

Inrad Optics, Inc.  
Form DEF 14A  
April 30, 2018

SCHEDULE 14A INFORMATION

Proxy Statement Pursuant to Section 14(a) of  
The Securities Exchange Act of 1934

Filed by the Registrant

Filed by a Party other than the Registrant

Check the appropriate box:

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Preliminary Proxy Statement
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Confidential, for Use of the Commission Only (as permitted by Rule 14a-6(e)(2))
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**INRAD OPTICS, INC.**

(Name of Registrant as Specified In Its Certificate of Incorporation)

(Name of Person(s) Filing Proxy Statement, if other than the Registrant)

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No fee required

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SCHEDULE 14A INFORMATION

**INRAD OPTICS, INC.**

**181 Legrand Avenue**

**Northvale, New Jersey 07647**

**Notice of Annual Meeting of Shareholders**

**To be held on Wednesday, June 27, 2018**

To The Shareholders of Inrad Optics, Inc.:

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Annual Meeting of Shareholders of INRAD OPTICS, INC. (the "Company") will be held at the offices of the Company, 181 Legrand Avenue, Northvale, New Jersey 07647, on Wednesday, June 27, 2018 at 8:30 a.m. for the following purposes:

1. To elect two directors, named herein, to hold office for a term of three years;
2. To ratify the appointment of PKF O'Connor Davies, LLP as the Company's independent registered public accounting firm for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2018;
3. To approve, as a non-binding advisory vote, our named executive officer compensation; and
4. To transact such other business as may properly come before the meeting or any adjournment thereof.

The Board of Directors has fixed the close of business on May 5, 2018, as the date for determining the shareholders of record entitled to receive notice of, and to vote at, the Annual Meeting.

**We urge you to vote your shares over the Internet or through the mail at your earliest convenience.**

By Order of the Board of Directors

/s/ William J. Foote  
William J. Foote, Secretary  
Northvale, New Jersey

April 30, 2018

**INRAD OPTICS, INC.**

**181 Legrand Avenue**

**Northvale, NJ 07647**

**PROXY STATEMENT FOR ANNUAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS**

**Wednesday, June 27, 2018**

This Proxy Statement is being furnished in connection with the solicitation of proxies by the Board of Directors (the "Board") of INRAD OPTICS, INC., a New Jersey corporation with its principal offices at 181 Legrand Avenue, Northvale, New Jersey 07647 (the "Company"), to be used at the Annual Meeting of Shareholders of the Company (the "Annual Meeting") to be held at the offices of the Company, 181 Legrand Avenue, Northvale, New Jersey, 07647 on Wednesday, June 27, 2018 at 8:30 a.m. local time. The enclosed proxy is solicited by the Board. This Proxy Statement and the enclosed form of proxy are first being sent to shareholders on or about May 18, 2018.

Shareholders attending the Annual Meeting must comply with the Company's pre-registration requirements. If you are a stockholder of record and plan to attend the Annual Meeting, please contact William J. Foote, Chief Financial Officer and Corporate Secretary, by e-mail at [wfoote@inradoptics.com](mailto:wfoote@inradoptics.com) or by phone at (201) 767-1910 to register to attend the Annual Meeting. If you hold shares through an intermediary, such as a bank or broker, and you plan to attend, you must send a written request to attend either by regular mail or e-mail, along with proof of share ownership, such as a bank or brokerage firm account statement, confirming ownership to: Inrad Optics, Inc., 181 Legrand Avenue, Northvale, NJ 07647, Attn: William J. Foote, Chief Financial Officer and Corporate Secretary, or [wfoote@inradoptics.com](mailto:wfoote@inradoptics.com). In accordance with the security procedures of the building you will be required to present a form of government-issued photograph identification (such as a drivers' license) before signing in and being issued an identification badge on the day of the Annual Meeting. Please plan your arrival at Inrad Optics, Inc. offices so that you allow a reasonable amount of time before the start time of the meeting.

**Shareholders Entitled to Vote**

Only shareholders of record at the close of business on May 5, 2018, the record date fixed by the Board of Directors, will be entitled to notice of, and to vote at, the Annual Meeting. At the close of business on the record date, there were 13,516,600 shares of the Company's Common Stock, par value \$0.01 per share (the "Common Stock"), outstanding and entitled to vote at the meeting. Each share is entitled to one vote. The presence in person or by proxy of owners of a majority of the outstanding shares of the Company's Common Stock will constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at the Company's Annual Meeting.

For purposes of determining the votes cast with respect to any matter presented for consideration at the Annual Meeting, only those cast "for" are included. Abstentions and broker non-votes are counted only for the purpose of determining whether a quorum is present at the Annual Meeting. Owners of Common Stock are not entitled to cumulative voting in the election of directors. Owners of Common Stock will not have any dissenters' rights of appraisal in connection with any of the matters to be voted on at the Company's Annual Meeting.

If you hold your shares in "street name" through a broker or other nominee, you should instruct your broker or nominee how to vote. A "broker non-vote" occurs when a nominee holding shares for a beneficial owner returns a duly executed proxy that does not include any vote with respect to a particular proposal because the nominee did not have discretionary voting power with respect to the matter being considered and did not receive voting instructions from the beneficial owner. If that happens, the nominees may vote those shares only on matters deemed "routine," such as the ratification of auditors. Only Proposal No. 2 for the ratification of the appointment of PKF O'Connor Davies, LLP as our independent registered public accounting firm is considered a "routine" matter. Thus, if you do not give your broker or nominee specific voting instructions, your shares may only be voted for Proposal No. 2 and not voted for the other matters. If your shares are not voted, they will not be counted in determining the number of votes cast. However, shares represented by such "broker non-votes" will be counted for determining whether there is a quorum.

### **Votes Required to Approve Each Proposal**

The proposal to elect two director nominees will require an affirmative vote for the proposal by a plurality of the Common Stock entitled to vote at the Annual Meeting.

The proposal to ratify the appointment of PKF O'Connor Davies, LLP as the Company's independent registered public accounting firm for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2018 will require an affirmative vote for the proposal by a majority of the votes cast at the Annual Meeting by the holders of shares of Common Stock entitled to vote.

The proposal to approve the non-binding advisory resolution with respect to the compensation of our named executive officers will require an affirmative vote for the proposal by a majority of the votes cast at the Annual Meeting by the holders of shares of Common Stock entitled to vote.

### **Voting: Revocation of Proxies**

A form of proxy is enclosed for use at the Annual Meeting if a shareholder is unable to attend in person. Each proxy may be revoked at any time before it is exercised by giving written notice of revocation to the Secretary of the Company, by filing a later dated proxy with the Secretary at any time prior to its exercise or by voting at the meeting. The presence at the meeting of a stockholder who has given a proxy does not revoke the proxy unless the stockholder files a notice of revocation or votes by written ballot. All shares represented by valid proxies pursuant to this solicitation (and not revoked before they are exercised) will be voted as specified in the form of proxy. If no specification is given, the shares will be voted in favor of the Board's nominees "for" director and "for" the other proposals described in this Proxy Statement.

**IMPORTANT NOTICE REGARDING THE AVAILABILITY OF PROXY MATERIALS FOR THE ANNUAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS OF INRAD OPTICS, INC. TO BE HELD ON JUNE 27, 2018. THIS PROXY STATEMENT, THE ACCOMPANYING FORM OF PROXY CARD AND OUR ANNUAL REPORT ON FORM 10-K FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2017, INCLUDING FINANCIAL STATEMENTS, ARE AVAILABLE AT [www.proxyvote.com](http://www.proxyvote.com). Under rules issued by the Securities and Exchange Commission (the "SEC"), we are providing access to our proxy materials both by sending you this full set of proxy materials and by notifying you of the availability of our proxy materials on the internet.**

### **Costs of Solicitation**

The entire cost of soliciting these proxies will be borne by the Company. In following up the original solicitation of proxies by mail, the Company may make arrangements with brokerage houses and other custodians, nominees and fiduciaries to send proxies and proxy materials to the beneficial owners of the stock and may reimburse them for their expenses in so doing. If necessary, the Company may also use its officers and their assistants to solicit proxies from the shareholders, either personally or by telephone or special letter.

**PRINCIPAL SHAREHOLDERS**

The following table presents certain information available to the Company at the date hereof with respect to the security ownership of the Company's Common Stock by (i) each of the Company's directors and nominees, (ii) each named executive officer of the Company, (iii) all executive officers and directors as group, and (iv) each person known by the Company to beneficially own more than five percent (5%) of the Company's common stock outstanding as of April 25, 2018. Percentages that include ownership of options or convertible securities are calculated assuming exercise or conversion by each individual or entity of the options (including "out-of-the-money options"), or convertible securities owned by each individual or entity separately without considering the dilutive effect of option exercises and security conversions by any other individual or entity. Accordingly, the percentages may add to more than 100%. The address of each principal shareholder, unless otherwise indicated, is c/o Inrad Optics, Inc., 181 Legrand Avenue, Northvale, NJ 07647.



**Beneficial Ownership of Common Stock (1)**

Name and Address of Beneficial Owner	Amount and Nature of Beneficial Ownership	Percent of Common Stock
Luke P. LaValle, Jr.	52,097 (2)	*
Dennis G. Romano	45,000 (3)	*
N.E. Rick Strandlund	45,000 (4)	*
Jan M. Winston	49,597 (5)	*
Amy Eskilson	208,169 (6)(12)	1.5 %
William J. Foote	179,703 (7)(12)	1.3 %
George Murray	146,299 (8)	1.1 %
All Directors and Executive Officers as a group (8 persons)	823,579 (9)	5.8 %
Clarex Ltd. & Welland Ltd. Bay Street and Rawson Square P.O. Box N 3016 Nassau, Bahamas	8,688,789 (10)	48.0 %
Emancipation Management LLC 825 Third Ave New York, NY 10022	4,568,216 (11)	33.8 %
Inrad Optics, Inc. Employees 401(k) Plan Amy Eskilson and William J. Foote, as Trustees 181 Legrand Avenue Northvale, NJ 07647	1,508,711 (12)	9.5 %
Minerva Advisors LLC 50 Monument Road, Suite 201 Bala Cynwyd, PA 19004	1,240,392 (13)	9.2 %
William Nicklin 3 Rivers Edge Newburgh, NY 12550	947,000 (14)	7.0 %
V. Adah Nicklin 3 Rivers Edge, Newburgh, NY 12550	827,580 (15)	6.1 %

\* Less than 1%

(1) Unless otherwise indicated, each of the shareholders named in the table has sole voting and investment power with respect to the shares beneficially owned, subject to the information contained in the footnotes to the table.

(2) Including 49,597 shares issuable upon exercise of options exercisable within 60 days of April 25, 2018.

(3) Including 45,000 shares issuable upon exercise of options exercisable within 60 days of April 25, 2018.

(4) Including 45,000 shares issuable upon exercise of options exercisable within 60 days of April 25, 2018.

(5) Including 49,597 shares issuable upon exercise of options exercisable within 60 days of April 25, 2018.

Including 112,966 shares issuable upon exercise of options exercisable within 60 days of April 25, 2018 and (6) 80,653 shares allocated to Ms. Eskilson in the Inrad Optics, Inc. 401(k) Plan (the “401(k) Plan”) over which she has voting and dispositive power.

Including 73,498 shares issuable upon exercise of options exercisable within 60 days of April 25, 2018 and (7) 104,043 shares allocated to Mr. Foote in the Inrad Optics, Inc. 401(k) Plan (the “401(k) Plan”) over which he has voting and dispositive power.

Including 67,800 shares issuable upon exercise of options exercisable within 60 days of April 25, 2018 and 76,640 (8) shares allocated to Mr. Murray in the Inrad Optics, Inc. 401(k) Plan (the "401(k) Plan") over which he has dispositive power but no voting power.

(9) Including 462,207 shares issuable upon exercise of options exercisable within 60 days of April 25, 2018.

Including 2,500,000 shares and warrants to purchase an additional 1,875,000 shares at \$1.35 per share which are (10) issuable upon conversion of convertible promissory notes and 196,875 shares issuable upon conversion of accrued interest on convertible promissory notes.

(11) These figures are based upon information set forth in Schedule 13G filed February 12, 2018 on behalf of each of the following reporting persons:

Emancipation Management LLC (a)

Circle N Advisors, LLC (a)

Charles Frumberg (a)

(a) Each of these reporting persons is deemed a beneficial owner of 4,568,216 shares of Inrad Optics, Inc. with shared investment power but no voting power with respect to these 4,568,216 shares.

(12) These figures are based upon information provided by Amy Eskilson and William J. Foote, the trustees of the 401(k) Plan. Amy Eskilson and William J. Foote, as trustees of the 401(k) Plan, share voting power with respect to the shares held by the 401(k) Plan, but do not have dispositive power over such shares. Ms. Eskilson and Mr. Foote disclaim beneficial ownership of the shares held by the 401(k) Plan, except to the extent of the shares allocated to each of them, respectively, in the plan in their individual capacities, and such shares are not reflected in the amounts of shares listed as being beneficially held in their respective individual capacities in this table.

(13) These figures are based upon information set forth in Schedule 13G filed February 5, 2016 on behalf of each of the following reporting persons:

Minerva Advisors LLC (a) (b)

Minerva Group, LP (a)

Minerva GP, LP

Minerva GP, Inc. (a)

David P. Cohen (a) (b)

(a) Each of these reporting persons is deemed a beneficial owner of 1,229,392 shares of Inrad Optics, Inc. held by Minerva Group, L.P. with both investment power and voting power with respect to these 1,229,392 shares.

(b) In addition to his deemed beneficial ownership of the 1,229,392 shares described in footnote (12)(a) above, David P. Cohen is deemed a beneficial owner of the 11,000 shares of Inrad Optics, Inc. beneficially owned by Minerva Advisors, LLC. David P. Cohen and Minerva Advisors, LLC have shared investment power and voting power with respect to these 11,000 shares.

(14) These figures are based upon information set forth in Schedule 13G filed September 16, 2014. William Nicklin has sole investment power and voting power with respect to these 947,000 shares.

(15) These figures are based upon information set forth in Schedule 13G filed February 16, 2016. V. Adah Nicklin has sole investment power and sole voting power with respect to these 827,580 shares.

## OTHER MATTERS

At the time this Proxy Statement was mailed to shareholders, management was not aware that any other matter will be presented for action at the Annual Meeting. If other matters properly come before the Meeting, it is intended that the shares represented by proxies will be voted with respect to those matters in accordance with the best judgment of the persons voting them.

## PROPOSAL ONE

### ELECTION OF DIRECTORS

The Board is divided into three classes (Class I, Class II and Class III) with directors of the Board (collectively, "Directors") in each class serving staggered three-year terms. At each annual meeting of shareholders, the terms of Directors in one of these three classes expire. At that annual meeting of shareholders, Directors are elected to a Class to succeed the Directors whose terms are then expiring, with the terms of that Class of Directors so elected to expire at the third annual meeting of shareholders, thereafter. There are currently six members of the Board: two Class I Directors whose terms will expire at the 2020 Annual Meeting of Shareholders, two Class III Director whose term will expire at the 2019 Annual Meeting of Shareholders and two Class II Directors whose terms will expire at the 2018 Annual Meeting of Shareholders.

The following table sets forth the name and age of the Class II nominees for election to the Board of Directors, the principal occupation or employment of the nominees for the past five or more years, the principal business of the organization in which said occupation is or was carried on, the name or any other public corporation for which the nominees serve or served during the past five years as a Board member, and the period during which the nominees have served as a director of the Company.

#### **Nominated for Election to Board of Directors:**

<b>Name and Age</b>	<b>Since</b>	<b>Positions; Business Experience</b>
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#### ***Class II Director — Term Expires in 2021***

William J. Foote, 67	2017	Director of the Company (October 2017 - present)
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Chief Financial Officer, Inrad Optics Inc. (2006 - present)  
Secretary and Treasurer, Inrad Optics Inc. (2009 – present)  
Chief Financial Officer, INSL-X Products Corporation (2002 - 2005)  
Chief Financial Officer, ASD Group (2000 – 2002)  
Vice President Finance, Controller, Director Benjamin Moore & Co. (1990 -1999)

Luke P. LaValle, Jr.,  
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2005 Director of the Company (2005 - present)  
President and Chief Executive Officer, American Capital Management Inc. (1980 - present)  
Senior Investment Officer, United States Trust Company of NY (1967 - 1980)  
Lt. Colonel, US Army Reserve (Retired)

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**Other Continuing Directors:**

**Name and Age      Since Positions; Business Experience**

***Class III Directors — Term to Expire in 2019***

Amy Eskilson, 57	2012	Director of the Company (October 2012 - present) President and Chief Executive Officer of the Company (October 2012 - present) Vice President of Sales and Marketing for the Company (February 2011-September 2012) Director of Business Development, Thorlabs Inc. (2001-2011) Sales, Technical Support and Marketing roles, Thor Labs Inc. (1992-2000)
Jan M. Winston, 81	2000	Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Company (2009 - present) Director of the Company (2000 - present) Management Consultant (1997 - present) Division Director/General Manager IBM Corporation (1981 - 1997) Executive positions held in Development, Finance and Marketing

***Class I Directors — Term to Expire in 2020***

Dennis G. Romano, 75	2009	Director of the Company (September 2009 - present) Consultant - Defense and Engineering/Construction Industry (2007 - 2009) Senior Vice President of Business Development, Defense Business Unit, Washington Group International, a provider of engineering, construction and technical services (2002 – 2007) Vice President, Business Strategy and Development, Northrop Grumman Corporation (1999 - 2001) Various Senior and Executive Level Positions, Marketing, Business Development and Strategy, Northrop Grumman Corporation (1995 - 1999) Vice President of Business Development, Grumman Aircraft Engineering Corporation (1993 - 1995) Marketing and Business Development, Grumman Aircraft Engineering Corporation (1974 - 1993) Aircrew member, flight test organization, Grumman Aircraft Engineering Corporation (1968 - 1974) Avionics Technician, Grumman Aircraft Engineering Corporation (1964 - 1968)
N.E. Rick Strandlund, 74	2009	Director of the Company (January 2009 - present) Chairman, President and CEO, Nanoproducts Corporation, a producer and developer of nanoprodukt materials and technologies (2005-2013) President and CEO, Research Electro-Optics, Inc., a manufacturer of thin-film coatings and components (2002 - 2004) President and COO, Research Electro-Optics Inc. (1997 - 2002)

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Vice-President/General Manager, Santa Rosa Division, Optical Coating Laboratory, Inc.  
(1993 - 1996)  
Vice President/General Manager, Commercial Products Division, Optical Coating  
Laboratory, Inc. (1986 - 1993)



The Board believes that the above-mentioned experience, along with the other experience, qualifications, attributes and skills of the Board members described in the summary below, provide the Company with the perspectives and judgment necessary to guide the Company's strategies and monitor their execution.

### **Other Experience, Qualification, Attributes and Skills of Board Members**

The Board considered the following experience, qualifications, attributes and skills of its nominees and the other continuing elected directors in determining that each should serve as a director of the Company:

William J. Foote

Financial and accounting professional with experience gained in a number of senior financial roles with small and mid-cap manufacturing companies both public and private

· Certified Public Accountant and Certified Professional Accountant in Canada

· Membership in Illinois Society of CPA's and AICPA

· Prior Board experience with Benjamin Moore & Co, Ltd.

· Over 12 years as Chief Financial Officer of Inrad Optics

Luke P. LaValle, Jr.

Investment professional with over 40 years of experience in analyzing, researching and investing in smaller public growth companies with U.S. Trust Co of NY and American Capital Management, Inc. Senior analyst and membership in the NY Society of Security Analysts

Extensive board experience with V Band Corporation, a public company, from 1992 to 1995 and several private companies including Benmarl Wine Company, Ltd. (1982-1992) and Westhampton Yacht Squadron, Ltd. (1985-1995)

Military experience with rank of Lieutenant Colonel, Military Intelligence, USAR (retired) and previous assignments to Army Staff, Office of Operations, Plans and Strategy, The Pentagon and Intelligence Officer, 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division

Business and military experience includes analysis of tactical and strategic issues, the formation of operational plans based upon situational experience and the development and assessment of alternative courses of action with practical application to planning, direction, guidance and control of the operations of smaller sized organizations like Inrad Optics, Inc.

· Chairman of the Company's Audit Committee

Amy Eskilson

More than 20 years of experience in operations, senior management and executive level positions in the photonics industry in both domestic and global manufacturing environment.

Broad and deep experience in acquisitions; facilitated 8 transactions in the photonics sector over a 9 year period prior to joining Inrad Optics, Inc.

Founding team member experience involving privately funded high technology start-ups and R & D institutional spin-off companies.

Extensive experience working with government and university research facilities; defense, aerospace, and technology corporations, small businesses and start-ups.

Expertise in corporate and public relations, technology licensing, contracts, marketing and export control/ITAR, corporate real estate and facilities management.

Proven leadership and business building skills including strategic planning, manufacturing management, corporate culture building and change management.

Dennis G. Romano

Global business experience in business development as Chief Business Development Officer of a business unit of Washington Group International

- Over 20 years of experience in business and strategy development for U.S. and International government clients
- Senior executive leadership for multiple business development organizations with a large international presence

Operational management experience and joint leadership, in a \$700 million business unit in the defense sector with Washington Group International

- Extensive background in business development, marketing and strategic development and implementation

Chairman of the Company's Nominating Committee

N.E. Rick Strandlund

Global business experience as President and CEO of NanoProducts Corporation and as President and CEO of Research Electro-Optics, Inc.

- Thin-film optical coating experience as VP and General Manager of Optical Coating Laboratory, Inc.

Board experience as Chairman of the Board of NanoProducts and as a former director of Research Electro-Optics, Inc.

Strategic and business development leadership of two global high-tech, photonics related manufacturing organizations

- Prior leadership experience in new product and new technology development

MBA in Management and Bachelor of Science in Aerospace Engineering

Chairman of the Company's Compensation Committee

Jan M. Winston

Extensive background in high technology sector and over 35 years with IBM in a variety of managerial and executive positions primarily in the development of new computer systems and new software products such as the personal computer and speech recognition software

Diverse experience gained through senior level roles in the areas of product development, marketing, finance, planning and strategy, including general management and profit and loss responsibilities in both the domestic and international area

AB degree from Princeton University and attendance at the Columbia Graduate School of Business Administration

Experience as a management consultant serving clients such as IBM, as well as smaller manufacturing organizations, covering various projects such as product management, strategic and financial planning, and management systems.

Served as Chairman of the Audit Committee, Chairman of the Compensation Committee and is the current Chairman of the Board

***The Board of Directors unanimously recommends that you vote FOR the election of the Board's nominees for Class II director: William J. Foote and Luke P. LaValle, Jr.***

## PROPOSAL TWO

### **RATIFICATION OF APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM**

PKF O'Connor Davies, LLP served as the Company's independent registered public accounting firm since December 13, 2017 and has been appointed by the Company's Audit Committee to serve as the Company's independent registered public accountants for the current fiscal year ending December 31, 2018.

The Company's Audit Committee has the responsibility to select, retain and oversee the work of outside auditors and, when appropriate, to replace the outside auditors. Stockholder ratification of the appointment of PKF O'Connor Davies, LLP as the Company's independent registered public accounting firm for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2018 is not required by law or by the Company's Certificate of Incorporation or by-laws. However, the Board of Directors is submitting the selection of PKF O'Connor Davies, LLP to the Company's stockholders for ratification as a matter of good corporate governance and practice. If the stockholders fail to ratify the appointment, the Company will reconsider whether or not to retain that firm. Even if the selection is ratified, the Company may appoint a different independent registered public accounting firm during the year if the Audit Committee of the Board of Directors determines that such a change would be in the best interests of the Company and its stockholders. A representative of PKF O'Connor Davies, LLP is not expected to be present at the Annual Meeting or to have an opportunity to make a statement if they desire to do so but will be available by telephone to respond to appropriate questions from the stockholders.

***The Board of Directors unanimously recommends that you vote FOR the proposal to ratify the appointment of PKF O'Connor Davies, LLP as the Company's independent registered public accounting firm during the fiscal year ending December 31, 2018.***

## **PROPOSAL THREE**

### **ADVISORY VOTE ON NAMED EXECUTIVE OFFICER COMPENSATION**

The Board of Directors is asking shareholders to approve an advisory resolution on our named executive officer compensation as disclosed in this Proxy Statement. Our Compensation Committee has structured our executive compensation program to attract, motivate and retain highly qualified employees, to align our executives' interests with those of our shareholders and to provide our executives with certain additional compensation when superior financial results are achieved. The Compensation Committee and the Board of Directors believe that our compensation policies and procedures are effective in achieving our goals.

The Board of Directors is urging shareholders to read the "Executive Compensation" section of this Proxy Statement beginning on page 18 of this Proxy Statement, which includes the "Summary Compensation Table" and other related compensation tables, notes and narrative related to the compensation of our named executive officers.

In accordance with the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act, or the Dodd-Frank Act and Section 14A of the Exchange Act, as amended, and as a matter of good corporate governance, the Board of Directors is asking shareholders to approve the following resolution at the 2018 Annual Meeting of Shareholders:

RESOLVED, that the shareholders of Inrad Optics, Inc. (the "Company") approve the compensation of the Company's named executive officers as disclosed in the Proxy Statement for the Company's 2018 Annual Meeting of Shareholders pursuant to the compensation disclosure rules of the SEC (which includes the Executive Compensation section, the Summary Compensation Table and related narrative discussion).

Although this proposal, commonly referred to as a "say-on-pay" vote, is an advisory vote that will not be binding on the Board of Directors or the Compensation Committee, the Board of Directors and the Compensation Committee will consider the results of this advisory vote when making future decisions regarding our named executive compensation program. The next such advisory vote on named executive officer compensation will occur at the Company's 2019 Annual Meeting of Shareholders.

*The Board of Directors unanimously recommends that you vote FOR the approval, on an advisory basis, of the compensation of our named executive officers.*



## Compensation of Directors

Compensation for non-employee directors consists of two components: cash (i.e. meeting attendance fees, retainer and cash bonuses) and awards under the Company's 2010 Equity Compensation Program (the "Program"). Under the Program, stock option grants and restricted stock unit grants may be made by the Compensation Committee which serves as the Program Administrator. Equity-based grants are intended to align the interests of the Company's directors with that of other shareholders. The Company does not require its directors to own stock.

Fees paid to non-employee directors were \$500 during fiscal year 2017 for each board or committee meeting attended in person, and \$250 for each meeting in which they participated via telephone.

In addition, each non-employee director is paid an annual retainer fee, in quarterly installments. For 2017, the annual retainer was \$15,000 for the Chairman and \$10,000 for each of the other outside directors.

The Company provides for reimbursement of expenses for all directors in the performance of their duties, including reasonable travel expenses incurred attending meetings.

Directors, who are also employees of the Company, do not receive any additional fees for such services.

The table that follows provides information on components of non-employee director compensation in 2017.

### Director Compensation in Fiscal Year 2017

Name	Fees earned or paid in cash (\$)	Option Awards (\$) (1)	Total (\$)
Luke P. LaValle, Jr.	14,500	5,500	20,000
Dennis G. Romano	14,500	5,500	20,000
N.E. Rick Strandlund	14,500	5,500	20,000
Jan M. Winston	19,500	5,500	24,500



The value of stock option awards is computed in accordance with FASB ASC Topic 718. These amounts reflect the aggregate grant date fair value of the awards. The Company granted 10,000 stock options with an exercise price of \$0.57 per share to each of the directors on January 20, 2017. The stock options had a fair value of approximately \$0.55 per share on the grant date. The number of stock options which vested in 2017 to each non-employee (1) director was as follows: Luke P. LaValle, Jr., 8,334; Dennis G. Romano, 8,334; N.E. Rick Strandlund, 8,334 and Jan M. Winston, 8,334. As of December 31, 2017, the aggregate number of option awards outstanding for each non-employee director then serving as a director was as follows: Luke P. LaValle, Jr., 59,597; Dennis G. Romano, 55,000; N.E. Rick Strandlund, 55,000; and Jan M. Winston, 59,597.

## **THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND ITS COMMITTEES**

### **Board of Directors**

#### *Composition of the Board*

The Board of Directors in 2017 consisted of four independent directors, and the Company's President and CEO, Amy Eskilson through October 18, 2017, at which time the Board of Directors unanimously elected William J. Foote as a class II director.

The Board of Directors has determined that each of its four outside directors, Mr. Luke P. LaValle, Jr., Mr. Dennis G. Romano, Mr. N.E. Rick Strandlund and Mr. Jan M. Winston has no material relationship with the Company (other than as director) and is therefore "independent" within the meaning of the current listing standards of the Nasdaq Stock Market and applicable SEC rules. In its annual review of director independence, the Board of Directors considers all commercial, banking, consulting, legal, accounting or other business relationships any director may have with the Company. The Board of Directors considers a "material relationship" to be one that impairs or inhibits, or has the potential to impair or inhibit, a director's exercise of critical and disinterested judgment on behalf of the Company and its shareholders. When assessing the "materiality" of a director's relationship with the Company, the Board of Directors considers all relevant facts and circumstances not only from the standpoint of the director in his or her individual capacity, but also from the standpoint of the persons to whom the director is related and organizations with which the director is affiliated.

Ms. Eskilson and Mr. Foote do not serve on any Committees of the Board. Mr. Jan M. Winston served as Chairman of the Board during the year. The Board met 11 times during fiscal year 2017, including four meetings by telephone. Board members are encouraged, but not required by any specific Board policy, to attend the Company's Annual Meeting.

All five Board members, then in office, were in attendance at the 2017 Annual Meeting. During 2017 each non-employee director of the Company was also a member of each Committee of the Board of Directors and each attended all of the meetings of the Board and the respective committees of the Board on which they served in fiscal 2017.

The Bylaws of the Company provide for a range of no less than four and no more than six directors.

The Board does not have a policy on whether or not the roles of Chief Executive Officer and Chairman of the Board should be separate and, if they are to be separate, whether the Chairman of the Board should be selected from the non-employee directors or be an employee. The Board believes that it should be free to make a choice from time to time in any manner that is in the best interests of the Company and its shareholders.

Currently, Mr. Winston serves as the Chairman of the Board and Ms. Eskilson serves as a director and Chief Executive Officer. The Board of Directors believes this is the most appropriate structure for the Company at this time because it makes the best use of Mr. Winston's skills and experience, including more than 18 years as a director of the Company.

#### *Board's Role in the Oversight of Risk Management*

Companies face a variety of risks, including credit risk, liquidity risk, and operational risk. In fulfilling its risk oversight role, the Board focuses on the adequacy of the Company's risk management process and overall risk management system. The Board believes an effective risk management system will (1) adequately identify the material risks that the Company faces in a timely manner, (2) implement appropriate risk management strategies that are responsive to the Company's risk profile and specific material risk exposures, (3) integrate consideration of risk and risk management into business decision-making throughout the Company, and (4) include policies and procedures that adequately transmit necessary information with respect to material risks to senior executives and, as appropriate, to the Board or relevant committee.

The Audit Committee has been designated to take the lead in overseeing risk management at the Board level. Accordingly, the Audit Committee schedules time for periodic review of risk management, in addition to its other duties. In this role, the Audit Committee receives reports from management and other advisors, and strives to generate serious and thoughtful attention to the Company's risk management process and system, the nature of the material risks the Company faces, and the adequacy of the Company's policies and procedures designed to respond to and mitigate these risks.

Although the Board's primary risk oversight has been assigned to the Audit Committee, the full Board also periodically receives information about the Company's risk management system and the most significant risks that the Company faces. This is principally accomplished through Audit Committee reports to the Board and summary versions of the briefings provided by management and advisors to the Committee.

In addition, the Board and the Audit Committee encourage management to promote a corporate culture that understands risk management and incorporates it into the overall corporate strategy and day-to-day business operations. The Company's risk management structure also includes an ongoing effort to assess and analyze the most likely areas of future risk for the Company. As a result, the Board and Audit Committee periodically ask the Company's executives to discuss the most likely sources of material future risks and how the Company is addressing any significant potential vulnerability.

### **Audit Committee**

The Company has a separately designated standing Audit Committee. Luke P. LaValle, Jr. has served as the Audit Committee Chairman since assuming the role in December 2006. The three other members of the Audit Committee are Messrs. Romano, Strandlund and Winston. The Board of Directors has determined that the members of the Audit Committee each satisfy the requirements for independence under applicable SEC rules, as well as the independence standards of the NASDAQ Stock Market. In 2017, the Audit Committee was comprised of all outside directors throughout the year. The Audit Committee is empowered by the Board of Directors to, among other things, serve as an independent and objective party to monitor the Company's financial reporting process, internal control system and disclosure control system, review and appraise the audit efforts of the Company's independent accountants, assume direct responsibility for the appointment, compensation, retention and oversight of the work of the outside auditors and for the resolution of disputes between the outside auditors and the Company's management regarding financial reporting issues, and provide an open avenue of communication among the independent accountants, financial and senior management, and the Company's Board of Directors. The Audit Committee has adopted a written charter approved by the Board, a copy of which is available on our website at [www.inradoptics.com](http://www.inradoptics.com).

The Audit Committee met five times during 2017 with all members in attendance at all of the meetings.

#### *Audit Committee Financial Expert*

The Board of Directors of the Company has determined that Mr. LaValle is an "audit committee financial expert" as such term is defined under applicable SEC rules.

### **Compensation Committee**

The Compensation Committee is comprised of all independent outside directors, and is responsible for establishing appropriate salaries and bonuses for all executive officers and senior management of the Company. N.E. Rick Strandlund has served as the Chairman of the Compensation Committee since his appointment in May 2009. Messrs. LaValle, Romano and Winston are also members of the Compensation Committee.

The Compensation Committee has the responsibility of granting equity-based incentive compensation (i.e. stock options and grants of restricted stock units) to eligible employees including the executive officers, and to its directors. The Compensation Committee duties also include administering and interpreting the Company's 2010 Equity

Compensation Program (“the Stock Compensation Plan”). The duties relating to the Company’s Stock Compensation Plan include selecting from eligible employees those persons to whom awards will be granted and determining the type of award, the number of shares to be included in each award, any restrictions for some or all of the shares subject to the award and the award price. The Compensation Committee reviews and approves all matters regarding the compensation of the executive officers and other executives of the Company. The Compensation Committee has no charter.

The Compensation Committee has the authority to hire independent advisors to help fulfill its duties. No independent advisors were hired in 2017.

The Compensation Committee held three meetings during 2017 to review and establish compensation policy for the year with all members in attendance at all meetings.

### **Nominating Committee**

During 2017, the Nominating Committee was comprised of all independent, outside directors. The Nominating Committee met once during the year with all members in attendance. The Committee strives to compose the Board of Directors with a collection of individuals who bring a variety of complementary skills which, as a group, will possess the appropriate skills and experience to oversee the Company’s business. Accordingly, although diversity may be a consideration in the Committee’s process, the Committee and the Board of Directors do not have a formal policy with regard to the consideration of diversity in identifying director nominees. The Nominating Committee has adopted a written charter approved by the Board, a copy of which is available on our website at [www.inradoptics.com](http://www.inradoptics.com).

Mr. Dennis Romano has served as Chairman of the Nominating Committee since his appointment by the Board of Directors on January 18, 2012. The other three members of the Nominating Committee are Messrs. LaValle, Strandlund and Winston.

### *Procedures for Considering Nominations Made by Stockholders*

The Nominating Committee’s charter describes procedures for nominations to be submitted by shareholders and other third-parties, other than candidates who have previously served on the Board or who are recommended by the Board. The charter states that a nomination must be delivered to the Secretary of the Company at the principal executive offices of the Company not later than the close of business on the ninetieth (90th) day nor earlier than the close of business on the one hundred twentieth (120<sup>th</sup>) day prior to the first anniversary of the preceding year's annual meeting; provided, however, that if the date of the annual meeting is more than thirty days before or more than sixty days after such anniversary date, notice to be timely must be so delivered not earlier than the close of business on the one hundred twentieth day prior to such annual meeting and not later than the close of business on the later of the ninetieth

day prior to such annual meeting or the close of business on the tenth day following the day on which public announcement of the date of such meeting is first made by the Company. The public announcement of an adjournment or postponement of an annual meeting will not commence a new time period (or extend any time period) for the giving of a notice as described above. The charter requires a nomination notice to set forth as to each person whom the proponent proposes to nominate for election as a director: (a) all information relating to such person that is required to be disclosed in solicitations of proxies for election of directors in an election contest, or is otherwise required, in each case pursuant to Regulation 14A under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (including such person's written consent to being named in the proxy statement as a nominee and to serving as a director if elected), and (b) information that will enable the Nominating Committee to determine whether the candidate satisfies the criteria established by the Nominating Committee, as described below.

*Qualifications*

The charter describes the minimum qualifications for nominees and the qualities or skills that are necessary for directors to possess. Each nominee:

- must satisfy any legal requirements applicable to members of the Board;

- must have business or professional experience that will enable such nominee to provide useful input to the Board in its deliberations;

- must have a reputation in the Company's industry, for honesty and ethical conduct;

- must have a working knowledge of the types of responsibilities expected of members of a board of directors of a public corporation; and

- must have experience, either as a member of the board of directors of another public or private company or in another capacity that demonstrates the nominee's capacity to serve in a fiduciary position.

*Identification and Evaluation of Candidates for the Board*

Candidates to serve on the Board will be identified from all available sources, including recommendations made by shareholders. The Nominating Committee's charter provides that there will be no differences in the manner in which the Nominating Committee evaluates nominees recommended by shareholders and nominees recommended by the Committee or management, except that no specific process shall be mandated with respect to the nomination of any individuals who have previously served on the Board. The evaluation process for individuals other than existing Board members will include:

- a review of the information provided to the Nominating Committee by the proponent;

- a review of reference letters from at least two sources determined to be reputable by the Nominating Committee; and

- a personal interview of the candidate;

together with a review of such other information as the Nominating Committee shall determine to be relevant.

### *Third Party Recommendations*

In connection with the 2018 Annual Meeting of Shareholders, the Nominating Committee did not receive any nominations from any shareholder or group of shareholders which owned more than 5% of the Company's Common Stock for at least one year.

### **Communication with the Board**

The Board has established a procedure that enables shareholders to communicate in writing with members of the Board. Any such communication should be addressed to the Company's Secretary and should be sent to such individual c/o the Company at its principal place of business at 181 Legrand Ave, Northvale, NJ 07647. Any such communication must state, in a conspicuous manner, that it is intended for distribution to the entire Board. Under the procedures established by the Board, upon the Secretary's receipt of such communication, the Company's Secretary will send a copy of such communication to each member of the Board, identifying it as a communication received from a shareholder. Absent unusual circumstances, at the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board held more than two days after such communication has been distributed, the Board will consider the substance of any such communication.



**EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION AND OTHER INFORMATION****Executive Officers of the Registrant**

The following table sets forth the name and age of each executive officer of the Company, the period during which each such person has served as an executive officer and the current position with the Company held by each such person:

<b>Name and Age</b>	<b>Since</b>	<b>Position With the Company</b>
Amy Eskilson, 57	2012	President and Chief Executive Officer
William J. Foote, 67	2006	Chief Financial Officer, Corporate Secretary and Treasurer
Thomas A. Caughey, 69	2011	Vice President of Product Development
George Murray, 54	2013	Vice President of Sales and Marketing

Amy Eskilson joined the Company on February 7, 2011 as Vice President of Sales and Marketing and was appointed an officer on March 24, 2011. She has held the position of President and CEO since October 1, 2012. Previously, she spent a number of years with Thorlabs, Inc., a photonic tool catalog company where she served as Director of Business Development from 2001 to 2011. In this role Amy coordinated a team responsible for a total of eight acquisitions. She fostered the development of multiple partner companies and executed both technology transfers and IP license agreements. Prior to that she was the inside sales and technical support manager for Thorlabs and served in various marketing roles beginning in 1992. Ms. Eskilson was also involved as a founding member in several private photonic companies including Nova Phase, Inc., Menlo Systems, Inc. and Idesta Quantum Electronics where she also served on the Board of Directors. She received her BA in Communications in 1985 from Montclair State University.

William J. Foote joined the Company in May 2006 and was appointed Chief Financial Officer and Corporate Secretary on May 16, 2006. In June 2009, he was appointed to the position of Treasurer. In October 2017, the Board of Directors unanimously elected William J. Foote as a class II director. He previously served as Chief Financial Officer of INSL-X Products Corporation, a paint and coatings manufacturer, from 2002 through 2005. From 2000 to 2002, he was CFO of ASD Group, Inc., a publicly held contract manufacturer serving the OEM marketplace in the high-tech sector. From 1990 through 1999, Mr. Foote held several executive positions including Corporate Controller, Director and Vice-President of Finance positions with Benjamin Moore & Co., a paint and coatings manufacturer. Earlier in his career, Mr. Foote served in various senior financial roles in Canada. Mr. Foote is both a Certified Public Accountant and a Chartered Professional Accountant (Canada). His past experience includes working in the audit area with the public accounting firm of KPMG (Canada). He holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from Carleton University in

Ottawa and a Master's Degree in Accounting from the University of British Columbia.

Thomas A. Caughey has been with the Company since 1978. He was appointed an officer on March 24, 2011 and serves as Vice-President of Product Development, a position he has held for more than 15 years. His current role has focused on development of systems involving non-linear crystals, and advances in the development of individual crystal components that the company manufactures. Previously, he was a research associate at Texas Tech University, working in the area of picosecond spectroscopy of chemical reactions. Tom holds a Doctorate in physical chemistry from the University of Wisconsin – Madison and an undergraduate degree in chemistry from the University of Michigan – Ann Arbor.

George Murray assumed the role of Vice President of Sales and Marketing on January 14, 2013 and was appointed an officer on January 30, 2013. He joined the Company as Sales Manager, West Region on March 29, 2010. Previously, he spent a number of years with Axsys Technologies Imaging Systems, a developer, manufacturer and distributor of optical systems for the aerospace, defense, semiconductor, medical and graphic arts industries. In addition, he held increasingly responsible roles in applications engineering, product marketing and sales management, including international sales, with Photon Dynamics, a provider of inspection systems to the automotive, electronics and semiconductor industries. He also held sales engineer, product marketing manager and system engineer roles with the Gerber group of Companies, a provider of inspection and imaging systems and CAD CAM software. Mr. Murray holds an MBA from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute and a B.S., Mechanical Engineering from the University of Connecticut.

Each of the executive officers has been elected by the Board of Directors to serve as an officer of the Company until the next election of officers, as provided by the Company's by-laws.

### Executive Compensation

The following Summary Compensation Table sets forth, for the years ended December 31, 2017 and 2016, the compensation paid by the Company and its Subsidiaries, with respect to the Company's Chief Executive Officer and two other highest paid executives.

#### Summary Compensation Table

Name & Principal Position	Year	Salary	Bonus	Option Awards	Stock Awards	All Other Compensation	Total
		(\$)	(\$)	(\$)	(\$)	(\$)	(\$)
				(1)(2)		(3)	
Amy Eskilson, President and CEO	2017	180,003	—	22,000	—	8,100	210,103
	2016	180,003	—	13,480	—	8,100	201,583
William J. Foote, CFO, Corporate Secretary and Treasurer	2017	149,656	—	11,000	—	6,735	167,391
	2016	149,656	—	6,740	—	6,735	163,131
George Murray, Vice President of Sales and Marketing	2017	139,006	—	8,250	—	6,255	153,511
	2016	139,006	—	5,055	—	6,368	150,429

The aggregate grant date fair value of option awards and stock awards are computed in accordance with FASB ASC Topic 718, in accordance with SEC rules. The valuation is based on the assumptions set forth in note 9 to our (1) Consolidated Financial Statements filed on April 1, 2018 with the Securities and Exchange Commission in our annual report on Form 10-K.

(2) On January 18, 2017, stock options with an exercise price of \$0.57 per share and a fair value of \$0.55 per share were granted to each of Ms. Eskilson (40,000 stock options), Mr. Foote (20,000 stock options) and Mr. Murray (15,000 stock options). On February 22, 2016, the Company granted stock options with an exercise price of \$0.35 per share and a fair value of \$0.34 per share to each of Ms. Eskilson (40,000 stock options), Mr. Foote (20,000 stock options) and Mr. Murray (15,000 stock options). All stock options granted in 2017 and 2016 have a ten year term and vest over three years, one-third each year upon the anniversary of the grant. The amounts reflect the aggregate grant date fair value of each award.

All Other Compensation includes the fair value of Company stock contributed in 2017 and 2016 as a match to the Company's Section 401(k) Plan for individual executive contributions to the Plan in the 2016 and 2015 Plan years, (3) respectively. This amounted to \$8,100 and \$8,100 for Ms. Eskilson, \$6,735 and \$6,735 for Mr. Foote and \$6,255 and \$6,368 for Mr. Murray, respectively.

### **Employment Agreements**

The Company has not entered into any employment agreement with any of Ms. Eskilson, Mr. Foote or Mr. Murray.

### **Outstanding Equity-Based Awards at Fiscal Year-End**

The following table provides information pertaining to vested and non-vested stock options held by each of the executive officers named in the Summary Compensation Table as of December 31, 2017.

## OUTSTANDING EQUITY AWARDS AT FISCAL YEAR-END

Name	OPTION AWARDS (1)			
	Number of Securities Underlying Unexercised options (#) Exercisable	Number of Securities Underlying Unexercised options (#) Unexercisable	Option Exercise Price (\$)	Option Expiration Date (\$)
Amy Eskilson, President and CEO	—	40,000	.57	01/18/2027
	13,333	26,667	.35	02/22/2026
	16,666	8,334	.19	01/13/2025
	20,000	—	.27	01/21/2024
	30,000	—	.50	9/12/2022
	6,300	—	.95	12/21/2021
	Total:	86,299	Total: 75,001	
William J. Foote, CFO, Secretary and Treasurer	—	20,000	.57	01/18/2027
	6,666	13,334	.35	02/22/2026
	6,667	3,333	.19	01/13/2025
	10,000	—	.27	01/21/2024
	10,000	—	.35	02/06/2023
	6,300	—	.95	12/21/2021
	6,300	—	.98	03/24/2021
	6,300	—	1.00	12/28/2019
	4,598	—	1.75	01/22/2019
Total:	51,831	Total: 36,667		
George Murray, VP of Sales and Marketing	—	15,000	.57	01/18/2027
	5,000	10,000	.35	02/22/2026
	13,333	6,667	.19	01/13/2025
	6,000	—	.27	01/21/2024
	15,000	—	.23	01/14/2023
	3,400	—	.95	12/21/2021
	3,400	—	.98	03/24/2021
	5,000	—	1.00	03/29/2020
Total:	51,133	Total: 31,667		

(1) Options have a ten year term and vest over three years, one-third each year upon each anniversary of the grant.

Equity Compensation Plan Information

The following table gives information about the Company's Common Stock that may be issued upon the exercise of options, warrants and rights under the Company's 2000 Equity Compensation Program and the 2010 Equity Compensation Plan, as of December 31, 2017. These plans were the Company's only equity compensation plans in existence as of December 31, 2017.

Plan Category	(a) Number of Securities to be Issued Upon Exercise of Outstanding Options, Warrants and Rights	(b) Weighted-Average Exercise Price of Outstanding Options, Warrants and Rights	(c) Number of Securities Remaining Available for Future Issuance Under Equity Compensation Plans (Excluding Securities Reflected in Column (a))
Equity Compensation Plans Approved by Shareholders (1)	903,008	\$ .58	3,184,300
Equity Compensation Plans Not Approved by Shareholders	—	—	—
Total	903,008	\$ .58	3,184,300

The 2000 Equity Compensation Program expired on June 2, 2010 but each outstanding option, warrant and right granted under the Program shall expire on the date determined under the terms of the original award, which in no event, shall exceed 10 years. The 2010 Equity Compensation Program was adopted by the Company's shareholders at the Annual Meeting held on June 2, 2010. Under this Program, an aggregate of up to 4,000,000 shares of (1) common stock may be granted. As of December 31, 2017 there were a total of 95,641 options outstanding under the 2000 Plan and 807,367 options outstanding under the 2010 Plan. In 2017, 3,400 stock options were forfeited and 13,506 stock options expired under the 2000 Plan. Under the 2010 Equity Compensation Plan, a total of 180,000 stock options were awarded to employees and directors and a total of 11,967 stock options were forfeited in 2017. In addition, 8,333 stock options were exercised under the 2010 Equity Compensation Plan in 2017.

#### Compliance with Section 16(a) Beneficial Ownership

Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 requires the Company's directors and officers, and persons who beneficially own more than 10% of a registered class of the Company's equity securities, to file initial reports of ownership and reports of changes in ownership with the Securities and Exchange Commission. These persons are required by the Securities and Exchange Commission to furnish the Company with copies of all Section 16(a) reports that they file.

Based solely on our review of (i) Forms 3 and 4 and amendments thereto furnished to the Company during 2017, (ii) any Forms 5 and amendments thereto furnished to the Company with respect to 2017, and (iii) any written representations that no Form 5 was required, with respect to the period from January 1, 2017 through December 31, 2017, all required reports were timely filed.

#### Certain Relationships and Related Party Transactions

The documented ethics policies of the Company restrict certain types of related party transactions between the Company and its directors, officers, and employees of the Company. Specifically, compensation for services provided by directors, officers, and employees to the Company may not be through any source but the Company. The Company's policies do permit related parties to participate in financial transactions, limited to financing via debt or equity. In such instances, the Company has an informal policy of requiring that the terms of such financing, including but not limited to interest rates and fees, are at least equal to or better than the terms obtainable via financing from other sources. The Audit Committee is responsible for the review and approval of all related party transactions.

In April 2018, the maturity date of a \$1,500,000 Subordinated Convertible Promissory Note issued in favor of Clarex Limited ("Clarex"), a major shareholder and debt holder, was extended to April 1, 2021. The note was originally issued on October 31, 2003 and bears interest at 6%. Interest accrues yearly, is payable on maturity of the note and, along with principal, may be converted into securities of the Company as follows: the Note is convertible in the aggregate into 1,500,000 units with each unit consisting of one share of common stock and one warrant. Each warrant allows the holder to acquire 0.75 shares of common stock at a price of \$1.35 per share. The expiration date of the warrants under the conversion terms has been extended to April 1, 2024.



In addition, in April 2018, the maturity date of a \$1,000,000 Subordinated Convertible Promissory Note issued in favor of Welland Limited, an affiliate of Clarex, bearing interest at 6% was extended to April 1, 2021. The note was originally issued on December 31, 2002. Interest accrues yearly, is payable on maturity of the note and, along with principal, may be converted into securities of the Company as follows: the Note is convertible in the aggregate into 1,000,000 units with each unit consisting of one share of common stock and one warrant. Each warrant allows the holder to acquire 0.75 shares of common stock at a price of \$1.35 per share. The expiration date of the warrants under the conversion terms has been extended to April 1, 2024.

No payments against the total principal of \$2,500,000 have been made. In 2017, the Company paid a total of \$112,500 in interest on the outstanding Subordinated Convertible Notes described above. Accrued interest on the notes amounted to \$112,500 as of December 31, 2017.

### **Code of Ethics**

The Company has adopted a Code of Ethics that applies to the Company's principal executive officer, principal financial officer, principal accounting officer or controller (or persons performing similar functions). A copy of such Code of Ethics is available on the Company website at [www.inradoptics.com](http://www.inradoptics.com) and will be made available without charge and upon written request addressed to the attention of the Secretary of the Company and mailed to the Company's principal executive offices, 181 Legrand Avenue, Northvale, NJ 07647. If the Company makes any substantive amendments to the Code of Ethics or grants any waiver, including any implicit waiver from a provision of the Code of Ethics to its directors or executive officers, the Company will disclose the nature of such amendments or waiver in its website or in a current report on Form 8-K.

### **Relationship with Independent Public Accountants**

On December 13, 2017, the Company dismissed its independent registered public accounting firm, Baker Tilly Virchow Krause, LLP, and the Audit Committee engaged PKF O'Connor Davies LLP, Certified Public Accountants ("PKF") as its new independent registered public accounting firm to examine and report on the financial statements of the Company for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2017.

#### **(a) Dismissal of Previous Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm**

- (i) On December 13, 2017, Inrad Optics, Inc. (the "Company") dismissed its independent registered public accounting firm, Baker Tilly Virchow Krause, LLP ("Baker Tilly").

- The report of Baker Tilly on the consolidated financial statements and the related balance sheets of the Company as of December 31, 2016 and 2015, and the related consolidated statements of operations,
- (ii) shareholders' equity, and cash flows for the years ended December 31, 2016 and 2015 did not contain an adverse opinion or disclaimer of opinion and were not qualified or modified as to uncertainty, audit scope or accounting principles.
  - (iii) The decision to change the independent registered public accounting firm was recommended and approved by the Audit Committee of the Board of Directors of the Company.

- During the Company's two most recent fiscal years ended December 31, 2016 and December 31, 2015, and any subsequent interim periods through December 13, 2017, the date of dismissal, (a) there were no disagreements with Baker Tilly on any matter of accounting principles or practices, financial statement disclosure, or auditing scope or procedure, which disagreements, if not resolved to the satisfaction of Baker Tilly, would have caused it to make reference thereto in its reports on the consolidated financial statements for such years and (b) there were no "reportable events" as described in Item 304(a)(1)(v) of Regulation S-K.
- (iv)

(b) Appointment of New Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm

On December 13, 2017, the Board of Directors of the Company engaged PKF O'Connor Davies LLP, Certified Public Accountants ("PKF") as its new independent registered public accounting firm to audit and review the Company's consolidated financial statements. During the two most recent fiscal years ended December 31, 2016 and December 31, 2015 and any subsequent interim periods through the date hereof prior to the engagement of PKF, neither the Company, nor someone on its behalf, has consulted PKF regarding:

- either: the application of accounting principles to a specified transaction, either completed or proposed; or the type of audit opinion that might be rendered on the Company's consolidated financial statements, and either a
- (i) written report was provided to the Company or oral advice was provided that the new independent registered public accounting firm concluded was an important factor considered by the Company in reaching a decision as to the accounting, auditing or financial reporting issue; or
  - (ii) any matter that was either the subject of a disagreement as defined in paragraph 304(a)(1)(iv) of Regulation S-K or a reportable event as described in paragraph 304(a)(1)(v) of Regulation S-K.

Representatives of PKF will be available by telephone during the annual meeting to respond to any appropriate questions that may arise. A representative of Baker Tilly Virchow Krause, LLP is not expected to be present at the Annual Meeting or to have an opportunity to make a statement if they desire to do so but will be available by telephone to respond to appropriate questions from the stockholders.

**Householding of Annual Meeting Materials**

Some banks, brokers and other nominee record holders may be participating in the practice of "householding" proxy statements. This means that only one copy of this Proxy Statement may have been sent to multiple stockholders in the same household. We will promptly deliver a separate copy of this Proxy Statement to any stockholder upon written or oral request to: Inrad Optics, Inc., 181 Legrand Avenue, Northvale, New Jersey 07647, Attn.: Secretary, or by phone at (201) 767-1910. Any stockholder who wants to receive a separate copy of this Proxy Statement, or of our proxy statements or annual reports in the future, or any stockholder who is receiving multiple copies and would like to receive only one copy per household, should contact the stockholder's bank, broker, or other nominee record holder, or the stockholder may contact us at the address and phone number above.

**Principal Accounting Fees and Services**

In accordance with the requirements of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 and the Audit Committee's charter, all audit and audit-related work and all non-audit work performed by the Company's independent accountants is approved in advance by the Audit Committee, including the proposed fees for such work. The Audit Committee is informed of

each service actually rendered.

*Audit Fees.*

Audit fees billed or expected to be billed by the Company's principal accountant, PKF O'Connor Davies, LLP ("PKF") for the audit of the financial statements included in the Company's Annual Reports on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2017 were \$65,000.

Audit fees billed or expected to be billed by the Company's predecessor principal accountant, Baker Tilly Virchow Krause, LLP ("BT"), for reviews of the financial statements included in the Company's Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q, for the year ended December 31, 2017 were \$45,000. Audit fees billed or expected to be billed by BT for the audit of the financial statements included in the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2016, and reviews of the financial statements included in the Company's Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q for the year ended December 31, 2016 were \$117,000.

*Audit-Related Fees*

The Company was billed \$2,125 and \$1,224 by the Company's principal accountants for the fiscal years ended December 31, 2017 and 2016, respectively, for assurance and related services that are reasonably related to the performance of the audit or review of the Company's financial statements and are not reported under the caption "Audit Fees" above.

*Tax Fees*

The Company was billed or is expected to be billed an aggregate of \$15,000 and \$19,000 by the Company's principal accountants for the fiscal years ended December 31, 2017 and 2016, respectively, for tax services, principally the preparation of income tax returns.

*All Other Fees*

The Applicable law and regulations provide an exemption that permits certain services to be provided by the Company's outside auditors even if they are not pre-approved. The Company has not relied on this exemption at any time since the Sarbanes-Oxley Act was enacted. The Company did not have any other fees in 2017 and 2016. (We paid Baker Tilly consulting fees in 2018 for support in implementing Revenue Recognition ASC 606 which was effective January 1, 2018)

**Audit Committee Report**

In connection with the preparation and filing of the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2017:

(1) the Audit Committee reviewed and discussed the audited financial statements with the Company's management;

(2) the Audit Committee discussed with the Company's independent auditors the matters required to be discussed by PCAOB Auditing Standard No. 1301, "Communications with Audit Committees";

(3) the Audit Committee received and reviewed the written disclosures and the letter from the Company's independent auditors required by the Independence Standards Board Standard No. 1 (Independence Discussions with Audit Committees) and discussed with the Company's independent auditors any relationships that may impact their objectivity and independence and satisfied itself as to the auditor's independence; and

based on the review and discussions referred to above, the Audit Committee recommended to the Board that the audited financial statements be included in the 2017 Annual Report on Form 10-K, as filed with the SEC on April 1, 2017.

This report shall not be deemed incorporated by reference by any general statement incorporating this Proxy Statement by reference to any filing under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, or under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, and shall not be deemed filed under either of such acts except to the extent that the Company specifically incorporates this information by reference.

This report is furnished by the Audit Committee of the Board of Directors.

Luke P. LaValle, Jr., Audit Committee Chairman

Jan M. Winston

Dennis Romano

N.E. Rick Strandlund



## **NOTICE REGARDING FILING OF SHAREHOLDERS PROPOSALS**

### **AT 2019 ANNUAL MEETING**

Any proposal intended to be presented by a shareholder at the 2019 Annual Meeting of Shareholders must be received by the Company at the Company's principal executive offices, 181 Legrand Avenue, Northvale, NJ 07647 no later than the close of business on December 31, 2018 to be considered for inclusion in the Proxy Statement for the 2019 Annual Meeting and by April 1, 2019 in order for the proposal to be considered timely for consideration at next years' Annual Meeting (but not included in the Proxy Statement for such meeting).

The Annual Meeting of Shareholders is called for the purposes set forth in the Notice. The Board does not know of any matter for action by shareholders at such meeting other than the matters described in the Notice. However, the enclosed proxy will confer discretionary authority with respect to matters which are not known at the date of printing hereof which may properly come before the meeting. It is the intention of the person named in the proxy to vote in accordance with their judgment on any such matter.

You are cordially invited to attend the Annual Meeting in person. Your participation in discussion of the Company's affairs will be welcome.

/S/ William J. Foote  
William J. Foote, Secretary

Dated: April 30, 2018

**A copy of the Company's annual report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2017, filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission containing consolidated financial statements of the Company as of December 31, 2017, is available (excluding exhibits) without cost to shareholders upon written request to William J. Foote, Secretary, Inrad Optics, Inc., 181 Legrand Avenue, Northvale, NJ 07647 The annual report is not to be regarded as proxy soliciting material or as a communication by means of which any solicitation is to be made.**







