivery of those securities in certificated form. Those laws may impair your ability to transfer beneficial interests in a global warrant.

DTC has advised us that upon the issuance of a global warrant and the deposit of that global warrant with DTC, DTC will immediately credit, on its book-entry registration and transfer system, the number of warrants represented by that global warrant to the accounts of DTC participants.

We will make any payments on warrants represented by a global warrant to DTC or its nominee, as the case may be, as the registered owner and holder of the global warrant representing those securities. DTC has advised us that upon receipt of any payment on a global warrant, DTC will immediately credit accounts of DTC participants with payments in amounts

Table of Contents

proportionate to their respective beneficial interests in that warrant, as shown in the records of DTC. Standing instructions and customary practices will govern payments by DTC participants to owners of beneficial interests in a global warrant held through those DTC participants, as is now the case with securities held for the accounts of customers in bearer form or registered in street name. Those payments will be the sole responsibility of those DTC participants, subject to any statutory or regulatory requirements in effect from time to time.

Neither we nor our agents will have any responsibility or liability for any aspect of the records of DTC, any nominee or any DTC participant relating to, or payments made on account of, beneficial interests in a global warrant or for maintaining, supervising or reviewing any of the records of DTC, any nominee or any DTC participant relating to those beneficial interests.

A global warrant is exchangeable for certificated warrants registered in the name of a person other than DTC or its nominee only if:

DTC notifies us that it is unwilling or unable to continue as depository for that global warrant or DTC ceases to be a clearing agency registered under the Exchange Act;

we determine in our discretion that the global warrant will be exchangeable for certificated warrants in registered form; or

we are adjudged bankrupt or insolvent, make an assignment for the benefit of our creditors or upon certain similar events. Any global warrant that is exchangeable as described in the preceding sentence will be exchangeable in whole for certificated warrants in registered form. The registrar will register the certificated warrants in the name or names instructed by DTC. We expect that those instructions may be based upon directions received by DTC from DTC participants with respect to ownership of beneficial interests in the global warrant.

Except as provided above, as an owner of a beneficial interest in a global warrant, you will not be entitled to receive physical delivery of warrants in certificated form and will not be considered a holder of warrants for any purpose. No global warrant will be exchangeable except for another global warrant of like denomination and tenor to be registered in the name of DTC or its nominee. Accordingly, you must rely on the procedures of DTC and the DTC participant through which you own your interest to exercise any rights of a holder under the global warrant.

We understand that, under existing industry practices, in the event that we request any action of holders, or an owner of a beneficial interest in a global warrant desires to take any action that a holder is entitled to take under the terms of the warrants, DTC would authorize the DTC participants holding the relevant beneficial interests to take that action, and those DTC participants would authorize beneficial owners owning through those DTC participants to take that action or would otherwise act upon the instructions of beneficial owners owning through them.

DTC has advised us that DTC is a limited-purpose trust company organized under the New York Banking Law, a banking organization within the meaning of the New York Banking Law, a member of the Federal Reserve System, a clearing corporation within the meaning of the New York Uniform Commercial Code and a clearing agency registered under the Exchange Act.

Table of Contents

Global Clearance and Settlement Procedures

Initial settlement for global securities will be made in immediately available funds. DTC participants will conduct secondary market trading with other DTC participants in the ordinary way in accordance with DTC rules. Thereafter, secondary market trades will settle in immediately available funds using DTC's same day funds settlement system.

Although DTC has agreed to the procedures described above in order to facilitate transfers of interests in global warrants among DTC participants, they are under no obligation to perform those procedures and those procedures may be discontinued at any time.

S-33

Table of Contents

DESCRIPTION OF COMMON STOCK

Common Stock

The material terms and provisions of our common stock are described under the caption "Description of Valley Capital Stock - Common Stock" starting on page 13 of the accompanying prospectus.

S-34

Table of Contents**SELLING SECURITY HOLDER**

On November 14, 2008, we issued to Treasury a warrant to purchase 2,297,090 shares of our common stock at an exercise price of \$19.59 per share, together with 300,000 shares of our preferred stock pursuant to the Securities Purchase Agreement (as defined below). Treasury acquired the warrant and shares of our preferred stock as part of the Troubled Assets Relief Program, or TARP. TARP was established pursuant to the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008 (the EESA), which was enacted into law on October 3, 2008 in response to the financial crisis. EESA requires the Secretary of the Treasury to acquire warrants in connection with certain purchases from a financial institution, subject to certain exceptions. The warrants being offered were acquired when Treasury acquired our preferred stock on November 14, 2008. On December 30, 2009, Valley redeemed 100,000 shares of the preferred stock, which represented the remainder of the preferred stock issued to Treasury (200,000 shares of preferred stock were redeemed earlier in 2009). As a result of stock dividends paid to holders of our common stock, the warrant is currently exercisable for 2,532,542 shares of our common stock at an exercise price of \$17.77 per share. This exercise price and the number of warrant shares already reflect the adjustment in connection with the 5% common stock dividend declared on April 14, 2010 and payable on May 21, 2010. No further adjustment will be made on the dividend payment date. We are registering the warrants (and the shares of common stock issuable upon exercise of the warrants) offered by this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus on behalf of Treasury as the selling security holder.

The following description of the selling security holder was provided by Treasury and derived from Treasury's website. Treasury is the executive agency of the U.S. government responsible for promoting economic prosperity and ensuring the financial security of the United States. Treasury is responsible for a wide range of activities such as advising the President on economic and financial issues, encouraging sustainable economic growth, and fostering improved governance in financial institutions. Treasury operates and maintains systems that are critical to the nation's financial infrastructure, such as the production of coin and currency, the disbursement of payments to the American public, revenue collection, and the borrowing of funds necessary to run the federal government. Treasury works with other federal agencies, foreign governments, and international financial institutions to encourage global economic growth, raise standards of living, and, to the extent possible, predict and prevent economic and financial crises. Treasury also performs a critical and far-reaching role in enhancing national security by implementing economic sanctions against foreign threats to the U.S., identifying and targeting the financial support networks of national security threats, and improving the safeguards of our financial systems. In addition, under EESA, Treasury was given certain authority and facilities to restore the liquidity and stability of the financial system.

The table below sets forth information with respect to the beneficial ownership of the warrants held as of May 14, 2010 by the selling security holder, the number of warrants being offered hereby, and information with respect to warrants to be beneficially owned by the selling security holder assuming all the warrants offered hereby are sold.

Selling Security Holder	Warrants Beneficially Owned		Warrants		Warrants Beneficially Owned	
	Prior to this Offering		Offered in this	after this Offering		
	Number	Percentage	Offering	Number	Percentage	
United States Department of the Treasury	2,532,542	100%	2,532,542	0	0%	

The warrants currently are exercisable for 2,532,542 shares of our common stock, which represent approximately 1.57% of our common stock outstanding as of May 13, 2010 (however,

Table of Contents

because the warrants must be exercised on a cashless basis, we will withhold from an exercising warrant holder a number of shares with a value equal to the aggregate exercise price as payment for the exercise of the warrants). The actual number of shares that could be issued upon exercise of the warrants will depend upon the market price of our common stock at the time of exercise and other factors, including the adjustment provisions described above under **Description of Warrants** **Adjustments to the Warrants**, and cannot be determined at this time. Other than the warrants, Treasury does not own any of our equity securities.

Our operations are regulated by various U.S. governmental authorities, including in certain respects by the selling security holder. Other than an agreement dated November 14, 2018 between us and the selling security holder under which we issued preferred stock and the warrants (the **Securities Purchase Agreement**), we have no material contractual relationships with the selling security holder. Purchasers of the warrants will have no rights under the **Securities Purchase Agreement**.

Under the **Securities Purchase Agreement**, we have agreed to indemnify the selling security holder in connection with certain liabilities in connection with this offering, including any liabilities under the **Securities Act**. As an agency of the United States, Treasury is likely immune from suit on claims by purchasers of warrants in connection with this offering. See **Risk Factors** **Risks related to the Warrants**. The selling security holder is a federal agency and your ability to bring a claim against the selling security holder under the federal securities laws may be limited above.

Governmental Immunity

The doctrine of sovereign immunity, as limited by the **Federal Tort Claims Act**, provides that claims may not be brought against the United States of America or any agency or instrumentality thereof unless specifically permitted by act of Congress. The **Federal Tort Claims Act** bars claims for fraud or misrepresentation. The courts have held, in cases involving federal agencies and instrumentalities, that the United States may assert its sovereign immunity to claims brought under the federal securities laws. Thus, any attempt to assert a claim against Treasury alleging a violation of the federal securities laws, including the **Securities Act** and the **Exchange Act**, resulting from an alleged material misstatement in or material omission from this prospectus or the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part, or any other act or omission in connection with the offering to which this prospectus relates, likely would be barred. In addition, Treasury has advised us that Treasury and its members, officers, agents, and employees are exempt from liability for any violation or alleged violation of the anti-fraud provisions of Section 10(b) of the **Exchange Act** by virtue of Section 3(c) thereof. Accordingly, any attempt to assert such a claim against the members, officers, agents or employees of Treasury for a violation of the **Securities Act** or the **Exchange Act** resulting from an alleged material misstatement in or material omission from this prospectus or the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part or resulting from any other act or omission in connection with the offering of the warrants or the shares of common stock issuable upon the exercise thereof likely would be barred.

Table of Contents

CERTAIN UNITED STATES FEDERAL INCOME TAX CONSIDERATIONS

This section describes the material United States federal income tax consequences of acquiring and owning the warrants and the common stock received pursuant to exercising the warrants. It applies to you only if you acquire the warrants in the offering and you hold your warrants and common stock as capital assets for tax purposes. This section does not apply to you if you are a member of a class of holders subject to special rules, such as:

a dealer in securities or currencies,

a trader in securities that elects to use a mark-to-market method of accounting for your securities holdings,

a bank,

a life insurance company,

a tax-exempt organization,

a person that owns warrants and/or common stock as part of a straddle or a hedging or conversion transaction for tax purposes, or

a U.S. holder (as defined below) whose functional currency for tax purposes is not the United States dollar.

This section is based on the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the "Code"), its legislative history, existing and proposed regulations under the Code, published rulings and court decisions, all as currently in effect. These laws are subject to change, possibly on a retroactive basis.

If a partnership (or other entity treated as a partnership for United States federal income tax purposes) holds the warrants and/or common stock, the United States federal income tax treatment of a partner (or member) will generally depend on the status of the partner and the tax treatment of the partnership (or other entity). A partner in a partnership (or member of such other entity) holding the warrants and/or common stock should consult its tax adviser with regard to the United States federal income tax treatment of an investment in the warrants and common stock.

Please consult your own tax adviser concerning the consequences of owning the warrants and common stock in your particular circumstances under the Code and the laws of any other taxing jurisdiction.

You are a U.S. holder if you are a beneficial owner of a warrant and/or common stock and you are:

a citizen or resident of the United States,

a domestic corporation,

an estate whose income is subject to United States federal income tax regardless of its source, or

Edgar Filing: VALLEY NATIONAL BANCORP - Form 424B5

a trust if a United States court can exercise primary supervision over the trust's administration and one or more United States persons are authorized to control all substantial decisions of the trust.

A non-U.S. holder is a beneficial owner of a warrant or common stock that is not a U.S. holder and is not a partnership or other entity treated as a partnership for United States federal income tax purposes.

S-37

Table of Contents

Ownership of Warrants

U.S. Holders

Sale of a Warrant

In general, if you are a U.S. holder of a warrant, you will recognize gain or loss upon the sale of the warrant in an amount equal to the difference between the amount realized on the sale and your adjusted tax basis in the warrant. Your initial tax basis in a warrant will be the purchase price. Gain or loss attributable to the sale of a warrant will generally be capital gain or loss. Such capital gain or loss will generally be long-term if your holding period in respect of such warrant is more than one year. Long-term capital gain of a non-corporate U.S. holder that is recognized in taxable years beginning before January 1, 2011 is generally taxed at a maximum rate of 15%; however, this rate is due to expire for long-term capital gain that is recognized in taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 2011 and, absent any legislation setting a different tax rate, the maximum tax rate for such long-term capital gain of a non-corporate U.S. holder will be 20%.

Exercise of the Warrants

Although it is not free from doubt, we expect that the exercise of the warrants on a cashless basis as described above under Description of Warrants Exercise of the Warrant, should be treated as exercising a warrant with an exercise price of zero to receive a variable number of shares. Under such characterization, if you are a U.S. holder and you exercise your warrants on a cashless basis, no gain or loss should be recognized, except that your receipt of cash in lieu of a fractional share of common stock will generally be treated as if you received the fractional share and then received such cash in redemption of such fractional share. Such redemption will generally result in capital gain or loss equal to the difference between the amount of cash received and your adjusted federal income tax basis in the common stock that is allocable to the fractional shares. Your tax basis in the common stock you receive upon exercising your warrant (including any basis allocable to a fractional share) will generally equal the aggregate adjusted tax basis in all the warrants exercised. Your tax basis in a fractional share will be determined by allocating your tax basis in the common stock between the common stock you receive upon exercise and the fractional share, in accordance with their respective fair market values. The holding period of the common stock acquired upon the exercise of the warrants should commence upon the date of exercise (or possibly on the day following the day the warrant is exercised).

However, other characterizations are possible. For instance, the exercise of the warrants could also be characterized as a recapitalization. Under such characterization, the tax consequences to a U.S. holder who exercises the warrants will generally be the same as described above, except that the holding period of common stock received upon the exercise of a warrant will include the holder's holding period of the warrants.

Alternatively, the IRS could take the position that the exercise of the warrants would result in a taxable exchange resulting in gain or loss. The amount of gain or loss recognized on such deemed exchange and its character as short term or long term will depend on the position taken by the IRS regarding the nature of that exchange. If the U.S. holder is treated as exchanging the warrants for the common stock received on exercise, the amount of gain or loss will be the difference between the fair market value of the common stock and cash in lieu of fractional shares received on exercise and the holder's basis in the warrants. In that case, the U.S. holder will have long term capital gain or loss if it has held the warrant for more than one year.

Table of Contents

Alternatively, the IRS could take the position that the U.S. holder is treated as selling a portion of the warrants or underlying common stock for cash that is used to pay the exercise price for the warrant, and the amount of gain or loss will be the difference between that exercise price and the holder's basis attributable to the warrants or common stock deemed to have been sold. If the U.S. holder is treated as selling warrants, the holder will have long term capital gain or loss if it has held the warrants for more than one year. If the U.S. holder is treated as selling common stock, the holder will have short term capital gain or loss. In either case, a U.S. holder of a warrant will also recognize gain or loss in respect of the cash received in lieu of a fractional share of common stock in an amount equal to the difference between the amount of cash received and the portion of the holder's tax basis attributable to such fractional share.

Any gain or loss will be capital gain or loss and will be taxable in the same manner as described under "Sale of a Warrant," above.

Please consult your tax advisers concerning these other possible characterizations of the cashless exercise of your warrants.

Expiration of the Warrants

Upon the expiration of the warrants, a U.S. holder will recognize a loss equal to the adjusted tax basis of the warrants. Such loss will generally be a capital loss and will be a long-term capital loss if the warrant has been held for more than one year on the date of expiration.

Adjustments Under the Warrants

Pursuant to the terms of the warrants, the exercise price at which the common stock may be purchased and/or the number of shares of common stock that may be purchased is subject to adjustment from time to time upon the occurrence of certain events. Under section 305 of the Code, a change in conversion ratio or any transaction having a similar effect on the interest of a warrant holder may be treated as a distribution with respect to any U.S. holder of warrants whose proportionate interest in our earnings and profits is increased by such change or transaction. Thus, under certain circumstances which may or may not occur, such an adjustment pursuant to the terms of the warrants may be treated as a taxable distribution to the warrant holder to the extent of our current or accumulated earnings and profits, without regard to whether the warrant holder receives any cash or other property. In particular, an adjustment that occurs as a result of a cash distribution to the holders of our common shares will be treated as such a taxable distribution. In the event of such a taxable distribution, a U.S. holder's basis in its warrants will be increased by an amount equal to the taxable distribution.

The rules with respect to adjustments are complex and U.S. holders of warrants should consult their own tax advisers in the event of an adjustment.

Non-U.S. Holders

Generally

If you are a non-U.S. holder, you will not be subject to United States federal income tax on gain recognized on the sale or other disposition or upon the exercise of your warrants unless:

the gain is effectively connected with your conduct of a trade or business in the United States, and the gain is attributable to a permanent establishment that you maintain in the United States if that is required by an applicable income tax treaty as a condition for subjecting you to United States taxation on a net income basis,

Table of Contents

you are an individual, you are present in the United States for 183 or more days in the taxable year of the sale and certain other conditions exist, or

we are or have been a United States real property holding corporation for federal income tax purposes and you held, directly or indirectly, at any time during the five-year period ending on the date of disposition or exercise, more than 5% of our common stock and you are not eligible for any treaty exemption.

If you are a corporate non-U.S. holder, effectively connected gains that you recognize may also, under certain circumstances, be subject to an additional branch profits tax at 30% or at a lower rate if you are eligible for the benefits of an income tax treaty that provides for a lower rate. We have not been, are not and do not anticipate becoming a United States real property holding corporation for United States federal income tax purposes.

Adjustments Under the Warrants

Any deemed dividends resulting from certain adjustments, or failure to make adjustments, to the conversion rate will be subject to U.S. federal withholding tax at a rate of 30% (or lower applicable income tax treaty rate). In the case of any constructive dividend, it is possible that this tax would be withheld from any amount owed to the non-U.S. holder, including, but not limited to, shares of our common stock delivered upon exercise of the warrants. However, deemed dividends that are effectively connected with the conduct of a trade or business within the United States and, where a tax treaty applies, are attributable to a United States permanent establishment, are not subject to the withholding tax, but instead are subject to United States federal income tax on a net income basis at applicable graduated individual or corporate rates. Certain certification requirements and disclosure requirements must be complied with in order for effectively connected income to be exempt from withholding.

Ownership of Common Stock

U.S. Holders

Taxation of Dividends

In general, distributions with respect to our common stock will constitute dividends to the extent made out of our current or accumulated earnings and profits, as determined under U.S. federal income tax principles. If a distribution exceeds our current and accumulated earnings and profits, the excess will be treated as a non-taxable return of capital to the extent of your tax basis in our common stock and thereafter as capital gain from the sale or exchange of such common stock. Dividends received by a corporate U.S. holder will be eligible for the dividends-received deduction if the corporate U.S. holder meets certain holding period and other applicable requirements. Dividends received by a non-corporate U.S. holder in tax years beginning before January 1, 2011 will qualify for taxation at special rates if the non-corporate U.S. holder meets certain holding period and other applicable requirements.

Taxation of Capital Gains

Upon the sale or other disposition of our common stock, you will generally recognize capital gain or loss equal to the difference between the amount realized and your adjusted tax basis in our common stock. Such capital gain or loss will generally be long-term if your holding period in respect of such common stock is more than one year. For a discussion of your holding period in respect of common stock received upon exercising the warrants, see above under **Ownership of Warrants** **U.S. Holders** **Exercise of the Warrants**. Long-term capital gain recognized by a non-corporate U.S. holder is eligible for reduced rates of taxation. The deductibility of capital losses is subject to limitations.

Table of Contents

Non-U.S. Holders

Taxation of Dividends

Except as described below, if you are a non-U.S. holder of our common stock, dividends paid to you are subject to withholding of U.S. federal income tax at a 30% rate or at a lower rate if you are eligible for the benefits of an income tax treaty that provides for a lower rate. Even if you are eligible for a lower treaty rate, we and other payors will generally be required to withhold at a 30% rate (rather than the lower treaty rate) on dividend payments to you, unless you have furnished to us or another payor:

a valid Internal Revenue Service Form W-8BEN or an acceptable substitute form upon which you certify, under penalties of perjury, your status as (or, in the case of a non-U.S. holder that is an estate or trust, such forms certifying the status of each beneficiary of the estate or trust as) a non-U.S. person and your entitlement to the lower treaty rate with respect to such payments, or

in the case of payments made outside the United States to an offshore account (generally, an account maintained by you at an office or branch of a bank or other financial institution at any location outside the United States), other documentary evidence establishing your entitlement to the lower treaty rate in accordance with U.S. Treasury regulations.

If you are eligible for a reduced rate of U.S. withholding tax under a tax treaty, you may obtain a refund of any amounts withheld in excess of that rate by filing a refund claim with the IRS.

If dividends paid to you are effectively connected with your conduct of a trade or business within the United States, and, if required by a tax treaty, the dividends are attributable to a permanent establishment that you maintain in the United States, we and other payors generally are not required to withhold tax from the dividends, provided that you have furnished to us or another payor a valid IRS Form W-8ECI or an acceptable substitute form upon which you represent, under penalties of perjury, that:

you are a non-U.S. person, and

the dividends are effectively connected with your conduct of a trade or business within the U.S. and are includible in your gross income.

Effectively connected dividends are taxed at rates applicable to U.S. citizens, resident aliens and domestic U.S. corporations.

If you are a corporate non-U.S. holder, effectively connected dividends that you receive may, under certain circumstances, be subject to an additional branch profits tax at a 30% rate or at a lower rate if you are eligible for the benefits of an income tax treaty that provides for a lower rate.

Taxation of Capital Gains

If you are a non-U.S. holder, you will not be subject to United States federal income tax on gain recognized on the sale or other disposition of your common Stock or warrants unless:

the gain is effectively connected with your conduct of a trade or business in the United States, and the gain is attributable to a permanent establishment that you maintain in the United States if that is required by an applicable income tax treaty as a condition for subjecting you to United States taxation on a net income basis, or

Table of Contents

you are an individual, you are present in the United States for 183 or more days in the taxable year of the sale and certain other conditions exist, or

we are or have been a U.S. real property holding corporation for U.S. federal income tax purposes and you held, directly or indirectly, at any time during the five-year period ending on the date of disposition, more than 5% of our Common Stock and you are not eligible for any treaty exemption.

If you are a corporate non-U.S. holder, effectively connected gains that you recognize may also, under certain circumstances, be subject to an additional branch profits tax at a 30% rate or at a lower rate if you are eligible for the benefits of an income tax treaty that provides for a lower rate. We have not been, are not and do not anticipate becoming a U.S. real property holding corporation for U.S. federal income tax purposes.

Recent Legislation

Recent legislation generally imposes a withholding tax of 30% on payments to certain foreign entities, after December 31, 2012, of dividends on and the gross proceeds of dispositions of U.S. property that can produce dividends (possibly including instruments such as warrants) unless various U.S. information reporting and due diligence requirements have been satisfied. Non-U.S. holders should consult their tax advisers regarding the possible implications of this recent legislation on their investment in the warrants and our common stock.

Information Reporting and Backup Withholding

If you are a U.S. holder of our common stock or warrants, you will be subject to information reporting with respect to any dividend payments by us to you and proceeds of the sale or other disposition by you of our common stock or warrants, unless you are an exempt recipient and appropriately establish that exemption. In addition, such payments will be subject to U.S. federal backup withholding unless you supply a taxpayer identification number, certified under penalties of perjury, as well as certain other information or otherwise establish an exemption from backup withholding. Any amounts withheld under the backup withholding rules will be allowed as a credit against your U.S. federal income tax liability, *provided* the required information is timely furnished to the IRS.

If you are a non-U.S. holder, you are generally exempt from backup withholding and information reporting requirements (other than certain information reporting required on withholding tax on form 1042-S) with respect to:

dividend payments, and

the payment of the proceeds from the sale of common stock or warrants effected at a United States office of a broker, as long as the income associated with such payments is otherwise exempt from United States federal income tax, and:

the payor or broker does not have actual knowledge or reason to know that you are a United States person and you have furnished to the payor or broker:

a valid Internal Revenue Service Form W-8BEN or an acceptable substitute form upon which you certify, under penalties of perjury, that you are (or, in the case of a non-U.S. holder that is an estate or trust, such forms certifying that each beneficiary of the estate or trust is) a non-United States person, or

other documentation upon which it may rely to treat the payments as made to a non-United States person in accordance with U.S. Treasury regulations, or

Table of Contents

you otherwise establish an exemption (such as your corporate status).

Payment of the proceeds from the sale of common stock or warrants effected at a foreign office of a broker generally will not be subject to information reporting or backup withholding. However, a sale of common stock or warrants will be subject to information reporting (but not backup withholding) if it is effected at a foreign office of a broker that is:

a United States person,

a controlled foreign corporation for United States tax purposes,

a foreign person 50% or more of whose gross income is effectively connected with the conduct of a United States trade or business for a specified three-year period, or

a foreign partnership with certain U.S. connections, unless the broker does not have actual knowledge or reason to know that you are a United States person and the documentation requirements described above are met or you otherwise establish an exemption. Backup withholding will apply if the sale is subject to information reporting and the broker has actual knowledge that you are a United States person.

S-43

Table of Contents

CERTAIN ERISA CONSIDERATIONS

The following is a summary of certain considerations associated with the acquisition, holding, disposition and exercise of the warrants by employee benefit plans that are subject to Title I of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, as amended (ERISA); any plans, accounts, annuities and other arrangements that are subject to Section 4975 of the Code; and any entities whose underlying assets are considered to include plan assets of such plans, accounts, annuities and arrangements (each, a Plan).

General Fiduciary Matters

Each fiduciary of a Plan should consider the fiduciary standards of ERISA (in the case of a Plan subject to ERISA) in the context of the Plan's particular circumstances before authorizing the acquisition, holding, disposition and exercise of the warrants. Among other factors, the fiduciary should consider whether the action is consistent with the documents and instruments governing the Plan and whether the action would satisfy the prudence, diversification, delegation of control and prohibited transaction provisions of ERISA (to the extent applicable), and the prohibited transaction provisions of the Code.

Any insurance company proposing to invest assets of its general account in warrants should consult with its counsel concerning the potential application of ERISA to such investment.

Prohibited Transaction Issues

Section 406 of ERISA and Section 4975 of the Code prohibit Plans from engaging in specified transactions involving plan assets with persons or entities who are parties in interest, within the meaning of ERISA, or disqualified persons, within the meaning of Section 4975 of the Code, unless an exemption from the statutory rules is available with respect to such transaction. For example, we may be considered a party in interest or a disqualified person with respect to a Plan to the extent we or our affiliates are engaged in businesses which provide services to such Plan.

A party in interest or disqualified person who engages in a non-exempt prohibited transaction with respect to a Plan may be subject to excise taxes and other penalties and liabilities under ERISA and the Code. In addition, the fiduciary of the Plan that engages in such a non-exempt prohibited transaction may be subject to penalties and liabilities under ERISA. Employee benefit plans that are governmental plans (as defined in Section 3(32) of ERISA), certain non-electing church plans (as defined in Section 3(33) of ERISA) and foreign plans (as described in Section 4(b)(4) of ERISA) are not subject to the requirements of ERISA or Section 4975 of the Code. It is possible, however, that a governmental, church or foreign plan may be subject to other federal, state or local laws that contain fiduciary and prohibited transaction provisions similar to those under Title I of ERISA and Section 4975 of the Code (Similar Laws).

There are a number of statutory prohibited transaction exemptions. For example, Section 408(b)(17) of ERISA and Section 4975(d)(20) of the Code provide an exemption for certain transactions, such as sales or exchanges of property with a party in interest, provided the following conditions are satisfied: (a) the transaction is with a party in interest other than a fiduciary (or an affiliate) who has, or exercises, any discretionary authority or control with respect to the investment of plan assets involved in the transaction or renders investment advice (within the meaning of Section 3(21)(A)(ii) of ERISA or 4975(e)(3)(B) of the Code) with

Table of Contents

respect to such plan assets, solely by reason of providing services to the Plan or solely by reason of a relationship to certain service providers described in Section 3(14)(F), (G), (H) or (I) of ERISA or Section 4975(e)(2)(F), (G), (H), or (I) of the Code, as applicable, or both, and (b) the Plan receives no less and/or pays no more than adequate consideration, as the case may be. In addition, the Department of Labor has issued several prohibited transaction class exemptions, or PTCEs, that may, dependent upon a Plan's ability to meet those requirements contained in the applicable PTCE, provide exemptive relief for direct or indirect prohibited transactions resulting from the purchase, holding, disposition and exercise of warrants. These class exemptions include PTCE 84-14 for certain transactions determined by independent qualified professional asset managers, PTCE 90-1 for certain transactions involving insurance company pooled separate accounts, PTCE 91-38 for certain transactions involving bank collective investment funds, PTCE 95-60 for certain transactions involving life insurance company general accounts, and PTCE 96-23 for certain transactions determined by in-house asset managers.

Accordingly, any purchaser or holder of warrants will be deemed to have represented and warranted by its purchase and holding thereof that either (A) it is not a Plan, or a governmental, church or foreign plan subject to any Similar Law, and it is not purchasing warrants on behalf of or with plan assets of any such Plan or governmental, church or foreign plan or (B) its purchase, holding and, to the extent relevant, disposition or exercise of a warrant either (i) is not a prohibited transaction pursuant to the exemptive relief provided under PTCE 84-14, 90-1, 91-38, 95-60 or 96-23 (or some other applicable statutory, class or individual exemption) or (ii) will not result in a non-exempt prohibited transaction under Section 406 of ERISA or Section 4975 of the Code (or, in the case of a governmental, church or foreign plan, a violation of any Similar Law).

Due to the complexity of these rules and the taxes, penalties, and liabilities that may be imposed upon persons involved in non-exempt prohibited transactions, it is particularly important that fiduciaries or other persons considering purchasing warrants on behalf of, or with plan assets of, any Plan or governmental, church or foreign plan consult with their counsel regarding the potential consequences of the investment and the availability of exemptive relief. Purchasers of warrants have exclusive responsibility for ensuring that their purchase, holding and exercise of warrants do not violate the fiduciary or prohibited transaction rules of ERISA or the Code or any provision of Similar Laws.

Table of Contents**UNDERWRITING**

Subject to the terms and conditions of the underwriting agreement, the underwriter named below has agreed to purchase from the selling security holder the following number of warrants at a public offering price less the underwriting discounts and commissions set forth on the cover page of this prospectus supplement:

Underwriter	Number of Warrants
Deutsche Bank Securities Inc.	2,532,542
Total	2,532,542

The underwriting agreement provides that the obligation of the underwriter to purchase the warrants offered hereby is subject to certain conditions precedent and that the underwriter will purchase all of the warrants the selling security holder determines to sell, if any are purchased. The number of warrants that the selling security holder may determine to sell will depend, in part, upon the success of the auction process. See Auction Process The Auction Process Pricing and Allocation.

The underwriter plans to offer the warrants for sale pursuant to the auction process described above under Auction Process. Warrants sold by the underwriter to the public will be sold at the clearing price determined through that auction process. During the auction period, bids may be placed at any price (in increments of \$0.10) at or above the minimum bid price of \$1.70 per warrant. The offering of the warrants by the underwriter is subject to receipt and acceptance and subject to the underwriter's right to reject any order in whole or in part. As described under Auction Process, the selling security holder may decide not to sell any warrants in the auction process, regardless of the clearing price set in the auction process.

The underwriting discounts and commissions are 1.4% of the public offering price per warrant subject to minimum aggregate underwriting discounts and commissions of \$150,000. The selling security holder has agreed to pay the underwriter the following discounts and commissions:

Per Warrant	\$ 0.05922
Total	\$ 149,977.13

We estimate that our share of the total expenses of the offering, excluding underwriting discounts and commissions, will be approximately \$155,000.

We have agreed to indemnify the underwriter against some specified types of liabilities, including liabilities under the Securities Act, and to contribute to payments the underwriter may be required to make in respect of any of these liabilities.

Table of Contents

Each of our executive officers and directors has agreed, subject to certain specified exceptions, not to offer, sell, contract to sell or otherwise dispose of, or enter into any transaction that is designed to, or could be expected to, result in the disposition of any warrants or shares of our common stock or other securities convertible into or exchangeable or exercisable for shares of our common stock or derivatives of our warrants or our common stock owned by these persons prior to this offering or common stock issuable upon exercise of options or warrants held by these persons during the period from the date of this prospectus supplement continuing through the date 45 days after the date of this prospectus supplement, except with the prior written consent of Deutsche Bank Securities Inc. Any such consent may be given at any time without public notice. We have entered into a similar agreement with the underwriter with respect to the period from the date of this prospectus supplement continuing through the date 45 days after the date of this prospectus supplement, which can only be waived with the prior written consent of Deutsche Bank Securities Inc., except that without such consent we may among other things (i) issue common stock or securities convertible into or exchange for common stock in connection the exercise of options, warrants and securities outstanding on the date hereof, (ii) sell or distribute equity securities and/or options or other rights in respect thereof solely registered on Form S-4 or S-8 (or any successor form), (iii) grant and issue shares of equity securities and/or options or other rights in respect thereof pursuant to stock-based compensation or incentive plans; (iv) issue common stock in connection with dividend reinvestment plans or employee stock purchase plans; and (v) issue common stock in connection with any court order or decree. The Securities Purchase Agreement with Treasury contains similar but more restrictive lock-up provisions. There are no agreements between either Deutsche Bank Securities Inc. or the selling security holder and us or any of our shareholders or affiliates releasing us or them from these lock-up agreements prior to the expiration of the 45-day period.

The warrants have no established trading market. We have applied to list the warrants on the Exchange. The underwriter may make a market in the warrants after completion of the offering, but will not be obligated to do so and may discontinue any market-making activities at any time without notice. No assurance can be given as to the liquidity of the trading market for the warrants or that an active public market for the warrants will develop.

In connection with the offering and any subsequent market-making activities, the underwriter may purchase and sell warrants or common stock in the open market. These transactions may include stabilizing transactions, which consist of various bids for or purchases of shares of common stock made by the underwriter in the open market prior to the completion of the offering, or other purchases. In addition, the underwriter may engage in short sales and purchases to cover positions created by short sales in connection with any market-making activities. Short sales would involve the sale by the underwriter of a greater number of securities than they then hold, and must be closed out by purchasing those securities in the open market. Stabilizing transactions and purchases to cover a short position, as well as other purchases by the underwriter for its own account, may have the effect of preventing or retarding a decline in the market price of the warrants, and may stabilize, maintain or otherwise affect the market price of the warrants or the common stock. As a result, the price of the warrants or the common stock may be higher than the price that otherwise might exist in the open market. If these activities are commenced, they may be discontinued at any time. These transactions may be effected on the Exchange, in the over-the-counter market or otherwise.

The underwriter and its respective affiliates may in the future provide various investment banking and financial advisory services to the selling security holder for which they will receive customary fees and expenses. Deutsche Bank Securities Inc. has agreed to provide various services to Treasury in connection with sales of the warrants of certain financial institutions (as

Table of Contents

defined in the EESA) in connection with offerings of those warrants to be conducted as public auctions, pursuant to which Deutsche Bank Securities Inc. is entitled to an administrative fee of \$250,000 and a minimum commitment fee of up to \$10 million for services performed during the two-year commitment period (subject to reduction by the amount of any underwriting compensation received by Deutsche Bank Securities Inc. in connection with completed auctions). The commitment fee (as so reduced) generally is payable only at the end of that two-year period.

Notice to Prospective Investors in the European Economic Area

In relation to each member state of the European Economic Area that has implemented the Prospectus Directive (each, a relevant member state), with effect from and including the date on which the Prospectus Directive is implemented in that relevant member state (the relevant implementation date), an offer of warrants and shares of common stock described in this prospectus supplement may not be made to the public in that relevant member state prior to the publication of a prospectus in relation to the warrants and shares of common stock that has been approved by the competent authority in that relevant member state or, where appropriate, approved in another relevant member state and notified to the competent authority in that relevant member state, all in accordance with the Prospectus Directive, except that, with effect from and including the relevant implementation date, an offer of warrants may be made to the public in that relevant member state at any time:

to any legal entity that is authorized or regulated to operate in the financial markets or, if not so authorized or regulated, whose corporate purpose is solely to invest in securities;

to any legal entity that has two or more of (1) an average of at least 250 employees during the last financial year; (2) a total balance sheet of more than 43,000,000 and (3) an annual net turnover of more than 50,000,000, as shown in its last annual or consolidated accounts;

to fewer than 100 natural or legal persons (other than qualified investors as defined in the Prospectus Directive) subject to obtaining the prior consent of the underwriter for any such offer; or

in any other circumstances that do not require the publication of a prospectus pursuant to Article 3 of the Prospectus Directive. For purposes of this provision, the expression an offer of the warrants to the public in any relevant member state means the communication in any form and by any means of sufficient information on the terms of the offer and the warrants to be offered so as to enable an investor to decide to purchase or subscribe the warrants, as the expression may be varied in that member state by any measure implementing the Prospectus Directive in that member state, and the expression Prospectus Directive means Directive 2003/71/EC and includes any relevant implementing measure in each relevant member state.

Notice to Prospective Investors in the United Kingdom

This prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus are only being distributed to, and is only directed at, persons in the United Kingdom that are qualified investors within the meaning of Article 2(1)(e) of the Prospectus Directive that are also (i) investment professionals falling within Article 19(5) of the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 (Financial Promotion) Order 2005 (the Order) or (ii) high net worth entities, and other persons to whom it may lawfully be communicated, falling within Article 49(2)(a) to (d) of the Order (each such person being referred to as a relevant person). This prospectus supplement and its contents are

Table of Contents

confidential and should not be distributed, published or reproduced (in whole or in part) or disclosed by recipients to any other persons in the United Kingdom. Any person in the United Kingdom that is not a relevant person should not act or rely on this document or any of its contents.

Notice to Prospective Investors in Hong Kong

The warrants may not be offered or sold in Hong Kong by means of any document other than (i) in circumstances which do not constitute an offer to the public within the meaning of the Companies Ordinance (Cap. 32, Laws of Hong Kong), or (ii) to professional investors within the meaning of the Securities and Futures Ordinance (Cap. 571, Laws of Hong Kong) and any rules made thereunder, or (iii) in other circumstances which do not result in the document being a prospectus within the meaning of the Companies Ordinance (Cap. 32, Laws of Hong Kong) and no advertisement, invitation or document relating to the warrants may be issued or may be in the possession of any person for the purpose of issue (in each case whether in Hong Kong or elsewhere), which is directed at, or the contents of which are likely to be accessed or read by, the public in Hong Kong (except if permitted to do so under the laws of Hong Kong) other than with respect to warrants which are or are intended to be disposed of only to persons outside Hong Kong or only to professional investors within the meaning of the Securities and Futures Ordinance (Cap. 571, Laws of Hong Kong) and any rules made thereunder.

Notice to Prospective Investors in Japan

No securities registration statement (SRS) has been filed under Article 4, Paragraph 1 of the Financial Instruments and Exchange Law of Japan (Law No. 25 of 1948, as amended) (FIEL) in relation to the warrants.

The warrants are being offered in a private placement to qualified institutional investors (tekikaku-kikan-toshika) under Article 10 of the Cabinet Office Ordinance concerning Definitions provided in Article 2 of the FIEL (the Ministry of Finance Ordinance No. 14, as amended) (QIIs), under Article 2, Paragraph 3, Item 2 i of the FIEL. Any QII acquiring the warrants in this offer may not transfer or resell those warrants except to other OIIs.

Notice to Prospective Investors in Singapore

This prospectus supplement has not been registered as a prospectus with the Monetary Authority of Singapore. Accordingly, this prospectus supplement and any other document or material in connection with the offer or sale, or invitation for subscription or purchase, of the warrants may not be circulated or distributed, nor may the warrants be offered or sold, or be made the subject of an invitation for subscription or purchase, whether directly or indirectly, to persons in Singapore other than (i) to an institutional investor under Section 274 of the Securities and Futures Act, Chapter 289 of Singapore (the SFA), (ii) to a relevant person pursuant to Section 275(1), or any person pursuant to Section 275(1A), and in accordance with the conditions specified in Section 275 of the SFA or (iii) otherwise pursuant to, and in accordance with the conditions of, any other applicable provision of the SFA, in each case subject to compliance with conditions set forth in the SFA.

Where the warrants are subscribed or purchased under Section 275 of the SFA by a relevant person which is:

a corporation (which is not an accredited investor (as defined in Section 4A of the SFA)) the sole business of which is to hold investments and the entire share capital of which is owned by one or more individuals, each of whom is an accredited investor; or

Table of Contents

a trust (where the trustee is not an accredited investor) whose sole purpose is to hold investments and each beneficiary of the trust is an individual who is an accredited investor, then shares, debentures and units of shares and debentures of that corporation or the beneficiaries' rights and interest (howsoever described) in that trust shall not be transferred within six months after that corporation or that trust has acquired the warrants pursuant to an offer made under Section 275 of the SFA except:

to an institutional investor (for corporations, under Section 274 of the SFA) or to a relevant person defined in Section 275(2) of the SFA, or to any person pursuant to an offer that is made on terms that such shares, debentures and units of shares and debentures of that corporation or such rights and interest in that trust are acquired at a consideration of not less than S\$200,000 (or its equivalent in a foreign currency) for each transaction, whether such amount is to be paid for in cash or by exchange of securities or other assets, and further for corporations, in accordance with the conditions specified in Section 275 of the SFA;

where no consideration is or will be given for the transfer; or

where the transfer is by operation of law.

United Arab Emirates

This prospectus supplement and the attached prospectus have not been approved or licensed by the Central Bank of the United Arab Emirates (the UAE), Securities and Commodities Authority of the UAE and/or any other relevant licensing authority in the UAE. The offer of the warrants does not constitute a public offer of securities in the UAE in accordance with relevant laws of the UAE, in particular, the Commercial Companies Law, Federal law No. 8 of 1984 (as amended). The warrants may not be offered to the public in the UAE. The warrants may only be offered and issued to a limited number of investors in the UAE who qualify as sophisticated investors under the relevant laws and regulations of the UAE. The underwriter represents and warrants that the warrants will not be offered, sold, transferred or delivered to the public in the UAE.

Notice to Prospective Investors in the Dubai International Financial Centre

This statement relates to an exempt offer in accordance with the Offered Securities Rules of the Dubai Financial Services Authority. This statement is intended for distribution only to persons of a type specified in those rules. It must not be delivered to, or relied on by, any other person. The Dubai Financial Services Authority has no responsibility for reviewing or verifying any documents in connection with exempt offers. The Dubai Financial Services Authority has not approved this prospectus supplement nor taken steps to verify the information set out in it, and has no responsibility for it. The warrants to which this prospectus supplement relates may be illiquid and/or subject to restrictions on their resale. Prospective purchasers of the warrants offered should conduct their own due diligence on the warrants. If you do not understand the contents of this prospectus supplement you should consult an authorized financial adviser. For the avoidance of doubt, the warrants are not interests in a fund or collective investment scheme within the meaning of either the Collective Investment Law (DIFC Law No. 1 of 2006) or the Collective Investment Rules Module of the Dubai Financial Services Authority Rulebook.

Table of Contents

LEGAL MATTERS

The validity of the warrants and certain legal matters in connection with this offering will be passed upon for us by Day Pitney LLP, New York, New York. Certain legal matters in connection with the offering will be passed on for the underwriter by White & Case LLP, New York, New York and by Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton LLP, New York, New York.

EXPERTS

The consolidated financial statements of Valley National Bancorp and subsidiaries as of December 31, 2009 and December 31, 2008 and for the years then ended and the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2009, have been incorporated by reference herein and in the registration statement in reliance upon the reports of KPMG LLP, independent registered public accounting firm, incorporated by reference herein, upon the authority of said firm as experts in accounting and auditing.

Our consolidated statements of income, changes in shareholders' equity and cash flows for the year ended December 31, 2007, have been audited by Ernst & Young LLP, an independent registered public accounting firm, as set forth in their report thereon, included therein, and incorporated herein by reference. Such consolidated financial statements are incorporated herein by reference in reliance upon such report given on the authority of such firm as experts in accounting and auditing.

S-51

Table of Contents

INCORPORATION OF INFORMATION FILED WITH THE SEC

The SEC allows us to incorporate by reference the information we file with them, which means:

incorporated documents are considered part of the prospectus;

we can disclose important information to you by referring you to those documents; and

information that we file with the SEC will automatically update and supersede this prospectus and earlier information incorporated by reference. In the case of a conflict or inconsistency between information contained in this prospectus and information incorporated by reference into this prospectus, you should rely on the information contained in the document that was filed later.

We incorporate by reference the following documents that we have filed with the SEC:

Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2009 (including the information from our definitive Proxy Statement filed on March 12, 2010 and incorporated by reference into such Annual Report);

Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended March 31, 2010;

Current Reports on Form 8-K filed on March 16, 2010, April 19, 2010 and May 13, 2010; and

the description of the common stock which is contained in our Registration Statement on Form 8-A (filed on June 30, 2008), including any amendment or report filed for the purpose of updating such description.

We also incorporate by reference each of the following documents that we will file with the SEC after the date of this prospectus (other than, in each case, documents or information deemed to have been furnished, and not filed, in accordance with the SEC rules):

reports filed under Sections 13(a) and (c) of the Exchange Act;

any document filed under Section 14 of the Exchange Act; and

any reports filed under Section 15(d) of the Exchange Act.

In reviewing any agreements incorporated by reference, please remember they are included to provide you with information regarding the terms of such agreements and are not intended to provide any other factual or disclosure information about us. The agreements may contain representations and warranties by us, which should not in all instances be treated as categorical statements of fact, but rather as a way of allocating the risk to one of the parties if those statements prove to be inaccurate. The representations and warranties were made only as of the date of the relevant agreement or such other date or dates as may be specified in such agreement and are subject to more recent developments. Accordingly, these representations and warranties alone may not describe the actual state of affairs as of the date they were made or at any other time.

To receive a free copy of any of the documents incorporated by reference in this prospectus (other than exhibits, unless they are specifically incorporated by reference in the documents), call or write our Shareholder Relations Department, as follows:

Edgar Filing: VALLEY NATIONAL BANCORP - Form 424B5

Valley National Bancorp

1455 Valley Road

Wayne, New Jersey 07470

Attention: Dianne M. Grenz

Telephone: 973-305-3380

S-52

Table of Contents

PROSPECTUS

VALLEY NATIONAL BANCORP

Fixed Rate Cumulative Perpetual Preferred Stock, Series A, No Par Value

Warrant to Purchase 2,297,090 Shares of Common Stock, No Par Value

This prospectus relates to the potential resale from time to time by selling securityholders of some or all of the shares of our Fixed Rate Cumulative Perpetual Preferred Stock, Series A, or senior preferred stock, a warrant to purchase 2,297,090 shares of common stock, or the warrant, and any shares of common stock issuable from time to time upon exercise of the warrant. In this prospectus, we refer to the shares of senior preferred stock, the warrant and the shares of common stock issuable upon exercise of the warrant, collectively, as the securities. The senior preferred stock and the warrant were originally issued by us pursuant to the Letter Agreement dated November 14, 2008, and the related Securities Purchase Agreement – Standard Terms, between us and the United States Department of the Treasury, which we refer to as the initial selling securityholder, in a transaction exempt from the registration requirements of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, or the Securities Act.

The initial selling securityholder and its successors, including transferees, which we collectively refer to as the selling securityholders, may offer the securities from time to time directly or through underwriters, broker-dealers or agents and in one or more public or private transactions and at fixed prices, prevailing market prices, at prices related to prevailing market prices or at negotiated prices. If these securities are sold through underwriters, broker-dealers or agents, the selling securityholders will be responsible for underwriting discounts or commissions or agents commissions.

We will not receive any proceeds from the sale of securities by the selling securityholders.

The senior preferred stock is not listed on an exchange and, unless requested by the initial selling securityholder, we do not intend to list the senior preferred stock on any exchange.

The common stock of Valley is listed on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol VLY . On December 18, 2008, the closing price for the common stock was \$17.48 per share.

Investing in our securities involves risks. You should carefully review the information contained in this prospectus under the heading Risk Factors beginning on page 3 of this prospectus.

NEITHER THE SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION, NOR ANY BANK REGULATORY AGENCY, 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.

THESE SECURITIES ARE NOT DEPOSITS OR ACCOUNTS OR OTHER OBLIGATIONS OF ANY BANK OR SAVINGS ASSOCIATION AND ARE NOT INSURED OR GUARANTEED BY THE FEDERAL DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION, THE COMMISSIONER OF BANKING AND INSURANCE OF THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY OR ANY OTHER GOVERNMENTAL AGENCY.

Our principal executive offices are located at 1455 Valley Road, Wayne, New Jersey 07470 and our telephone number is (973) 305-8800.

The date of this prospectus is December 19, 2008.

Table of Contents

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
<u>PROSPECTUS SUMMARY</u>	2
<u>RISK FACTORS</u>	3
<u>FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS</u>	9
<u>INFORMATION ABOUT VALLEY</u>	11
<u>DESCRIPTION OF VALLEY CAPITAL STOCK</u>	12
<u>DESCRIPTION OF WARRANT</u>	16
<u>USE OF PROCEEDS</u>	17
<u>RATIOS OF EARNINGS TO FIXED CHARGES AND PREFERRED DIVIDENDS</u>	17
<u>PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION</u>	17
<u>SELLING SECURITYHOLDERS</u>	19
<u>LEGAL MATTERS</u>	20
<u>EXPERTS</u>	20
<u>WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION</u>	20

ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS

Unless this prospectus indicates otherwise or the context otherwise requires, the terms we, our, us, Valley National Bancorp or Valley as used in this prospectus refer to Valley National Bancorp and its subsidiaries including Valley National Bank.

We have not authorized anyone to provide you with information different from that contained or incorporated by reference in this prospectus. The information contained in this prospectus is accurate only as of the date of this prospectus, regardless of the time of delivery of this prospectus or of any sale of the securities.

Table of Contents**PROSPECTUS SUMMARY**

This summary highlights selected information contained elsewhere in this prospectus. Because it is a summary, it does not contain all of the information that you should consider before investing in our securities. You should read the entire prospectus carefully, including the Risk Factors section and the other documents we refer to and incorporate by reference, in order to understand this offering fully. In particular, we incorporate important business and financial information into this prospectus by reference.

Valley National Bancorp, a New Jersey corporation, is the bank holding company for Valley National Bank. At November 30, 2008, Valley National Bank had 195 full-service banking offices located throughout northern and central New Jersey and New York City.

On November 14, 2008, Valley entered into a Letter Agreement and a Securities Purchase Agreement – Standard Terms with the Treasury, pursuant to which Valley agreed to issue and sell, and the Treasury agreed to purchase, (i) 300,000 shares of Valley’s Fixed Rate Cumulative Perpetual Preferred Stock, Series A, having a liquidation preference of \$1,000 per share, and (ii) a ten-year warrant to purchase up to 2,297,090 shares of Valley’s common stock, no par value, at an initial exercise price of \$19.59 per share. The warrant was immediately exercisable upon its issuance and will expire on November 14, 2018.

We are registering the shares of the senior preferred stock and the warrant sold to the Treasury pursuant to the transaction described above and elsewhere in this prospectus, as well as the shares of Valley common stock to be issued upon the exercise of the warrant. We have filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission a registration statement on Form S-3 with respect to the securities offered under this prospectus.

The ratios of earnings to fixed charges for the nine months ended September 30, 2008 and the years ended December 31, 2007, 2006, 2005, 2004 and 2003 are as follows:

	Nine months ended September 30, 2008	2007	Years ended December 31,			
			2006	2005	2004	2003
Excluding interest on deposits	1.87x	2.50x	2.56x	3.17x	3.90x	3.91x
Including interest on deposits	1.41x	1.59x	1.64x	2.00x	2.54x	2.54x

Note: The ratio of earnings to fixed charges is calculated by adding income before income taxes plus fixed charges and dividing that sum by fixed charges.

The common stock of Valley is listed on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol VLY. Valley’s principal executive offices are located at 1455 Valley Road, Wayne, New Jersey 07470 and its telephone number is (973) 305-8800.

Table of Contents

RISK FACTORS

An investment in Valley securities involves risks. The material risks and uncertainties that management believes affect Valley are described below. Before making an investment decision, you should carefully consider the risks and uncertainties described below together with all of the other information included or incorporated by reference in this prospectus. The risks and uncertainties described below are not the only ones facing Valley. Additional risks and uncertainties that management is not aware of or that management currently believes are immaterial may also impair Valley's business operations. This prospectus is qualified in its entirety by these risk factors.

Recent negative developments in the financial services industry and U.S. and global credit markets may adversely impact our operations and results.

Negative developments in the latter half of 2007 and the first eleven months of 2008 in the capital markets have resulted in uncertainty in the financial markets in general with the expectation of the general economic downturn continuing in the last month of 2008 and in 2009. Loan portfolio performances have deteriorated at many institutions resulting from, amongst other factors, a weak economy and a decline in the value of the collateral supporting their loans. The competition for our deposits has increased significantly due to liquidity concerns at many of these same institutions. Stock prices of bank holding companies, like ours, have been negatively affected by the current condition of the financial markets, as has our ability, if needed, to raise capital or borrow in the debt markets compared to recent years. As a result, there is a potential for new federal or state laws and regulations regarding lending and funding practices and liquidity standards, and financial institution regulatory agencies are expected to be very aggressive in responding to concerns and trends identified in examinations, including the expected issuance of many formal enforcement actions. Negative developments in the financial services industry and the impact of new legislation in response to those developments could negatively impact our operations by restricting our business operations, including our ability to originate or sell loans, and adversely impact our financial performance.

Declines in Value May Adversely Impact the Investment Portfolio.

As of September 30, 2008, we had approximately \$1.7 billion and \$654.2 million in available for sale and held to maturity investment securities, respectively. We may be required to record impairment charges on our investment securities if they suffer a decline in value that is considered other-than-temporary. Numerous factors, including lack of liquidity for re-sales of certain investment securities, absence of reliable pricing information for investment securities, adverse changes in business climate, adverse actions by regulators, or unanticipated changes in the competitive environment could have a negative effect on our investment portfolio in future periods. If an impairment charge is significant enough it could affect the ability of our bank to upstream dividends to us, which could have a material adverse effect on our liquidity and our ability to pay dividends to shareholders and could also negatively impact our regulatory capital ratios and result in our bank not being classified as well-capitalized for regulatory purposes.

Changes in Interest Rates Can Have an Adverse Effect on Profitability.

Valley's earnings and cash flows are largely dependent upon its net interest income. Net interest income is the difference between interest income earned on interest-earning assets, such as loans and investment securities, and interest expense paid on interest-bearing liabilities, such as deposits and borrowed funds. Interest rates are sensitive to many factors that are beyond Valley's control, including general economic conditions, competition, and policies of various governmental and regulatory agencies and, in particular, the policies of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve. Changes in monetary policy, including changes in interest rates, could influence not only the interest Valley receives on loans and investment securities and the amount of interest it pays on deposits and borrowings, but such changes could also affect (i) Valley's ability to originate loans and obtain deposits, (ii) the fair value of Valley's financial assets and liabilities, including the held to maturity,

Table of Contents

available for sale, and trading securities portfolios, and (iii) the average duration of Valley's interest-earning assets. This also includes the risk that interest-earning assets may be more responsive to changes in interest rates than interest-bearing liabilities, or vice versa (repricing risk), the risk that the individual interest rates or rate indices underlying various interest-earning assets and interest-bearing liabilities may not change in the same degree over a given time period (basis risk), and the risk of changing interest rate relationships across the spectrum of interest-earning asset and interest-bearing liability maturities (yield curve risk), including a prolonged flat or inverted yield curve environment.

Although management believes it has implemented effective asset and liability management strategies to reduce the potential effects of changes in interest rates on Valley's results of operations, any substantial, unexpected, prolonged change in market interest rates could have a material adverse effect on Valley's financial condition and results of operations.

The price of our common stock may fluctuate.

The price of our common stock on the NYSE constantly changes and recently, given the uncertainty in the financial markets, has fluctuated widely. We expect that the market price of our common stock will continue to fluctuate. Holders of our common stock will be subject to the risk of volatility and changes in prices.

Our common stock price can fluctuate as a result of a variety of factors, many of which are beyond our control. These factors include:

quarterly fluctuations in our operating and financial results;

operating results that vary from the expectations of management, securities analysts and investors;

changes in expectations as to our future financial performance, including financial estimates by securities analysts and investors;

events negatively impacting the financial services industry which result in a general decline in the market valuation of our common stock;

announcements of material developments affecting our operations or our dividend policy;

future sales of our equity securities;

new laws or regulations or new interpretations of existing laws or regulations applicable to our business;

changes in accounting standards, policies, guidance, interpretations or principles; and

general domestic economic and market conditions.

In addition, recently the stock market generally has experienced extreme price and volume fluctuations, and industry factors and general economic and political conditions and events, such as economic slowdowns or recessions, interest rate changes or credit loss trends, could also cause our stock price to decrease regardless of our operating results.

Table of Contents

Liquidity Risk.

Liquidity risk is the potential that Valley will be unable to meet its obligations as they come due, capitalize on growth opportunities as they arise, or pay regular dividends because of an inability to liquidate assets or obtain adequate funding in a timely basis, at a reasonable cost and within acceptable risk tolerances.

Liquidity is required to fund various obligations, including credit commitments to borrowers, mortgage and other loan originations, withdrawals by depositors, repayment of borrowings, dividends to shareholders, operating expenses and capital expenditures.

Liquidity is derived primarily from retail deposit growth and retention; principal and interest payments on loans; principal and interest payments; sale, maturity and prepayment of investment securities; net cash provided from operations and access to other funding sources.

Our access to funding sources in amounts adequate to finance our activities could be impaired by factors that affect us specifically or the financial services industry in general. Factors that could detrimentally impact our access to liquidity sources include a decrease in the level of our business activity due to a market downturn or adverse regulatory action against us. Our ability to borrow could also be impaired by factors that are not specific to us, such as a severe disruption of the financial markets or negative views and expectations about the prospects for the financial services industry as a whole as the recent turmoil faced by banking organizations in the domestic and worldwide credit markets deteriorates.

Competition in the Financial Services Industry.

Valley faces substantial competition in all areas of its operations from a variety of different competitors, many of which are larger and may have more financial resources than Valley. Valley competes with other providers of financial services such as commercial and savings banks, savings and loan associations, credit unions, money market and mutual funds, mortgage companies, title agencies, asset managers, insurance companies and a large list of other local, regional and national institutions which offer financial services. Mergers between financial institutions within New Jersey and in neighboring states have added competitive pressure. If Valley is unable to compete effectively, it will lose market share and its income generated from loans, deposits, and other financial products will decline.

Our preferred shares impact net income available to our common stockholders and our earnings per share.

As long as there are senior preferred shares outstanding, no dividends may be paid on our common stock unless all dividends on the senior preferred shares have been paid in full. The dividends declared on our fixed rate preferred shares will reduce the net income available to common shareholders and our earnings per common share. Additionally, warrants to purchase Valley common stock issued to the Treasury, in conjunction with the preferred shares, may be dilutive to our earnings per share. The senior preferred shares will also receive preferential treatment in the event of liquidation, dissolution or winding up of Valley.

Moreover, holders of our common stock are entitled to receive dividends only when, as and if declared by our board of directors. Although we have historically declared cash dividends on our common stock, we are not required to do so and our board of directors may reduce or eliminate our common stock dividend in the future. This could adversely affect the market price of our common stock.

Table of Contents

Future offerings of debt or other securities may adversely affect the market price of our stock.

In the future, we may attempt to increase our capital resources or, if our or Valley National Bank's capital ratios fall below the required minimums, we or Valley National Bank could be forced to raise additional capital by making additional offerings of debt or preferred equity securities, including medium-term notes, trust preferred securities, senior or subordinated notes and preferred stock. Upon liquidation, holders of our debt securities and shares of preferred stock and lenders with respect to other borrowings will receive distributions of our available assets prior to the holders of our common stock. Additional equity offerings may dilute the holdings of our existing shareholders or reduce the market price of our common stock, or both. Holders of our common stock are not entitled to preemptive rights or other protections against dilution.

Allowance For Loan Losses May Be Insufficient.

Valley maintains an allowance for loan losses based on, among other things, national and regional economic conditions, historical loss experience and delinquency trends. However, Valley cannot predict loan losses with certainty, and Valley cannot provide assurance that charge-offs in future periods will not exceed the allowance for loan losses. If net charge-offs exceed Valley's allowance, its earnings would decrease. In addition, regulatory agencies review Valley's allowance for loan losses and may require additions to the allowance based on their judgment about information available to them at the time of their examination. Valley management could also decide that the allowance for loan losses should be increased. An increase in Valley's allowance for loan losses could reduce its earnings.

Loss of Lower-Cost Funding Sources.

Checking and savings, NOW, and money market deposit account balances and other forms of customer deposits can decrease when customers perceive alternative investments, such as the stock market, as providing a better risk/return tradeoff. If customers move money out of bank deposits and into other investments, Valley could lose a relatively low cost source of funds, increasing its funding costs and reducing Valley's net interest income and net income.

Changes in Primary Market Areas Could Adversely Impact Results of Operations and Financial Condition.

Much of Valley's lending is in northern and central New Jersey and New York City. As a result of this geographic concentration, a significant broad-based deterioration in economic conditions in New Jersey and the New York City metropolitan area could have a material adverse impact on the quality of Valley's loan portfolio, and accordingly, Valley's results of operations. Such a decline in economic conditions could restrict borrowers' ability to pay outstanding principal and interest on loans when due, and, consequently, adversely affect the cash flows of Valley's business.

Valley's loan portfolio is largely secured by real estate collateral. A substantial portion of the real and personal property securing the loans in Valley's portfolio is located in New Jersey and New York City. Conditions in the real estate markets in which the collateral for Valley's loans are located strongly influence the level of Valley's non-performing loans and results of operations. A decline in the New Jersey and New York City metropolitan area real estate markets, as well as other external factors, could adversely affect Valley's loan portfolio.

Table of Contents

Potential Acquisitions May Disrupt Valley's Business and Dilute Shareholder Value.

Valley regularly evaluates merger and acquisition opportunities and conducts due diligence activities related to possible transactions with other financial institutions and financial services companies. As a result, merger or acquisition discussions and, in some cases, negotiations may take place and future mergers or acquisitions involving cash, debt or equity securities may occur at any time. Acquisitions typically involve the payment of a premium over book and market values, and, therefore, some dilution of Valley's tangible book value and net income per common share may occur in connection with any future transaction. Furthermore, failure to realize the expected revenue increases, cost savings, increases in geographic or product presence, and/or other projected benefits from an acquisition could have a material adverse effect on Valley's financial condition and results of operations.

Implementation of Growth Strategies.

Valley has a strategic branch expansion initiative to expand its physical presence in New York City, including Kings and Queens counties, New York, and fill in its markets within New Jersey. Additionally, in 2007, Valley expanded the geographic presence of its auto loan dealer network into Connecticut, which network already includes Pennsylvania, Florida, New York, and New Jersey. Valley can provide no assurances that it will successfully implement these initiatives.

Valley's ability to successfully execute these initiatives depends upon a variety of factors, including its ability to attract and retain experienced personnel, the continued availability of desirable business opportunities and locations, the competitive responses from other financial institutions in Valley's new market areas, and the ability to manage growth. These initiatives could cause Valley's expenses to increase faster than revenues.

There are considerable initial and on-going costs involved in opening branches, growing loans in new markets, and attracting new deposit relationships. These expenses could negatively impact future earnings. For example, it takes time for new branches and relationships to achieve profitability. Expenses could be further increased if there are delays in the opening of new branches or if attraction strategies are more costly than expected. Delays in opening new branches can be caused by a number of factors such as the inability to find suitable locations, zoning and construction delays, and the inability to attract qualified personnel to staff the new branch. In addition, there is no assurance that a new branch will be successful even after it has been established.

From time to time, Valley may implement new lines of business or offer new products and services within existing lines of business. There are substantial risks and uncertainties associated with these efforts, particularly in instances where the markets are not fully developed. Valley may invest significant time and resources to develop and market new lines of business and/or products and services. Initial timetables for the introduction and development of new lines of business and/or new products or services may not be achieved and price and profitability targets may not prove feasible. External factors, such as compliance with regulations, competitive alternatives, and shifting customer preferences, may also impact the successful implementation of a new line of business or a new product or service. Additionally, any new line of business and/or new product or service could have a significant impact on the effectiveness of Valley's system of internal controls. Failure to successfully manage these risks could have a material adverse effect on Valley's business, results of operations and financial condition.

Table of Contents

Changes in Accounting Policies or Accounting Standards.

Valley's accounting policies are fundamental to understanding its financial results and condition. Some of these policies require use of estimates and assumptions that may affect the value of Valley's assets or liabilities and financial results. Valley identified its accounting policies regarding the allowance for loan losses, goodwill and other intangible assets, and income taxes to be critical because they require management to make difficult, subjective and complex judgments about matters that are inherently uncertain. Under each of these policies, it is possible that materially different amounts would be reported under different conditions, using different assumptions, or as new information becomes available.

From time to time the Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB) and the SEC change the financial accounting and reporting standards that govern the form and content of Valley's external financial statements. In addition, accounting standard setters and those who interpret the accounting standards (such as the FASB, SEC, banking regulators and Valley's outside auditors) may change or even reverse their previous interpretations or positions on how these standards should be applied. Changes in financial accounting and reporting standards and changes in current interpretations may be beyond Valley's control, can be hard to predict and could materially impact how Valley reports its financial results and condition. In certain cases, Valley could be required to apply a new or revised standard retroactively or apply an existing standard differently (also retroactively) which may result in Valley restating prior period financial statements in material amounts.

Extensive Regulation and Supervision.

Valley, primarily through its principal subsidiary, Valley National Bank, and certain non-bank subsidiaries, is subject to extensive federal and state regulation and supervision. Banking regulations are primarily intended to protect depositors' funds, federal deposit insurance funds and the banking system as a whole. Such laws are not designed to protect Valley shareholders. These regulations affect Valley's lending practices, capital structure, investment practices, dividend policy and growth, among other things. Valley is also subject to a number of federal laws, which, among other things, require it to lend to various sectors of the economy and population, and establish and maintain comprehensive programs relating to anti-money laundering and customer identification. Congress and federal regulatory agencies continually review banking laws, regulations and policies for possible changes. Changes to statutes, regulations or regulatory policies, including changes in interpretation or implementation of statutes, regulations or policies, could affect Valley in substantial and unpredictable ways. Such changes could subject Valley to additional costs, limit the types of financial services and products it may offer and/or increase the ability of non-banks to offer competing financial services and products, among other things. Failure to comply with laws, regulations or policies could result in sanctions by regulatory agencies, civil money penalties and/or reputation damage, which could have a material adverse effect on Valley's business, financial condition and results of operations. Valley's compliance with certain of these laws will be considered by banking regulators when reviewing bank merger and bank holding company acquisitions. While Valley has policies and procedures designed to prevent any such violations, there can be no assurance that such violations will not occur.

Encountering Continuous Technological Change.

The financial services industry is continually undergoing rapid technological change with frequent introductions of new technology-driven products and services. The effective use of technology increases efficiency and enables financial institutions to better serve customers and to reduce costs. Valley's future success depends, in part, upon its ability to address the needs of its customers by using technology to provide products and services that will satisfy customer demands, as well as to create additional efficiencies in Valley's operations. Many of Valley's competitors have substantially greater resources to invest in technological improvements. Valley may not be able to effectively implement new technology-driven products and services or be successful in marketing these products and services to its customers. Failure to successfully keep pace with technological change affecting the financial services industry could have a material adverse impact on Valley's business and, in turn, Valley's financial condition and results of operations.

Table of Contents

Operational Risk.

Valley faces the risk that the design of its controls and procedures, including those to mitigate the risk of fraud by employees or outsiders, may prove to be inadequate or are circumvented, thereby causing delays in detection of errors or inaccuracies in data and information. Management regularly reviews and updates Valley's internal controls, disclosure controls and procedures, and corporate governance policies and procedures. Any system of controls, however well designed and operated, is based in part on certain assumptions and can provide only reasonable, not absolute, assurances that the objectives of the system are met. Any failure or circumvention of Valley's controls and procedures or failure to comply with regulations related to controls and procedures could have a material adverse effect on Valley's business, results of operations and financial condition.

Valley may also be subject to disruptions of its systems arising from events that are wholly or partially beyond its control (including, for example, computer viruses or electrical or telecommunications outages), which may give rise to losses in service to customers and to financial loss or liability. Valley is further exposed to the risk that its external vendors may be unable to fulfill their contractual obligations (or will be subject to the same risk of fraud or operational errors by their respective employees as is Valley) and to the risk that Valley's (or its vendors') business continuity and data security systems prove to be inadequate.

Valley's performance is largely dependent on the talents and efforts of highly skilled individuals. There is intense competition in the financial services industry for qualified employees. In addition, Valley faces increasing competition with businesses outside the financial services industry for the most highly skilled individuals. Valley's business operations could be adversely affected if it were unable to attract new employees and retain and motivate its existing employees.

Claims and Litigation Pertaining to Fiduciary Responsibility.

From time to time as part of Valley's normal course of business, customers make claims and take legal action against Valley based on actions or inactions of Valley. If such claims and legal actions are not resolved in a manner favorable to Valley, they may result in financial liability and/or adversely affect the market perception of Valley and its products and services. This may also impact customer demand for Valley's products and services. Any financial liability or reputation damage could have a material adverse effect on Valley's business, which, in turn, could have a material adverse effect on its financial condition and results of operations.

FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

This document contains and incorporates by reference certain forward-looking statements regarding the financial condition, results of operations and business of Valley. These statements are not historical facts and include expressions about Valley's:

confidence;

strategies and expressions about earnings;

new and existing programs and products;

Table of Contents

relationships;

opportunities;

technology; and

market conditions.

You may identify these statements by looking for:

forward-looking terminology, like expect, believe or anticipate;

expressions of confidence like strong or on-going; or

similar statements or variations of those terms.

These forward-looking statements involve certain risks and uncertainties. Actual results may differ materially from the results the forward-looking statements contemplate because of, among others, the following possibilities:

unanticipated changes in the financial markets and the resulting unanticipated effects on financial instruments in our investment portfolio;

volatility in earnings due to certain financial assets and liabilities held at fair value;

the occurrence of an other-than-temporary impairment to investment securities classified as available for sale or held to maturity;

unanticipated changes in the direction of interest rates;

stronger than anticipated competition from banks, other financial institutions and other companies;

changes in loan, investment and mortgage prepayment assumptions;

insufficient allowance for credit losses;

a higher level of net loan charge-offs and delinquencies than anticipated;

Edgar Filing: VALLEY NATIONAL BANCORP - Form 424B5

the inability to realize expected cost savings and synergies from recent acquisitions in the amounts and timeframe anticipated;

material adverse changes in our operations or earnings;

the inability to retain customers or employees acquired in recent acquisitions;

a decline in the economy in our primary market areas, mainly in New Jersey and New York;

changes in relationships with major customers;

Table of Contents

changes in effective income tax rates;

higher or lower cash flow levels than anticipated;

inability to hire or retain qualified employees;

a decline in the levels of deposits or loss of alternate funding sources;

a decrease in loan origination volume;

a change in legal and regulatory barriers including issues related to compliance with anti-money laundering and bank secrecy act laws;

adoption, interpretation and implementation of new or pre-existing accounting pronouncements;

the development of new tax strategies or the disallowance of prior tax strategies;

operational risks, including the risk of fraud by employees or outsiders and unanticipated litigation pertaining to our fiduciary responsibility; and

the inability to successfully implement new lines of business or new products and services.

Valley assumes no obligation for updating its forward-looking statements at any time.

INFORMATION ABOUT VALLEY

General

Valley National Bancorp (Valley), a New Jersey corporation, was organized in 1983 as a holding company for Valley National Bank. Valley indirectly owns additional subsidiaries through Valley National Bank. Valley is registered as a bank holding company with the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System under the Bank Holding Company Act.

As of September 30, 2008, Valley had:

consolidated assets of \$14.3 billion;

total deposits of \$9.1 billion;

total loans of \$10.1 billion; and

Edgar Filing: VALLEY NATIONAL BANCORP - Form 424B5

total shareholders' equity of \$1.1 billion.

In addition to Valley's principal subsidiary, Valley National Bank, Valley owns 100% of the voting shares of VNB Capital Trust I and GCB Capital Trust III, both used to issue trust preferred securities.

Table of Contents

Valley's principal executive offices and telephone number are:

1455 Valley Road

Wayne, New Jersey 07470

(973) 305-8800

Valley National Bank

Valley National Bank is a national banking association chartered in 1927 under the laws of the United States. Currently, Valley National Bank has 195 full-service banking offices located throughout northern and central New Jersey and New York City. The Bank provides a full range of commercial and retail banking services. These services include, but are not limited to, the following: the acceptance of demand, savings and time deposits; extension of consumer, real estate, Small Business Administration loans and other commercial credits; equipment leasing; personal and corporate trust; and pension and fiduciary services.

Valley National Bank's wholly-owned subsidiaries are all included in the consolidated financial statements of Valley.

These subsidiaries include:

a mortgage servicing company;

a title insurance agency;

asset management advisors which are SEC registered investment advisors;

an all-line insurance agency offering property and casualty, life and health insurance;

subsidiaries which hold, maintain and manage investment assets for Valley National Bank;

a subsidiary which owns and services auto loans;

a subsidiary which specializes in asset-based lending;

a subsidiary which offers both commercial equipment leases and financing for general aviation aircraft; and

a subsidiary specializing in healthcare and commercial equipment leases.

Valley National Bank's subsidiaries also include real estate investment trust subsidiaries which own real estate-related investments and another REIT subsidiary which owns some of the real estate utilized by Valley National Bank and related real estate investments.

DESCRIPTION OF VALLEY CAPITAL STOCK

Edgar Filing: VALLEY NATIONAL BANCORP - Form 424B5

The authorized capital stock of Valley presently consists of 190,886,088 shares of common stock and 30,000,000 shares of preferred stock, 300,000 of which have been designated Fixed Rate Cumulative Perpetual Preferred Stock, Series A. As of November 30, 2008, 135,024,004 shares of Valley common stock and 300,000 shares of preferred stock were outstanding.

Table of Contents

The following is merely a summary of the terms of Valley's capital stock. The full terms of Valley's capital stock is set forth in Exhibit 3(i) and is incorporated by reference herein.

General

Valley is a New Jersey general business corporation governed by the New Jersey Business Corporation Act and a registered bank holding company under the Bank Holding Company Act.

Common Stock

The following description of Valley common stock describes certain general terms of Valley common stock.

Dividend Rights

Holders of Valley common stock are entitled to dividends when, as and if declared by the board of directors of Valley out of funds legally available for the payment of dividends. The only statutory limitation is that such dividends may not be paid when Valley is insolvent. Funds for the payment of dividends by Valley must come primarily from the earnings of Valley's bank subsidiary. Thus, as a practical matter, any restrictions on the ability of Valley National Bank to pay dividends will act as restrictions on the amount of funds available for payment of dividends by Valley.

As a national banking association, Valley National Bank is subject to limitations on the amount of dividends it may pay to Valley, Valley National Bank's only shareholder. Prior Office of the Comptroller of the Currency (OCC) approval is required to the extent the total dividends to be declared by Valley National Bank in any calendar year exceeds net profits for that year combined with the bank's retained net profits from the preceding two calendar years, less any transfers to capital surplus. Under this limitation, Valley National Bank could declare dividends in 2008 without prior approval of the OCC of up to \$63.3 million plus an amount equal to Valley National Bank's net profits for 2008 to the date of such dividend declaration.

Valley is also subject to certain Federal Reserve Board policies that may, in certain circumstances, limit its ability to pay dividends. These policies require, among other things, that a bank holding company maintain a minimum capital base. The Federal Reserve Board may prohibit any dividend payment that would reduce a holding company's capital below these minimum amounts.

The dividend rights of holders of Valley common stock are qualified and subject to the dividend rights of holders of Valley preferred stock described below.

Voting Rights

At meetings of shareholders, holders of Valley common stock are entitled to one vote per share. The quorum for shareholders' meetings is a majority of the outstanding shares. Generally, actions and authorizations to be taken or given by shareholders require the approval of a majority of the votes cast by holders of Valley common stock at a meeting at which a quorum is present.

Liquidation Rights

In the event of liquidation, dissolution or winding up of Valley, holders of Valley common stock are entitled to share equally and ratably in assets available for distribution after payment of debts and liabilities, subject to the rights of the holders of Valley preferred stock described below.

Table of Contents

Assessment and Redemption

All outstanding shares of Valley common stock are fully paid and non-assessable. Valley common stock is not redeemable at the option of the issuer or the holders thereof.

Other Matters

American Stock Transfer & Trust Company, LLC is presently both the transfer agent and the registrar for Valley common stock. Valley common stock is traded on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol "VLY", and is registered with the SEC under Section 12(b) of the Exchange Act.

Fixed Rate Cumulative Perpetual Preferred Stock, Series A

The following description of Valley preferred stock describes certain general terms of Valley's Fixed Rate Cumulative Perpetual Preferred Stock, Series A. Three hundred thousand of these shares of preferred stock have been authorized, and all shares of the senior preferred stock were issued as of November 14, 2008. These senior preferred shares have no maturity date. The remaining 29,700,000 shares of preferred stock remain unissued blank check preferred stock.

Dividend & Repurchase Rights

The Fixed Rate Cumulative Perpetual Preferred Stock, Series A, is senior to our common stock and will pay cumulative dividends at a rate of 5% per annum until the fifth anniversary of the date of the original investment of the Treasury, November 14, 2013, and thereafter at a rate of 9% per annum. Dividends will be payable quarterly in arrears on the fifteenth day of February, May, August, and November of each year. Unpaid dividends are compounded (i.e. dividends are paid on the amount of unpaid dividends).

As long as the senior preferred shares are outstanding, Valley would not be able to pay dividends on any common stock shares or any preferred shares ranking *pari passu* with the senior preferred shares, unless all dividends on the senior preferred shares have been paid in full.

Furthermore, until the earlier of the third anniversary of the Treasury's investment or the date on which the Treasury has transferred all of the senior preferred stock to unaffiliated third parties or such stock is redeemed in full, Valley may not, without the consent of the Treasury, increase the amount of cash dividend on its common stock. The Treasury's consent is not required where dividends on common stock are payable solely in shares of Valley common stock.

The Treasury's consent will be required for any repurchase of Valley common stock or other capital stock or other equity securities of Valley, or any trust preferred securities, other than repurchases of the senior preferred shares and share repurchases in connection with any employee benefit plan in the ordinary course of business consistent with past practice, until the earlier of the third anniversary of the Treasury's investment or the date on which the senior preferred shares are redeemed in whole or the Treasury has transferred all of the senior preferred shares to unaffiliated third parties.

For as long as the Treasury continues to own any senior preferred shares, Valley may not repurchase any senior preferred shares from any other holder of such shares unless it offers to repurchase a ratable portion of the senior preferred shares then held by the Treasury on the same terms and conditions.

Table of Contents

Conversion

Holders of the senior preferred shares have no right to exchange or convert such shares into any other securities of Valley.

Voting Rights

The senior preferred shares are non-voting shares, other than class voting rights granted under New Jersey law and class voting rights on (i) any authorization or issuance of shares ranking senior to the senior preferred shares; (ii) any amendment to the rights of the senior preferred shares, or (iii) any merger, exchange or similar transaction which would adversely affect the rights of the senior preferred shares. If dividends on the senior preferred shares as described above are not paid in full for six dividend periods, whether or not consecutive, the senior preferred shareholders would have the right to elect two directors. The right to elect directors would cease when all unpaid dividends (including compounded dividends) have been paid in full.

Liquidation Rights

The senior preferred shares have a liquidation preference of \$1,000 per share. In the event of liquidation, dissolution or winding up of Valley, holders of the Valley preferred stock are entitled to receive full payment of the liquidation amount per share and the amount of any accrued and unpaid dividends, before any distribution of assets or proceeds is made to the holders of Valley common stock.

Redemption

Valley may redeem the senior preferred shares three years after the date of the Treasury's investment, or earlier if it raises in an equity offering net proceeds equal to the amount of the senior preferred shares to be redeemed. It must raise proceeds equal to at least 25% of the issue price of the senior preferred shares to redeem any senior preferred shares prior to the end of the third year. The redemption price is equal to the sum of the liquidation amount per share and any accrued and unpaid dividends on the senior preferred shares up to, but excluding, the date fixed for redemption.

Other Matters

The senior preferred shares are freely transferable. The senior preferred shares are not subject to any mandatory redemption, sinking fund or other similar provisions.

Blank Check Preferred Stock

The remaining 29,700,000 unissued shares of preferred stock are typically referred to as blank check preferred stock. This term refers to stock for which the rights and restrictions are determined by the board of directors of a corporation. Except in limited circumstances, Valley's certificate of incorporation authorizes the Valley board of directors to issue new shares of Valley common stock or preferred stock without further shareholder action.

Valley's certificate of incorporation gives the board of directors authority at any time to:

divide the remaining authorized but unissued shares of preferred stock into series;

Table of Contents

determine the designations, number of shares, relative rights, preferences and limitations of any series of preferred stock;

increase the number of shares of any preferred series; and

decrease the number of shares in a preferred series, but not to a number less than the number of shares outstanding.

The issuance of additional common or preferred stock may be viewed as having adverse effects upon the holders of common stock. Holders of Valley's common stock will not have preemptive rights with respect to any newly issued stock. The Valley board could adversely affect the voting power of holders of Valley stock by issuing shares of preferred stock with certain voting, conversion and/or redemption rights. In the event of a proposed merger, tender offer or other attempt to gain control of Valley that the board of directors does not believe to be in the best interests of its shareholders, the board could issue additional preferred stock which could make any such takeover attempt more difficult to complete. Blank check preferred stock may also be used in connection with the issuance of a shareholder rights plan, sometimes called a poison pill. The board of directors of Valley has not approved any plan to issue preferred stock for this purpose. The Valley board of directors does not intend to issue any preferred stock except on terms that the board deems to be in the best interests of Valley and its shareholders.

DESCRIPTION OF WARRANT

On November 14, 2008, Valley issued and sold to the Treasury a ten-year warrant to purchase up to 2,297,090 shares of Valley's common stock, no par value, in addition to the 300,000 shares of Valley Fixed Rate Cumulative Perpetual Preferred Stock, Series A. The warrant was immediately exercisable by the holder and will expire on November 14, 2018. The warrant may be exercised in whole or in part.

The exercise price of the warrant is \$19.59 per share, determined by reference to the market price of the Valley common stock on the date of the Treasury's approval of Valley's application to sell to the Treasury the senior preferred shares (calculated on a 20-day trailing average).

Exercise of Warrant

Without the consent of both Valley and the warrant holder, the warrant may only be exercised on a net basis. Therefore, the holder does not pay the exercise price but instead authorizes Valley to reduce the shares receivable on exercise of the warrant by the number of shares with a then current market value equal to the exercise price. To exercise the warrant, the holder must present and surrender the warrant and a notice of exercise to Valley.

Rights of Warrant holder

A holder of the warrant as such is not entitled to vote or exercise any of the rights as a stockholder of Valley until such time as such warrant has been duly exercised.

Transferability of Warrant

The warrant and all rights thereunder are transferable, in whole or in part, by a holder upon surrender of the warrant, duly endorsed, to the office or agency of Valley. Thereafter, a new warrant registered in the name of the designated transferee or transferees will be made and delivered by Valley.

Table of Contents**Share Adjustment**

The warrant contains provisions that will adjust the number of shares purchasable upon exercise of the warrant proportionally to reflect any share dividend or other distribution, share subdivision, combination or reclassification which affects holders of record of Valley common stock as of any date on or after the issuance date of the warrant. In the event of any merger, consolidation, or other business combination to which Valley is a party, the warrant holder's right to receive shares of common stock upon exercise of the warrant will be converted into the right to exercise the warrant to acquire the number of shares of stock or other securities or property which the common stock issuable upon exercise of the warrant immediately prior to such business combination would have been entitled to receive upon consummation of the business combination.

If Valley raises equity capital on or before December 31, 2009 in aggregate gross proceeds of not less than 100% of the issue price of the senior preferred shares sold to the Treasury and if the Treasury is still the holder of the warrant, then the number of shares of Valley common stock underlying the warrant will be reduced by one half.

The foregoing is merely a summary of the terms of the warrant. The full terms of the warrant are set forth in Exhibit 4 and are incorporated by reference herein.

USE OF PROCEEDS

Because the warrant is exercisable only on a net basis, we will not receive any proceeds from any sale of the securities by the selling securityholders.

RATIOS OF EARNINGS TO FIXED CHARGES AND PREFERRED DIVIDENDS

No shares of our senior preferred stock, or any other class of preferred stock, were outstanding during the years ended December 31, 2007, 2006, 2005, 2004 and 2003, or during the nine months ended September 30, 2008, and we did not pay preferred stock dividends during these periods. Consequently, the ratios of earnings to fixed charges and preferred dividends are the same as the ratios of earnings to fixed charges for the same periods listed above. The ratios of earnings to fixed charges for the nine months ended September 30, 2008 and the years ended December 31, 2007, 2006, 2005, 2004 and 2003 are as follows:

Consolidated Ratios of Earnings to Fixed Charges

	Nine months ended		Years ended December 31,			
	September 30, 2008	2007	2006	2005	2004	2003
Excluding interest on deposits	1.87x	2.50x	2.56x	3.17x	3.90x	3.91x
Including interest on deposits	1.41x	1.59x	1.64x	2.00x	2.54x	2.54x

Note: The ratio of earnings to fixed charges is calculated by adding income before income taxes plus fixed charges and dividing that sum by fixed charges.

PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION

The selling securityholders and their successors, including their transferees, may sell the securities directly to purchasers or through underwriters, broker-dealers or agents, who may receive compensation in the form of discounts, concessions or commissions from the selling securityholders or the purchasers of the securities. These discounts, concessions or commissions as to any particular underwriter, broker-dealer or agent may be in excess of those customary in the types of transactions involved.

Table of Contents

The securities may be sold in one or more transactions at fixed prices, at prevailing market prices at the time of sale, at varying prices determined at the time of sale or at negotiated prices. These sales may be effected in transactions, which may involve crosses or block transactions:

on any national securities exchange or quotation service on which the preferred stock or the common stock may be listed or quoted at the time of sale, including, as of the date of this prospectus, the New York Stock Exchange in the case of the common stock;

in the over-the-counter market;

in transactions otherwise than on these exchanges or services or in the over-the-counter market; or

through the writing of options, whether the options are listed on an options exchange or otherwise.

In addition, any securities that qualify for sale pursuant to Rule 144 under the Securities Act may be sold under Rule 144 rather than pursuant to this prospectus.

In connection with the sale of the securities or otherwise, the selling securityholders may enter into hedging transactions with broker-dealers, which may in turn engage in short sales of the common stock issuable upon exercise of the warrant in the course of hedging the positions they assume. The selling securityholders may also sell short the common stock issuable upon exercise of the warrant and deliver common stock to close out short positions, or loan or pledge the senior preferred stock or the common stock issuable upon exercise of the warrant to broker-dealers that in turn may sell these securities.

The aggregate proceeds to the selling securityholders from the sale of the securities will be the purchase price of the securities less discounts and commissions, if any.

In effecting sales, broker-dealers or agents engaged by the selling securityholders may arrange for other broker-dealers to participate. Broker-dealers or agents may receive commissions, discounts or concessions from the selling securityholders in amounts to be negotiated immediately prior to the sale.

In offering the securities covered by this prospectus, the selling securityholders and any broker-dealers who execute sales for the selling securityholders may be deemed to be underwriters within the meaning of Section 2(a)(11) of the Securities Act in connection with such sales. Any profits realized by the selling securityholders and the compensation of any broker-dealer may be deemed to be underwriting discounts and commissions. Selling securityholders who are underwriters within the meaning of Section 2(a)(11) of the Securities Act will be subject to the prospectus delivery requirements of the Securities Act and may be subject to certain statutory and regulatory liabilities, including liabilities imposed pursuant to Sections 11, 12 and 17 of the Securities Act and Rule 10b-5 under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, or the Exchange Act.

In order to comply with the securities laws of certain states, if applicable, the securities must be sold in such jurisdictions only through registered or licensed brokers or dealers. In addition, in certain states the securities may not be sold unless they have been registered or qualified for sale in the applicable state or an exemption from the registration or qualification requirement is available and is complied with.

Table of Contents

The anti-manipulation rules of Regulation M under the Exchange Act may apply to sales of securities pursuant to this prospectus and to the activities of the selling securityholders. In addition, we will make copies of this prospectus available to the selling securityholders for the purpose of satisfying the prospectus delivery requirements of the Securities Act, which may include delivery through the facilities of the New York Stock Exchange pursuant to Rule 153 under the Securities Act.

At the time a particular offer of securities is made, if required, a prospectus supplement will set forth the number and type of securities being offered and the terms of the offering, including the name of any underwriter, dealer or agent, the purchase price paid by any underwriter, any discount, commission and other item constituting compensation, any discount, commission or concession allowed or reallocated or paid to any dealer, and the proposed selling price to the public.

We do not intend to apply for listing of the senior preferred stock on any securities exchange or for inclusion of the senior preferred stock in any automated quotation system unless requested by the initial selling shareholder. No assurance can be given as to the liquidity of the trading market, if any, for the senior preferred stock.

We have agreed to indemnify the selling securityholders against certain liabilities, including certain liabilities under the Securities Act. We have also agreed, among other things, to bear substantially all expenses (other than underwriting discounts and selling commissions) in connection with the registration and sale of the securities covered by this prospectus.

SELLING SECURITYHOLDERS

On November 14, 2008, we issued the securities covered by this prospectus to the United States Department of Treasury, which is the initial selling securityholder under this prospectus, in a transaction exempt from the registration requirements of the Securities Act. The initial selling securityholder, or its successors, including transferees, may from time to time offer and sell, pursuant to this prospectus or a supplement to this prospectus, any or all of the securities they own. The securities to be offered under this prospectus for the account of the selling securityholders are:

300,000 shares of senior preferred stock, representing beneficial ownership of 100% of the shares of senior preferred stock outstanding on the date of this prospectus;

a warrant to purchase 2,297,090 shares of our common stock; and

2,297,090 shares of our common stock issuable upon exercise of the warrant, which shares, if issued, would represent ownership of approximately 1.67% of our common stock outstanding as of December 15, 2008.

For purposes of this prospectus, we have assumed that, after completion of the offering, none of the securities covered by this prospectus will be held by the selling securityholders.

Beneficial ownership is determined in accordance with the rules of the SEC and includes voting or investment power with respect to the securities. To our knowledge, the initial selling securityholder has sole voting and investment power with respect to the securities.

We do not know when or in what amounts the selling securityholders may offer the securities for sale. The selling securityholders might not sell any or all of the securities offered by this prospectus. Because the selling securityholders may offer all or some of the securities pursuant to this offering, and

Table of Contents

because currently no sale of any of the securities is subject to any agreements, arrangements or understandings, we cannot estimate the number of the securities that will be held by the selling securityholders after completion of the offering.

Other than with respect to the acquisition of the securities, the initial selling securityholder has not had a material relationship with us.

Information about the selling securityholders may change over time and changed information will be set forth in supplements to this prospectus if and when necessary.

LEGAL MATTERS

The validity of the securities of Valley offered hereby will be passed upon for Valley by Day Pitney LLP, Morristown, New Jersey.

EXPERTS

The consolidated financial statements of Valley appearing in Valley's Annual Report (Form 10-K) for the year ended December 31, 2007 and the effectiveness of Valley's internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2007, have been audited by Ernst & Young LLP, an independent registered public accounting firm, as set forth in their reports thereon, included therein, and incorporated herein by reference. Such consolidated financial statements are incorporated herein by reference in reliance upon such report given on the authority of such firm as experts in accounting and auditing.

WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION

We have filed a registration statement on Form S-3 with the SEC covering the securities that may be sold under this prospectus. This prospectus summarizes material provisions of contracts and other documents that we refer you to. For further information on Valley and the securities, you should refer to our registration statement and its exhibits. As permitted by the rules and regulations of the SEC, the registration statement that contains this prospectus includes additional information not contained in this prospectus. Because the prospectus may not contain all the information that you may find important, you should review the full text of these documents. We have included copies of these documents as exhibits to our registration statement of which this prospectus is a part.

We also file reports, proxy statements and other information with the SEC. Our SEC filings are available over the Internet at the SEC's website at <http://www.sec.gov>. You may also read and copy any document we file by visiting the SEC's public reference room in Washington, D.C. The SEC's address in Washington, D.C. is 100 F Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20549. Please call the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330 for further information about the public reference room. You may also inspect our SEC reports and other information at the New York Stock Exchange, Inc., 20 Broad Street, New York, New York 10005.

The SEC allows us to incorporate by reference the information we file with them, which means:

incorporated documents are considered part of the prospectus;

we can disclose important information to you by referring you to those documents; and

information that we file with the SEC will automatically update and supersede this incorporated information.

Table of Contents

We incorporate by reference the following documents that we have filed with the SEC:

Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2007;

Quarterly Reports filed on Form 10-Q for the quarters ended March 31, 2008, June 30, 2008, and September 30, 2008;

Current Reports filed on Form 8-K dated January 28, 2008, March 7, 2008, March 20, 2008, May 15, 2008, July 1, 2008 (two), September 4, 2008, October 27, 2008, November 17, 2008, and November 20, 2008;

The definitive proxy statement for our 2008 annual meeting of shareholders; and

The description of the common stock which is contained in Valley's Registration Statement on Form 8-A including any amendment or report filed for the purpose of updating such description.

We also incorporate by reference each of the following documents that we will file with the SEC after the date of this prospectus until this offering is completed:

reports filed under Sections 13(a) and (c) of the Exchange Act;

any document filed under Section 14 of the Exchange Act; and

any reports filed under Section 15(d) of the Exchange Act.

You should rely only on information contained or incorporated by reference in this prospectus. We have not authorized any other person to provide you with different information. If anyone provides you with different or inconsistent information, you should not rely on it. We are not making an offer to sell these securities in any jurisdiction where the offer or sale is not permitted.

You should assume that the information appearing in this prospectus is accurate as of the date of this prospectus only. Our business, financial condition and results of operation may have changed since that date.

To receive a free copy of any of the documents incorporated by reference in this prospectus (other than exhibits, unless they are specifically incorporated by reference in the documents), call or write our Shareholder Relations Department, as follows:

Valley National Bancorp

1455 Valley Road

Wayne, New Jersey 07470

Attention: Dianne M. Grenz

Telephone: 973-305-3380

Table of Contents

**2,532,542 Warrants
to Purchase Common Stock
Valley National Bancorp**

Deutsche Bank Securities