

SIMMONS FIRST NATIONAL CORP
Form DEF 14A
March 19, 2012

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

Filed by the Registrant

Filed by a Party other than Registrant

Check the appropriate box:

- Preliminary Proxy Statement
- Confidential, for Use of the Commission Only (as permitted by Rule 14a-6(e)(2))
- Definitive Proxy Statement
- Definitive Additional Materials
- Soliciting Material Pursuant to 240.14a-11(c) or 240.14a-12

SIMMONS FIRST NATIONAL CORPORATION
(Name of Registrant as Specified in Its Charter)

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

Payment of Filing Fee (Check the appropriate box):

- No fee required.
- Fee computed on table below per Exchange Act Rules 14- 6(i)(1) and 0-11.

1) Title of each class of securities to which transaction applies:

2) Aggregate number of securities to which transaction applies:

3) Per unit price or other underlying value of transaction computed pursuant to Exchange Act Rule 0-11 (Set forth the amount on which the filing fee is calculated and state how it was determined):

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1)

Amount previously paid:

2)

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3)

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SIMMONS FIRST NATIONAL CORPORATION

March 19, 2012

Dear Shareholder:

It is our pleasure to enclose the 2011 annual report for your corporation.

Our annual shareholders' meeting will be held on the evening of Tuesday, April 17, 2012 at the Pine Bluff Convention Center. As is our custom, you and your spouse, or guest, are cordially invited to join us for dinner, which will be served at 6:30 p.m. The business meeting will follow at approximately 7:30 p.m.

This year, you will find your dinner reservation card located inside the annual report. Please fill this out and return at your earliest convenience.

We thank you again for your support, and we look forward to seeing you April 17.

Sincerely,

/s/ J. Thomas May

J. Thomas May
Chairman and Chief Executive Officer

NOTICE OF
ANNUAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS

TO THE SHAREHOLDERS OF SIMMONS FIRST NATIONAL CORPORATION:

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the annual meeting of the shareholders of Simmons First National Corporation will be held at the Banquet Hall of the Pine Bluff Convention Center, Pine Bluff, Arkansas, at 7:30 P.M., on Tuesday, April 17, 2012 for the following purposes:

1. To fix at 10 the number of directors to be elected at the meeting;
2. To elect 10 persons as directors to serve until the next annual shareholders' meeting and until their successors have been duly elected and qualified;
3. To consider adoption of a non-binding resolution approving the compensation of the named executive officers of the Company;
4. To ratify the Audit & Security Committee's selection of the accounting firm of BKD, LLP as independent auditors of the Company and its subsidiaries for the year ending December 31, 2012;
5. To transact such other business as may properly come before the meeting or any adjournment or adjournments thereof.

Only shareholders of record at the close of business on February 17, 2012, will be entitled to vote at the meeting.

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

/s/ Marty D. Casteel

Marty D. Casteel, Secretary
Pine Bluff, Arkansas
March 19, 2012

ANNUAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS
SIMMONS FIRST NATIONAL CORPORATION
P. O. Box 7009
Pine Bluff, Arkansas 71611

PROXY STATEMENT

Meeting to be held on April 17, 2012

Proxy and Proxy Statement furnished on or about March 19, 2012

The enclosed proxy is solicited on behalf of the Board of Directors of Simmons First National Corporation (the "Company") for use at the annual meeting of the shareholders of the Company to be held on Tuesday, April 17, 2012, at 7:30 p.m., at the Banquet Hall of the Pine Bluff Convention Center, Pine Bluff, Arkansas, or at any adjournment or adjournments thereof. When such proxy is properly executed and returned, the shares represented by it will be voted at the meeting in accordance with any directions noted thereon, or if no direction is indicated, will be voted in favor of proposals (1), (2), (3) and (4).

REVOCABILITY OF PROXY

Any shareholder giving a proxy has the power to revoke it at any time before it is voted.

COSTS AND METHOD OF SOLICITATION

The costs of soliciting proxies will be borne by the Company. In addition to the use of the mails, solicitation may be made by employees of the Company by telephone, electronic communications and personal interview. These persons will receive no compensation other than their regular salaries, but they will be reimbursed by the Company for their actual expenses incurred in such solicitations.

OUTSTANDING SECURITIES AND VOTING RIGHTS

At the meeting, holders of the \$0.01 par value Class A common stock (the "Common Stock") of the Company, the only class of stock of the Company outstanding, will be entitled to one vote, in person or by proxy, for each share of the Common Stock owned of record, as of the close of business on February 17, 2012. On that date, the Company had outstanding 17,213,520 shares of the Common Stock; 2,139,443 of such shares were held by Simmons First Trust Company ("SFTC"), in a fiduciary capacity, of which 82,044 shares will not be voted at the meeting. Hence, 17,131,476 shares will be deemed outstanding and entitled to vote at the meeting.

All actions requiring a vote of the shareholders must be taken at a meeting in which a quorum is present in person or by proxy. A quorum consists of a majority of the outstanding shares entitled to vote upon a matter. With respect to each proposal subject to a shareholder vote, other than the election of directors, approval requires that the votes cast for the proposal exceed the votes cast against it. The election of directors will be approved, if each director nominee receives a plurality of the votes cast. All proxies submitted will be tabulated by Registrar and Transfer Company, the transfer agent for the Common Stock.

With respect to the election of directors, a shareholder may withhold authority to vote for all nominees by checking the box "withhold authority for all nominees" on the enclosed proxy or may withhold authority to vote for any nominee or nominees by checking the box "withhold authority for certain nominees" and lining through the name of such nominee or nominees for whom the authority to vote is withheld as it appears on the enclosed proxy. The enclosed proxy also provides a method for shareholders to abstain from voting on each other matter presented. By abstaining, shares will not be voted either for or against the subject proposals, but will be counted for quorum purposes. While there may be instances in which a shareholder may wish to abstain from voting on any particular

matter, the Board of Directors encourages all shareholders to vote their shares in their best judgment and to participate in the voting process to the fullest extent possible.

If your shares are held in a brokerage account or by another nominee, you are considered the "beneficial owner" of shares held in "street name," and these proxy materials have been forwarded to you by your broker or nominee (the "record holder") along with a voting instruction card. As the beneficial owner, you have the right to direct your record holder how to vote your shares, and the record holder is required to vote your shares in accordance with your instructions. A broker non-vote occurs when a nominee holding shares for a beneficial owner does not vote on a particular proposal because the nominee has not received voting instructions from the beneficial owner and does not have discretionary voting power with respect to that item. Under the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act, and regulatory rules of Financial Industry Regulatory Authority and New York Stock Exchange, brokers or other nominees may not exercise discretionary voting power on the election of directors, executive compensation or other significant matters as determined by the Securities & Exchange Commission. While Brokers or other nominees might still be permitted to exercise discretionary voting power for Proposal 4 (the ratification of BKD, LLP as our independent auditor), brokers and other nominees may not exercise discretionary voting power for Proposals 1, 2 or 3 (number of directors, election of directors and approval of executive compensation). Due to the broad and indefinite scope of the discretionary voting prohibition, it is not expected that brokers or other nominees will attempt to exercise any discretionary voting power. As a result, if you do not provide specific voting instructions to your record holder, the record holder may not vote the shares on Proposals 1, 2 or 3. Accordingly, it is particularly important that you provide voting instructions to your broker or other nominee so that your shares may be voted on the matters presented at the Annual Meeting.

If your shares are treated as a broker non-vote or abstention, your shares will be counted in the number of shares represented for purposes of determining whether a quorum is present. However, broker non-votes and abstentions will not be included in vote totals (neither for nor against) and therefore will not affect the outcome of the vote on any of the proposals being voted upon.

In the event a shareholder executes the proxy but does not mark the ballot to vote (or abstain) on any one or more of the proposals, the proxy will be voted "For" the unmarked Proposals. Further, if any matter, other than the matters shown on the proxy, is properly presented at the meeting which may be acted upon without special notice under Arkansas law, the proxy solicited hereby confers discretionary authority to the named proxies to vote in their sole discretion with respect to such matters, as well as other matters incident to the conduct of the meeting. On the date of the mailing of this Proxy Statement, the Board of Directors has no knowledge of any such other matter which will come before the meeting.

SECURITY OWNERSHIP OF CERTAIN BENEFICIAL OWNERS

The following table sets forth all persons known to management who own, beneficially or of record, more than 5% of the outstanding Common Stock, the number of shares owned by the named executive officers in the Summary Compensation Table and by all directors and executive officers as a group.

Name and Address of Beneficial Owner	Shares Owned Beneficially [a]	Percent of Class
BlackRock, Inc. [b] 40 East 52nd Street New York, New York 10022	1,347,273	7.83 %
Heartland Advisors, Inc. & William J. Nasgovitz [c] 789 North Water Street Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53202	1,257,295	7.30 %
Simmons First National Corporation Employee Stock Ownership Trust [d] 501 Main Street Pine Bluff, AR 71601	1,173,022	6.81 %
J. Thomas May [e]	197,911	1.15 %
Robert A. Fehlman [f]	28,684	*
David L. Bartlett [g]	40,869	*
Marty D. Casteel [h]	37,932	*
Robert C. Dill [i]	61,660	*
All directors and officers as a group (14 persons)	497,969	2.89 %

* The shares beneficially owned represent less than 1% of the outstanding common shares.

[a] Under the applicable rules, "beneficial ownership" of a security means, directly or indirectly, through any contract, relationship, arrangement, undertaking or otherwise, having or sharing voting power, which includes the power to vote or to direct the voting of such security, or investment power, which includes the power to dispose of or to direct the disposition of such security. Unless otherwise indicated, each beneficial owner named has sole voting and investment power with respect to the shares identified.

[b] These shares may be owned by one or more of the following entities controlled by BlackRock, Inc.: BlackRock Institutional Trust Company, N.A., BlackRock Fund Advisors, BlackRock Asset Management Australia Limited,

BlackRock Advisors, LLC, BlackRock Investment Management Ireland Limited and BlackRock International Limited.

[c] The Heartland Value Plus Fund, a Heartland Group fund, managed by Heartland Advisors, Inc. owns 1,225,000 of the shares, with the balance owned in various other accounts which are under the discretionary management of Heartland Advisors, Inc.

[d] The Simmons First National Corporation Employee Stock Ownership Plan ("ESOP") purchases, holds and disposes of shares of the Company's stock. The Nominating, Compensation and Corporate Governance Committee ("NCCGC") and the Chief Executive Officer, pursuant to delegation of authority from the NCCGC, directs the trustees of the ESOP concerning when, how many and upon what terms to purchase or dispose of such shares, other than by distribution under the ESOP. Shares held by the ESOP may be voted only in accordance with the written instructions of the plan participants, who are all employees or former employees of the Company and its subsidiaries.

- [e] Mr. May owned of record 166,704 shares; 19,506 shares were held in his IRA accounts; 1,325 shares were owned by his wife; 10,376 shares are held in his fully vested account in the ESOP.
- [f] Mr. Fehlman owned of record 13,915 shares; 6,012 shares were held in his fully vested account in the ESOP; 229 shares were held in his account in SFNC Employee Stock Purchase Plan and 8,528 shares were deemed held through exercisable stock options.
- [g] Mr. Bartlett owned of record 15,717 shares; 475 shares were owned in the Bartlett Family Trust; 1,795 shares were held in his fully vested account in the ESOP and 22,882 shares were deemed held through exercisable stock options.
- [h] Mr. Casteel owned of record 17,334 shares; 3,974 shares were owned jointly with his wife; 9,218 shares were held in his fully vested account in the ESOP; and 7,406 shares were deemed held through exercisable stock options.
- [i] Mr. Dill owned of record 25,007 shares; 102 shares were owned jointly with his spouse; 4,368 shares in his IRA; 27,683 shares in his fully vested account in the ESOP and 4,500 shares were deemed held through exercisable stock options.

PROPOSAL 1 - FIX THE NUMBER OF DIRECTORS

The current number of directors of the Company is ten (10). Under the bylaws, the shareholders are authorized to set the number of directors of the Company for the ensuing year. The Board of Directors of the Company has set the number of directors to be elected at the annual meeting at ten (10), subject to approval by the shareholders.

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS RECOMMENDS THAT SHAREHOLDERS VOTE "FOR" PROPOSAL 1 TO FIX THE NUMBER OF DIRECTORS AT TEN.

PROPOSAL 2 - ELECTION OF DIRECTORS

Each of the persons named below is presently serving as a director of the Company for a term which ends on April 17, 2012, or such other date upon which a successor is duly elected and qualified. The Board has determined that each of the nominees for director, except J. Thomas May, satisfy the requirements to be an independent director as set forth in the listing standards of NASDAQ.

The proxies hereby solicited will be voted for the election of the nominees shown below, as directors, to serve until the next annual meeting of the shareholders and until their successors are duly elected and qualified, unless otherwise designated in the proxy. If at the time of the meeting any of the nominees should be unable or unwilling to serve, the discretionary authority granted in the proxy will be exercised to vote for the election of a substitute or substitutes. Management has no reason to believe that any substitute nominee or nominees will be required.

William E. Clark II

Mr. Clark was elected to the Board in 2008. He is the Chief Executive Officer of Clark Contractors, LLC, a general contractor involved in commercial construction throughout the United States. Prior to the formation of Clark Contractors, LLC in 2009, he was employed by CDI Contractors from 1994 through 2009, where he served in various capacities culminating in his serving as Chief Executive Officer from 2007 to 2009. Mr. Clark received a B.S.B.A. degree in Business Management from the University of Arkansas in 1991.

He is a past president/chairman for the UAMS Consortium and Arkansas Children's Hospital Committee for the Future, a member of Fifty for the Future, Young President's Organization, Chenal Valley Church, Arkansas Children's Hospital Foundation, St. Vincent Foundation, UAMS Foundation and the Winthrop P. Rockefeller Cancer Institute.

The Board of Directors believes that Mr. Clark's experience within the commercial construction industry provides needed skills in the assessment of the construction industry utilized by the Company in setting policies involving the

allocation of credit and lending priorities.

Steven A. Cossé

Mr. Cossé was elected to the Board in 2004. Prior to his retirement on March 1, 2011, he was the Executive Vice President and General Counsel for Murphy Oil Corporation, a Fortune 500 company listed on the New York Stock Exchange. He had served as general counsel since 1991 and had also previously served as Senior Vice President, Vice President and Principal Financial Officer. Prior to joining Murphy Oil Corporation as general counsel, he served for eight years as General Counsel for Ocean Drilling & Exploration Company in New Orleans, Louisiana, a NYSE listed, majority-owned subsidiary of Murphy Oil Corporation. Mr. Cossé received a B.A. degree in Government from Southeastern Louisiana University in 1969 and a Juris Doctorate degree from Loyola University in 1974.

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Mr. Cossé also currently serves on the boards of Murphy Oil Corporation (a NYSE listed company), Simmons First Bank of El Dorado, the Arkansas Research Alliance and SHARE Foundation (chairman). He is past chairman of the South Arkansas Chapter of the American Red Cross and is on the advisory board of Turning Point. Mr. Cossé is a member of the Louisiana Bar Association, Arkansas Bar Association and Union County Bar Association.

The Board of Directors believes that Mr. Cossé's experience as a senior executive officer and general counsel, and his prior experience serving as principal financial officer, provides needed skills in the assessment of the oil industry utilized by the Company in setting policies involving the allocation of credit and lending priorities and in the legal and financial issues facing publicly traded companies.

Edward Drilling

Mr. Drilling was elected to the Board in 2009. He joined Southwestern Bell Telephone Company in 1979 and has served in various operations positions including customer service, sales and marketing, and the external affairs organization. He was named President of the Arkansas Division in 2002. Mr. Drilling received a B.S. degree in marketing from the Walton College at the University of Arkansas in 1978 and graduated from the Emory University Advanced Management Program in 1991.

Mr. Drilling is involved with and serves on several boards, including: Arkansas Children's Hospital Board of Trustees, UAMS Foundation Fund Board, University of Arkansas Board of Advisors, Chairman of Arkansas State Chamber of Commerce, former president of Fifty for the Future, Sam M. Walton College of Business Dean's Executive Advisory Board, UAMS Arkansas BioVentures Advisory Board, UALR College of Business Administration Advisory Council, Arkansas State University Chancellor's Cabinet. He received the Pinnacle Award in 2003 from the Little Rock Chamber of Commerce and served as the 2005 chairman of the Little Rock Chamber of Commerce.

The Board of Directors believes that Mr. Drilling's experience as an executive within the telecommunication and information technology industry provides needed skills in the assessment of the information technology industry utilized by the Company in setting policies involving the allocation of credit and lending priorities and valuable insights involving the executive management of a large enterprise.

Sharon Gaber

Dr. Gaber was appointed to the Board in 2011. Dr. Gaber has served as the Provost and Vice Chancellor for academic affairs at the University of Arkansas since 2009. Prior to coming to the University of Arkansas, she was on the faculty at Auburn University where she served in several administrative positions culminating in her position as Interim Provost. Dr. Gaber holds bachelor's degrees in economics and Urban Studies from Occidental College, master's degree in urban and regional planning from the University of Southern California and a Ph.D. degree from Cornell University in city and regional planning.

Dr. Gaber is an accomplished researcher, having earned 25 project grants and authored or co-authored 40 papers and professional reports. She serves as Vice-Chair of the Board of Directors for the Arkansas Research and Technology Park, was a member of the Strategic Community Development Steering Committee of the Northwest Arkansas Council, and participated with the City of Fayetteville on the "Today in America" segment production.

The Board of Directors believes that Dr. Gaber's background in city and urban planning as well as her experience and past performance as an administrator at several prominent universities, provides needed skills and insight into organizational planning and management of the Company as well as the effective supervision of high level personnel from varied professional disciplines.

Eugene Hunt

Mr. Hunt was elected to the Board in 2009. He is an attorney in private practice in Pine Bluff, Arkansas. Mr. Hunt began his practice in 1972 and has thereafter been involved in the active practice of law within Arkansas, primarily in Southeast Arkansas. He served as Judge on the Arkansas Court of Appeals from August through December, 2009 and has served as a Special Circuit Judge and Special Justice on the Arkansas Supreme Court. Additionally, he served as Director of the Child Support Enforcement Unit, Jefferson County, Arkansas from 1990-2001. Mr. Hunt received a B.A. degree in History and Government from Arkansas AM&N College in 1969 and a Juris Doctorate degree from the University of Arkansas Law School in 1971.

Mr. Hunt also serves on the boards of Pine Bluff Downtown Development, The Economic Development Corporation of Jefferson County, Arkansas, Jefferson Hospital and Youth Partners. He is a member of the NAACP and Fifty for the Future. Mr. Hunt has also served as an NAACP Affiliate Attorney since 1978.

The Board of Directors believes that Mr. Hunt's experience as an attorney and his long-term familiarity with the business and social environment in southeastern Arkansas provides needed skills and insight in the small business and consumer needs of the Company's banking customers in one of its major markets, southeastern Arkansas.

George A. Makris, Jr.

Mr. Makris was elected to the Board in 1997. He is the President of M.K. Distributors, Inc., a beverage distributor in Pine Bluff and southeastern Arkansas. Mr. Makris has been employed by M. K. Distributors, Inc. since 1980 and has served as President since 1985. Mr. Makris previously served as a member of the board of directors of National Bank of Commerce (later known as Worthen Bank of Pine Bluff) from 1985 to 1996 and served as Chairman of the Board from 1994 to 1996. Mr. Makris received a B.A. degree in Business Administration from Rhodes College in 1978 and an M.B.A. from the University of Arkansas in 1980.

Mr. Makris also serves on the board of directors of The Economic Development Corporation of Jefferson County, Arkansas, the board of trustees of the Jefferson Regional Medical Center, the board of directors of the National Beer Wholesalers Association and the board of visitors of University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences, College of Medicine. He has previously served as Chairman of the Board of Trustees of Jefferson Regional Medical Center, Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Arts and Science Center for Southeast Arkansas, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Economic Development Alliance for Jefferson County, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Greater Pine Bluff Chamber of Commerce, Chairman of the King Cotton Classic Basketball Tournament, Chairman of the Board of Trustees of Trinity Episcopal School, a Director of Simmons First National Bank, a Director of the Wholesale Beer Distributors of Arkansas, and a member of the Board of Visitors of the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff.

The Board of Directors believes that Mr. Makris' experience as a business executive and long-term resident of central and southeastern Arkansas provides needed skills and insight into the business community within Arkansas and the executive management of a successful business enterprise.

J. Thomas May

Mr. May was elected to the Board in 1987. He is the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of the Company. He was elected as the president of the Company in 1987. In 1994, he was elected Chief Executive Officer. He became Chairman and Chief Executive Officer upon his election as Chairman of the Board of the Company in 1996. Mr. May received a B.S.B.A. degree in Business from the University of Arkansas in 1971 and an M.B.A. in Business from the University of Arkansas in 1972. Mr. May is a veteran having served in the U. S. Marine Corps.

Mr. May also serves on the Board of Directors of University of Arkansas Foundation, the University of Arkansas Board of Advisors, the University of Arkansas Walton School of Business Dean's Advisory Board, the Arkansas Executive Forum, Arkansas Blue Cross Blue Shield, Baptist Health of Arkansas and The Arkansas Research Alliance. Mr. May has previously served as Chairman of the Arkansas Bankers Association, Chairman of the University of Arkansas Board of Trustees; President, Director and Campaign Chairman for United Way of Southeast Arkansas; Chairman of the Jefferson County Port Authority, a member of the board of directors of the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis, Jefferson County Industrial Foundation and Southwest School of Banking.

The Board of Directors believes that Mr. May's experience and past performance, as the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of the Company, provides needed skills and insight into the banking and financial services business

conducted by the Company.

W. Scott McGeorge

Mr. McGeorge was elected to the Board in 2005. He works for a group of family owned companies that include Pine Bluff Sand & Gravel Co., McGeorge Contracting Co., Inc. and Cornerstone Farm and Gin Co., where he serves as President, Chairman and Senior VP and Vice President, respectively. The companies perform marine construction in a multistate regional area, build highways and similar projects, mine various minerals and produce and sell stone products, asphalt pavement and sand. Cornerstone is engaged in farming operations.

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Mr. McGeorge previously served on the Board of National Bancshares Corporation and its wholly owned subsidiary National Bank of Commerce of Pine Bluff during the mid 1980s before it was purchased by Boatmen's Bank. He was on the commercial and industrial loan committee, which approved the largest loans the bank made. Mr. McGeorge received a B.S. degree in Business Administration from the University of Arkansas in 1965. He graduated from U. S. Coast Guard Officer Candidate School and served as an officer in the U. S. Coast Guard for three years.

Mr. McGeorge serves as Secretary of the Board of Directors of the National Stone Sand and Gravel Association in Alexandria, Virginia, is a member of the Boards of Directors of Dredging Contractors of America and National Waterways Conference, both located in Washington, D.C. and is Past President and a current Director of Mississippi Valley Associated General Contractors in Memphis, Tennessee. He is active in many local and civic activities. He is President of Trinity Foundation, a charitable foundation that seeks to benefit residents of Pine Bluff, Little Rock and the surrounding areas through grants for scholarships, support of educational institutions and other civic activities.

The Board of Directors believes that Mr. McGeorge's experience in the construction, materials, mining and agricultural industries, as well as his experience and past performance as the president of a large successful business enterprise, provides needed skills and insight into the overall business and industrial climate and the executive management of a large successful business enterprise.

Harry L. Ryburn

Dr. Ryburn was elected to the Board in 1976. He is retired from the private practice of orthodontics in Southeast Arkansas. Dr. Ryburn is certified by the Arkansas State Dental Board, the Arkansas State Specialty Board (orthodontics), the Missouri State Dental Board and the Texas State Dental Board. Dr. Ryburn actively practiced for 41 years prior to his retirement in 2005. Dr. Ryburn has been involved in private investments, real estate development and farming operations. In addition to his 35 years of service on the board of directors of the Company, Dr. Ryburn has also served during that period on the board of directors of the Company's lead bank, Simmons First National Bank. He serves on the executive committees of the Company and the lead bank, the Audit & Security Committee of the Company and the NCCGC. Additionally, he currently serves as the lead director of the Company, Chairman of the Executive Committees of the Company and the lead bank and Chairman of the NCCGC. He attended University of Arkansas at Monticello where he studied Pre-Dentistry. Thereafter, he received a D.D.S. degree from Washington University in 1960 and an M.S. degree in orthodontics from Washington University in 1964. Dr. Ryburn is a veteran of the U. S. Air Force.

Dr. Ryburn is a member of numerous professional, civic and community organizations. He has previously served on the boards of the United Way of Jefferson County, Pine Bluff Little League Baseball, Arkansas Post Girl Scout Council, Pine Bluff Babe Ruth Baseball and as a member of the Pine Bluff Chamber of Commerce.

The Board of Directors believes that Dr. Ryburn's experience, in a health related profession and his long-term experience as a director of the Company and the lead bank, provides needed skills and insight into the southeastern Arkansas business community and the successful operation of banking and financial services enterprises.

Robert L. Shoptaw

Mr. Shoptaw was elected to the Board in 2006. Mr. Shoptaw retired as president of Arkansas Blue Cross Blue Shield ("ABCBS"), a mutual health insurance company in 2008, terminating his 39 years of service to that organization. During the 1970's and 1980's, he served in various management and executive capacities with a primary focus in medical services management, professional relations and government programs administration (Medicare administrative operations). In 1987, Mr. Shoptaw became the Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer of ABCBS and was named President and CEO in 1994. After retiring as President and CEO in 2008, he remains on the Board of Directors of ABCBS and serves as Chairman of the Board. Mr. Shoptaw received a B.A. in Economics

from Arkansas Tech University in 1968 and an M.B.A. from Webster University in business administration and health services management. He also completed the Advanced Management Program at Harvard University Business School in 1991.

Mr. Shoptaw serves as a member of the board of directors of Arkansas Center for Health Improvement and the Little Rock Metrocentre Improvement District.

The Board of Directors believes that Mr. Shoptaw's experience and past performance as the president of a large mutual health insurance company, provides needed skills and insight into the health care industry, health insurance industry and the executive management of a large successful business enterprise.

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The table below sets forth the name, age, principal occupation or employment during the last five years, prior service as a director of the Company, the number of shares and percentage of the outstanding Common Stock beneficially owned, with respect to each director and nominee proposed, as reported by each nominee:

Principal Name	Age	Principal Occupation	Director Since	Shares Owned [a]	Percent of Class
William E. Clark, II	42	Chairman and CEO, Clark Contractors, LLC (Construction)	2008	1,875	*
Steven A. Cossé	64	Executive Vice President and General Counsel, Murphy	2004	10,500 [b]	*